

THE CANADIAN ELECTRICAL NEWS.

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Correspondence on all Telegraphic, Telephonic or Electric Light subjects is
solicited.

Readers are cordially invited to communicate their views and opinions on all
topics within the province of this journal.

Items relating to Telegraphy, Telephony, Electric Light, or Inventions, will be
thankfully received.

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MONTREAL, MAY 15, 1884.

THE TELEGRAPH LINES OF SOUTH AMERICA.

In South America the only Republic without a telegraph is Ecuador. Chili and Peru have had lines many years. Colombia only commenced hers within a few years, also Venezuela. The U. S. of Colombia now possess a network of many thousands of miles. A tender for the construction of about 500 miles of line, running from the town of Panama towards the border of Costa Rica was solicited by the Government at Bogota. But up to date no one has appeared desirous of obtaining the contract. The terms offered were not favorable, while the credit of the Government is not free from reproach.

The Central and South American Telegraph Co.'s lines run from Vera Cruz in Mexico to Lima in Peru. At Vera Cruz they connect with the lines of the Mexican Telegraph Co., which run to Galveston, Texas. Mr. James A. Scrymser is President of the two companies. At Lima the Central and South American Company's wires come into connection with those of the West Coast of America Company, whose terminus is at Valparaiso, in Chili.

The Central and South American Company's lines comprise 3,160½ miles of cable, 300 miles of land wire, and connect exclusively with 2,800 miles of submarine cable and 20,000 miles of land wire in Mexico and Central and South America. The distance between New York and Valparaiso is 7,750 miles.

The route of the Company's cables is Galveston to Coatzacoalcos via Vera Cruz and Tampico, thence by land line across the Isthmus of Tehuantepec to Salina Cruz in the Pacific. From this point to Callao in Peru (the port of and nine miles from Lima, the capital of Peru), the stations are consecutively La Libertad, (Republic of Salvador), San Juan del Sur (Nicaragua), Panama (U. S. of Colombia), Buenaventura (U. S. of C.), Santa Elena (Ecuador), Payta (Peru) and Callao.

The whole work on the Central and South American Co.'s lines was completed in eleven months, an achievement unprecedented in the history of ocean cables for its rapidity.

The cables were laid by the India Rubber, Gutta Percha and Telegraph Works Company, of Silvertown, London.

The land line of 115 miles from St. Elena to Guayaquil, in Ecuador, was finished at the end of August, 1882. The line across the Isthmus of Tehuantepec, from Coatzacoalcos to Salina Cruz was finished on August 15th, 1883. Mr. J. R. France is the General Manager of the Company at Panama, and Mr. Frederick Davies at Lima.

Our readers will notice we have removed to 30 St. Helen Street, where all communications in future should be addressed.

SUPPORT THE LOCAL PAPER.

The local paper is the one identified with the interests of your home. It is conducted by those you know. Its columns are filled with what is of special and particular value to you. In its prosperity you have a vital interest, and to this prosperity you can best contribute by giving it your support and patronage. It knows your wants. It is your friend, your neighbor. Your duty is first to it, in preference to any and all others. No outside or foreign paper can possibly have claims upon you until your duty is discharged to the local journal. As the CANADIAN ELECTRICAL NEWS is the only one in the Dominion representing your interests, you should at once send us your subscription.

ELECTRIC LIGHTS are coming into use for steamboats on the Mississippi—why should they not be equally serviceable on the river St. Lawrence.

MR. JAMES WRIGHT of this city, an ingenious electrician, has invented a new and simple telephone. Several of our local capitalists are interested. It is proposed to sell the instrument as well as establish Exchanges.

Now that the summer is upon us, we should like to see our public squares lit up by the electric light from high towers, particularly Dominion and Victoria squares; the latter might be done from a central point on Craig street, at a spot dividing the two sections of this piazza.

PNEUMATIC Tubes are destined to play a very important part in the near future, especially in connection with telegraphy, as the indications are that the leading companies will use them to a considerable extent in large cities, in gathering in messages from sub-offices, and in distributing them to such offices for delivery by messengers.

WE would recommend Messrs. Pope & Edgecomb, 59 Wall Street, New York, solicitors of electrical patents to all Canadian inventors. Mr. Pope is an old and expert Telegrapher, as well as Author and Editor.

A BILL is now before congress providing for the organization of the patent bureau into an independent department of the Government.

It would be very interesting to get at the loss, which an ordinary iron telegraph wire loses in conductivity every year, by loss of substance from rusting.

A CORRESPONDENT WRITES, "An error, perhaps typographical, appears in the article "A Trip to Torbay, N. S.," which was given your readers in the former number of the "News." Your correspondent says, "some of the staff have been there since the first message was flashed through in 1858." The Torbay Cable is that of the Direct Cable Co., and was opened only in 1875. The writer, I presume, was probably thinking of the old ~~the~~ Atlantic Cable laid to Heart's Content, N. F."

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT.

Walter F. Glover & Co., 25 Booth Street, Manchester, England, electric wire and cable makers, a very useful printed table showing the relative dimensions, lengths, resistances and weights of pure copper wire.

THREE card photographs, showing the Elgin, Illinois, Electric Light Company's Tower system. The Town being lit from seven high towers.