

tion no longer is, 'Can we apply the electric current to this and to that purpose?' but 'What new fields of enterprise can it enter and develop?' This transformation in Hamilton took place shortly after the conclusion of the convention last year in Montreal. Since that time also there has been put into operation, a plant at Rossland, British Columbia, transmitting about the same amount of power the same distance as here. Many of you last year visited the works at Chambly, then under construction for the transmission of current to Montreal, and it is my pleasure to announce that the electric current has been transmitted from the power house on the Richelieu River, and the waters of Lake Champlain, transformed into electric energy, flow throughout the city of Montreal. Such enterprises are so much the accepted fact and indicate successful physical accomplishment so thoroughly, that many other similar enterprises, covering even greater distances, are being seriously considered by conservative capitalists, keen to perceive the great commercial advantages that will accrue from the developments made in this field of electric science.

"Arising from the increased uses of water powers for the generation of electric energy and the successful application of such energy to commercial motive power uses, a condition is beginning to assume shape with every indication of increasing, which may modify existing manufacturing conditions, and perhaps change habits and methods of living. I refer to the limitation of the use of electric current for manufacturers' motive power to the hours of daylight, or perhaps more properly speaking, to the time outside of those hours when the need of illumination makes greatest demand upon the electric plant. A considerable objection to undertaking to seek motive power business, has been the necessity of increased capital for plant in excess of lighting requirements, to take care of the load which would exist during the hours when the motive power load and the lighting load would be called for simultaneously. The idea has been maintained and acted upon that it is profitable for many, if not all manufacturers, to discontinue work as soon as the dark hours begin, for the reason that the cost of manufacturing is increased during such dark hours by the necessity of expense for illumination, and by the diminished productive capability of the operatives. Besides avoiding these increased expenses, manufacturers can obtain the use of electric current for power, at a considerable reduction in price outside of the hours in which the greatest demand necessarily occurs for lighting. The cost of motive power to the manufacturer can be thus made much cheaper than he could otherwise produce it.

"This additional source of revenue, or increased return upon capital investment for plant and lines, will also enable the generator and distributor of electric current to sell such current for lighting profitably, at a less rate than when no revenue is derived from the plant in the day time. Less price for lighting will assist materially in the increased use of electric current for illuminating purposes. Since this idea was first suggested it has grown considerably, and its application is being gradually extended, and it does not seem too much to say that in a few years the hours of manufacturing will be restricted to the hours of daylight, with all the advantages that will result therefrom. While this condition is of most value to the water power generation of electric current, it is of great value also to steam generating plant, by reason of the increased return upon invested capital which it will provide. The suggestion is well worth thoughtful consideration and furtherance.

"In another direction also, the assembling of our convention in this city demonstrates the progress that has been made since the commencement of the career of the association. At the first convention there were present 57 active and 24 associate members. The total membership of the association, by the report of the secretary-treasurer, at the present time is about 250. This increase, continuous and progressive from the first convention, indicates not only lively and hearty appreciation of the advantages to be derived from association for mutual intercourse and improvement of knowledge from interchange of ideas, but also denotes continuous growth of the electric interests and the progressive development of new enterprises.

"Surveying the entire field of electrical industry in Canada to-day, it may be fairly said that if all are not in thoroughly sound and healthy condition, the greater number of them are

prosperous and improving. In the days of the first convention, this could not be so well said, for as many of you remember, conditions were precarious and probability of success uncertain. Here again I may allude to the result recently accomplished by our Committee on Legislation, which will greatly tend to advance such prosperity. Already it has had the effect of strengthening and fortifying existing enterprises, encouraging owners to endeavor to extend and increase their business, to enlarge and better their plants, because now they feel assurance that their investments are protected, and that they cannot be deprived of them ruthlessly and recklessly. This is as it should be, not only from the point of view of the private owners of such enterprises, but from that of the general public and municipal interests."

After urging members to solicit new members to join the association he went on to say: "The value of concerted action for mutual information and advantage may be illustrated by the following: Many persons interested in electric lighting were solicitous as to the possible invasion of their business by acetylene. For the purpose of assembling authentic information as to the progress, present status and use of acetylene for domestic and commercial illumination, a circular was sent to cities, towns and villages throughout Canada, having electric plants, requesting exact statements as to the conditions existing in those localities concerning its use and its interference with electric lighting. Replies were received from 103 localities. The results have been tabulated, and with some extracts from newspapers, will be presented in the proceedings of the convention, so that every member will have accessible the fullest and latest information on that subject in convenient form. Here it seems sufficient to say that no serious menace for the present, at least, need be anticipated therefrom to the electric lighting industry, although undoubtedly useful and profitable fields will be found for the desirable and proper use of acetylene." In conclusion Mr. Browne thanked the officers and members of the committees for their hearty co-operation, and resumed his seat amid applause.

The secretary-treasurer, C. H. Mortimer, then read his report, which, after referring to the important work done by the Committee on Legislation in dealing with amendments to the Municipal Act—a work which had already justified the existence of the association—recommended further action towards safeguarding the rights which have been secured to electric lighting companies by the Conmee Bill. The Executive Committee held three meetings during the year. At the first of these, held on September 9th, accounts in connection with last convention amounting to \$240 were passed; the additional sum of \$50 was granted to assist the Entertainment Committee to discharge its obligations. On March 23rd, the committee met to consider arrangements for this convention, and other business; a committee was appointed to make the necessary local arrangements, consisting of George Black, H. R. Leyden, Gordon J. Henderson, E. E. Cary, Wilfrid Phillips, A. B. Smith, together with the following gentlemen as honorary members: Clyde Green, J. A. Nelles, Mark B. Thomas, J. B. Griffith, with power to add to their number. A committee to arrange for convention papers was appointed as follows: The President, E. E. Cary, A. A. Dion, J. J. Wright, John Carroll and the secretary.

On the 20th of May, the committee met to receive reports of the various sub-committees, and to complete arrangements for the convention. Accounts for convention buttons and printing, \$23.05, were passed.

The number of new members elected since last report is as follows: Active, 20; associate, 2; total, 22. During the same period there have been removed from the roll 14 active, and 1 associate, leaving the present membership 241, or a gain of 7 over last report. (New members added since the report was made up bring the total membership to about 250).

Several members in arrears for fees have objected to make payment, on the ground that they joined the association for one year only. It should be clearly understood that when a person joins the association, he is to be regarded as being a member until his formal resignation is placed with the secretary. I would respectfully suggest that the form of application for membership be altered so as to conform to this view.

The receipts and disbursements have been as follows: