

district, and acted in that capacity during his residence in the district. He was commissioned as well to receive affidavits in matters pending in the Supreme court. From 1875 to 1880 he continued in the government telegraph service with headquarters at Victoria. In 1878 he received the two first telephones imported into British Columbia. These he placed in circuit, on a short line leading out to his residence a mile distant. The capabilities of the instruments as a means of transmitting intelligence soon became apparent, and Mr. McMicking's mature electrical experience enabled him to realize something of the vast possibilities in this new field of electrical development, and consequently in 1880 on quitting the telegraph service he busied himself with the formation of what has since been known as the "Victoria and Esquimalt Telephone company," which he has continued to be manager. This company has enjoyed uniform prosperity under his management, while giving to the citizens of the capital an excellent service. The subscribers of the company now number 345, being, we understand, the largest number in proportion to population, of any city on the continent. Always eager to advance the interests of his much-loved profession, and with an enterprising disposition Mr. McMicking sought and obtained from the corporation, a franchise in 1883 to introduce the Arc electric lights for street illumination. And three towers of 150 feet in height, having clusters of lamps at top were erected, and have since continued to do service. To these additional lights have been added from time to time. In 1887 he managed the formation of a company for the production of the incandescent electric light for domestic lighting. The step proved a veritable boon to all, but especially to those having occasion to use artificial light in large quantities, being the prime factor in causing a reduction of the price of gas from \$4 to \$2 per thousand feet. And not alone are we to understand was it a boon to light consumers, but, paradoxical as it may appear, we are assured it proved such also to the gas company itself, for we are informed that in consequence of the largely increased consumption by reason of the great reduction in price, the profits to the gas company have actually increased. The introduction by Mr. McMicking of the sub-divided Arc light for commercial purposes, followed in 1889, when a 50-light plant was set in motion from the Victoria electric illuminating company's station in October of that year. In 1881 he built the first electric fire alarm in British Columbia for Victoria City, which consisted of a striker to the large