



THE "ZONE" SYSTEM OF DISTRIBUTION.

of their remarks extended the hearty thanks of the Association for the kind welcome received; President Huntley, Consul-General Knapp, Hon. Judge Armstrong, and Mr. Erastus Wiman.

President Huntley then delivered an address to the Association. He said that it was the first time in the history of the National Electric Light Association that they have met on other than native soil, yet even in so doing it but adds new evidence to the feeling in the breast of every electrician that his art is foremost among the influences tending to promote human intercourse and break down the walls of separation. He went on to speak of the fact that the day has passed when station managers can limit themselves to one class of service or apparatus. To obtain the best result they must select the machines best adapted to certain lines of work, independent of any particular system. He pointed out the fact that when central stations were desired to be run at their full limit of usefulness, they should adopt the "zone" system of distribution. He illustrated his remarks by a plan of Montreal marked out with various circles, with the central station for the centre. The first circle represented a limit of one-third of a mile, in which limit he held that the ordinary low pressure three-wire system of lighting could be most economically employed. Then followed other zones in which various pressures should be used. He advised the use of large converters in place of the smaller ones now employed, as a large one costs no more to instal than a small one, while the initial cost per light is less in a large one. He strongly recommended the use of the low-tension direct-current system of distribution within its areas. He showed how necessary it is in building a central station, to make ample accommodation for future growth. He also showed how much more economical

and serviceable the over-head wiring is when properly constructed than the underground wiring, and ended by urging the Association to adopt yearly meetings instead of half-yearly, as he did not deem it necessary to meet so often.

SECOND SESSION, Tuesday, Sept. 8th, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The delegates of the National Electric Light Association met in the Windsor Hall on Tuesday, Sept. 8th, to receive the reports of the following committees:—Committee on Relation between Manufacturing Companies and Central Stations, Marsden J. Perry, chairman; Committee on Data, Mr. A. J. DeCamp, chairman; Committee on World's Columbian Exposition, Hon. E. A. Armstrong, chairman; Committee on Underground Conduits and Conductors, M. J. Francisco, chairman; Committee on Safe-wiring, A. J. DeCamp, chairman.

The report on Central stations was an interesting one, showing the position taken by the parent companies and gas companies against the Central station men. It showed that if the Central station men ever wished to save their millions they should have to wage war both on the gas and parent companies. It also showed that while gas was losing its place for lighting purposes it was gaining a place for fuel, and that fuel is a necessity, while light is a luxury. It brought out the facts that the investments of the Central station men now aggregated \$100,000,000 and with a union of the stockholders would prove a most formidable opponent to the gas interests.

The report of the Committee on Data was next presented. It contained a schedule of suggestions for the better collecting of statistics and on the cost in different places of electric light. It showed that com-