

eleven cents per foot; some had been sold at \$35 per ton. Wire was worth nine or ten cents a pound when taken down. Poles taken down found little market, and would be worth from 25 cents to \$2, according to size.

Expert evidence was also submitted by Messrs. W. Bamfield, of Pittsburg, formerly manager of the Pennsylvania Telephone Company, Jno. C. Reilly, general superintendent of the New York and New Jersey Telephone Company, and others, the case occupying several days. The decision of the court was in favor of the Bell Telephone Company, the assessment being reduced to \$102,550, made up as follows: Poles, wires and conduits, \$53,900; Temperance street switchboard, \$12,000; Yorkville avenue and Parkdale switchboards, \$3,900; land and buildings, \$32,750.

The court found as follows: "The wooden poles are valued at 25 cents each; the rails and iron poles, considered as 'scrap,' what the market allows, including cost of removal, etc., are put at \$3.50 per ton net; the wire is rated as second-hand and is worth nine cents a pound, while the attachments are valued at seven cents a pound—all considered as scrap."

MR. FREDERIC A. HAMILTON.

FEW persons in Canada have had a more extensive experience in sub-marine telegraphy and general cable work than the subject of this sketch, Mr. Frederic A. Hamilton, M.I.E.E., M. Can. Soc. C.E. A brief resume of his services in this connection will no doubt interest many of our readers. He was born at Dover, England, in the year 1843, and after leaving school engaged in the mercantile marine, sailing to India, Australia, New Zealand and the Mediterranean. He served as a volunteer in the war for Italian Unity under General Garibaldi.

Mr. Hamilton first entered the telegraph field about 1868, studying as a probationer with the Sub-Marine Telegraph Company,



MR. FREDERIC A. HAMILTON.

one of the oldest companies working between Great Britain and the continent of Europe, until a vacancy offered in the service of the Anglo-Mediterranean Telegraph Company. He was employed on their Susa-Modica line, at the stations at Naples and Messina, and was appointed manager at Florence, but being desirous of gaining experience in sub-marine telegraphy, resigned and returned to England, and received an appointment in the Telegraph Construction and Maintenance Company as assistant electrician. Whilst in this company's service he was employed in the factories at Greenwich during the manufacture of the Falmouth, Gibraltar and Malta cables, and on the expeditions engaged in laying the Mid-Channel cable, Lisbon-Falmouth, Batavia-Singapore, Singapore-Penang, Penang-Madras, Singapore-Hong-Kong, and Batavia-Singapore sections, both on shore and ship. He was also engaged in removing faults from subterranean cables.

Mr. Hamilton was also identified with the manufacture and laying of the Ireland-Newfoundland cable and the Newfoundland-Cape Breton cables, being on board the ship laying the Sydney-St. Pierre section, and on shore at St. Pierre during the submersion of the St. Pierre-Placencia section, as well as executing other responsible commissions. He was on board the "Great Eastern" in expedition for repair of the 1865 Atlantic cable in Mid-Atlantic, and was chief electrician on the Cuba cable repairs and in laying shore-end of Brazilian cable at Pernambuco.

In the year 1875 Mr. Hamilton was employed in the traffic manager's department of the Direct United States Cable Company, and in the following year was appointed electrician-in-chief to the Anglo-American Telegraph Company, being sixteen years in this company's service. During the above period he was engaged in numerous undertakings in cable laying and repairing, and in other operations at sea and on shore, in connection with the telegraph system of the North Atlantic. This experience afforded a wide range of knowledge with regard to the various methods of working sub-marine cables, both long and short by Simplex and by Duplex, and especially embracing the important considerations involved in the question of the selection of tracks, a feature closely connected with the study of the principal causes of rupture and injury to sub-marine cables. His services in this capacity were greatly appreciated, and upon several occasions the late Sir John Pender and Mr. Henry Weaver, late managing director of the Anglo-American Telegraph Company, took occasion to commend him upon the ability displayed. Since resigning from the above company in 1892, Mr. Hamilton has been practising as an electrical engineer in Halifax, N.S. He has had considerable experience in the installation of electric light plants both afloat and on shore, and in his private practice has introduced the same degree of thoroughness which was one of the chief factors of his success in telegraph work.

Mr. Hamilton was elected an associate of the Institution of Electrical Engineers in 1873, and was advanced to member in 1886. He is also a member of the Canadian Society of Civil Engineers and the Maritime Electrical Association. It will be remembered that at the convention of the latter society in September last, he presented an interesting paper on "Electric Gong Buoys—Audible vs. Visual Signals." He has also contributed to the Journal of the Institution of Electrical Engineers papers on "Submarine Cables," "Shipping Buoys from Cable Ships," and "Repairs to Submarine Cables," and to the Canadian Magazine an article on "Laying a Sub-Marine Cable."

SHORT-CIRCUITS.

Mr. Fred. Cleveland, formerly of the Great Northwestern Telegraph Company, Montreal, spent a few days in that city at Christmas, visiting his friends.

The Victoria Telephone Company held its annual meeting at Beaverton, Ont., last month, at which it was decided to extend the system to Pufferlaw, Beaverton and Bulsover.

The Department of Public Works at Ottawa has invited tenders for the construction of a telegraph line from Aliberto to Cape Veale, in British Columbia, a distance of 35 miles.

Mr. R. B. McMicking, manager of the Victoria and Esquimaux Telephone Company, Victoria, B.C., was recently presented by his employees with a pretty cane, ornamented with silver bands and tips, and suitably engraved.

Mr. William H. Hayes, assistant manager of the Bell Telephone Company at London, Ont., has been transferred to Windsor, where he will assume the position of local manager. Mr. Hayes is to be congratulated upon his promotion.

It is said that four Ottawa barristers will seek incorporation at the next session of the Dominion parliament as the Royal Telegraph Company, with a capital of \$1,000,000. It is proposed to construct and operate telegraph and telephone lines throughout the Dominion.

The Merchants' Telephone Company, of Montreal, was organized in 1893 by Messrs. A. S. Moisan and J. M. Marcotte, now president and secretary respectively of the company. The exchange was opened on January 1st, 1895, with 472 subscribers. Since that time the number has increased to 1,800, twenty-two operators being employed.

Mr. Charles R. Hosmer, manager of the C. P. R. Telegraph Company, returned to Montreal a fortnight ago after a six weeks' visit to London and Paris. Shortly after his arrival home he received a cablegram announcing the dangerous illness of his daughter, whom he had left in Paris to complete her education, and was compelled to return again to Paris.

While repairing the wires of the Great Northwestern Telegraph Company, in Montreal, after the recent sleet storm, Pierre Brouillet, who had ascended a pole on Craig street, in company with two other linemen, came in contact with a live wire. The Montreal Gazette states that, although he received a shock of upwards of 2,500 volts, the only visible signs are two slight black lines on each hand.