

ed a marked increase over those of the previous year.

SMITH'S FALLS, RIDEAU & SOUTHERN RY.—The Kingston News says a contract has been let to a U.S. Co. to build this line as a 3rd rail single track electric road for \$8,000 a mile. The charter granted by the Ontario Legislature fixed the capital stock at \$300,000. Power is given to issue bonds to \$14,000 per mile of road. The Co. is empowered to construct a single or double track in the town of Smith's Falls & thence through the townships of S. Emsley, S. Burgess, Bastard, S. Crosby & Kitley, to the villages of Portland, Jones' Falls & Toledo, county of Leeds; also through the townships of Montague, county of Lanark; Wolford, Oxford & Augusta, county of Grenville, & the villages of Merrickville, Oxford Mills & North Augusta, county of Grenville. The road to be worked by steam or electricity, as they may elect. The line will run over all the paying ground of the Kingston, Smith's Falls & Ottawa Ry.

Up to the time of going to press we have been unable to verify the statement as to the letting of a contract for construction. A Smith's Falls correspondent says nothing has been done further than to obtain the charter, & that he does not think a board of directors has been appointed.

TORONTO RAILWAY CO.—The gross earnings for the first four months of 1897 & 1898 are as follows:

	1897	1898	Increase.
Jan'y.....	\$74,545.55	\$86,562.36	\$12,016.81
Feb'y.....	69,744.61	82,402.19	12,657.58
March....	78,891.45	92,818.12	13,426.67
April.....	73,756.38	86,898.83	13,142.45

TORONTO, METROPOLITAN & MIMICO COS.—The charge of infringing the Lord's Day Act, laid against the Metropolitan St. Ry. Co., running from North Toronto to Richmond Hill, came up in Toronto recently. It was stated on behalf of the Crown that the railway had promised to run no more cars on Sunday, & the charge was withdrawn. A similar charge against the Mimico St. Ry. Co. will, however, be gone on with.

WALKERTON TO FLESHERTON.—Mr. McNamara, of Goderich, has received a letter regarding the Hurontario Electric Ry., which states there is still hopes of securing the construction of a railway from Walkerton to Flesherton.

Quebec Lines.

HULL ELECTRIC RY.—A bill to incorporate the Ontario & Quebec Bridge Co. recently was defeated in the Railway Committee of the House of Commons by 35 to 61. The proposed company asked power to bridge the Ottawa River from the foot of Bank St., Ottawa, to Ottawa St., in Hull. The promoter was the Hull Electric Ry., whose line extends to Aylmer, Que., where it connects with the Pontiac & Pacific Ry. These lines have no entrance into Ottawa, & were trying to secure such by means of the bridge, for which they did not ask any subsidy.

ST. ALPHONSE.—It is reported that A. Tremblay & Bro., of Herbertville, have purchased property at St. Alphonse with a view of constructing an electric railway there.

THE MONTREAL PARK & ISLAND RY. will make a number of improvements to its service during the summer in response to the marked appreciation of its efforts to meet the requirements of the suburban section of the population as well as the large number of people who use the cars in summer to secure an outing at a reasonable cost. A 15 minute service will be given on Saturdays & Sundays to the cemeteries. Fifteen open cars are under construction & will be put into service almost at once. Twenty motor cars are being equipped with strong, high speed motors, so that

the cars can be run at a speed of 25 miles an hour, including stops. The road bed will be improved so that the cars can be run at that speed with the greatest safety. Family book tickets containing 50 tickets for \$3.50, good on all the lines, will be issued.

MONTREAL STREET RY. CO.—The earnings for April amounted to \$110,819.37, & for the past 7 months to \$778,615.20. The returns are far ahead of the earnings a year ago, in fact, the increase for the 7 months being \$73,510.20. The average daily earnings during that period amounted to \$3,672.72, & the average daily increase is \$346.85. The figures in detail are as follows:

Month.	1897.	1896.	Inc.
Oct....	\$116,293.09	\$109,110.38	\$7,182.71
Nov....	110,929.60	100,818.57	10,111.03
Dec....	113,128.91	103,116.02	10,012.89
	1898.	1897.	
Jan....	110,140.83	99,620.55	10,520.28
Feb....	102,625.49	89,951.08	12,673.81
March...	114,677.91	99,441.87	15,236.04
April...	110,819.37	103,045.93	7,773.44
	\$778,615.20	\$705,105.00	\$73,510.20

The appeals of the M. St. Ry. Co. from the judgment of the Superior Court, awarding Mr. Jacquemin \$300 for injuries resulting from being struck by a street car while crossing Craig St., in 1895, & Miss Chartier damages for injuries resulting from a similar accident on Notre Dame St., have been dismissed by the Court of Appeal, the decision in each case being based upon the violation by the Co.'s employees of the city by-law ordering that the speed of the cars must never exceed 8 miles an hour, & that at all street crossings cars must be slowed up to the pace of a horse walking. The court held that as long as this by-law remained in force it would have to be observed, & the Co. will have to be held responsible for all damages & accidents resulting from its violation.

