

employed, so that present day comparisons between the cost of steam generated power and hydro electric power, may be very much upset by the possible future advance in the art of steam power generation.

The financing of these enterprises must also be improved, so that the total cost of the hydraulic power development can be brought down to more reasonable figures, everything considered. The government authorities can assist in this matter by preventing the duplication of lines and systems and by the proper control of construction work, so that competitive systems cannot be constructed solely for the purpose of stock jobbing operations or for political benefits. It is inevitable in such cases that the burden of the increased expenditure must be carried finally by the population served, with the consequent result that the cost of the service rendered is increased.

The proper control of rates by the Government authorities, coupled with protection against competition and the assistance of the government in working out the true economic conditions in the development of these enterprises is, I am sure, the result earnestly hoped for by the members of this Association.

Wild promises made by people who have had little experience in the building and distribution of electric power, that power can be generated for a few dollars per horse power, and delivered to isolated farm houses or small communities, at prices very much below those current at the present time, only cloud the situation and postpone the proper solution of these problems.

We may some day see the time when practically everyone will obtain electric power as readily as they now obtain telephone service, or the service of good roads, but these problems cannot be solved without due regard to the factors involved, and