

a steam plant till two years ago, when water power from the Current river, two miles distant, (but still within the town limits), was made available. The turbines now in operation have a capacity of 700-h.p., but penstocks are already in for 450-h.p. more, making 1,150-h.p., all of which will be utilized this year for lighting and power. At present 250-h.p. is used for the railway. Current is furnished for store elevators and power purposes at \$25 per horsepower per year. There were 4,833 lights in operation last June, and 309 lights on the streets. New incandescent lights are being put in every day, and it is in contemplation to reduce the rates. These rates are on a graduated scale, varying according to service and number used. As these may be of interest to other municipalities, the table of present rates as prepared by Thomas H. McCauley, Superintendent, is here given:

Monthly Flat Rate for Lights.

No.	Lamps.	Commercial.			Domestic.		
		8 C.P.	16 C.P.	32 C.P.	8 C.P.	16 C.P.	32 C.P.
1	light	..\$ 45	\$ 75	\$ 1 50	\$ 35	\$ 55	\$ 1 10
2	"	... 60	1 00	2 00	50	80	1 60
3	"	... 90	1 50	2 90	75	1 25	2 25
4	"	... 1 20	2 00	3 85	90	1 50	2 75
5	"	... 1 50	2 50	4 75	1 05	1 75	3 25
6	"	... 1 80	3 00	5 65	1 20	2 00	3 75
7	"	... 2 05	3 40	6 60	1 35	2 25	4 25
8	"	... 2 25	3 80	7 50	1 50	2 50	4 75
9	"	... 2 50	4 20	8 40	1 65	2 75	5 25
10	"	... 2 75	4 60	9 00	1 80	3 00	5 75
11	"	... 3 00	5 00	9 75	2 00	3 30	6 25
12	"	... 3 25	5 40	10 70	2 15	3 60	6 75
13	"	... 3 40	5 80	11 50	2 30	3 85	7 25
14	"	... 3 70	6 20	12 30	2 45	4 10	7 75
15	"	... 3 95	6 60	13 00	2 60	4 35	8 00
16	"	... 4 20	7 00	13 75	2 75	4 60	8 25
17	"	... 4 45	7 40	14 60	2 90	4 80	8 75
18	"	... 4 65	7 75	15 25	3 00	5 00	9 10
19	"	... 4 85	8 10	16 00	3 10	5 20	9 50
20	"	... 5 10	8 45	16 75	3 20	5 40	10 00
Additional,							
each.....		25	40	80	12	20	40

All lighting rates are due on the first of each month, and when paid on or before the 10th, a discount of 10 per cent. on resident rates, and 15 per cent. on commercial rates will be allowed.

Meter Rates.

Meters.—To be supplied by the town at cost or rented at following rates: 30 lights and under, 1c. per light per month. 40 lights and over, $\frac{3}{4}$ c. per light per month. Even sizes to be used only, and all lights to be based on 16 candle power.

To Stores.—For 16 lights and less, 10c. per M. watts. For over 16 lights, 8c. per M. watts.

Hotels.—For 30 lights or less, 10c. per M. watts. For 30 to 45 lights, 8c. per M. watts. For 45 lights and over, 6c. per M. watts.

Residences.—For 12 lights and under, 10c. per M. watts. For 20 lights and under, 8c. per M. watts. For over 20 lights, 7c. per M. watts.

Lodges, Churches, Etc.—For 20 lights or less, 10c. per M. watts. For 21 lights to 40 lights, 8c. per M. watts. For over 40 lights, 6c. per M. watts.

Minimum Rates.—Stores and hotels, 15c. per 16 c.p. light. Residences, 12c. per 16 c.p. light. Churches, halls, etc., 10c. per 16 c.p. light.

Discounts for Payment, 10 Days from Date of Account.—

5%	for payment of monthly Acct's of \$ 3 00 to \$ 5 00
6%	" " " " " " 5 00 to 7 50
7%	" " " " " " 7 50 to 10 00
8%	" " " " " " 10 00 to 12 50
9%	" " " " " " 12 50 to 15 00
10%	" " " " " " 15 00 and over.

In 1903 there was an income of \$13,362 for electric lights and supplies, or \$20,392 counting stock on hand and accounts due. The year's results showed a net balance to the good of \$2,264, after paying interest, salaries, and all other charges.

The municipal telephone system is operated in close association with that of Fort William, and is as satisfactory and as well supported. As in the case of that town the people here say there is no thought of going back to the wretched service of the Bell Co., or of taking the risks that would be involved in a return to the old system of outside control, even if the Bell Co. did its utmost to give an efficient and cheap service for the time. On the 6th of August last Port Arthur had 146 business phones and 276 residential phones, while 27 new connections were then being made. At the present date it has a total of about 500, counting new installations. The rates are \$2 a month for business phones and \$1 a month for residences. The revenue in 1903 was \$2,180 for regular services, or including accounts due, about \$3,500. After charging interest and all other expenses, there was a loss of \$85 on the year. Of course had the service of the Bell been the only one in the town, the net, as well as gross cost, to the people would have been vastly greater, apart from the difference in the quality of the service. It is expected that this year there will be a net surplus of \$1,000 for this service.

A waterworks system has been installed during the past year at a cost of about \$85,000. The water is taken from Lake Superior, by pumping, the intake being three miles from the town. The system can at any time be converted into a gravity system, by taking water from Six Mile Creek or the Current River. A sewage system is also being put in, at a cost of \$62,000, both systems being planned by Willis Chipman, C.E., of Toronto. The sidewalks are of cement, and like the other works, are carried out under the town's own management.

The tax rate of Port Arthur last year was 21 mills, and towards the total sum of \$68,050 required for municipal purposes the franchises owned by the town bring in a net income of \$38,000. In this estimate due allowance is made for depreciation of plant.

As regards water power, A. L. Russell, a local civil engineer, says that five other dams can be added to the present dam at moderate expense, that 5,000-h.p. can be furnished on the present plans, and that when it is required practically the whole of the water of the Current River, with a drainage basin of 375 sq. miles, can be utilized by reservoirs for power purposes.

It will thus be seen that the franchises now municipally owned by Port Arthur and Fort William have a value that can scarcely be calculated, when their influence on the future development of these lake ports is kept in mind.



MARINE NEWS.

The Reid Wrecking Co., Sarnia, Ont., has received a contract to release the schooner John Kelderhouse, ashore on North Point.

The Canadian Pacific Railway has given a contract to a Glasgow firm for three large steamers of high speed for the Atlantic trade.

The tonnage of coal brought into Montreal from Cape Breton during the season of navigation 1904, amounted to over 1,400,000 tons.

The Hamilton Steamboat Co.'s steamer Macassa has been sent to Collingwood to be remodeled and to have forty feet added to her length.

The Canadian Northern Railway purposes to use a fleet of steam boats on the Upper Lakes to bring down to French River the freight brought by its western branch to Port Arthur. Thence it will go east to the Atlantic, by way of the Intercolonial.

The Government steamer Aberdeen got caught by the ice in one of the locks on the Lachine Canal, while on her way to Toronto to have new boilers installed. The steamer will now have to winter in Montreal, and no work will be done on her until spring.

A contract has been given to Andrew Weir & Co., of Glasgow, Scotland, for two steamers for the Canada-Mexico trade, having capacity of 4,500 tons of freight each, and of 50 first-class and 300 or 400 steerage passengers. The Mexican and Canadian Governments will each give a subsidy of \$50,000.