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CANADIAN ELECTRICAL NEWS

JNO. HORN,

EDITOR.

VOL. 1.

MONTREAL, MAY 1, 1884.

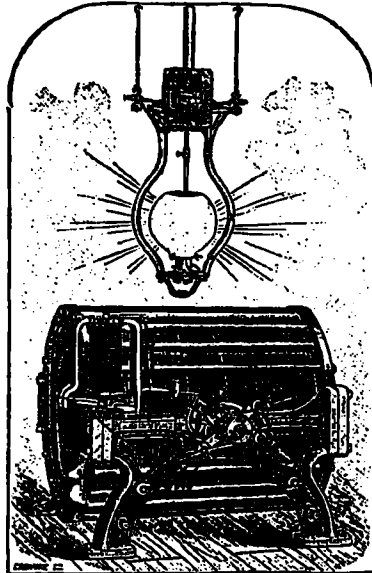
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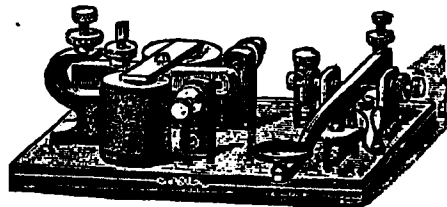
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THE CANADIAN ELECTRICAL NEWS.

Published Semi-monthly at No. 32 Victoria Sq.,
Montreal, Q.

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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HART BROTHERS & CO.,
32 Victoria Square,
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Montreal, Q.

MONTREAL, MAY 1, 1884.

THE TELEGRAPH LINES OF CENTRAL AMERICA.

COSTA RICA has had a line between Puntarenas, its Pacific port, and the capital, San Jose, since about the year 1866. Within a few years the capital has been connected by wire with the Atlantic port, Limon, and in July, 1879, communication with their neighbor, Nicaragua, was established. There are about 20 offices in the Republic.

NICARAGUA has about 25 offices. The lines were built in 1875. Tariff 20c. for 10 words. All of the principal cities and towns are in the circuit, including the two Pacific ports, San Juan del Sur and Corinto, and the Atlantic port of San Juan del Norte, or Greytown. The lines are about 500 miles extension in all.

The Central and South American Telegraph Company have a cable station at San Juan del Sur, which affords Nicaragua and Costa Rica communication with the world.

HONDURAS has in operation 1,800 miles of wire with about 40 offices. A net-work radiates from the capital, Tegucigalpa, connecting the Atlantic and Pacific ports of the Republic, as well as the principal towns. The tariff is 25c. between all offices. These lines were begun in 1877, under the superintendence of Mr. Maury, formerly superintendent of telegraphs in Salvador. Mr. Eusebio Toledo is the present superintendent. He is a native of Guatemala, where he learned telegraphy under Mr. Stanley McNider.

SALVADOR was the second of the Central American Republics to employ the telegraph, having commenced its network of wires in 1870, under the administration of President Duenas. The first lines were built by Chas. H. Billings, an American, followed by Stanley McNider, of this city, in 1871-2. The service is extended to every town of importance in the Republic, and connects with that of Honduras and Guatemala. Tariff 25c. There are over 60 offices. The head office is in the capital, San Salvador. The superintendent is Guillermo Padilla, a native of Salvador, and one of its first operators. There are about 1,200 miles of wire in operation.

The Central and South American Telegraph Co.'s cable has its most important Central American Station at La Libertad, the post nearest the capital. This station gives to Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras their means of electrical communication with the rest of the world.

GUATEMALA.—The first line was built in 1873 by Stanley McNider, of Montreal, along with the lines since constructed, comprising 1,200 miles of wire, with 60 offices, connecting the Atlantic and Pacific ports with all of the important towns. Four lines run from the capital, Guatemala, one to each point of the compass. The service was under the superintendence

of Mr. S. McNider until Feb. 7, 1881. A correspondent of the San Francisco *Evening Post*, in a letter published some time in 1880, says of these lines:—

"A telegraph service equal to any in any country in the world connects the capital with every town of any note throughout the Republic, as well as with the neighboring States of Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua and Costa Rica.

"The service is in every respect the best I have ever seen outside of the Eastern States. Rates are cheap, and the entire system is a credit to its originator and manager."

