

William Lavers, contractor, Montreal, has the contract for the public hall, Westmount, Que. Work will be commenced at once.

On Sept. 23, Stirling, Ont., gave the waterworks by-law for \$20,000 a majority of 51. Gravitation will bring water from Somerset Lake, elevated nearly 300 feet and distant two miles.

The building trade in Toronto has had a revival this year after several seasons of depression. In 1896 the building returns showed only \$657,168, and last year the business was only \$938,619. Up to August 25, 1898, the returns amounted to \$1,176,890.

S. C. Skinner, F. J. Skinner, A. Louise Skinner, Gananoque, Ont.; J. F. Chapman, E. Chapman, Deseronto, Ont., have been incorporated as the Skinner Company, Ltd., to manufacture carriage hardware and do a general iron and brass foundry business; capital, \$75,000; chief place of business, Gananoque, Ont.

The International Silver Company has been formed under the laws of the State of New Jersey, with a capital stock of \$15,000,000 preferred and \$15,000,000 common stock. The combination is said to have absorbed the leading manufacturers of silverware on the continent including the Standard Silver Plate Co., Toronto.

Stratford, Ont., has decided to grant the Whyte Packing Company of Mitchell, Ont., exemption from taxation for 20 years and guarantee their 4 per cent. debentures to the amount of \$30,000 for 20 years, on condition that they erect a pork-packing and curing factory at a cost of \$40,000 to \$50,000, and employ 75 to 100 men.

Aemilius Jarvis, architect, Toronto, has returned from New York, and announces that the lease for the site of the large new hotel on King St., east, Toronto, has been signed, and that he has interested New York capital in the venture. The plans have been prepared and the promoters state that the building will be at once gone on with.

Dr. Sheard, medical health officer of Toronto has issued a report on sewage, which is very interesting and quite comprehensive as far as it goes, but the many new ideas brought forward in the past eight years are overlooked. No doubt we shall have a second report from Dr. Sheard bringing his really valuable publication up to date.

The incorporation of the great steel trust, to be known as the Federal Steel Company, has been completed in New Jersey. It is the largest company ever admitted under the laws of New Jersey, its paid up capital being \$200,000,000. An incorporation tax of \$40,000 was paid to the Secretary of State. The location of the principal office of the company is stated to be in Jersey City.

The Maritime Sulphite Fibre Co., Chatham, N. B., has ordered a 500 h. p. cross compound condensing engine from the Robb Engineering Co., Amherst, N. S., to replace the present 250 h. p. simple engine, and to provide for contemplated enlargements of the plant. The new engine is expected to effect a large saving in fuel over the type now used as well as to give much better speed regulation.

A point of special interest in the export of iron plates from Chicago to Belfast, Ireland, is the fact that Harland & Wolff, ship-builders of Belfast, were boycotted by the steel manufacturers because that firm agreed to the terms of the striking engineers some time ago. As no steel could be secured in Great Britain the firm ordered from America. It remains to be seen whether a trade begun under such favorable circumstances can maintain itself under changed conditions.

W. F. Tasker, business manager of the Don Valley Brick Works, stated recently that the works are the largest and most efficient brick-making plant in America. While all kinds of brick are manufactured at this immense plant, pressed brick, enamelled ware, terra cotta, porous terra cotta, flooring, tiles, in all over 300 patterns and street-paving brick are made. This year they have already made 10,000,000 brick, and are now running night and day to fill orders. The prices range from \$6.50 for the ordinary brick up to \$400 for some of the finer work. A considerable amount of brick was sold in Toronto, and more has been shipped to points from St. John's, Newfoundland, to Vancouver, B. C. The plant is kept running the year round, and employs on an average 80 men. It is situated on the west side of the river Don, just on the eastern limit of

the city, and comprises 1,700 acres. The material is practically inexhaustible. In the plot is a shale bank, from which all the red brick is made, three-fourths of a mile in width, two miles in length and 900 feet deep.

Electric Flashes.

The city of Winnipeg has decided to appoint an official electrician.

Brantford, Ont., had its new electric lighting plant put into operation on the 10th of last month.

A second generator is being put in at the Cataract Power Company's works at Decew's Falls, Ont.

The Maritime Electrical Association held its first annual convention on Sept. 27th and 28th in Halifax, N. S.

The town council of Thorold has decided to postpone the submission of the by-law for the \$7,000 lighting plant till January next.

The C. P. R. telegraph copper line was completed Sept. 21st from Montreal to Vancouver. This is the longest telegraph line in the world.

The Vankleek Hill Electric Light Co., Vankleek Hill, Ont., is increasing its lighting capacity by the installation of a 50 k.w. S. K. C. two-phase generator.

Fire broke out simultaneously in Nos. 305, 306 and 310 Peel street, Montreal, one night recently. The fire was started by the burning out of part of a lighting fixture.

Municipal ownership of the electric lighting plant in Pembroke, Ont., is being actively canvassed, and there appears to be a strong probability of its being carried out.

The Montreal Street Railway Co. lost over \$200,000 by a fire on Sept. 16th, which destroyed a car shed containing 60 cars and seven sweepers. The insurance very nearly covered the loss.

The Canadian Pacific Railway have purchased from the Royal Electric Co., a 50-light 2,000 candle-power arc dynamo, together with 52 arc lamps, for use in their car shops at Hochelaga.

The Warwick Clothing Manufacturing Company of Warwick, Que., is lighting its works throughout by electricity. The order for the necessary apparatus has been given to the Royal Electric Company.

Wm. Kennedy, jun., C. E., of Montreal, is preparing plans for the hydraulic portion of the proposed scheme for bringing power from Ragged Rapids to that town, a distance of about 12 miles. It is thought the entire enterprise would cost about \$70,000.

The Citizens' Electric Light Co., of Smith's Falls, Ont., is increasing the electric lighting plant, and has purchased from the Royal Electric Co., a 1,500 light royal incandescent dynamo, with station apparatus complete. This is to be installed at once.

The carborundum works at Niagara Falls, Ont., are now steadily turning out a product of the highest class. It is the intention of the company to very materially enlarge their premises by the erection of an additional building, about twice the size of the present. It is to be one and two stories high.

A United States company which is going to develop the water power of the Jacques Cartier river for electric light and power purposes for Quebec city in opposition to the Montmorency Company, has acquired the chartered rights as regards Quebec of the Standard Light and Power Company, Montreal. It has a capital of half a million, and its president is Emerson McMillan, of New York.

The Niagara Central Railway has been bought by Haines Bros., New York. The road will be converted into an electric road, and it is said there will be a 40 minute service between St. Catharines and Niagara Falls. The trestle work at Merritt, Ont. and Thorold will be done away with, and the road run on the ground, the motor cars being able to overcome grades which steam cars could not do. The Grand Trunk at Merritt will be crossed on the level by means of interlocking switches. The plans also include the extension of the road.