

Niagara Power Company, and the Toronto Railway Company. The first Company is capitalized at \$4,000,000, the second at \$6,000,000, the third at \$1,000,000, and the fourth at \$8,000,000, making a total of \$19,000,000. In addition to the above stock capital of the four companies there is a total underlying bond issue of \$17,500,000, so that the total money value of the combination is really \$36,500,000. The outstanding bond issue of the Toronto Railway Company is \$3,998,000; the Electrical Development Company, \$10,000,000; Toronto Electric Light Company, \$1,000,000, and Toronto Power Company, \$2,500,000. Those interested in the deal are stated to include Sir Henry Pellatt and Sir William Mackenzie. One is head of the Electrical Development Company and the Toronto Electric Light Company, and a director of the other two, while Sir William Mackenzie is at the head of the Toronto Railway Company and the Toronto Power Company, and a director of the other two. We discuss aspects of this matter editorially on another page.

Important Workmen's Compensation Decision.

An important decision has been given at Montreal by Judge Demers in a workmen's compensation case. William Glover, was working in January, 1910, upon the John Murphy building, for the Otis Fensom Elevator Company. By accident a fish plate fell upon his wrist, inflicting permanent injuries to the tendons, so that he will never be able to grip small objects in his right hand. Glover was then earning 17½ cents per hour, and since August he had been paid 50 p.c. of the incapacity claimed. According to the evidence of three medical men Glover's capacity was reduced to the extent of not less than 50 per cent., and on the other hand it was proved conclusively that since the month of November, 1910, Glover has had a continuous situation with the Suplee Elevator Company at a wage of 20 cents an hour, and as a matter of fact he was earning more since the accident than previously. The Workmen's Compensation Act grants in case of permanent and partial incapacity a rent equal to one-half of the sum by which the injured man's wages have been reduced in consequence of the accident. After hearing legal arguments, the court held that while Glover might be holding a good position at the present time, following the medical evidence, his capacity to earn wages had been reduced by 50 p.c., and the Company was, therefore, ordered to pay a quarterly indemnity of \$38.33.

Canada's Asbestos Industry.

Canada produces 82 p.c. of the world's supply of asbestos. The companies operating asbestos quarries and factories in the Dominion are capitalized at \$24,290,000. In 1880 only 380 tons of asbestos were produced, valued at \$24,700; whereas in 1909, the production amounted to 63,300 tons, valued at 2,300,000. In 1909, 3,000 men were employed in the asbestos industry, and received wages amounting to \$1,350,000. These facts, and much valuable technical information of practical value to the general public, are contained in a finely printed and well illustrated volume, of 316 pages, just issued by

the Mines Branch of the Department of Mines, Ottawa. This valuable addition to the series of monographs being issued under the direction of Dr. Haanel, was written by Fritz Cirkel, M.E., and treats the subject of asbestos from every viewpoint—history, geology, peculiarities of Canadian occurrences, quarrying and milling, together with statistics, cost of extraction, its occurrence in foreign countries and its practical application in the arts and manufactures. To give an idea of the enormous reserves in some of the asbestos deposits, Mr. Cirkel mentions the case of the Black Lake quarries, Quebec, where there are some 45,000,000 tons of asbestos rock in sight. The author goes fully into the discussion of foreign asbestos occurrences, and considers Russia the only real rival as regards extent of asbestos resources. But inasmuch as the Russians are heavily handicapped by the excessive cost of transportation—\$35 to \$40 per ton to London—serious competition is not feared in the leading markets of the world. Dealing with the practical application of asbestos, Mr. Cirkel lays special emphasis on the prospective increased use of asbestos in the manufacture of slate. He says:

"It will not be long before the asbestos slate or shingle business, which is just commencing to be felt, will push its way more and more to the front. Indeed it is not too much to say that the time is not far distant when fully 75 p.c. of all asbestos produced in the world will be used in the manufacture of asbestos slate and shingles. The asbestos slate business is only four years old, but during that short space of time the demand for this article has increased to such an extent that factories for this purpose are being established all over the world."

The report covers over three hundred pages, contains 66 photo-engravings, 88 drawings, and two maps of the Quebec asbestos districts. It is one of the best produced practical technical reports that has been issued by the Dominion Government.

Employers' Liability in New Jersey.

Following the decision by the New York State Court of Appeals, to which reference was made in our last issue, that the workmen's compensation law passed last year is unconstitutional, a decision has been handed down in the Supreme Court of New Jersey, dealing with a similar act. In this instance, however, the employers' liability law is held by the Supreme Court to be constitutional. The question of validity was raised in a demurrer filed by the Lehigh Valley Railroad to an action for damages resulting from the killing of one of its engineers. It was argued for the railroad that the new law had not changed, as claimed, the old common law rule in reference to the negligence of a fellow servant, one of the questions involved in the litigation. The Supreme Court upheld the Legislature in abolishing the fellow servant doctrine. It is also held that the fact of a special rule of liability being applied to railroads, in distinction from other employers, did not render the act special legislation so as to bring it within the constitutional inhibition.

The opinion, it is stated, is of general importance only in so far as it establishes certain principles as