

company will seek permission to instal its plant in St. John in opposition to the present Bell system. The present company only last year completed extensive expenditures on their system, and followed these with an increase of rates. It cannot be said that the expenditures resulted in any improvements in the service, which is such a wretched one that many of the present subscribers to it have put their names down for the new system.

The Scott Lumber Company, of Fredericton, is preparing for a big business next year. Present indications are that they will have as large a cut, if not a larger cut, than any other firm in the province. They are now preparing to build a big shingle mill alongside their Victoria mill at Fredericton, and will also erect a number of cottages for the use of their workmen. Most of the lumber operators now have their men in the woods, and the outlook is that the cut this winter will be an average one. Great efforts will be made to cut as much as possible of the lumber that was burned last year in the destructive forest fires that swept over this Province.

Recently incorporation was granted a syndicate of local capitalists as the Mah Pu Mineral Springs Company. The spring is in Kings County, and the company was capitalized at \$10,000. Now it has been decided to increase the capital to \$75,000, and a large hotel will be built and other provisions made to engage in business on a more extensive scale than was at first purposed. A bottling plant is at present in course of erection at the springs, and the hotel is to be started early in the new year.

Local stockholders of the Macadamite Metal Company, of which I have told you, returned a few days ago from a visit to New York, where is the head office of the company. Since their return they have maintained the silence prevailing since the recent annual meeting of the local company. The factory is still idle, and street rumor is busy with many stories. Generally the impression is that the metal falls short of being the success that was anticipated, and that the enterprise is a failure.

The city of St. John took advantage of the recent visits of Hon. Messrs. Fielding and Prefontaine, of the Dominion Cabinet, to show them the existing harbor facilities, and to urge upon them the need of Government assistance before anything more can be done. Both interviews were entirely satisfactory, and the belief exists that the Government will meet the wishes of St. John, and at once put dredges to work clearing a channel for a new wharf the city will build that can be got ready in time for next winter, and will give accommodation for three, perhaps four, more steamers.

St. John, N.B., 8th December. * * *

MONTREAL TECHNICAL INSTITUTE.

It is a good while since a movement was begun looking to the founding of a technical school in Montreal, but not much progress was made until quite recently, when a few public-spirited people, Mr. A. McFee prominent among them, took hold of the project with vigor. That gentleman, having seen what technical instruction is doing for handicrafts in other countries believes firmly in the need for such institutions in Canada as will give instruction to artisans. It is of much importance to the rest of the country to have this movement in Montreal taken hold of by men who are practical as well as active, and we look for good results from this move.

The provincial directors of the proposed technical school held a meeting on Saturday and elected officers. Appropriately, Mr. McFee was made president. The vice-presidents are: Dr. Bovey, Lieut.-Col. J. H. Burland, Hon. F. L. Beique; treasurer, Mr. J. C. Holden; hon. secretary, Mr. Robert Munro; secretary, Mr. E. H. Cooper; committee, Messrs. C. Stephens, John Harper, R. R. Stevenson, J. H. Birks, W. R. Baker, Wm. McMaster, Geo. E. Drummond, F. W. Morse, C. J. Fleet, Senator Dandurand. The amount of money required to perfect the plans will be about \$250,000, of which no less than \$150,000 will have to be raised among the citizens. Several \$5,000 subscriptions, it is stated, have already been promised. We understand that by the amalgamation of the Mechanics' Institute with the Technical School \$100,000 will be provided. In any other Canadian centre than Montreal

\$150,000 would seem to be an enormous sum to raise. But if the rich and generous residents can be interested, as we believe they can, the money will be forthcoming, and that before long.

INSURANCE INSTITUTE OF TORONTO.

On Tuesday evening last was held, in the rooms of that body, a general meeting of the Insurance Institute of Toronto. The president, Mr. P. H. Sims, secretary of the British America Assurance Co., occupied the chair. The secretary, Mr. J. K. Pickett, referred to the large increase in membership, the total membership now being 395. He also reported that seventy members had signified their intention of trying the examinations of the institute in April next. A paper was read by Mr. Charles D. Cory, fire insurance adjuster, on "Fire Insurance as an Exact Science," illustrated by a specially prepared chart. This was followed by a discussion of a paper by Mr. Arthur J. Hughes, secretary of the Crown Life Insurance Co., on "A Method of Ascertaining the Cost of an Agency." The discussion was opened by Mr. P. C. H. Papps, A.I.A., actuary of the Manufacturers' Life, and Mr. S. J. Mackie, manager, agency department, Imperial Life Assurance Company. A very interesting feature of the evening was the explanation given by Mr. Robt. Howe, C.E., fire appliance inspector of the Canadian Fire Underwriters' Association, of the Toronto water-works system, illustrated by a map of the city and a chart of the system.

A REMINISCENCE OF PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

In writing about telegraph cables, and after noting that the first successful cable of the kind in the world was laid across the English channel, a distance of two miles, in 1849, although attempts were made with partial success as early as 1839, the Charlottetown Guardian gives a story which possesses interest in this connection: "On the 21st November, 1852, one of the first telegraph cables ever laid was stretched between Cape Tormentine and Cape Traverse. The event was one of great interest and importance. The work was conducted under the supervision of F. N. Gisborne. [Since dead.—Ed. M. T.] The line was not intended to serve merely as a means of telegraph communication between the island and the American continent; it was originally designed, more than fifty years ago, to serve as a connecting link in a projected line to connect New York by telegraph with Newfoundland. Hence the company which laid it was designated by the name of the New York and Newfoundland Telegraph Company. In August, 1868, the telegraph cable at the capes became unworkable, and its repairs were delayed until the following spring, and telegraph communication was interrupted for a whole winter.

THE CROWN BANK OF CANADA.

We have been at the pains to inform ourselves of the present position of this projected new bank. It is significant of belief in the institution that notwithstanding the collapse of the stock market, which unfortunately took place immediately after the launching of its prospectus, the subscription of shares has quietly gone on until it has reached a large sum, which speaks well for the proposition itself, as presented to the public. So little more is now required to be done, we are told, to enable the bank to open its doors for business, that the directors feel themselves justified in opening an office for the Crown Bank in Toronto next month, under the general manager, Mr. Gerald DeC. O'Grady, for the purpose of organization.

The Electrical Development Company, which was formed for the purpose of developing energy from Niagara Falls, has decided to erect on the banks of that famous river, a solid granite power-house, 425 ft. in length and 200 ft. wide, at a cost of \$400,000. It is to be one of the largest and finest power-houses on the continent.