SPARKS.

During 1895 electric lines in Europe increased in number from 70 to 111, with a total length of 560 miles.

The shareholders of the Hamilton, Grimsby and Beamsville Railway have decided to extend the line to Grimby, to be completed by 1st November of this year.

The Lake Superior Power Company, of Sault Ste. Marie, Ont., will go extensively into the production of calcium carbide, the substance from which the new acetylene gas is manufactured.

Mr. B. B. Osler, Q.C., president of the Hamilton & Dundas Railway Company, has under consideration the question of changing the road to an electric line. It is said to be the intention of the company to commence operations as soon as Mr. Mackenzie returns from England. The estimated cost of changing the system is placed at \$50,000.

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Mr. Hugh Neilson, chief electrician of the Bell Telephone Company, was in Quebec recently to report on the construction of a telephone line from Quebec to the Island of Orleans. In company with Mr. Dauphin, local manager at Quebec, he examined the site for the cable, from L'Auge Gardien to St. Pierre, and will, it is said, report favorably to the company.

A dispatch from New York dated June 30th says: The contract for the entire development of 20,000 horse power on the Richelieu river, the outlet of Lake Champlain, has been let to the Stilwell-Bierce & Smith-Vaile Company, of Dayton, Ohio, for \$550,000, the electric machinery not being included. This power is to be carried to Montreal by wire and electrically distributed, the distance being about twelve miles. This is the second electric water power development in Montreal, the first being for 12,000 horse-power at the Lachine rapids, five miles above the city, in the St. Lawrence river, for which the Dayton company also have the contract. The investment in both powers will be about \$3,500,000, all subscribed for by Montreal capitalists.

The Cornwall Electric Street Railway Company formally opened their line on June 30th. The main line down Pitt street, the belt line to the East Ward, via Second, Marlboro' and Water streets, and the line down the front road to the St. Lawrence Park on Gillespie's Point, have been completed, making in all about five miles of track. The line to the Toronto Paper Company's mills in the western suburbs, Smithville, and the branches to the textile mills, remain yet to complete. The plant is up-to-date in every respect. The care, which are of the latest models, were built in Deseronto, and the machinery was put in by the Canadian General Electric Company. The Street Railway Company have purchased Gillespie's Point, a short distance below the town, and have fitted it up in an elaborate style as a pleasure resort, to be known as St. Lawrence Park.

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