The M. St. Ry. Co. recently sued the Montreal Park & Island Ry. Co. to recover \$5,756, the amount of the loss sustained by the burning of the former Co.'s cars at the Exhibition grounds. These cars had been leased & the question to decide was whether the contract covered the loss by fire. The court held it did not. The Park & Island Co., by the contract, was only responsible for ordinary wear & tear & not for damages caused by fire when it had been shown, especially, that the fire had not originated in the premises occupied by it.

In October last the city of Montreal, through its engineer, Mr. St. George, made a complaint against G. H. Wood, a foreman in the employ of the St. Ry. Co., for tearing up the streets without authority. The Co. was laying some tracks on St. Lawrence St., & Mr. St. George claimed that it was tearing up the streets more than 6 inches from the rails, & was consequently damaging the city's property. The Recorder recently dismissed the action, on the ground that the city had failed to prove that the Co. had damaged the asphalt on that part of the street which was under the care of the city.

Judge Mathieu recently awarded Dr. Leprohon \$150, the full amount of his action against the M. St. Ry. Co. In Feb. last Dr. Leprohon got on a Notre Dame St. car. The car was crowded & there was not even a strap left by which he could support himself. Accordingly he caught hold of the side of the car door. Suddenly, without warning, the conductor shut the sliding door violently, catching the hand of the doctor, whose thumb got such a bad bruising that it has been useless since. Dr. Leprohon has since been unable to write or to dress himself unaided, & he instituted the action for compensation for the expense to which he had been put & the suffering which he had been caused. The Co.

did not appear, & the court rendered judgment as above.

The M. St. Ry. Co. has determined to construct the much talked of Cote des Neiges line, & the management is only waiting the return of Jas. Ross from England to commence operations. It is expected that Mr. Ross will be in Montreal by May 15. The new line will not go up the main road, but will pass by the gorge in the rear of the Seminary wall, which the Co. claims is the natural outlet of the road. The work of extending the Wellington St. line to Verdun will also be begun, & will be pushed forward rapidly. The ties & iron are already on the ground, & the grading & construction of the electric system is all that is required. An official stated that the fare would be 5c., as in all routes controlled by the Co.

The management is considering the remodeling of the street signs on the cars, so as to make them shorter & more easily to be understood by the public. Thus it is proposed to cut down the St. Denis St. car sign to "St. Denis to St. Henri," & so all along the line.

In our last issue it was stated that the M. St. Ry. Co. had invited tenders for the advertising privileges in its cars. The contract has been given to the Dominion Ry. Advertising Co., Montreal.

It is understood the M. St. Ry. Co. has closed with the Intercolonial Coal Co. for its year's requirements of slack coal, about 30,000 tons.

Over 100 more men are employed this year by the M. St. Ry., as it has 250 open cars & trailers as against 200 last year.

The M. St. Ry. is preparing for the construction of its tracks upon Common Street. The rails have been strung along the sides of the streets & the feed wires are being placed on the telegraph poles. The route will be extremely short at present, embracing McGill, Common east to St. Peter, up St. Peter to Youville, & along this street to McGill again.

The by-law authorizing the agreement with the M. St. Ry. Co. was voted on at Verdun May 9, when 83 proprietors, representing \$193,033.98, voted in approval of an immediate street railway service, & only 6, representing \$36,350, voted contrary. The by-law was therefore affirmed. The rails & other material for the extension through Verdun & up Frontenac street to the eastern abattoir are on the ground, & the work of construction is to be begun at once.

The Birmingham Tramway.

At the 1st annual meeting of the City of Birmingham Tramway, recently held in Birmingham, Jas. Ross, of Montreal, presiding, a dividend of 5% on the ordinary shares of the Co. was declared. This is the system which Messrs. Ross & McKenzie acquired an interest in a couple of years ago under an agreement with the City Corporation for the conversion of the road to electricity. The agreement between Ross & McKenzie & the city authorities was for an underground conduit system for about 10 miles in length in the central business portion of the city & an overhead system for the other districts. Acting under this agreement Ross & McKenzie organized a company, but it developed during the discussion which took place at this meeting that the City Corporation, after a deputation had made a tour of the continental cities, reported against allowing any overhead wires to be erected, & the Council adopted the report. The Co. claims the right under the agreement to construct a partial overhead system, & the question remains in abeyance.