The originator of the system was Senor Don Jose Maria Samayoa, principal minister under the administration of Granados, and of the present President, General Barrios. To the latter belongs the credit of having ordered the construction of the greater part of the lines in operation. The tariff is 25c.

All the lines in Central America were built by and are the property of the Government, and are worked for their account, the employees receiving salaries varying from \$20 to \$50 per month in way offices. In the capitals higher salaries rule, but are not of a nature to induce foreign talent to seek them. In Guatemala, Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua the system is Morse pure and simple, with only such additions as the Spanish language has demanded in the alphabet. These additions were made by Mr. McNider.

In Costa Rica an alphabet manufactured by native talent of the latter Republic out of the Morse has been adopted, and the details of service are a species of guess work from the same source.

The continuation of this article giving the lines of South America, will be given in our next number.

PERSONAL.

MARRIED.—At 112 West 42nd street, New York, on the 23rd of April, 1884, Emile A. Hart, of the firm of Hart Brothers & Co., of Montreal, Seigneur of Beaucour, Assistant Editor and Proprietor of the CANADIAN ELECTRICAL NEWS, to Natalie, eldest daughter of M. L. Soixas, Esq., of New York.

ADVERTISERS.

ADVERTISERS of Electrical supplies, as well as manufacturers and dealers, should try to reach the enormous demand springing up in Canada for their goods. No better medium for advertising their specialties has ever presented itself. Remember this paper goes to every point from one end of the Dominion to the other, and is the only journal representing the interests of the Telegraph, Telephone and Electric light.

WE return thanks to Sup. J. P. Abernethy, of Cleveland, Ohio, for a copy of "The Modern Service of Commercial and Railway Telegraphy in Theory and Practice," a work of 333 pages. We consider it invaluable to learners as well as to all telegraphers who aspire to become proficient commercial or railway operators. The book is handsomely bound in cloth with gold title designs on side and back, and is sold at \$2.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT.

THE VANDEBOELE System of Electric Lighting, a very neatly printed pamphlet, explanatory of their system.

HOLMES, BOOTH & HAYDEN, New York, five nice samples of fire proof, insulated, electric light and other wires, made from pure Lake Superior copper.

CITY LOCALS.

ALLAN S. SCOTT, formerly of the W. U. Co., is now traveling salesman for the Burland Lithographic Co.

SOME of the tall telegraph poles of this city carry 12 cross arms, and support 121 distinct and separate wires.

HARRY HART, G. N. W., has been promoted from the entry department, to Sup't Grant's office.

MR. HUGH C. BAKER is Sup't of the Western Division of the Bell Telephone Co.

THE Woodward Underground Telegraph & Telephone Co. have made application to the Corporation to lay further underground wires. The matter is under consideration of the Council.

MR. ANDREW ALLAN, president of the Montreal Telegraph Company, says that the next new steamer of the Allan Line will be illuminated by the electric light.

THE Telephone Inspectors of Montreal have one hundred signal boxes each to examine every month.

HOWIE DAVIDSON is operator for G. N. W. at Dundas, Ont.

MR. C. P. SOLATER is Secretary-Treasurer of the Canada Bell Telephone Company in this city.

MR. PAUL PREVILLE, clerk, G. N. W., has resigned.

MR. ANGUS GRANT, was elected President of the National Lacrosse Association, at their Toronto meeting, on the 15th April.

MISS S. SUTHERLAND, who is connected with the Error bureau of the G. N. W., is noted for her many *bon mots*.

MR. JAMES KENT, night manager for G. N. W., is a genial and capable man; to work under whom is a pleasure.

JUDGE PAPINEAU, on the 10th inst., gave judgement against the G. N. W. Telegraph Co. for \$50 damages, and costs, in favor of F. X. Archembauld, Q.C. The complaint, was for a libellous paragraph transmitted over the wires of the defendants, concerning relations between the plaintiff and two of his clients.

MR. E. S. CAMP, who is with the C. P. R. at Hochelaga depot, is a gentleman exceedingly well versed in electrical science. We hope he may soon find a better field in which to exercise those higher qualities calling for the development of electrical engineering.

MR. B. B. TOYE, of Toronto, has favored us with a fine large lithograph portrait of general manager H. P. Dwight. It is an excellent likeness.

