

Five hundred yards of masonry per day is the rate at which the Sault Canal work is being pushed forward.

G. HOLLOWAY, late Hong Kong agent for the C. P. R., is returning to Canada owing to ill health being succeeded by D. L. Brown, of Vancouver.

On June 24th the funeral took place of Geo. McRae, son of John McRae of the firm of McQuat & McRae, founders, Lachute, Que. The late Mr. McRae who was a machinist in Bluefield, was hanging the door of a large safe when suddenly it fell, crushing his leg to a pulp. Owing to loss of blood he died within twelve hours.

JOHN A. WILLS, chief engineer of the Toronto custom house, died last month at the age of forty-eight. He served his time in the machine shop of E. & C. E. Gilbert, Montreal, and afterwards worked for some time in Fall River, Mass. On returning to Canada he was three or four years engineer of the Dominion Parliament Buildings.

MR. SPURRIER, who has been appointed analyst of iron ores to the Radnor Forges, Que., was formerly assistant to Woelcker Bros., the well-known chemical analysts of London, Eng., where he was distinguished for his scientific methods and for the general accuracy of his "results." Mr. Spurrer also gained a good deal of attention in the Old Country by his lectures on popular scientific subjects.

NEW BUILDINGS IN MONTREAL.

Among the new buildings which are being erected in Montreal, in addition to those mentioned in our last two numbers, are the following:—

S. Carsley's dry goods store on St. James street. This block will be eight stories high, and will be 66 ft. by 96. Its designer is John James Browne, and it is estimated to cost over \$300,000.

The Banque du Peuple, St. James street, has purchased the two lots adjoining its premises, east of Place d'Armes Hill, and is going to erect a fire-proof building six stories high. The material used will be Montreal limestone, the facade being ornamented with grey and red granite. Including the land, the cost will be \$200,000. For lighting purposes a large shaft will be run through the centre from top to bottom. Plans have been prepared by Perrault, Mesnard, and Venne.

The street railway company have purchased a property on Craig street, where they propose building offices larger than those at present at their command. Plans have been prepared by J. W. Hopkins. It has been decided to spend about \$50,000 on the building, which is to be constructed of Montreal limestone.

Theo. Daoust has prepared plans for the erection of a large block of stores on St. Lawrence street. The estimated cost is \$300,000.

The congregation of Erskine Church have decided to erect a larger building on Sherbrooke street. Plans have been prepared by A. C. Hutchinson. It will cost about \$100,000.

A new church also is to be built by the Knox congregation, on the corner of Dorchester and Mansfield streets. Its dimensions are to be 30 x 125 ft., and it is estimated to cost \$50,000.

Another important building in course of erection is the new library in connection with McGill University, designed by Taylor & Gordon. The reading-room will be 110 feet long by 44 wide. The book-room will be four stories high and will accommodate about 150,000 volumes. It is to be made fire-proof. Besides these there are furnace rooms, cloak rooms, study rooms, unpacking quarters, cataloguing and librarians' rooms. Important additions are also to be made to the medical building.

Three new schools are to be established, two by the Protestant commissioners and one by the Catholic. The latter will be known as the Montcalm School, has been designed by Joseph Haynes, and will be placed on Mignonne street. It will cost about \$50,000. The two Protestant schools are Mount Royal School, on St. Urbain street, to cost about \$30,000, and the Dufferin School, which is to replace the old British-Canadian School, at a cost of \$40,000. The latter will be 160 feet long and 67 deep, and will accommodate 500 pupils. A. C. Hutchinson is the architect for both.

An addition to the Home for Incurables is to be erected on Sherbrooke street, at the expense of Hon. Geo. A. Drummond.

Another charitable institution is the Protestant Orphan Asylum, shortly to be erected on the Cote des Neiges Road. The building, which will be four stories high, of Montreal limestone, was designed by J. M. Perrin. It will be capable of holding a hundred or more children, and will cost in the neighborhood of \$50,000.

The Young Women's Christian Association Building is to be erected on Drummond street, opposite the Victoria Rink, at a cost of \$50,000.

The Bank of Toronto's new premises, before alluded to, now going up at the corner of St. James and McGill, will be a very fine structure and will occupy a commanding site.

It will be seen from the above that Montreal builders will be by no means idle during the present season. And we have only mentioned the chief buildings, besides the above-named there are several large business premises, two police stations and a fire station, to say nothing of a large number of private residences, to be erected.

NORTH-WEST LAKES DRYING UP.

It has been noticed in Alberta and other parts of the Canadian North West says the *Calgary Herald*, that during the past eight or ten years a large number of the lakes have dried up. Where formerly there were large bodies of water, there are now hay meadows. A similar state of things is noticed in the State of Minnesota. At a lecture by Dean C. W. Hall, recently delivered in St. Paul, under the auspices of the Academy of Sciences, his subject was the formation and deformation of Minnesota lakes, and he gave an interesting account of the lakes of this region. There are 10,000 lakes in the State, largely due to the natural hollows in the land and the fact that the State is comparatively new in discovery. Prof. Hall says that with age these lakes will all disappear, and that a large number which were in existence when the country was first explored are now hay meadows.

TORONTO WATER SUPPLY.

Dr J. J. Cassidy, chairman of the Ontario Provincial Board of Health, speaking of the Toronto water supply, says that it is unlikely that any material lasting improvement will be effected in the conduit. Many plans may be devised by which the defects in the supply may be remedied, for instance, a tunnel could be constructed under the bay, extending from the pumping-house three miles out into Lake Ontario. A six foot tunnel supplying 72,000,000 gallons would be ample, and if protected from sewerage pollution the water should be of excellent quality. Or if the building of a tunnel is not feasible, filtering the present supply would do a considerable amount of good. The doctor, however, considers the best plan which has presented itself so far to be for the city to purchase water from the York Waterworks Company, the water to be connected with the Toronto water system by means of a large main extending down Yonge street as far as Bloor street. The present impure supply costs 7 1/8 cts. per 1,000 gallons, whereas the company offers pure spring water at 3 1/2 cts. per 1,000 gals. It offers to supply to Toronto 4,000,000 gals. in six months, 14,000,000 gallons in 18 months and 24,000,000 in 30 months. The citizens, it is thought, will appreciate an alteration meaning an almost immediate relief, even though it be only a partial one. The water has been proved to be pure by analysis.

