## SOCIETY NOTES.

The first regular meeting of the Toronto section of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers, will be held on Friday, October 21st, 1910, in the rooms of the Engineer's Club, 96 King St. West. The meeting will be called sharp at 8 p.m., for election of officers for the ensuing year. A paper on "The 110,000 volt Toronto Substation of the Hydro-Electric Power Commission of Ontario," will be presented by Mr. P. W. Sothman, chief engineer of the Commission. The paper will be illustrated with lantern slides, and following the reading of the paper, the members will visit the Substation on Strachan Avenue.

**Central Railway Club of Canada.**—After the reading of Mr. C. L. Hacket's paper, which is given on page 522 of the issue, the discussion took the form of questions on the various experimental types that certain signal inventors had tried. It was stated that so far as the interlocking system was concerned, the American railways were ahead in its use. The C.P.R. uses American standards of signaling straight through. A question was asked concerning certain forms of train signaling by electricity, or train stopping by electrical contact. Mr. Hacket, the speaker of the evening, said that although a great deal of time and money had been spent in trying to perfect an automatic system of train stopping, it had not, so far as he knew, yet been perfected. And with the exception, possibly, of the subways, elevated roads, and one or two electric lines, no such system had been successfully operated. He pointed out that this was only possible in an electrified subway, as there they did not have the outside storm and weather conditions to deal with. On a railway such a system would be subject, not only to weather conditions, but also to outside electrical conditions and transmission lines. The White Railway Signal was discussed, consisting of an electric bell at a highway crossing and a visual indication by a light. It was pointed out, however, that this was not perfect because the illumination for the light was gotten from the same source as the power for the bell, and if the bell failed, the light was gone also. The speaker believed that an oil lamp was more reliable. The general impression of the speaker and the various members was, that in spite of all the automatic appliances on the market, the human element could not be dispensed with successfully as yet.

## MARKET CONDITIONS.

Montreal, October 18th, 1910.

**Antimony.**—The market is steady at 8c. to 8¼c.

**Bar Iron and Steel.**—The market holds dull and steady. Bar iron, $1.90 per 100 pounds; best refined horseshoe, $2.15; forged iron, $2.05; mild steel, $1.95; sleigh shoe steel, $1.90 for 1 x ¼ base; tire steel, $2.00 for 1 x ¼-base; toe calk steel, $2.40; machine steel, iron finish, $2.00; imported, $2.05.

**Building Paper.**—Tar paper, 7, 10, or 16 ounces, $1.80 per 100 pounds; felt paper, $2.75 per 100 pounds; tar sheathing, 40c. per roll of 400 square feet; dry sheathing, No. 1, 30 to 40c per roll of 400 square feet; tarred year will be the largest in the history of the country. Prices on foreign fibre, 55c. per roll; dry fibre, 45c. (See Roofing; also Tar and Pitch). (164).

**Cement.**—Canadian cement is quotable, as follows, in car lots, f.o.b., Montreal:—$1.35 to $1.40 per 350-lb bbl., in 4 cotton bags, adding 10c. for each bag. Good bags re-purchased at 10c. each. Paper bags cost 2½ cents extra, or 10c. per bbl. weight.

**Chain.**—The market is unchanged, being now per 100 lbs., as follows:—¼-in., $5.30; 5-16-in., $4.70; ⅜-in., $3.90; 7-16-in., $3.65; ½-in., $3.55; 9-16-in., $3.45; ⅝-in., $3.40; ¾-in., $3.35; ⅞-in., $3.35; 1-in., $3.35.

**Coal and Coke.**—Anthracite, egg, stove or chestnut coal, $6.75 per ton, net; furnace coal, $6.50, net. Bituminous or soft coal: Run of mine, Nova Scotia coal, carload lots, basis, Montreal, $3.85 to $4 per ton; cannel coal, $9 per ton; coke, single ton, $5; large lots, special rates, approximately $4 f.o.b., cars, Montreal

**Copper.**—Prices are strong at 13¾ to 14c.

**Explosives and Accessories.**—Dynamite, 50-lb. cases, 40 per cent. proof, 15c. in single case lots, Montreal. Blasting powder, 25-lb. kegs, $2.25 per keg. Special quotations on large lots of dynamite and powder. Detonator caps, case lots, containing 5,000, 75c. per 100; broken lots, $1; electric blasting apparatus:—Batteries, 1 to 10 holes, $15; 1 to 20 holes, $25; 1 to 30 holes, $35; 1 to 40 holes, $50. Wire, leading, 1c. per foot; connecting, 10c. per lb. Fuses, platinum, single strength, per 100 fuses:—4-ft. wires, $3; 6-ft. wires, $3.54; 8-ft. wires, $4.08; 10-ft. wires, $5.

**Galvanized Iron.**—The market is steady. Prices, basis, 28-gauge, are:—Queen's Head, $4.10; Colborne Crown, $3.85; Apollo, 10¾ oz., $4.05. Add 25c. to above figures for less than case lots; 26-gauge is 25c. less than 28-gauge, American 28-gauge and English 26 are equivalents, as are American 10¾ oz., and English 28-gauge.