

SPARKS.

The town of Coaticook, Que., will shortly be lighted by electricity.

Mr. J. E. Saucier is fitting up an electric lighting system at Kamloops, B. C.

The Royal Electric Light Co. has just placed new engines in their station at London, Ont.

An international electrical exhibition is to take place in Frankfort-on-Main during the summer of 1891.

The city of New Westminster, B. C., expended last year on electric light works and apparatus the sum of \$32,000.

The town of Milton, Ont., has arranged with the Ball Electric Light Co. for the purchase of an electric plant for street lighting.

A franchise for electric lighting has been granted a company at Prince Albert, N. W. T. The plant is being got ready for operation.

The contract for furnishing 13,000 ties for the proposed Ottawa electric street railway has been awarded to the Rathbun Co., of Deseronto.

A heavy storm of sleet caused a considerable amount of damage to the telephone, telegraph, and electric light wires in St. John, N. B., and vicinity on Jan. 18th.

A 400 horse power compound condensing engine has been constructed by the Albion Iron Works Co., of Victoria, B. C., for the Electric Tramway Co. of that city.

The Edison General Electric Co. is offering for sale its manufacturing premises at Sherbrooke, Que., in view of the intention to remove to the new works at Peterboro' in the spring.

The first electric passenger elevator to be manufactured and operated in Canada is being placed in the Sun Life Assurance Bldg. at Montreal by Messrs. Miller Bros. & Toms, of that city.

The Victoria Electric and Illuminating Co., of Victoria, B. C., has been re-organized with increased capital. A new board of directors has been appointed, with Mr. M. Hutcheson as superintendent.

Experiments are said to have proved that where electric lights have been used in place of oil lamps for lighting the compasses of vessels at night, an incandescent lamp brought close to the compass caused a deflection of the needle.

It is understood to be the intention of Messrs. Patterson & Corbin, manufacturers of electric street cars at St. Catharines, to remove their works from that place, and the city of Hamilton is spoken of as likely to be their new location.

Electricity, the temperature of feed water and the strength of boilers were subjects upon which interesting discussions took place at the last regular meeting of Toronto branch No. 1 of the Canadian Association of Stationary Engineers.

On the 18th January a fire broke out in Messrs. Weir & Weir's flax mill at St. Mary's, Ont., in which is located the electric machinery for lighting the town. Considerable damage was done, but fortunately the lighting plant was saved almost without injury.

An employee of an electric light company was injured while in the performance of his duty. He was engaged in trimming lamps upon a circuit which, under the rules of the company, should have been dead at the time he was working upon it. As a matter of fact it had come in contact, at a point where the insulation was weak, with a live circuit, and had become charged. It would unquestionably have been negligent for a company to turn a current of electricity into the circuit on which he was at work without notifying him of the fact, and it was equally negligent to permit the circuit to become charged by failing to exercise proper precautions as to the crossing of wires and the insulation; and whether the company or its officers actually knew of such defect or not, the company is bound by the effect of its own neglect, and is liable in damages to a workman so injured. This decision was rendered in the case of Kraats vs. Brush Electric Light Co., in the Supreme Court of Michigan.

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