

LIGHT AND POWER QUESTION CONSIDERED

Members of National Electric Light Association Meet in New York.

(By Associated Press to The Observer.)

NEW YORK, Oct. 18.—Solution of the great after war problems which confront the electric light and power industry in the United States, such as coal conservation, electrification of railroads, water power development and better public relationship by reason of non-political activity, has been undertaken by the National Electric Light Association, composed of 15,000 large and small plants throughout the country. It was announced here today by M. H. Aylesworth, formerly chairman of the Colorado Public Utilities Commission, who has been elected to give his entire time to the project as executive aid to R. H. Ballard of Los Angeles, California, president of the association.

"Our ambition," said Mr. Aylesworth, "will be to bring about the highest development of efficiency and economy in the light and power industry in the interests of the consuming public. We shall endeavor to carry out a national idea, uniform and systematic, for better service by means of education. The experiences of the largest plants in obtaining the best results from coal and affecting other economies of operation, for instance, will be made available for the smallest producers of current."

"We shall divide the United States into geographical divisions. In these divisions various local problems will be taken up and there will be active suggestions and advice from us, formulated by our engineers and members of the association who have solved similar difficulties."

"Our organization will not be political in any sense, neither will it be for propaganda. On the contrary, it will demand that its member companies devote their entire time in the service of the public and refrain from using its influence or its revenues, the peoples' money, for the advancement of any candidate or any party. Its entire object and scope may be embodied in the word: 'better understanding and better service'. Each company will retain its own individuality, as in the past, but will cooperate in bringing its mistakes to the light and thus help to correct them throughout the entire industry."

"We will be in a position to give information on all technical questions which will produce better service in every company in the country regardless of its size. One of the great problems that must be solved will be

that of the electrification of the railroads, in the interest of coal conservation. We have a committee of the leading men in the industry, headed by Samuel Insull, of Chicago, who will report on that subject at our next convention in Pasadena, Calif., in May, 1920.

"Water development is another important subject that will be considered. Franklin T. Griffith of Portland, Ore., is the chairman of the committee having it in charge. This subject is of great interest to the consuming public, large and small, and our researches will deal with the support of new manufacturing enterprises and also for fuel conservation."

"S. M. Kennedy of Los Angeles, heads the Committee on Service, which will deal with matters pertaining to service efficiency. If a city or concern for instance, is using what have been proved to be uneconomical methods in obtaining light and power due to certain local conditions, this committee will be able to rectify such troubles and recommend equally efficient but less expensive systems. Lee H. Newbert, of San Francisco has accepted the chairmanship of the Committee of Cooperation in Industry and M. S. Sloan of Brooklyn heads the Committee on Electrical Resources of the nation, an analytical and reference body."

"We purpose taking the public and state regulatory authorities into our confidence and demonstrating that we are sincere in our plans to obtain for the consumer the maximum of electric light and power at the lowest possible rate consistent with good service. It is because of the fact that I believe the idea of cooperation and publicity will work for increased efficiency and economy."

"I do not mean by this, that inefficiency or waste is general in the electric industry. There are isolated instances where plants are being run uneconomically. But the industry is changing and what might be good practice today may be obsolete five years hence. It will simply be our purpose to keep pace with the development and help everyone to benefit by improved methods as they arise."

RADIO TELEPHONE.
In view of all the data now available, a reasonable interpretation of the future of commercial radio

telephone would seem to be one in which its use will be confined solely to those services where telephone communication was desired and where such service could not be given by ordinary telephone means. Certain it is that both natural and experimental limitations will act to restrict the indiscriminate use of radio telephony on a large scale between land stations, says a report in the American Review of Reviews. Ever if there were not military requirements involved, the needs of prospective services at sea and in the air are sufficient to utilize all the noninterfering channels now available for radio telephone communication.

The existing fundamental conditions dispose at once of the idea of everybody having his own small radio telephone plant and calling at will any one with whom he or she might desire to talk.
For radio telephony, as indeed for all forms of radio communication outside the realm of war, there seems to be little doubt that the developments of the future will be in the direction of apparatus and methods to extend and supplement the existing wire service. There is no present indication of any radio developments which will supplant or even curtail the use of wires for telephone and telegraph operation.

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SHIA OR ALEVI SECT.

Common Belief Is That They Are of Christian Ancestry.

Turks to the number of 2,000,000 to 3,000,000 belong to the Shia or Alevi sect, and there is a deep chasm between them and orthodox Mohammedans. "Ah, those devil worshippers, those devil worshippers," they say of Sunnite Moslems. "In this world they laid it over us, but in the next we'll saddle them for our races, and we'll ride 'em, and we'll ride 'em."

Shias feel themselves nearer to Christians than to regular Turks, a writer in the Review of Reviews says. Remember, Shia women veil themselves before Turks, but not before Christians. They say, "He who was revealed to you as Jesus was revealed to us as Ali. Less than the thickness of onion skin separates you from us."

It is commonly believed that Shias are of Christian ancestry in the far off past, and that their secret breaking of bread and drinking of wine is a form of the Lord's supper. They themselves anticipate the time when they will intermarry with Christians, which signifies the closest bond that they—poor people,

can understand. In reality Shias are not one with the ruling Turkish system. They should be reckoned as separate.

Indeed, about the time the war began one of my friends, a shik of influence, said to me: "We'll give the devil worshippers who are running things one more chance. But we're watching them and we don't propose to have everything continue as it is now. We've got our own organization now under the name of a commercial union; really it is a political society. We've got branches everywhere among our people. If conditions don't improve we'll bring in the British. I'll run up the British flag with my own hand, and then their government will have to take notice."

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Timber Loss Belief First Estimates. an experienced lumberman. He says MISSOURI, Mont., Oct. 17.—Though the fire, in some respects, has proved the Evans forest fire, one of the bad, a benefit to the region. "It burned blazes of the 1919 season, was believed away clean all of the timber, including the valuable timber, that less evidently will be much less than was thought, according to Dan McQuarrie of Missouli, feared," he said.

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