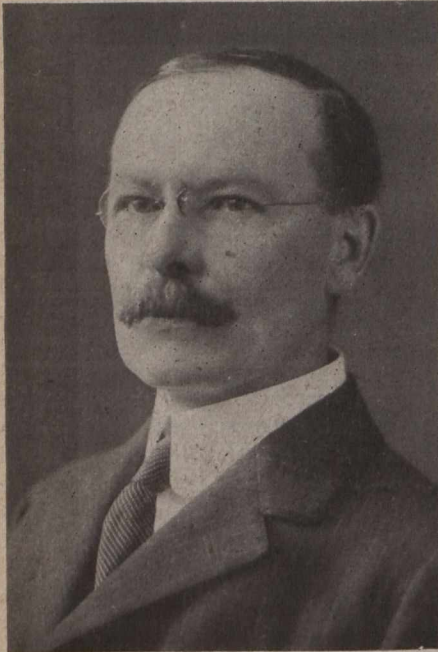


poorer material, thus effecting greater conservation. If the process succeeds technically with the poorer lignite, there can be no doubt that suitable briquettes could later be made with the better lignite; but freight rates will have more effect upon the commercial success of the first plant than will the quality of the lignite used.

To defend themselves against possible short-sighted or uninformed criticism, the Research Councillors are now said to be printing a pamphlet discussing in detail the whole project.

PERSONALS

ROBERT ALEXANDER ROSS, E.E., has accepted the appointment of city commissioner of Montreal which was made recently by the government of the Province of Quebec. Mr. Ross was born August 28th, 1865, in Woodstock, Ont., and graduated from the University of Toronto in mechanical and electrical engineering. He started as an engineering apprentice with the firm of Robert White-law & Co., Woodstock, Ont., later becoming works



engineer of the Canadian General Electric Company at Peterborough, which firm he left to become chief engineer of the Royal Electric Company of Montreal, now called the Montreal Light, Heat and Power Co. Mr. Ross soon engaged in private practice, however, and has had a consulting office in Montreal for many years. He has now closed this office in order to devote his entire attention to his new civic duties and to the

work of the Honorary Advisory Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, of which he is a prominent member. At various times Mr. Ross has been consultant to the Hydro-Electric Power Commission of Ontario, the Canadian Pacific Railway, the Hydro-Electric Power System of Toronto and to various cities and towns in the United States, Canada and abroad. He is the author of "Engineering Economics," and of various lecture notes for students at McGill College. Upon four different occasions Mr. Ross has been elected as a member of the council of the Canadian Society of Civil Engineers, and was vice-president of that society during the years 1914, 1915 and 1916. He is a fellow of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers, a member of the American Waterworks Association, and commodore of the Royal St. Lawrence Yacht Club, Montreal. Mr. Ross will be one of five commissioners who will have thoroughly autocratic powers for at least several years to come in managing the business of the city of Montreal. This commission will be independent of the mayor and council of the city and will be responsible for bringing all the civic

affairs of Montreal out of the chaos into which they have been plunged in past years. The financial situation, the police force and the vice situation present the worst difficulties, but there will also be many problems to solve in the public works administration. The new commission's first stroke of business was to increase taxes 50% in order to make up deficits in the revenue. The commissioners have appointed heads for the four sections under which the work of the city, aside from financial matters, will be grouped. Paul E. Mercier, B.A.Sc., who has been city engineer of Montreal for several years, will be in entire control of public works; Chief Tremblay, of the fire department, will have charge of public safety; Dr. S. Boucher will superintend public health; and Senator David will head the secretarial department.

SIDNEY JOHNSON has been appointed city engineer of Stratford, Ont., in place of Lieut. A. B. Manson, who was granted leave of absence.

S. B. WASS, assistant superintendent of the Inter-colonial Division, Canadian Government Railways, at South Devon, N.B., has been transferred to the engineering department at Moncton, N.B.

JOHN C. K. STUART, who was formerly a member of the engineering staff of the Montreal Tunnel and Terminal Company, has enlisted with the Royal Engineers. Mr. Stuart has latterly been in the employ of the Ford, Bacon & Davis Corporation, New York City.

Dr. W. G. MILLER, Provincial Geologist of Ontario, has left for London, England, to attend the first meeting of the Imperial Mineral Resources Bureau. This bureau will have important duties in co-ordinating the mineral wealth of the various portions of the British Empire both during and after the war. The Federal Government appointed Dr. Miller as the Canadian representative on the bureau.

Major CHARLES FLINT, B.A.Sc., University of Toronto, '10, has been awarded the Croix de Guerre for gallant and distinguished service with the 4th Battalion, Canadian Railway Troops. He was following his profession as assistant engineer of the C.P.R. at Winnipeg, when he enlisted with the rank of lieutenant in a Canadian Railway Construction Corps, and has been twice promoted while serving with his present battalion.

Major T. R. LOUDON, professor in the Faculty of Applied Science and Engineering at the University of Toronto, who was invalided to England in January after prolonged service in France, has arrived in Canada on leave. He took his B.A.Sc. degree in 1905, and at the time of his enlistment, in addition to the academic appointment, was a member of the firm of James, Loudon & Hertzberg. Originally a lieutenant in No. 1 Can. Construction Battalion (now 1st. Can. Ry. Batt.), he was promoted captain and adjutant while on active service, and won his majority in France. Major Loudon, who is a son of Professor W. J. Loudon, of University College, was mentioned in despatches early this year.

COLONEL GEORGE G. NASMITH

IN the personal column on this page of last week's issue, mention was made of the new degree earned by "Lt.-Col." George G. Nasmith. This military title was an error, as Dr. Nasmith is no longer a lieutenant-colonel, but is now a colonel, having been promoted fifteen months ago on the field.