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# Energy Loss in Commercial Condensers

Walter Roland Allen

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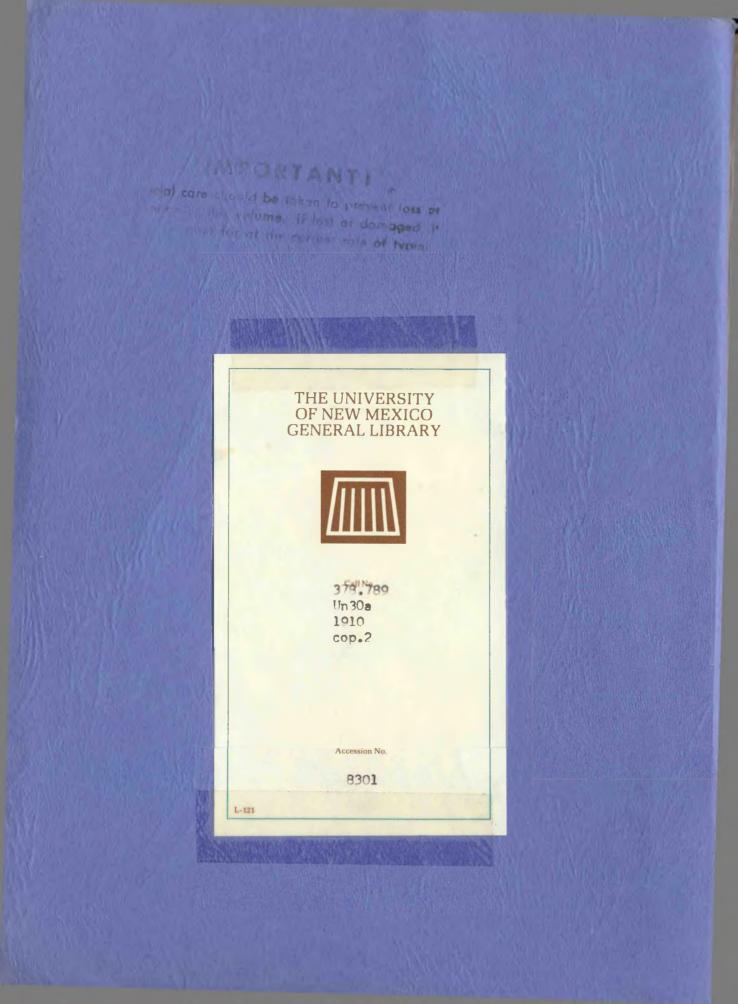
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Energy Loss In Commercial Condensers

Walter Roland Allen

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## ENERGY LOSS IN COMMERCIAL CONDENSERS.

BY

WALTER ROLAND ALLEN

A THESIS SUBMITTED FOR THE DEGREE OF BACHELOR

OF SCIENCE IN BLECTRICAL ENGINEERING.

UNIVERSITY OF NEW MELICO

1910.

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#### ENERGY LOSS IN COMMERCIAL CONDENSERS.

The investigation of the energy loss in condensers is one which electricians and experimenters have long carried on. Their efforts have been restricted chiefly to alternating currents. Many methods have been proposed and used with varying success.

The losses in condensers are due to dielectric hysteresis and leakage. That the dielectric of a condenser becomes heated when an alternating current is applied to terminals has long been known.

A condenser which has been charged does not lose its entire charge when it is discharged, part of it remaining as a residual charge.

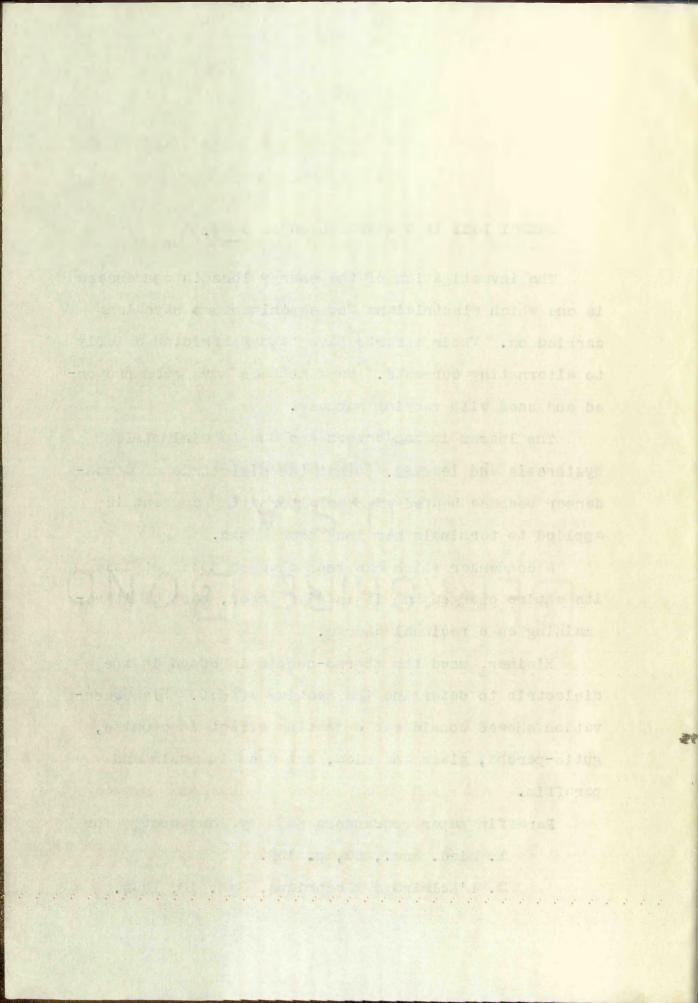
Kleiner, used the thermo-couple imbedded in the dielectric to determine the heating effect. His observation showed considerable heating effect in ebonite, gutta-percha, glass and mica, but none in rosin and paraffin.

Raraffin paper condensers made by Boucherot, for

1. Wied. Ann., 50, p. 138.

105

2. L'Eclairage Electrique, Feb. 12, 1898.



commercial circuits in Paris became so hot that it was necessary to reject them. A voltage of 3200 was applied across the condensers.

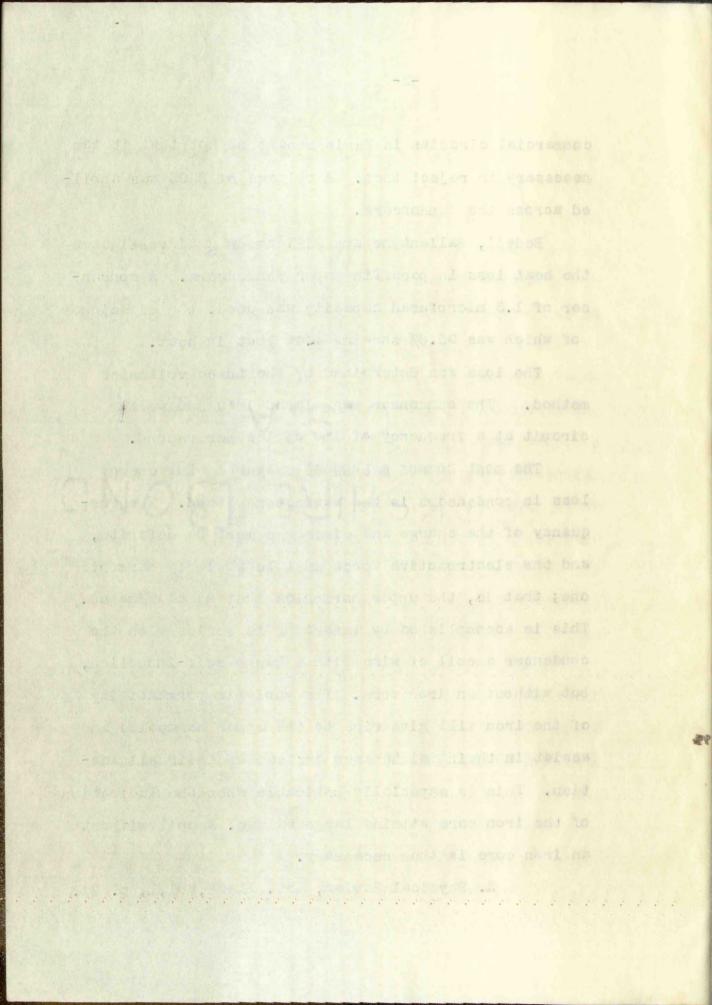
Bedell, Ballantyne and Williamson 3 investigated the heat loss in paraffin paper condensers. A condenser of 1.5 microfarad capacity was used, the efficiency of which was 95.6% showing 4.4% lost in heat.

The loss was determined by the three voltmeter method. The condenser was placed in a 500 volt circuit at a frequency of 160 cycles per second.

The most common method of measuring the energy loss in condensers is the wattmeter method. The frequency of the charge and discharge must be definite, and the electromotive force must be a simply harmonic one; that is, the upper harmonics must be eliminated. This is accomplished by inserting in series with the condenser a coil of wire with a large self-induction, but without an iron core. The variable permeability of the iron will give rise to the upper harmonics and assist in their maintenance instead of their elimination. This is especially noticable when the indication of the iron core attains large values. A coil without an iron core is thus necessary.

3. Physical Review, Oct., 1893, Vol, 1, p. 81.

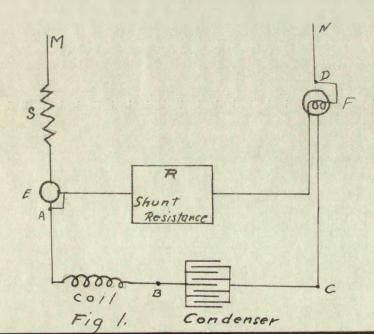
-2-



Again if the self-induction of the coil is not large enough it will reinforce the upper harmonics instead of eliminating them. The best value for the selfinduction of the coil is determined by the value of L in the equation  $t=277 \sqrt{LC}$  where t is the period of the fundamental component of the impressed electromotive force and C the capacity of the condenser.

The advantages of this arrangement are first; the resulting resonance raises the electromotive force at the terminals of the condenser saving the necessity of a transformer: second, a wattmeter can now be inserted across the low voltage supply mains to measure the power expended upon coil and condenser. Then subtracting the I<sup>2</sup>r loss of the coil the remainder will give the power expended upon the condenser.

The Resonance Method by Wattmeter.



-3-

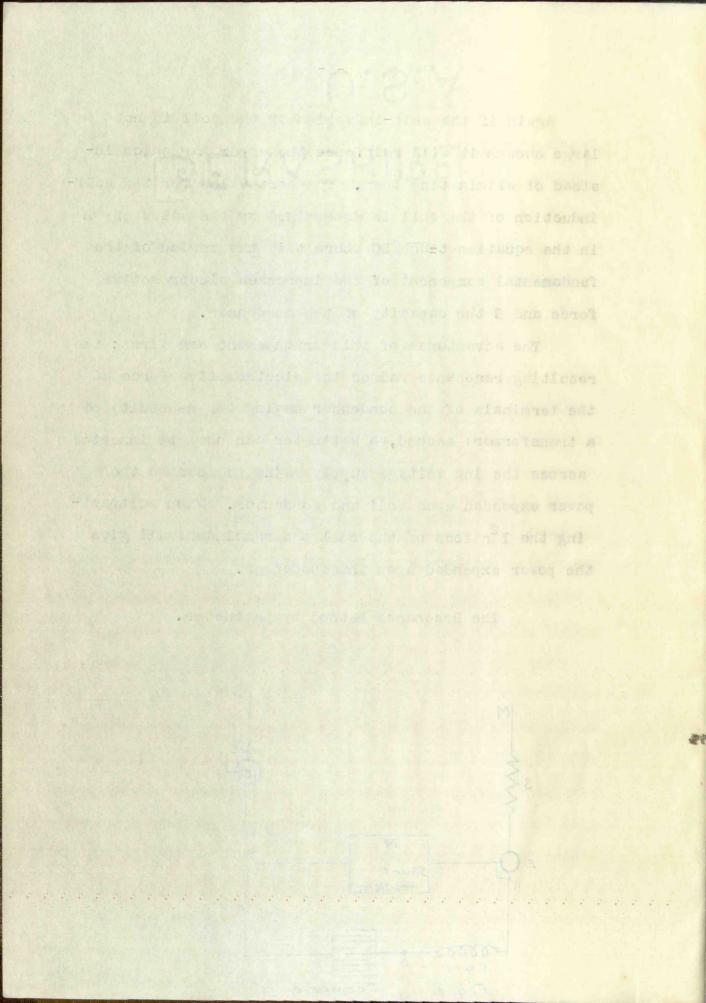


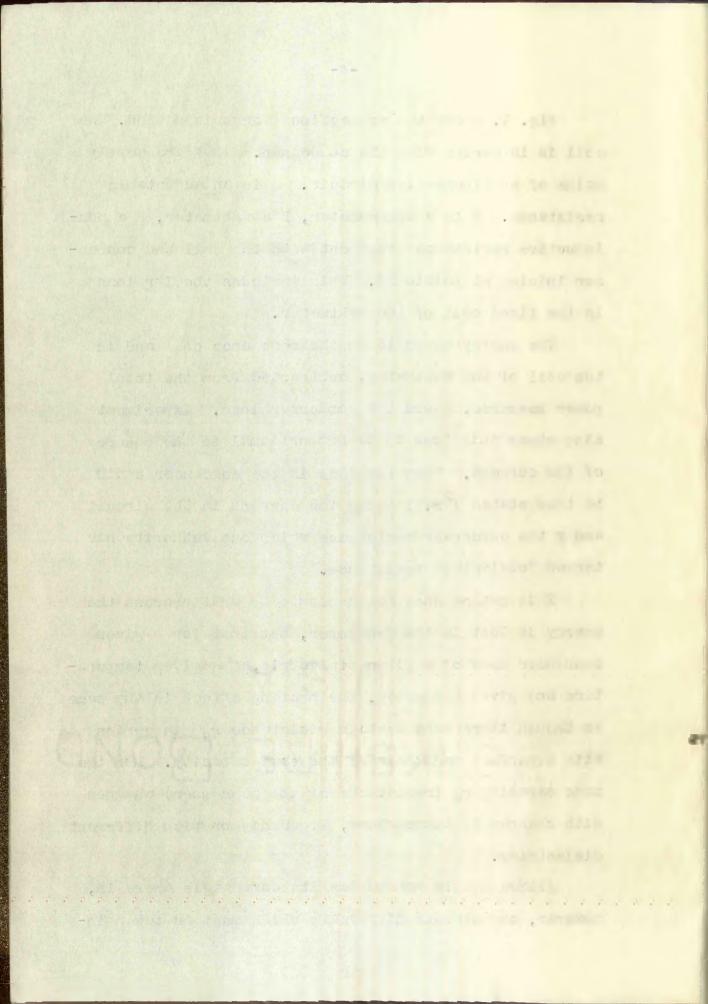
Fig. 1. shows the connections for this method. The coil is in series with the condenser. M N are supply mains of an alternating circuit. S is an adjustable resistance. E is a dynamometer, F a wattmeter, R a noninductive resistance in shant with the coil and condenser loining at points AD. This includes the I<sup>2</sup>r loss in the fixed coil of the wattmeter.

The energy expended in the resonance coil and in the coil of the wattmeter, subtracted from the total power measured, gives the condenser loss. Experiment also shows this loss to be proportional to the square of the current. Then the loss in the condenser could be thus stated I<sup>2</sup>r. I being the current in the circuit and r the condenser resistance which one authority has termed "equivalent resistance."

This method does not indicate by what process the energy is lost in the condenser, but that for a given condenser made of a given dielectric, at a given temperature and given frequency, the heating effect is the same as though there were certain resistance  $r_8$  in series with a perfect condenser of the same capacity. For the same capacity  $r_8$  (resistance of the condenser) changes with changes in temperature, frequency or with different dielectrics.

Although this method has its advantages there is, however, one serious difficulty which must be taken in-

-4-

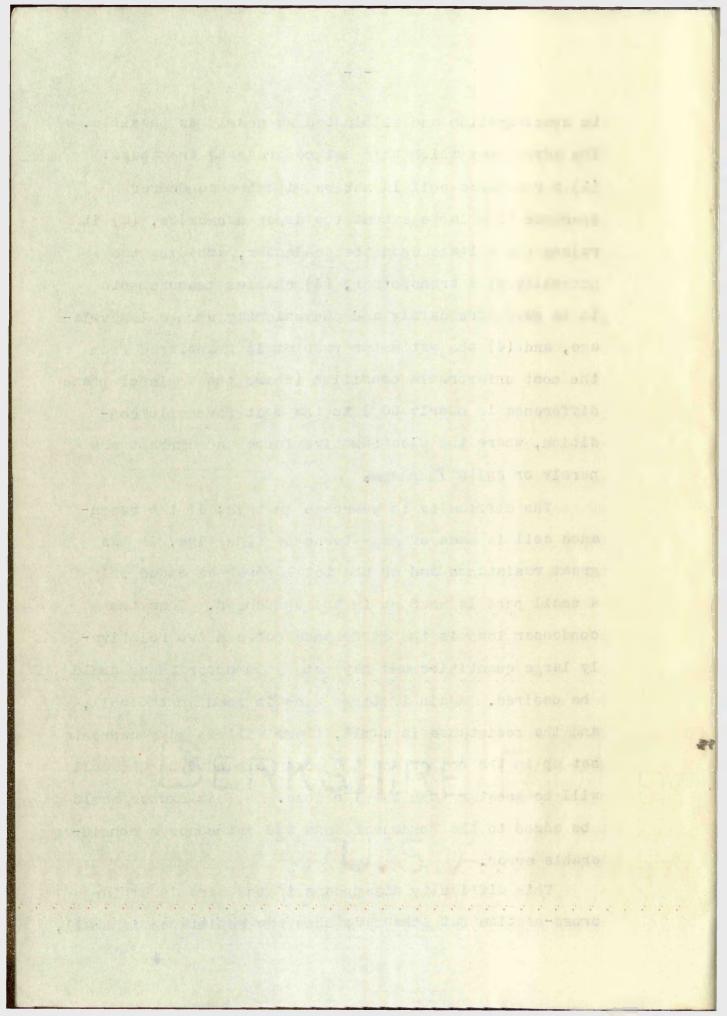


to consideration and eliminated as nearly as possible. The advantages which this method presents are these: (1) a resonance coil in series with the condenser quenches to a large extent the upper harmonics, (2) it raises the voltage upon the condenser, avoiding the necessity of a transformer, (3) enables measurements to be made more safely and conveniently upon a low voltage, and (4) the wattmeter problem is transfered from the most unfavorable condition (where the angle of phase difference is nearly 90°) to the most favorable condition, where the electromotive force and current are nerely or quite in phase.

The difficulty to overcome is this; if the resonance coil is made of many turns of fine wire, it has great resistance and of the total power expended only a small part is used up in the condenser. Thus the condenser loss is the difference between two relatively large quantities and may not be as accurate as could be desired. Again if large wire is used in the coil, and the resistance is samll, there will be eddy currents set up in the copper and the power expended on the coil will be greater than the I<sup>2</sup>r loss. This excess would be added to the condenser loss and introduce a considerable error.

This difficulty disappears if the wire is of large cross-section but stranded; then the resistance is small,

-5-



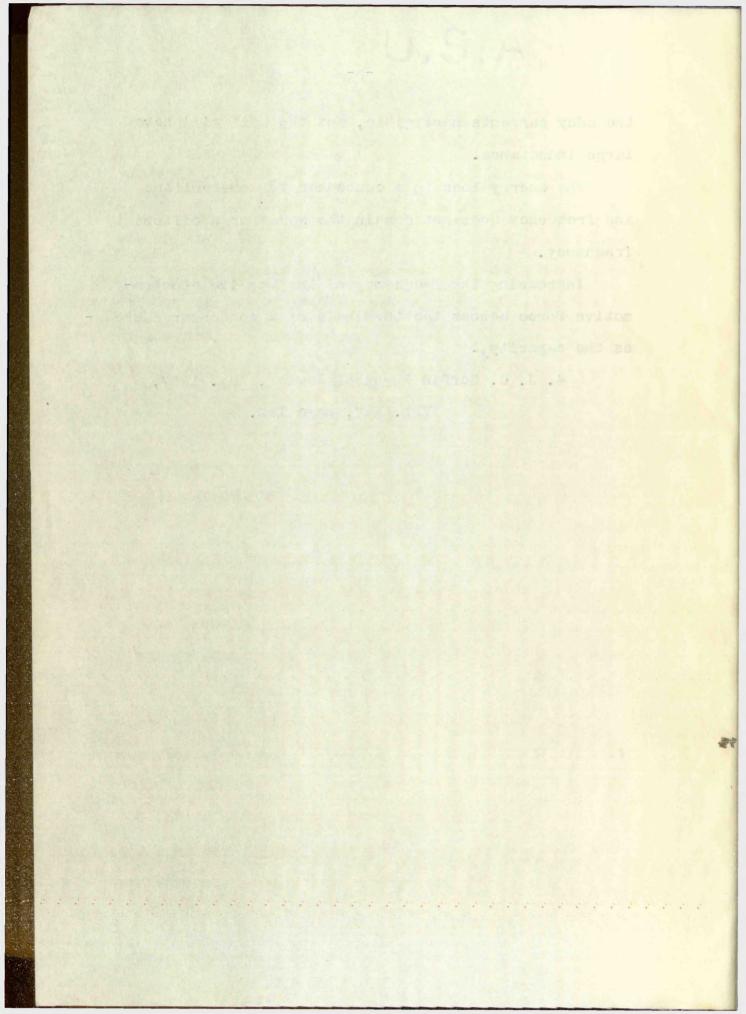
the eddy currents negligible, and the coil will have large inductance.

The energy loss in a condenser for one voltage and frequency does not remain the same for a different frequency.

Increasing the frequency of the applied electromotive force across the terminals of a condenser decreases the capacity<sub>A</sub>.

4. J. G. Coffin Physical Review, Aug. 1907,

Vol. XXV, page 123.



Description of Method Used.

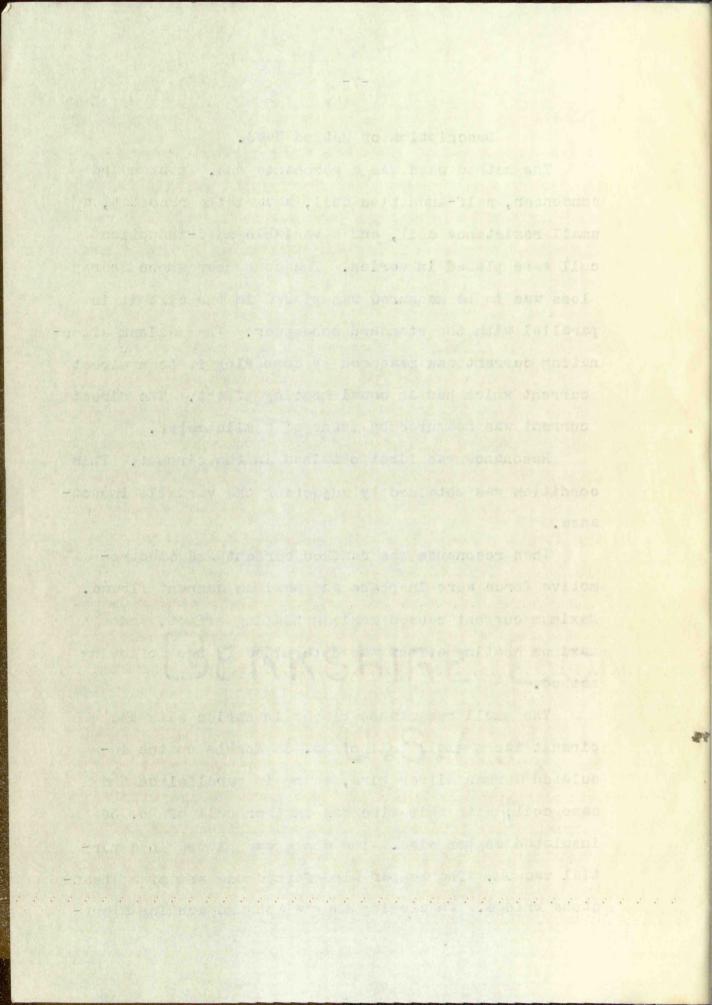
The method used was a resonance one. A standard condenser, self-induction coil, a variable rheostat, a small resistance coil, and a variable self-induction coil were placed in series. The condenser whose energy loss was to be measured was placed in the circuit in parallel with the standard condenser. The maximum alternating current was measured by comparing it to a direct current which had an equal heating effect. The direct current was measured by means of a milammeter.

Resonance was first obtained in the circuit. This condition was obtained by adjusting the variable induct-ance.

When resonance was reached current and electromotive force were in phase and maximum current flowed. Maximum current caused maximum heating effect, and maximum heating effect was determined by the following method.

The small resistance placed in series with the circuit was a small coil of No. 36 double cotton insulated German Silver wire, wound in parallel on the same coil with this wire was another coil of No. 36 insulated copper wire. The whole was placed in a partial vacuum. The copper wire formed one arm of a Wheatstone bridge. On closing the switch and sending a cur-

-7-



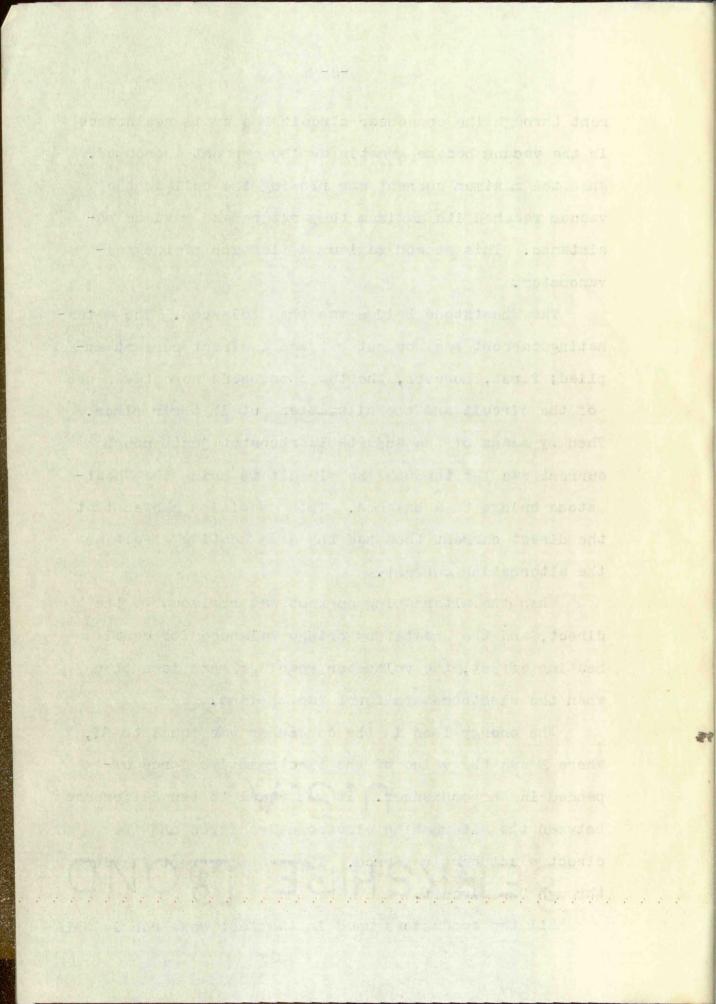
rent through the condenser circuit the small resistance in the vacuum became greater as the current increased. When the maximum current was flowing the coil in the vacuum reached its maximum temperature and maximum resistance. This showed maximum deflection of the galvanometer.

The Wheatstone bridge was then balanced. The alternating current was now cut out and a direct current applied; first, however, the two condensers were taken out of the circuit and the milammeter put in their place. Then by means of the adjustable rheostat just enough current was let through the circuit to bring the Wheatstone bridge to a balance. This condition showed that the direct current then had the same heating effect as the alternating current.

When the alternating current was replaced by the direct, and the Wheatstone bridge balanced for equal heating effect, the voltmeter readings were less than when the electromotive force was applied.

The energy loss in the condenser was equal to EI, where E was the value of the electromotive force expended in the condenser. It was equal to the difference between the alternating electromotive force and the direct electromotive force. I was the current flowing through the circuit.

All the condensers used in the test were run in this



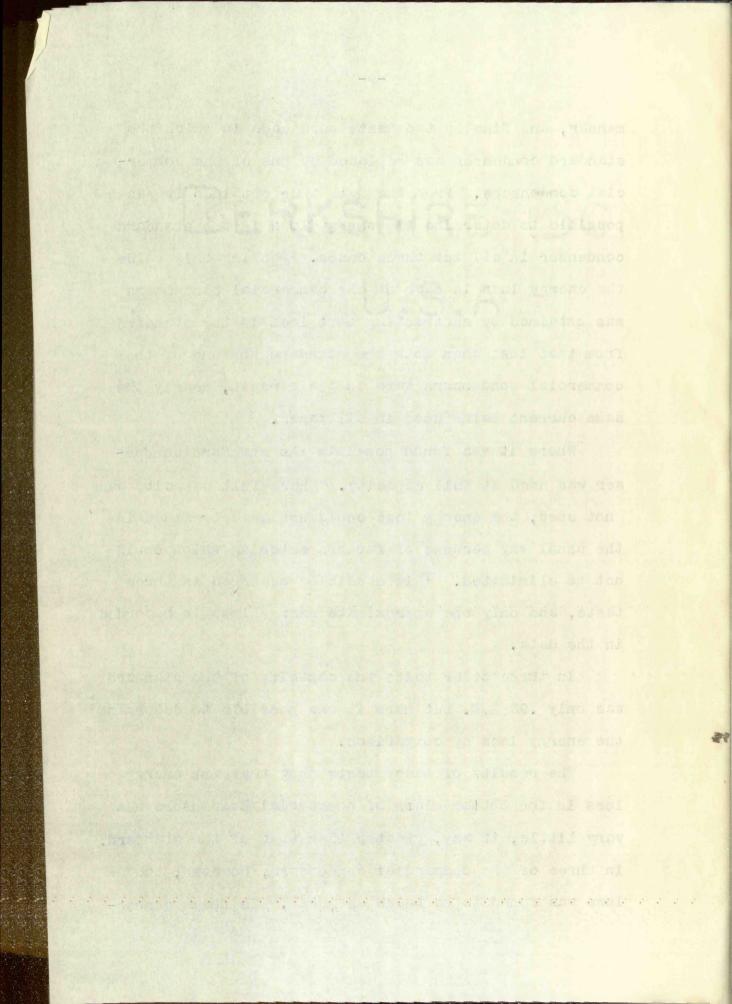
manner, and finally two tests were made in which the standard condenser was replaced by one of the commercial condensers. From the data thus obtained it was possible to determine the energy loss in the standard condenser in all but three cases. Knowing this value the energy loss in each of the commercial condensers was obtained by subtracting that lost in the standard from that lost when both the standard and one of the commercial condensers were in the circuit, nearly the same current being used in all cases.

