

ORILLIA.—Since the completion of the Ragged Rapids Dam the town has reduced their charges for electric light. For stores, from 28 to 18c. per lamp a month. For houses, from 20 to 18c. a month. This is for 24-hour power every day. Last year there was a profit of \$10,000 after meeting all charges, which was applied to the reduction of taxes. Even with the reduced cost of light to consumers this year, it is expected that there will be the same surplus, as 1,000 new lights have been installed in the past three months.

SEWERAGE AND WATERWORKS.

Quebec.

MONTREAL.—Mr. Janin, superintendent of the Water Department, reports that Mr. McGovern had failed to complete his contract within the time limit, and that the work of connecting the conduit with the open portion of the aqueduct could not be carried out till the leak in the latter had been stopped. It appears that no penalty was provided in the contract. In any case, it would seem that the delay was due to accidents and circumstances which were unavoidable.

MONTREAL.—The Water Committee of the city council have decided to take over the Worthington pump at the wheel-house. A report was made showing that tests had been made of the pump, and that it was satisfactory in every way. The company now demands \$82,104.22, which includes the balance due under the contract, with a further \$42,600 over and above the contract cost, made up as follows: For the period from 1st November, 1907, to 22nd September, 1908, \$31,200; from 23rd September, 1908, to 26th November, 1908, \$6,400; bonus, \$5,000. Excluding the bonus this makes a sum of \$37,600 claimed from the city for the fourteen months' delay. On the other hand, the city is suing the company for \$30,000 for non-delivery and breach of contract.

Ontario

LONDON.—The net profits of the Water Commission this year were \$61,809. Of this amount \$30,997 was applied to sinking fund, leaving \$31,409 to be turned over to the city. This is \$17,000 in excess of the estimated net receipts. There will be no overdraft this year for the city council.

RICHMOND HILL.—An agitation is on foot to obtain a water supply for the village from the nearby elevation of the Ridges.

TORONTO.—The City Engineer has received authority from the Board of Control to purchase 281 meters at a cost of \$10,995.

TORONTO.—A delegation representing the brick manufacturers of Toronto waited upon the Board of Control and persuaded them to call for new tenders for the trunk sewer, which tenders are to include prices for brick sewers. Those who have tendered on the old specifications, which called for concrete sewers, are to be allowed to tender again if they so wish.

TORONTO.—The Sewers Branch of the City Engineer's Department has constructed 45,656 lineal feet, or 8.65 miles of sewers this year, besides having dredged 19,325 cubic yards of sewage deposits out of slips, and repaired 74 private drains, flushed 53 and lowered 14. Besides, during the year 67,094 lineal feet, or 12.71 miles of private drains were constructed, as follows: Six-inch drains, 62,013 lineal feet; 9-inch drains, 4,985 lineal feet, and 12-inch drains, 96 feet.

TELEPHONY.

Ontario.

BROCKVILLE.—The Bell Telephone Co. and the council have entered into agreement covering a five-year period by which the company pays the corporation \$500 per year rental for the use of its streets, and fixes the rate for business telephones at \$30 and residence telephones at \$25 per year.

FINANCING PUBLIC WORKS.

Ontario.

OTTAWA.—The City of Ottawa are offering \$966,940.90 of bonds for sale by tender on January 28th, 1909. Money to be used, in part, on public works. Napoleon Chaupayne, mayor.

British Columbia.

VANCOUVER.—The City Council endorsed for submission to the electorate the money by-laws totalling a sum of \$1,326,000. This includes \$500,000 for sewers, \$250,000 for the park block, and \$200,000 for road improvements. Several other large by-laws are yet to be considered. Eight in all are filed.

PERSONAL.

MR. E. P. COLLEY, C.E., of Victoria, B.C., has left on an extended trip to Europe.

MR. J. F. B. VANDELEUR left for Europe on Wednesday of this week, and will be absent about two months. While abroad Mr. Vandeleur will visit the various firms for whom he acts as Canadian agent.

MR. GEO. C. BURNHAM, formerly associated with the Allis-Chalmers-Bullock, Limited, has left that concern and entered into partnership with Kilmer & Pullen, the new firm being Kilmer, Pullen & Burnham, McKinnon Building, Toronto, electrical engineers and contractors, representing the General Electric Co., of Sweden.

MARKET CONDITIONS.

Toronto, December 17th, 1908.

In roofing materials and building papers December is an off-month, and this December is no exception to the rule. The volume of trade in tar, pitch and papers is quite limited. Such goods as lime, sewer pipes, and fire brick, on the other hand, are moving actively, indicating that winter repairs have begun. Cement is universally dull; bricks moderately active. Lumber is in plentiful supply, with a weak market and very fair consumptive demand.

