

boiler explosions have been very frequent of late, attended by great loss of life, leaving out of consideration the amount of property destroyed and the employees thrown out of work. I would ask that this question now receive your most careful attention, and that a joint committee of the O.A.S.E. and C.A.S.E. be appointed at an early date to draft a workable measure, such as will comply with the interests of engineers and steam users at large. I do not hesitate to say that the steam users of this province are beginning to realize that the aim of the O.A.S.E. and the C.A.S.E. is to place before them a class of men capable of handling modern steam plants on a safe and economical basis, a not unimportant matter in these days of close manufacturing competition. The above mentioned societies are striving, to-day, to make better, more careful and more intelligent engineers of their members, and I trust that every success may attend them in all directions. I desire to see the engineers of this province, wherever a sufficient number can be brought together, take steps for forming local associations, with the view of acquiring mutual instruction and improvement.

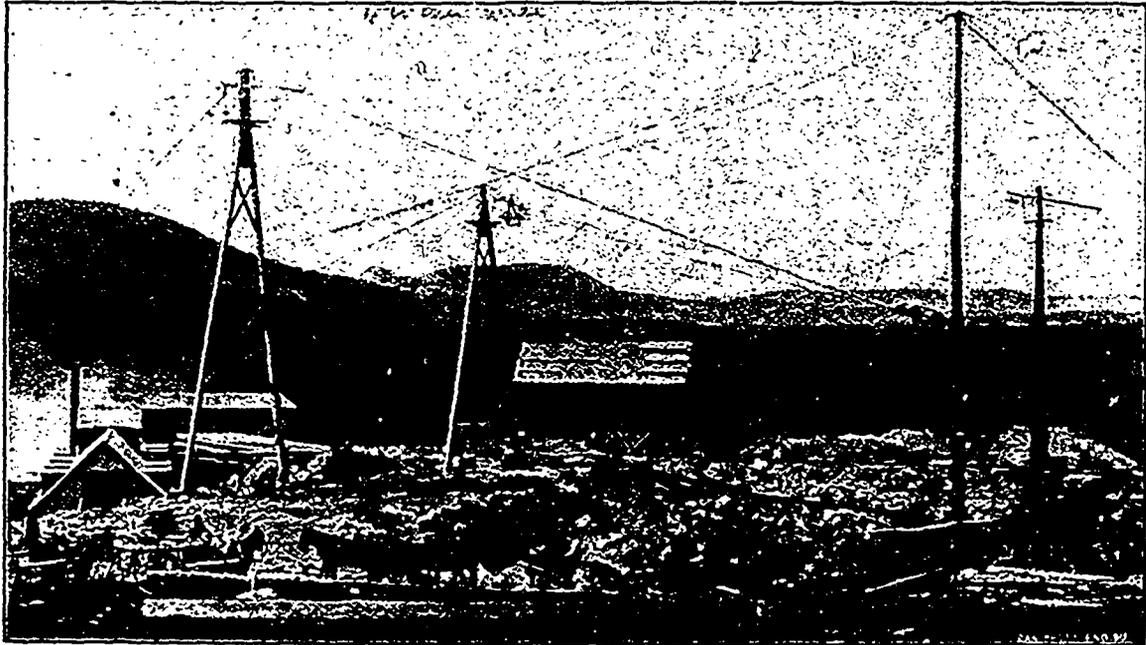
"I am pleased to state that no one complaint has reached me from any source whatever, as regards misconduct, intemperance or incompetency. I will also ask you to consider the advisability of changing our present date of meeting to the 24th of May, as it will afford a greater number of those interested an opportunity of attending. In conclusion, I ask your earnest and undivided attention to the business that may be brought before you, and to refrain from useless and needless discussion, that all the questions may be disposed of in the limited time at our disposal."

