

The C.P.R. is to spend \$500,000 on its Detroit-Megantic section this season in improvements.

Application will be made for the revival of the charter of the Lindsay, Bobcaygeon and Pontypool Railway Co.

An action has been taken in Toronto by the Alberta Coal & Railway Company against Mackenzie & Mann, the late Yukon railway contractors, the plaintiffs claiming from that firm the sum of \$100,000, alleged to be due for rails and rolling stock.

The Algoma Central Railway will apply for an Ontario charter at the next session of the Legislature; the proposed line will run from Sault Ste. Marie, Ont., to the Michipicoten River, thence northerly to the C.P.R., and southerly to Michipicoten harbor on Lake Superior.

Application will be made for the right to build a line of railway from Chute Aux Iroquois, in the county of Labelle, Que., to a point near Lake Nomingue, in the county, and thence to a point near Lake Temiscamingue, and to operate lines of telephone and telegraph alongside the same.

The Kootenay Valley & Burlington Railroad is being built by Foley Bros., Larson & Stevens. The entire distance to be built is 30 miles, and the contract provides for its construction by July 1, 1899. It will require the employment of 5,000 men to complete the work, which will be rapidly prosecuted.

The Deseronto car works are turning out a large order of box cars for the Intercolonial Railway. Each car is of 60,000 lbs. capacity, and will be built of the very best material. The cars will be fitted with Sterlingworth brake beams, Westinghouse air-brakes, automatic couplers, steel trucks, Chicago roofing patent grained doors, etc.

In the financial year just past the Quebec Government gave to the Quebec, Montmorency & Charlebois Railway, \$15,191.15; to the East Richelieu Valley Railway, \$5,000, and to the Great Northern, \$120,093.97. The Government announces that no bonuses will be paid to railways this year, and all the promises of the late Government are repudiated.

Thirty-two years ago Nova Scotia granted the Windsor & Annapolis Railway Company a drawback of duties on materials and stock used for the construction and operating of the road. Parliament in 1866 authorized the extinguishment of the right, and \$100,000 has been paid to the Dominion Atlantic Railway Company, successors of the original incorporators, in commutation of it under an agreement signed October 7. The last Gazette contains a proclamation repealing the legislation granting the concession.

Application is being made for an Ontario charter for the Thunder Bay, Nipigon and St. Joe Railway. The route proposed is from Port Arthur via Dog Lake and Black Sturgeon Lake to Black Sturgeon Bay on Lake Nipigon, a distance of 68 miles. A surveying party has returned to Port Arthur after making a preliminary survey. They report finding good country throughout the distance, free from difficulties in construction. The country is level, well wooded with pine, tamarac, spruce, cedar and birch. Fully one-third of the country is occupied by small lakes simply teeming with fish, and there are several million acres of good agricultural land near the upper part of the line. Deposits of limestone and marble, useful for fluxing purposes, iron ore, salt and lignite are said to have been found in the district.

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## Mining Matters.

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The Dominion Coal Co. has closed down the mining works at Bridgeport, Cape Breton.

A Wabigoon, Ont., correspondent gives news of the existence of a large vein of hematite iron ore to the north of Wabigoon.

The Canadian General Electric Co. has recently sold to the Comstock Concentrator, Silverton, B.C., a 25-light Edison dynamo.

J. H. Fraser, Petrolia, driller, has given up for the season prospecting for the Standard Oil Co. in Manitoulin. The exploration will be resumed in the spring.

Hastings county, Ont., felspar is now in demand in England for glazing purposes, and users state that it is much superior to the Scandinavian product now almost exclusively used.

The Canadian General Electric Co. has recently sold to the Athabasca Gold Mining Co., Nelson, B.C., a 100-light Edison dynamo, to be used in lighting the work buildings at the mines.

The Canadian General Electric Company has recently sold to the Scottish Colonial Mining & Milling Co., of Three Forks, B.C., a 100-light 16-c.p. incandescent dynamo, to be used in lighting buildings at the mine.

Work on the Zenith zinc mine to the east of Fort William, Ont., near Rosspoint, owned by H. J. Beemer, of Montreal, is being pushed. Warehouses have been put up, stables built and the Canadian Pacific Railway have arranged to run a spur track twelve miles out to it.

The Wm. Hamilton Mfg. Co., Peterborough, Ont., has received the contract for the erection of a 10-stamp mill on the Bend 'Or property in the Bridge River district, B.C. There is ample water power and the company has agreed to have everything in running order by July 1st, 1899.

Sultana Island, upon which is situated the celebrated Caldwell gold mine, has an area of about 500 acres. The Caldwell property comprises 47 acres. The ownership of the balance of the island, known as the Ophir property, has been in dispute since 1889. The Commissioner of Crown Lands has recently given final judgment in the case, and decided that the Ontario Mining Company is entitled to an undivided third of the claim; Margaret Johnston and associates to an undivided third, and the Canadian Pacific Mining and Prospecting Company and the Seybold Syndicate to the remaining third.

There is to be a new graphite company at Grenville, Que., which will be capitalized at \$500,000 and is composed of Pennsylvanians. The application for incorporation is now being made. The property at Grenville was worked in 1860, but since then has not been touched. The graphite is said to be 98 per cent. pure and the deposit large. It is the intention of the company to operate at St. Malachi also, where a fine property has been secured. The company will, it is said, erect mills at both places, but at present the work of taking out the ore is all that is being done.

Bay de Verde district in Newfoundland has benefited greatly the past year from the mining boom there, says The St. John's, Nfld., Herald, and is likely to enlarge upon this during the present season. The Iron Co. has named its headquarters Workington, and has 16 square miles of territory under lease, all of it said to be rich in this mineral. They have two shafts sunk near there, two others at Island Cove and a fifth at Northern Bay. Stores, offices, sleeping quarters, and mess-houses have been built, and a railway is laid to Perlican, so that there is every assurance that the property will be worked to the fullest possible extent.

A considerable deposit of kaolin—used in the manufacture of china—has been found to exist at Plow Rapids near the mouth of Stag Creek on the Gatineau. The place is about 40 miles from Ottawa and is owned by an Ottawa man. The kaolin was discovered first in 1860 by the late W. L. Holland. Samples of the material were later on sent to St. John's, Quebec, and to the United States where it was successfully used. It should be possible to successfully make use of this deposit in a country where electrical power is limited only by the amount of apparatus set up, the water power being unlimited.

The American Copper Mining Company, in its combination of six plants, expects, it is said, to control the copper mining industry of the world. The Boston and Montana and the Butte and Boston mining companies, the old Dominion Copper Company of Arizona, and the Arcadian, Tamarack & Osceola Mining Companies of Michigan are named as the component parts of the new organization. It is understood that the American company will reach into Canada and absorb important copper mines there, thus making the combination international, but the Calumet and Hecla Company, the largest producer in the Lake Superior region, has so far declined to enter the combination.