

take current at 2,200 volts, and I would have to put in the reducing apparatus myself. Under these circumstances, I do not see how the Hydro-Electric is going to affect us.

Mr. Wilson,—

The remarks I made in reference to the Toronto Electric Light refers to four or five years ago. Six years ago the Toronto Electric Light practically had a monopoly of the power business, to-day there is a competitor in the market, and they are out looking for all the business they can get.

Mr. Jefferis,—

In the first place, I want to congratulate Mr. Wickens on the excellence of his paper. I know that it has required a great deal of thought and time to prepare it. In the second place, I want to congratulate the President on the able manner in which he has handled this rather ticklish meeting. In the third place, I want to say to the operating engineers here, and particularly to the last two gentlemen who have been speaking, "Don't worry." I don't mean to say to you sit down and let things go, but, I do mean this, that the steam engine has been invented a long time, and that it will still be on the job when we are all under the sod. If I were to speak to you from a personal point of view, and in the interests of my company, I would tell you to use coke for fuel, or to buy this or that kind of gas engine as a solution to your difficulties, and I would be right, but I do not want to do that.

A good many years ago, one of the officers, high in the Hydro-Electric management told me that with the Government behind them they could sell electricity very, very cheap. This, of course, would not be a very tough proposition for them. It is a tough proposition, however, to compete with a company that is backed by the Government, especially when the managers of the enterprises with which you are concerned are looking for dividends on the money that is invested. At this time, an old saying of the negro cook in our family when I lived in the Southern States, comes to my mind, she used to say, "Surely, the Lord will provide," and He will provide. I do not think that if there is any president, or general manager, or high representative of any company who has the privilege of being present at this meeting to-night who would not realize something more of the trials and problems that their engineers are battling with in their endeavors to faithfully carry out their duties in the interests of the firm for which they are working.