

THE ENGINEERS' CLUB OF TORONTO.

At the meeting of this Club, on February 2nd, J. Alex. Culverwell read a paper on "The Enlarged Erie Canal and Its Relation to Canadian Waterways," reported elsewhere. On February 25th, Captain Killaly Gamble, the new president, delivered his inaugural address, in which he referred to the opening up of the northern portions of Canada by the construction of new railways; the completion of the Pacific cable, which was of great service to the Empire; and the proposed "Trans-Isthmian" Canal. He also pointed out the importance of the boundary lines of our northern limits not being lost sight of. John S. Fielding also read a valuable paper on "Dams," which will be published in a subsequent issue.

* * *

LIGHT, HEAT, POWER, ETC.

The electric light plant, at Richibucto, N.B., is completed.

Sydney, C.B., proposes municipal ownership of a gas plant costing \$75,000.

Acton, Ont., proposes installing an electric power plant, in conjunction with the present lighting service.

Power is to be generated at Meduxnakeag, two miles from Woodstock, N.B., for the Electric Power Company of that place. C. M. Garden, C.E., has charge of the work.

The light and power service of Winnipeg, Man., comprise 14,194 incandescent, and 66 arc lamps, in addition to its street lighting service, and motors aggregating 654-h.p.

Power is to be developed at Stave Lake, B.C., for electric locomotives to run from Vancouver to New Westminster, and ultimately right through to Seattle on the Great Northern.

The Sherbrooke, Que., Heat, Light and Power Co. have refused the city's offer of \$20,000 for the gas plant. They ask \$33,000, making the total cost of the electric light and gas plants \$233,000.

Westville, N.S., is dissatisfied with its present electric light service, and will ask the Legislature to give the Intercolonial Coal Mining Co. power to light the town instead of the New Glasgow Electric Co.

What is claimed to be the biggest water-pipe in the world is being laid by the Ontario Power Company on the Canadian side of Niagara Falls. It is of steel throughout, one and one-quarter miles in length, and 60 feet in circumference. The plates are half inch, and will require 200 tons of rivets.

The Empire Power Company, of Owen Sound, Ont., has been chartered for the purpose of dealing in electricity for light, heat and power, and developing the same from water power or natural gas. Capital, \$500,000. The company includes J. M. Kilbourn, H. B. Smith, G. S. Kilbourn, of Owen Sound, and E. A. Peck, of Peterboro.

In 1901 arbitrators valued the Kingston Electric and Gas plants at \$170,373, and said the franchise, which the company claimed was worth \$80,000, was valueless. The owners refused to turn the plant over to the city, and a final appeal to the British Privy Council having been dismissed, the city will now secure the plant.

It is proposed to form a merger of the water power interests at the Chaudiere Falls, Ottawa, Ont., for the purpose of economically distributing power to each user in proportion to their holdings. Those interested are the Ottawa Electric Co., the Bronson Co., the Ottawa Investment Co., J. R. Booth, E. B. Eddy, and the Ottawa and Hull Power Companies.

In the article in last issue, headed, "Electricity and Fires," the statistics refer to the whole of the United States and not to Montreal, as stated. The article was reproduced from a Montreal paper whose correctness was assumed. As a matter of fact, only one fire traced to defective wiring was recorded in Montreal during the three months in question.

Millbrook, Ont., is agitating for a supply of light and power, which could be obtained by the rebuilding of the Lockie dam. It is said that enough contracts could be obtained to make the undertaking successful.

Tenders for electric power, for the municipal street lighting, will be received by Ald. Robert Hastey, City Hall, Ottawa, Ont., up to March 14th. A minimum of 350 electric horse-power will be required by May 1st, 1905, with the privilege of increasing to 600 horse-power. The power must be available at all hours, between dusk and daylight, throughout the year. Bonds to the amount of \$10,000 will be required from the successful tenderer in addition to \$500 deposited when tendering.

At the annual meeting of the Shawinigan Water and Power Co. the treasurer reported that the company was selling in Montreal 6,000-h.p., and at Shawinigan Falls 20,000-h.p.; that the total estimated capacity to be developed was 100,000-h.p. The successful transmission to Montreal had demonstrated the commercial feasibility of transmission within a radius of 100 miles. They had applications for large amounts of power, and anticipated extensive additions to its electrical plant during the present year. The following officers were elected: President, Hon. Robert Mackay; vice-president, J. N. Greenshields; treasurer, J. E. Aldred; directors, Hon. Robert Mackay, Thomas McDougall, Wm. MacKenzie, W. R. Warren, J. N. Greenshields, John Joyce, Denis Murphy, H. H. Melville, J. E. Aldred. It is reported that the company has in contemplation the supplying of power to the large centres of the Eastern Townships, Que.

* * *

TELEPHONE AND TELEGRAPH.

The Bell Telephone Company are installing a local system in Lacombe, Alta.

The telephone plant at Victoria, B.C., has been improved recently at a cost of \$75,000.

London, Ont., has decided to take no action in the telephone franchise matter until Toronto and Ottawa have settled the question of independent systems.

An order-in-council has been passed granting the British Yukon Railway Co. free right of way for a telephone line from White Horse and Dawson City.

The York County Council, will require the Metropolitan Railway Co. to institute a system of telephones connecting the towns and villages along their line.

Narvik, Norway, the terminus of the world's most northern railway, and within the Arctic circle, has been connected by telephone with Stockholm, Sweden, a distance of 600 miles.

The Mayor of Toronto believes the city should grant a franchise to an independent company, and give them all municipal phones in the City Hall, fire halls, hospitals, etc. This would ensure the success of a new company.

The case of the Bell Telephone Co. vs. Dr. W. W. Birdsall, Fort William, Ont., who ceased using the Bell service, the company claiming another six months' rent under their self-renewing contract, was heard in chambers recently, and dismissed with costs.

In the action of Price vs. The City of Hamilton, to quash the franchise of the Bell Telephone Co., Justice Street has dismissed the application. His Lordship found no grounds for the charge that the franchise law had been secured by corrupt methods. The decision will be appealed.

The Grand Trunk is establishing long-distance telephones on its southern division from St. Thomas to Fort Erie and Niagara Falls, and the middle division from London to Niagara Falls. The telegraph wires are used for the telephone system, without interfering with the telegraph service.

A Swedish engineer, named Orling, has invented in England, in conjunction with the Armstrong firm, a new electric capillary recorder, which will revolutionize the method of telegraphing to great distances. The system permits the placing of twenty-five instruments, side by side, giving the same effect as a single apparatus. A telegram of fifty words can be despatched in ten seconds.