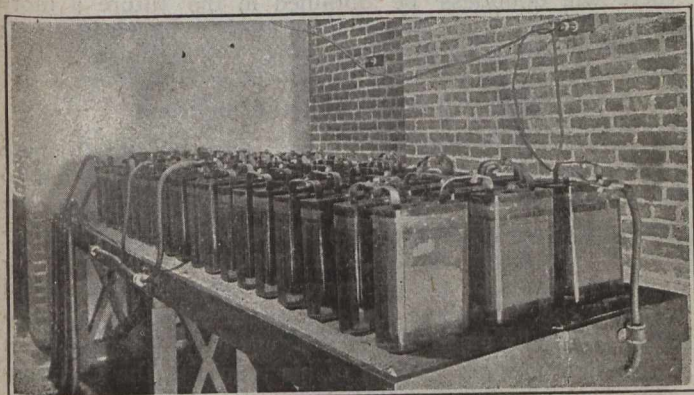


MOUNT ROYAL TUNNEL STORAGE BATTERIES

FOR working switches and for emergency lighting at such times as the regular power supply might fail, the Mount Royal Tunnel and Terminal Company, Ltd., of Montreal, have equipped the new tunnel with Titan storage batteries.

The accompanying illustration shows the installation in the west portal sub-station. The outfit consists of 64



Installation at West Portal Sub-Station

cells in glass jars, with a rated capacity of 135 ampere hours. The current requirement for switch operations is a maximum of 75 amperes for a period of four to eight seconds.

The cells were sealed and fully charged when installed. The connections were bolted, so that the installation required but little time. The batteries were furnished from stock by the Northern Electric Company, Ltd., and were working within a day after the receipt of the order.

ANNUAL MEETING OF AMERICAN SOCIETY OF MUNICIPAL IMPROVEMENTS

THE twenty-fifth annual convention of the American Society of Municipal Improvements was held October 2nd to 5th at Buffalo, N.Y., and was attended by about 175 delegates.

Among the Canadians present were A. F. Macallum, Works Commissioner of Ottawa, past-president; Chas. H. Rust, of Toronto, who is also a past-president of the society; Capt. F. A. Dallyn, of the Ontario Board of Health; R. O. Wynne-Roberts, of Toronto; R. J. McClelland, city engineer, of Kingston, Ont.; W. P. Near, city engineer, of St. Catharines, Ont.; W. A. Morris, of the Asphalt and Supply Co., Montreal; and B. E. Smith, of the Barrett Co., Toronto.

While the number of delegates in attendance at the convention was somewhat smaller than in previous years, the discussions of reports and papers was spirited.

The executive committee was given power to determine whether a convention be held in 1919 or not. If they decide to hold one, it will be in New Orleans.

Arthur Young and Co., of Chicago, have been employed by the Civil Service Commission to classify the "civil servants" in such manner that they will be entirely under the commission's control and for the purpose of giving better service to the public. The Chicago firm was engaged in the capacity of "efficiency engineers."

POLLUTION OF BOUNDARY WATERS*

By Capt. F. A. Dallyn

Provincial Sanitary Engineer for Ontario

THE keynote of the final report of the International Joint Commission relative to the Pollution of Boundary Waters seems to me to lie in a paragraph which appears under the heading, "Inadequacy of Common Law." This paragraph reads as follows:—

"When settlements had been made along our boundary waters to an extent that urban communities commenced to grow, and sewerage systems in consequence of this growth began to be installed, such was the immensity of these rivers that settlers living farther down stream probably neither noticed nor protested against the discharge into them of what was relatively an infinitesimal amount of pollution. When these communities, therefore, installed sewerage works, they took advantage of the diluting powers of the river, and resorted to the simple and inexpensive expedient of discharging into them their sewage in its raw condition. The custom of doing so has now become universal. The selfishness of vested interests, familiarity of evil conditions, which has begotten an indifference to both the doing and the suffering of wrong, an ill-directed spirit of economy averse to the assumption of financial burdens to remedy what was before regarded as an existing or potential evil to other communities, and the disinclination to change ingrained in humanity, have resulted in a situation along the frontier which is generally chaotic, everywhere perilous, and in some cases disgraceful. The common law having proved inadequate to the task of controlling affairs, it has been supplemented or superseded by legislative enactments, which in their practical workings have about as signally failed."

It is to be observed from this that the Commission was entrusted with a most delicate problem, that of suggesting the nature of the international intervention where the custom of both countries had resulted in an invasion of common law and, as a further consequence, a direct contravention of treaty obligations.

Section 7 of the conclusions of the Commission is probably the one of most vital interest to-day. This section is as follows:—

"In order to remedy and prevent the pollution of boundary waters, and to render them sanitary and suitable for domestic purposes and other uses, and to secure adequate protection and development of all interests involved on both sides of the boundary, and to fulfil the obligations . . . of the Treaty, it is advisable to confer upon the International Joint Commission ample jurisdiction to regulate and prohibit this pollution of boundary waters and waters crossing the boundary."

To appreciate fully what this recommendation involves, one is forced back to the premises from which this recommendation naturally follows. This is found in portion six of the final report, under the heading of "Limits of Permissible Pollution and Standards of Sewage Purification."

It appears to the writer that the Commission does not ask for authority to regulate as it may deem advisable—without limit—but that it recommends that some authority (itself appearing as the most natural) be clothed with power to regulate as consistent with the spirit of treaty obligations and in a manner consonant with their findings and conclusions.

Limits of Permissible Pollution

To determine the extent of remedial treatment required in each particular case would involve consideration of the varied lines that have been followed by the Commission throughout the present enquiry; the existence

*Excerpts from address delivered October 3rd, 1918, to the American Society of Municipal Improvements.