

News of the Industry

Chronicle of Important Events and General Activities in the
Technical, Commercial and Manufacturing Fields

Conference Club to Elect New Members Next Week

MEMBERS of the Conference Club, which in January adopted the idea of dedicating itself to the electrical industry, will meet in the Cleveland Hotel, Cleveland, Ohio, on March 18, to elect new members from the unrepresented branches of the industry and also decide where the next meeting will be held. There is some question whether the meeting should be held in May in California, about the time of the National Electric Light Association convention and the jobbers' meeting, or later at White Sulphur Springs or Hot Springs, Va.

As a result of this Cleveland meeting the club can get fairly launched on its new program. It will then be possible to appoint the composite committee on bylaws.

Associated Manufacturers to Hold Annual Meeting

ARRANGEMENTS have now been satisfactorily completed for the fifth annual meeting and banquet of the Associated Manufacturers of Electrical Supplies, to be held at the Waldorf-Astoria, New York City, March 18. The business session will be held in the afternoon in the Waldorf apartment, at which time a review of the work of the year as covered by reports of officers and standing and special committees will be presented. The election of five new members to the board to succeed retiring governors will also take place. In the evening the annual banquet will be held in the Astor Gallery.

New Coast Electrification of Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Opened

FRIDAY morning of last week the Olympian train left Seattle over the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul tracks for Chicago, marking the opening of service on the newly electrified coast division of the system, which adds 207.4 miles to the 440 miles previously electrified in Montana. The coast division extends from Tacoma, Wash., to Othello, Wash. Between Othello and Avery, Idaho, the western end of the Montana electrification, there is an unelectrified stretch of 212 miles.

Electrification of these lines releases, or will release when it is completed and the Avery-Othello gap closed, about 250 steam locomotives and will employ in their place from ninety to ninety-five electric locomotives. Substitution of hydro-electric power for steam on the system will, when completed, mean a saving in fuel, based on the business of 1918, of approximately 300,000 tons of coal and 40,000,000 gallons of fuel oil annually.

The power furnished to the Milwaukee lines for the newest electrified section is taken for the Snoqualmie plant of the Puget Sound Traction, Light & Power Company at the west end near Seattle and from the Long

Lake plant of the Washington Water Power Company on the Spokane River. Energy is delivered to the railroad's transmission lines along its right-of-way at 100,000 volts. There are eight step-down substations between Othello and Tacoma from which direct current is fed to the locomotives at 3,000 volts.

The first electrification of the lines of this system was put into operation in December, 1915. It was the Rocky Mountain division of 226 miles. The following year the Missoula division of 211 miles was placed under electrical operation.

Electric Service Lines Withstand Severe Blizzard

IN WHAT was characterized as the most severe blizzard, while it lasted, in years, the transmission and distribution lines of electric light and power companies in the East stood up almost 100 per cent. The blizzard, which visited the Western and Middle States in the early part of the week, reached the Atlantic coast on the night of March 5. Heavy rain was followed by sleet, hail and finally snow, accompanied by wind which reached a velocity of 72 miles an hour. Traffic was blocked and trains were stalled either in snowdrifts or by washouts from floods caused by the rain early in the evening.

Telephone and telegraph lines were put out of service, a district manager of the telephone company in New Jersey stating that this was the worst storm his company had experienced in the past ten years. The electric companies probably suffered the least of all utilities. The New York Edison Company stated that the storm caused no interruption of service in New York City, and in Yonkers but one circuit was out, for a period of only fifteen minutes. The Public Service Company of New Jersey, the Brooklyn Edison and the New York and Queens company each reported practically no trouble other than on one or two series incandescent street-lighting circuits. The Richmond Light and Railroad Company (Staten Island) stated that a few poles had been blown down but service was maintained.

In New England a few lighting circuits were reported down in outlying districts, but in no case was the number of customers affected very large.

Detroit Edison Issues \$5,503,500 Ten-Year Debentures

THE Detroit Edison Company is issuing \$5,503,500 ten-year 7 per cent convertible debenture gold bonds. These bonds will be convertible at the option of the holder into paid-up shares of the capital stock of the company at par.

The proceeds of this issue, as stated by F. H. Fiske, assistant secretary of the North American Company, will be used for the development, extension and maintenance of the Detroit Edison Company.