

At the Postal and Telegraph Conference held at Wellington in March last the Hon. J. A. Cockburn, M.D. Lond., Minister of Education and Agriculture, South Australia, moved a vote of thanks to the Committee, and that they be requested to complete their labours by reporting on electric tramways and drafting regulations in regard to electric power leads generally. In compliance with that resolution the present meeting was convened.

The Chairman expressed his regret that the Queensland Government was not represented at the present Conference, more especially as Queensland was the only colony that had passed an Act permitting public electric tramways to be constructed by joint local authorities, and therefore that Government was especially interested in any regulations which the Committee might frame, and which might be in conflict with the existing legislation of that colony.

In Tasmania an Act has, he said, been passed authorizing the Hobart Tramway Company Limited to construct, maintain, and work tramways in Hobart, which tramways, on the overhead trolley system, were opened during the last year.

In the same colony legislation has been obtained to enable the Municipal Council of Launceston to take water from the South Esk for use as a motive power for electric lighting and other purposes.

The principal object, the Chairman said, in appointing this Committee was to bring all the colonies into line in regard to the regulations for electric light, electric tramways, and the application of electrical energy generally, with a view to the adoption as far as possible of uniform legislation and one common code of regulations.

Mr W. B. Crosbie, LL.B., was appointed Secretary, on the motion of Mr G. Smibert, seconded by Major Walker.

Major Walker informed the Committee that he also represented the Government of New Zealand.

The following papers were laid on the table:—

By the Chairman—

Report from the Joint Committee of the House of Lords and the House of Commons on electric powers, 13th July, 1893

A translation of an extract from *Archiv für Post und Telegraphie*—
“Protection of telegraph lines from injury by high-tension currents.”

A paper on electric tramways in the United States and Canada, by Mr H. C. Wilkinson, read before the Institution of Electrical Engineers, London.

By Major Walker—

Specifications for underground telephone cables.

The report of the board appointed to inquire into the interference of the proposed electric tramways in Dunedin with telephone lines.

Statistics of the European electric tramways.

By Mr Callender—

The electrical equipment of the Liverpool overhead railway, by T. Parker, M.I.C.E.

By Mr Henry—

Notes on disturbances caused on telephone lines at Hobart by the running of the electric tramways.

Notes on the construction and working of the Hobart electric tramway, by A. C. Parker

Observations taken on 30th September and 7th October, 1894, to determine potential on Hobart telephone lines arising from disturbance caused by the Hobart electric tramway, by R. Henry

Map of Hobart and suburbs, showing tramway routes and position of telephone lines.

By Mr Haes—

Special regulation issued by the Board of Trade for alternating current transformers, 1894.

By Mr Arnot—

A paper by Edward Hopkinson, M.A., D.Sc., M.I.C.E., on electrical railways—“The City and South London Railway”