

Mr. Helps,—

I am afraid I must disagree with Mr. Butler.

Had they known that the tungsten lamp was coming into use the one system that they would have adopted would have been the 25 cycle. It so happens that low frequency is far better for Tungsten lamps than higher. If you have a perfectly even voltage (and you seldom get that) direct current is slightly better. This is well illustrated in Foster's "Electrical Engineer's Handbook" if anyone cares to take the trouble to look that up. The results are all right if the conditions are right. Not under the conditions, however, that Mr. Butler has been in contact with. Mr. Butler is very well acquainted with a system of illumination which is in my mind very bad. You have that very fact in certain institutions in this city where Mr. Butler has seen the 25 cycle lamp in small sizes (25 watt) placed immediately over a reading table. The whole system of illumination is in my opinion much at fault. Now, then, do away with these conditions and get your illumination system and details brought up to a high and correct standard of efficiency, and you may search a long time before you will find the awful flicker.

Mr. Bly,—

In our homes the women insist on having a four or five light fixture in the rooms for ornament, and we must use a 10 or 16 Watt lamp. When we sit down to read the light vibrates considerably, and it is very unpleasant. Before we had the Hydro we were not subject to these vibrations. The Toronto Electric Light Company went into this and they so arranged the switches in the office that they could change from the direct to the alternating current without the clerks knowing it. I do not know whether it was done at noontime or not, but it was so arranged that they could light with the direct current and then with the 25 cycle alternating current, and they found that when they put on the 25 cycle, the clerks became restless and could not stay at their work.

I think when the Hydro-Electric came to Toronto, it was the worst thing possible for the people.

Mr. Helps,—

The answer to that is this: the Pearson Co., who are really the owners of the Toronto Electric Light Company, went to the expense of securing the very best engineers from all over this continent, to advise them as to the best way to re-arrange their equipment so as to bring it up to the most modern condition. This of course being only a year ago was after the Tungsten lamp came. The result was that 25 cycle is the supply they have adopted as their standard.