



HAMILTON ELECTRIC LIGHT CO.

## Hamilton Electric Light Co.

**T**his city is very fortunate in having an excellent system of electric lighting, which gives general satisfaction, and is probably as cheap as any on the continent. About July, 1884, the Royal electric company of Montreal sent their agent, W. H. Boisfeuillet, to Hamilton to make a report on the prospect of introducing its system of arc lighting into Hamilton, and with instructions, if the city was prepared to enter into a contract for street lighting, or private citizens could be induced to subscribe for from twenty-five to fifty lights, to notify the company and it would send on the necessary plant. Mr. Boisfeuillet, with characteristic energy, succeeded in getting thirty-five subscribers, the necessary power was obtained from the Spectator printing company, and in less than one month Hamilton merchants were being supplied with the new light. Immediately afterwards negotiations were opened with the city authorities, and Mr. Boisfeuillet proceeded to prove to them that electric light was the best for street illumination. The gas company had the contract for street lighting until August 1, 1885. However, an exhibition was given of the arc lights on several streets, and the unanimous verdict was that as soon as the contract with the gas company expired an effort would be made to light the business portion of the city with the arc lights. The gas company opposed most strenuously the efforts of the electric light people to introduce their light, and, among other things, put up several large gas lamps to be compared with the arc lights. This comparison only had the effect of convincing the public of the advantages of the electric illuminant, and in April, 1885, the city advertised for tenders for fifty-five arc lights, the balance of the city to be lighted with gas. Tenders were received from two companies, but that of the Royal electric company was accepted, and on August 1 of that year the streets of Hamilton were for the first time lighted with electricity. So well pleased were the citizens with the service and petitions were coming in so fast for additional lights that in less than two years over one hundred lights were in use.

In November, 1885, R. M. Wanzer, one of Hamilton's most enterprising citizens and manufacturers, opened negotiations through Mr. Boisfeuillet for the purchase of the plant, franchises, etc., of the Royal electric company. The transfer was completed, and Mr. Wanzer showed excellent judgment in securing the services of Mr. Boisfeuillet to manage the business. The results since then have proved most satisfactory, and the business of the company then formed has steadily increased in volume. The business since Mr. Wanzer has taken hold of it has been carried on under the name of the Hamilton electric light company. In the spring of the present year there was a demand for incandescent lighting, and after a thorough investigation of all the incandescent electric lighting systems, arrangements were completed with the celebrated Westinghouse electric company of Pittsburgh, Pa., for the sole control of that system in Hamilton and the outlying district within ten miles of this city. In a very

few weeks a five hundred light plant was in operation, and so great has been the demand for this class of light that the Hamilton electric light company has arranged to put in fifteen hundred additional lights. From the first night the dynamo was started the lights have given the very best satisfaction. The current is charged for by a system of meter registration, so that a customer need not pay for what he does not use. The enterprise of the company received a well merited reward when a short time ago the contract was awarded for lighting the whole of the streets of Hamilton by electricity for a term of five years. The contract calls for the supply of 250 arc and 32 incandescent lights, and any additional lights that may be required. The arc lights will be placed in the centre of the city, and the incandescent lights in the outskirts, and when they are in operation Hamilton will be one of the best illuminated cities on the continent. The arrangements for supplying power are most complete. In the building of the company, at the corner of King and Catharine streets, are seven boilers

of one hundred horse-power each, two three hundred horse power Wheelock engines, made by Girdle & McCulloch of Galt, and one sixty-five horse power Westinghouse engine; are light dynamos to run 250 lights for the streets and 150 lights for commercial use, besides the incandescent dynamos. Visitors to the carnival should not fail to call at the factory and see this splendid collection of ma-



THE DYNAMOS.

chinery in operation. The courteous manager, Mr. Boisfeuillet, is always happy to explain the system and plant to those desiring information. The building is centrally located, being only one block east of the post-office. The lower flat is used exclusively for the electric light plant, and the other flats are rented for different manufacturing purposes. The electric light company

The company has a ten years' franchise from the city for pole rights, and sole control of the Thomson-Houston arc light system, the Westinghouse incandescent system, the Sawyer-Man electric lamps, and the Westinghouse electric motors, all of which systems are unequalled in their particular lines. The company has given excellent satisfaction to the citizens ever since it began operations here, and, no doubt, with its improved equipment and extended resources, it will be in a better position than ever before to fully meet the demands of the citizens in providing them with manufactured sunlight. Mr. Boisfeuillet is at present engaged in locating this new city lights, and about fifty of them will

be in position during carnival week. When they are all in proper working order the city will present a very brilliant appearance from the mountain at night. The incandescent lights are being placed in the outlying streets where it is not necessary that the large arc system should be established. They are about 25 candle power, and have the advantage over gas in that they are cheaper and can be all lighted and extinguished at once, whereas under the old system it was necessary for men to go about attending to this work which often gave rise to complaints, and accidents happening on account of unlighted streets. All this will be done away with in the future, and the citizens may be congratulated on the wisdom of the board of works in making the choice of electric light instead of gas for the illumination of the streets of the city.

The electric light company has an agreement with the city, made last spring, and ratified by the telephone and telegraph companies, specifying how the wires of the light company shall be placed on the poles, and has always shown a marked desire to respect the rights of all other wire hanging companies in this respect, with the result that harmony exists between these corporations. Under this agreement with the city the electric light company has a patrolman on duty all night with a horse and rig, and it is his duty to respond to all fire alarms within the limits of the electric light circuits, so as to be prepared to cut off the current and, if necessary, the wires, in order to facilitate the operations of the firemen in raising ladders and working upon high buildings. As constituted at present the lights on the streets are included in the six circuits, and in cases of a fire or any occurrence that necessitates the cutting off of the current, the patrolman mounts a pole in the vicinity and closes the circuit on the station side. This simply extinguishes a few of the lamps on the side furthest from the cut, and they can be readily put in operation again. This, however, is an expedient that need only be used in cases of large fires, and merely shows the perfect system under which the business of the company is conducted. Mr. Boisfeuillet has under him a large and efficient staff of workmen and skilled electricians, and he is himself one of the best electrical engineers on the continent. At the present time of writing, 160 arc lights and about 500 incandescent lights are in use, and the staff is actively engaged in extending the system throughout the city to keep pace with the increasing demand for incandescent lights for private use, and in fulfillment of the recently signed contract for the lighting of the streets of the city.

The science of electric illumination has been making great strides during the past few years, and has now attained to a state of perfection beyond the expectation of its most sanguine advocates. There is no longer any doubt that it is the light of the future, and it is rapidly displacing gas as an illuminating agent in every place where the two are brought into competition. As a motive power, too, electricity is rapidly becoming known, and it is used in most of the leading cities for driving street cars and light machinery of various descriptions. For railway purposes it is expected that a system will speedily be in use that will enable people to travel safely at a rate of speed hitherto undreamed of, and in reality to annihilate space, as it has already been said to annihilate time, by transporting persons and freight at the rate of one hundred and eighty miles an hour and over. Already experiments are in progress, and a motor has been built which is reported to have attained this unheard of speed, which, considering the power, is not to be wondered at



ENGINE ROOM.