

the above-mentioned "first patent on the telephone" to the date of its expiration, 17 years later, there were granted in the United States 770 patents relating to telephones, and no less than 2,110 patents to telephone appliances. Prior to March, 1876, there were no speaking telephones in use anywhere; there was not a single yard of telephone wire in use; there were no underground conductors, no telephone exchanges and no persons employed in telephonic work. But an examination of the instructive statistical diagram found in the exhibit made by the American Bell Telephone Company at the World's Fair indicates that at the beginning of 1893 there were in use in the United States alone, in round numbers, 440,800 miles of telephone wire, of which 91,500 miles were underground; 552,700 telephones and 1,350 telephone exchanges; that connected with these exchanges there were over 232,000 subscribers; that the number of connections between the lines of these subscribers in a year reaches 600,000,000, and that the telephone exchanges provided employment for 10,000 persons. These facts speak for themselves, and depict more eloquently than could any amount of additional statement the immense influence exerted by "the still small voice" on society, business and the people at large. Consider the time saved to each of those 232,000 persons by the 2,500 conversations forming his share of the 600,000,000!

Let us think of the habits of concise expression to which the public is educated by the quiet ministrations of the telephone. Let us ponder on the fact that it is possible to call a director's meeting in Chicago, in which some of the directors present are in New York and others in Boston, and to transmit the business of the hour in such a meeting with facility and despatch, or on the enormous amount of travel with the consequent loss of time saved by the existence and availability of the telephone. The side influence of this wonderful working invention is not less important; its use in mines and by the submarine diver, its influence in physic and surgery, and as an instrument of philosophical research, in telegraphy, without wires and in scientific measurement. How great is that influence, considering the youth of the invention! How infinitely small measuring the future by the light of the geometrical progression of rate of progress of the past!

It is possible that within a short time we may be able to announce some important movements in connection with the utilization of the iron ores of British Columbia. A wealthy American syndicate has under consideration the establishment of blast furnaces and iron works at Ballard, a suburb of Seattle, Washington. As a source of supply for suitable ores, they have investigated the iron deposits of British Columbia and have bonded two properties: the Redonda

mines on Redonda Island on the coast and the Glen mine, situated a few miles from Kam'oops. Both deposits are magnetic iron, the former on analysis giving 61 per cent. and the latter 65 per cent. of iron. It is said that the syndicate intends to spend something like \$2,000,000 on its plant, which among other things will include works for the construction of railway freight cars. The capacity of the works is to be 25 cars per day. The wheels and other iron work require about 5 tons of iron per car, so that these works will use, when running to their full capacity, about 125 tons of iron per day. About 300 tons of ore will be required to produce that quantity of iron. It will be seen, therefore, that, should the enterprise be carried out, a large quantity of ore will be mined and a considerable sum expended annually in the Province in wages and supplies of various kinds. - Vancouver, B. C., News-Advertiser.

## CAPTAINS OF INDUSTRY.

*This department of the Canadian Manufacturer is considered of special value to our readers because of the information contained therein. With a view to sustaining its interesting features, friends are invited to contribute any items of information coming to their knowledge regarding any Canadian manufacturing enterprises. Be concise and explicit. State facts clearly, giving correct name and address of person or firm alluded to, and nature of business.*

The Canadian Pacific Railway will rebuild their bridge at Farnham, Que.

The city engineer, Kingston, Ont., is preparing estimates for completing the water works system.

Vancouver, B. C., Water and Light Committee are calling for tenders for arc and incandescent street lighting.

Westville, N. S., will put in a new water works system. Tenders will be received by Mayor Geo. E. Muns until April 15.

The town clerk of Sudbury, Ont., is open to receive tenders up to May 1 for a system of water works and sewage for that place.

The Montreal Silk Mills Company, are moving from Montreal to St. Hyacinthe, Que., where they will occupy part of the Granite Mills property.

The Fire and Light Committee, of Stratford, Ont., are open to receive tenders up to April 13 for seventy-five 1500 candle power arc lights for that city, also for incandescent lights for City Hall.



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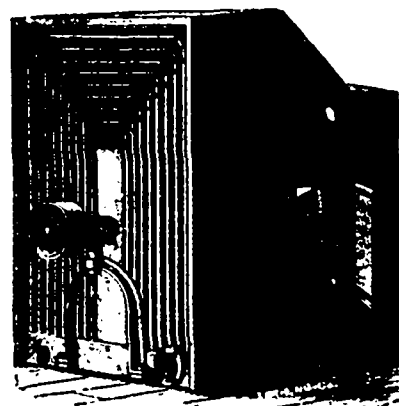
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