GENERAL THOS. T. ECKERT, who has done much in forwarding the interests of the city, in connection with our recent winter carnival, we hope next year will receive the compliment of a public reception at the hands of Mr. O. S. Wood, and thus be given an opportunity of meeting with our leading business men.

THE Brush Electric Light Dynamo, in the basement of the Harbor Commissioners' building, on Commissioners street, opposite the river front, had to be raised from its position and saved from serious injury by the recent flood, the water having entered the basement.

MR. ERASTUS WIMAN has arranged with Mr. John Pender, that the associated Atlantic Cables and our land lines shall pass free of charge, the social messages of the distinguished delegates attending the British Association for the Advancement of Science meeting in Montreal next summer.

MR. JAS. J. CARMODY is leaving the office of this paper to reside in Gotham. We are sorry to part with him. He is a good short-hand writer and would prove a valuable assistant in any office. We hope he will do well in New York.

THE TELEGRAPH.

MR. C. J. JONES is manager for the Canada Mutual in Hamilton, Ont.

CAN any of our readers favor us with the address of Hy. Largstaff, who was with the G.T.R. at Acton Vale, P.Q., in 1880.

MR. WILSON, sup't of the Dominion Government Telegraph lines, has left Victoria, B.C., for Kamloops, on public business.

MR. BELANGER has been appointed operator at Yale, B.C.

JAMES McCONNIFF, formerly of the G. N. W., is now press operator at Birmingham, Ala.

E. A. L. JONES, late of Toronto, is now with the Bankers' and Merchants' Company, Chicago.

ADAM PILON, and Wm. Walton, formerly of Toronto, are now at the New York Stock Exchange office.

MR. ALLEN is chief operator in the main office of the G. N. W. at Hamilton.

MR. GEORGE BLACK is the manager of the G. N. W. at Hamilton, Ont., a position he has ably held for many years.

MR. FRANK DRUMMOND, who was recently superintendent of a division of the C. P. R. telegraph lines in Manitoba, but who was obliged to resign on account of illness, we regret to learn is now residing at Mattawa, and in a very feeble state of health.

CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY COMPANY'S TELEGRAPH OFFICES are now opened at the following points east of Port Arthur:—McLenn's, McKenzie, Coon Lake, McVicar's Camp, Pearl Siding, Wolfe River, Sturgeon River, Red Rock, Nepigon Bridge, Mazoukamah, Gravel Bay, Tunnel, Pay's Flat, McKay's Harbor, Winston's Dock, Isbesters Camp, Jackfish Bay, Sleepy River, McKellar's Harbor, Little Pie, Port Caldwell, Red Sucker Cove, Port Munro, Peninsula Harbor, Pie, Cache Lake, Forbes and Stevenson's Camp, White River, Halfway House, Michipicoucton Pike Lake and Dog Lake.

WESTERN UNION telegraph stock is now selling at 68. The lowest figure reached since the consolidation with the Atlantic and Pacific and American Union Companies. The goods are selling at this price because of damage by water!

CHAS. W. LUNDY is the manager for the Atlantic cables at Torbay, N.S.

WHAT is the difference between an insulator and an operator? One supports the wire and the other the wire supports.

At what age may a telegraph operator be considered quite hungry? Mess-age.

THE Advisory Board of the Canadian Telegraphers Insurance Association are Mr. Angus Grant, G. N. W., Montreal; B. J. Hickey, G. T. R., Montreal; N. W. Bethune, G. N. W., Ottawa; E. Pope, G. N. W., Quebec; D. Van Nostrand, G. N. W., Watertown, N. Y. All gentlemen holding responsible positions in various organizations.

MR. STANLEY PATERSON is manager for the G. N. W. at Port Hope, a position he has held during a great many years.

MR. ARTHUR COX, sup't of supplies, G. N. W., Toronto, is an artist of considerable merit, and an associate member of the R. C. A. Association.

THE case of Mrs. Anglin *vs.* The Great North Western Telegraph Company, was tried by Judge Price on Wednesday, the 16th April, in Chambers, at Kingston, Ont. Plaintiff sued for damages for the non-delivery of a message directed by her to a party in Rochester. The company contended that it was not liable, being only responsible for the delivery of messages within a certain territory. From Buffalo to Rochester the Western Union Company was liable for the forwarding of messages, therefore the Western Union was at fault and it only. Judge Price ruled that the Great North Western was not liable.

