

—The Sault Ste. Marie industries are all closed, but the wages of the men have been paid, an arrangement having been made with the banks to supply the money. The sale under the mortgage has been postponed, and negotiations are going on with a view of getting British capitalists to assume and carry them on. It is hoped, however, that some of them will be started very soon, under the direction of a receiver, pending a final arrangement.

—The Senate incorporated in the railway bill when before it at the late session of Parliament, a clause allowing incorporated telephone companies to appeal to the board to compel a railway company to allow access to its stations when such telephone company has been refused by the railway company. Thus in the case of a farmers' line the Board of Commissioners may compel any railway company to allow a farmers' telephone company access to its stations provided the farmers have secured incorporation. This meets such a case as arose recently at Locust Hill, near Toronto. Another important amendment made by the Senate provides that in case a railway company does a telegraph or telephone business, and furnishes light, heat, power or electricity, and any city, town or incorporated village in which such company has its wires desires that these wires be placed under ground, the board is given power to require the company to carry out the wishes of the municipality.

—Up to this year a Canadian paper, whose subscription price to places in Canada and the United States was \$1 a year, had to charge \$1.25 to \$1.50, according to the weight of a copy, when it was sent to Great Britain and the colonies. The Canadian Government has taken a step of imperial importance by getting the consent of Great Britain and several of the British colonies to receive Canadian papers at the domestic rate of this country. Every month or two since this change was made, some new colony joins the list of those agreeing to this imperial newspaper postage rate, and at present the portions of the Empire included in this new arrangement are: Great Britain, New Zealand, the Transvaal, Newfoundland, Zanzibar, Sarawak, Hong Kong, Gambia, Ceylon, Cyprus, Falkland Islands, British Honduras, Bermuda, Barbados, and the Bahama Islands. To all these places the Canadian Engineer is sent at \$1 a year, while to other foreign countries and colonies the subscription is \$1.50 a year. The peculiarity of the situation is that, with the exception of Newfoundland, these portions of the Empire do not reciprocate—that is, the papers published there do not have the same cheap rate of postage to Canada. The chief reason for this is, that in most cases such a rate would be lower than the rate paid by these papers in their own country. But such a drawback to a great imperial system of cheap postage will not long continue, and we hope the day is not far off when enterprising papers, occupying special fields, will circulate not only in the colony of their origin, but throughout the whole Empire, and thus the editor with a great mission can in a real measure speak to the whole world. It is needless to add that

when the whole Empire is united in a system of cheap newspaper exchange, a great development will take place not only in paper and pulp manufacturing which is becoming such a large Canadian industry, but in other lines which would be stimulated by the increased circulation of Canadian trade papers.

### AN INDEPENDENT TELEPHONE SERVICE IN TORONTO JUNCTION.

Negotiations have been completed whereby the Humber Power and Light Company, which at present provides the electric light and power service in Toronto Junction, will be merged into the "Stark" Telephone, Light and Power Company. The new company has been formed for the purpose of supplying telephone, electric light and power service on the "Stark" system of distribution in Toronto and district. This system, which enables a telephone, light and power service to be provided on one circuit, was fully described in the June issue of the Canadian Engineer. A franchise for twenty years has been obtained from the town of Toronto Junction, and the acquisition of the Humber Power and Light Company will enable Mr. Stark to proceed at once with the construction of a telephone system in combination with the existing light and power service.

The agreement with the town provides for the supply of a telephone service within a radius of fifteen miles from the centre of the city of Toronto, at \$6 per annum, and one cent per outgoing call, with a maximum charge per annum of \$25 for business, and \$15 for residence phones. When, however, the system is in operation in the City of Toronto, with 3,000 subscribers, the maximum charge will be increased to \$40 for business and \$20 for residence phones. Three hundred subscribers have already been obtained in Toronto Junction, and the work of construction will be proceeded with at once.

The company have also about three thousand contracts signed in Toronto, and arrangements will be made at an early date for the establishment of the "Stark" system in that city. It is the intention of the company to develop the Humber water-power to an extent which will enable it to supply all the current necessary for a telephone, light and power service in the city and suburbs.

The directorate of the new company will include the Hon. John Dryden, president; the Hon. Geo. E. Foster; Mr. J. Blacklock (manager of the Reliance Loan and Savings Co.); Mr. H. Waddington (managing director of the London Mutual Insurance Co.); Mr. Gideon Grant (Messrs. Dodds, Grant & Halliday); and the inventor, Mr. Alex. M. Stark, who will be the managing director.

Mr. Stark's long experience as superintendent of the Bell Telephone Company, in Toronto, entitles him to the confidence of the public as a practical telephone man, and the progress he has made in his effort to provide the people with a better and cheaper telephone service, during the short period which has elapsed since he resigned his position in April last, is highly encouraging.

### A VISIT TO INDUSTRIAL PETERBORO.

The faculty and students of the School of Practical Science, Toronto, have adopted the custom of paying a visit during the session to some industrial centre. Last year they went to Niagara to see the wonderful electrical power developments going on there. This year they arranged to go to Peterboro to visit its varied industries. To the number of about three hundred, with a few invited guests, they went by special train over the Grand Trunk, via Port Hope, on Saturday, October 24th. At Peterboro the town received them very hospitably and furnished conveyances to take them to the various points of interest. The principal attraction was the hydraulic lift lock on the Trent Valley Canal, now approaching completion. This work, the largest of its kind in the world, has already been fully described and illustrated in the Engineer.