Where it was found possible the standard condenser was used at full capacity. Where full capacity was not used, the energy loss could not be determined in the usual way because of factors entering which could not be eliminated. This condition occurred in three tests, and only the approximate energy loss is recorded in the data.

In three other tests the capacity of the standard was only .92 M.F. but here it was possible to determine the energy loss by comparison.

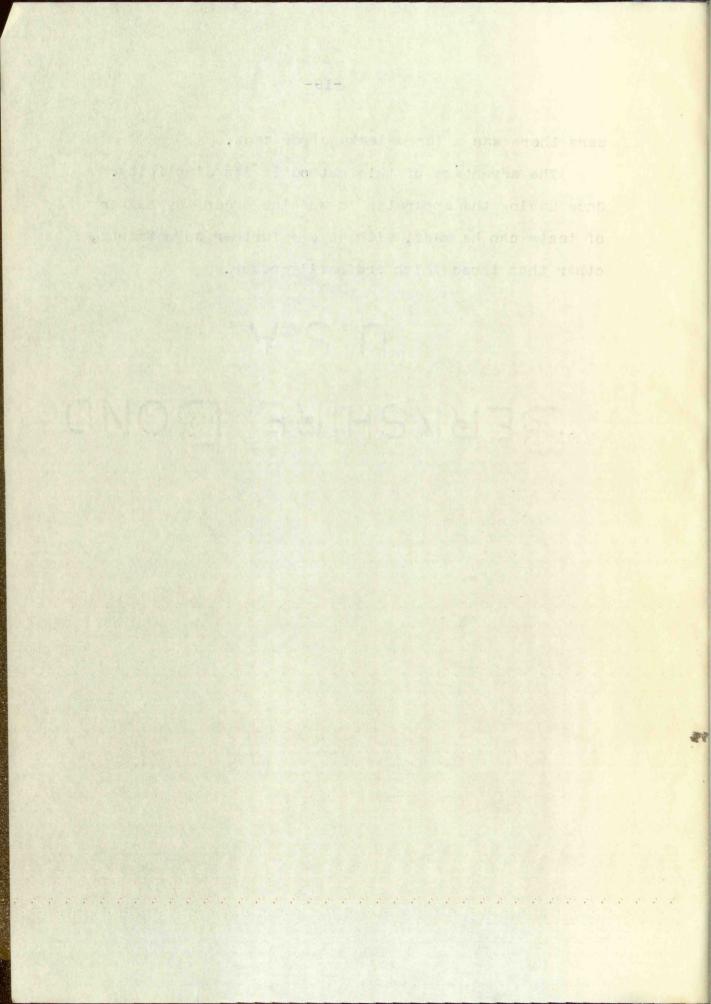
The results of these tests show that the energy loss in the better class of commercial condensers was very little, if any, greater than that of the standard. In three of the commercial condensers, however, the loss was found to be twice as great. In these conden-

-9-



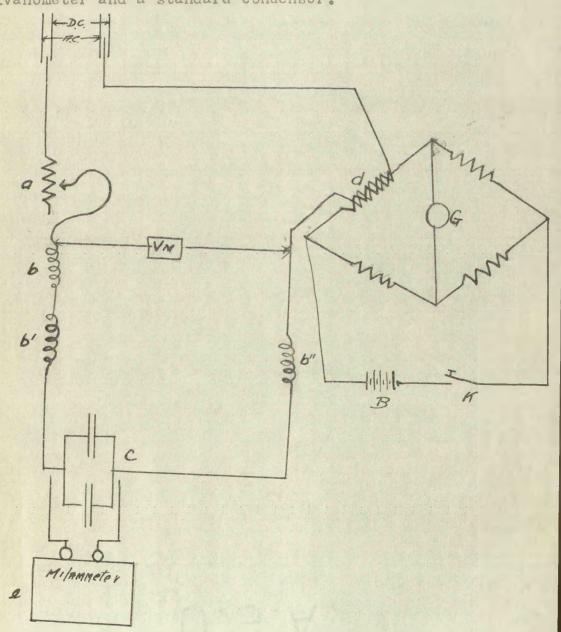
sers there was a large leakage per cent.

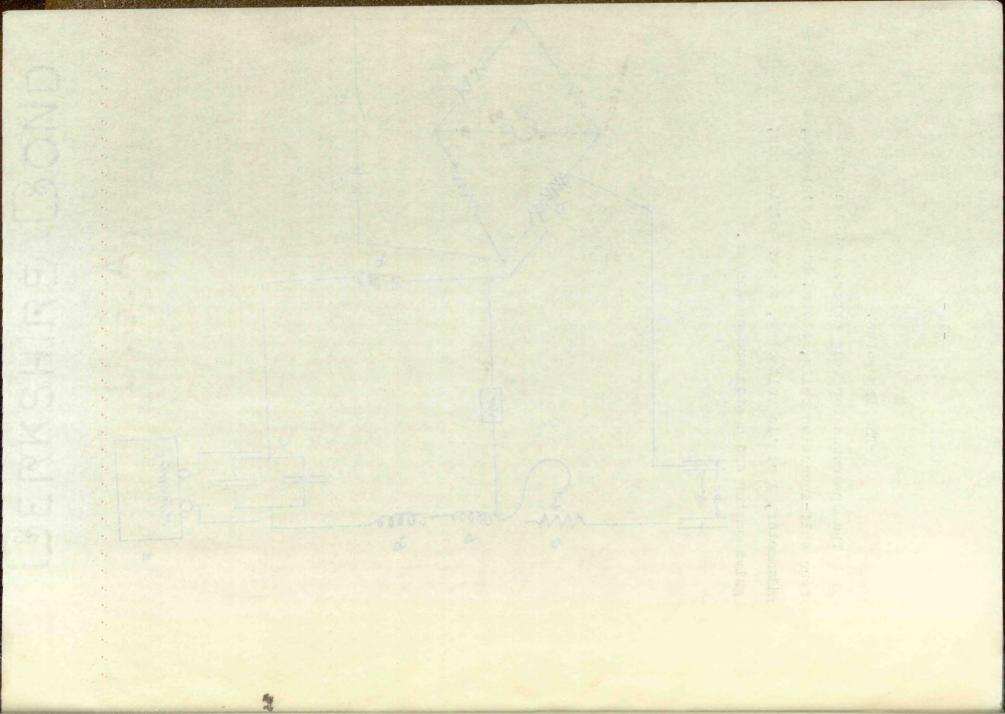
The advantage of this method is its simplicity. Once having the apparatus in working order any number of tests can be made, without any further adjustments, other than those which ordinarily occur.



## The Apparatus.

The apparatus for this experiment consisted of four self-induction coils, a variable resistance, a milammeter, a static voltmeter, a post office box, galvanometer and a standard condenser.



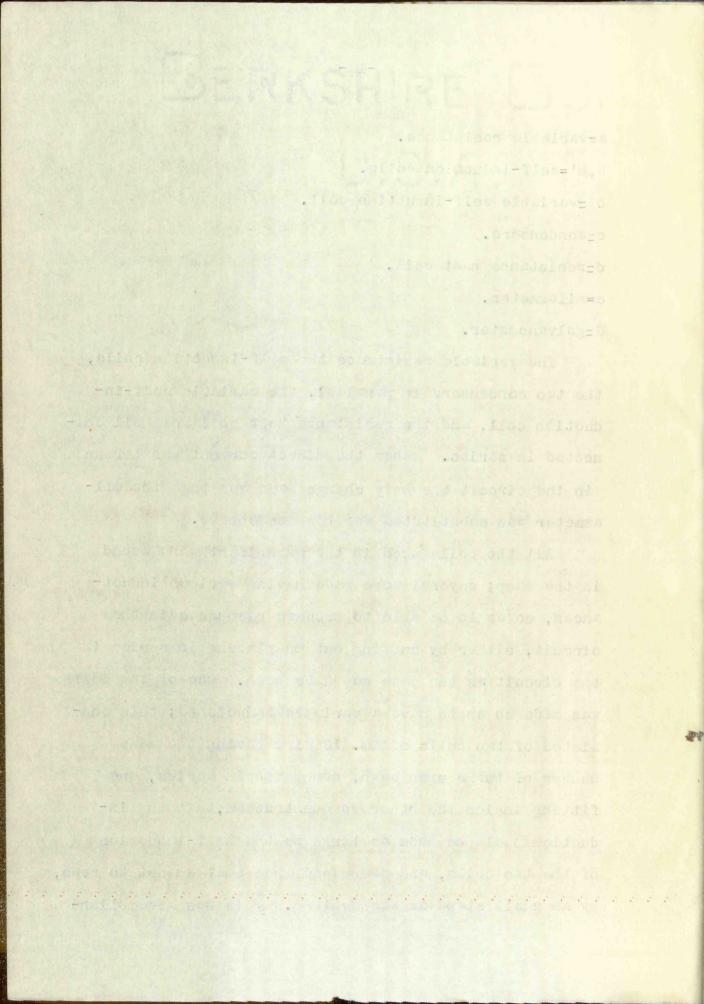


a=variable resistance. b,b'=self-induction coils. b"=variable self-induction coil. c=condensers. d=resistance heat coil. e=milammeter. G=galvanometer.

The variable resistance the self-induction coils, the two condensers in parallel, the variable self-induction coil, and the resistance heat coil were all connected in series. When the direct current was thrown in the circuit the only change made was that the milammeter was substituted for the condensers.

All the coils used in the experiment were wound in the shop; several were made having various inductances, so as to be able to produce resonance in the circuit, either by cutting out or placing in series in the circuit as the case may have been. One of the coils was made so as to have a variable inductance; this consisted of two coils of No. 18 wire having the same number of turns upon each, connected in series, one fitting inside the other so constructed, that the induction could be made as large as the self-induction of the two coils, and decreased from that amount to zero, by as small steps as was desired. This was accomplish-

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ed by slipping the inner coil in or out and exchanging end for end as the condition may have required.

