

# ELECTRICAL MECHANICAL AND MILLING NEWS

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**ELECTRICAL, Mechanical and Milling News,**  
PUBLISHED ON THE FIRST OF EACH MONTH BY  
**CHAS. H. MORTIMER,**  
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**EDITOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS.**  
Correspondence is invited upon all topics pertinent to the electrical, mechanical and milling interests.

That at Ottawa an admirable sheathing paper is being manufactured from sawdust. Saw mill men will be glad to see the rise of many such factories, and the introduction of any other method of turning profit to account the 20 per cent. of waste which the sawdust pile at present represents.

In our last issue we pointed out the opening in Canada for a manufactory of carbons. We are pleased to learn that during the last month Chicago companies have completed arrangements for establishing such a factory at Peterborough. The new concern is expected to be in operation in February.

English exchanges give particulars of a strike of millers, the peculiarity of which in the United States is its spasmodic character, but which seems to be well sustained and gathering strength. It is thought that this may possibly compel some action to be taken at the forthcoming session of Parliament.

In our purpose to maintain for this year a high standard of typographical excellence, the ELECTRICAL, MECHANICAL AND MILLING NEWS for the new year improved in appearance as the result of the use of an outfit of new type. We would be instrumental in helping our subscribers to the use of spectacles to the latest date possible.

The *Chicago Tribune* would make a hero of James G. Thompson, the telegraph operator who perished in the fire in the *Tribune* building at Minneapolis. It would serve no important purpose by remaining in the building beyond the time when he might have escaped, his conduct appears foolhardy rather than heroic, especially when it is known that a wife and children were dependent upon him for support.

THE death of Mr. Bull is announced at Minneapolis. We have been wondering whether this is the gentleman who had a hand in inducing Canadian millers to pay \$1.20 per bushel for wheat a year ago that they have since found out was worth considerably less than a dollar. If so, it may be some consolation to his friends to know that he is beyond the reach of the Canadian miller's wrath.

IN England and the United States there are a number of electrical institutes, associations and clubs, the existence of which has done not a little to stimulate electrical interests and inventions. The number of persons interested in the various applications of electricity throughout Canada, should now be sufficient to make the organization of a Canadian electrical society both possible and profitable. Who will be first to move for the accomplishment of this object?

THE electrical transmission of power is daily assuming more importance. The present outlook is one of great promise. The use of electric motors is to-day large and widespread. Motors can be found in all parts of Canada on both arc and incandescent circuits, doing various kinds of work, and not only is the quantity of power delivered on the increase, but the motors themselves are becoming larger and larger, until now a motor of 15 or 25 horse power, or even more, running from a central station, is no longer a matter for special comment.

MR. Geo. Robertson, late vice-president of the St. John Board of Trade, is addressing the Boards of Trade of the various cities throughout the upper provinces on the subject of increased trade with the West Indies. He states that Canadian cotton, flour and other products would find a market in the West Indies, while if Canadian millers would desire it, the West Indian Steamship Company would pass their representative for the first trip to and from the islands, and the same offer would hold good to the representative of any other important industry.

MR. Thos. A. Edison, the well-known electrical inventor, has been examining the Canadian iron, copper and phosphate mines, with a view to their development by his new electrical invention, which it is claimed will at a moderate cost extract these minerals and place them upon the market. Mr. Edison, in an interview, stated that his invention would extract 12 per cent. ore with profit, and that he had been surprised to find that mines of such richness as those in the vicinity of Madoc containing, as they do, at least 65 per cent. of mineral, had not been developed long ago.

AT no time during the past five years has there been a greater activity in the electric lighting field than prevails to-day, but the industry is still in the early stages of growth, as a department offering legitimate and lucrative employment for capital. What we mean is, that there is very little left of the early speculative fever, and that the erection of new plants and consolidation of old ones, occupies the energy of all the leaders in the business. There were periods when it looked as if the scrambling and gambling would utterly wreck the business, but it was pulled through depression and disaster by its own inherent vitality, and stands now one of the most inviting arenas for brains, labour and money to enter.

THE citizens of Toronto have reason to complain of the expensiveness and lack of efficiency of the telephone service of that city. The cost of a telephone

in Toronto, where one company controls the service, is \$50 per year. In Montreal, where the service is divided between two rival companies, the price is exactly half this amount. From this fact must be inferred that the profits of the Toronto company are abnormally large, and consequently that the citizens are paying about double the proper price. Added to this disadvantage is the fact that the service, as compared with that of Montreal, for instance, is most inefficient. In this connection, we are informed that a rival company will shortly enter the Toronto field. Its advent will assuredly be hailed with delight by the thousands of telephone users of the city.

A WELL-KNOWN farmer named J. K. Little, in a conversation with a reporter at London, Ont., is credited with having said: "I brought a load of wheat to the city this morning and sold it to Mr. Hunt. His tester made the weight 57 lbs. I took a sample to Mr. Plewes, who declared it 60 lb. wheat. I then went to Mr. Saunby, and his apparatus told 59 lbs. I make this statement on my own responsibility, and it just goes to show how much reliance can be placed on the grain-testers. Both Mr. Saunby and Mr. Hunt used the regulation Government tester." We would suggest that the officers of the Dominion Millers' Association should personally investigate these complaints of farmers regarding the unreliability of grain testers. The millers are as much interested as the farmers in knowing that every tester bearing the Government stamp has been correctly adjusted, and may be depended on to show a just record. The testers having undergone inspection at the hands of Government inspectors, should be reliable. If they are not reliable, the inspectors have not properly discharged their duty, and the Government should be made aware of the fact. If the machines are capable of making a wrong record, disadvantage is as liable to result to the miller who buys the wheat as to the farmer who sells it. Let a comparison be made between a sufficient number of these testers to prove their reliability or otherwise.

WE believe that we are correct in saying that not a single death has thus far occurred in Canada from contact with electrical currents. This fact speaks well for the character of the electrical work done on the streets of our towns and cities, and the care exercised by those in whose hands is the management of electric lighting. The interests of our electrical companies are closely connected with the maintenance of such a satisfactory record. It should be the object of all interested in the successful applications of electricity to insure in every way possible against the possibility of danger from its use. The superiority of electricity above any other illuminant is so great, that nothing can prevent it from ultimately coming into general use. This result might, however, be considerably retarded should the electrical companies neglect to throw every possible safeguard around its use. Much injury has in our opinion been done electrical interests in the United States by the attempts of some of the electrical journals to pool-pool the statements of those who complain of the dangers of the electric currents. It would be far more sensible on the part of these journals to frankly admit that high-tension electric wires are dangerous unless properly protected, and to suggest that the electric companies should set themselves to assist in devising methods for removing the existence of such danger. In Toronto recently a deputation of underwriters waited upon the Mayor to urge that legislation be obtained empowering the Council to compel the electric companies operating within the city to limit the voltage of currents passing through their wires, and the appointment of an inspector to see that the insulation of the