

drop in temperature. This is for buildings constructed in the ordinary manner, that is, without protected windows. Applied strictly to the glass surface, with leakage standardized, the loss from wind movement may be calculated as only three-sevenths of the loss under usual and ordinary conditions. This not only applies to the sides having the so-called greatest exposure, but, owing to the suction or non-pressure existing on the sheltered sides, should be applied to all sides of the building.

Chicago, Milwaukee & Puget Sound to Electrify 450 Miles of Mountain Division.

The Department of the Interior issued a grant at Washington, D. C., on Tuesday, January 7, which it regards as the most important step in water-power and electrical development that has been taken for many years. It marks a step in the long predicted electrification of the transcontinental railroads between the Rocky Mountains and the Pacific coast, but much more important than this is the fact that this step is to be taken under a grant which embodies the fundamental principles of waterpower policy which the Department of the Interior has been advocating for the past two years.

The Chicago, Milwaukee & Puget Sound Railroad is to electrify 450 miles of its main tracks between Harlowtown, Mont., and Avery, Idaho, and the company which is to furnish the electric power is the Great Falls Power Company. The grant was issued to the latter to transmit over public domain under strict government regulations, power for the electrification of the division.

The grant which is for 50 years, provides for compensation to the Federal Government, very small at first, but subject to readjustment every ten years. It provides for regulation of the rates and service, uniform accounting and complete publicity of books and records; the sale of power to the United States, and to the state within which the transmission lines are located, and to municipal corporations in such state at as low a rate as is given to any other purchaser for a like use under similar conditions; protection against fire, and prohibits any transfer or assignment of the permit without the written approval of the Secretary of the Interior. The company is forbidden to claim any earning value for the grant, or any selling value should the public take over the company's works at any time.

The electrified line will extend over three mountain ranges, the Bitter Root, the Rock and the Belt Mountains. Work on the improvement will be commenced within two years, accord-

ing to the present plans of the company. The aggregate cost of the installation of the new system will be approximately \$5,000,000. Contracts for materials and equipment already have been let, and the company intends to hasten the start of the work as much as possible.

Suggests Public Service Commission for Washington, D. C.

On December 7, 1912, the Honorable Mr. Lobeck introduced in the House of Representatives a bill "fixing the maximum price of electric current to consumers in the District of Columbia, and for other purposes," as follows:

A Bill

Fixing the maximum price of electric current to consumers in the District of Columbia, and for other purposes.

"Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That on and after the first day of July, nineteen hundred and thirteen, the maximum price of electric current sold or furnished by any person, firm, or corporation to any consumer in the District of Columbia shall be reduced from its present maximum price of ten cents per kilowatt hour to not exceeding five cents per kilowatt hour, and any person, firm, or corporation charging or collecting an amount in excess of the rates herein prescribed shall be guilty of misdemeanor and shall pay to the District of Columbia fifty dollars for each and every offense, to be collected as other funds are now collected in the District of Columbia.

"Sec. 2. That all Acts or parts of Acts in conflict herewith are hereby repealed."

This bill was referred to the Committee in the District of Columbia and ordered printed.

The Commissioners of the District of Columbia have gone on record, in a communication dated December 27, 1912, to the Honorable Ben Johnson, chairman of the Committee on the District of Columbia, as favoring the appointment of or election of a Public Service Commission for the District. They say:

"The Commissioners have not the necessary data, nor under present law have they authority to obtain the necessary data to ascertain whether the present maximum rate of ten cents per kilowatt hour, charged for furnishing electric current, should be reduced. It was because of their inability to handle such matters that they have recommended to Congress the establishment of a public utilities commission, a bill for which has already passed the Senate and is now

pending before your Committee. If this bill or a similar bill is enacted it would confer upon the Commissioners the authority of a public utilities commission and with the powers therein set forth would enable the Commissioners to determine whether the present rates charged for electric current in the District of Columbia are excessive and should be reduced as is proposed in this bill. At the present time the Commissioners are not prepared to state that the rate is excessive and are therefore constrained to recommend adverse action on the bill."

Nevada Metal Production in 1912.

The total metal yield from ores mined in Nevada during 1912, according to preliminary figures by V. C. Heikes, of the United States Geological Survey, was valued at nearly \$36,500,000, which is a little over 7 per cent greater than the value for 1911.

An increase estimated at 17 per cent in the production of copper, from 67,377,518 pounds in 1911, to about 79,000,000 pounds in 1912, is due to the new smelter which started operations early in 1912 at Thompson on copper ores produced chiefly from the Mason Valley and Nevada Douglas properties, in the Yerington district. High-grade copper matte was shipped from this plant to Garfield, Utah, for conversion. It is reported that converters for the production of blister copper will be built in 1913 at Thompson. The Nevada Consolidated mines at Ely produced daily from 10,000 to 14,000 tons of low-grade copper ore, which was concentrated and then smelted at the Steptoe smelter at McGill. One unit of the Nevada Consolidated concentrator was devoted to the daily treatment of about 1,000 tons of the Giroux copper ores. The labor strike of 26 days curtailed production to some extent at these mines.

Utah Company Secures Delta Concern.

The first move on the part of the Utah Light and Power Company, the newly organized \$50,000,000 concern, to establish a continuous chain of lighting plants from Telluride, Colo., to Grand Junction, was accomplished when the company secured control of the Delta Electric Light and Power Company on December 30 for the consideration of \$75,000. Other properties will be added in the near future until the chain is complete. It is understood that options will shortly be granted the Utah Company on the plants at Montrose and Ouray.

Power for Delta will be supplied from the company's station at Telluride and day service will be inaugurated at once. J. E. Shue, manager of the Delta property, will be retained.