

CHAS. L. CLARKE,  
ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL  
ENGINEER.

120 BROADWAY,

NEW YORK, Jan. 25, 1906.

C. O. Mailloux, Esq., Chairman,  
Law Committee, Amer. Inst. Elec. Engineers,  
76 William Street, New York City.

My dear Mr. Mailloux:

Secretary Pope to-day brought to my attention the Proposed Constitution, as recommended by the Law Committee, with a view to my joining with 24 other members of the Institute in signing a copy, for presentation to the Board of Directors, as provided in the Constitution now in force.

I was sorry to find that in good conscience I could not do so, because I do not believe that the provisions relating to the functions of the committees on papers and editing are likely to be productive of good results.

Under the Proposed Constitution the Meetings and Papers Committee would edit papers, and the Editing Committee would edit discussions and communications relating thereto. The work of editing would in effect be done by a double-headed institution, with two possibly different minds on the subject of editing, and if such were the case, pursuing different policies, which might lead to dissatisfaction on the part of members should they find that their papers and discussions were editorially not treated alike. In my opinion, it is going to happen that the two committees will differ in mind on the subject, and that they will conduct the editing in such divergent and discordant ways as to finally cause extreme discontent and remonstrance.

I do not say that trouble will come immediately, but do not think that we shall have to wait very long for it.

To prevent working at cross-purposes, and to remove possibility of friction between the two committees, I think, as I have long thought, that the committees should be merged into a single committee. And I regret that I did not suggest the idea, or give my opinion on it, to the Law Committee long ago, which I was prevented from doing by the heavy task imposed upon me, as chairman of the Editing Committee, of doing editorial work that properly should have been done by a salaried assistant. This work demanded all my attention, with no time to devote to other affairs of the Institute. Possibly, it is not too late for action to be taken on my suggestion, if the Law Committee thinks favorable of it.

To my mind the only satisfactory way of handling and editing papers, discussions and communications is through a single committee, say, a Meetings, Papers and Editing Committee.

I am sending a copy of this letter to President Wheeler, and Mr. Chas. A. Terry.

Very truly yours,

Chas. L. Clarke

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and Board  
of Directors