



THE CANADIAN ELECTRICAL ASSOCIATION, PHOTOGRAPH TAKEN ON THE DAM OF THE CHAMBLY MANUFACTURING COMPANY.

CANADIAN ELECTRICAL ASSOCIATION.

EIGHTH ANNUAL CONVENTION.

The eighth convention of the Canadian Electrical Association was held in the Windsor Hotel, Montreal, on the 28th, 29th and 30th June. On the first day, the meeting, which was the best attended in the history of the association, was called to order by the president, John Yale, manager of the Guelph Light & Power Co., shortly after 10 o'clock. After the reading of the minutes of the last meeting by the secretary, C. H. Mortimer, Mayor Prefontaine, of Montreal, was introduced, and welcomed the convention to Montreal. The president said that all were pleased to receive the greeting of the Mayor of Montreal, and called upon A. A. Wright, of Renfrew, to support him in his statement, which he did in a neat three minutes' speech.

The president then read his address as follows: "I beg to give you all a hearty welcome to this the 8th convention of the Canadian Electrical Association. The aim of the association is to gather together the members of the Electrical Fraternity, and allied interests for the purpose of mutual discussion, and to learn from each other's experience. In this way we try to benefit the whole business interests with which we are all connected. An organization of this kind confers upon its members benefits from the reading of papers, and the discussions which take place disseminate information with reference to the methods that are constantly being tried by different members in the practical conduct of their everyday operations and business methods. This association affords the means for members to become acquainted with one another. The friendships here formed should be used for the purpose of mutual protection and advice when difficulties arise. A free and friendly correspondence tends very much to strengthen, stimulate and encourage many of us in our daily struggle with difficulties. It is a matter of satisfaction to me that during the last two years you have honored me with the office of president, good progress has been made in the direction indicated; but there is still room for great improvement.

It is now almost four years since the last meeting of the Canadian Electrical Association was held in the City of Montreal. During the interval conventions have been held once in Ottawa, twice in Toronto, and last year at Niagara Falls. On each occasion matters of current interest and importance have been presented for the consideration of our members. There are many reasons why our meeting, again this year in the east, and particularly in Montreal, should be at once a source of both pleasure and profit to the members of this association. The intervening four years have done much for the Dominion of Canada, for its national life and the development of its material resources. In no department of industry has this progress been more marked than in the electrical field, in electric lighting, in electric railway work, and in the electric transmission of power; and the work must not be forgotten which has been done in extending the use and improving the service in the older branches, the telegraph and the telephone. From this development of the great modern industry in which we are all proud to have a share, no part of the country is likely to reap greater benefits than the City of Montreal and its vicinity.

The Dominion of Canada, at least, so far as Ontario and

Quebec are concerned, while otherwise abundantly dowered with mineral riches, has been deprived of coal deposits, until recently an essential factor in manufacturing and industrial development. To-day, however, the possibilities of electrical transmission have rendered available as a substitute to turn the wheels of our factories, the heritage which both provinces possess in their abundant water powers. It will be our privilege to inspect what has been done in this direction by some of her far-sighted and enterprising citizens for the City of Montreal. We shall first see that great enterprise, carried out in the face of difficulties and discouragements, the successful utilization of the power of the St. Lawrence river by the plant of the Lachine Rapids Hydraulic and Land Company. Of equal interest and importance will be the opportunity given of inspecting the plant and equipment of the Chambly Manufacturing Company on the Richelieu river at Chambly, which will vie with its great rival in the beneficent work of supplying cheap light and cheap power for the citizens of Montreal. It is to be hoped that a fair dividend will be the reward of the shareholders of the two companies for their enterprise. It is proper, before entering on the work of this convention, we should glance briefly over the progress of the past year. A marked feature of electric progress in the Dominion throughout the years 1897 and 1898 has been the inception, and, in some cases, the completion of a number of important plants for the long distance transmission of power. In the Province of Quebec there are besides the two plants already mentioned, the Montmorency plant, which has been in operation for several years, and is no doubt familiar to most of you, and the North Shore Power Company, Three Rivers, a 16 mile transmission, 12,000 volts, delivering 500 k.w. In Ontario there is the Cataract Power Company of Hamilton, the distance to be transmitted 33 miles, pressure 25,000 volts, with a capacity of 6,000 h.p. This plant, it is anticipated, will be in operation by August 1st next. In British Columbia a transmission installation of 1,500 h.p. capacity is being erected to supply energy for the Electric Railway, lighting and power industries of the City of Victoria, distance 16 miles. The West Kootenay Power Company recently started with an initial capacity of 2,000 h.p., pressure 20,000 volts, distance 30 miles. This power will be used for the operation of machinery in the mining districts. We have already referred to the enormous development under way in the vicinity of Montreal.

The only point at which satisfactory progress cannot be reported is at Niagara Falls, where, unfortunately, the tying up of the greatest water power in the Dominion in the hands of an alien corporation has prevented its development for the benefit of the people of Ontario. This state of affairs, we trust, will be removed before another year. Besides the important plants mentioned which are either in operation, or in course of construction, a large number of similar enterprises are at present in their initial stages and may be expected to reach their completion within the next year or two. Altogether, it is difficult to foresee at the present moment the benefits which our Canadian manufactories and industries generally may derive from the utilizing of the water powers of the country, scattered without number from the Atlantic to the Pacific. In electric railway work the development of the year has been mainly confined to the extension and the better equipment of existing city and suburban roads.