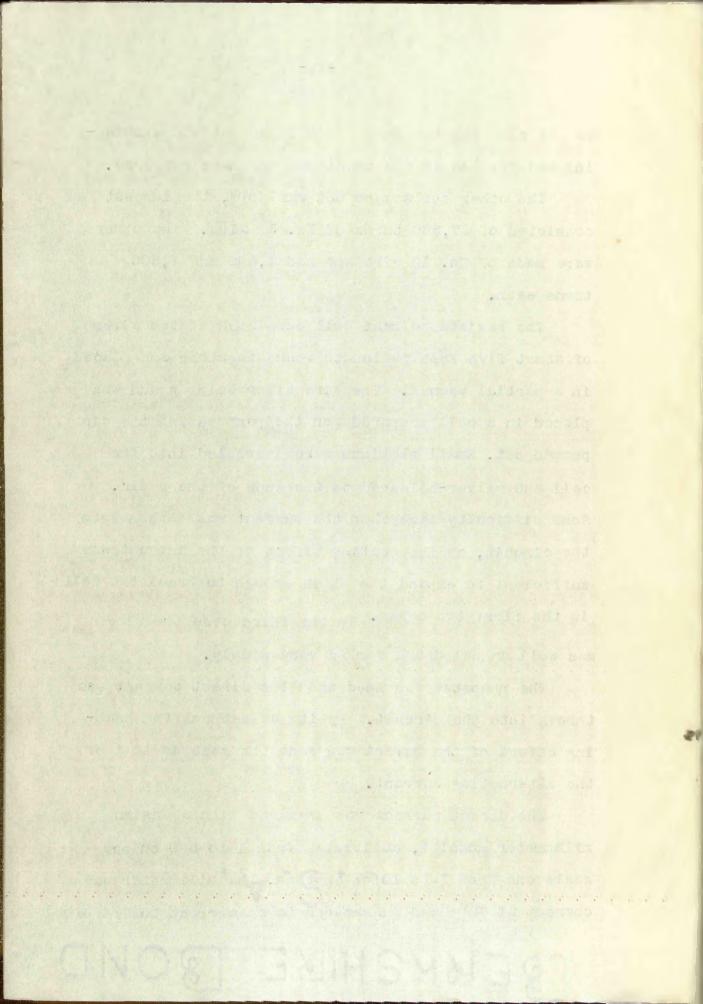
The other coils were not variable, the largest consisted of 27,500 turns of No. 30 wire. The others were made of No. 18 wire and had 3,000 and 1,500 turns each.

The resistance heat coil consisted of two wires of about five feet in length wound together and placed in a partial vacuum. The wire after being wound was placed in a cell prepared for the purpose and the air pumped out. Small platinum wires were led into the cell and silver-soldered to the ends of the coils. Some difficulty came when the current was thrown into the circuit, as the heating effect of the current was sufficient to expand the glass enough to break the cell in the first two cases. In the third case the wire was well annealed and worked very nicely.

The rheostat was used when the direct current was thrown into the circuit. By its adjustment the heating effect of the direct was made the same as that of the alternating current.

The direct current was measured with a Westen milammeter model 1, calibrated from 1 to 500 on one scale and from 1 to 16 on another. The milammeter was correct at 70° and guaranteed to be correct to 1/4 of

-13-



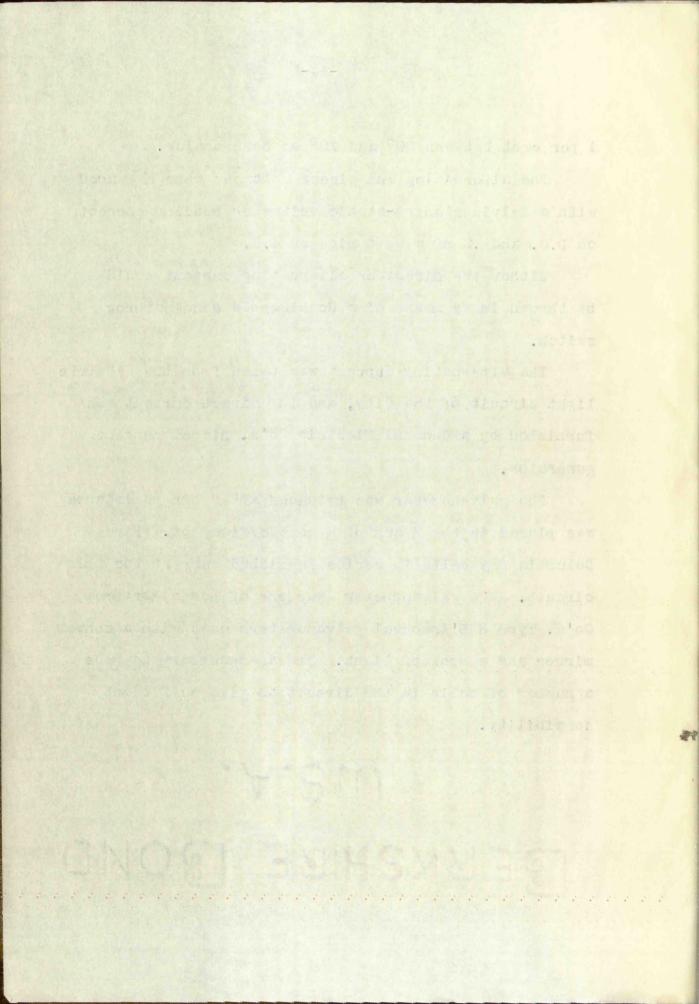
1 per cent between 20° and 70° on both scales.

The alternating and direct voltages were measured with a Kelvin electro-static voltmeter reading correct on D.C. and .2 of a volt high on A.C.

Either the direct or alternating current could be thrown in by means of a double pole double throw switch.

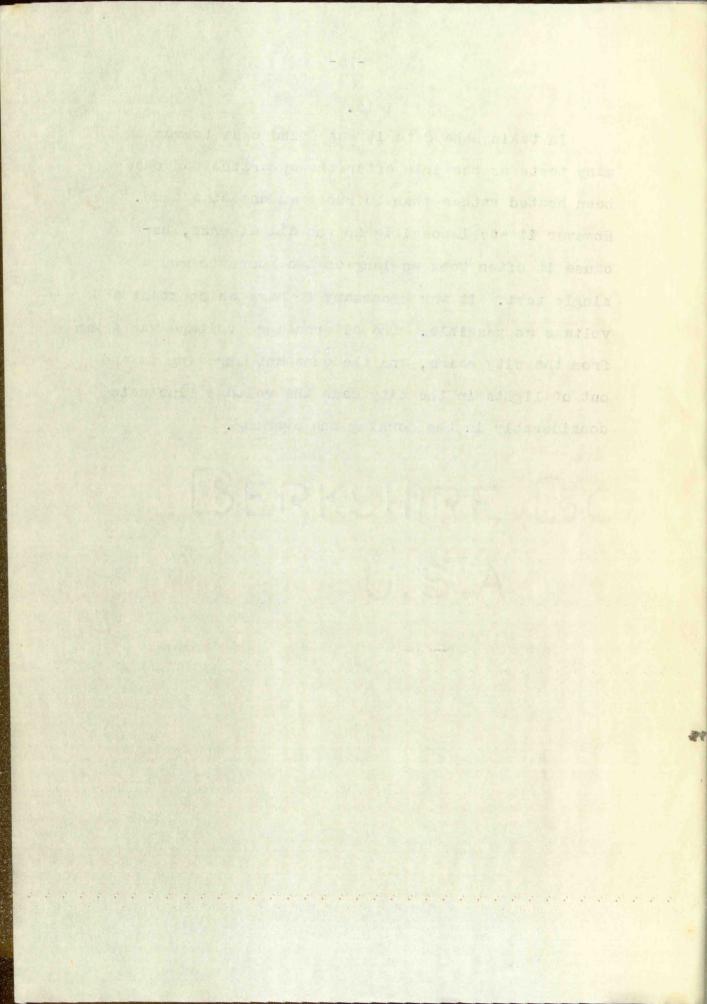
The alternating current was taken from the electric light circuit of the City, and the direct current was furnished by a General Electric Co's. direct current generator.

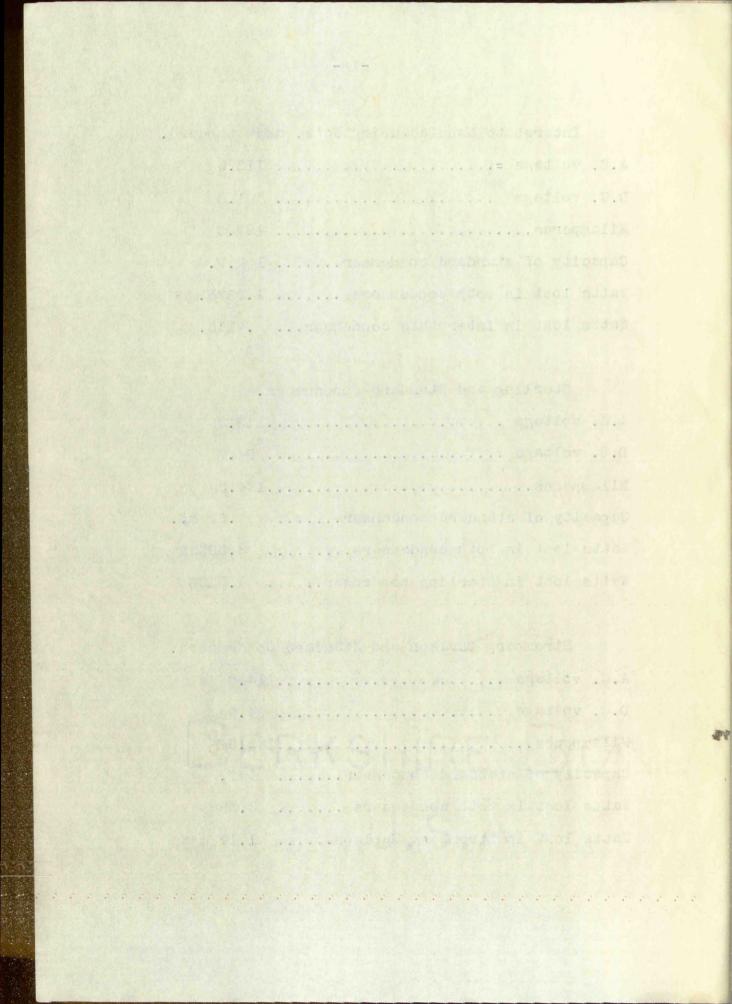
The galvanometer was balanced after the resistance was placed in the X arm of a post office box. Five Columbia dry cells in series furnished current for this circuit. The galvanometer was one of Leeds Northrup Co's. Type H D'Arsonval galvanometers used with a convex mirror and a spot of light. It was necessary to have a number of cells in the circuit to give sufficient sensibility.



