

before the judge when the court sat at Winnipeg, and promised again to appear at North Bay, but once more failed. One cannot anticipate the judge's findings, but Mr. Hays has probably seen enough already of the state of affairs in the engineering staff to realize that with a Canadian as chief the subordinate appointments will be accepted without undue criticism, and that until such appointment is made there will be just ground for dissatisfaction.



—The signs of the times appear to point to a general acceptance of the principle of municipal ownership of such utilities as water, gas and lighting and to the public or Government ownership of such franchises as the telephone, telegraph and railways. A single service well administered and on the cheapest terms consistent with good maintenance and a moderate return on the capital invested is manifestly the most satisfactory to the public, and when that moderate margin of profit is returned to the general public from whose needs it derives its existence the ideal has been reached. But the conditions for this ideal are farther away under private than municipal or public ownership. Where more than one company is in the field for a service in a city, for instance, the natural struggle to obtain complete control leads to the buying out of the opposition at a price many times beyond its earning power, and no sooner is the victorious company seated in its monopoly than rates are raised sufficient to pay a dividend on the inflated capital; in other words, on paper that represents no conceivable value, either in plant or good-will. The income from these non-existent values is transferred from the pockets of the citizens in general to the few of them who have been in the deal, while, on the other hand, the service, when the opposition has been removed, is usually poorer than before. Under municipal ownership the acquisition of the rights of existing companies is apt to be obtained upon terms that represent something like the actual value of the plant, and there is no danger of further watering of stock, since the people have no object in exploiting themselves. As for the quality of the service, it can be made just as efficient as the people desire, since the control is in their own hands. It is true that corruption gets into municipal politics too often and too deeply, but this again is capable of cure, and the evil will work itself out in time. The evil, on the whole, is probably not greater than the corruption and dishonesty that exists among the employees of private corporations owning large franchises. Municipal management in the cities of Canada has extended a great deal in the past ten years, as it has also in Great Britain and the United States, and with a few exceptions the change has been for the public advantage. In view of this tendency it is satisfactory to learn that the Dominion Government is considering the acquisition of both the telegraph and trunk line telephone systems of Canada. Sir William Mulock, into whose department the work would fall, has not only been capable of "thinking imperially," but of acting imperially in working out his postal problems; and if he takes control of the telephone and telegraph services he can count on having the support of the people who will be relieved from a situation already full of danger and irritation, and which is bound to grow worse as such monopolies as the Bell Telephone Co. extend their sway. There is very little prospect of relief from the

formation of rival telephone companies, since sooner or later the Bell will buy them up, and the telephone-using public will be bled to pay for the deal. The only remedy for the telephone trouble is Government ownership of the trunk lines, with the extension of municipal ownership, if not Government ownership, of local exchanges.



K. B. THORNTON.

K. B. Thornton, now president of the Canadian Electrical Association, is the youngest man (with the exception of Mr. Gossler), who has held this position. He has a good education, part of which was obtained in England. For a number of years he has been superintendent of the Construction Department of the Montreal Light, Heat and Power Co. Mr. Thornton was 1st vice-president of the Association last year, and held the 2nd vice-presidency the year previous.



CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF STATIONARY ENGINEERS.

Two branches of the above association have been organized recently, one at Chatham, on the 28th May, and one at St. John, N.B., on the 23rd June. The former started with ten charter members: Wm. Condon, Thos. Stephenson, John Buck, Albert Trott, Chas. Kelley, R. G. Brown, Edw. Grandbois, Wellington McGregor, Wm. Prout, and J. W. Montgomery. The St. John branch starts with 43 charter members and both organizations promise well.



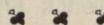
NEW CATALOGUES.

The following catalogues may be obtained by those interested, by referring to the Canadian Engineer:

"Metal-Working Machine Tools," Garvin Machine Co., Spring and Varick streets, New York.

"S.K.C. Generators," Bulletin 923, Canadian General Electric Company, Toronto.

"Compressed Air Appliances," The Canadian Rand Drill Co., Sherbrooke, Que.



—The Decimal Association of England is offering prizes of £20 and £10 for the two best essays on the advantages to be gained by the adoption of the Metric Weights and Measures throughout the British Empire, and on the best means of effecting the transition. Essays must be in by January 1st, 1905. The secretary is Edward Johnson, Oxford Court, Cannon St., London, E.C.