

be subject to arbitration. If the municipalities can obtain a fair service at a fair rate, there is no call for competition of any kind. There are a great many places, in England particularly, where this principle of arbitration is carried to such an extent that they give the illuminating company a certain territory and give them the exclusive right of lighting in that territory, the only provision being that they shall give a good service and at a reasonable rate, which rate is subject to arbitration. Now, if that principle of arbitration is carried to its proper extent, the electric lighting companies, as long as they do what is fair, will enter on an assured era of arbitration. That principle of arbitration, to my mind, is one of the most valuable features of that bill.

The President : Mr. Leyden has undoubtedly struck the key note of this entire legislation, that is, the principle that investors in any enterprise of a semi-public nature will be entirely satisfied with a fair and proper return upon their investment so long as they are assured of non-interference—so long as they can be assured that when they give fair service and fair rates their investment is secure, and that principle being established by this act of legislation, it would seem, as it were, utterly impossible, if we give the matter any attention at all, that it should ever be taken off the statute books. Now, gentlemen, the motion is before you, and I ask for your approval thereof.

The motion was carried amid applause.

The President : The next committee to be heard from is the committee having to do with the Board of Fire Underwriters ; I will ask Mr. Gossler to read the report.

Mr. P. G. Gossler read the report of the committee appointed to interview the Board of Fire Underwriters, as follows :

REPORT OF COMMITTEE TO INTERVIEW FIRE UNDERWRITERS.

To the President of the Canadian Electrical Association.

Your Committee, appointed at the convention of 1898 of this Association, for the purpose of interviewing the Quebec Board of Fire Underwriters with regard to the adoption of permanent rules governing electrical installations and means of enforcing compliance with the same, beg to report that they had several interviews with the secretary and with a special committee of the underwriters. The question of rules and inspection was thoroughly discussed, but no understanding towards the establishment by the underwriters of a regular and efficient system of inspection was arrived at. It was held by the underwriters that such a system of inspection, even if it covered only the principal cities of Canada, would involve a much larger expenditure than they felt called upon to undertake. They had provided rules for electrical installations, and they considered that the electric companies and the municipalities should in their own interest see that these rules are carried out. Your committee would recommend that a committee be appointed at this convention to continue the work, and endeavor to have established some efficient system of inspection, independent of and apart from the electric companies, for the protection of our own interests as well as those of the underwriters.

(Signed) P. G. GOSSLER.
A. A. DION.

Mr. Gossler : in connection with this report I wish to say that while it is short and does not seem to have involved much labor, there has been considerable work done. I have, on several occasions, in company with Mr. Dion, of Ottawa, interviewed Mr. Hadrill, secretary of the Quebec Board of Fire Underwriters. They gave us no encouragement whatever to establish a system whereby the fire underwriters would be called upon to be at any expense ; they maintained that the proper way of establishing a system should be by municipalities enacting by-laws whereby the buildings and building laws would enforce compliance with the Board of Underwriters' rules as at present universally adopted. I may say that there was very little encouragement given to the committee at all, because the fire underwriters did not seem to think the fire hazards due to electric wiring were such as to warrant them going to any expense. We called to their attention the fact that the fire underwriters of other large cities had seen fit to go to this expense ; but I presume they thought they would profit by their own experience rather than offer any suggestion whatever for the establishment of an inspection system. I might say on this committee was Mr. George W. Sadler, of Montreal, who at the time of his appointment, was and is at present a member of the city council of Montreal. He is also a member of a special committee

on building rules of Montreal, appointed with a view of having rules made by the council embodied in the building association rules, to enforce the established rules for electrical installations. Mr. Sadler is unable to be present, and wrote me a letter which he wished to have read in connection with this report, which is as follows :

DEAR SIR : At the last moment I find it is impossible for me to attend the ninth convention of the Canadian Electrical Association. There is no doubt but you are prepared to make a report to the Convention of the doings of the committee to confer with the insurance and the city of Montreal re the wiring of buildings. My appointment on that Committee was largely owing to my position as a member of the City Council of Montreal. I would like to say that I have found it impossible to do anything in the matter since our last meeting, the reason being that a great deal of time has been consumed in getting amendments to the Charter, and nothing could be done in connection with the by-laws until the Charter had passed the Council. Since then the various committees have had the by-laws under consideration, but very little progress has been made. I stated at the last convention that the city of Montreal has a very good new building by-law prepared, and I had hoped to have it sent up for discussion in the council ; this opportunity has not presented itself yet, and it may be a month or two before the committee will report to the council.

If the Convention decides to keep the committee on this subject standing, I will be very pleased to still act with them, and do all I can to further the interest of all concerned when the opportunity presents itself.

Please convey my kind regards to the officers of the Association, and I trust that the ninth Convention of the Electrical Association will be a profitable and pleasant one to all members.

Yours very truly,
GEO. W. SADLER.

Mr. A. A. Dion : Before any action is taken upon this report, as a member of that committee, I wish to refer to a matter which this report brings to mind it is a fact that among the members of that committee was a man who was for many years a useful and active member of this Association, and who has been carried off by death since the last meeting of this Association. I think it is a duty, though a sad one, to register in the minutes of this meeting the regrets of the Association at the untimely death of Mr. F. H. Badger, jr.

The Secretary : In connection with the remarks just made by Mr. Dion, it will have been noticed that Captain Williams, who was electric light inspector for the London district, a respected member of this Association, and a respected citizen of the city of London, has passed away within the last two or three days.

The President : The regrets of the Association will be duly recorded in the minutes of the proceedings. In reference to the report of the committee just read, while the results achieved by them are not as successful as of the Committee on Legislation, it seems that they have begun in the right direction, and while the Board of Fire Underwriters may be obstinate, the very suggestion that some method can be adopted in building laws to procure the supervision by the proper authorities of the wiring seems to point to the fact that we may ultimately accomplish the same end, and I would suggest that the Association approve of the continuance of this committee in the hope that they may be able to have incorporated in the municipal laws the adoption of some uniform plan which will be final in its action.

On motion the report of the committee was approved.

The President called for the report of the Committee on Statistics.

Mr. J. A. Kammerer read the report of the Committee on Statistics, as follows :

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON STATISTICS.

GENTLEMEN,—As chairman of the Statistical Committee, I beg to report that we have gathered a large quantity of information and data about the electrical industries in Canada, but have not been able to get quite all that we wanted. It was perhaps a mistake on the committee's part in starting out to make the scope of the report too wide, but I can assure you that when the report is presented it will be of some value. In view of this, I would ask that the Statistical Committee be continued for another year with the same personnel, or others whom you see fit to appoint. The data and information which we have gathered will be at their service.

Respectfully submitted,
(Signed) J. A. KAMMERER,
Chairman Statistical Committee.

Mr. Kammerer : In connection with this report, I would like to say, Mr. President, that we found in all the data that we have got, especially as to prices of lighting, that our station managers seem to have the prices in a transitory stage they are not settled. The