

this business are always busy, to find the necessary time to devote the concentration and thought necessary to the preparation of a paper that each writer considers he should, with justice to the Association and to himself, present for consideration.

I desire to express my regret at having been unable to devote as much time to the affairs of the Association as I should wish to have been able to do, but my regret is materially modified because the gentlemen of the various committees have so thoroughly attended to the matters entrusted to them, that the interests of the Association could not in any wise suffer by want of attention on my part. I therefore wish to extend my earnest thanks to the officers and members of committees associated with me, for their hearty co-operation, and to thank you, gentlemen of the Association, for the honor so cordially bestowed upon me in electing me president, and to bespeak for my successor the continuance of such hearty co-operation and enthusiastic support.

The address of the President was greeted with loud and prolonged applause.

The Secretary, Mr. C. H. Mortimer, read the minutes of the last annual convention, which were approved and adopted as read, as was also his annual report, as follows:

SECRETARY-TREASURER'S REPORT.

The most important work to engage the attention of the Association since last convention was the effort made, under the immediate direction of the Legislative Committee, to have such amendments made to the Municipal Act as would prevent the confiscation by municipalities of private capital invested in the electric lighting industry. It is gratifying to be able to report the success of the movement, which involved many meetings and much effort on the part of the committee and those associated with them. Particulars of this important work, which serves to establish the practical utility and usefulness of this Association as a means whereby the interests of its members may be conserved, are contained in the report of the Chairman of the Legislative Committee to the Association at this convention. It will no doubt be deemed advisable to provide means for safeguarding the rights which have been secured to electric lighting companies by the Conmee Bill.

The Executive Committee held three meetings during the year. At the first of these, held on September 9th, accounts in connection with last convention, amounting to \$240, were passed, the additional sum of \$50 was granted to assist the Entertainment Committee to discharge its obligations; the resignation of one member was accepted, and one new member was elected.

On March 23rd, the committee met to consider arrangements for this convention, and other business, a committee was appointed to make the necessary local arrangements, consisting of Messrs. George Black, H. R. Leyden, Gordon J. Henderson, E. E. Cary, Wilfred Phillips, A. B. Smith, together with the following gentlemen as honorary members: Messrs. Clyde Green, J. A. Nelles, Mark B. Thomas, J. B. Griffith, with power to add to their number. A committee to arrange for convention papers was appointed as follows: The President, Messrs. E. E. Cary, A. A. Dion, J. J. Wright, John Carroll, and the Secretary. Messrs. Cary and the Secretary were appointed a committee to procure badges and buttons for the use of officers and members attending the convention. The sum of \$100 was voted to the Local Committee for entertainment purposes. The Secretary was directed to send out accounts to members for overdue fees, and to notify them that the names of members in arrears on the 1st of May would be struck from the roll. The Secretary was empowered to obtain the services of an assistant during the convention. Four persons were elected to active membership.

On the 20th of May, the committee met to receive the reports of the various sub-committees, and to complete arrangements for the convention. Five resignations were accepted, and two members elected. Accounts for convention buttons and printing, \$23.05, were passed.

The number of new members elected since last report is as follows: Active, 20; associate, 2; total 22. During the same period there have been removed from the roll 14 active and 1 associate, leaving the present membership 241, or a gain of 7 over last report.

Several members in arrears for fees have objected to make payment, on the ground that they joined the Association for one year only. It should be clearly understood that when a person joins the Association, he is to be regarded as being a member until his formal resignation is placed with the Secretary. I would respectfully suggest that the form of application for membership be altered so as to conform to this view.

The receipts and disbursements have been as follows:

FINANCIAL REPORT FROM JUNE 1ST, 1898, TO 31ST MAY, 1899.

RECEIPTS.

Cash in bank, June 1st, 1898.....	\$281.18
Cash on hand, June 1st, 1898.....	19.46
151 active members' fees at \$3.....	453.00
1 active member's fee at \$3—paid \$2.....	2.00
22 associate members' fees at \$2.....	44.00
	\$799.64

DISBURSEMENTS.

