

The president announced that the following question had been put in the "Question Box:" "What is the watt gain in transmission in the line of the Cataract Power Co., and how do you explain it? Is it possible that the line is crossed with the Radial Railway?" (laughter).

Mr. Leyden, in reply, said there was no gain at all. We have a rise of potential of about 10 per cent. at no load varying from 15 to 18 amperes per phase of 2,000 volts. but as the load comes on, the effect disappears gradually in proportion to the load. But it can be made to disappear altogether by putting on an inductive load; or over exciting the synchronous motors, making a leading current. This phenomenon was first discovered at Ferranti's plant at Deptford, near London, and is known as the Ferranti law. There is no gain in power: only an apparent gain in the pressure.

Another question in the box was, "Where is the proper place to begin charging a customer for wiring, at the property line or inside the building?"

Mr. Dion thought the company's responsibility should cease at the secondary terminals of the transformer.

Mr. Wright (Toronto), said the company should charge for wire only up to the point where the wire touches the building; and technically speaking the meter and cut-outs should be considered the property of the customer, otherwise the company might be held responsible for a fire or accident inside the building.

Mr. Leyden remarked that all fixtures were subject to seizure.

Mr. Browne said his company had a clause in its charter specially exempting from the ordinary law of seizure all their wires and other property, so that when a seizure was threatened, the landlord was notified of this exemption.

Mr. Gossler thought that all secondary wiring only should be the property of the customer.

Mr. Dion agreed that the company should own all the primary installation. He would like to sell the meters to the customers, but conditions were such that this could not be done in Ottawa.

Mr. Woolsey said that in the United States all property placed with screws belonged to the company.

Another question was "Should rent be charged for meters?"

Mr. Wright (Toronto), said all watt meters and direct reading-meters were charged for by his company. This had to be done to cover the cost of Government inspection.

Mr. Anderson said that in Windsor a charge was made for meters in all cases where the customer's account was under \$5 per month, but not when it was in excess of that amount.

Mr. Leyden thought each department should pay for itself, and a charge of \$3 a year was reasonable. He figured that 20 per cent. of the value of the meter was a fair annual rental.

Mr. Wright (Renfrew), said his company charged 25 cents a month for meters and this was a fair rate, when the company had to pay Government inspection, repairs, etc.

The subject of day and night loads on central stations was then discussed. This will be referred to in next issue, as will also Mr. Plews' paper on the "Protection of Low Tension Wiring Against Dangerous High Potential Currents."

The next paper was that on "Transformer Economy," by F. H. Leonard, which will be found on another page.

On Thursday evening the annual dinner was held, the president in the chair. After the toast of "the Queen" "Our Association" was responded to by J. J. Wright, of Toronto; "Our Guests," by Col. Shepard, U.S. Consul; "Hamilton, the Electric City," by Mayor Teetzel; "Our Rights and Wrongs," by S. Noxon, and the "Press," by A. F. Pirie.

On resuming business Friday morning, the president announced a telegram from George Johnson, Dominion Statistician, stating that the number of passengers carried by the electric railways of Canada last year had reached the 100,000,000 mark. The announcement was greeted with cheers.

The election of officers was then proceeded with, the result being as follows:

President, A. A. Dion, Ottawa; 1st vice-president, E. E.

Cary, St. Catharines; 2nd vice-president, P. G. Gossler, Montreal; secretary-treasurer, C. H. Mortimer, Toronto; Executive Council, J. J. Wright, Toronto; A. B. Smith, Toronto; Ormand Higman, Ottawa; John Carroll, Montreal; George Black, Hamilton; D. R. Street, Ottawa; Andrew Sangster, Sherbrooke; J. F. H. Wyse, Brantford; B. F. Reesor, Lindsay, and W. H. Browne, Montreal.



A. A. DION.

A biographical sketch of A. A. Dion, the recently elected president of the Canadian Electrical Association, appeared in the issue of *The Canadian Engineer* for July, 1898.



P. G. GOSSLER.

P. G. Gossler, the newly elected second vice-president of the Canadian Electrical Association, was born in the State of Pennsylvania, 28 years ago, and was educated at the High School and Pennsylvania State College, Philadelphia. He took a course of mechanical engineering, in which he graduated in 1890. After a year in the draughting room of the Chester Foundry and Machine Co. and the Edison General Electric Co., he went to the United Elec. Light & Power Co., N.Y., as assistant to the chief electrical engineer. He remained there till 1895, when he came to Montreal and entered the service of the Royal Electric Co. as engineer and superintendent of the light and power department. Mr. Gossler is a young electrician of high promise, and in the discussions at the recent convention his observations were distinguished by their pertinence and lucidity.

During the election a lively debate took place on the question whether members representing electrical supply concerns should be eligible for election to the higher offices of the association. Mr. Black's name had been presented by the Nominating Committee as first vice-president, but on the demand of Mr. Carroll that there should be some "young blood" in the Executive, Mr. Black promptly withdrew his name. Had he stood he would undoubtedly have been elected, but upon his withdrawal the name of Stephen Noxon, representing the Central Station interest, was put up against E. E. Cary, the candidate of the "supply men." Mr. Kammerer, supported by Mr. Woolsey and others, maintained that by an