#### A NEW PRODUCT OF ASBESTOS ROCK.

A year ago last May the Jeffrey asbestos mine, one of the oldest and largest in the asbestos region of Quebec, stood idle, and the adjoining village of Asbestos, which depended upon the mining operations, wore a deserted look, and its population was reduced to 300 or 400. To-day, owing chiefly to the enterprise and adminis-

so far proved itself vastly superior in every point to any lime and sand plaster. Being of asbestos, it is, in the first place, incombustible, while its reputed non-conducting properties make it a warmer material for winter; it is lighter by a larger percentage than sand plaster; it is very elastic and will not crack with age or by the settlement of walls; its adhesive properties are remarkable, and finally its adaptability for walls or piping subject to exposure to extremes of heat and cold, may be naturally inferred from the nature of asbestos itself. Any one of these points of superiority would give it a place in the commercial world, but when all these points are combined in one article and when the raw material of the article itself is recovered from what has hitherto been carted to the waste heap, it will be seen that asbestic wall plaster is a new creation. The asbestic wall plaster sticks to tin, sheet iron or other metal almost like glue, and a sample the writer saw on a hot air pipe was subjected to an amount of pounding and bending which would have broken ordinary plaster into fragments. Thos. Curran, of New York, in a report made on asbestic, says it is also a non-conductor of sound, and adds these remarks: "As we know asbestos is fireproof, it is not necessary to say anything further on that point. It is a non-conductor of sound; it will not crumble and there is an immense saving in working it." Such firms as F. Hyde & Co., Alex. Bremner, W. & F. P. Currie & Co., P. Lyall and Thos. Pringle & Son, of Montreal, have made tests of the asbestic wall plaster, and not only endorse most of the claims for it, but predict that it will revolutionize the plaster trade. It is produced in two grades known as "rough" and "finish." The former, when applied to walls, will be of the nature of asbestos felt board, and the latter, which is pure asbestos fibre of great fineness, gives a beautiful and marbly finish to the plaster. It is said that while the cost of asbestic plaster does not exceed that of good lime and sand, its covering capacity is far greater than ordinary plaster.

The following are the directions for use: For Roughing Coat.—Slack one barrel of lime, and while liquid run through a sieve



THE JEFFREY MINE—NOW OWNED BY THE DANVILLE ASBESTOS AND SLATE CO.

trative genius of Feodor Boas, of St. Hyacinthe, the old mines are not only in active operation, but the village has more than doubled in population within the year—being now 900—and an entirely new industry has been created in addition to the work formerly carried on here. If he is a benefactor to his race who causes two blades of grass to grow where only one grew before, Mr. Boas will surely be known as a benefactor to Canada, and more particularly to Quebec, in an eminent degree; for the new industry which Mr. Boas has introduced will utilize millions of tons of asbestos rock which has heretofore been counted waste, and will bring into commerce an article of great importance in the construction trades. By a series of experiments it was found that the sections of asbestos rock lying between the layers of fibre were themselves reducible in part to a fine fibrous pulp, which can be made into a wall plaster. This wall plaster—to which the Danville Asbestos & Slate Co., of which Mr. Boas is the head, have given the very apt name of "Asbestic wall plaster"—has been applied to walls and to various surfaces of metal, etc., under varying conditions of temperature and exposure, and under each condition it has

into a box large enough to hold one ton (20 bags) asbestic rough. Mix thoroughly, adding the requisite amount of water. Grounds should not be more than  $\frac{3}{8}$  inch on lath and  $\frac{1}{4}$  on brick.

After the lime and asbestic is thoroughly mixed, it is best to allow it to stand at least 24 hours before being used.

For Finishing Coat.—Mix one part of lime to two of asbestic finish, and gauge with plaster of Paris for harder finish. Owing to the adhesiveness of the material the darby should be covered with zinc.

A representative of THE CANADIAN ENGINEER visited the mines and works a few days ago and was much impressed with the work being carried on by this enterprising company, which has a capital of \$250,000, and the chief shareholders in which are Feodor Boas, Maritz Boas, of St. Hyacinthe; J. N. Greenshields, of Montreal, and the H. W. Johns Manufacturing Company, of New York. The last-named company are among the largest manufacturers of asbestos fibre in the world. When the asbestos trade became depressed a few years ago, the product of the Jeffrey mine—which was the first or one of the first opened in Quebec about 25 years