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EDITOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Correspondence is invited upon all topics legitimately coming within the scope of this journal.

The "Canadian Electrical News" has been appointed the official paper of the Canadian Electrical Association.

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In consequence of the recent disastrous fire at Ottawa, where it had been arranged to hold the annual convention of the Canadian Electrical Association, it has been deemed advisable to postpone the meeting until September. A notification to this effect has been sent to the members. The place and exact date for the Convention have not as yet been fixed, but will be decided upon at an early date, when announcement of the same will be made.

The Responsibilities of Telephone Companies.

A PECULIAR action has been brought by George C. Stone and wife, of Onio, in the United States Court at Savannah against the Southern Bell Telephone Co. The plaintiffs owned a winter residence at Thomasville. At about two o'clock one morning they discovered that their home was on fire and undertook to call the fire department through the telephone, but could not get a response from the central office. Thinking it possible that their own telephone might be out of order, they went to their neighbors, but with the same result. Time was wasted in this way, and the fire obtained such headway that, when the fire department was finally communicated with through a messenger, it was impossible to put out the flames, whereas, had it arrived promptly, it is claimed the fire could have easily been extinguished before any material damage had been done. The plaintiffs state that they were subscribers to the telephone company, as was also the Thomasville fire department, and that it was the business of the company to furnish to each of its subscribers means of communication with all the others by means of the telephone at all hours of the day and night. Hence they claim damages from the company in the sum of \$26,000, the value of their property. If claims of this nature are allowed by the courts the telephone companies will find it necessary to revise the terms of their agreements or go out of business.

The National Electric Light Association.

THE twenty-third annual convention of the above association held at Chicago on May 26th, 27th, and 28th, brought out a large attendance. Judging by the published reports, the proceedings were characterized by an earnest purpose to solve some of the more difficult problems which confront those connected with the management of electric lighting companies. Without neglecting the social features, which are a necessary part of the programme of such conventions, the more practical side of the meeting received perhaps closer attention than on some former occasions. It has come to be recognised that there are important objects to be attained by an association of this kind, and that its continued existence will depend upon the degree of earnest attention bestowed upon them. On the recommendation of the committee on standardization of electrical apparatus, the association endorsed the classification and rating of the various kinds of electrical apparatus, as defined by the American Institute of Electrical Engineers, whose recommendations are said to be already commonly recognized and followed by the manufacturers. Following the reading and discussion of a paper by James B. Cahoon, of Syracuse, N.Y., on "Uniform Accounting," a resolution was passed requesting the executive to appoint a committee to formulate a system of uniform accounting and report at the next annual meeting. Mr. Insull, a former president of the association, declared