

An Important Convention in This City.

The Holly district steam engineers, superintendents and managers' association hold its third annual convention at Haynes hotel yesterday and the meeting was attended by many of the best known experts in the country. These officers were elected at the evening session: President, R. H. Gallagher of Harrisburg, Pa.; first vice-president, C. E. Emery of New York; second, E. P. Holly of this city; third, G. W. Shouck, of Wilkesbarre, Pa.; fourth, William Ridley of Denver, Col.; secretary, Ira A. Holly of New Haven; treasurer, Robert Mowbrey; financial committee, A. Z. Shock of Bloomsburg, Pa., J. D. Walsh of Lockport, N. Y., and A. D. Merritt of this city.

The association numbers 45 members, but only half that number were present yesterday, over eight being at the Chicago convention. Nevertheless, the papers showed a deep knowledge of the subjects treated, and they were enthusiastically discussed. The convention met at 11 o'clock yesterday morning, and preliminary business occupied its attention till noon. P. R. Bishop, president of the American district steam company of Lockport, N. Y., presided till new officers were elected. In the afternoon the proceedings were opened by the reading of a paper on "High and low pressure; which is the most economical in heating a building from a central station?" by R. H. Gallagher of Harrisburg, Pa. He favored the low pressure, maintaining that the consumer was much benefited by this method. Messrs Babcock, Walsh, Shouck and E. P. Holly discussed the subject with warmth, high pressure having several advocates. Then E. P. Holly of this city read an able paper on "What is the value of crude oil for fuel as compared with coal," but the speaker said a fixed value could not be ascertained, so many elements had to be taken into consideration, such as the nearness to oil or coal centers. He thought, however, that all things being equal, oil would at least hold its own. The discussion then turned to the question, "For steam-heating purposes, the most economical pressure to be maintained, the diameter of mains in relation to distances and space heated," which led the conversation till supper time.

Then a paper written by Charles S. Chase of New York, who was not able to be present till to-day, was read, on "Can cooking be done economically by steam? What benefit can the consumer realize from the water of condensation?" and the discussion of this topic took up the rest of the evening. The session will last to-day and the papers to be read are as follows: "On the general management of Holly steam plants," A. Z. Schock of Bloomsburg, Pa.; "Incrustation in boilers and the prevention of the same," William Ridley of Colorado; "Is it advisable to heat feed water by direct steam," B. C. Smith of Auburn, N. Y.; "Cost per annum of maintaining steam meters and which side of the regulator should the meter be placed," John Walsh of Lockport, N. Y.; "Saving in fuel by the automatic regulation of the damper," N. C. Locke of Salem; "Combustion of fuel and boiler furnaces," Thomas Murphy of Detroit, Mich.; "Rocking grate bars as compared with stationary ones," C. B. Holly of Phillipsburg, Pa.