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SUBSCRIPTIONS.

The *ELECTRICAL NEWS* will be mailed to subscribers in the Dominion, or the United States, post free, for \$1.00 per annum, 50 cents for six months. The price of subscription may be remitted by currency, in registered letter, or by postal order payable to C. H. Mortimer. Please do not send cheques on local banks unless 25 cents is added for cost of discount. Money sent in unregistered letters must be at sender's risk. Subscriptions from foreign countries embraced in the General Postal Union, \$1.50 per annum. Subscriptions are payable in advance. The paper will be discontinued at expiration of term paid for if so stipulated by the subscriber, but where no such understanding exists, will be continued until instructions to discontinue are received and all arrearages paid.

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The Publisher should be notified of the failure of subscribers to receive their papers promptly and regularly.

EDITOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Correspondence is invited upon all topics coming legitimately within the scope of this journal.

OUR CONVENTION NUMBER.

IN consequence of the postponement by the Executive Committee of the date of the National Electric Light Association Convention in Montreal from August to September, the special Convention Number of the *ELECTRICAL NEWS* announced to be published in August will not be issued until about September 1st.

From the interest already manifested, and the amount of advertising space contracted for, there is no reason to doubt that a satisfactory measure of success will reward the effort of the *ELECTRICAL NEWS* to fittingly mark this important occasion.

AS we go to press arrangements are being completed for the picnic at Oakville under the auspices of the Canadian Association of Stationary Engineers. The affair is certain to be a success. An interesting series of athletic contests has been arranged, and prizes to the value of \$500 are awaiting the winners. A report of the proceedings will be printed in the *ELECTRICAL NEWS* for August.

WHAT is the matter with our electrical men? There are the managers of two of the principal companies in Toronto who are the owners of steam pleasure craft. The question has been asked why it is that they still stick to steam with all its disadvantages, instead of using electricity as a motive power, when they are supposed to know all about electricity and what it is able to do that way. The best answer we can give is, that perhaps that is the principal reason. "The bearings of this here observation," as Bunby would say, "lies in the application on it."

IT is interesting to know, in view of the probability of electricity being shortly used on our streets, that a recent decision of a United States Court of Appeal reverses a decision of a lower court in favor of a telephone company. The telephone company, as usual, claimed the earth by right of prior occupation and the court sustained them, but on appeal the decision was reversed on the ground that the streets were intended primarily for public travel and facilities therefor, and not for the convenience of subscribers to the telephone exchange. There is no doubt that the single trolley system of street railway, with ground return, is a source of serious annoyance to the telephone user in proximity to the route. The remedy, however, is in the hands of the telephone companies, and it is grati-

fying to the users of these instruments to know that the companies are awaking to the fact, and are more willing to apply the remedy of a metallic circuit inasmuch as it will eliminate a multitude of other troubles incident to the telephone as well as those caused by the proximity of the electric railroad.

CITIZENS of Toronto may be congratulated on the outcome of the negotiations of the Council with the telephone company. The demagogues of the Council aforesaid used their utmost endeavors to have an unconditional franchise granted to an opposition company, but it is fortunate that the older and wiser heads were able to command a sufficient majority to defeat the destructive scheme. The offer of the Bell Telephone Company to pay into the City Treasurer four per cent. of their gross receipts, to materially enlarge the scope of their underground operations, to supply telephone facilities to private residences at a reduced rate, as well as offering facilities in their conduits for city wires, was an eminently fair and business-like one. It would have been a great pity to have lost all these advantages, besides burdening the business man with a double telephone service and having the streets crowded with another set of poles and wires, but that is a consummation the citizens of Toronto have only missed by a very narrow chance, thanks to the peculiar constitution of some of the gods that the people have chosen to rule over them.

THE long distance transmission of electric power shortly to be tried between Lauffen and Frankfort, is provoking much adverse criticism among experts in Europe. We mentioned in our last issue, in connection with the Niagara Falls power scheme, the small likelihood of its being a commercial success, and we still think—while not being quite so pessimistic as the experts aforesaid—that the experimenters will meet with developments that they may not be quite prepared for. The power in the primary circuit is to be about 186,000 watts, say 30,000 volts and 6.2 amperes. There will be 3500 poles and 7000 insulators. At a low pressure, allowing a resistance to each insulator of 1000 megohms, the loss would not be more than 3.2 per cent. But at the pressure of 30,000 volts the leakage in fine weather may be as much as 15 watts, or 100,000 watts altogether on the Frankfort line, without taking into account possible fog and rain. But this is not all. There will be some loss between the conductors themselves. It is a large contract, that of carrying 300 horse power at a pressure of 30,000 volts over a distance of 100 miles, and the result will be looked forward to with interest.

THE indulgence of our readers is asked while with becoming modesty the statement is made that one hundred and fifty persons have become subscribers to the *ELECTRICAL NEWS* since the publication of the June number. This record was exceeded by at least twenty-five per cent. in May, and bids fair to be equalled by the present month. Letters are frequently received expressive of the satisfaction with which the *NEWS* is received by subscribers. This fact gives cause for gratification to the publisher, and should be no less satisfactory to every reader and advertiser. It is pleasing to observe the growing desire on the part of subscribers to make requests through these pages for information required by them in the discharge of their daily duties. This is precisely what we desire to see. Every reader who has an opinion to express or a question to ask pertaining to the subjects of electricity or engineering, is earnestly and cordially invited to make use of the columns of this journal for that purpose. The free exchange of opinions will render the paper increasingly valuable to every reader, and assist to a surprising degree the diffusion of technical knowledge.

THE argument on final hearing in the patent case of the Edison Electric Light Company vs. the United States Electric Lighting Company is now being made in the Circuit Court of New York. It goes without saying that this is the most important case to the electric lighting industry on the other side of the line that has occupied the attention of the courts for some time. The claims made by Edison cover broadly the manufacture of the incandescent lamp, and if allowed will give that company an immense advantage over their competitors. The business has grown to enormous proportions in the hands of rival companies,