

ferent men. Very seldom will it appear that different men are employing the same method, and it cannot be expected that a journal contributed to by so many different workers shall show uniformity in method or design.

### THE ELECTRICAL TECHNICAL SOCIETY.

The unofficial conference of the Electrical Technical Commission recently held at Brussels, Belgium, has served to remind us that the Commission was inaugurated in London in 1906, and that in its five years of existence very little real, practical results have been accomplished.

The unanimous conclusions arrived at, the clearness of the recommendations made and the decision to meet again within a year, lead us to expect results from the deliberations of this Commission. Although this conference was unofficial, yet it is expected, because of the unanimity of the Commissioners, that the reports will have the same value as if voted upon at the regular sitting of the Commission.

The following propositions were placed before the committees and adopted, and it is expected that next year they will be signed and sealed, and become part of the Commission findings:—

1. That small letters be reserved for instantaneous values.
2. That capital letters be reserved for effective or constant values.
3. That capital letters followed by the subscript "m" be reserved for maximum values of periodic electrical quantities.
4. That capital script letters be reserved for magnetic quantities.
5. That capital script letters with subscript "m" be reserved for maximum values of magnetic quantities.
6. That E, e, represent electromotive force; Q, q, electric quantity; L (script), inductance; H (script), magnetic force; B (script), magnetic flux density; and L, l, M, m, T, t, represent mass, length and time.

In the list of eight symbols recommended for adoption, u has been omitted. This must have been an oversight, as one cannot think of dropping u from permeability.

The delegate from France suggests that C be used instead of I for current, and it is hoped that this suggestion will lead to an early international agreement on the method of expressing Ohm's Law. Dr. Kennelly, one of the American delegates, introduced the question of Vector Notation in alternating current work, and, if this can be made uniform, the present difficulties in the way of reading the books of specialists in alternating current work will be largely eliminated, as much of the present difficulty is due to the fact that Vector directions are not uniform.

Altogether, the work of this Congress has been very important.

Last January the Canadian Society of Civil Engineers elected a committee to work with the international committee on this matter, and it is hoped that an active co-operation on the part of the various local committees will result in the Congress next year delivering specific findings.

### THE FINANCIAL SITUATION.

(From The Monetary Times.)

Financial preparations for the coming crop movement are seen in the statement of the Canadian chartered banks for July. Call loans were reduced during the month by \$28,500,000. Of that sum, \$27,000,000 were withdrawn from the foreign call loan market. The decrease in that item from the June figures is 21.3 per cent., the domestic call loans having declined 2.4 per cent. Call loans out of Canada is the only account showing a decrease from the previous July figures, the amount then being \$114,000,000, while this year that sum is reduced to \$102,000,000, a loss of 10.6 per cent. Deposits on demand show a slight decrease of approximately \$12,000,000, or 4.4 per cent.

The loan situation is, for more than one reason, the most important at the present time of year. While general business is suffering somewhat from summer slackness, the bank statement shows that our general managers have perfect confidence in the commercial future. Current loans in Canada increased during July by \$4,000,000, or 0.5 per cent., this being an increase of 20.9 per cent. over the previous year.

Credit has been liberally extended, the current loans in Canada having increased by 10 per cent. during the past year. Call loans in Canada made a gain in the same period of 20.9 per cent. Only once during the past thirteen months has a decrease occurred in domestic current loans.

The July bank statement shows that the interests of Canada are being well attended to by the Canadian banks. The call loans abroad have been reduced by \$27,000,000 in order to finance the harvest, while at the same time the accommodation of the banks for business purposes was increased during the month by nearly \$4,000,000. There is no sign of restriction of commercial activity. The maximum note circulation during July increased satisfactorily. The statement is altogether encouraging, and should prove an effective reply to the ever-busy pessimist.

### SPECIAL COMMITTEES OF THE CANADIAN SOCIETY OF CIVIL ENGINEERS.

At the annual meeting of the society, held in Ottawa last January, the council of the society were requested to appoint an Electro-Technical Committee. The Council has named the following gentlemen as members of the committee:

**Electro-Technical Committee.**—Mr. L. A. Herdt (Chairman) and Messrs. H. T. Barnes, W. A. Duff, L. W. Gill, O. Higman, A. B. Lambe, J. Murphy, T. R. Rosebrugh, and J. J. Wright.

The Chairman of the Canadian Conservation requested the society to appoint a committee on conservation. The following committee was appointed, with Mr. C. R. Coultée as chairman:

Representing Prince Edward Island—Mr. J. B. Hegan,  
Mr. H. F. Laurence.  
Representing Nova Scotia—Mr. C. E. W. Dodwell, Mr. R. McColl.  
Representing New Brunswick—Mr. E. T. P. Shewen,  
Mr. M. G. Henniger.  
Representing Northern Quebec—Mr. A. E. Doucet, Mr. R. O. Swezey.