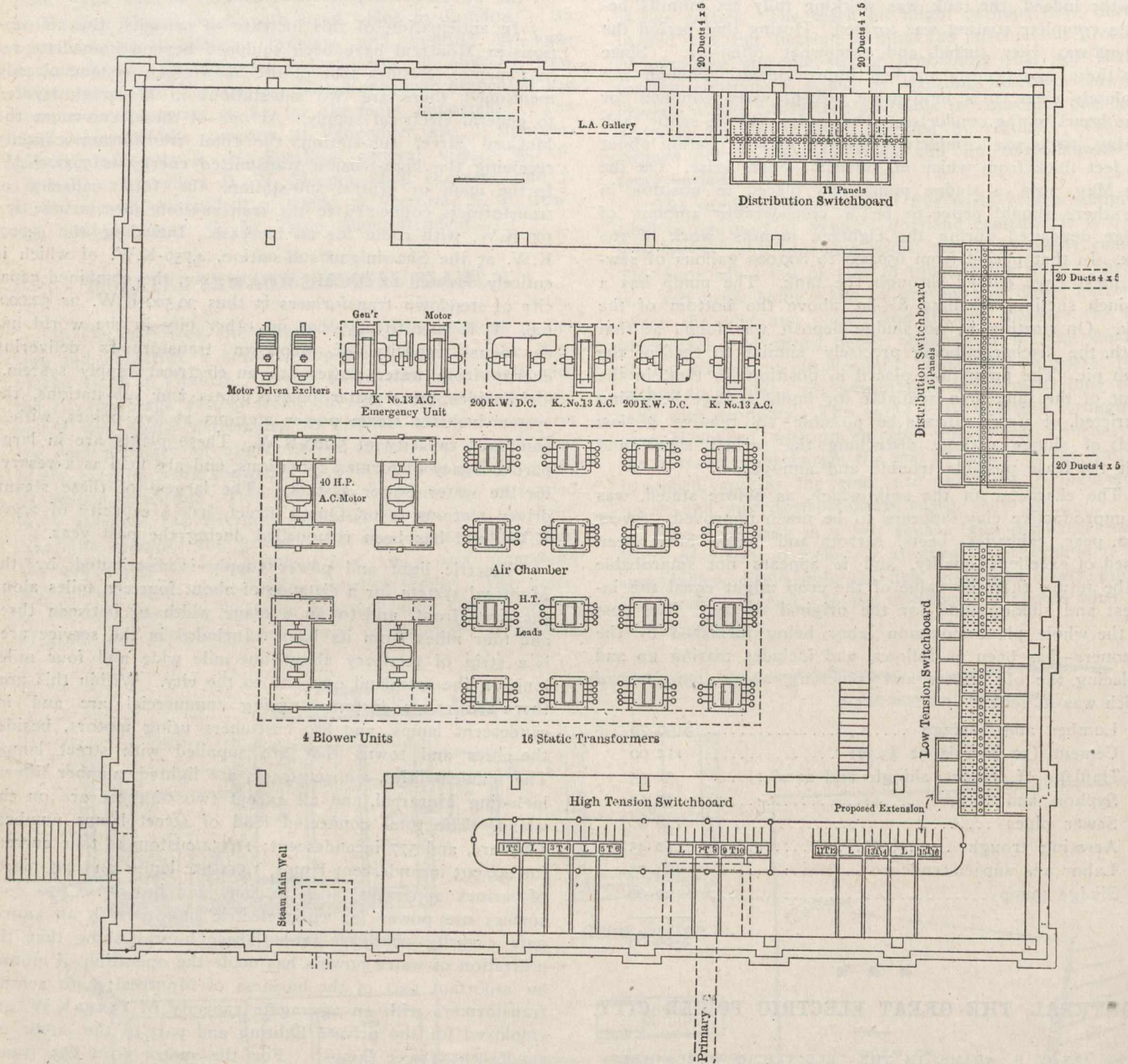


may acquire and hold the stocks and bonds of any such corporation. When this company has acquired the plant of any other company, it may exercise the charter rights and franchises of such other company. The company has also the right to construct lines under or over the public streets of any place within one hundred miles of Montreal in any direction.

Pursuant to these liberal and important powers, the Montreal Light, Heat and Power Company acquired a majority of the stock of each of the following companies: The Montreal Gas Company, the Royal Electric Company, the Montreal and St. Lawrence Light and Power Company, the Imperial Electric Light Company, Limited, the Lachine Rapids Hydraulic and Land Co., Limited, the Standard Light and Power Company, the Citizens' Light and Power Company, Limited, and the Temple Electric Company. The

companies. Direct-current arc lamps connected to the circuits of the Royal Electric Company, numbered 1,287 in the year 1890; 1,666 in 1895, and 1,859 in 1900, showing an increase of 44 per cent. during the ten years. During the same period the load of arc and incandescent lamps on the alternating-current circuits rose from an equivalent of 1,835 incandescent lamps of 16-c.p. each to an equivalent of 93,498. In other words, the load of arc and incandescent lamps on alternating circuits was 59 times as great in 1900 as it was in 1890. Direct-current motors first appeared on the circuits of the company in 1892, when their total rating was only 50-h.p., but by 1900 this capacity had risen to 1,253-h.p., or twenty-five times the rating in the earlier year. The latest factor in the electric load was the alternating-current motor, which did not appear in the returns until 1897, and was then credited with a combined rating up to 18-h.p. In 1900, the



Floor Plan of Montreal Central Station.

Montreal Light, Heat and Power Company, together with the subsidiary companies just named, controls the entire supply of gas and electrical energy in that city and its suburbs.

The Royal Electric Company, one of the before-mentioned subsidiary corporations, is the oldest of those engaged in electrical supply in Montreal, its formation dating from 1884. It would be interesting, if possible, to trace the increase of electric loads among all the companies at Montreal during the past years, but the facts are not at hand for any of these companies save the Royal Electric. Figures for the loads of this company are, however, no doubt more representative and larger than figures for any of the other

capacity in connected motors of this type reached 3,417-h.p., representing an average addition of more than 1,100-h.p. in capacity yearly. It is hard to believe that this rapid increase of electrical loads was not due in some measure to the utilization of water power, for between May 31st, 1899, and May 31st, 1900, the Royal Electric Company secured control of the hydro-electric plant at Chambly, energy from that plant was delivered at Montreal in August, 1899, and the rise of electric loads was more rapid during the year between the two dates just named than in any other of the decade. Thus, during the twelve months that ended May 31st, 1900, the increase of the Royal system of the equivalent load of 16-c.p. incandescent lamps was 14,460, and the rise of capacity