

LONDON, ENG.—The bonds of the Huron and Ontario Railway Company to the amount of \$302,400 have been sold to R. G. Shaw and Company, East India merchants, at 84. A. McD. Allan, of Goderich, Ont., has been here for some months in regard to the matter, and has latterly had the assistance of T. M. Sanders, a well-known engineer, who is to manage the entire construction and equipment of the road. J. Gerry, London, Ont., is the contractor, and H. Middemist, Toronto, the construction engineer. The Shaw Company is to give the railway the use of their offices here and throughout Europe, Asia and America, where the bonds and their interest coupons are likely to be payable. Mr. Shaw, speaking to the Canadian Associated Press over the telephone, stated that the bonds had not been sold them, but that they were negotiating, and have sent a representative to Canada regarding the matter.

RECENT FIRES.

HALIFAX, N.S.—A most disastrous fire, causing over \$100,000 damage, destroyed the car shops of Rhodes, Curry and Company, at Amherst, N.S., destroying many finished railway cars, as well as thousands of dollars' worth of raw material and partly finished rolling stock. In the erecting room were four new vestibule colonist cars all complete for the Intercolonial Railway and twelve baggage cars for the Grand Trunk Pacific, and many others in earlier stages of completion.

TELEPHONY.

SIMCOE, ONT.—Mr. Martin, an official of the Bell Telephone Co., is in town, preparing for the work of putting a portion of the local system into conduits. The work will be started after New Year's.

PERSONAL.

MR. LESLIE CRAFTURD, C.E., has been appointed city engineer of Nelson, B.C.

MR. E. V. NEELANDS, B.A.Sc., has been appointed manager of the Hargrave Mine at Cobalt, Ont.

MR. J. T. HALLISEY has been appointed superintendent of the Halifax and St. John Division of the Intercolonial.

MR. WM. N. COURTNEY, of the Standard Engineering Co., Toronto, is now in Montreal that company having opened an office at Room 234, Coristine Building.

MISS B. MARION WADE, a graduate of Trinity University, Toronto, has been appointed by the Boston Board of Health as bacteriologist and chemist in the laboratory of the department.

MR. J. F. H. WYSE, of Messrs. Wyse and Middemist, engineers, has been appointed by the Ontario Railway Board to report on the disputes between North Toronto and the Metropolitan Railway.

S. B. BIRDS, A.R.I.B.A., formerly of Toronto, has identified himself with the Concrete Engineering and Construction Co., Ltd., Vancouver, and he reports that that concern is now figuring on several large contracts, and the prospects very good indeed.

MR. FRANK BARBER, S.P.S. '06, who for several years was assistant to the late James McDougall, County Engineer for York, has been appointed County Engineer. In addition to county work, Mr. Barber will carry on a consulting practice from his offices in the York Chambers, Adelaide Street East, Toronto, Ont.

MR. E. B. MERRILL, B.A., B.A.Sc., formerly Chief Assistant Engineer of the Power Construction Department of Winnipeg, has opened offices as a consulting engineer in the Lawlor Building, corner King and Yonge Streets, Toronto, Ont. Mr. Merrill, besides being a University man, is

also a member of the Can. Soc. of C. E. and American I. E. E. He purposes taking up general engineering work with particular attention to power and allied works as his main field.

DR. EUGENE HAANEL, director of the mines branch of the geological survey, is now on his way to Sweden on the invitation of the Government of that country, to be present at the opening of the new electric smelting plant at Dummarfot on December 1. He will continue for the mines department investigations he made some two years ago on the electric smelting process, now coming into vogue in Europe, and on his return further important developments in the plant already started at Sault Ste. Marie in connection with the new system may be expected.

MR. GEORGE A. POWELL who has been associated with the Packard Electric Co., Limited, of St. Catharines, Ont., for the last 15 years, has severed his connection with that company. Mr. Powell has started business for himself in the electrical line as commission broker with offices in the Union Bank Building, Winnipeg. He will continue to represent, amongst other agencies, the Eugene F. Phillips Electrical Works, Ltd., of Montreal, well-known makers of bare and insulated copper wires and cables.

OBITUARY.

C. A. DERTSLER, C.E., engineer for the British Columbia electric railway, was drowned at Chilliwack while attempting to cross the Vedder River on a raft. In mid-stream the raft, on which were Dertsler and a companion, was smashed to pieces on the rocks.

MR. HENRY PETER COBURN, vice-president and general manager of the Sawyer-Massey Company, Hamilton, Ont., died at Hamilton, Ont., November 25th, 1908. The late Mr. Coburn was born on August 21st, 1835, at Dracut, Mass., which has since become a part of Lowell, Mass. He was a son of the late Augustus Coburn, who conducted a large general store at that place, and descended from old English stock. His ancestors came to America in 1650 and settled in Massachusetts, and soon became known as among the best of that sturdy old stock for which the New England States are noted. He attended Phillip's Academy at Andover, Mass., where he began and completed his school education. After quitting school he entered his father's store and there enjoyed the benefit of the father's knowledge of business, and this, with strict religious discipline that was maintained in his father's family, fitted him to accept a larger position when the opportunity offered. In early manhood he came to Hamilton to take a temporary position with the late L. D. Sawyer, head of the firm of L. D. Sawyer and Company, who was his uncle. He took charge of that firm's collecting and sales department and soon showed his ability to take a more important place. In two years' time he was made a partner in the business and was appointed its manager. Here he again showed his business ability, and under his management the firm of L. D. Sawyer took a front rank as manufacturers of farm machinery. So large did its volume of business become that it was considered advisable to form a limited stock company, and the Sawyer-Massey Company was brought into being, with Mr. Coburn as its general manager and vice-president, which position he held up till the time of his death.

MARKET CONDITIONS.

Toronto, Dec. 3rd, 1908.

A sudden cold snap, coming after a fortnight of September-like weather, has not helped the activity of building but rather the contrary. There is nothing remarkable to be written about building materials, the activity of building having received a check and demand being thereby lessened.

The metals market exhibits some features such as the buoyancy of pig iron and the stronger tone of several metals. Copper accumulated in November, owing to heavy output, and there was a decline. But after Thanksgiving a sharp rally came in the States and electrolytic became active. The result of the fluctuations has been (Dec. 1st.) a net advance. Since activity in buying pig iron began in September a million tons was placed on contract in the United States. This sounds large but is not, for the capacity of the country is 2,400,000 tons a month. The Eastern foundries are not buying heavily. Steel structural material has been inactive, and prices at tidewater have been shaded as also prices of plates and sheets.