

times of the day. On thinking the matter over, he came to the conclusion that it was the current of electricity in the street lighting wires that was the cause, although the nearest wire to the observatory was on Bloor street, nearly a mile away. To prove the matter, he made a note of the times of the influence, which on comparison with the city time schedule for starting the lights, was found to exactly agree. It is now found that similar instruments to Mr. Carpmael's, namely, those for measuring earth currents and magnetic disturbances, located at Greenwich Observatory, near London, have been found to be thrown into vibration by the passing of trains on the Stockwell Electric Railway. The railway tunnel is over two miles from the nearest earthplate connected with the observatory, but the currents set up are sufficiently strong to make very distinct deflections. The times of the interference being exactly the same as those on which the trains are running, leave no doubt as to the cause of the disturbance. Fortunately, Mr. Carpmael says, the cause of the disturbance being known, it can be allowed for without affecting the general results obtained from the instruments.

At the request of a number of managers of electrical companies, the publisher of the *ELECTRICAL NEWS* recently addressed a circular to the owners of electric plants in Canada asking an expression of their opinion regarding the desirability of organizing a Canadian Electrical Association. They were also requested to state whether they would be willing to attend an informal meeting in Toronto on September 17th to consider the subject. The replies received are almost unanimously in favor of the proposition, and so many have declared their willingness to attend a meeting, that it has been thought well to announce that the meeting will take place in this city on the date mentioned. Particulars as to place of meeting, etc., will be given in the September number of this journal. Meanwhile, every person connected with the electrical interests of the country is urged to be present on the occasion.

If present indications are reliable, and they should be, there is prospect of a great time ahead for electricians and the electric interest generally at the forthcoming convention to be held in Montreal. The date of opening is fixed for the 7th of September, and the citizens of Montreal are even now working with might and main on the details of a royal Canadian welcome which is to be given to the National E. L. Association. There is to be a *conversazione* arranged for the members; excursions upon and around the mountain; the harbor commissioners will provide a steamboat with the regulation Indian pilot for a run of the Lachine Rapids; the municipal authorities are sparing no pains to do the visitors proud. It may be asked, amidst all these arrangements for the pleasure and entertainment of the visitors, where does the Convention come in? There will no doubt be found a sufficient corner or two to work in the necessary business and instructive features. Not the least among these latter we hear, is to be an illustrated lecture by the famous young electrician, Nikola Tesla, on his recent discoveries in lighting by high frequency alternating currents. This will be a treat to the Canadian electrician such as does not come within his reach every day. In addition to all this, the Electrical Exhibition is expected to be the best ever held in connection with the Association. All the available space has been taken up, and the display of machinery and appliances will be most complete and interesting. We strongly recommend our electrical brethren in Canada to pay a visit to Montreal at some time during the convention and see for themselves how it is done, and be enabled to decide on the advantages of a local association of electric lighting interests, which, while in no sense competing with the wider one of the United States, would be able to conserve the interests of the distinctively Canadian branch of the electric lighting industry.

THE MONTREAL CONVENTION.

A MEETING of the Executive Committee of the N. E. L. A. was held in the Windsor Hotel, Montreal, on Tuesday, July 21st, at which there was present Prof. McLeod, Mr. F. Fairman, Mr. F. R. Redpath, Mr. W. H. Laurie, Mr. John Kennedy, Mr. J. A. U. Beaudry, Prof. Cox, Mr. W. S. McFarlane, Mr. S. C. Stevenson, Mr. J. S. Shearer, Mr. E. C. Arnoldi, Mr. W. E. Christie and others.

Owing to the absence of the chairman it was proposed by Mr. Stevenson that Mr. Kennedy should take the chair. Carried.

The secretary read the minutes of the last meeting, which were adopted.

Mr. Kennedy, as to the arrangement with Harbor Commissioners, reported that the matter was not closed, and further delay was asked. As to the visits to the Canadian Pacific and Grand Trunk railways, he was not prepared to report. Through

error it was stated in the newspapers that arrangements had already been made on the invitation of the railways, but nothing of the kind had been done. The Board were to fix that.

