

AMERICAN WATERWORKS CONVENTION.

Toronto, the popular convention city, was the scene of an important gathering on June 18, 19 and 20, when the American Waterworks Association held its annual convention at which were gathered men from every part of the United States and Canada, to the number of over three hundred. A civic welcome was tendered the delegates by Mayor Coatsworth. The address of the president, Dakney H. Maury, Peoria, Ill., included a paper on the "Rates of Water Service." A report of the standing committee on electrolysis was received in which no remedy was offered to offset existing evils.

At the afternoon session five papers were read being "Meters and Meter Systems" by Wm. Volhardt, Stapleton, N.Y., "The Cost of Meters in Rochester," by Geo. W. Rafter, "Water Consumption, Waste and Meter Rates," by city engineer, Jas. L. Tighe, Holyoke, Mass., "Some Notes on Rules, Ordinances and Court Rulings," by S. J. Rosamond, Fort Smith, Ark., and "The Care of a Mechanical Filter Plant," by Secretary J. M. Diven, Charleston, S.C.

Two of the papers presented at the evening session were illustrated by lantern slides. These were "The Detection of Waterworks Losses," by Edward E. Cole, New York, and "Gas Producer Pumping Plant at St. Stephen's, N.B.," by E. A. Barbour, Boston. Another paper read was that on "Greater Economy in Small Pumping Stations," by Capt. H. G. H. Tarr, of Philadelphia.

The officers elected for the coming year are: George H. Felix, Reading, Pa.; 1st vice-president, D. W. French, Hoboken, N.J.; 2nd vice-president, Dr. W. P. Mason, Troy, N.Y.; 3rd vice-president, Jerry O'Shaughnessy, Columbus, Ohio; 4th vice-president, Alexander Milne, St. Catharines, Ont.; 5th vice-president, Charles Henderson, Waterloo, Iowa; secretary-treasurer, John M. Diven, Charleston, S.C. The finance committee was re-elected.

The next convention will be held at Washington.

A FLOURISHING BRICK PLANT.

How the Laprairie Brick Co., Montreal, make their bricks from shale rock was demonstrated to a large company of gentlemen comprising architects, builders, contractors, merchants, and others interested, who were taken to Laprairie a few days ago by special train to witness the opening of the new plant laid down by the company.

The shale rock which forms the material from which the bricks are made lies in a large bed closely adjoining the extensive plant. Here it is scraped up into small cars and transferred by electric power into crushers and ground into fine powder. For the best bricks those used for facing and ornamental work this fine powder is compressed into shape by presses capable of turning out 18,000 per day. For common bricks the powder is moistened and issues from a machine in a long oblong strip of clay which, travelling on an endless belt, is carried under a revolving wheel on which strings of wire cut the strips into brick-shaped lumps. These are rapidly caught, as they are travelling, by men and transferred on to trolleys.

These bricks are manufactured at the rate of 100,000 per day, per machine, while one

machine is capable of producing from 125,000 to 150,000. The unbaked bricks are carted into the drying chambers and dried for 24 hours. The next transition is to the kilns, which are constructed on the "continuous" system in which the fire travels from one chamber to another. Here 36 hours of fierce heat finishes the process, and the bricks are turned out with a strength and durability which is astonishing.

The whole process is marked by much ingenuity, all of which goes to the saving of labor. Every possible use is made of electric power, and not even is the heat of the kilns lost, as by means of a system of fans and underground channels it is transferred to the drying chambers. All the modern machinery is worked by motors, the power being supplied by the Montreal Light, Heat & Power Co.

MEERSCHAUM CO. LOOKING FOR LOCATIONS.

The Meerschaum Co., of America, 25 Broad Street, New York, have been organized with a capital of \$6,000,000, and are trying to locate advantageous sites for a number of factories in which the products of the company's mines in New Mexico are to be turned into commercial articles, including pipes, cigar and cigarette holders, insulating devices for electrical apparatus, etc. W. J. Seidenburg, formerly of the American Tobacco Co. is president of the Meerschaum Co.