THE annual convention of the Railway Telegraph Superintendents' Association, will be held at Philadelphia, on September 2nd, to October 15th.

PROJECTED SUBMARINE CABLE ROUTE WITH APPROXIMATE DISTANCES.

By F. N. Gisborne, Superintendent Dominion Telegraph and Signal Service.

England—Sable Island, including slack and 100 miles connection with Nova Scotia.....	2150
Sable Island—Bermuda, including slack.....	1000
Bermuda—Jamaica, including slack and 200 miles connection, via Bahamas.....	1100
Ireland—Fortean Bay, Canada, including 200 miles loop to New Brunswick.....	2350
Scotland—Ireland.....	400
Ireland—Greenland.....	840
Greenland—Charles Id., Hudson's Straits.....	850
Charles Id.—Port Churchill, Hudson's Bay.....	850
Pt. Simpson, B. Columbia—Unimak, Aleutian Isls.....	2040
Unimak—Alton, " " " ".....	1200
Alton—C. Lopatka or Northern Japanese Isls.....	760
Cape Lopatka—R. Amoor, Russian Asia.....	650
Total cable distance, Gt. Britain to Russian Asia, via Canada, including 600 miles slack.....	500
	6350

EARLY CANADIAN TELEGRAPH HISTORY.

MAGNETIC TELEGRAPH:

We perceive that the wires are now being placed on that portion of the route between Toronto and Hamilton, and it is supposed that in about three weeks from this date a telegraphic communication may be held between these places. The posts over which the copper wire is conducted are nearly all planted. We understand that to carry the wire over the canal at Burlington Heights and over the Welland Canal posts or masts will be required of about 100 feet in height. It is expected that early in January the whole line will be completed, when we will enjoy the facilities of instantaneous communication with New York, Boston, &c.

We are glad to see this work progressing so favorably and so rapidly, as it is a good evidence of the general prosperity of the country.

So said the *Hamilton Gazette* on the 23rd November, 1846: Can any of our readers tell us who was the first operator at Hamilton? What was the date of the opening of the Toronto office?—Ed.

MONTREAL TELEGRAPH COMPANY.

NOTICE.

The Directors of the MONTREAL TELEGRAPH COMPANY having completed their arrangements for the construction of a line of telegraph from Montreal to Toronto along the main travelled route between these two cities give notice that they are willing to receive PROPOSALS for STATIONS from the several towns along the line thereof—each proposal to name the amount of stock which would be taken by the applicant at each town and the aid towards the expenses of the station which would be contributed.

By order,
FREDERICK A. WILLSON, Hon.-Secy.

Montreal, February 27th, 1847.

The Cornwall *Observer*, Brockville *Recorder*, Kingston *Whig*, Belleville *Intelligencer* and Cobourg *Star* will please give this notice six insertions and send their account to the Secretary of the Company.

Can any of our readers add to the above information?—Ed.

A TRIP TO TOBBAY, N.S.

ATLANTIC CABLE STATION.

Written for the *C. E. News*.

Leaving New Glasgow one fine summer day in 1883 for Heatherton, a station on the Halifax & Cape Breton Railroad, which place is reached about 3 p.m., where waiting at the station is found a two-horse stage carrying the mails to Guysboro' (25 miles distant), we are literally rattled along up hill and down dale, changing horses en route and reaching Guysboro' at 7 p.m. Here we put up at Grant's Hotel, a comfortable hostelry, for the night and driven to Torbay (24 miles) next day by our friend Mr. Chas. W. Lundy, the Superintendent of the Cable Station. We were seated in a light springy gig peculiar to that country and especially adapted to the roads, which for most of the distance is made through the woods, brush and rocks partly at the expense of the Cable Co., a wild and solitary country, not devoid of some good scenery here and there. Nearing Torbay the "Barrens" are reached, an expansive waste so called covered with immense rocky boulders, a novel sight. Soon Larry's River, a small fishing village, comes in view, this is the nearest settlement to the station, which now looks close at hand, but there is quite a round about drive from "Larry's" to the station, approaching which one is surprised to see such evidences of improvement on such unpromising soil. The Cable Co. own some 200 acres here and have spent upwards of \$70,000 on the place. The Superintendent has a very comfortable house built on a slight eminence, in front of which for some distance the rocks and brush have been removed and the green grass gladdens the eye. Here is the cricket ground. There are several very neat looking houses for the married men of the station, one to each, the bachelors live in a large club house built on most solid foundations, which cost \$25,000. Herein is found a respectable library and good billiard room and everything to make the fellows comfortable. Not far from the club house are the offices and operating rooms, in which an old time land telegrapher could not fail to find much to interest him, and down by the shore is the cable house, where the shore end terminates. The winter before last a fine skating rink was built, a credit to all concerned, which, no doubt, must be a great boon to the boys during the long winters.

