

The United States Steel Corporation has purchased a large tract of land at Sandwich, and will erect early in the summer a big iron plant employing 5,000 men. Large ore docks and coal storage are included in the plans.

The Government has reopened negotiations with the Commonwealth Government of Australia for a mutual tariff preference between the two countries and with New Zealand for an enlargement of the scope of the preferential arrangement now in force.

It is announced that American capitalists have secured large interests in this district, and that in the near future mining operations on a very big scale are to be started, while big smelters for rendering the ore into pig iron are to be erected at Port Arthur.

The Canada Screw Company and the Ontario Tack Company, both of Hamilton, have amalgamated. This should make one of the strongest concerns of the kind in Canada, as the total capital of the new company will be about three-quarters of a million dollars.

It is now definitely understood that the United States Steel Corporation will begin the erection of a large steel plant at Sandwich during the coming summer. The property purchased contains over 1,000 acres. Ore docks and coal storage facilities will be built.

William Jack, of Nanaimo, B. C., and Mr. Eastham, of Tacoma, have organized the Independent North Wellington Colliery Company for the purpose of exploiting over 300 acres of six-foot seam of coal underlying the Jack property at Nanoose Bay, near Nanaimo.

The merger of the Greene Consolidated Copper Company with the Canada Central Coal Company has been approved by the directors of the Greene Company. Sufficient stock in both companies has been pledged for exchange to insure the new company control of both.

There is no trace left of the disastrous fire which recently visited the plant of Messrs. Frost & Wood, Smith's Falls, Ont., and did such extensive damage. The rebuilding has been pushed ahead so rapidly that only a short interruption resulted in the large business done by this firm.

A company has been formed in Quebec City for the manufacture of a new cement that will take the place of stone for building purposes. The company is composed mainly of Quebec gentlemen, who have subscribed a capital of \$600,000 to erect suitable works and carry on the manufacturing process.

The publication offices of "The Illuminating Engineer" have been removed from 25 Broad Street, to larger and more centrally located quarters, at 12 West 40th Street, New York. "The Illuminating Engineer" is published monthly, and is devoted exclusively to the science and art of illumination. The price is \$1 per year.

Among American stockholders of the C. P. R. it is being stated that one reason why the company's stock has been so active of late is that there is shortly to be a huge increase in its traffic returns, due to the development of the great discoveries of iron ore in the district adjoining Thunder Bay, on the north of Lake Superior.

A company has been formed in Brockville with John C. Yarwood as manager, which will go into the manufacture of cement brick, cement blocks, tile and concrete work of various kinds. Cement building material is being used extensively in Brockville, and is much in favor. The newly formed company has plenty of work ahead of it.

In October, 1905, the Canadian Pacific Railway Company handled 72,000 tons of merchandise across the Fort William docks; in October, 1906, there was 133,000 tons handled. In November, 1905, there was 80,246 tons of merchandise put across the C. P. R. docks; in November, 1906, there was 129,301 tons handled in the same time.

A bill has been prepared by the Minister of Justice, with the object of ensuring to Canadians the use of electrical energy and natural gas, developed near the border line. It says that any company must receive a license from the Federal Government to export to the United States either electricity developed from natural sources, or natural gas.

Two million dollars will be spent within a year on Graham Island, one of the Queen Charlotte group, in a gigantic lumbering enterprise. This will be one of the subsidiary companies to the Graham Steamship Coal and Lumber Company that was incorporated in Los Angeles with a capital of \$5,000,000 divided into 500,000 shares of \$10 each.

It is understood that the Nova Scotia Steel and Coal Company earned over 9 per cent. on the common stock during 1906. This will give a surplus of about \$500,000, which can be used for improvements to the plant, while out of this year's earnings dividends at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum will probably be paid on the common stock, payable 1½ per cent. quarterly.

The Panama Canal construction has brought one good contract to a Canadian industry, for the Robb-Mumford Boiler Company, which is the American end of the Robb Engineering Company, of Amherst, has just received an

order for 24 three hundred H. P. boilers. This contract was secured in the face of keen competition from works in various parts of the United States.

The DuBois Iron Works, DuBois, Pa., a \$1,000,000 corporation have taken over the entire business of the Lazier Engine Manufacturing Co., Buffalo, N.Y. Numerous improvements will be made in the engines manufactured. Mr. Peter Eyermann will have charge of the engineering department. The works will be located at DuBois, Pa., and a branch office retained at Buffalo, N. Y.

The Dominion Iron and Steel Company have taken options on the coal areas of the Atlantic Coal Company and the Routledge Syndicate, located at Lingan Bay, and South Bar, respectively. The areas will be thoroughly prospected and if good coal is found they will be taken over and collieries sunk from which the steel company will secure their own coal, thus making them independent of the Dominion Coal Company.

As a result of the recent troubles between the Steel and Coal Companies, the Dominion Iron and Steel Company is now making a claim against the Dominion Coal Company which, if the courts allow, will oblige Mr. James Ross to present the Steel people with about all the capital of his company. The claim made by the Steel Company exceeds \$15,000,000, and covers everything that the company could have lost by the recent friction.

The richest strike in the Tilbury oil fields, Tilbury, Ont., was made on J. A. Tremblay's farm in Romney township recently. Ditches full of oil for miles around the derricks tell the story plainly. Oil gushed in great force from the well before the workmen started operations, and before they could plug the casing at least 1,000 barrels flowed over on the frozen ground and ran in rivulets into the large ditches for which Romney is famous.

Several farming machinery companies have declared their intention to fight prices and methods of the alleged iron and steel combine of the United States. A petition appealing to President Roosevelt and Congress to aid them in their efforts was drafted, calling on the Government to curb the power of the "trust," and to make some new tariff provision which will break up the injurious combine. It has been signed by prominent implement manufacturers throughout the country.

The Héroult process electric smelting plant, which is being erected in California has been credited as the work of the Northern California Electric Company. This is not correct, as we are informed by Mr. R. Turnbull, general agent of the Héroult Electric Smelting Process for Canada, that this company is only supplying the power for the plant. They are in no way connected with the enterprise, the credit being entirely due to Mr. H. H. Noble, of San Francisco, California.

A deal was concluded recently of a good deal of importance in local lumber circles. The Porto Rico Lumber Company has been absorbed by the Beaver Lumber Company of Winnipeg, and the consideration is said to have been in the neighborhood of a quarter million dollars. The purchasing company has been absorbing several mill properties during the last month or so, including the Prairie Lumber Company, the Gibson Lumber Company, and the Regina Lumber and Supply Company.

In an article in the "Financier and Bullionist," of London, England, R. J. Barrett, says: "That no more completely or modernly equipped engineering works than those of the Canada Foundry Company, Limited, are to be found on the American continent or in Europe; that these works show that Canadian enterprise and technical skill will enable the Dominion to hold its own in mechanical engineering in competition with either Europe or the United States; that, considering that they have only been in existence four years, these works rank as one of the industrial wonders of the West."

TELEGRAPH AND TELEPHONE

The Board of Railway Commissioners has made a new order with respect to the tariffs of telephone companies. All such companies are required to keep their tariffs on file for public inspection during business hours.

Calgary merchants have been annoyed for some time at the service put up by the Bell Telephone Company, and have, therefore, petitioned the city council to go ahead with the Independent phone installations, promising their support.

Although the citizens of Fort William pay only \$2 a month for business telephones and \$12 a year for residence, the city during 1906 realized a profit on its municipal telephone plant of \$3,300, after providing for a sinking fund and interest, and ten per cent. of the gross receipts for depreciation in value of plant. The profits of the electric light department amounted to about \$1,000, the gross receipts being \$34,000.