

C.P.R. in the building of its Bassano-Swift Current line. This line is now complete from Bassano to Saskatchewan River, a distance of 125 miles. Track laying was started on March 1 last and was completed on May 15. In the last three days 12 miles of track were laid, 6 of these being done on the last day. The rails used are 85 pounds, and in the construction of the line, 2,900 ties to the mile were used. There are also 15 miles of passing and side tracks in the 125 miles completed.

Calgary, Alta.—No remaining doubt is now held concerning the commercial value of the oil which has been struck at the well of the Calgary Petroleum Produce Company near Black Diamond, and about 40 miles south-west of Calgary. The latest reports show that the fluid is almost pure gasoline, and that there were 500 feet of oil in the well, when it had reached a depth of 2,718 feet. Moreover, it is reported that on May 20, oil spouted from the Dingman well fully 90 feet into the air, and that after baling for more than four hours, there was no perceptible decrease in the height of the oil in the pipe, which remained at 2,000 feet. It is now estimated that within the next 60 days, drilling on about 100 wells will be commenced.

Victoria, B.C.—The decision has been announced from Ottawa that the new Government telescope, which is to be the largest in the world, and which is to cost \$90,000, will be erected at Victoria, B.C. The instrument will be placed at the summit of Little Saanich Mountain, 7 miles from Victoria. Atmospheric conditions at Victoria have been found to be almost ideal for observation purposes. Tests at various places throughout Canada were made, but the decision was in favor of Vancouver Island. The new telescope has a reflecting lens of 72 inches and is 30 feet long. It weighs 8 tons, while the moving apparatus weighs 40 tons. The telescope costs \$90,000 and the cost of the whole plant will be \$200,000. The telescope and observatory were designed by Dr. Plaskett, of the Observatory Staff at Ottawa.

Regina, Sask.—In August a new 3,000 k.w. electric light unit will arrive at Regina to be installed at the new power house, and will give sufficient equipment in the two power houses to handle double the city's load, and to ward off inconvenience to consumers in case of a breakdown. The new machine will have twice the capacity of any of the units at present installed; though in appearance it will not be very much larger than the 1,500 k.w. units. The consumption of electric energy is increasing very rapidly, and at the present rate of increase the new machine will be needed for constant use soon after it is installed. Wilson and Wilson, who were awarded the contract for the completion of the new power house, are assembling machines on the ground, and it is expected that actual construction work will be under way this week.

Vancouver, B.C.—As proposed by H. J. Kaiser, a contractor on one of the city's paving works, a new pavement, which may take the place of macadam on Vancouver's streets, will be laid on a section of Fourteenth Avenue. It is a bituminous mixture 5 inches in thickness made up of sand and gravel, bound together with bitumen. There is no concrete base, but the mixture is laid on the surface of the ground and rolled smooth. It will cost \$1.35 a square yard as compared with 90 cents to \$1 for macadam. The pavement will be guaranteed for five years, and it is believed may last twice that time; and it is declared that the extra cost will be more than saved in the lower expense of maintenance. It is stated that this pavement has been used extensively in United States cities.

Victoria, B.C.—The Burrard Engineering Company, of Vancouver, to which has been let the contract for the fabrication and laying of the pipe in connection with the Sooke Lake waterworks system, has secured the pipemaking plant of the

Westholme Lumber Company at Thetis Cove, Esquimalt Harbor, and will use this for the fabrication of the pipe. The company expects to be in a position to deliver pipe in about two or three weeks; and, so that no delay may be encountered when the pipe is ready, within the next week or 10 days the city will commence work on the excavation of the 10-mile trench in which the steel pressure pipe will be laid from Humpback Reservoir to the city. With the commencement of the laying of the reinforced concrete pipe along the section from Sooke Lake to Cooper's Cove, and a start on the laying of the steel pipe line from the reservoir to the city, the operations on the waterworks system for Greater Victoria will enter its final stage. The city will soon complete its work and there will be nothing in the way of the pipe line contractors pushing ahead their part of the contract.

Vancouver, B.C.—Tracklaying has been commenced on the extension of the P.G.E. Railway from Dundarave to Horseshoe Bay, and it is expected to have the line completed to the Howe Sound end early in June. The section is to be ready for operation by July 1. The railway company, in order to expedite operation on the Dundarave-Horseshoe Bay portion of the route, is building bridges in advance of the tracklayers. This involves greater expense in transporting materials; for timbers and steel have to be floated on rafts to the different bridge sites. Additional orders have just been placed by the P.G.E. for gasoline locomotives and rails. Two heavy engines of the consolidated type have been purchased from the Canadian Locomotive Works of Kingston, Ont., and three large passenger coaches have been bought. The company already had previous to these orders two locomotives on order and four in service. Sufficient steel to lay more than 300 miles of track has been ordered from the Algoma Steel Co. of Sault Ste. Marie, for delivery during the present year and up to the end of 1915. These consignments will aggregate between 30,000 and 40,000 tons. Contractors are now preparing to start active construction operations on the sections south of Fort George and north of Clinton; and a number of subcontracts are expected to be let at an early date for other portions of the line.

Regina, Sask.—In addition to many large buildings to be erected at Regina, the city has this year entered upon a programme of local improvement work which will require an expenditure of \$2,033,264.03. The works and the expenditures estimated are as follows: waterworks general, \$360,000; water main extension, \$127,752; domestic sewer extensions, \$142,145.23; storm sewers, \$170,000; sewage disposal works, \$61,520; street railway extensions, \$250,000; pavement, \$452,946.80; sidewalks, \$65,000; and electric light and power, \$404,000. Some of the many large buildings which at present are either under construction or are proposed to be erected at Regina, are given as follows, together with their estimated costs: G.T.P. Railway hotel, \$1,000,000; G.T.P. station, laundry, train sheds, power house and tunnel, \$1,000,000; Methodist College, towers and residence, \$125,000; Rose theatre, \$50,000; two business blocks, \$75,000; Dominion Government buildings, \$225,000; Campbell, Wilson and Strathdee warehouse, \$112,000; General Hospital addition, \$75,000; police station, \$180,000; power house, \$450,000; Woolworth's stores, \$50,000; Nurses' Home, between \$80,000 and \$90,000; Metal, Shingle and Siding Co.'s building, \$50,000; Oak Lake Milling Co.'s mill, \$300,000; Regina incinerator (now completed), \$65,000; Presbyterian College, \$1,000,000; Merrill and Gardner block, \$20,000; and Swartznell block, \$30,000. It is stated also that the Roman Catholic Church will erect a college at Regina, and that construction will likely commence this year. Moreover, many large apartment blocks, and other buildings to cost less than \$50,000, will be erected this year in this city.