

May 17, 1917.

AMERICAN WATERWORKS CONVENTION.

(Staff Correspondence.)

Richmond, Va., May 11th.—The Thirty-seventh annual Convention of the American Waterworks Association opened Monday evening, May 7th, in the auditorium of Hotel Jefferson, Richmond, Va.

It is exactly eighteen years since the association last held a meeting in the historic city of Richmond. At that meeting only ninety-three active and fifty-four associate members were present, while at the meeting just closed there was about five times that number present. Among the active members who were elected at the 1900 meeting, and who are still enthusiastic members, are Howard A. Dill, of Richmond, Indiana; James M. Caird, the present treasurer, and F. J. Connor, of Faribault, Minn.

The address of the retiring president, Leonard Metcalf, of Boston, was devoted in large part to the need for a greater spirit of co-operation on the part of the entire membership in the effort to solve the problems incidental to the work of the average waterworks engineer. It was a plea for the "get together" spirit in the work of an association, which now numbers about 1,350, of which between 70 and 80 are resident in Canada. In his address Mr. Metcalf deplored the lack of complete co-operation among officers, committees and members, and warned against the creeping in of local cliques.

Among other things, he suggested that larger powers be given to the officers; that the committees be assigned more definite duties; that committees be instructed and authorized to carry on all correspondence in manifold; that all meetings of the sections be attended by at least one member of the executive committee of the mother organization.

Following President Metcalf's address, R. E. Milligan, president of the American Waterworks Manufacturers' Association, presented—on behalf of the Manufacturers' Association—a very handsome silver cup, which is to be competed for annually in a golf tournament. The successful contestant at each annual meeting of the American Waterworks Association is to receive a miniature reproduction of the large cup, and is also to have his name engraved on the large cup, which is to be retained by the American Waterworks Association.

The program for the first day of real convention, May 8th, included announcement of officers elected for 1917-1918, and also eight papers, with discussion. Officers for the ensuing year are as follows:—

T. A. Leisen, Detroit, president; A. W. Cuddeback, Paterson, N.J., vice-president; James M. Caird, Troy, N.Y., treasurer; D. A. Cramer and B. C. Little, trustees.

The first paper was by John W. Alvord, entitled, "Recent Tendencies and Progress in Waterworks Practice." While he admitted that much of the improvement in standards is due to inspection, he expressed the opinion that those improvements are more due to filtration.

Having been called into active service, John D. Kilpatrick was not able to read his paper, entitled, "Water Supply for Military Camps."

Clarence Goldsmith's paper, "Reliability in Pumping Station Design," judging by the discussion which followed, was almost too ideal to be practical. That, at least, appeared to be the opinion of those who took part in the discussion.

Leonard A. Day's paper, "Improved Efficiency of the St. Louis Pumping Station," was illustrated by lantern slides.

O. A. Doane, by his paper on "Pumping Station Costs," brought out a considerable amount of discussion.

W. C. Hawley's paper, "Relation between Water Departments and the Public," was presented by Mr. R. S. Weston, of Boston, in Mr. Hawley's absence.

Tuesday evening a reception was held in the auditorium of the hotel. Music, dancing and refreshments were provided by the Waterworks Manufacturers' Association. Mrs. Claire Spencer, formerly of the Manhattan Opera Company, sang a number of Irish songs, while Clinton Inglee, of the National Water Main Cleaning Co., delighted the company by singing several times.

Wednesday morning's session was devoted to the reading of technical papers, the election of nominating committee, and selection of place for holding the 1918 convention.

The Nominating Committee for 1918 was chosen by districts as follows: Western States and Canada—H. Hymmen, Superintendent Waterworks, Kitchener, Ont.; New England—R. S. Weston, Boston, Mass.; Middle States—C. R. Wood, Millville, N.J.; Southern States—J. A. Steele, Vicksburg, Miss.; Central States—John W. Alvord, Chicago.

The contest for next place of meeting was between St. Louis, Mo.; Detroit, Mich., and Evansville, Ind. St. Louis won by a large majority.

Wednesday afternoon was given over to a social time. Special cars took about 300 delegates and ladies to the Richmond Country Club.

Thursday morning the superintendents carried on a topical discussion, while the chemical and bacteriological sections held sessions simultaneously. All groups were well attended and much of practical interest was brought out.

These same sections also held afternoon sessions, while in the evening reports of officers and standing committees were received and discussed.

There was only one session on Friday. Reports of special committees were followed by a general discussion of subjects pertaining to the welfare of the association. Friday afternoon the delegates were the city's guests at the Richmond Pumping Station, where luncheon was served.

There were about 430 active and associate delegates present, and about 100 guests, or 530 in all.

Attractive Exhibits.—The Palm Room of the Jefferson Hotel, which was devoted to the exhibits, was filled with displays of waterworks supplies and material of all kinds. Every available foot of space was occupied. There could be seen the latest improvements in filter models, hydrants, pumps, valves, chlorinating and sterilization plants, etc.

PITOMETER CO., NEW YORK.—In charge of exhibit, E. S. Cole, E. D. Case and A. W. Hogeland. Showing Cole Recording Pitometer, new aluminum-case, field type of pitometer for waterworks survey. This is a type recently put on the market.

NEW YORK CONTINENTAL JEWELL FILTRATION CO., NEW YORK.—Represented by R. E. Milligan, Arthur M. Crane and Gilbert H. Matt. This firm's exhibit included a model of a typical concrete gravity filter plant, a model of the Wheeler filter bottom, samples of strainers and laterals, etc.

SIMPLEX VALVE AND METER CO., PHILADELPHIA.—Represented by C. C. Behney, mechanical engineer, and W. F. Harveson, assistant secretary. This exhibit included Simplex indicating, recording and registering Venturi meters, portable pitot tube recorder,

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