

RODERICK JOSEPH MACDONALD PARKE.

In the comparatively new but already important profession of electrical engineering, few names are as widely known in Canada as that of Mr. Roderick Joseph Macdonald Parke, of Toronto, Ontario, Consulting Electrical Engineer.

Mr. Parke is a native of Cornwall, Ont., the date of his birth being April 6th, 1874. His father, Miles E. Parke, is the fifth son of the late James Parke, of "Mount Parke," St. Marthe, Que. Mr. Parke's mother, whose maiden name was Louisa Caroline Macdonald, is the youngest daughter of the late Colonel Roderick Macdonald, M.D., of Cornwall, Ont. Mr. Parke's paternal ancestors lived in England until about 1750, when they removed to Dumbarton, Scotland. About 1820, Mr. Parke's grandfather and his family removed to Canada and settled near Montreal. He established the present homestead "Mount Parke," in Vaudreuil County, P.Q., residing there until the time of his death. Mr. Parke's father's mother is a descendant of the Macdonald and McLeod Clans, and through this connection, the late Hon. John Sanfield Macdonald, a former Premier of Ontario, was a third cousin of the subject of this sketch. The late Dr. Roderick Macdonald, father of Mr. Parke's mother, was a member of the first graduating class of the medical faculty of McGill University and practiced his profession at Cornwall many years. He was a member of Parliament for Cornwall and the old Eastern District, from 1852 to 1858, and as Colonel of the 1st Stormont Militia, took part in the suppression of the Rebellion of 1837-38 in Lower Canada.

Mr. Parke was educated at Cornwall, graduating from the High School in 1890.

In 1895 he removed from Montreal to Toronto, and engaged in the business of electrical contracting until 1898.

In 1898 Mr. Parke was engaged by the Municipal Council of Barrie, Ontario, to prepare estimates, plans, and specifications for a municipal lighting and power plant in connection with which the town made an expenditure of \$35,000, under his supervision. The same year he was engaged by the Municipal Council of Orillia, Ontario, to prepare plans and specifications for the electrical section of the 20-mile high voltage power transmission plant constructed by the town. The construction of the electrical generating plant at the power house at Ragged Rapids, and of the long-distance trans-

mission lines, and of the Receiving Station at Orillia, was carried out entirely under Mr. Parke's supervision. It is interesting to note that the Orillia plant is famous as being the first long-distance high voltage electrical power transmission plant in the world owned and operated by a municipality.

Mr. Parke has also acted in the capacity of Consulting Electrical Engineer to many other Municipal Corporations in Ontario.

In 1890 and 1901, he was engaged as Consulting Electrical Engineer to the Dominion Government, Department of Justice (Ottawa).

In 1901 he prepared a special report with estimates of cost, for the city of Toronto, on the proposal to establish a municipal electrical lighting and power system.

In 1903 he made a survey and accompanying report and estimates for the city of Calgary, Alberta.

In 1904 he designed and constructed for the new large works of the McClary Manufacturing Company, of London, Ontario.

He has had many other similar engagements and other professional appointments of an important character. At the date of this writing, he is acting as Consulting Electrical Engineer to the Dominion Government, Department of Railways and Canals (Ottawa), in charge of the design and construction of an electrical lighting and power distribution system and equipment for the Welland Canal.

Mr. Parke is also acting as Consulting Electrical Engineer to the Electric Development and Securities Company, of New York, a syndicate controlling the Niagara-Welland Power Company, of St. Catharines, and in this connection, in October, 1904, he made a preliminary inspection of the district bounded by St. Catharines, Hamilton, London, Stratford, and Guelph, with a view to the selection of suitable routes for transmission lines for which the final surveys are now being made.

Mr. Parke is a member of the Canadian Society of Civil Engineers, the American Institute of Electrical Engineers, the American Branch of the Society for Psychical Research, of London, Eng., the Engineers' Club, of Toronto, the National Club, Toronto, and the Canadian Club, Toronto.

Mr. Parke was married at Toronto, October 21st, 1902, to Marion Isabel Crawford, youngest daughter of the late George Dean Dickson, Q.C., of Belleville, Ontario.