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In taking the data it was found best to run as many tests as possible after the apparatus had once been heated rather than to run them one at a time. However it was impossible to run all at once, because it often took as long as two hours to run a single test. It was necessary to have as constant a voltage as possible. The alternating voltage was taken from the city mains, and the constant throwing in and out of lights in the city made the voltage fluctuate considerably in the morning and evening.



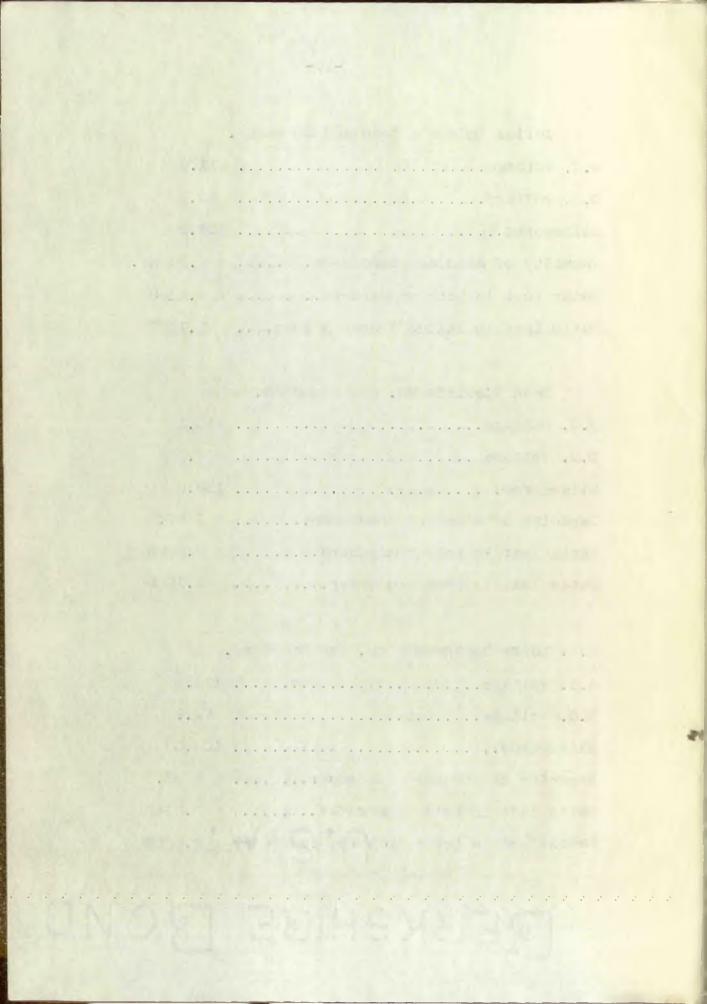


Julius Andrae & Sons and Standard.

A.C. voltage	111.9
D.C. voltage	92.3
Nilamperes	123.0
Capacity of standard condenser	.92 mf.
Watts lost in both condensers	2.4108
atts lost in Julius Andrae & Sons	1.1902

Dean Electric Co. and Standard.

A.C. voltage	113.1
D.C. voltare	94.2
Milamperes	125.0
Capacity of standard condenser	l mf.
Watts lost in both condensers	2.3625
Watts lost in Dean condenser	1.1865



Warner Electric Co.and Standard.

A.C. voltage	117.1
D.G. voltage	67.7
Milamperes	90.0
Capacity of standard condenser	l mf.
Watts lost in both condensers	3.546
Watts lost in Warner condenser	2.37

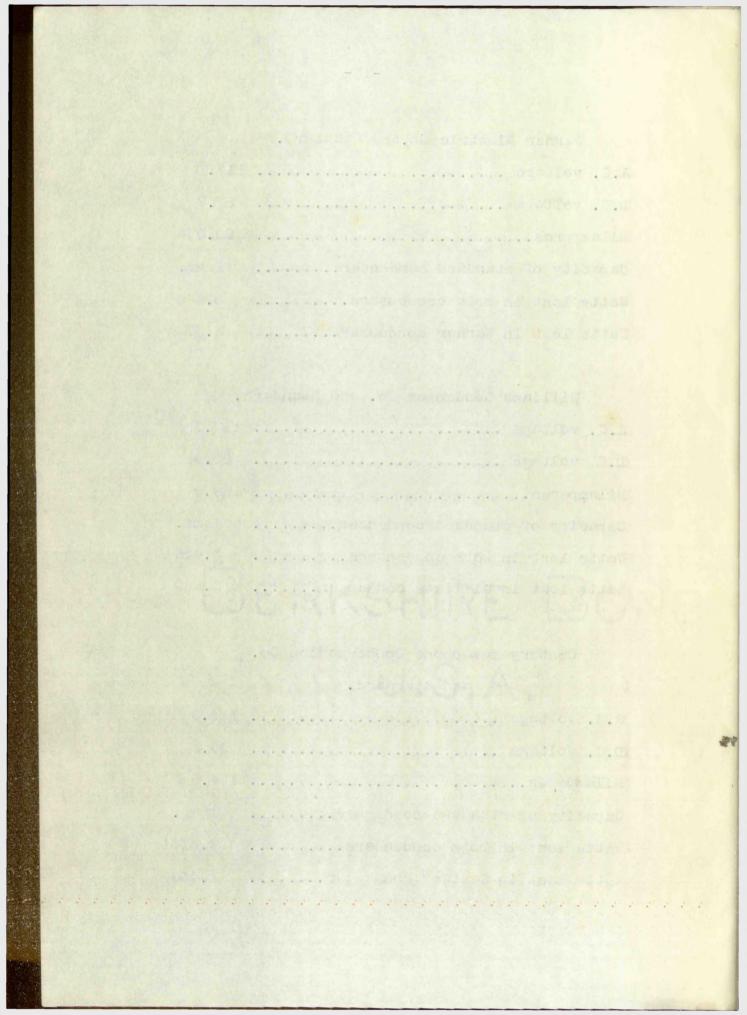
Williams Condenser Co. and Standard.

A.C. voltage	112.5
D.C. voltage	80.8
Milamperes	108.0
Capacity of standard condenser	l mf.
Watts lost in both condensers	3.445
Watts lost in Williams condenser	2.269

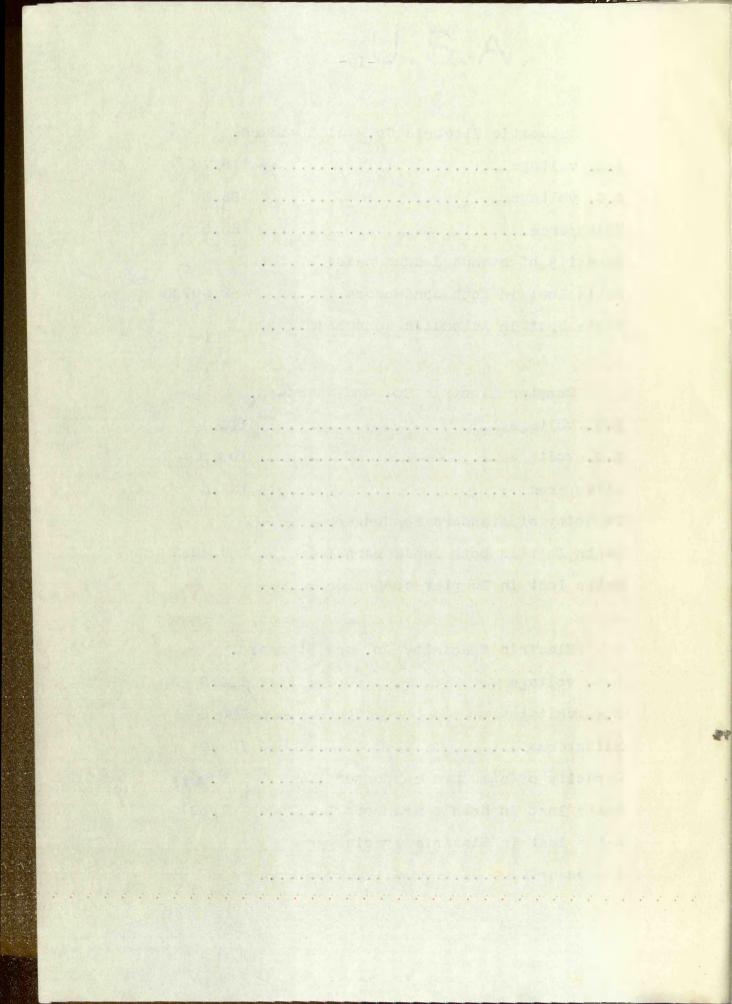
Century Telephone Construction Co.

