

The residents of Hall's Mills and Union Hall, Ont., propose to extend the Clayton telephone service to their locality, and those interested will contribute liberally to the scheme.

The Toronto World states the farmers ten miles north of Guelph have a system, with phones costing \$2.50 each, and wire proportionately low, maintenance costing \$1 a year.

The Canadian Telephone and Telegraph Co. will apply to Toronto for a franchise early in the year. The rates are not yet announced. The same company also want a franchise in London, Ont.

The Nova Scotia Telephone Company's long distance line, between Halifax and Sydney, has been completed to Port Hawkesbury, and will connect with Sydney early in the year.

A long-distance telephone line is being constructed from St. John, N.B., to Fredericton, via Belleisle Narrows, White's Cove and Chipman. It will be completed next spring.

Ahearn & Soper, of Ottawa, are building for the Government a telegraph line from St. Peter's to Scatarie Island, N.S., via Gabaruse, Mainadieu, Scatarie, and North Sydney. It will be completed shortly.

To keep the 30,000 odd miles of telegraph line in order in Great Britain, and provide for the proper despatch and delivery of millions of messages every month costs about \$11,250,000 a year, including \$7,500,000 for salaries.

Long distance telephone communication was inaugurated on December 15th, between the Kamouraska Telephone Company's exchange, at River-du-Loup, Quebec, and Toronto, 600 miles distant.

William von Siemens, of the Siemens-Halske Company, Dr. Franke, Dr. Thomas, and Dr. Erhardt have completed, after several years' work, a new telegraph instrument which will transmit 2,000 words per minute over long distances. Perforated paper ribbon is used in the apparatus, and the message is received on a strip of sensitized paper, which emerges with the letters fully developed.

H. A. Bryan, a labor organizer, stated at Fort William, recently, that he had acted as agent for the Bell Telephone Company to discredit the town's civic management, and so influence municipal elections against local telephone systems. He asserted that the company supplied him with a petition asking for Government audit of municipal accounts. He implicated Capt. Hilmes, and Mr. Scott, of the Bell Company, in the matter. The general superintendent admits that the petition was circulated with the company's approval, but denies the assertion regarding municipal elections.



RAILWAY NOTES.

W. Anderson, secretary of the Hamilton and Caledonia Electric Railway, states that work will be commenced early in the spring, the power houses at Caledonia and Indiana, Ont., being started first.

An order-in-council has been passed canceling the order of Sept. 7 last, remitting temporarily the duty on certain materials of Canadian manufacture used in the construction abroad of locomotive engines for railways in Canada.

Henry O'Sullivan, C.E., and Sirois, C.E., are surveying the territory for the line of the Gaspé Railway. Mr. Sirois is working between Paspébiac and Port Daniel, while Mr. O'Sullivan is on the Gaspé section in the direction of Barabois and Perce.

A new surface contact transportation system was tested recently in Atlantic City. The inventor is Leon W. Pullen, of Philadelphia. His system eliminates the third rail, overhead wires, poles, open conduits, and cables. A large trolley car carrying 100 people was used for the experiment. Beneath the car is attached a series of magnets which make the contact as they pass over the boxes, which are in the centre of the tracks, 16 feet apart. In appearance the contacts are like inverted saucers and are alive only at the time of the passage of the car over them. It is claimed eighty miles an hour can be attained.

The C.P.R. will erect a palatial hotel, costing \$500,000, on the James' Bay flats, Victoria, B.C. F. M. Rattenbury is the architect.

The Stonewall, Man., Gazette says: Rumor has it that application will be made at the next session of the local house for a charter to build an electric line from Stonewall to Winnipeg. Several local men are interested, and there is a fair prospect that the rumor may materialize.

A petition is being circulated between St. Jerome and St. Sophie, Que., asking for a loop line from St. Antoine to Charlemagne, taking in the towns of St. Anne and Mascouche. This extension to the Great Northern would open up a new bit of country, and would give a more direct route from the West.

The North Lanark Railway Company will shortly begin to make surveys. The route proposed is from the High Falls on the Madawaska to Arnprior, thence to Galetta and Fitzroy Harbor, and thence to Ottawa. James Bell, of Arnprior, secretary, states that there is no truth in the report that an effort will be made to sell the charter.



LIGHT, HEAT, POWER, ETC.

The Hull Electric Co. propose developing a water power and lighting plant at Quyon, Que.

The first eight months' working of the Edmonton, N.W.T., municipal electric light system showed a profit of \$3,069.

Capitalists represented by Mr. Van der Voort, of Toronto, propose to develop power at Petawawa and transmit electricity to Pembroke, Ont. A franchise is applied for.

Ottawa citizens obtain electric light for eight cents net per 1,000 watts. This is understood to be the lowest rate in Canada, and is due to competition and water power facilities.

Sherbrooke, Que., will apply to the Legislature for power to submit to the whole electors, instead of the ratepayers only, a by-law for the loan of \$200,000 to instal a municipal electric lighting plant.

Capitalists represented by Mr. Dingman, of Toronto, propose to exploit natural gas at Edmonton, N.W.T. The council will grant a franchise on certain conditions, providing work is commenced in six months.

J. E. Doyle, of Hamilton, Ont., has been fined \$25 for using the current of the Cataract Power Company without their knowledge. His service had been discontinued owing to a dispute, but he reconnected it.

The Electrical Development Company, Niagara Falls, Ont., will erect for the Toronto and Niagara Power Co. one of the largest power houses on this continent. It will be of solid granite, 425 feet in length, 200 feet wide, and will cost \$400,000. E. J. Lennox, Toronto, is the architect. Tenders will be called for immediately. A gallery will run round the building, from which visitors can see the plant in operation and view the Falls.

The finding of the jury in connection with the acetylene explosion at Ridgetown, Ont., was to the effect that the disaster was due to an escape of gas through the V-shaped water seal, and contributory negligence of the attendants. Further, the machine was not of a type in accordance with the specifications of the Canada Fire Underwriters' Association, and it was recommended that Parliament enact legislation to isolate acetylene gas plants and place them under Government supervision.

Legal proceedings have been taken to quash the two by-laws passed by the Peterborough, Ont., town council granting franchises to the Light and Power Co. and the Radial Railway Co. on the ground that another company tendered to do the lighting for ten years at \$1,500 per annum less; hence the town is indirectly giving a bonus of \$14,000 for the introduction of the railway. Judge Meredith made an order quashing the electric light by-law, and the motion regarding the railway company was adjourned to enable the council to amend it. The council has amended the electric light by-law, but will appeal the decision regarding the railway.