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EDITOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Correspondence is invited upon all topics pertinent to the electrical, mechanical and milling interests.

TWO more moons have come and gone, and the discovery of the young genius of Hartford has so far failed to materialize as a successful substitute for the dynamo. Perhaps a sufficient number of lambs have not yet been roped into the fold to make the shearing process a success, or it may be the old, old story once more repeated of the smart and enterprising young fraud who is trying to make the "mill grind (for him) with the water that is past, or, possibly, "his apparatus is not quite finished yet."

THE cities of Kingston and Quebec have awakened to the necessity of providing storage accommodation in order that they may secure a share of the grain and flour trade. Kingston has only to build the necessary elevators in order to obtain the grain which the owners have now no alternative but to store at Ogdensburg. The limestone city must, however, make up its mind to provide the required facilities at its own cost. The idea that the Government should undertake the work at the expense of the country is absurd. As regards Quebec, the President of the C. P. R. is reported to have said that had the necessary storage facilities existed, his line could last year have brought down a great deal of flour to that city. The Quebec Corn Exchange is urging traders to provide the necessary accommodation.

THE enterprise displayed by the people of St. John, N. B., in connection with the "International Exhibition" to be held in that city from Sept. 24th to October 4th, is very commendable. The handsomely lithographed circulars which have been sent us by the Secretary, Mr. Ira Cornwall, convey the information that upwards of \$40,000 have been expended in providing suitable grounds and buildings. The premiums will it is said, amount to the handsome sum of \$12,000. Exhibits will be made by Great Britain, the West Indies, and the United States, in addition to those of the Do-

minion. Our Maritime friends are apparently leaving nothing undone to show to the world their progressive-ness, and we sincerely hope that success will crown their efforts. We want to witness in Canada not a one-sided, but an all-round development.

WHEN discoveries of natural gas first began to be made in Canada a year or two ago, experts from the natural gas districts in the United States visited this country, examined the several localities where gas indications were to be found, and reported that the supply was of such a limited character as to be of little value. Subsequent events have not borne out these statements. At one or two places at least, natural gas has been found in great abundance, and extensive capital is engaged in preparing the way for its utilization as light and fuel. In these days of keen competition amongst manufacturers, the cost of fuel is felt to be a serious item. It is not surprising, therefore, to learn that the Kingsville Natural Gas Co. are receiving numerous letters from manufacturers asking what inducements in the way of free gas, etc., would be offered them to locate there. It is a pleasure to note also that the prospect of getting cheap fuel is likely to lead to the establishing there of smelting works. It is reasonably certain that whatever fate may attend natural gas operations in Canada, our manufacturers will ere many years shall have passed, be supplied with gas and fuel at a gratifyingly lower price than is entailed by the present method of coal consumption. Unless means shall be found of producing electric power without the intervention of the steam engine, gas is certain to be the fuel of the future.

FROM the number of applications for charters in Ontario and Canada generally for power to operate railroads in which electricity is mentioned as the motive power, it is very evident that there is to be a boom in the electric motor business in this country. Especially where water power is available will the tram road be a paying enterprise, and there are numberless places in Canada in and between small towns where an electric road would return a good dividend though it might not be a success. Considerable interest will attach to the starting of the electric road in North Toronto, which is expected to take place in a few weeks, as it is to be equipped with the most modern electric appliances. The conditions under which it will operate will be about as difficult as are to be found anywhere—pretty stiff gradients, a road-bed, while good enough for single horse cars, scarcely of sufficient solidity for heavy traffic and considerable loads on special occasions. Negotiations are also all but completed for a complete system of electric street railway in the city of Ottawa, where it is expected the availability of water power will make it a very satisfactory investment. Round Toronto also there are several roads talked of, such as between Mimico and the terminus in Parkdale, and West Toronto Junction to the city, so that on the whole considerable activity may be looked forward to in the near future in this field.

IN view of the considerable wheat surplus which Canada will have on hand this year, our millers should make a determined effort to secure the trade of the West Indies. The Jamaica exhibition to be held in January next will afford an excellent opportunity for bringing the product of Canadian mills to the notice of the people of those islands, and for paving the way for future business. Mr. Adam Brown, the Commissioner appointed to represent the Dominion, in addressing the Toronto Board of Trade on the openings existing for trade with the West Indies, said: "One of the most important manufactures interested in the development of

trade with Jamaica was that of flour. Although the British West Indies consumed a great quantity, \$2,083,433 worth being sent in by the United States alone, Canada did not send one dollar's worth. It had been urged that our flour would not keep in the tropics, but eminent western millers whom he had spoken to the past few days stated that flour made from wheat harvested the past dry season and ground by the improved roller process lately introduced in many mills would keep as well as that of any other country. Failing that, he had no doubt that a system of kiln-drying would be introduced by such millers as care to compete for this trade and produce a quality of flour that would keep in any climate." We are pleased to be informed by Mr. Brown that among the important subjects to be discussed at the forthcoming meeting of the Millers' Association will be this question of devising means to manufacture a grade of flour that would keep in tropical lands.

THE annual meeting of the Dominion Millers' Association for the transaction of general business and the election of officers will be held in Toronto on Tuesday and Wednesday, the 9th and 10th of September. The date of this meeting was fixed during the first week of the Toronto Industrial Exhibition in the hope that a good attendance of the millers would thereby be secured. In view of the important matters which will engage attention at this meeting, it is greatly to be hoped that no disappointment in point of attendance will be experienced, but that every miller who can possibly do so will be present. In view of the fact that Manitoba is likely to have a considerable surplus of wheat for export, the meeting will be asked to consider whether grinding-in-transit privileges cannot be obtained which would enable Ontario millers to manufacture this surplus into flour on this side the Atlantic. Another matter which will probably engage attention will be the advisability of bringing about uniformity in the weight of flour sold by the bag. At nearly all places west of Toronto, a bag of flour consists of 100 lbs., while east of Toronto 98 lbs. constitutes the bag. The western men are especially interested in seeing the adoption of a uniform practice in this particular, and will therefore be consulting their interests by attending the meeting and taking part in the discussion. Not the least important consideration which should prompt a good attendance is the fact that the future usefulness of the Association must to a large extent depend upon a wisely selected staff of officers to direct its operations during the coming year.

THERE is a feeling amongst owners of electric lighting stations which is rapidly being crystallized into the idea that it would be well if an organization could be formed comprising representatives of companies and individual owners of public lighting plants, in fact of all who are directly and indirectly engaged in the production and supply of electric currents for distribution and sale—something probably after the style of the Millers' Association of Ontario, whereby at conventions to be held at intervals and in convenient places, matters of mutual interest might be discussed and suitable united action taken which would be to the advantage of all concerned. Questions of economy in management, utilization of fuel to the best advantage, uniform charges for service both in lighting and in power, and a hundred other matters could well hold the attention of such a gathering and result in increased efficiency of service and a larger margin of profit. There is no doubt that a co-operation of interests, comprising the users of electrical appliances in contradistinction to the interests exclusively engaged in their manufacture and sale, would, if properly carried out, have a tendency to control and