

CONSTRUCTION NEWS SECTION

Readers will confer a great favor by sending in news items from time to time. We are particularly eager to get notes regarding engineering work in hand and projected, contracts awarded, changes in staffs, etc. Printed forms for the purpose will be furnished upon application.

RAILWAYS—STEAM AND ELECTRIC.

Ontario.

OWEN SOUND.—The G.T.R. is extending its yards and making extensive additions to its freight-sheds here.

HAMILTON.—The T., H. & B. is going to build a new bridge at Cainsville, on the Brantford and Hamilton road. The bridge will be a steel one with heavy concrete abutments.

New Brunswick.

ST. JOHN.—Quietly but with most satisfactory progress there is being carried on in Northern New Brunswick and Eastern Quebec railroad work which will open up an enormously wealthy though hitherto undeveloped district. That whole country surrounding Bay Chaleur and the Restigouche River will, by the end of next year, if present plans are carried out, become as easily accessible as any portion of Eastern Canada. It is intended to make Campbellton the ultimate terminus of the A. Q. & W., and in order to do this it will be necessary to construct a great bridge over the Restigouche. This has already been designed, and the contract awarded to the International Bridge Company. The bridge will be 3,300 feet in length, and will cost not less than \$600,000.

British Columbia.

FERNIE.—About \$50,000 will be expended by the C.P.R. here during the coming spring in new trackage, freight sheds and other improvements.

VANCOUVER.—The percentage paid the city by the British Columbia Electric Railway Company for 1907 under the terms of its agreement, amounted to \$16,378. In 1906 the amount received from this source was \$10,300, the increase for last year being over \$6,000 or approximately, 60 per cent.

VICTORIA.—A petition has been presented for a private bill to incorporate the Hudson Bay Pacific, which will also shortly ask Ottawa for a Federal charter for the Port Simpson to Fort Churchill road to be completed in five years.

VANCOUVER.—A seventy-mile extension of road will be built by the Spokane International Railway from Eastport to Fernie, where it will connect with the C.P.R.

Alberta.

EDMONTON.—Fletcher Bredin, Athabasca, in the Legislature, has moved the second reading of an Act to amend the charter of the Alberta and Northwestern Railway, which aims to open up the Peace River district. The company are making financial arrangements in the Old Country by which operations will be soon commenced. By amendment the route of the railway will be from Medicine Hat to Rocky Mountain House, then to Edmonton and thence to Lesser Slave and Peace River.

MISCELLANEOUS.

British Columbia.

MICHEL.—Plans are now being prepared and construction will be started within the next few months of a new tipples for the Crow's Nest Pass Coal Company. The structure when completed will represent an expenditure of \$200,000.

Ontario.

BELLEVILLE.—It looks as though the city would have the benefit of another large cement industry, thus making three here. It is now said that Messrs. H. Corby, ex-M.P., and Fred. R. Tingham, with others, have purchased vast rock and clay properties along the Bay of Quinte shore, and the big cement works and limekilns will be started at an estimated cost of nearly \$7,000,000.

LIGHT, HEAT, AND POWER.

Ontario.

BELLEVILLE.—The City of Belleville are anxious to secure a city engineer; one familiar with the installation of waterworks preferred.

ST. CATHARINES.—With the temperature six below zero, many hundreds of people in this city and in Thorold suffered from the cold last night and to-day, due to the scarcity of natural gas, the only heating that a majority of the houses in this city have. The gas in hundreds of stoves and furnaces went out entirely last week, leaving the houses absolutely without heat. "I am going to wire to the Minister of the Interior about the export of natural gas across to Buffalo, thus sending out of the country a natural asset that our own people are actually suffering for," said Mayor Campbell. The Natural Gas Company, which supplies St. Catharines and Thorold with natural gas, claims that the great strain on the gas wells occasioned by sending the gas to Buffalo, prevents them from getting anything like an adequate supply. Something will have to be done at once or people here will be actually freezing to death in their homes.

Manitoba.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

WINNIPEG.—The power question is beginning to get acute. Business men who placed reliance on the good judgment of Mayor Ashdown, and his promises, that the scheme would be gone on with whenever the financial situation was sufficiently clear to issue debentures covering the cost of expenditures contracted for, are now disappointed that the Mayor has changed his view by asking for the dismissal of Chief Engineer Smith, which practically means the killing of the power scheme for the city. The Board of Control, every member of which pledged himself to the rapid construction of the scheme on the recovery of the money market, are to all intents and purposes unanimous with the Mayor. The citizens are becoming tired of the Mayor's manoeuvring, and the latest step is in the direction of the formation of a power league, which will endeavor to bring pressure to bear on the City Council and force the completion of the scheme. There has already been expended a sum in the vicinity of \$300,000 on tramway and other works, and the majority of citizens place absolute reliance in the estimates and advice given by Engineer Smith. The completion of the power scheme means the building of Winnipeg as a manufacturing centre; the greatest obstacle hitherto to the establishment of manufacturing concerns being the high price of power, light and taxes. A number of Eastern and States companies are negotiating for the erection of plants in Winnipeg provided the power is put on a satisfactory footing, and should Mayor Ashdown and the present council fail to carry out the citizen's wishes it is generally expected that there will be trouble ahead, the popular vote being for the immediate construction of the plant now that the money market has eased off.

Alberta.

EDMONTON.—A new power plant, consisting of a gas producer engine of 1,000 horse-power, and a 2,300 volt generator will be installed here on the site of the present power plant.

British Columbia.

VICTORIA.—According to the annual report of Mr. Matthew Hutchinson, superintendent of the city lighting department, several additions and changes will be found necessary for the city electric plant. He recommends the replacing of the older types of lamps and machinery before making further extensions.