#### and Standard.

A.C. voltage	116.0
D.C. voltage	95.2
Milamperes	124.5
Capacity of standard condenser	l mf.
Watts lost in both condensers	2.6141
Watts lost in Century condenser	1,4381



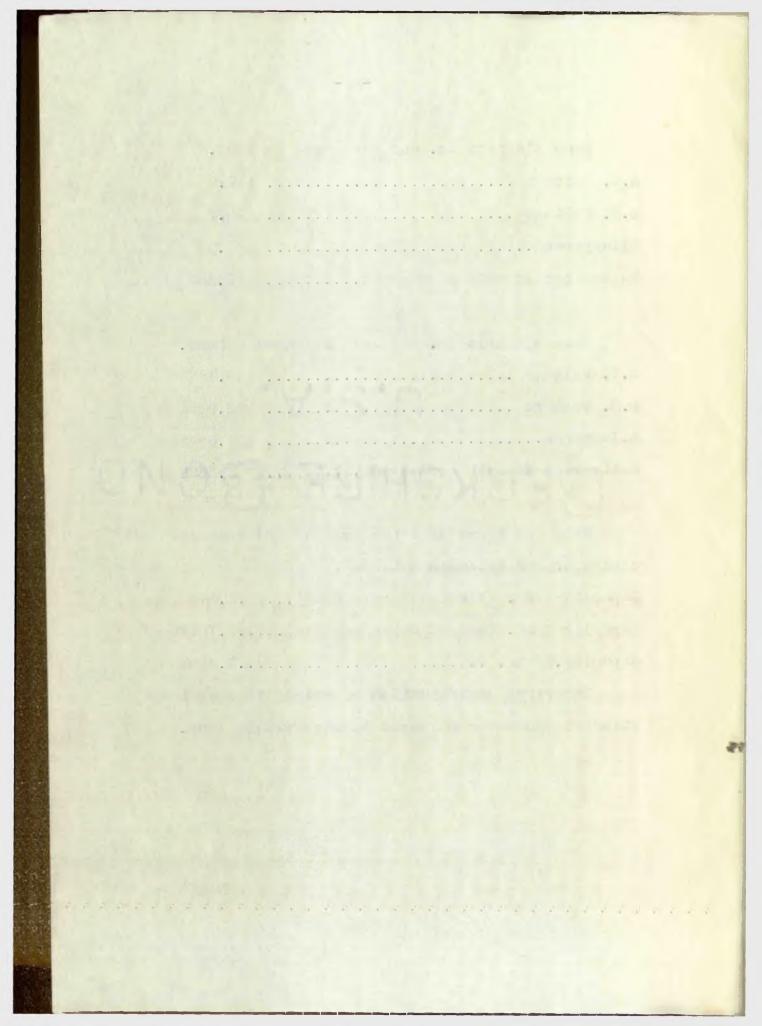
	Automatic	Electric	Co. and	Standar	·d.
A.C.	voltage				115.7
D.C.	voltage				95.0
Mila	nperes				125.5
Capa	city of st	andard con	ndenser.		
Watte	s lost in	both conde	ensers		2.59785
Watt	s cost in	Automatic	condense	er	



From the above data the loss of the standard condenser was determined to be : Capacity 1 mf. (first determination).....1.176 Capacity 1 mf. (second determination).....1.18125 Capacity.92 mf. .....1.22065

The first determination of energy loss in the standard condenser was used in the calculations.

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Capacity of Condensers. Standard Mica Condenser. Charged 1 second ..... 1 mf. Charged 3 seconds ..... 1 mf. Charged 10 seconds ..... 1 mf.

Sumpter Condenser.

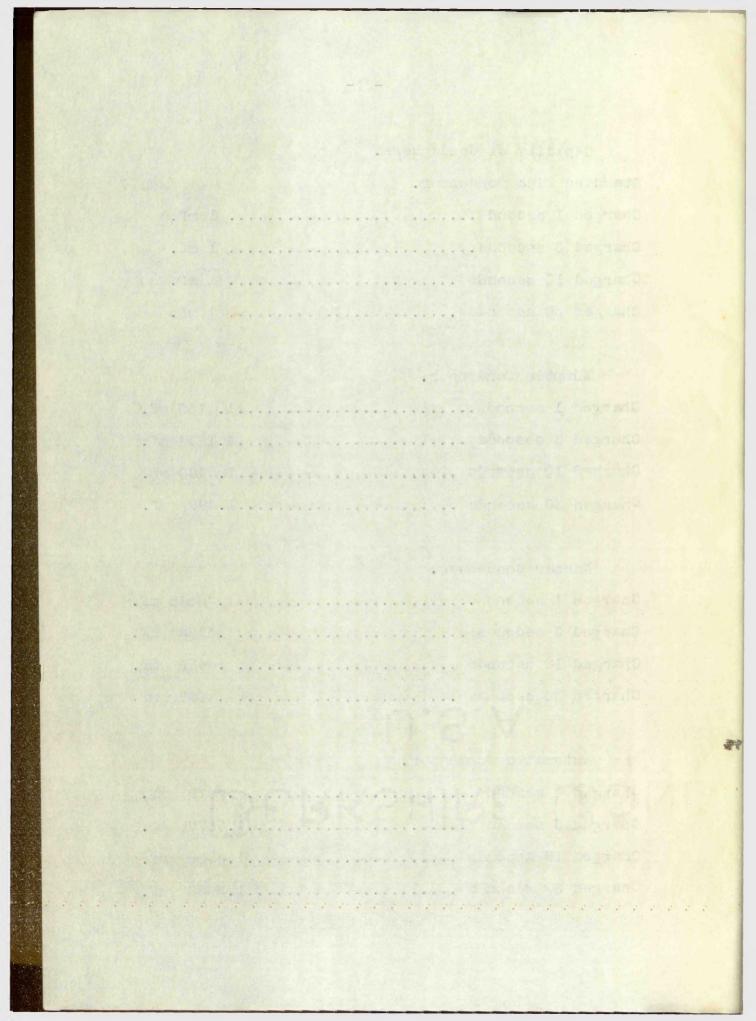
Charged	1 second	•
Charged	3 seconds	þ
Charged	10 seconds	,
Charged	30 seconds	

Warner Condenser.

Charged	1	second.				• •			• •	•	• •		•	• •			•		.26618	mf.
Charged	3	seconds				• •	•	• •			• •	w		• •	•				.3182	mf.
Charged	10	) seconde	1			• •	•				• •		• •			•			.4459	mf.
Charged	30	) seconda		• •	Ŧ		+	• •										1 1	.4687	mf.

#### Automatic Condenser.

Charged	second	f.
Charged	5 second:	f.
Charged	10 seconds1.3236 m	ſ.
Charged	50 seconds	f.



## Sterling Condenser.

Charged	1	second	•	• •	•			• •			• •			•				1	•	16	579	9	mf	•
Charged	3	seconds .		• •	8	•	•	•••	•	• •			•	•	 	•	0	1		21	158	3	mf	
Charged	10	) seconds	6		0		•	• •		• •		•	+		 	•	 	1	•	24	17	7	mf	•
Charged	30	seconds					8								 			1		38	320	6	mf	

#### Interstate Condenser.

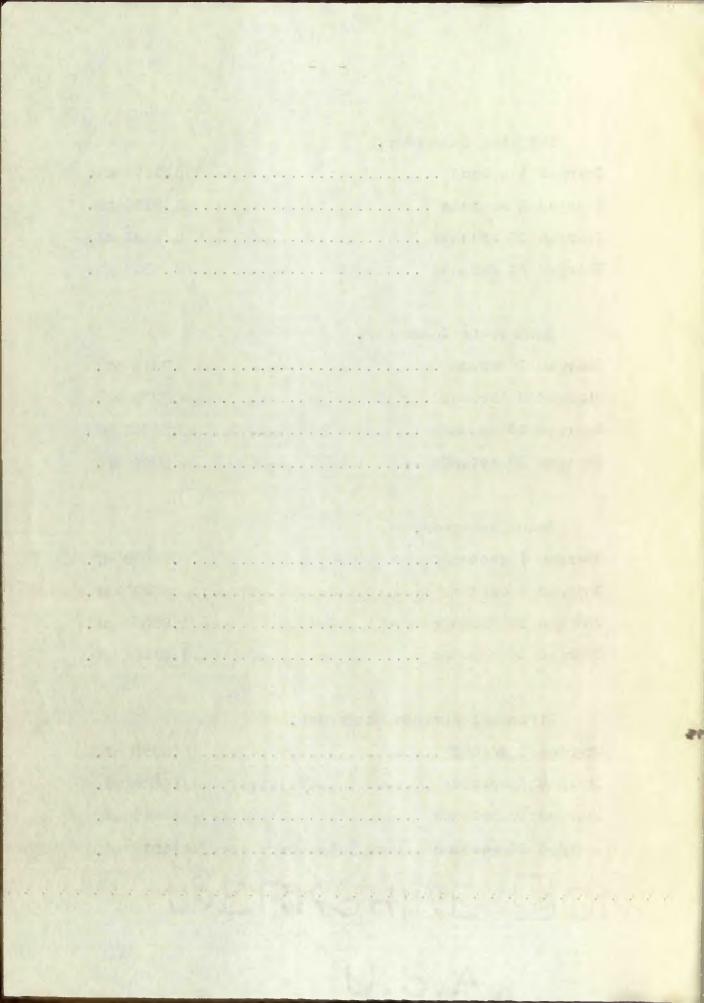
Charged	1	socond	• •			•			•			•		•	 	.7313 n	uf.
Charged	3	seconde	•	•		•	• •						•	•		.7753 n	af .
Charged	10	second	s		• •		• •		• •				 6			.81305	mf.
Charged	30	second	s								9		 6		 	.8244 n	af.

#### Dean Condenser.

Charged	1	second			•		• •			• •	* •	 • •	•	• •		.93099	mf.
Charged	3	seconds .		• •	• •				•			• •	6	• •	 •	.9621	mf.
Charged	1(	) seconds	•		• •	•				• •	• •	 			 .1	.0138	mf.
Charged	3(	) seconds						• •							 . 1	.0127	mf.

# Stromberg Carlson Condenser.

Charged	l second			 	 .9993	mf.
	3 aeconds					
Charged	10 second	3	• • • •	 	 1.0749	mf.
Charged	30 second	8		 	 1.1015	mf.



### Electric Specialty Co.

Charged	1	second	• •	••	* +	• •			• • •		• •	• •	 1.2615	mf.
Charged	3	seconds	•	• •	• •	d 8	• •	 •		•	a •		 1.4583	mf.
Charged	10	second	3	• •		• •	• •				• •	* *	 1.5+	mf.
Charged	30	socond	8					 8		• •			 1.5+	mf.

