

NEWS NOTES

Production of Steam from Coal.—At the meeting of the Schenectady Section of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers, held on November 23, Alex Dow, president and general manager of the Detroit Edison Company, made a very interesting address on "Production of Steam from Coal." The meeting was exceptionally well attended to hear the authoritative presentation of this matter by Mr. Dow, who is not only an executive of a large central-station company, but also a prominent engineer.

California Association's New Officers.—The California Electric Railways Association has elected the following officers for the ensuing year: W. Clayton, president, who is vice-president and managing director of the San Diego Electric Railway Company, San Diego, Cal.; Paul Shoup, vice-president, who is president of the Pacific Electric Railway Company, Los Angeles, Cal.; Anglo & London Paris National Bank, San Francisco, has been appointed treasurer; W. V. Hill, 58 Sutter Street, San Francisco, is manager.

Further St. Paul Electrification Contracts Let.—The Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railroad Company has awarded contracts amounting to nearly \$2,000,000 for electrical equipment for its new electrified division. The equipment contracted for includes 17 electric locomotives at an average price of about \$100,000 each and substation machinery for the 216-mile Othello-Seattle-Tacoma division. The orders were divided between the Westinghouse Electric & Manufacturing Company and the General Electric Company.

Power-Plant Betterments at Reading.—The foundations for the addition to the Metropolitan Edison Company's West Reading (Pa.) power plant have been completed and erection of the steelwork has been commenced. The building now being erected is for the accommodation of the new 25,000-kilowatt turbine ordered some time ago for delivery next June, and two new 1000-horsepower boilers. This additional equipment will about double the capacity of the West Reading plant. The last of the new equipment of automatic stokers and coal-handling machinery is now being installed. The stokers will about double the steaming capacity of the boilers and will add greatly to the efficiency of the plant.

Provision Made for Coal Supply for Northwest.—To insure an expeditious supply of coal for Washington, California, Oregon, Idaho, Nevada and Utah, the United States Fuel Administration has appointed W. W. Armstrong state fuel administrator of Utah, to oversee distribution for those states.

Through this authority Mr. Armstrong may call upon neighboring districts in New Mexico, Colorado, Wyoming and Montana for only such per cent of their coal output as was shipped in 1916 into the states now under his supervision. Only shipments for emergency needs and not to exceed 10 per cent of the production of these districts can be obtained under his authorization.

David Whitcomb, state fuel administrator for Washington, will be authorized by State Fuel Administrator Armstrong to act for Washington coal mines.

Minneapolis Central Station Increases Rates.—

The Minneapolis General Electric Company—one of the larger operating units of Northern States Power Company—has announced an increase in service rates effective January 1, 1918. After that date a temporary war conditions surcharge of 10 per cent will be added to power bills and 5 per cent to lighting bills. The executive committee of the Minneapolis Wholesalers and Retailers' Association has approved this action of the public utility company by unanimous vote.

Fifth Annual Foreign Trade Convention.—At the Hotel Gibson, Cincinnati, Ohio, there will be held on February 7 to 9, inclusive, the fifth annual National Foreign Trade convention. Although the detailed program has not yet been prepared, it is the intention to have the convention devote practically all its energies to the subject of winning the war—what is being done in the various industries, the part that foreign trade plays in this great task, the problem of the merchant marine, and a wise program for the future. As in previous conventions a considerable amount of time will be given to discussions in the form of questions and answers. O. K. Davis, India House, Hanover Square, New York City, is secretary of the National Foreign Trade Council.

Dallas Electric Club and Jovian League Resume Activities.—The Dallas Electric Club and the Jovian League at Dallas, Tex., are becoming active again, after the summer vacation period. At the meeting of the Dallas Electric Club on November 5 it had the pleasure of welcoming Harry Hess, who recently went to Dallas to assume the sales managership for the Western Electric Company, vacated by W. J. Drury, who has been made manager of that company's Cleveland branch. In responding to the welcome extended by H. Jalonick, in behalf of the Club, Mr. Hess spoke very effectively on the general prevailing conditions in the electrical merchandising work of the Southwest. Mr. Jalonick amplified the remarks of Mr. Hess, dwelling in particular on opportunities in Dallas that could be developed. H. S. Cooper, in discussing recent investigations of the Southwestern Gas and Electrical Association, brought out some very interesting points. W. G. Martin was elected secretary and treasurer of the Dallas Electric Club to fill an unexpired term.

Will Increase Power Equipment at Bangor, Mich.—The municipal steam-electric plant at Bangor, Mich., is having the two 80-horsepower boilers equipped with Jones automatic, underfed stokers, and it is probable that the 60-kilowatt generator, which has been in service 14 years, will be replaced by two new generators. A new engine will also be required to drive one of the generators, the engine now in use to be belted to the other generator. The plant, as now constituted, is overloaded by the requirements for general lighting service and for pumping 300 gallons of water per minute into the standpipe for city supply. In anticipation of new power equipment being installed, various small manufacturing concerns have signed agreements to use electric power, all amounting to about 100 horsepower. These comprise the planing mill, pickle and canning factories, feed mill and the fruit-packing association. Battery charging is now done at the plant, by taking current off the exciter set. P. M. Gross is superintendent, and A. K. Sauer is engineer in charge of the Bangor municipal plant.