

and are supposed to take the matter into deliberate consideration and see that no man is nominated without having his status and the branch of the industry which he represents thoroughly discussed. Although I am a central station man, I don't want this institution to be run by central station men. I wouldn't like to see telegraph men run this institution, neither the telephone men, but I believe we should live harmoniously together. We are all here to help develop this one branch of the industries of Canada. This committee, when they nominate a man, ought to take these matters into consideration, and I believe that they will. And then, as our President has very truly remarked, we have a safeguard; if there is any man who has been left off, we have a perfect right to nominate that man and give our reasons for nominating him, and if we as a body think he should be elected we have a perfect right to elect him. But I believe this is a good way of doing the work; it has been found to work well on some other occasions. I would like to see every single branch thoroughly and well represented on the board. I don't want to see any branch enjoy a monopoly of control. (Applause.)

The President: I take it from the applause to Mr. Wright's remarks that there are no objections to the course of the Executive Committee in appointing a nominating committee—therefore I will hope to receive a report from them during the day as to the names of the officers of the Executive Committee, of the President, 1st Vice-President and 2nd Vice-President, but before coming to that point we will proceed with the regular order of business, and that matter will come up under the title of general business. The first order of business is consideration of the reports of committees. We received the reports of the committees yesterday and they were accepted and approved, but the consideration of the recommendations made in those reports would appear to be covered by this item of the "order of business"; and perhaps the first and most important recommendation is that one of the Committee on Legislation, that the members of this Association formulate some plan covering a period of say five years, whereby each company will contribute yearly a given sum towards the necessary expenses of the Legislation Committee. As Mr. Yule very properly stated yesterday when the time for legislative work begins, a good deal of the energy of the committee is lost in finding funds. They are hindered in the beginning; they don't know whether they are going to be able to carry out what they wish, because they are not in possession of funds, and funds are undoubtedly necessary to employ representative lawyers and capable people to look after matters, and besides that and beyond that, the idea conveyed by the committee's report was that the Association should be kept informed, kept in touch with all bills presented to the legislature which may affect the general interests of electrical industries. Therefore I think the first question to take up this morning is the formulation of some method whereby that idea can be put into effect, and I shall be pleased to hear from any of you as to what can be done in that direction.

Mr. John Yule: As I understand the report, our recommendation or suggestion is that our successors in office of the new Legislative Committee take that into consideration. At the same time it is brought up for hearing what suggestions may come from members of the Association to give the committee an idea in what lines to work.

The President: As a very active member and an old member of that committee have you any suggestions to offer as to the amount of annual contribution the members might pay? I bring that up merely that it may be considered here, and while perhaps not acted upon, the idea will be growing.

Mr. Yule: That question has passed through my mind several times as to what would be a proper or reasonable amount for the different companies to agree to contribute for five years, and I don't think, even from the large companies, we would want more than \$10, and going down as low as one dollar or two dollars per year. It may not be used and it may not

be necessary, but during that five years a crisis might arise in which we would want quite a sum of money, and by gathering this fund we would have it in hand. It is thought well we should retain a solicitor in Toronto, examine every bill that is introduced in the legislature of Ontario and in the Dominion house, and see that nothing is lost sight of.

The President: I trust you will not leave out the province of Quebec.

Mr. Yule: We discussed this morning upstairs the question of electing a separate committee for Quebec.

The President: Covering the same idea?

Mr. Yule: Yes. By collecting this fund we would have an amount in hand in case of emergency. We do not want any large amounts; we rather want a large number of small amounts from a large number of companies. If we got 100 companies to enter into an arrangement such as that, if the sums range from one dollar to ten dollars it would be quite a sum in the aggregate, but it would be a very small amount for those contributing. It is entirely voluntary, and you have to use a good deal of judgment in asking them to contribute. Some companies are better off than others, and some are more willing than others, and it will take a good deal of work to get this scheme organized and get it carried out, but I think it can be done. That is what passed through my mind in making that suggestion. We talked it over at the last meeting of the committee and concluded that something of that kind to successfully attend to this business will be necessary. We have attended two meetings of the legislature; I have been pretty constantly in attendance at both those meetings, and have noticed the way in which legislation is introduced and carried through. Something may arise in a town or village or city; the corporation wants something carried through and they find the act interferes with it; they lay the matter over, and they ask their member to introduce an amendment to that act that will comply with their conditions, with what they want to carry through, and that amendment has to apply either to the whole Dominion, if it is in the Dominion house, or to the whole province. It is often looked upon as not amounting to anything, while very often it is a very serious amendment to an act and it goes through without anybody knowing anything about it, or without anybody being on the ground who is posted on that particular subject to point out where it will operate to the detriment of others, where there are a larger number of people interested, although it may be an advantage to that particular village or town or city. The members do not attend to their duties as they ought to. We all ought to get copies of those acts, and that is part of their duty. I suggest to the gentlemen here now, that they should remind their members in going to either of the Houses that if a bill is introduced that affects in any way a lighting company or any other branch of the industry, that they should send copies of that bill to them. I don't know that I can say anything further to impress upon this convention the importance of this matter being attended to, and of organization for the purpose of attending to it. Mr. Wright has had a good deal of experience, perhaps he can say something. (Applause).

The President: I understand your suggestion to be that this would be a contribution by companies and not by individuals?

Mr. Yule: By companies, not by individuals.

The President: Therefore the maximum of the expense, \$10 a year, which you suggest, would seem to be not at all severe upon any operating company?

Mr. Yule: That was the idea.

The President: While a company may have in it a number of members of the Association, as a company the amount of \$10 would not be too small an amount to be paid by any of them, and, as you say, if we could get 100 companies organized together to contribute a fund amounting to say a thousand dollars a year, it would put the Legislative Committee of this Association in such a position that the interests of all could be guarded. Being forewarned by knowledge of legislation going on or offered, it could be very easily