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COLE, G. PERCY

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RAILWAY CLUB

THE CONSERVATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES
THROUGH THE ELECTRIFICATION
OF RAILWAYS.

By MR. G. PERCY COLE, M.Sc., Member A. I. E. E., Associate
Member I. E. E., Electrical Engineer, Canadian General
Electric Co., Ltd., Toronto, Ont.

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Reviewing the examples of the steam roads that have electrified their terminals and sections of their main lines, one is struck with the fact that few, if any, undertook the electrification from entirely an economic standpoint, and on account of the financial return expected on the money so expended. Municipal laws looking to the abatement of smoke have been largely the cause of past electrification. Up till recently, the consensus of opinion has been that such changes in motive power would, for some time to come, only be compelled by local conditions and ordinances, and that there were no inherent advantages in electrification to warrant its adoption under such conditions, other than the elimination of the smoke nuisance, and the ability of the electric locomotive to accomplish some special work not possible with the steam locomotive.