

of a division between supply men and central station men was never raised. I think it is a mistake to raise it; this Association is not old enough or large enough to draw any lines between any classes of members; we want all the members, we want their assistance, we want their work. This association has two principal objects, one is the furtherance of the interests of the companies which the members represent generally; the other is the acquirement of knowledge in our calling. We know that for both of these objects, and especially for the last one, we have to depend in a very large measure on supply men. The papers which are read here and which contribute so much to the increase of our knowledge, are generally the result of the study and experience of men engaged in manufacturing, or the supply men. Then if you admit that we owe a considerable part of our success and the success of our Convention to the efforts of the supply men, if you put them on your committees and get them to perform the work of the Association as they have done, some of them in such an efficient manner, is it right to debar them from the only little reward we can offer them in the way of honors? I do not think it is fair; undoubtedly it would be wrong to allow men, if they must be considered apart from the other members as a class, to control the affairs of the Association to the exclusion of the station men. There is no question that that would be wrong, but I do not think there is any danger of that for some years to come at least, and in the meantime I should like that we should forget that there is any division between us whatever. (Applause.)

Mr. Bonner: I should like an opportunity to qualify a statement I made to this extent. It is possible the members here may have understood or inferred from what I stated that I had an impression that station men and telephone men and telegraph men were not as equally capable of developing the business as supply men; that was not my meaning at all. It is simply this, that we are in the business of supplying apparatus, and even so, we are at the same time greatly dependent upon the station men to give us ideas regarding the practical effect or operation of what we supply, and to that extent we are dependent upon them, but it is simply the working together of the two interests that makes us, as I feel, equally interested in the success of this Association.

Mr. Kammerer: While it may not be written in the laws of the Association or in the by-laws of the Association that supply men are not competent to hold the position, yet it is the unwritten law, and one in which the older members that are here now will bear me out in (I refer particularly to Mr. Yule, Mr. Black, Mr. J. J. Wright and Mr. Thomson), that it was always understood to be an Association of central station managers, telephone people and telegraph managers, and those actively interested in that business, and not of supply men. While Mr. Dion says he has never heard the question raised before, I may say I have attended the Association since 1892. I think eight or nine meetings

and at three of those meetings I did hear it mentioned and discussed, and finally settled with the old members, that it was not the thing for supply men to hold the position of president or first or second vice-presidents.

Mr. Yule: Mr. Kammerer was vice-president one year himself.

Mr. Kammerer: Let me set you right there. At the time I held the position I was proprietor of a central station.

Mr. Carroll: I would like to say this, that that sentiment has really crippled our Association to some extent, and you have crippled your telephone interests and your telegraph interests by just such remarks as those from Mr. Kammerer. Why should we draw the line between the telephone and telegraph and central station and the supply men? What he says sounds very nice, but it does not follow out in the history of this Association. I have been a member nine years and I know the history of it. You have crippled your telegraph interests and your telephone interests, and if you continue on with your supply interests you are going to have fewer members than you have got here now.

The President: As between Mr. Carroll and Mr.

Kammerer, it would appear that the withdrawal by Mr. Black of his name takes out of the discussion the question of distinction between telephone and telegraph men and the supply men, and the nomination of Mr. Noxon leaves the question entirely between central stations, electric lighting stations and supply companies. Mr. Black has withdrawn, therefore I think any further reference to the question of telephone and telegraph men has been taken out of the discussion by Mr. Black's own action. The situation would now appear to be as between the supply department and the operators of electric lighting stations.

Mr. Higman: I think it is a little unfortunate to make that division. I would lose sight, if possible, of the occupation of those who have been nominated—I would not say it was between the supply men and electric light men.

The President: I will accept Mr. Higman's correction. The idea that I had in mind was that Mr. Black, by having withdrawn his name, took out of the discussion the question of telephone and telegraph interests, but Mr. Higman is correct in saying that it is not a question between supply men and electric lighting companies, but it is a question of having all interests represented. Therefore I will withdraw my remark.

Mr. Leonard: I move we proceed to ballot.

Mr. Noxon: I feel it a great compliment to have my name mentioned in connection with the Vice-Presidency of this Association, but I hope further that my nominator will do me the justice—do me the kindness, at any rate—of withdrawing my name from connection with this position. I certainly would feel that I would be under great obligation to the Association were my name acceptable to them in that capacity to serve to the best of my ability, but at the same time I do not feel that I have any claim whatever upon the consideration of this Association for such an honor as that, and I would therefore kindly ask my nominator to withdraw my name from the convention altogether.

Mr. Gossler: I second Mr. Leonard's motion to bring the question to a ballot.

Mr. Carroll: I cannot see how you can have any ballot, as there is only one name before the Association; Mr. Noxon has withdrawn his name.

The President: I cannot agree with you; Mr. Noxon has only asked that his nominator withdraw his name, but Mr. Noxon has not withdrawn himself. Before I put the question I desire to know if there be any other nominations desired to be proposed for the office of 1st Vice-President?

A. A. Wright: Will you allow me to draw the attention of this Association to one thing—that this tempest in a tea pot has not been raised by central station men.

Mr. Anderson: Mr. President, I am only a new member of this Association; this is the first convention I have attended; I have never heard of the jealous feeling that is said to exist in this Association. I wish to endorse what the last speaker said—I do not believe it comes from the central station men. I regret very much that the remarks have been as pointed as they have been. Perhaps I may strike the key note when I say it may arise from a little jealousy on the part of the supply men, because I do not believe it arises from the central station men. As far as the success of this Association is concerned, it depends largely, sir, on the manner in which we hold together. As far as the supply men are concerned, I think they are linked together with the central station men, and we cannot deprive them of their right as members of this Association to hold office and get part of the honors, while I believe it would be in the interests of the Association to divide these honors fairly and equally. I just wish to express my sentiments in this way, that in union is strength; do not let these jealousies creep into our Association and thereby injure it. There is no supply man on the floor but what I would welcome and be glad to see hold one of the offices of this Association. My acquaintance with Mr. Cary is limited, but I think he would make a splendid man for the position, and as a central station man I have no hesitation in supporting any supply man for one of the vice-presidencies of this Association.