

The John McPherson Co., Ltd., manufacturers of boots and shoes, Hamilton, Ont., has placed its order for a 40 h.p. "S.K.C." two-phase induction motor, which is to be used to operate the entire plant, replacing its present steam equipment. The company is also having its factory lit throughout by electricity.

The Canadian Pacific Railway Co. has found it necessary to increase the power plant at the Trail Smelter works, Trail, B.C., owing to the large contracts it has undertaken, and has placed an order with the Canadian General Electric Co. for another 75 h.p. induction motor and a 75 h.p. three-phase synchronous motor.

The B. Greening Wire Co., of Hamilton, has placed an order for another 30 h.p. "S.K.C." two-phase motor, which is to be installed about the middle of May, and will complete the conversion of their manufactory from a steam driven to electrically driven plant, and adds another smokeless chimney to Hamilton factories.

During the past thirty days the Canadian General Electric Company has received many orders for its standard three-phase induction motors; among which are: Three 150 h.p. to the British America Corporation, Rossland, B.C.; one 50 h.p. to the Trail Smelter, Rossland, B.C.; one 200 h.p., one 100 h.p. and one 20 h.p. to the Montreal Cotton Co., Valleyfield, Que.; one 100 h.p., four 5 h.p., two 3 h.p. and two 2 h.p. to the Lachine Rapids Co., of Montreal; one 50 h.p. to the West Kootenay Power & Light Co., and one 5 h.p. to the Miller Bros. & Jones, Montreal.

The West Kootenay Power & Light Co., Rossland, B.C., has met with such success in its power transmission undertaking that it has found it necessary to increase its plant to double the present capacity. About a year ago this company commenced supplying current to its customers at Rossland and Trail, a distance of nearly 40 miles from the power house, which is located at Bonnington Falls on the Kootenay River, and to-day has more orders for power than it can supply. The present generating plant consists of two 1,000 h.p., three-phase revolving field dynamos of the Canadian General Electric Co.'s make, and the company has just placed an order for a 2,000 h.p. generator of the same type with the company. The Canadian General Electric Co. is also supplying a complete equipment of marble panel switchboards, and 3,000 k.w. capacity in high potential step-up and step-down transformers. When this additional installation is completed the West Kootenay Co. will have one of the largest power plants in Canada, and the distance of transmission is the greatest in operation in Canada.

---

## Personal.

C. H. Topp, city engineer, Chatham, Ont., has accepted the position of city engineer, Victoria, B.C.

The Canadian representative of Holland's Mngf. Co., vises. machinists' and plumbers' tools, Erie, Pa., A. Younghans, called at the Toronto office of The Canadian Engineer recently.

N. J. Ker, C.E., assistant city engineer, Ottawa, Ont., has had a considerable addition made to his salary in Ottawa to induce him to decline the position of city engineer of Victoria, B.C.

W. A. Dube, formerly employed as train despatcher by the Grand Trunk Railway in its Montreal office, has been appointed superintendent of the Intercolonial Railway for the Ste. Flavie and Montreal districts. The new superintendent has been in the Grand Trunk service for twenty-five years, rising from the position of telegrapher to that of train despatcher, and at as early an age as 18 years having charge of the running of trains between Montreal and Island Pond, being made chief train despatcher at the age of 23, which position he held for fifteen years.

Jno. Inglis, senior member of the firm of J. Inglis & Sons, engine and boiler-makers, died suddenly last month at his home in Toronto. He was a Scotchman, and came from that country

47 years ago. He was a millwright by trade, and worked for a time at Chippawa. From there he moved to Simcoe, and shortly afterwards to Dundas. He only remained a short time in the latter place, going from there to Guelph, where he went into the manufacturing business on a comparatively small scale with Mair and Evatt, the firm name being Mair, Evatt and Inglis. After a time it became Evatt and Inglis, and finally Inglis and Hunter. The business developed into pretty much the same line as that at present carried on in Toronto, though not of the same proportions. About 18 years ago, when manufacturers of all kinds began to gravitate towards Toronto, the firm made their headquarters in this city. Some eight years ago Mr. Hunter went out of the business, and Mr. Inglis' sons were admitted to partnership.

---

## Brief, but Interesting.

The fireproof curtain of the Paris Opera House is made of aluminum plates, each about 13 feet long, 39½ inches wide and 3-32 inch thick. The exposed area of the curtain is 3,229 square feet, and the curtain weighs 1.8 tons.

The latest use of electricity is the seasoning of wood. A current drives out all the sap from a piece of timber in about six hours. The second process is the injection of a septic solution into the pores by an electro-capillary method, and the timber is seasoned. Such inventions lessen the necessity for anticipating future needs.

In the factory of the Grant Ball Company, Cleveland, large quantities of oil and emery are used for grinding, and the oil finally becomes so thickened with particles of emery and steel as to make it of the consistency of mud. In the city where this material accumulated no other way of disposing of it could be found except to pay for its removal outside of the city limits, for it was of such a character as to make it practically impossible to dispose of it in any other way. Finally the managers hit upon the plan of running it through a centrifugal cream separator, which completely separates the particles of emery and steel and runs the oil out at a separate spout, so that it can be used over again, while the mixed emery and steel can be disposed of much more readily than when, as formerly, mixed with oil.—American Machinist.

A Parliamentary return has recently been issued giving particulars of the water, gas, tramway, electric lighting and other reproductive undertakings carried on by municipal boroughs in England. The total capital invested in such undertakings amounted at the end of March, 1898, to £88,152,600, of which £83,379,300 had been borrowed. Of this borrowed money, however, about £11,250,000 had been paid off at the date of the return, leaving £71,883,200 outstanding, against which there had been accumulated sinking and loan funds to the amount of £3,203,600. The Economist summarizes this document. It appears that the average annual income from all the undertakings in the five years ending March 31, 1898, was £8,898,400 or 10.09 per cent., the average annual net profit for the same period £3,613,700 or 4.04 per cent., and the average annual amount paid in respect of principal and interest on capital borrowed £3,171,300. Water and gas works are the two chief undertakings in which the municipal boroughs have embarked, the capital invested by them in the former amounting to £48,434,900, and in the latter to £20,175,800. Tramways figure in the investments to the amount of £3,213,700, electric lighting undertakings for £3,416,700, markets for £4,770,300, and piers, quays, etc. for £4,797,500.

The London (Eng.) Times recently publishes the report of the Departmental Committee appointed to enquire into the manufacture and use of water gas and other gases containing a large proportion of carbonic oxide which has just been issued as a Blue Book. It shows that we can both learn from and teach the British gas consumer. The committee was appointed by the Home Secretary on February 9, 1898, and it consisted of Lord Belper (chairman), H. H. S. Cunyngame, assistant Under Secretary for the Home Department; J. S. Haldane, M.D., F.R.S.; H. F. Parsons, M.D., assistant medical officer