

Mr. Dion said that in Ottawa the station meter was used to check off the records of all the other meters. The total readings of the customers' meters were compared with the record of the station meter, and the difference between the two showed the waste and the amount out on flat rates.

Mr. Wright (Renfrew), said the meter records of his company were kept in a book, two pages being devoted to a customer, and showing the record of each customer and meter.

Mr. Browne said that by the card system adopted by his company, each reading of the customer was shown for the year, and any change of meter was noted on this card. The accounts were first sent out quarterly, following the rule in vogue with the gas company, but they changed to monthly accounts, and after a time the customer got into the way of paying monthly. The change was satisfactory alike to the customer and the company, as the monthly bill was not only easier to pay, but the months of heavy and light consumption could be readily compared with the same months of previous years, whereas if the bill ran for three months it was not so easy to convince the customer that the size of the bill was in proportion to his actual consumption.

Mr. Dion, replying to Mr. Gossler, said it did not matter about the induction load, provided the master meter used in the test was affected the same as the other meters.

Mr. Gossler said his company found that to adjust the meter to three-quarters of a load was more equitable to all concerned.

Mr. Dion said he tested to half a load also.

The debate was then adjourned to allow the members to take a trip over the Hamilton Radial Railway to Burlington Beach, visiting en route the power house of the company, and the power house of the Hamilton Street Railway. An excursion on the lake which had been planned for the evening was given up owing to the gale that blew during the afternoon and evening.

On reassembling Thursday morning the president brought up the subject of the Legislation Committee's proposition to create a fund for keeping in touch with future legislative movements.

Mr. Yule suggested that the companies should be asked to contribute annual subscriptions, ranging from \$10 each down to \$1 or \$2, and that a solicitor be retained to watch matters.

The president wished it to be thoroughly understood that the companies were only fighting against unjust legislation, and were not necessarily opposed to any law that might be introduced.

Mr. Wright (Toronto), moved, seconded by Mr. Wyse, that the plan of annual subscriptions be carried out, leaving the details of the plan to the committee.—Carried.

Upon the report of the nominating committee the following were elected to compose the standing committees of the year:

Committee on Statistics: J. A. Kammerer (chairman), A. A. Wright, Renfrew, and J. F. H. Wyse.

Committee on Meters.—A. A. Dion (chairman), E. E. Cary and J. J. Wright (Toronto).

Committee on Legislation.—J. J. Wright (chairman), B. F. Reesor, C. B. Hunt, John Yule, H. R. Leyden, A. A. Dion, W. H. Comstock and A. L. Breithaupt.

In a short discussion on the subject of fire underwriters' rates governing electrical installations in buildings Mr. Gossler said the only places in Canada where the fire underwriters' rates were enforced by the local authorities were Winnipeg and Brandon.

Mr. Woolsey gave the general practice in the United States, where in most cities there was a double inspection of wiring and other electrical installation. First, the city had its inspector, who passed upon the work, and then the insurance companies sent their inspector to see that all was right. If either inspector condemned any part of the work it had to be altered.

The president said the difficulty here was that there was no centralized authority to whom one could look to see that the rules framed by the fire underwriters were carried out. It would be immaterial whether the inspector was appointed by a city or by the insurance companies. He suggested that the name of Andrew Sangster be added to the committee on this subject.

This suggestion was adopted, the committee being composed of Messrs. Gossler, Dion, Sadler and Sangster.

On the proposition of Mr. Dion it was unanimously decided that Ottawa should be the next place of meeting.

On motion of Mr. Leyden, seconded by Mr. Yule, it was decided to present to James Connée, M.P.P., a suitable testimonial in recognition of his services in behalf of the fair and equitable legislation that had been obtained in Ontario for the protection of electric light companies.

On motion of Mr. Smith the usual grant was given to the secretary.

The discussion on meters was then resumed by Mr. Wright, of Montreal, who considered that an ammeter was as good as a dynamometer for all practical purposes. Large meters working on a small load often gave a loss, and it often happened that after midnight a meter would stop altogether. Sometimes a difference of 20 to 30 per cent. would be recorded in a house meter working at different hours under the same number of lights.

Mr. Leyden thought it was better to inspect meters on the premises for the satisfaction of the customers.

Mr. Fisk said the companies paid the Government to keep the public informed on the subject of meters, and if they tried to humor every customer they would keep themselves in hot water all the time.

Mr. Woolsey said the rule in the United States was that where there was a doubt about the correctness of a meter the customer might demand a test. If on calling in the inspector the meter was found correct the customer paid the inspector's fee of \$1, but if it was not correct the lighting company paid the \$1.

Mr. Dion said that in Ottawa the Government Inspector refused to inspect meters on the premises, so that such a plan was out of the question.

Mr. Gossler said that out of 3,000 customers of his company (the Royal Electric Co.), they had not thirty complaints in a whole year, although they used several different makes of meters.

Mr. Brown added that their practice was to explain the mechanism and the working of the meter, as clearly as possible, and the customer was more easily satisfied when taken into the company's confidence. On the subject of meter rates, he explained that the Royal Electric Co. had three rates: 1st, a single rate; 2nd, a rate fixed by a measurement of the first hour per lamp per day, and for all in excess of this a low rate representing the cost of production of current beyond the first hour. They took the number of lamps in a place and multiplied by 30 days, from which result, by deducting the sum of the first hour's consumption, the excess could be shown. The maximum transformer capacity of each customer is determined. The third method is to charge a fixed sum per year, representing the cost of the energy required to keep in readiness to serve the customer, plus a return on the plant invested in the customer's installation. This rate was usually for large establishments. Accounts were payable monthly, and no contract made for less than a year, while about 2,000 of their customers were under a five years' contract. Recounts of lamps in customers' premises were made from time to time.

Mr. Wright (Toronto), said his company separated commercial lighting from residential lighting, allowing a discount of 40 per cent. off the former, and 60 per cent. off the latter rates. An allowance is made to large consumers. Meters are used in all cases.

Mr. Henderson said that in Hamilton, since the first of May this year, special inducements had been given to merchants for window lighting in the evenings, and they found the plan generally appreciated by the merchants and public, as it gave the city a very attractive appearance.

A hearty vote of thanks was given to Mr. Dion for his valuable paper.

Mr. Hart's paper on "Central Station Accounting" was then read. This paper will appear in next issue.

In the afternoon the Nominating Committee submitted the names of candidates for the Executive, to be voted on the following day.

During the discussion of Mr. Hart's paper, it was decided to recommend to all central stations a uniform system of keeping accounts, and a committee, composed of Mr. Hart and Mr. Wright, of Renfrew, was appointed to draw up a plan.