In metals and hardware, rather more heavy goods are moving out of warehouse, but orders are mostly small, although country stocks must be low. Abroad, the makers are talking about an advance in price. Tool makers in the Eastern States are buoyant on this subject.

"New orders," says C. S. Trench, of New York, "from smaller consumers, and the railroads have been disappointing." The metals trades are being injured by Wall Street's persistent anticipating of great activity, which has not developed, and attempting to force up prices by manipulation before the normal forces bring about a rise. Most manufacturers are pursuing their way steadily under a much reduced demand compared with recent years.

The following are wholesale prices for Toronto, where not otherwise explained, although for broken quantities higher prices are quoted:—

Antimony.—Price unchanged at 8½c., with less enquiry.

Axes.—Standard makes, double bitted, \$8 to \$10; single bitted, per dozen, \$7 to \$9.

Boiler Plates.—1-4 inch and heavier, \$2.40. Boiler heads 25c. per 100 pounds advance on plate.

Boiler Tubes.—Orders are active. Lap-welded, steel, 1 1-4-inch, 10c.; 1 1-2-inch, 9c. per foot; 2-inch, \$8.75; 2 1-4-inch, \$10; 2 1-2-inch, \$10.60; 3-inch, \$12.10; 3 1-2-inch, \$15.30; 4-inch, \$19.45 per 100 feet.

Building Paper.—Plain, 30c per roll; tarred, 40c. per roll. Business decidedly quiet.

Bricks.—Common structural, \$9 per thousand, wholesale, and the demand moderately active. Red and buff pressed are worth, delivered, \$18; at works, \$17.

Cement.—Market still weak; cement can be had in 1,000 barrel lots at \$1.70 per bbl, including the bags, which is equal to \$1.30 without bags. At this time of year building operations are closing down, demand is therefore naturally limited. This week even the small dealers in Toronto find demand shut entirely off.

Coal Tar.—Season about over, price still \$3.50 per barrel.

Copper Ingot.—There is more activity in the States, rather quiet demand here. Prices are higher, at 15 to 15½c. with a prospect of their maintenance for a while.

Detonator Caps.—75c. to \$1 per 100; case lots, 75c. per 100; broken quantities, \$1.

Dynamite. per pound, 21 to 22c., as to quantity.

Roofing Felt. Very limited request. Price \$1.80 per 100 pounds.

Fire Bricks.—English and Scotch, \$22.50 to \$24; American, \$28.50 to \$35 per 1,000. A growing demand this month, with fair stock.

Fuses—Electric Blasting.—Double strength, per 100, 4 feet, \$4.50; 6 feet, \$6; 8 feet, \$5.50; 10 feet, \$6. Single strength, 4 feet, \$3.50; 6 feet, \$4; 8 feet, \$4.50; 10 feet, \$5. Bennett's double tape fuse, \$6 per 1,000 feet.

Galvanized Sheets—Apollo Brand.—Sheets 6 or 8 feet long, 30 or 36 inches wide: 10-gauge, \$3.05; 12-14-gauge, \$2.15; 16, 18, 20, \$3.35; 22-24, \$2.50; 26, \$3.75; 28, \$4.20; 30, \$4.30; 30½, \$4.50 per 100 pounds. Fleur de Lis—28-gauge, \$4.30; 26-gauge, \$4.05; 22-24-gauge, \$3.50. Queen's Head—28-gauge, \$4.50; 26-gauge, \$4.25. Sheets are in very active request.

Iron Chain.—¼-inch, \$5.75; 5-16-inch, \$5.15; ¼-inch, \$4.15; 7-16-inch, \$3.95; ½-inch, \$3.75; 9-16-inch, \$3.70; ¾-inch, \$3.55; ¾-inch, \$3.45; ¾-inch, \$3.40; 1-inch, \$2.40.

Bar Iron.—\$1.95 to \$2, base, from stock to wholesale dealer.

Iron Pipe.—Black, ¼-inch, \$2.03; ¾-inch, \$2.25; ¾-inch, \$2.63; ¾-inch, \$3.56; 1-inch, \$4.11; 1½-inch, \$6.07; 1½-inch, \$8.27; 2-inch, \$11.16; 2½-inch, \$17.82; 3-inch, \$22.40; 3½-inch, \$20.45; 4-inch, \$22.28; 4½-inch, \$28.5-inch, \$43.50; 6-inch, \$56. Galvanized, ¼-inch, \$2.86; ¾-inch, \$3.08; ¾-inch, \$3.48;