

from that than when you rendered them quarterly?

The President: It has eliminated a great deal of complaint about heavy bills; and it also affords the opportunity of showing a customer's varying use; that is, if he got a bill for two months in the winter time he would think he had a very large amount, whereas one month may have been large and the other one comparatively small.

Mr. Fisk: Do you ever discount a customer's bill if paid on or before a certain date.

The President: We do not; our rate in Montreal was fixed by contract some years ago, but we have lately inaugurated a varying system of rates, very largely on the lines indicated by Mr. Dion in his paper. We impose a penalty of interest after the date in the month provided for in the contract, and also exercise the right of disconnection. We put that in vogue two or three years ago. On and after a given date the customers were notified that their accounts were not paid, and were called upon to pay them within a couple of days after. If they did not, they got another notice that they had not paid, and that at the end of two or three days more if the account were not paid their service would be discontinued. At the beginning we had a great many disconnections to make and reconnections were made upon their paying a dollar. It has gone on; we have lost some customers of course by it, but with no permanent serious loss, until now we have a very small percentage of customers whose bills are collected by the man who goes around to make the disconnection. That is, they wait until he comes around to pay their bill, instead of paying it to the office.

Mr. A. A. Wright: Where you distribute these accounts over three months you say the date is placed on the bill. I suppose you mean you give them the bill for January, February or March, and you merely say "this account is for these three months"?

Mr. Dion: I give the actual date of the reading. There might be only two and one-half months between the two readings, or there may be over three months, as the man who reads the meter may not get around on a certain day.

A. A. Wright: What about these meters, do you charge rent for them?

Mr. Dion: We charge a rent for them.

A. A. Wright: You add three months rent in every time.

Mr. Dion: Three or two as the case may be. We get twelve months in every year.

T. R. Rosebrugh: I would like to suggest, in investigating the question of the behaviour of recording watt meters on inductive loads, it might be well to use a small machine having six collector rings, of which three might be three phase and three six. In this way, with six collector rings, you can get the phases all the way around the circle, 15 degrees apart, and by a suitable combination of a non-inductive load, you can divide the 15 degree phases so that you can have the phase angle almost anything you please.

Mr. Dion: I would like to say a word in reply to what Mr. Gossler stated in connection with meter testing. He objects to testing meters in series because he says an inductive load is introduced which makes the meters go faster. We do not care in that particular test how fast or how slow they go, provided they are all affected alike. The master meter or standard is first carefully tested at all the loads, and it is then used as a standard in series with the meters to be tested, so that so long as the meters are all affected alike, the master meter and the others, we don't care anything about the speed, because we compare the consumption with that of the master meter to determine the accuracy of the meters afterwards.

Mr. Wyse. But then we have to lose so much revenue from having the record incorrect.

Mr. Dion: We first test the master meter for accuracy and then we test the other meters by comparison.

Mr. Wyse: Subject to the inductive load.

Mr. Dion: So long as the master meter is affected in the same manner as the others the particular speed

does not matter, because we know that the master meter is correct.

Mr. Gossler: In connection with that matter, I notice that Mr. Dion suggests counting the revolutions of the meter, and if you are going to count the revolutions you have to take the individual meters and test them. If you adjust each meter for an inductive load and place that meter to register on a non-inductive load I don't see how you are going to have it register correctly. There is another thing I would like to bring up in connection with this matter, for discussion, and that is the advisability of adjusting the meter for operating correctly on full load. The time that the meter is in operation or in service on full load is a very small proportion of the total time it is in use, and we have found that adjusting meters for three-quarters load is more equitable both to the consumer and for the company. If you adjust meters to operate correctly at $\frac{3}{4}$ ths of the load and keep within the government restrictions, I think the results will be certainly more equitable to all concerned.

Mr. Dion: If you refer to my paper you will see we test them at half load.

Mr. Gossler: I beg your pardon.

Mr. Dion: We test the master meter at several different loads but we test the others at half loads.

The President: I suggest that this discussion be not closed to-night, but that we close our business for the afternoon, with the understanding that in the morning the further discussion of this paper be taken up, and that you occupy your time all evening getting up what you wish to say on it. There is a great deal yet to be said on this subject, and it is worth a great deal to the operating companies to have it all exhausted and ventilated. We will now adjourn for this afternoon.

At 5 p.m. the members made an excursion over the Hamilton and Dundas electric railway, and at 7.30 p.m. over the Radial Electric Railway to Burlington Beach, visiting en route the power stations of the radial railway and the Hamilton street railway. Unfavorable weather precluded the enjoyment of an excursion by steamer as per programme.

SECOND DAY.

At 9.30 a.m. the President resumed the chair, and in calling the convention to order said: Before proceeding with the regular business, with reference to the Nominating Committee, it has come to my attention that some dissatisfaction exists with some of the members at the action of the Executive Committee in undertaking to appoint a Nominating Committee. I endeavored to make it clear yesterday that the action of the Nominating Committee is in no sense binding; that everybody here has a perfect right to put in the names of candidates when nominations are called for. The Executive Committee did not intend and do not wish to take out of the hands of the convention that which belongs to it, and I want to say right here and now that if there is anyone who objects to the action of the Executive Committee in appointing that Nominating Committee we should hear from them now. We believed that we were representing the sense of the convention in endeavoring to concentrate our action in nominations, but if there is any objection to it I want everyone to make objection now. If it be the sense of this convention that the Nominating Committee shall not put in nominations, we will ask to have the Nominating Committee discharged; but do not let anyone go outside and say, "Well, I don't think the Executive Committee ought to appoint a Nominating Committee." Say it right here and now. If the Executive Committee have done more than they ought to, sit down on them hard and they will get out.

A. A. Wright: I may say that for one I was very well pleased when the matter came up in the way that it did. I have no idea that this Association should be run by a clique or should be in the hands of a ring, but we must have noticed that when nominations are made miscellaneous one man nominates a friend of his and another nominates a man because he chances to know him, and this thing works wrongly. A nominating committee know all the ins and outs of this thing,