

PERSONAL.

Capt. A. J. McPHERSON, Deputy Minister of Public Works for the Province of Saskatchewan, is commanding the Regina Field Company of Canadian Engineers.

A. C. MORRISON, of Ottawa, has been appointed inspector of gas and electricity for the Ottawa Inspection district, to succeed Mr. A. A. Couvrette, resigned.

K. S. MacLAUGHLIN, B.A.Sc., superintendent of Metals Chemicals, Limited, Welland, Ont., is suffering from serious injuries sustained in a laboratory explosion last week.

R. S. WINTER, of Medicine Hat, Alta., has been appointed gas superintendent in succession to Mr. Wm. Craft, who has resigned from this civic position owing to ill-health.

G. H. FERGUSON has been appointed Minister of Lands, Forests and Mines for the Province of Ontario, assuming the position held by Premier Hearst prior to the latter's being appointed Premier.

Capt. T. C. IRVING, M. Can. Soc. C.E., of the Irving-Moffat Electric Steel Co., and vice-president of Robert W. Hunt and Co., will command the divisional engineers of the Canadian expeditionary force, about to leave Salisbury Plain for service in France and Belgium.

H. C. BARBER has joined the sales force of the Standard Underground Cable Co. of Canada, Limited, of Hamilton. Mr. Barber is a graduate of the Faculty of Applied Science of the University of Toronto. He has been with the Toronto Hydro System and the Hamilton Hydro Department, also with the Packard Electric Company, of St. Catharines.

E. G. MATHESON, M. Can. Soc. C.E., superintendent for the Foundation Co., Limited, on the construction of the substructure for the Canadian Pacific Railway bridge over the Pitt River, described the undertaking in an illustrated address given at the regular meeting of the Vancouver Branch of the Canadian Society of Civil Engineers, held on December 18th last.

OBITUARY.

At Kingsville, Ont., Mr. A. W. Wheatman, superintendent of the W.E. and L.S. Railway, was electrocuted last week while engaged in putting a snowplough into service.

Thos. Blackwood, Deputy Inspector of Mines in the Province of Nova Scotia, lost his life by an explosion in one of the shafts at Stellarton, N.S., last week. Mr. James Brown, superintendent of the mine for the Acadia Coal Co., accompanied Mr. Blackwood on his trip of inspection, and was also killed, and Mr. Alex. Sutherland, manager of the mine, had a very narrow escape.

The death occurred on December 17th of Mr. F. X. Dion, president of the Lauzon Engineering Co., Limited, engineers and contractors, of Levis, Que. The late Mr. Dion was a well-known figure in business circles in the Province of Quebec.

The extraction of gasoline from natural gas, according to a bulletin issued by the United States Geological Survey, has become one of the chief adjuncts of the natural gas industry in the United States. The production in 1913 was almost double that in 1912.

Recent elections to the class of Associate Member in the American Society of Civil Engineers included the names of Mr. G. W. Harris, office engineer, Mackenzie, Mann and Co., Limited, Port Arthur, Ont.; Mr. C. S. Millard, manager and chief engineer for Francis S. Swales, architect, Vancouver, B.C.; and Mr. L. R. Thomson, designer, Dominion Bridge Co., Limited, Montreal.

PRESERVATION OF RAILWAY TIES.

At a recent meeting of the Society of Chemical Industry in Montreal two interesting papers were read on the subject of timber preservation. Dr. John S. Bates, director of the Forest Products Laboratories of Canada, gave an account of the work which has been done in the laboratories, and summarized investigation of conditions governing the durability of timber. The work has included a study of pulp and paper-making. Mr. W. B. Campbell, B.Sc., a member of the laboratory staff, read a paper on the preservation of wood, dealing with the various forms of rot which affect timber and clearly showed that the best method of increasing the durability of timber used for railway ties was to impregnate the wood with some substance poisonous to the organism that caused rot. In this connection he mentioned substances soluble in water, such as zinc chloride, and substances oily in nature, such as creosote oil. Mr. Campbell dwelt upon the advances of properly creosoted wood block paving, etc. The papers were followed by some valuable discussion, some of the participants being Prof. W. D. Walker, of Queen's University; Dr. Milton Hersey, Mr. J. A. DeCew, Mr. Fred. B. Brown, and Dr. S. Kirsch.

A committee was formed to investigate the feasibility of rendering wood fireproof, and to make specific proposals to the Government for legislation that would encourage the establishment of such a chemical study. The following were appointed to this committee: Mr. T. H. Wardleworth, chairman of the local branch of the Society; Dr. R. F. Ruttan, Dr. Milton Hersey, Mr. J. A. DeCew, Mr. C. F. Bardorf and Mr. A. G. Spencer.

COMING MEETINGS.

AMERICAN FORESTRY ASSOCIATION.—Annual meeting to be held in the Woolworth Building, New York City, January 11th, 1915. Secretary, P. S. Ridsdale, Washington, D.C.

CANADIAN NATIONAL CLAY PRODUCTS ASSOCIATION.—Annual Convention to be held at the King Edward Hotel in Toronto, January 26, 27, and 28, 1915. Secretary, G. C. Keith, 32 Colborne Street, Toronto.

CANADIAN SOCIETY OF CIVIL ENGINEERS.—Twenty-ninth annual meeting, to be held in Montreal, January 26th, 27th and 28th, 1915. Secretary, Prof. C. H. McLeod, 176 Mansfield Street, Montreal, Que.

AMERICAN CONCRETE INSTITUTE.—Eleventh Annual Meeting, to be held in Chicago, February 9th to 12th, 1915. Secretary, Edward E. Krauss, Harrison Building, Philadelphia, Pa.

EIGHTH CHICAGO CEMENT SHOW.—To be held in the Coliseum, Chicago, Ill., from February 10th to 17th, 1915. Cement Products Exhibition Co., J. P. Beck, General Manager, 208 La Salle Street, Chicago.

AMERICAN WATERWORKS ASSOCIATION.—The 35th annual convention, to be held in Cincinnati, Ohio, May 10th to 14th, 1915. Secretary, J. M. Diven, 47 State Street, Troy, N.Y.

SOCIETY FOR THE PROMOTION OF ENGINEERING EDUCATION.—Annual meeting to be held at the Iowa State College, Ames, Iowa, June 22nd to 25th, 1915. Secretary, F. L. Bishop, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, Pa.

In a paper read before the Duluth meeting of the American Peat Society, Dr. Peter Christianson calls attention to some of the possibilities of peat as a metallurgical fuel, especially in the iron and iron-ore industry of the Lake Superior iron district, that is, in the beneficiation or preliminary treatment, and in the smelting, of the ore.