

RAILWAYS—STEAM AND ELECTRIC.

Toronto, Ont.—The Toronto Street Railway Company, recently decided to build a number of new lines and work has already been commenced on two routes.

Toronto, Ont.—The Grand Trunk Railway has commenced work on the elimination of grades between the Bathurst Street yards and the Humber.

Windsor, Ont.—The Michigan Central Railway tunnel beneath the Detroit River has been opened and many heavy freight trains have passed through.

Regina, Sask.—The works committee decided to engage Mr. Thornton, who built the Edmonton Street Railway, to lay out a street car route for Regina.

Calgary, Alta.—Ratepayers carried by-laws for two new subways and street railway extensions, which also will cost \$524,000; \$484,000 for extensions and improvements, the by-law for 22 miles of track and 12 new cars, making a total of 30 miles of tracking, including double tracks.

Edmonton, Alta.—The Provincial Government has approved the plans of the Pincher Creek, Cardston and Montana Railway Co., which proposes to construct a line through Alberta to the Peace River country, 700 miles in length.

Fredericton, N.B.—It is reported that extensive changes are planned in connection with the I. C. Ry. permanent way on the Canada Eastern division. Two new bridges to cost \$200,000 are said to be included in the plans.

LIGHT, HEAT AND POWER.

Montreal, Que.—Council will decide at the next meeting on the engagement of an expert engineer to report upon the question of underground conduits in which all electric wires now overhead may be placed.

Montreal, Que.—Tenders for the electric lighting of Montreal were recently opened by the Board of Control and five were considered.

The Provincial Light and Power Company accompanied their tender by a cheque for \$25,000, and quoted a rate \$54.80 per lamp for 1,650 lamps and over, as against \$72.70 of the Montreal Light, Heat & Power Company on schedule "A," and \$63.15 on schedule "B."

The president of the company signing the tender was Rodolphe Forget, and the power is obtained from the Cedar Rapids.

The Saraguay Electric and Water Company tendered for lighting St. George's, St. Joseph, St. Andrew's wards, Longue Pointe and Cote de Neiges, for \$90 per lamp per year, but there was an indemnity clause bearing upon those sections where they already hold contracts for twenty-five years.

The Montreal Light, Heat & Power Company for 1,650 lamps or over quoted \$72.70 on schedule "A," and \$63.15 on schedule "B." These rates operated on a sliding scale. The St. Paul Electric Light and Power Company quoted \$90 per lamp per year for St. Gabriel and St. Ann's wards, south of the Lachine Canal.

The Dominion Electric Light Company quoted \$85 per lamp per year.

One of the features of the requirements of the tenders this time was that the companies will have the privilege of supplying light to only a portion of the city. The tenderers were asked to state the number of lamps they could provide and the districts they wished to serve. The requirements did not call for any specific form of lamp, any of the standard types being acceptable.

The number of arc lamps at present used in the city is 1,650, there being in addition to this 500 incandescent lamps of different candle powers.

The specifications prohibit the use of dangerous or unsightly poles for street lamps, and the apparatus for suspending the lamps must also be acceptable, the whole to be erected in a manner satisfactory to the superintendent of the Light Department. In fact, the written approval of the superintendent is necessary before any additional lamps can be erected, and in all cases the contractor assumes responsibility in case of accident or injury. Straight wooden poles painted throughout their length shall be used. There is a clause reserving to the city the right to compel the companies to place their wires underground in the event

of a conduit being built, and another which protects the right of the city to establish a municipal plant. In case the city should decide to erect its own plant it may terminate the contract in whole or in part at the end of the first five years, which would be on the first of September, 1915, after giving six months' notice. It may take over the lamps and accessories on the streets on a basis of 50 per cent. of the original cost, providing they are in good condition. The contract is to begin on the 1st of November, 1910.

The lighting of the city has heretofore been performed by the Montreal Light, Heat & Power Company, which seemed to have a sort of perpetual franchise, the contracts being generally renewed at their expiration. When the last contract expired, however, which was at the end of 1908, the Power Company made the claim that it was losing money on the previous price of \$60 per lamp, per year, and demanded a considerable increase, and for this reason could not get the contract renewed. It has now been supplying light to the city for upwards of a year and a half without a contract. The company is now charging the city considerably in excess of the former rates, thus occasioning an outstanding dispute which is being referred to the courts. In its letter to the city early in 1909 the Power Company offered to continue the lighting "at such rate or charge as we may consider fair and equitable to both parties under the circumstances, but such charges we will always be prepared to submit to arbitration." The company forwarded its accounts to the city from time to time and these the city refused to pay on the ground that they were exorbitant. A Board of Arbitration was formed consisting of Professor L. A. Herdt, McGill, representing the city; Mr. R. G. Black Toronto, for the company and Mr. A. A. Dion, Ottawa, the third member of the Board.

The lighting position is further complicated by the fact that the Montreal Light, Heat & Power Company now has contracts covering 487 arc lamps in the city, these contracts having been made by suburban municipalities taken in by the city. These contracts run as high as \$116.50 per light, and averaging \$88.43, the length of the contract being as much as 32 years. The claim has been made that if the company undertakes the lighting of the city the lights will have to be supplied for the coming ten years at the contract price, which it is generally thought will not be acceptable to the city if in excess of \$75 per lamp. The city, however, in calling for tenders has accepted the sections referred to, so that the final settlement of all the negotiations for street lighting will certainly simplify matters greatly.

Calgary, Alta.—The power committee of the city council favored taking from the Calgary Power Company, Ltd., 2,000 h.p. at \$30 per h.p., until the end of December, 1912, and if the council adopt the report, a business manager will be engaged to secure contracts for the sale of power.

Merritt, B.C.—The Merritt Water, Light & Power Co. will install a 1,000 light capacity lighting plant shortly. G. B. Armstrong, secretary-treasurer.

BY-LAWS AND FINANCE.

Cravenhurst, Ont.—The \$10,000 good roads by-law was defeated by Muskoka township ratepayers.

Port Arthur, Ont.—The ratepayers voted to provide funds for gas mains, to enlarge the service reservoir at Current River power plant, to build a swimming pool, to complete the car barns and to establish enamel works.

St. Catharines, Ont.—A \$15,000 by-law for extension of the water mains will probably be submitted to the ratepayers in January.

Toronto, Ont.—The Bloor Street viaduct by-law will be submitted again in January.

Welland, Ont.—Ratepayers sanctioned the \$52,000 water-works extension by-law.

Melfort, Sask.—A. McN. Stewart, secretary-treasurer, invites bids for \$2,500 debentures issued to cover the cost of a well-boring outfit.

Calgary, Alta.—Ratepayers carried by-laws amounting to \$524,000 for extensions to the street railway and for the construction of two new subways. The \$100,000 parks by-law was defeated.