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**THE LATE JOHN A. WILLS.**

It becomes our painful duty to chronicle the unexpected death on the 16th of June, of Mr. John A. Wills, Chief Engineer at the Toronto Custom House. Mr. Wills, who was in his 48th year, was possessed of a naturally strong physical organization, and until the last two years enjoyed the best of health. Of late he was a sufferer from Bright's disease, and early last spring passed through a severe illness which several times threatened to have a fatal ending. Greatly to the comfort of his family and many friends, what seemed to be a marked improvement in his condition suddenly manifested itself two or three weeks ago; his appetite returned, he gained strength rapidly and was able to go down town. But a few hours previous to his death he drove around town with a friend who was on a visit to Toronto. After returning from the drive he lay down to sleep—which proved to be the sleep of death—for he passed quietly away a few hours later without having regained consciousness.

Mr. Wills was one of the best known and most popular men of the city, and his death came as a great surprise and grief to thousands of his fellow citizens.

The deceased was a native of Ottawa, in which locality his parents were among the first settlers. After graduating from college, he entered as an apprentice the machine shops of Messrs. E. & C. E. Gilbert, at Montreal, who at that time were the principal manufacturers in Canada of marine engines. On completing his apprenticeship he went to the New England States, where he spent several years, mostly at Fall River, Mass, where he met and married the estimable wife who survives him.

He returned to Canada, and received the appointment of Chief Engineer of the Dominion Parliament Buildings, which position he held for three or four years, when at his own request he was transferred to Toronto and assumed the duties of the position which he occupied at the time of his death and for seventeen years previously.

He always showed a desire to assist his brother engineers. He was the first Registrar of the Ontario Association of Stationary Engineers, and in May last was elected to the Presidency. He was also a member of the Canadian Association of Stationary Engineers, and Chairman for the present year of the Technical School Board. He likewise filled prominent positions in connection with the Masonic order, the A. O. U. W., and the Orange Society.

His cheerful, sympathetic disposition made for him a multitude of friends, to whom his sudden death is the subject of profound regret. A wife, seven sons and one daughter mourn the loss of a beloved husband and father.

The National Electric Tramway Company, of Victoria, B. C., has purchased the business of the Victoria Electric Light Company of that city for the sum of \$10,000. The plant purchased embraces dynamos, 30 miles of wire and 3,700 lamps. The purchasers intend to largely increase the capacity of the lighting plant, and to employ water power for the generation of current for both lighting and tramway purposes.

**THE CANADIAN ELECTRICAL ASSOCIATION.**

SEVERAL meetings of the Committee on Statistics have lately been held. A form of schedule has been drafted, which embraces enquiries for statistics which would show the extent of the electrical industries of Canada, and the conditions under which they are being conducted. Copies of this schedule will be immediately forwarded to every firm in the electrical business in Canada, with a request that the blanks be filled in with the information sought to be obtained, and which if secured should prove to be very useful. The deputation which a few months ago visited Ottawa to oppose the bill for the inspection of electric lighting, greatly felt the need of statistics such as those which the Association is about to attempt to secure. It is hoped that persons engaged in any department of electrical business to whom copies of this schedule may be sent, will promptly supply the information required.

**TORONTO ELECTRIC LIGHT CO.**

THE Toronto Electric Light Co., in addition to having recently doubled the size and capacity of their central station, have erected handsome new business offices facing on Esplanade street, into the possession of which they have just entered. The new office building, which by the way was erected from the design and under the supervision of the versatile general manager, Mr. J. J. Wright, includes a commodious business office and an office for the manager on the ground floor, a large board room, and sleeping accommodation for officials of the company whose duties at times prevent them from reaching home. Of course the latest equipments in the way of electric bells, speaking tubes, etc., are employed. The

office on the ground floor are handsomely finished in quartered oak, having stained glass windows, and comfortable looking fireplaces of pressed brick. We congratulate the company and the general manager upon these indications of progressiveness and prosperity.

**PERSONAL.**

Mr. John Bain, who for twelve years has been in the employ of the R. G. McLean Co., of Toronto, has been appointed to take charge of the water power station of the Niagara Falls Park and River Electric Railroad. Mr. R. G. McLean, on behalf of Messrs. R. G. McLean & Co., and of the employees of that firm, presented Mr. Bain before leaving for Niagara with a gold-headed cane and diamond pin, as a token of esteem. Mr. Bain is a member of the C. A. S. E., and is held in the highest respect by all his acquaintances, whose best wishes will go with him to his new position.

There are already a number of applicants in the field for the position made vacant by the recent death of Mr. John A. Wills. The salary is \$1500 per year.

We have received from the Columbia Lamp Co., of St. Louis, a large size portrait framed in oak of Henry Goebel, who is claimed to be the original inventor of the incandescent lamp.

The Ottawa Electric Street Railway Company, at its annual meeting a few days ago decided to establish a car manufactory as a separate department, for which purpose a capital of \$50,000 will be employed.



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