The superintendent, C. W. Lundy, is an old cable man, having been one of the staff on board the "Agamemnon" on her memorable cable laying expedition when she encountered a fearful gale which put the ship in some peril for a time, not to be forgotten by those on board. He has seen much telegraph service in the United Kingdom, Newfoundland, the East Indies and Nova Scotia and is one of the best of fellows dead or alive! The air of New Scotland appears to agree with him. The staff consists of the superintendent, clerk in charge, his deputy and some 13 clerks, servants, &c., some of the staff have been there since the first message was flashed through the cable in 1858, although they engage for only three years. The coast is rock bound and dangerous and shipwrecked mariners have had on several occasions to thank the Cable Co. and its officials at the station for a welcome shelter. A little distance off the wreck of a large ocean steamer lay which had gone ashore a short time previously, having lost her reckoning in a fog. There is some fine scenery not far from Torbay, and a drive to New Harbor (10 miles) was of much interest. Some supplies are brought to the station by schooner from Halifax to Larry's River, others come from Guysboro, at stated periods, and the station is kept well supplied with the illustrated and other papers sent out from England by the head office in London. On the whole a very pleasant existence may be passed here by the men at all events spite of some drawbacks consequent upon the want of society

except that within the residents themselves. It ought to be a good place to keep a stocking, and if a fellow can wear a contented mind he ought surely to have a "*mens sana in corpore sano*"—for undoubtedly it is a health-giving spot. Long may it flourish.

THE TELEPHONE.

THE Bell Telephone Company of Halifax have submitted to the Council a tender for the operating of the City Fire Alarm system.

THE Council of the town of Levis, Q., are about to adopt a system of telephonic connection which will also answer the purpose of a police and fire alarm system.

IN a few weeks Huntingdon will have telephonic connection with the United States. As Montreal is, however, their chief market town, they should also have telephonic communication with it.

"The Telephone Company of Canada" have applied at Quebec for the granting of letters patent. Several large capitalists of this city and the Eastern Townships are the moving spirits, when we may at no distant day see another "Richmond in the field" in opposition to the present Bell Company.

A COMPETITIVE test between the Bell Telephone and the Rogers Telephone was recently made in Philadelphia. The Diaston Brothers, well known millionaires, requested Mr Rogers to make this test over a seven-mile wire, between their two factories, and pronounced the Washington invention far superior to the Bell telephone. Among the gentlemen present were Dr. Beckwith, who started the "Baxter" or "Overland" telephone, clearing \$70,000. He was greatly delighted with the competitive test, and immediately secured an interest in the new telephone.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Editor Canadian Electrical News:

I was much interested in the perusal of "a sketch of the Canadian Telegraph system, its rise and development," showing the wonderful progress that it has made in Canada. It brings up a flood of old time incidents vividly to memory, particularly that of the bitter contest between the British North American and the Montreal Telegraph Co.'s from 1853 to 1856 on the section between Montreal and Quebec. It was a severe fight and we both fought nobly, but alas! the weaker had to succumb.

Allow me to relate one of the incidents of the campaign, as a specimen of our contests.

In these days such luxuries (to telegraph companies) as railways were unknown in that section. Our lines were placed on opposite sides of the common highway, and of course they crossed each other frequently. Heavy rains had set in; the country about Berthier was inundated and the wires were crossed and naught but swimming, in icy water, would undo them. We wrangled with each other for a long time, when diplomacy stepped in. A treaty was made by which each company were to have a free circuit every alternate half hour. By some strange fatality, the compact was invariably ignored and we went "at it hammer and tongs" again. Things became aggravating and monotonous and science was called in to assist nature. I attached our wires to the office clock, so that every tick of its pendulum sent a thrill into the camp of the enemy. The enemy met the assault, and they do say that he rotated about his key for an hour, then tried to lift his shoulder over his head and then chewed the bitter cud of reflection, only to learn later on that he had been fighting Old Father Time! They say this "brass pounder" was missing for several days after the event!