#### Julius Andrae & Sons.

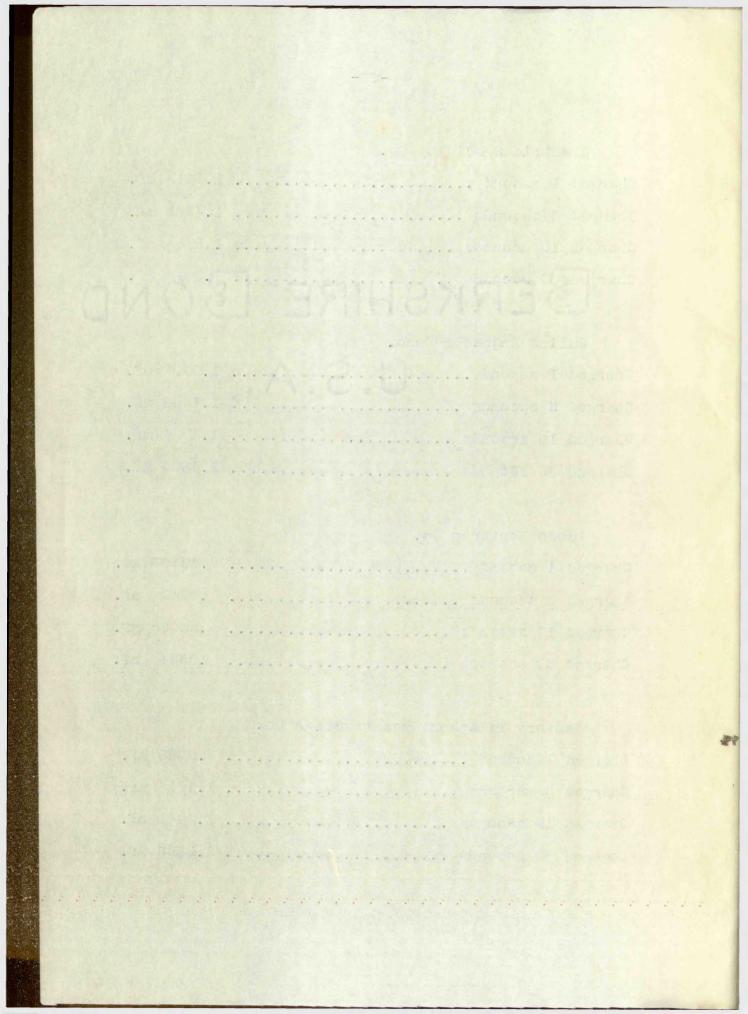
Charged	1	second	• •	• •		• •	• •	• •	• •	• •	•	• •	•	•	-	• •	*	1.0897	mf.
Charged	3	seconds					•			•								1.1266	mf.
Charged	10	) second	3		•						• •	• •						1.1594	mf.
Charged	3(	) second	3						6 6				•	• •				1.1604	mf.

#### Leeds Northrup Co.

Charged	1	second	•	43204	mf.
Charged	3	seconda		.4842	mf.
Charged	10	) seconds		.52985	mf.
Charged	3	0 seconds		.5524	mf.

## Century Telephone Construction Co.

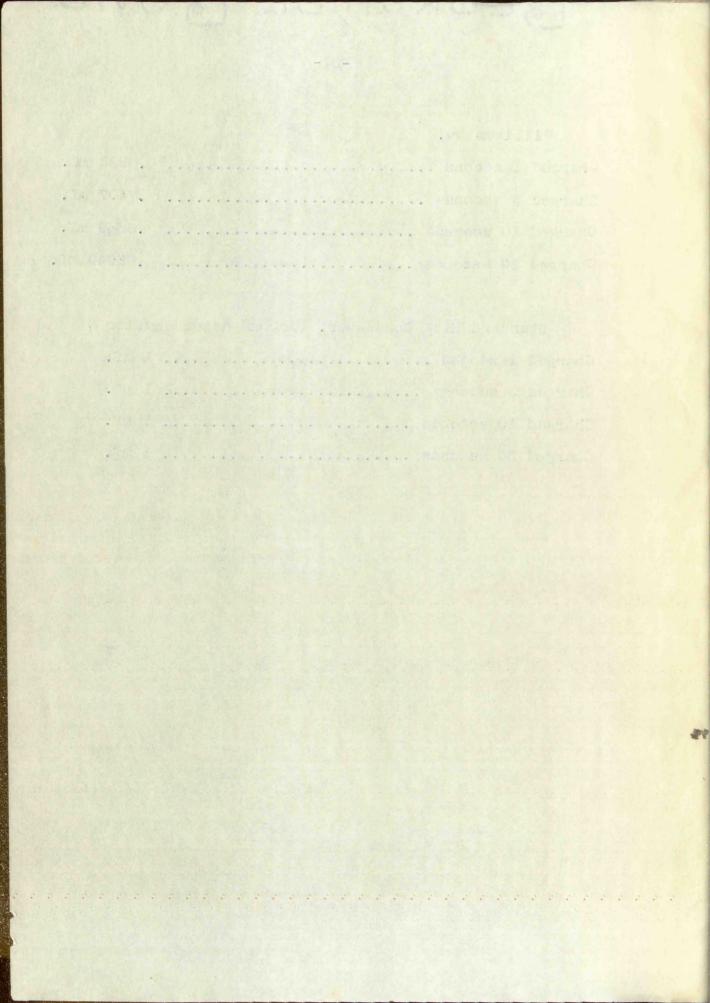
		second .														mf.
		seconds														mf.
Charged	1(	) seconde		4			•	 			• •		•	•	1,2041	mf.
Charged	3(	) seconds							• •						1.2356	mf.



#### Williams Co.

Charged	l second	mf.
Charged	3 seconds	mf.
Charged	10 seconds	mf.
Charged	30 seconds	9 mf.

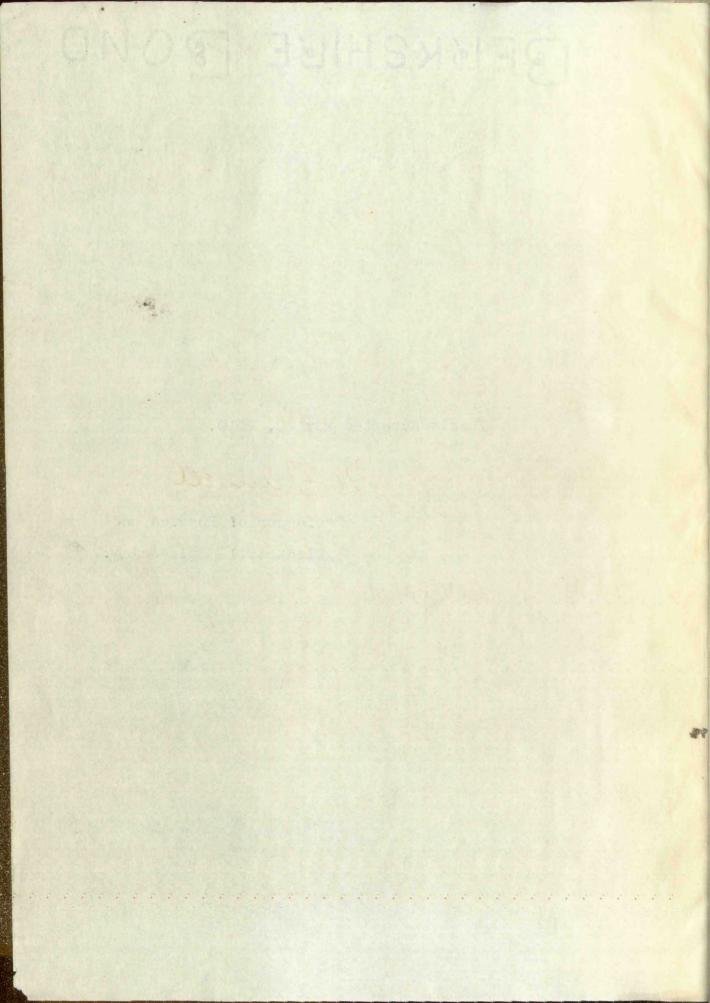
Ste	andard Mica	Condenser.	(Second	determination	)
Charged	1 second .			l mī.	
Charged	3 seconds			l mf.	
Charged	10 seconds			l mf.	
Charged	30 seconds			l mf.	

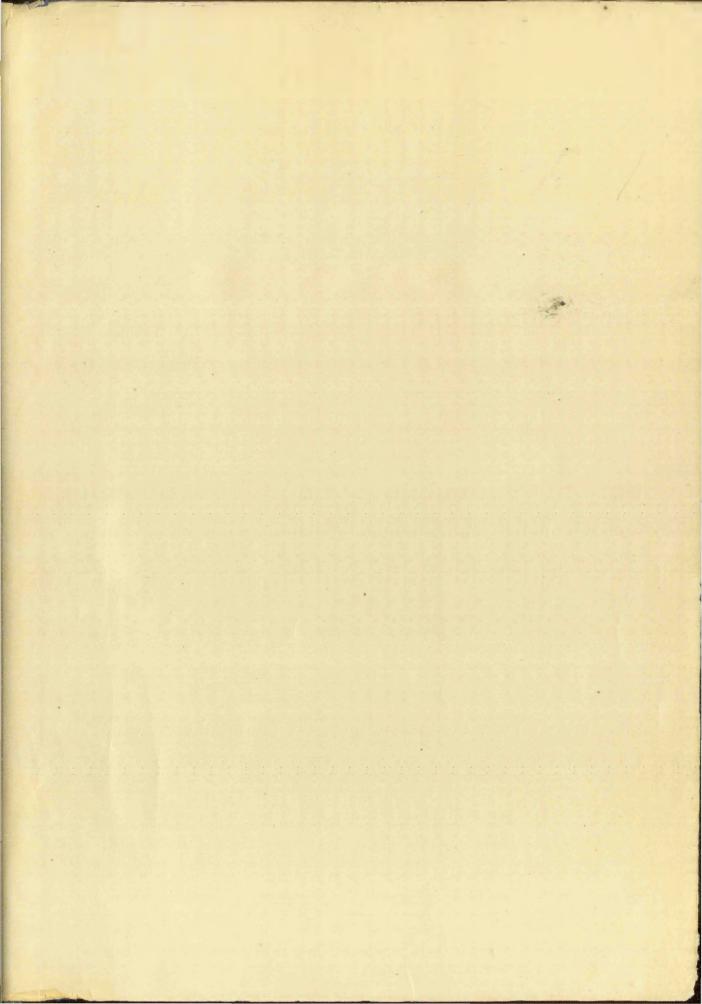


Thesis accepted May 20, 1910.

M. F. augell

Professor of Physics and Electrical Engineering.





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