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Engineers—And what they are doing

HYDRO ELECTRIC.

The Hydro-Electric Power Commission will soon have completed statistics and reports for the various municipalities interested in the construction of a network of radial railways throughout the western portion of Ontario. The Commission has had requests from some 300 municipalities along 1,600 miles of roads, in the districts from Whitby on the east to Sarnia and Windsor on the west.

TO TEST NEW POWER OFFERS.

A specially appointed committee of the Edmonton City Council has been empowered to go into the offers to supply the municipality with electric power at rates cheaper than the city can produce it. Three offers are under consideration, two of which are steam proposals put forward by the Canadian Coal & Coke Co. and the Wabamun Power & Coal Co., the third is a hydro-electric offer by G. W. Farrell & Co., of Montreal, which it is stated will require a capital outlay of about \$6,000,000, while a railroad to the site would cost another \$1,000,000. Each offer has to be backed by a bond for \$100,000, guaranteeing that work will be commenced within three months and carried to a completion, supplying the city with power for twelve months after the first delivery of electrical energy.

EDMONTON'S STREET RAILWAY.

Edmonton's street railway earnings for the first six months of this year totalled \$267,097.40, as compared with \$324,610.81, a decrease of \$57,513.41. Total expenses, exclusive of fixed charges, were \$200,423.52, as against \$285,549.85 for the first six months of 1914, a decrease of \$85,126.33. Gross expenses, including capital charges and depreciation, were \$342,819.80, as against \$449,688.13 in 1914, a decrease of \$106,869.33.

EDMONTON TESTS CANADIAN ASPHALT.

The City of Edmonton is giving a practical test of the values of the extensive deposits of bituminous sand found in Northern Alberta by the laying of a pavement of asphalt extracted from the deposit.

Cities in Western Canada are intensely interested in the work that is under way. The City Commissioners of Calgary, for instance, when they learned of the progress that was being made, sent Mr. F. C. Field, who is recognized west of the Great Lakes as a leading authority on asphalt work, to prepare a report for their consideration; and, as indications point to the successful use of these bituminous deposits in paving work, it is quite probable that other cities will shortly be trying it out. This will mark the establishment of a new industry in Alberta.

INSPECTION OF BUILDINGS A NEED.

Fire departments, if they be properly equipped for inspection of buildings and conditions before the fire, with printed forms to guide them, will become experts in the work, and the record they will strive for will be, not how many fires or the time of getting to them, but rather the minimum of fires and consequent reduction of losses in their respective districts. No one better than the firemen by their inspections can inform the people of hazardous conditions and careless habits with reasonable success of getting them remedied, because the firemen are looked upon by the public as their natural protectors when fire comes into the question, and by the exercise of a bit of tact on the part of the fireman inspector, his word of counsel and recommendation will be listened to, and if not always, at least in many cases, acted upon. These were suggestions given by Mr. A. Lindback, Manitoba's fire commissioner, to the Provincial Association of Fire Chiefs at Ottawa.