A NEW AUTOMOBILE.

A new automobile called the "Niagara," of Canadian manufacture, is being built and placed on the market by the Standard Bearings, Limited, Niagara Falls, Ont. The first car to be turned out by this company has just been given a very severe test which has been highly satisfactory to the manufacturers. It is a high class 4-cylinder 20 h.p. car handsome in appearance, well adapted for running over rough roads. A notable feature is its equipment with D-S and L bearings throughout. After running over a thousand miles under all conditions, the bearings were closely examined and found to be the same as before the test. A set of these were shown to CANADIAN MANUFACTURER by Mr. Joseph Dove-Smith, managing director of the company, and found to be in perfect condition, showing clearly the adaptability of these to automobiles which has been demonstrated beyond question. In future all cars turned out by the factory will be fitted with these bearings.

THE SOUTHAM BUILDING.

The Gillette Safety Razor Co., Montreal. The Smith Patterson Co., Limited, wholesale manufacturing jewelers, Montreal.

The Montreal Watch Case Co., Limited, manufacturing jewelers.

Southam, Limited, ticket printers, Montreal.

About Sept. 1, next, the above firms are to be the fortunate tenants of an admirable factory building now being erected at 63 St. Alexander St., Montreal, by Southam, Limited.

The building will consist of five stories and high basement, 250 x 35 feet, and will be lighted on all sides. The construction is of reinforced concrete, with metal window

frames and wired glass windows. The building will be equipped with sprinkler system throughout. Freight and passenger elevators will be installed.

The concrete work is being done by the Hennebeque Construction Co., New York, and the brick work by Byers & Anglin, Montreal. Brown & Vallance, Montreal, are the architects.

ONTARIO WATER POWER.

Ontario possesses nearly 350,000 h.p. water in the Algoma, Thunder Bay and Rainy River districts. This fact is shown in detail and amplified exhaustively in the fifth report of hydraulic commission, which has just been issued covering this great district. All the water powers of the province, except James Bay, have been reported upon. Three transmission plans are recommended, as follows:—

1. A line from Dog Lake to Port Arthur, Fort William and vicinity.

2. A line from Cameron Rapids, on the Nipigon to Port Arthur, Fort William and vicinity.

3. A line from Slate Falls, on the Mississauga to Thessalon and Bruce Mines.

This would furnish power full capacity 24-hour basis at sub-station for (1) \$9.10 h.p.; (2) \$9.75; (3) \$14.72. To this distribution would have to be added.

SUBSTITUTE FOR SOLE LEATHER.

Lewis H. Southwick, a Peabody tanner believes that he has a practical substitute for sole leather. He has a process of making soles of canvas, and waterproofing them, and he is arranging to put soles on the market to retail, it is understood, at a price of 10 cents per pair. His soles are to be made of a special weave of canvas. They will be applied to the shoe between the inner and the outer sole, and they will extend from the toe to the heel. They may be used on new shoes as well as on old shoes which are being tapped.

Mr. Southwick has been experimenting more than a year with his canvas soles, and he has had many pairs of shoes made up with canvas soles. He has also given his canvas soles to his friends to be used in whatever shoe they may have resoled. The success of his experiments has led him to decide to have canvas soles made up for the market, but he has not yet completed his arrangements.—American Shoemaking.

CLEANING MACHINERY.

A German machinist gives the following very practical recipe for cleaning parts of machines made of polished iron: He puts a quart of petroleum in a bottle and adds to it a small quantity of paraffine in the form of shavings. The bottle is corked and allowed to remain for a couple of days, care being taken to shake it from time to time. The mixture is then ready for use. The mode of using is as simple as the mixture; the bottle is well shaken and the mixture spread over the parts to be cleaned with a piece of rag or a brush. The next day the oil is wiped off with a dry woolen rag, the rust, gummed, etc., going along with it, and leaving the machine in a very satisfactory condition. The paraffine neutralizes the oxidizing effect of the petroleum, while the expense is insignificant.