of gas made was commonly lost, unaccounted for. This was supposed to be due to condensations and leakages, principally from the street pipes, but closer observations made clear that meters were responsible for much of the losses, and in some cases the major part. These conditions have gradually changed in proportion to officers of gas undertakings having acquired comprehensive grip of the situation. Part of the mechanism of the early wet meter was a side tube for determining the full water line. When water was supplied without proper knowledge the tube lent itself to temporary fast registration, and consumers were often victims of their own zeal for watering the meters "*too frequently.*" The inspection law *did* abolish the possibility of this tube being made to operate to the consumer's disadvantage.

Another part of the mechanism still retained is the inlet valve—placed as a sentinel at the internal entrance of the meter, with a duty of warning when a condition is reached to pass gas without registering Theoretically and by experimental testing this arrangement was generally accepted to be perfect, but later knowledge demonstrated that with *every day* working conditions the arrangement capriciously failed of its purpose, frequently resulting in a deviating discrimination against the gas undertaking.

The effect of this was variable bills, with universal dissatisfaction to consumers, who firmly distrusted meters and always believed the larger bills were evidences of guess work and imposition, when in fact the discrepancies were wholly in favor of the consumer.

Corroboration of the foregoing would be easy by reference to results outside Canada, but confirmation is more to the purpose if available within your own jurisdiction.

The character of a meter service cannot be fully appreciated without thorough internal inspection. This opportunity the writer had during 25 years' intimate association with the late Halifax Gas Co. and its meters, commencing 1873, a year before the Act was put in operation.

The Gas Co's. selling price at that time was $3 per m. It had been higher, and the evidence of a series of systematic overhauls and radical reconstructions, in which the writer was chief factor, left no doubt in the writer's mind that if *all* the gas delivered through the meters to the company's consumers had been faithfully registered—the revenue yielded not only would have paid better dividends, but sufficient for the redemption of the whole of the capital—converting the undertaking into a free gift to its shareholders, with a premium over.