

## THE CANADIAN ELECTRICAL NEWS.

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JNO. HORN, Editor. HART BROTHERS & CO., Publishers.

Correspondence on all Telegraphic, Telephonic or Electric Light subjects is solicited.

Readers are cordially invited to communicate their views and opinions on all topics within the province of this journal.

Items relating to Telegraphy, Telephony, Electric Light, or Inventions, will be thankfully received.

Rejected manuscripts cannot be returned unless accompanied by the necessary postage when received.

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MONTREAL, JUNE 15, 1884.

### OUR ADVENTURE.

SIX numbers of the CANADIAN ELECTRICAL NEWS have been scattered broadcast over the community of workers of the electric current in Canada, and we may assume that very nearly all those who are likely to be benefited by having a journal of this kind have either seen it or heard of its publication. The time has now arrived when we can ask if the paper merits the patronage of those in whose interest it is published, and whether they wish it to be continued?

The first number had scarcely been entirely printed off when we received several subscriptions and gratifying encomiums on its appearance, with, we may add, several *lavish* promises of warm support from gentlemen who are largely interested in public companies, which almost control at present the working of electricity in the Dominion. While we are positive that these gentlemen are sincere in their desire to encourage us, we have not yet noted any practical manifestation of their good wishes, beyond the aforesaid subscriptions, and we must now ask them the question, unless you give us practical support, how are we to pay the printers?

A few words from any of these leading influential men to their intimate friends, or who they may think should help us, would procure their subscriptions, and we ask that these kind words be spoken *now*, and thus substantial help be given to the paper at the time that it is most needed.

We have ungrudgingly given our time and hard work in the editorial department, and would continue to do so without being reimbursed, until the journal is well established with a large subscription list, but this is not enough of itself to keep the paper going; the printers must be paid; they will not supply the expensive paper on which it is printed, nor will they give the labor of the type-setters, nor the use of the steam power on credit, and it is just as well that we speak plainly to our well wishers, and state that, financially, the journal has not been as successful as it should be, were the promises of our friends at its birth fulfilled. There are other ex-

penses connected with the publication department which have been generously advanced by the publishers in the hope that the outlay would be returned eventually; there must, however, be a limit to these advances if they have reason to believe that the tens of thousands of persons in Canada who obtain an income from electricity, do not desire to have one single journal as an organ or recording medium of what happens in this or in foreign countries to interest them.

Telegraph, telephone and electric light operators before this journal was published knew little or nothing of what was going on in their branches of the business outside of the locality where they were working. They could not ascertain where there were vacancies or positions open to their soliciting; in fine, they had no opportunities to better themselves. We have endeavored to give them all the assistance possible, but unless they read our paper, unless those who have the information to give us about vacancies send us this information, how can the operators better themselves? Their apathy is remarkable to say the least. They will do nothing, apparently, to help themselves, or even support one single paper in all this broad Dominion, which, since it was first printed, has endeavored solely to seek their welfare. Does this apathy of which we complain spring from indifference as to their future? Can it be possible that they are, one and all, satisfied with their present situations and prospects, or do they dream of some other less practical and more expensive mode of obtaining better salaries, such as was tried in 1883, than what the columns of our journal affords them, the good old plan, the only true road to success—each man looking out for himself. If they have grievances which they wish to have redressed let us know what they are, the besom of publicity often sweeps clean away all such troubles. This is their own paper, employ it for such work, read it and prosper. Eschew all other visionary chimeras or utopian schemes, hatched among people whose interests are not yours, who will not give one farthing of their money to help you, as you well know. To make our meaning plainer, if you are discontented at Quebec it is better for you to obtain a vacancy at Winnipeg or St. John, at a higher salary, than to remain at Quebec to help a probable strike when ordered from New York? You can lose nothing by being patriotic. Support your own Canadian paper, and it will surely give you real credit and honor in foreign countries; more, believe us, far more, than if you let it alone at the bidding of foreigners.

From the far-off Pacific Province comes this letter:—

NEW WESTMINSTER, B.C., May 26.

"Enclosed please find \$1.00, covering one year's subscription to your interesting little paper, which I sincerely trust may prove a financial success. It is something that Canadian telegraphers have been in need of for a long time."

We thank our friend for his kind words; we have many other letters as encouraging, but this is the latest.