Expenses of convention.....	\$435.14
Grant to local committee.....	\$200.00
E. J. Jenkins, stenographer.....	40.00
Martel-Stewart (show cards).....	5.00
Convention buttons for 1898.....	64.64
Electrical News, printing account.....	101.50
Cuts for convention paper, and duty on cuts.....	20.49

Express on parcels.....	2.08
Telegrams.....	5.47
	\$435.14
Grant to Secretary.....	\$125.00
Postage.....	46.18
Express charges.....	2.26
Letter file.....	.40
Telegrams.....	1.00
Exchange on cheques.....	3.60
Stationary and printing.....	19.95
Buttons and badges for 1899.....	12.50
Balance in bank.....	137.76
Balance on hand.....	17.85
	\$799.64

RECEIPTS SINCE MAY 31ST, 1899.

Cash in bank, June 1st, 1899.....	\$137.76
Cash on hand, June 1st, 1899.....	17.85
52 active members' fees at \$3.....	156.00
5 associate members' fees at \$2.....	10.00
	\$321.61

DISBURSEMENTS.

Postage.....	\$ 12.30
Exchange on cheques.....	1.65
Stationery.....	.55
Cash in bank, June 27th, 1899.....	296.76
Cash on hand, June 27th, 1899.....	10.35
	\$321.61

We have audited the Treasurer's account and find same to be correct.

H. R. LEYDEN.
GEO. BLACK.

The President: The next order of business is the reports of committees. I will call for the report of the Committee on Legislation first, and ask the Chairman, Mr. Yule, to read it.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATION.

Your Committee on Legislation beg leave to report that in compliance with motion passed at convention held at Montreal a year ago instructing them to continue their efforts to secure legislation in Ontario, the better to regulate the relations between electric light companies and municipalities, where the latter desired to enter upon municipal lighting, arrangements were made for the purpose of a united effort to put before the legislature the justice and merits of our views and the injustice of the law as it then stood.

A Bill was prepared by counsel, and after being submitted to your committee, was brought before the House, the result being, as you all know, that an Act was passed extending the provision of the law regarding waterworks to lighting companies, providing for the transfer, upon fair conditions, of lighting plants to corporations, when they decide to enter upon the business of supplying electric light, and otherwise regulating the relations between municipalities and lighting companies on equitable terms.

Your committee held numerous meetings and gave the matter careful attention until what is now known as the "Conmee Bill" passed the legislature.

Your Committee do not intend, in this report, going into the details of their labor, but think it proper to inform you that the objections that had to be met and answered were of a popular and plausible nature and calculated to prejudice the minds of members until they fully understood the merits of the question.

The obstacles in the way of the Bill were increased by the hostile attitude of some of the newspapers, although the Committee are pleased to say that as the Bill became better understood, it received better treatment at the hands of the press.

Mr. James Conmee, M.P.P., West Algoma, took charge of the Bill, and the result proved it could not have fallen into abler hands. It only required a short time to convince your Committee that Mr. Conmee was fully alive to the justice of the general principle we were contending for. He had a practical knowledge of the merits of the questions at issue and the difficulties surrounding them. And what was of equal importance to us was that Mr. Conmee proved his ability to clearly, forcibly and intelligently explain the measure to his fellow members and to the House.

Mr. Conmee also introduced into the Bill, with your Committee's concurrence, various provisions to adopt such suggestions as were of value and which he considered were salutary amendments in the public interest.

Your Committee admired the patience and tact with which Mr. Conmee, on different occasions, met and discussed the matter with them and also with the opponents of the bill.

Your Committee retained, as parliamentary counsel for the Bill, Mr. Donald Guthrie, Q.C., Guelph, who drafted the Bill, and during the progress of the work he was assisted by Mr. W. D. McPherson and Mr. Edward Bayly, barristers, Toronto, Mr. Gauld, barrister, Hamilton, and Mr. Peple, of Barrie. The measure was also supported by a number of legal gentlemen retained by different lighting companies, influential deputations from different parts of the province also attended in Toronto to assist your Committee.

The arduous and exacting work for quite a time, when the outlook was very unpromising, added largely to the expenses of your Committee, but they are pleased to be able to say that all accounts have been paid in full.

About fifty companies contributed to the expense fund, a statement of which is appended. In this connection your Committee desire to convey to the Royal Electric Company, Montreal, and