

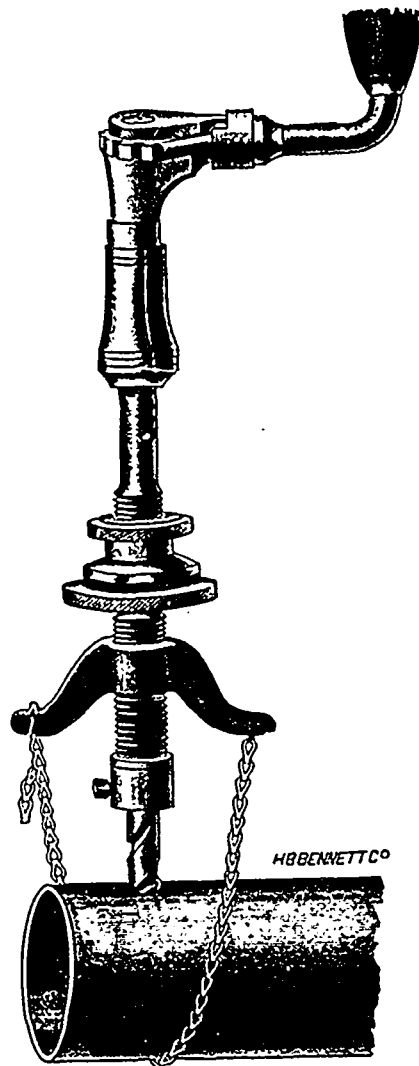
THE STREET RAILWAY CONVENTION.

The fourteenth convention of the American Street Railway Association, to be held in Montreal, October 15th to 18th, bids fair to be a very successful one. It is expected that about 700 delegates will be in attendance, and already a considerable number of firms manufacturing street railway appliances and equipments have expressed their intention to exhibit. The exhibition of new appliances and of railway equipments generally has been not the least interesting feature of previous conventions, and it is to be hoped that Canadian manufacturers in this line will come forward and show what they can do. The charge for space is 15 cents a square foot, the minimum space being 50 square feet, and the maximum 1,000 square feet to each exhibitor. Application for space cannot be guaranteed after 1st Aug., and exhibitors must take possession of their areas on or before Oct. 9th. A main shaft and electric power will be furnished to those who use power at 45 cts. per rated K.W., but exhibitors provide their own counter-shafts, pulleys, switch boards, etc. Those who wish to sell articles must get permission from the secretary. All goods should be plainly marked "Street Railway Exposition, Montreal, Canada," in shipping. Exhibitors will aid the management if they send a diagram of their exhibit, and its relation to the main shaft, and state the horse power required. The exhibition will be held in the Victoria Rink, and as the entrance to this building is too narrow to admit a street car, Mr. Cunningham, of the Montreal Street Railway, is endeavoring to arrange with the city for a temporary track in front of the rink, where street cars can be shown. The company will also take charge of cars sent for exhibition and run them over their lines during the convention, no objection being made to placards, streamers or banners announcing the manufacturer's name, and any special features of the cars. At the last convention held in Atlanta, Ga., in 1894, more than half the cars in operation in the city were motors and trailers sent in from various quarters for exhibition. The general secretary for the United States is John N. Partridge, president of the Brooklyn City and Newtown R. R. Co., Brooklyn, N.Y., and the local secretary in Canada is Stonewall Jackson, 27 St. Sacramento St., Montreal.

THE working of the Intramural Electric Railway at the World's Fair seems to have paved the way for a general change from steam to electricity in the motive power of the various railway corporations doing business in and around Chicago. The Metropolitan Construction Co. there have made what seems to be a highly satisfactory test of electric power, and now the Lake Elevated Railway Co. of the same city have ordered from the General Electric Co. twenty-five motor cars to replace their steam locomotives.

Now that the value of gypsum has come to be more fully recognized, and new uses which will largely increase the demand for it have been discovered, the people of British Columbia have begun to recognize the vast value of the gypsum fields in their Province. A dispute is, however, going on between the Dominion Government and the Government of the Province. The Dominion Government contends that gypsum is not entitled to be classed with minerals, and the production of it belongs to the Federal and not to the Dominion Government. Gypsum is now being extensively used as a deodorizer for stables and as a partial fertilizer.

Nova Scotia exports large quantities of gypsum in its refined form, but the cost of transport is very high. It is expected that the transport of British Columbia gypsum would be cheaper. The most productive gypsum fields in British Columbia are in the vicinity of Grand Prairie. The report of a settlement of the dispute between the two Governments is premature.



THE NEW PATENT AUTOMATIC FEED DRILLER.

The driller illustrated herewith is being put on the Canadian market by Darling Bros., of Montreal, who introduce it as the only machine made that will drill automatically cast iron, steel, brass, etc. With an ordinary carpenter's brace it does the same work as a ratchet brace in about one-half the time. Every carpenter, millwright, plumber, machine shop, carriage manufacturer, etc., should have one. It will be found to be a great money and labor-saving device. For particulars address Darling Brothers, Reliance Works, 112 Queen Street, Montreal.

REVIEW OF BRITISH TRADE.

John Birch & Co., engineers and merchants, of Queen Street Place, London, Eng., send THE CANADIAN ENGINEER a comprehensive review of the outlook for British trade, from which we make the following extracts:

In 1870 and 1871, in 1879, and again in 1888 and 1889, we had those brief periods of intense trade activity, and consequently prosperity which stand out sharply from the lean and lengthy periods intervening, during which the fat kine were devoured by their famished relatives. Hardly another lustrum has since passed with all its attributes of excessive competition and suffering, and its stern economic teachings, and now there are signs, which it is not possible to disregard, that the dawn of brighter days is possibly at hand.

The first condition invariably precedent to improvement is that prices should have come down to the lowest point. That this touching of rock bottom has been arrived at is not, of course, certain, but it is noteworthy that, despite the intensity of competition