expense of looking after this legislation, and not alone central station men.

The President: Both suggestions, I take it, are fundamentally correct.

Mr. J. J. Wright: I think if our Association would co-operate with them, I have not the slightest doubt that they would be willing to meet a subscription covering expenses.

The President: I have no doubt that the Association would be very glad to afford to telephone, telegraph and street railway companies, information which they might obtain in regard to legislation going on, and perhaps in that way make it manifest that our action is beneficial to them as well as to ourselves.

The President put the motion, which, on a vote having been taken, was declared carried.

The President: Is there any other report or recommendation of committees to be considered? (No response.) That appears to be all the consideration you seem to want to give to reports of committees. The next business on the programme is the election of the standing committees, and we will receive the report of the Nominating Committee on that. The Nominating Committee recommend as the Committee on Statistics: Mr J A. Kammerer, Toronto; Mr. A. A. Wright, Renfrew and Mr. J. F. H. Wyse, Brantford, Mr. Kammerer to be chairman of the committee. Does this recommendation meet with your approval? (Carried.)

The President: Committee on Meter Inspection—Mr A. A. Dion, Ottawa; Mr E. E. Cary, St. Catharines; Mr. J. J. Wright, Toronto; Mr. Dion to be chairman. Does this meet with your approval? (Carried.)

The President: Committee on Legislation—Mr. J. J. Wright, Toronto; Mr. B. F. Reesor, Lindsay; Mr. C. B. Hunt, London; Mr John Yule, Guelph; Mr. H. R. Leyden, Hamilton; Mr A A. Dion, Ottawa; Mr. W. H. Comstock, M.P., Brockville; Mr. A. L. Briethaupt, Berlin; Mr. Wright to be chairman. Does this committee meet with your approval? (Carried.)

The President: In the report of the committee to confer with the Fire Underwriters there was a suggestion, perhaps not definitely expressed, that it might be well to continue that committee, not with the hope of doing very much with the Underwriters, but perhaps in the hope that municipalities might ordain certain ordinances which would bring about the inspection of wiring by the civic authorities instead of by the fire underwriters. Do you wish to have that committee continued with that object in view or let it die?

Mr. J. J. Wright: That refers principally to the province of Quebec, I understand. I don't know that I should be in a position to criticize. If that was referring to Ontario, I should certainly object strenuously to have any power of that kind put into the hands of the municipality, taking into account the manner in which municipalities handle those matters as a general thing.

Mr. Gossler: I might say for Mr. Wright's information that Mr. Hadrill, Secretary of the Board of Fire Underwriters, which I think covers the Dominion, stated that the Fire Underwriters hoped and expected that the municipalities throughout the Dominion would enact by-laws that would make the enforcement of the Fire Underwriters' rules part of the building laws, and he said that was being done in the United States; there were over sixty municipalities there that had included in the by-laws enforcement of the Fire Underwriters' rules, and there had been two towns in the Dominion of Canada, the city of Winnipeg and the municipality of Brandon, so evidently the fire underwriters were starting out with the idea of making inspection part of the municipal by-laws.

Mr J J Wright: My experience of municipal representatives is that they are competent to handle things of that kind

Mr Woolsey: In the States in the last few years they have had this matter up before the councils of the various cities there, in relation to the fire underwriters' rules and regulations, and the majority of the cities have taken those rules and placed them among all their other building rules and regulations. Not only have they gone that far, but they have also appointed a man who has to pass a civil examination electrically as an inspector of electrical work and apparatus installed in those cities. Besides that, the underwriters themselves have an inspector or inspectors, who cover a certain territory, and before any work is done electrically in any way, they have to apply to the various electrical inspectors of the various cities in which the work is done before they go ahead. They must get a permit from him before they do any work. After the permit is given they have to apply to some of the managers of the board of fire underwriters in the various localities and secure a permit from them before they can go any further. After that permit is granted they go ahead and do their work, and then the inspector must inspect it before any current is turned on. They have made it a very rigid rule, and in consequence the work is being done far better than it has ever been done before. There has been less trouble in the last five years in electrical wiring than in all the years before, and it is all through the municipalities adopting rules and regulations laid down by the board of fire underwriters.

Mr. Wyse: I think the municipalities adopting those rules and trying to enforce them would only be an assistance to what we want at the present time, perfect wiring.

The President: In the Province of Ontario it happens that one of our very oldest members has the matter of inspection in charge, and it is undoubtedly through his personality that common sense application of these rules is given, but elsewhere the whole difficulty with the situation is that there is no centralized authority anywhere which can call upon and be called upon to see that any given set of rules is carried out, and the sense of the convention last year was that the advantage of the operating companies was to have some authorized authority who would look after this matter and see that any rules, be they whatever they may, be carried out. Now, whether it be by the municipalities or board of fire underwriters, is immaterial. If the municipalities take the rules of the board of fire underwriters, and make them the law of their municipality, then it becomes incumbent upon everyone having to do with them to execute the law. Thereby we get a responsible centrallized authority, and, as Mr. Woolsey said, any corruption or mismanagement is guarded against in the States by the board of fire underwriters in addition giving a certificate. Therefore, if there be any contradiction between the action of a municipal inspector and the underwriters' inspector, it is discoverable at once. If the corruption extends to the inspector of the board of fire underwriters as well as to the inspector of the municipality, then of course the company or customer suffers. But when you establish a certain principle by law, then you have a lot of inspectors, that is, you have the general public and the law itself. Last year it seemed to be our view that we wanted somewhere in some place somebody authorized to supervise this thing intelligently.

J. J. Wright: I think the whole loss falls on the fire underwriters; they are the proper parties to see that the work is done according to their ideas.

Mr. Gossler: In regard to that, the committee tried to explain to the sub-committee of the fire underwriters that the fire insurance companies were really the losers in the matter, but they did not seem to see it in that light. It seems to me they are perfectly willing to accept the certificates of the electric lighting companies if they will certify to the fact that the wiring has been done in accordance with the board of fire underwriters' rules; but for the lighting companies' and power companies' own protection I think there should be an independent inspection from an outside source. I speak of that for this reason—when it is left to the electric lighting companies or electric power companies they are liable to draw on their imagination as to what constitutes compliance with the board of fire underwriters' rules. I know of several cases where very objectionable installations have been put in and objected to by