Nt.

A gentleman in the United States writes us:—

"Individually, I wish to congratulate you on your prospects of success. I should like to see a genuinely scientific electrical journal, and by that I do not mean one to go into the greatest depths of the science, but to treat it in an every day common sense fashion. Our own journals of this class are given over to correspondence of a newspaper style that is generally unreliable scientifically; to interspersing far-fetched humorous items; to steam engineering; to matters of most interest to the editor or publisher; to everything but that which even our telegraph operators ought to know. Experimenters get little help from these journals. I heartily wish you the success you anticipate, and that the people will find yours the journal they need."

While thanking our correspondent for his good wishes we think his condemnation of the American Electrical journals too sweeping. One of our exchanges, *The Electrician and Electrical Engineer* of New York, we believe to be very popular, and consider it in many respects a model paper.

Editor Canadian Electrical News.

Permit me to congratulate you in the good taste exhibited in the general get up of the "CANADIAN ELECTRICAL NEWS." I sincerely hope it may prove a successful venture, as it doubtless will, if the varied interests of which it is the medium will give you the requisite support. The time is quite ripe, in my opinion, for Telegraph, Telephone, and other kindred interests to have an organ devoted to them in this Dominion. Your suggestion that an Electrical society should be organized, in view of the distinguished electricians who are to visit us during the ensuing summer is a most timely hint, and I think the following gentlemen should take action, with this object in view, viz.:

Messrs. WILLIAM CASSIDY,	Messrs. F. H. BADGER,
" ANGUS GRANT,	" J. H. MACFARLANE,
" JAS. STEPHENSON,	" JNO. MURRAY,
" C. R. HOSMER,	" JOHN HORN,
" W. J. GILMOIR,	" W. J. GRAHAM.

Yours truly,

M. J.

April, 1884.

AMERICAN SPARKS.

THE BALTIMORE AND OHIO TELEGRAPH COMPANY now has upward of 25,000 miles of wire, and will have completed by the end of this year 15,000 miles more. It now connects New York, Chicago, St. Louis, Louisville, Cincinnati, Washington, Buffalo, Albany, Cleveland, and the intermediate points on the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad and branches and the West Shore and Nickel Plate Roads. It is building from St. Paul, Minneapolis, and other important points in the North-West, and from St. Louis to New Orleans and Galveston, and proposes to make direct connections between Pittsburg and Buffalo, Pittsburg and Cleveland, Columbus and Indianapolis, Cincinnati and Chicago, Chicago and St. Louis, St. Louis and Kansas City, and St. Joseph and Atchinson. When these extensions are completed its lines will reach from Boston and points further east to the principal commercial centres of the United States, not including, however, the extreme West, or the Atlantic coast cities south of Maryland.

THE BANKERS' AND MERCHANTS' TELEGRAPH COMPANY has, during the past eight months extended its system from 295 miles of poles and 1,955 miles of wire to 6,697 miles of poles and 46,847 miles of wire. Additional extensions are under contract which will give the company control of 10,000 miles of poles and about 100,000 miles of wire. The Bankers' and Merchants' now cover the territory from the Atlantic to the Missouri River, and from the St. Lawrence River almost to the Gulf of Mexico.

THE UNITED STATES House Committee on Post-offices, by ten to one, adopted a resolution declaring it is expedient to adopt the contract of postal telegraphy. The subject will be further discussed by the committee and steps taken to formulate a bill.

THE steamship "Faraday" sailed from London on the 16th April, carrying the first instalment of the Mackay-Bennett Atlantic Telegraph Cable. She cleared for Nova Scotia. One cable is to be landed at Boston, and the other at Fire Island.

ELECTRIC LIGHT.

THE Panhandle Railroad is fitting up a train of passenger coaches with electric lights. Each coach will have three lights.

THE Exhibition committee, we hope, will offer special inducements to give the public a fine show of electrical science. THE Vandepoole system of electric lighting, is that used by the Canada Electric Light Company, of Toronto.

