

Construction News

Construction News Notes are classified under each heading alphabetically by States. An asterisk (*) indicates a project not previously reported.

Recent Incorporation

*Home Electric Company, Hendersonville, N. C.—Incorporated to construct and operate interurban railways. Capital stock, \$50,000. Incorporators: Anne Oates, William H. Oates and Claudia H. Oates, all of Hendersonville.

Franchises

Auburn, Wash.—An ordinance has passed its first reading granting the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railway a franchise to erect, maintain and operate poles and wires for the electrification of its line within the city limits.

Seattle, Wash.—The Puget Sound Traction, Light & Power Company has applied to the City Council for a franchise across the Ballard Bridge at Fifteenth Avenue, N.W. The application has been referred to the city utilities and franchise committees. That the Ballard Bridge is to figure in a settlement of all differences between the city of Seattle and the Puget Sound Traction, Light & Power Company was indicated at a recent meeting of the city utilities committee, when these Councilmen voted to recommend to the franchise committee that no new franchise be granted to the company until all provisions of present franchise were complied with.

Track and Roadway

Visalia Electric Railroad, Exeter, Cal.—A report from the Visalia Electric Railroad states that its extension of the line from Exeter to Strathmore, 20.9 miles, will be placed in operation this year, and that gas-electric power will be used.

Pacific Electric Railway, Los Angeles, Cal.—Three applications have been filed by the Pacific Electric Railway with the Railroad Commission of California for authority to build tracks across streets in Los Angeles as follows: A third railroad track at grade across Montana Street, Scott Avenue, Berkeley Avenue and Alvarado Street; a turn-out in Sixteenth Street, which will be an extension of the present turn-out in the south half of that street just west of Arlington Street; an additional track at grade across East Eighth Street, East Ninth Street and a portion of Long Beach Avenue.

Municipal Railway, San Francisco, Cal.—A trial run was made on the Twin Peaks Tunnel line of the Municipal Railway on Dec. 31. The line is approximately 3 miles long. It was announced that regular service through the tunnel would begin about Jan. 15, with cars running to Sloat Boulevard and Junipero Serro Boulevard. As soon as arrangements with the United Railroads are completed, service will be provided on Ocean Avenue and to the beach. The company reports that its Market Street extension from Van Ness to Kearny will be opened about May 1.

Des Moines (Ia.) City Railway.—The City Council has granted to the Des Moines City Railway an extension of one year in which to complete the construction work provided for in the franchise which was voted the company three years ago. The company has plans made for sixty-four blocks of construction work during 1918 and expects to complete the work if able to secure labor.

Washington, Baltimore & Annapolis Electric Railroad, Baltimore, Md.—This company is installing two blocks of automatic signals, one at Shipleys and the other at Ardmore, Md. The material is furnished by the Union Switch & Signal Company, Swissvale, Pa.

Kansas City, Mo.—The Boards of Public Works has rejected bids for the construction of the Twenty-third Street viaduct from a connection with the east end of the Kansas Avenue bridge across West Bottoms to and connecting with the west line of New Brook Street at the intersection of Twenty-third Street. New bids are invited. The plans call for two approaches, one from Wyoming Street and the other from Frisco Yards, all of reinforced concrete and steel and main viaduct 1726 ft. long, with sidewalk, roadway and separate space for double street car tracks.

Manhattan & Queens Traction Corporation, New York, N. Y.—The transit committee of the Queens Chamber of Commerce has taken up with the Manhattan & Queens Traction Corporation the suggestion of Borough President Connolly that its trolley line be extended into the Ridgewood section of the borough in order to give that territory better means of transit communication with other parts of the borough. A trip of inspection was recently made to study the condition of the streets and the present residential and industrial developments along the proposed route. The officials of the Manhattan & Queens Traction Corporation have agreed to give immediate consideration to this proposed line.

Sand Springs (Okla.) Railroad.—Announcement has been made by the Sand Springs Railroad that it will not build the line from Tulsa to Pawhuska,

projected more than a year ago. It had been announced that work on this line would begin soon. The reason assigned for not going ahead with construction is that the Sand Spring Railroad is included in the lines now under government control, it being recognized both as a steam and electric railway.

Union Railway, Tulsa, Okla.—The Union Railway, which is building an interurban electric railway between Tulsa and Sapulpa, announces that the line will probably be completed and cars in operation by Feb. 1.

Shops and Buildings

Tuscaloosa Railway & Utilities Company, Tuscaloosa, Ala.—A new carhouse 44 ft. x 167 ft. and an engine room, 60 ft. x 95 ft., is being built by the Tuscaloosa Railway & Utilities Company.

Illinois Traction System, Peoria, Ill.—The carhouse and repair shops of the Illinois Traction System were partly destroyed by fire recently, the loss being about \$35,000.

Kansas City, Mo.—The Upper House of the Common Council has passed over the Mayor's veto, the ordinance previously passed by the Lower House, granting permission to the Interurban Central Station Company, Kansas City, to build a union passenger terminal station at Tenth and McGee Streets. The structure will be 208 x 132 ft., six stories, the construction to permit of the erection of four additional stories. The site and building will cost about \$2,000,000.

Texas Electric Railway, Dallas, Tex.—The Texas Electric Railway, the consolidated Strickland lines, has announced that it will soon begin erection of a large passenger station in Waxahachie. Two lots have been purchased as a site for the depot and for terminal tracks.

Power Houses and Substations

Fort Smith Light & Traction Company, Fort Smith, Ark.—This company reports that it is now installing one 3000-kw. two-phase, 2300-volt Parsons horizontal turbine and two 600-hp. B. & W. boilers in addition to its previous equipment.

Georgia Railway & Power Company, Atlanta, Ga.—A report from the Georgia Railway & Power Company states that it contemplates completing its Tullulah Falls power station by November, 1918, by installing one 12,000-kw. G.E. generator, driven by an 18,000-hp. Smith water turbine.

Northern Illinois Light & Traction Company, Ottawa, Ill.—It is reported that extensive improvements are to be made in the Marseilles plant of the Northern Illinois Light & Traction Company.