



Last month a description was given in our columns, of the two large dynamos recently constructed in Switzerland as being the largest direct current machines in the world; but we see by the New York electrical papers that a much larger dynamo of 1000 horse-power has been designed by Mr. F. L. Wilson of the Wilson Aluminum Co. It will be remembered that the dynamos for the Aluminum Industry Co. of Switzerland were 600 horse-power each. The one for the Wilson Aluminum works was constructed in Brooklyn, N. Y., and is to be used for metallurgical work.

The unmistakeable dislike which New Yorkers have for the trolley system of electrical street railways seems rather absurd. Without any experience they condemn it as being both unsightly and dangerous. In fact many of the erroneous opinions regarding the system are factitious, originating in ignorance and prejudice. The N. Y. *Tribune* is one of the loudest in condemning the system. We are indeed glad to see that the New York electrical papers are doing noble work in correcting popular prejudices and inculcating reasonable views of the utility and safety of the much abused trolley.

A description given further on of the electric launch "Electron," recently successfully tried on the Hudson River, will be found suggestive of what is being practically done in electricity. We are indebted to the *Electrical Age* for this interesting article, and only wish we could report a similar experiment on our fair river St Lawrence. At present, however, there seems to be no likelihood of anything of the kind; not because we have not facilities enough for the launching of the boat, but because it would be so difficult to recharge the secondary cells necessary for running the motor. Why does not some enterprising person open an electric boat house at Lachine with small electric launches for hire by the hour, day or season? He could have a small dynamo and oil engine for the purpose of charging the storage cells, and there is no doubt that the enterprise would be sufficiently profitable.

The monopoly that the American Bell Telephone Co. has in the United States is something suprising,

but when the patent by which that company is protected becomes known, *i. e.*, "the transmission of waves of sound electrically," one is not only surprised but indignant that such a monopoly should have been possible. For what does it mean? It means an unlimited control of everything that has to do with electrical telephones while it generally results in a careless and badly managed service. This is shown very forcibly in New York, the principal city of the United States, where the telephone service is needlessly expensive. In fact it is a luxury only to be indulged in by the rich; for the exorbitant price, one hundred and forty-four dollars per year, places it out of the reach of the ordinary householder, while a large number of the business firms prefer to do without it. How different it is in Montreal! The telephone here is not a luxury to be indulged in only by the rich. The moderate sum of twenty-five dollars per year, together with a careful and efficient service, makes it almost a necessity in the household, while no business firm can afford to do without it. But how did this happy state of affairs come about? The American Bell Telephone Co. applied to the Canadian patent office for the same patent as that which they had previously obtained in the United States. It was granted to them, under the usual condition that they should commence to manufacture in Canada within one year. The company, instead of doing this, brought on parts of the instruments from the States and put them together here. Mr. W. C. Hibbard of the late Hibbard Electrical Manufacturing Co., well known in this city, commenced to manufacture telephones. The Bell Telephone Co. accordingly appealed for an injunction against Mr. Hibbard, who in turn stated that the above company had not been manufacturing within the true sense of the law. It is hardly necessary to say that Mr. Hibbard won the case, causing the patent to become invalid; and now in Canada, instead of the Bell Telephone Co. having such a platinum-pointed monopoly as in the United States, which in nearly every case results in poor service, it is obliged to compete with other companies, and their instruments with other instruments made by the local electrical supply houses. It may hence easily be understood why it has been said both in the States and abroad, that Montreal has the finest telephone service in the world.

#### ELECTRICITY IN DOMESTIC LIFE AT THE WORLD'S FAIR.

One of the many interesting electrical features of the World's Fair at Chicago is to be an electric house; that is, a small house furnished with every electrical convenience that man's ingenuity has been able to