ON Saturday evening, the 19th April, the Phoenix Electric Light Company gave an exhibition, by lighting up the Beet Root manufactory at Farnham.

THE Electric Light poles and wires will soon be put in position along our wharf again, for the coming season's shipping business. The plant is that operated by the Brush system.

THE Royal Electric Company of Montreal, started up their lighting station at Belleville, Ont., quite recently. The city was illuminated beautifully and the light was greatly admired, being steady, perfectly white and without a flicker. Thousands visited the lighted station, and pronounced the light a great success.

THE Quebec and Levis Electric Light Company have made extensive preparations in their electric light works at St. John's Gate, for the purpose of exhibiting their new system of lighting, both, by the arc and incandescent lamps. Mr. S. Mohr is the general manager of this company. The public exhibitions recently given were a success.

OUR various electric light companies should be on the *qui vive* towards securing the contract to illuminate the great Exhibition grounds and buildings in September. The opportunity should not be lost, of giving exhibition tests of the various lights and appliances. Fully one hundred thousand persons will be present from all parts of the Dominion.

THE Canadian Pacific Railway Steamers "Arthabasca," "Algoma" and "Alberta," will be the finest vessels on our great Lakes.

THE Canadian Edison Electric Light Company, of Hamilton, will illuminate them in a style never before seen on the lakes. Each vessel will have a $6\frac{1}{2}$ by 8 Armington & Sims engine, of 330 revolutions, driving an Edison dynamo, supplying 110 lights of sixteen candle power each, and having all the detachments and details as used by the Edison Company on steamships. The fixtures, which are more elaborate than usual, have been imported from New York, but with this exception all the apparatus is of Canadian Manufacture. The engine is manufactured by Doty, of Toronto; the dynamo by the Osborne-Killey Company, of Hamilton; and the other apparatus by the Edison Company at Hamilton. The lamps can be controlled by the engineer of the dynamo, or each lamp can be turned on or off by a key attached to its socket. The electroliers are so arranged that alternate lights can be turned off by a switch in the main saloon. Every light is provided with a safety plug which instantly cuts off the current through any branch in which there is a short circuit or a disarrangement of the wire. A novel and exceedingly useful feature of the lighting of these vessels is an electric lamp with a long flexible conductor. It can be taken from the boat and carried up dark decks, or can be used in the examination of the screw, rudder, or any submerged part of the hull. It is of course enclosed in an air-tight glass globe, and sheds its light when under the surface of the water as well as in the air. Matches will not be used on board, not even for lighting pipes or cigars, electric cigarette-lighters being provided for that purpose. These boats are the first on the lakes to be lighted by any system of electric appliances.

THE Toronto Electric Light Company, is that using the Hochhausen patents, owned by the Excelsior Electric Light Company, of New York. Mr. S. Hamburger is general manager.

ALIEN & SOPER, Electrical Engineers of Ottawa, have contracts for the installation of three electric light plants in Ottawa and its vicinity during this spring.

\$25,000 has been appropriated by Congress for electric lighting of the capital.

THE Vandepoole Electric Light Co., said, let there be light in Joliet, Ill. and there was light. And it is unanimously claimed by all, including the money changers and vendors of goods, and the people that dwell in the city and round about, that such a light never shined before in the benighted valley of Des Plaines. The merchants are enthusiastic over it, and the natives from the "rooral deestriets," when they come into the city, take off their specs and imagine they have had a foretaste of the joys to come, and that the glorious effulgence of the sun, moon and stars, and the northeast quarter of Paradise is pouring a flood of heavenly illumination around them.

THE Royal Electric Company's stock will be issued at its par value of \$10 per share, of which 20 per cent, or \$2 per share, shall be paid at time of subscription balance, payable upon the organization of the company being completed.

TORONTO has decided to give the electric light a three months test, which is equivalent to adoption. Fifty lights are to be used; one half will be furnished by the Canada Electric Light Company, and the other twenty-five by the Toronto Electric Light Company. The remainder of the city being lit by gas—a comparison will be thereby facilitated.

FLASHES HERE AND THERE.

