

The Chronicle

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Amendment to Ontario Municipal Act. An amendment to the Ontario Municipal Act gives power to the City Council to execute local improvements that are deemed necessary but which hitherto have been neglected owing to the ratepayers refusing to sanction them as the law then required. Owing to this obstinacy of some property owners the works needful for the welfare of a whole district have been left undone and streets left in a disgraceful condition. The new law will enable such works to be carried out by the city and a due portion of their cost levied upon the local ratepayers. This amendment has long been needed in Toronto as a few property owners have obstructed necessary improvements which kept down the value of properties and injured the whole neighbourhood.

The Tramp Nuisance. The Ontario Government has commenced a vigorous campaign against the army of tramps who infest that province. The fire companies will wish the movement success for no end of fires, put down as, "origin mysterious," are attributable to tramps. Many of them do not wilfully commit arson, but they are utterly reckless in throwing patches about in barns, and shaking out embers from their pipes when sleeping in out-houses and empty dwellings. Bush fires are largely caused by these disreputable scamps. If they won't work willingly they should be made to work before being led.

Honours to Insurance Directors. The following honours were conferred last month by the King upon gentlemen each of whom is a director of an insurance company. The list appears in "The Review," the esteemed proprietor and editor of which might well have been amongst the honoured.

In the list of birthday honours announced last week we notice the following:—To be a Peer, Michael Biddulph, Esq. (Economic Life); to be a Baronet, Sir Marcus Samuel—The Right Hon. the Lord Mayor (Alliance Marine and General); to be

Knights, C. S. Bagot, Esq. (University); Lewis T. Dibdin, Esq., K.C. (Clergy Mutual); P. Heron Watson, Esq., LL.D., M.D., F.R.S. (Scottish Accident); to be a Companion of the Imperial Service Order, Lieut.-Colonel Sir Arthur J. Bigge, G. C. V.O., K.C.B., K.C.M.G. (Scottish Amicable).

In addition to the foregoing, a knighthood has been conferred upon J. J. Runtz, Esq., head partner in the well-known firm of Messrs. J. J. Runtz & Son, insurance brokers. G. Brown, Esq., chief clerk of the Friendly Societies' Registry, has also been made a Companion of the Imperial Service Order.

Iron and Steel Trade of United States. The iron and steel trade of the United States is one of the marvels of the day. In view of the developments in the production of iron and steel in Canada, and the efforts made to establish industries of this class on a large scale, the statistics of the production, and of the import and exports of metals have much interest. The following shows the principal lines of these trades in 1900, 1901, 1902:—

	1902.	1901.	1900.
Imports, iron and steel.....	\$ 41,468,826	\$ 20,395,015	\$ 20,443,908
Exports, ".....	97,892,936	102,534,575	129,633,480
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
Production, pig iron....	*17,821,307	15,878,364	13,789,242
" bessemer, steel			
ingots and castings	*9,138,363	8,713,802	6,684,770
" open heart steel	*5,687,729	4,656,309	3,398,136
Total steel production...	*14,947,250	13,473,595	10,188,329
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
Production, Structural shapes.....	*1,309,326	1,013,150	816,161
Plates and sheets.....	*2,665,409	2,254,425	1,794,528
Rolled iron and steel (except rails).....	*10,996,183	9,474,688	9,101,761
All kinds of rails.....	*2,947,933	2,874,639	2,385,682
Rolled iron and steel including rails.....	*13,944,116	12,349,327	9,487,443
Wire rods.....	*1,574,293	1,365,934	846,291

The productions in above list marked * are included in the bounties to be given by the Dominion Government. The imports into the United States of iron and steel manufactures up to latest date reported are heavier than in any year since 1873.