

overcome; and I think it is proper for us to realize and scatter broadcast among those who are not members of the Association, the idea that this Association desires legislation that only is just and equitable and fair, and that we are organized together for protection against unfair legislation only; therefore our efforts are entirely proper. We have communitive interests usually, and by making our efforts in the direction of proper legislation and guarding against improper legislation, we have a concrete idea to work for which will make our Association powerful and popular and give a reason why companies who are not represented should find representation here. We should grow – and it seems to me that the kernel of that growth is now planted by this legislation obtained last year. I suggest that it be expressed as the sense of this Convention that the next legislative committee be authorized and empowered, and if you please, directed to endeavour to get every operating company in Canada as members of this Association and contributors to the legislative fund.

Mr. Yule: I would not like it to go out that the Association expects \$10 per annum from every company. I would mention \$10 as the maximum and \$1 as the minimum.

The President: It seems to me one dollar is too insignificant a sum for any company. For an individual it is another thing. There is not an operating company in Canada to-day that does not squander \$10 for other purposes without hesitation, and it does seem to me that there is not a company in the whole of Canada that would be impoverished or hurt by the contribution of \$10. The larger ones can give more if they want to.

Mr. Yule: The method might be adopted this year in sending out agreements to different companies (you know we got an agreement printed for the company to sign, and along with that agreement the amount was suggested to the company; they considered the circumstances of the company and took the liberty of suggesting to them what they thought would be a proper amount for them to contribute, and that worked very well).

The President: That had reference to a special amount which you wanted to raise, not to a continuing yearly amount?

Mr. Yule: Yes. The same principle would apply.

The President: You wanted \$100 from some of them and you were content with \$5 from others.

Mr. Yule: Yes.

The President: This, I think, is a different line. Those who have contributed \$10 yearly may, on occasion, find it necessary to contribute more.

Mr. Yule: The whole of those yearly subscriptions will not be used up each year.

The President: Not each year, no.

Mr. Yule: The committee went over the list of companies and used their judgment in suggesting to those companies the amount they thought they could contribute or agree to contribute, and I do not see why the same method should not be adopted in applying for the yearly subscription.

The President: My suggestion is not that the Legislative Committee receive as the sense of this convention instruction as to the amount that they should seek for, but to have it expressed as the sense of this convention that the most important work that we have in hand now and may have for some time to come is the procurement of proper legislation, and that the Legislation Committee endeavor to get all the companies in the country interested as contributors to a necessary fund.

Mr. Yule: I would like to explain to the Association and have it go out to the companies that the lighting companies in a great measure are handicapped, owing to the division of interests. Other interests are more concentrated; they may be under one board of management, they can bring their influence and do their work in a moment's notice. We are largely handicapped by the amount of work we have to do to get those who should be interested to take action or to support the action of the committee.

A. A. Wright: I would particularly support the

position Mr. Yule has taken with reference to the attitude central station men should take with regard to their representatives in the legislature. I think this is a good idea, if we can only get the central station men to follow it up. Take South Renfrew for instance. We have five companies in South Renfrew, and if every one of these companies annually when the local legislature met were to drop a card or letter to our representative, stating to him that they wanted him to be careful and let them know at once if any legislation of any kind whatever were introduced with reference to electric lighting or touching electrical industries if that representative got five letters, one from each of the different companies, he would begin to think there was something in it. He wouldn't want to have the antagonistic element working against him, which these companies could bring to bear, and he would be on the qui vive to keep close watch of what was going on and let these men know. The great difficulty that I see is to get central station men to do their part. It occurs to me to suggest that if this committee should strike off a copy of a letter and every year when the legislature meets should send this letter to the managers of central stations and say, "Would you have any objection to copying out this letter and sending it to your representative in the local legislature?" Certainly that would bring this matter to their attention and I don't think the central station man would object to doing that much in his own interests. My idea is that this committee which is appointed to take this whole matter into consideration I am following up what Mr. Yule suggested in order to bring ideas before this committee – ascertain how much it is going to cost to pay a lawyer to watch this thing in the legislatures, and when we get an idea of how much our expenses are going to be annually, and how much of a sinking fund is required, they would form an estimate of how much of an average would be necessary for central station men, or those engaged in electricity, to give; and that would give us an idea of what we ought to do.

J. J. Wright: I would move that that Committee take these matters up and if the resolution is put in the words that you, Mr. President, gave us a short time ago, I think it would cover the ground.

Mr. Wyse: I second the motion. I was going to say, I don't think the Association wants to give the Committee on Legislation detailed instructions. They are appointed for that business, and they should be capable of discharging it. Whether they adopt a means of looking after the legislation that may come up through central station men, or through lawyers or through both, the manner and details of looking after it should be left to them.

Mr. Yule: The duty of a lawyer would only be to look up the acts that affect us, or amendments rather, and see what the effect of those amendments are.

The President: I understand that the motion does not pretend to enter into details, but to express as the sense of this Convention that the care of looking after proper legislation be the especial duty of the legislative committee, and that they give their best attention to it. No instructions in detail whatever.

A. A. Wright: We were only giving suggestions.

H. R. Leyden: Am I to understand that this committee is look after all electrical legislation? It has been spoken of a number of times as simply taking care of legislation affecting central stations. My idea is that they should include the telephone, the telegraph and other electrical interests as well. Although the Bell Telephone Company have an attorney acting for them, still our attorney would work in conjunction with him. There has been considerable dissatisfaction with the method that has been employed heretofore in looking after this legislation, and there has been friction between telephone, telegraph companies and central station men, and I think the scope of this committee should be broadened sufficiently to allow them to take care of all electrical interests.

Mr. Wyse: I think, in that case, the telephone companies and telegraph companies, as well as central station men, should contribute their quota towards the