

Receipts.

Cash on hand June 1st, 1894 ..	\$ 23 30
Cash in bank " " " ..	250 18
14 active members' fees at old rate, \$5 ..	70 00
71 active members' fees at new rate, \$3 ..	213 00
14 associate members' fees at \$2 ..	28 00
Captain Carter ..	2 50
Increased amount paid by associate members to become active ..	2 00
Exchange on cheque ..	10
	\$589 08

Disbursements.

Expenses of Convention at Montreal ..	\$278 76
By cash as per local committee's statement ..	\$106 50
By cash, stenographer ..	27 00
By cash, <i>Canadian Electrical News</i> , printing ..	92 15
By cash, Canadian Photo-Engraving Co. ..	52 41
By cash, express charges on books sent to and from convention ..	70
	\$278 76

Refund to members on account of reduction of fees ..	\$ 18 00
Postage ..	38 50
Stationery and printing, <i>Electrical News</i> ..	7 75
Grant to Secretary ..	25 00
Statistical Committee, expense account ..	25 00
Telegrams and messages ..	79
Exchange on cheques ..	1 15
Ribbon for badges ..	1 60
Envelopes ..	75
Macrea & Macrea, delivery of 21 copies convention report ..	11
Blackhall & Co., 50 certificate covers ..	4 00
Receipt forms ..	35
Express charges ..	55
	\$402 31

Cash in bank May 31st, 1895 ..	186 77
Cash on hand ..	
	\$589 08

Receipts since May 31st, 1895.

Refund by Statistical Committee for fees ..	\$ 23 62
Receipts for fees since May 31st, 1895 ..	173 00
	196 62

Expenditure since May 31st, 1895.

Postage ..	\$ 8 10
Exchange ..	75
Blackhall & Co. (covers) ..	4 00
	\$ 12 85
Cash in bank, Sept 17th, 1895 ..	84 12
Cash on hand Sept 17th, 1895 ..	99 65
	\$196 62

Total standing to credit of Association, \$370.54

C. H. MORTIMER,
Sec.-Treas.

A. B. SMITH, PRESIDENT CAN. ELECTRICAL ASSOCIATION.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATION.

Shortly after the last meeting of this association your Committee on Legislation was called upon to act in conjunction with the executive in an important crisis, which it was pointed out at its organization might arise, and in such case organized effort would prove one of the valuable functions of the association—legislation which, though not intended to be hostile, might, through lack of thorough knowledge of its promoters, result most disastrously to electrical interests.

During the last session of the Ontario Legislature a bill was introduced which, if it had become law, would most assuredly have worked an injustice to many, and would have been burdensome to all who have invested their capital in electrical enterprises, by laying a tax as personalty upon all street equipment of electrical companies.

Immediately upon the introduction of the bill your president called a meeting of the executive, when the following circular was drafted and sent by the secretary to all the electric light companies in Ontario:—

"TORONTO, March 19th, 1895.

"DEAR SIR, - As you are interested in an electrical light plant, I am instructed by the Executive Committee of the Canadian Electrical Association to call your attention to an amendment to the Assessment Act, which has recently been introduced in the Legislative Assembly of Ontario by Mr. German, and which is contained in Bill No. 91, the object of which is to make electric light poles and wires assessable.

"Such an addition to the expense of the electric light business would prove to be a serious burden, more especially in the smaller places where lighting plants are scarcely self-sustaining under present conditions. In such places the electric light has in most instances been established by public-spirited citizens for the public convenience and the welfare of the place, rather with a view to any profit from the invested capital. The business, as you are aware, is at present sustained only by the exercise of the closest economy, and is consequently not in a position to stand any additional burden.

"There is no public demand for the proposed legislation, and it is felt that the measure is one that should be opposed by those whose interests are at stake. I would, therefore, request you and the stockholders of your company to communicate immediately with the representative of your riding in the Legislature, and any others with whom you are acquainted, and ask them to oppose the bill as being detrimental to the prosperity and development of the electric lighting industry, and as certain to work serious injury and injustice to capital which was invested in the belief that it would continue to remain exempt from taxation. It should likewise be pointed out that even though it may not be possible to defeat the bill entirely, no increase in taxation should in any event be made until existing contracts with municipalities shall have expired.

"As the bill may come before the Committee of the House within a few days, immediate action in the direction indicated above is necessary.

"Very truly yours,

"C. H. MORTIMER, Secretary."

As a result of this circular we have reason to believe that a large number of the representatives who compose the House had information placed before them in the most effective way, that the proposed legislation would work an injustice, inasmuch as it would enable municipal councils to make a breach of the understanding on which nearly all the electrical companies of the province were organized; that in many cases where the business is barely self-sustaining under present conditions, such taxation would prove so burdensome that it would mean the practical confiscation of the plant; that instead of proving a benefit to the public, the result would be exactly the reverse, as many companies which were organized, not with a view to profit, but as a public convenience, would be compelled to suspend, thus not only causing a loss of the investment, but depriving the country of its advantage. But more important than all, it was clearly shown that the first result of such hostile legislation at the present experimental stage of the practical application of electricity to modern requirements, would prevent the investment in the business of capital, which is so important to the development of this great interest, and thus prove of incalculable injury to the commercial interests of the country.

So forcibly were the conditions presented to the legislators that a large majority were convinced of the injustice and inexpediency of the measure, and the mover of the bill himself voluntarily withdrew it at its first appearance in committee.

The matter of municipal assessment in many of its phases presents a difficult problem, but in no feature is this more apparent than in its application to electrical interests. Your committee would therefore urge, not only upon members of this association, but upon all who are interested in any way in electrical enterprises, a thorough consideration of the practical application of this question, and especially to see that their representatives in the legislature, who may be called upon at any time to legislate on this subject, have some knowledge of the interests involved, so that they may know the effect of ill-considered changes which may possibly be proposed.

JNO. YULE,
Chairman of Committee.

J. A. Kammerer presented the report of the Committee on By-Laws and Constitution, which amounted to a general revision of the constitution. The revised constitution will appear in next issue.