Mr. Christie reported that a lacrosse match could be arranged, but the day was wanted to be known that would be suitable. It was also desired to print a programme, the object of which was that once the day was settled for the lacrosse match it would not conflict with the exhibition. A suggestion was made at the same time to draw up a small committee to form a programme.

Mr. Laurie stated that there were several committees already arranged.

The secretary stated that the business arrangements must come first, and the entertainments must be fitted in.

Mr. Kennedy was not in a position to say that it was feasible to carry out the proposal to run the rapids and visit the railway workshops.

Mr. Stevenson suggested that the various sub-committees should report to the General Committee.

Mr. Beaudry asked that the lacrosse match be arranged at once, but it was found impossible to do so.

Mr. Fairman, for the Dominion Bridge Works, stated that a meeting had been held at his office. Messrs. Ives, Cooper and Beaugrand undertook to see the Canadian Pacific and Grand Trunk railways for a guarantee and subscription, and Mr. Ives was to visit St. Francois Xavier and St. James street business people. He could only report progress, and say that they had so far a guarantee amounting to about \$1,000.

Mr. Stevenson, for the "Forest and Stream Club," had no definite report to make.

Prof. McLeod, regarding the proposed expenditure in connection with the *conversazione*, reported having looked over the grounds, and proposed to unite the Molson Hall and the Redpath Museum into one, as the accommodation thus provided would be required. He also proposed to have a large tent and to unite that with the Redpath Museum, the tent being used for refreshments and as an outdoor place where the people could circulate more freely. The size of the tent proposed would be about 120 feet long by 140 feet wide with wings. The canvass required would cost about \$150, and carpentry \$50 more. It was estimated that the cost of music would be somewhere in the neighborhood of \$50. No estimate for refreshments was as yet obtained. He considered that provision should be made for nearly 1,000 guests, and wanted the views of the Committee.

Mr. Christie thought the estimate should be about \$400. The secretary stated the amount would probably be about \$650.

A motion was made by Prof. McLeod, seconded by Mr. S. C. Stevenson, that Messrs. Beauvais, Carroll and Corriveau be named a committee to draft a programme.

Mr. Kennedy stated that at the last meeting it was suggested not to have too many names on the committees, and the secretary said that a number of the names were not attending, and it might be thought desirable to reduce same.

The secretary stated that a number of gentlemen throughout the city to whom cards were sent had not attended, and it was thought best to strike a number of the names off the sub-committees. A proposal was made to put these names on the general reception committee, which was done, and also that no notices were to be sent to any but the working committee, which was carried.

Mr. Christie desired to know the limit of the Executive Committee, and was informed that it was from 20 to 30.

The exact date of the convention was from the 7th to the 16th September.

A meeting of the Citizens' Executive Committee was held in the Windsor Hotel on the evening of Tuesday, July 28th. There were present Prof. Bovey, in the chair; Messrs. I. R. Redpath, J. Carroll, J. S. Shearer, J. Kennedy, Linnell, Laurie and Toms.

Prof. Cox asked to be relieved from the duties of his position as secretary of the committee, on account of his having been called to England on important business. The resignation was not, however, accepted, but Mr. John Carroll was appointed as joint secretary.

After discussing a variety of subjects connected with the details of the forthcoming convention, the committee adjourned until the 3rd inst.

Subsequently a meeting of the sub-committee on exhibits was held, Mr. F. R. Redpath presiding, when the following resolutions were passed:

"That the secretary be instructed to write to Mr. Dwight, of the Great Northwestern Telegraph Co., regarding pole privileges in connection with those of the Bell Telephone Co., for carrying the wires from McGill University to the Victoria rink."

"That Mr. Corriveau and Mr. Carroll be appointed a committee regarding the decorations for the rink, and report at the next meeting."

A letter was received from Mr. Gulick, president of the Exhibition Committee in New York, reporting that considerable progress had been made in the work of the allotment of space. A number of new applications for space were received. Mr. Carroll was appointed secretary of the sub-committee, in the place of Mr. F. Nicholls, resigned.

A meeting of the Executive Committee is being held in New York to-day (1st inst.).

It is the intention of the Montreal press to appoint a committee to receive the visiting pressmen. A meeting to consider the matter will be called at once.