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MARITIME ELECTRICAL ASSOCIATION

Proceedings of the Second Annual Convention

THE second annual convention of the Maritime Electrical Association was held, pursuant to announcement, at the New Victoria Hotel, Halifax, on Tuesday, April 18th. The Executive Committee met at 9 a.m. to transact business relative to the admittance of new members to the Association and its financial condition.

The opening session of the convention was held at 10 a.m., with the President, Mr. F. A. Bowman, in the chair. There were present the following members :

F. A. Bowman, superintendent New Glasgow Electric Co., New Glasgow ; J. H. Winfield, eastern superintendent N.S. Telephone Co., New Glasgow ; G. N. McDonald, electrician, Moncton, N.B. ; S. G. Chambers, president Chambers Electric Light & Power Company, Truro ; P. R. Colpitt, city electrician, Halifax ; F. A. Huntress, manager Halifax Tramway Co. ; J. W. Crosby, electrician Halifax Tramway Co. ; I. H. Smith, representative Canadian General Electric Co., Halifax ; G. C. Siebert, Maritime Electric Co., Halifax ; R. T. MacKeen, representative Halifax Tramway Co. ; F. A. Hamilton, electrical engineer, Halifax ; W. Luke, Halifax Tramway Co. ; P. A. Freeman, chief engineer Halifax Tramway Co. ; James Graham, electrical contractor, Halifax ; C. E. Harris, manager N.S. Telephone Co., Halifax ; J. D. Briggs, superintendent N.S. Telephone Co., Halifax ; A. Miller, electric light inspector, Halifax ; E. Souhss, Bedford Electric Co., Halifax ; J. A. Anderson, electrician John Starr, Son & Co., Halifax ; W. N. Pickles, electrical contractor, Halifax ; J. L. MacDonald, Halifax Tramway Co. ; W. A. Winfield, Windsor, N.S. ; H. P. Archibald, B.A.Sc., Wolfville, N.S. ; W. L. MacDonald, Moncton, N.B.

After a few opening remarks, the President called upon the Secretary to read the minutes of the last meeting, held in Halifax September 27th, 1898. Upon motion the minutes were adopted.

The President then delivered his annual address, as follows :

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

We have now passed through the first year of our existence, and have found out what are our powers and what our limitations. We held a convention during exhibition week last September, which was a fairly successful one, and would have been much more so had not the weather interfered with it, as it did with pretty much all arrangements of that week. In spite of this, one of the objects of the Association was distinctly advanced by the meeting. Several of the out of town members made the acquaintance of each other and the town members.

One feature of this meeting was most valuable, and will, I hope, be repeated this time. Several matters were brought up and discussed that were of direct interest to the members present, and personal experiences on these were freely exchanged. With a view to encouraging this, we issued a circular to the members, asking if there were any questions that they would like to bring forward. The response to this request was not as full as I would like to have seen, but we must not expect too much at first. We have a few questions that will be introduced for discussion as opportunity arises, and I hope that some of those who did not answer the circulars have brought questions with them, and will bring them up for discussion.

It is the discussion of the smaller and more local issues that I wish to encourage in this Association. As I think I have said before, we can depend on the larger associations and the technical journals to furnish us with valuable papers on the main principles of the industry. We should, therefore, devote our attention more to smaller details. The best way to do this is to get the members to feel that they can bring up any subject on which they want information and advice. As with our comparatively small numbers we shall very soon be all personally known to each other, our meetings should not take on a too stiff and formal aspect, but each one should feel at home and as free to say much or little as they would in a group gathered in the hotel smoking room. I will, therefore, ask you, one and all, to note any difficulties you may meet with or special methods you may use in your work, and either write them out in a few words and present them at a meeting, or, if you are really too diffident to do this, write a note to the Secretary and give him the idea, and it will be brought up at the meeting, with your name



MR. F. A. HUNTRESS,
President Maritime Electrical Association.

mentioned or not, as you may wish. I spoke at some length on this matter at the September meeting, and I must plead as my excuse for repeating it now its vital importance to the welfare, not to say the actual continued existence, of the Association.

The executive and the Halifax members have striven to make this meeting a thorough success, and it is hoped that it will result in awakening a thorough interest in the Association throughout the maritime provinces. I wish right here to thank the Halifax members for the lively interest they have taken, and the strenuous efforts they have made to make everything pleasant and attractive. Under the able leadership of our Vice-President, Mr. Colpitt, they have prepared a programme of papers and social entertainment that should cause this meeting to be long remembered.

Steady progress has been made in the electrical industries in these provinces during the past year. While we cannot expect to see the very large transmission schemes undertaken among us just at present, some smaller ones have been well worked out on modern lines, and some steps have been taken in connection with larger projects. All this going to show that our people have grasped the great possibilities of electrical power.

Among the many steps in advance that the industry has made during the past year, one that should be most seriously studied by the smaller stations is the question of forced draft in the