

## FIRST USES OF ELECTRICITY IN CANADA.

THE CANADIAN MANUFACTURER is no admirer of the political opinions usually expressed by the *Toronto Globe*, but as an exhibitor of that push, vim and energy in business matters that always guarantees an arrival at destination with both pedal extremities, that paper deserves both admiration and unbounded success. Aside from other features of business enterprise, some of the *Globe's* exploits in the direction of availing itself of many of the uses of electricity are noticeable and worthy of record. We do not refer to the telegraphic and telephonic conveniences it possesses, for these electric appliances are common in all well-regulated newspaper offices; but we allude to the fact that the *Globe* was the first establishment of any description in Ontario to install for its own use an incandescent electric light plant. This was in 1884, and the dynamos then introduced into its building on King Street East, this city, are there now in good order and in operation every day. These dynamos were made by the Edison Machine Works, Hamilton, Ont., and are used for illuminating by incandescent lamps the entire establishment—business offices, editorial sanctums, composing-rooms, press-rooms, engine and boiler rooms, etc.

The utility of the electric power as generated in the *Globe* establishment was apparent to all who investigated it; and the Great Northwestern Telegraph Company, of which Mr. H. P. Dwight is the manager, was quick to be availed of it. The telegraph office is on Wellington Street, in a direct line about 800 feet from the *Globe* office; and although overhead wires were in use transmitting electrical energy of high tension systems, no effort had ever before been made in Canada for thus transmitting low tension energy for incandescent lighting. But aerial wires were extended and electricity transmitted between these two points, and ever since then (and this was in 1885) electricity generated on the dynamos in the *Globe* establishment was constantly employed in the Great Northwestern Telegraph Company's offices in Toronto, until the completion of the Edison central generating station and underground system of electrical conduits of the Toronto Incandescent Electric Light Company a few weeks ago, when the current was taken from the latter company's wires. This circuit between the *Globe* dynamos and the telegraph company's offices was, at the time of its installation, the longest low tension circuit in Canada.

The Toronto Incandescent Electric Light Company had their underground conduits laid and ready to receive the electric current for lighting purposes several weeks before their central station on Terauley Street was in condition to supply the energy. Many of the stores on Yonge and King Streets had been wired and equipped ready to be lighted, and great anxiety was manifested to have the electric illumination; and it was to gratify this desire that connections were made from the *Globe* dynamos with the underground conduits in the streets, and in this manner and from this source the first incandescent electric lighting in Canada from an underground system was had.

The advantages to be derived from the use of electric motors in driving printing presses commended themselves to the *Globe*; and with the enterprise that characterized it in intro-

ducing the other electrical appliances here alluded to, certain presses of that establishment are now driven by Eddy motors receiving their energy from the dynamos already alluded to. This, we believe, is the first adaptation in Canada of the use of electric motors to drive newspaper printing presses.

Another electrical appliance now in operation in the *Globe* office is an electric heater, the heating of which is accomplished by passing a current of electricity through a series of coils of German silver encased in an ornamental cast-iron tablet. This system is capable of enlargement so as to satisfactorily warm residences, offices, etc., and that in the *Globe* office is the first appearance of the principle in Canada.

A large six-story building is now being arranged as a new home for the *Globe*. It is on Yonge Street, and extends along the south side of Melinda to Jordan Street; which, when completed, will be probably the largest and best equipped newspaper office in the Dominion. Of course there will be steam engines there, but they will be principally used for driving dynamos, for most of the power to be used throughout the establishment will be generated in these dynamos, and distributed by electric motors to printing presses and wherever else it may be required. From all of which it will be seen that the *Toronto Globe* is a pioneer in Canada in the application of electricity to the requirements of business, and as such deserves the mention here given it.

## TAX EXEMPTION.

THE "National Society for the Exemption of Machinery from Rating, and for the Protection of Manufacturers" is a society recently formed in Great Britain for the purpose indicated by the name. It was brought into existence because of the inclusion in the valuation of a building of the machinery therein employed in the manufacture of lace. The manufacturing firm had been rated for their buildings, which contained the machinery, to the net value of £290, and this sum included the value of engine, boiler, shafting etc; and to this was added an additional amount of £800 for the value of the lace machinery. On appeal to the Sessions Court the total assessment was reduced to £895, but the principle of rating machinery was maintained; and an appeal was taken from the judgment of the court on the ground of the illegality of the assessment of the lace machinery. The matter is now pending in the Court of Queen's Bench, the denouement of which is awaited with considerable interest by all manufacturers in the country.

In interesting manufacturers in this Society it is pointed out that the taxation of such machinery increases the cost of production; and that if the policy is allowed both the workman operating it, and the purchaser of the goods will be suffering:—that the great source of British commercial supremacy on machinery must directly enhance the prime cost of manufactured goods, with the consequence that the British manufacturer so rated has to compete at a disadvantage with such foreign manufacturers who have no such imposts to pay, and whose trade is protected by tariff laws. It is further pointed out that such rates are in the nature of export duties, which, it is claimed, is the most unsound and pernicious of all forms of taxation.