

Montreal, Que.—The result of a test made at Montreal of the emergency water supply from the Lachine canal has been to show that the emergency plant has proven a complete success. It will now be possible at any time to turn the water out of the regular supply conduit, examine the cement work and make any necessary repairs without affecting the city's supply of water. During the time the water was pumped from the Lachine Canal, tests were made every half-hour and the results were found to be quite satisfactory. While not as pure as the regular river supply, it was found that the difference was not of great consequence. The official tests of the canal water used showed an average of 2,000 bacteria per cubic centimetre. The regular city supply is 800 per cubic centimetre.

Montreal, Que.—Among other offers which have been received at Montreal for the underground electric light service along several streets of the city, is one from the Montreal Public Service Corporation which is being placed before the civic board of control. For a term of 6 years, the company supplying everything, the price per lamp would be \$137 as compared with \$156 by the Light, Heat and Power Company of Montreal. For a contract of 16 years, the Service Corporation offers the lighting at \$88 per lamp under the conditions mentioned as compared with \$96.40 by the Light, Heat and Power Company. Again, if the city supplied the lamp standards, cables, etc., for a contract of 16 years the price per lamp would be \$65, which is about \$5 lower than a similar offer by the Light, Heat and Power Company.

Fort William, Ont.—Improvements nearing completion at the city dock of Fort William are making a change in the appearance of that place. A rip-rap retaining wall has been built around the railway embankment, and a roadway has been constructed from the subway to the freight sheds, with a foundation of large rock and a surface of crushed trap. The road is to be improved further when the railway company allows of the widening of it by 7 feet by building a concrete retaining wall for the railway tracks. The sidewalk below the tracks has been widened and the subway is to be roofed with corrugated iron sheeting. Anticipating that the railway company will make further permanent improvements here, this will be the extent of the city work for the present, leaving the balance to be done when the city and railway company have agreed upon what shape the permanent work will take.

Regina, Sask.—It is said that 139 miles of wire will be required for this year's program of electric light construction at Regina. While a good deal of this wire will be required for the construction of feeders from the new power house, at the same time provision is being made for a good many miles of new service in all directions from the city. New poles, which have been purchased, will, when set up, carry 24 miles of single strand wire. Without taking into consideration the cost of labor, an expenditure of \$81,456.47 has already been authorized for this year's extensions to the distributing system; and of this sum \$53,381 will be spent on wire alone, the balance providing for all the other materials required in the construction of an electric light distributing system. The program for this year's extension provides for 1,000 new services for light and power, as well as for 200 new street lights.

Varenes, Que.—It has been stated that the big brick plant at Varenes, Que., near Montreal, of the Mount Royal Brick Company, Limited, which will be the most modern brick manufacturing plant in the world, and the largest under one roof in Canada, will be in operation before the first of June. The plant will have an output of 120,000,000 bricks per annum. It is claimed, moreover, that the clay belt which the Mount Royal Company possesses at Varenes has been tested in almost all the laboratories in America,

and that these tests have proved that the quality of brick made from this clay has greater strength than that of almost any other building brick in the market. Again, the brick machinery, with which the plant is equipped, is so perfect, that from the time the steam shovels take the clay out of the ground, until the brick is delivered on cars, or in barges, in the city of Montreal, they are only handled once, the entire process of manufacture being performed by automatic machinery.

Ottawa, Ont.—Supplementary estimates totalling \$17,438,912, which have been tabled in the Dominion House, have augmented the main estimates of expenditure to \$208,174,088. Items included in the supplementary estimates are \$1,000,000 towards the construction of a government railway to connect Montreal with the Transcontinental, \$1,887,100 for new rolling stock and further improvements to the I.C.R., \$1,000,000 as a further vote to the Transcontinental railway, \$1,000,000 for the Quebec bridge, \$1,000,000 for the Welland ship canal, \$50,000 for improvements to the banks of the Rideau canal at Ottawa, a revote of \$10,000 for Ottawa fuel-testing, roasting building, addition to shed, etc., \$500,000 for the harbors of Port Arthur and Fort William, \$500,000 for Quebec harbor, \$200,000 for the new postal station "A" on St. James street, Montreal, \$250,000 for Hamilton harbor works, \$100,000 for the Goderich harbor, \$40,000 for Port Credit, \$58,000 for Nigger Island channel, and \$655,000 to complete St. Lawrence dredging plants.

Winnipeg, Man.—A recent report, submitted by J. G. Glassco, manager of the Winnipeg light and power department, to the civic board of control for the fiscal year ending April 30, shows a surplus for the department amounting to \$80,000. There was an increase of 50 per cent. in the gross billings for the year, the total for 1912-13 being \$638,081.73 as compared with \$953,882.88 for 1913-14. The net realizable earnings advanced from \$544,736.03 to \$842,368.42, or 55 per cent., while the net cash receipts increased from \$520,760.67 to \$809,966.74, or 55.8 per cent. For the fiscal year ending April 30 last year there was a deficit of \$83,432.90. However, the department was allowed for the first 2 years of operation, to charge the deficit up to capital account, but it had to show an actual profit in the third year if a three cent rate for current was to be maintained. The surplus of \$80,000 for the second full fiscal year will ensure the maintenance of the three cent rate. In 1912-13 the number of kilowatt hours generated was 39,071,750, as compared with 60,271,385 for 1913-14, an increase of 54 per cent.

Hamilton, Ont.—Hamilton has been considering the purchase of a stone quarry, and members of the board of control have made an inspection of the Dunlop farm with a view to the purchase of this as a civic quarry site. Also the Canadian Quarries, Limited, has offered to sell its plant and property for \$65,000, or to enter into a term contract for the city's entire requirements at 85 cents per ton, f.o.b., Hamilton. The latest development in the project is an offer from the Canadian Crushed Stone corporation, proposing an agreement which would give the city an interest of \$150,000 in the company's quarries and ensure a constant supply of stone at a reasonable price. The city would be required to enter into a 15-year contract for its entire requirements at \$1.00 per ton, f.o.b., Hamilton; while, by entering into an arrangement along these lines, it would mean that if the company, for any unforeseen reason, was compelled to go into liquidation during this 15-year period, the city through the bond ownership or guarantee would become the absolute owners of the quarry plant for \$150,000.

Vancouver, B.C.—More than 10 bridges are being constructed over the Thompson river along the line of the C.N.P. railway; and rapid progress is reported. Nearly half of the upper part of bridge No. 1, the structure at Cisco, has been erected and the big span over the river is being built.