



PUBLISHED ON THE FIRST OF EVERY MONTH BY

CHAS. H. MORTIMER,

Office, 14 King Street West,

TORONTO, - - CANADA.

64 TEMPLE BUILDING, MONTREAL.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

Advertising rates sent promptly on application. Orders for advertising should reach the office of publication not later than the 25th day of the month immediately preceding date of issue. Changes in advertisements will be made whenever desired, without cost to the advertiser, but to insure proper compliance with the instructions of the advertiser, requests for change should reach the office as early as the 22nd day of the month.

SUBSCRIPTIONS.

The ELECTRICAL NEWS will be mailed to subscribers in the Dominion, or the United States, post free, for \$1.00 per annum, 50 cents for six months. The price of subscription may be remitted by currency, in registered letter, or by postal order payable to C. H. Mortimer. Please do not send cheques on local banks unless 25 cents is added for cost of discount. Money sent in unregistered letters must be at sender's risk. Subscriptions from foreign countries embraced in the General Postal Union, \$1.50 per annum. Subscriptions are payable in advance. The paper will be discontinued at expiration of term paid for if so stipulated by the subscriber, but where no such understanding exists, will be continued until instructions to discontinue are received and all arrearages paid.

Subscribers may have the mailing address changed as often as desired. When ordering change, always give the old as well as the new address.

The Publisher should be notified of the failure of subscribers to receive their papers promptly and regularly.

EDITOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Correspondence is invited upon all topics coming legitimately within the scope of this journal.

WELCOME.

It has become our pleasant duty in this issue to offer words of welcome to our brethren the members of the National Electric Light Association of the United States. As Canadians, we feel honored by the selection of one of our principal cities as the meeting place of such an illustrious assemblage, and we trust that the visit will not be without pleasure and ultimate profit to the dispensers of illumination, their confreres the fabricators of mechanism, and above all, to the men of mighty brain who have been most instrumental in developing the revolutionary force of electricity. Welcome one and all to the land of the beaver and the maple leaf! May your lights be never dimmed or your shadows grow less. We welcome you, from whatever part of the great Republic you come from the sunny south or the wild and woolly west, from the land of the wooden nutmeg and the basswood ham, from New York or the sylvan state of William Penn. We are prepared to do homage to the smartest nation on the face of the earth. The effete monarchies of the old world are nowhere. In the early development of the science, the European discoverer was content to rub his coat sleeve with a chunk of sealing wax, but your Franklin had the nerve to gather his electricity from the raging thunder storm. It served Galvani's turn to tickle frogs' legs with mild electric currents, but you are satisfied with nothing less than humanity itself to practice alternating currents on. From touching up the stern of a bull-frog to electric execution is a fairly long stride, but you have made it. All hail!

Since Franklin's brilliant but cheeky experiment with a flash of lightning, the principles of the science have been discovered by men of other lands; but for the development and practical commercial applications of such discoveries, your country stands pre-eminent. Paccinotti, for instance, may have thought about a certain form of ring, but Brush made electric lights with it, and what is more, he sold them to good advantage, too. His success financially was well deserved, though it does not always fall to the lot of inventors to be rewarded in this world. Wilde and Ladd and Sawyer died poor as rats, but Thomson and Houston and Edison have succeeded in piling up on their grave-stones a couple of syndicates that will presently be reaching for heaven after using up all the earth available.

Truly, yours is a great country, and as its representatives and the exploiters of a great and growing industry, we are proud to have you in our midst, and extend to you the right hand and hearty grasp of good fellowship. The Star Spangled Banner shall be entwined with our own Union Jack, and may the sentiment of every loyal American and Canadian be, "Long may they wave!"

ACTIVE preparations are being made for the International Exhibition to be held at St. John, N. B. from Sept. 23rd to Oct. 3rd. This exhibition, it will be remembered, was a most successful affair last year, and the energy which is being evinced by the management will no doubt succeed in improving upon the results then achieved.

We desire to acknowledge our indebtedness and tender thanks to the management of the Grand Trunk Railway Co. at Montreal, for having kindly placed at our disposal the plates from which the beautiful illustrations of the cities of Montreal, Quebec and Kingston and other Canadian scenes appearing in this paper, were printed.

AFTER having congratulated intending visitors to the Montreal convention upon the added comfort which the postponement of the meeting from August to September would afford them, it is discouraging to be told by the weather prognosticators that September will be the hottest month in the year. However, there is still a gleam of comfort to be found in remembrance of the fact that on one or two occasions weather predictions have been known to fail.

SOME time ago we had occasion to refer to the questionable method adopted by some manufacturers of electric lighting apparatus in tendering for lights in small towns at ridiculously low rates, and then on the strength of a municipal contract thus obtained unloading the plant on some unsuspecting purchaser, the sale usually being facilitated by representations of profits that can never be realized. Listowel is a case in point, with the difference that the wide-awake people there were not to be taken in. The lights were contracted for at 12 cents per night—fifteen being the number. When the company found they could not unload upon the citizens, they pulled up stakes and took their plant out of town. They were not inclined themselves to take the dose they had prepared for the people of that enterprising place, and evidently thought that the fabulous profits that were to be made out of fifteen lights at 12 cents per night were not likely to materialize. We are sorry to see such a depreciation of values by the very people whose interest it should be to maintain a price that should pay at least a reasonable interest on the investment. Where a municipal contract is to be renewed these bogus prices are quoted as actual facts, and are believed by many who have no knowledge of the true state of the case. The result is a demoralization in the business that it should be the interest of manufacturers to foster. We cannot refrain from expressing a lively hope that these brigands of the industry will profit by the lesson so hardly learned in Listowel.

THE storage battery that was promised in a week or two some months ago, to run a street car in Toronto, has, up to the present time, not materialized. We offered at the time to publish the results of a test, even though those results would compel us to eat our own words and take a back seat for ever more as a critic on things electrical. The ownership of the fundamental patent on the storage battery has been awarded to C. F. Brush after considerable litigation in the United States, but that is a matter of small concern, as it would be difficult indeed for Mr. Brush or anyone else to prove that much money had ever been made out of a storage battery. The accounting of profits need worry no one. The decision in favor of Brush may have the effect of stimulating invention on new lines, such as we have before hinted at. Before a storage battery will even be much use for locomotion it must be reduced in weight. The miserable sloppy, corroding blind electrolyte must be done away with, and a solidity and permanence given to the whole thing to which it is now a stranger. The successful storage battery is the dream of street railway men, and while once or thrice they have thought they were on the eve of realization, it has disappeared "like the baseless fabric of a vision," but it has, at the same time, in most cases, left considerable of a wreck behind. The storage battery is the ideal motive power for a street car, but it will never be attained by a rehash of the well-thumbed discovery of Faure. The inventor must strike out a new line entirely if he would succeed; and genuine success in this matter means both wealth and fame to the men who are fortunate enough to be "in it."

THE introduction of the electric motor is quickly but rapidly making headway in manufacturing establishments. The advantages of this form of power are so evident that the business man who studies his own interests cannot afford to overlook its merits. The absence of fire, smoke, noise and dirt, that are inseparable from a steam engine, and its adaptability to every position or purpose for which it may be required, are great points in its favor. It is always ready at the turning of a button and may be stopped as easily. There is no fire to put out or boiler to fill up together with the attendant risk of locking up a building and leaving it in a more or less doubtful condition of latent combustibility. The insurance underwriters recognize its desirability in this respect, and where it is in use make it a consideration in their rate on account of it. The electric motor will supersede the gas engine on account of its smoothness of motion and uniform