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ROYAL ELECTRIC.

DIRECTORS VISIT THE WORK AT CHAMBLY.

At the special invitation of Mr. Rodolphe Forget, president of the Royal Electric company, several of the directors of the company and a number of leading stockbrokers went out to Chambly Canton, on Saturday to inspect the works of the Chambly Manufacturing Company, which supply the power to the Royal Electric Company. The party was composed of Messrs. Rodolphe Forget, G. F. Caverhill, James Wilson, Gordon Strathy, A. A. Wilson, Godfrey Weir, F. Nash, W. I. Fenwick, W. J. Turpin, Fred. Barlow, G. H. Meldrum, C. E. Gault, and Mr. W. H. Brown, general manager of the Royal Electric Company. A special train took the visitors to Chambly Canton, and the first point of interest visited was the magnificent concrete dam, which extends first across the Chambly river for a distance of 550 feet, then down the river 1627 feet, and then inshore another 320 feet, forming a Z. The dam makes what is known as the head race, or supply pond, which provides the water to the power house for the generation of the power. Mr. Brown, the general manager, and Mr. P. G. Gossler, the electrical engineer, showed the visitors through the power house, and explained the machinery used in the generation of power. At present there are two exciters and four pug generators in operation, but there is room for four more generators, which will be placed in position as soon as the necessity arises. Each generator has a capacity of 2,500 horse power, making the total capacity at present 10,000 horse power, and the ultimate capacity will be 20,000 horse power.

On the gently sloping river bank on both sides of the Richelieu, it was quite apparent nature had been rudely treated by the hands of modern vandals. The dry land showed, there was a time not so remote, when the waters of the Richelieu played over the parched spots, making Chambly and Richelieu two of the most picturesque spots in the Dominion. What the country has lost in picturesqueness it has been a thousand times repaid in usefulness.

Mr. Brown explained that the generators were the largest machines of the kind that had ever been built, even bigger than the Niagara machines. They had all been made at the Royal Electric works. The machines generate the power for the incandescent lights, supplied by the company in the city, and it is the intention to shortly supply the power for the arc lights as well from Chambly.

From the machines the electricity is conveyed to another building, which is known as the terminal house, where the junction is made between the underground cable and the overhead lines, which carry the power into the receiving station at the Royal works in Montreal, a distance of sixteen and a half miles. What impressed the visitors most was the simplicity and solidity of the whole structure. Although three of the huge generators were working at the time there was not the slightest vibration, a fact which, as Mr. Brown explained, shows how perfect the machinery is. Another interesting feature which was explained to the visitors was the precaution that is taken against lightning storms. In addition to the transmission wires, a set of barbed wires are used and form a shield over the transmission wires. Each of the barbed wires is connected with a wire running to the earth. This arrangement allows the electricity in the air to accumulate on the barbed wires and to escape into the earth. Lightning arrestors are also connected direct with the copper wires and afford another means of escape. Even during the remarkable electrical storms that have occurred during the last couple of years, the company had not the slightest accident. All the visitors were greatly impressed with the fine machinery and the perfection of all the arrangements.

At about three o'clock, three of the party, especially, looked very dry, which suggested to mine host the popularity of a move towards the neat brick house already alluded to. "Soup is getting cold" was the signal for a move which could only be compared to the rush of water when the sluice gates were opened near the power house. Turkeys, chickens, lamb, roasts, pies and ham (and other things) fast disappeared and were followed by sweets and tales, some extra good ones, being recounted by President Forget, Manager Brown, Mr. James and Mr. Andrew Wilson. As they were less technical than those given at the power house, they were perhaps better understood by the majority of those present.

After lunch the party drove down to the old Chambly fort of which an enjoyable inspection was made. The curiosities of Mr. _____, the gentleman in charge, were examined with interest as were also the general surroundings. At 4 o'clock the visitors were driven to the Chambly and placed under the care of Captain Polette, an ideal skipper, who made our trip to Beloeil a thoroughly enjoyable incident. The Intercolonial then wafted us into Bonaventure, all feeling that they had made a red-letter day in their terrestrial journey. After bidding their host, President Rodolphe Forget, Mr. Brown and Mr. Gossler, good-bye, the party separated.

Amongst the visitors was Mr. W. R. Eckart, of San Francisco, the representative of the Blue Lakes and San Francisco Electrical Company, who is putting in a plant to supply power from the Blue Lakes in Nevada, to San Francisco, a distance of 150 miles, with a voltage of 60,000 volts, the highest voltage ever attempted. The machinery has been ordered from the Stanley Electrical Company, of Pittsfield, Mass., the associate company of the Royal, which designed the latter's machinery, and the special object of Mr. Eckart's visit was to inspect the machinery. Mr. Eckart expressed himself as much impressed with the perfection of the machinery and the completeness of all the arrangements.

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