

SPARKS.

The Edison General Electric Co will supply the appliances necessary for the electric tramway at New Westminster, B. C.

New buildings and increased motive power have been added by the Royal and Hall Electric Companies to their plants at London, Ont., to enable them to carry out the contracts recently entered into with the city.

After ten years of construction, an elaborate telephone system connecting all the forts and military establishments of Belgium with the city of Antwerp, has just been completed. The system was specially devised to prevent the tapping of the lines by an enemy in time of war.

Incorporation has been granted the Toronto Construction and Electrical Supply Company (limited), with a capital stock of \$250,000 in 2,500 shares. The first subscribers are W. D. Matthews, W. R. Brock, Frederic Nicholls, Robert Juffray, Hugh Ryan, H. P. Dwight and J. K. Kerr.

Mr. Jules Myers, engineer-in-charge of the construction of the Edison Company's new works at Peterboro', Ont., has gone to Milwaukee to supervise the execution of a contract for the Company. On the eve of leaving Peterboro' he was entertained by leading citizens at a banquet.

As regards their capacity for conducting electricity, the principal metals rank thus: Silver, 100; copper, 96; gold, 72; aluminum, 52; zinc, 26; platinum, 16; iron, 15; nickel, 12; tin, 11; lead, 7. Copper and iron are the only metals that have commercial value as electrical conductors.

The city council of St. John, N. B., recently decided that the New Brunswick Electric Co. should be given the contract to supply 123 lights on the east side of the harbor, and 25 additional lights for the north end. For supplying current to the latter a new 30 light dynamo will be purchased.

A correspondent writes to the *American Machinist*: Not long ago I turned off the commutator of an electric motor, and then proceeded to file it smooth with a single-cut file, but little particles of copper would stick in the cuts of the file and scratch the copper sections, so, after trying several other fine files with the same results, I finally thought of using the file backwards, which made a good job of it.

At the recent annual meeting of the Guelph Gas and Electric Company, a satisfactory report was presented. The increase in the electric light department has been satisfactory, and the incandescent lighting is growing in favor. A dividend of 3 per cent. for the half year was declared, making 5 1/2 per cent. for the year. The skillful management of Mr. Yule received proper recognition from the directors. Mr. Guthrie was re-elected President, and Mr. Chadwick, Vice-President.

The electric tramway has scored another success at Victoria, B. C. A year ago some stout-hearted citizens in the face of numerous prophecies of failure, embarked their capital in the enterprise. The cars commenced running on the 22nd of February, 1890, and the event was followed by an appreciable advance in the prices of real estate lying contiguous to the new road. The city lines, which cover about five miles of the principal streets, have yielded a fair return since the opening day; and encouraged by the results in the city, the directors began the construction of the Esquamault division in July. On the 12th day of October this division was quietly opened without any flourish of trumpets or fuss, and has since been in successful operation. The Company have also made arrangements to supply electric light to the citizens. The total expenditure on all branches of the service, to the end of the year 1890, reached \$200,000. The Company carried over their lines within a period of ten months, without serious accident, 720,000 passengers, and the financial results are understood to be satisfactory. It is said to be their intention to extend their lines during the coming summer.

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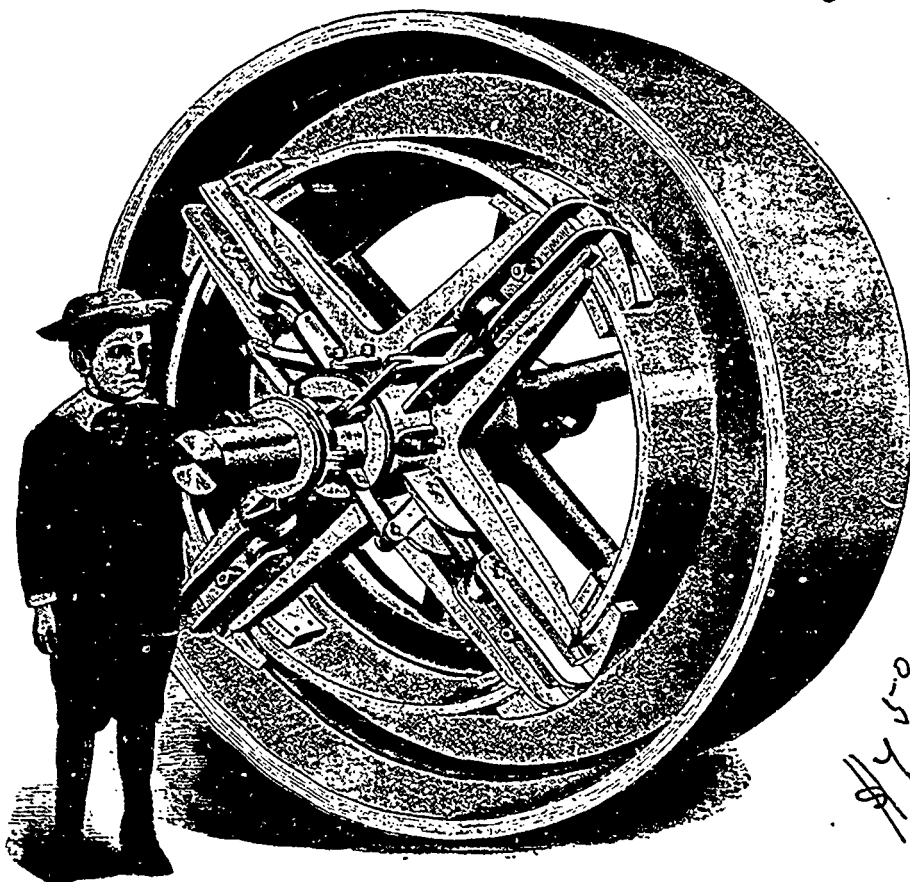
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