WITHIN the last month the Pennsylvania Railroad Company has abandoned the use of all its overhead telegraph wires except two, and is doing its telegraph and telephone business by means of underground wires. It is asserted that the company is using about forty underground conductors with perfect success.

MR. HUGH NELSON, proposed the following alteration to the Canadian Telegraphers Insurance Association, which was seconded by Mr. Lanskill, at the last annual meeting, and which will come up for discussion at the next regular meeting.

ART. IX.—That all after the word "be" in the second line be expunged and the following substituted:—A sum, not exceeding five hundred dollars, the balance, if any, accruing from the call or assessment, in respect of such death, to be devoted to the purposes of a reserve fund, until such reserve fund amounts to a sum equal to two per cent. of the entire amount of insurance furnished by this Association, and when a sufficient surplus over and above the two per cent. shall have accumulated, a claim of five hundred dollars may be paid without making a call upon the members.

FELIX VICTORIA ROULEAU, of Isle Verte, Quebec, has patented a Magnetic Ore Separator. The cylinder of the separator has its entire outer surface provided with radially-arranged electro-magnets, which have their polar extremities of rectangular form, and arranged in close proximity to each other.

PARTIES from America are said to be in treaty in London for two new Atlantic cables in addition to the Bennett-Mackay Company. Can this be some of our Canadian Pacific Railway magnets?

SPEAKING of recent interruptions of telegraph communications between England and Scotland, Postmaster-General Fawcett stated, in the House of Commons, that the cost of substituting underground for overhead wires even between the principal cities, would cost not less than \$8,750,000

The English Government has decided to postpone the reduction of telegraph rates till some future time. This would indicate the department was running behind. We are of those who never believed in the control of the telegraph by the Government; their management of the same, and that of patents in general. We consider it as detrimental to the full development of the hidden mysteries of electrical science.

THE QUEBEC FIRE ALARM TELEGRAPH.

The fire alarm telegraph of the ancient capital is a central office system, and has lately been moved from the second to the third story of the Fire Station, No. 1, on St. Ursule street. Here five rooms are in use by this department, viz., the fire alarm office, sitting room, battery room, mechanical department and store room—all these are on the same floor for convenience. Although the mechanism has been seventeen years in use, it is practically equal to a new outfit. This speaks well for its original make, and the good care under which it has been managed. The system is composed of three signal circuits with 53 alarm boxes and three alarm circuits with 20 electric gongs. There are three tower strikers and a private line connecting the operators' residences with the department, and the Citadel from which is received the daily standard time. The whole system is under the superintendency of L. P. Brunelle, who has labored hard to bring it up to its present efficient condition.

MORSE RELIC.

The Editor of this paper has in his possession a piece of the old style original white paper that ran through the first Morse instrument at Baltimore, on the first public line built, running from Washington, D.C. It is two feet six and a half inches long, torn nearly straight off at each end, and is one and a half inches wide. The raised Morse characters run directly across the centre, from one end to the other, and were transmitted by the hand of Prof. S. F. B. Morse, the father of the telegraph, on the 28th day of April, 1846, from Washington, D.C., to Henry J. Rogers, who was receiving operator at Philadelphia, Pa. The telegraphic characters are well embossed, clear and easily read, and would indicate that the Professor had been a fine operator. The translation is part of a telegram from Secretary of the Treasury Bibb to Mr. H. J. Rogers, and reads as follows:—"P.M. Yours received. I never doubted friend Rogers politeness or his disposition. All is O.K." This relic of the early days of telegraphy we highly prize, having received the same from the late Mr. Rogers, many years ago.

Edison, the inventor, indulges in the following prediction: As to the changes which will be effected by electricity within fifty years in the city of New York, I believe that electricity will propel the cars of the streets and elevated railroads, light the city within and without its buildings, furnish power for all purposes, work telephone and burglar alarms, deliver the opera, convey parcels, detect and signal fires, operate fire-engines, and possibly displace animal locomotion for vehicles.

We wish to call the attention of our readers to the advertisement of Messrs. Seth W. Fuller and Holtzer, of 22 Milk street, Boston, Mass.

The firm is so old and well-known, that encomiums from us is unnecessary. All their transactions are on the old-fashioned business principles of 1809, and they are very pleasant gentlemanly men, so that if any of our readers wish any of their goods we can guarantee satisfaction will be given by this noted old house.

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