

**Board of Trade
Valedictory.**

Mr. F. H. Mathewson, the retiring President of the Board of Trade, who has filled the position so admirably, with such dignity and with such satisfaction to the country generally, gave a very excellent valedictory address. It contained much interesting information and good advice and we congratulate Mr. Mathewson upon it. We quote some extracts from the speech.



**Montreal's Civic
Administration.**

Mr. Mathewson severely criticized the condition of Montreal's civic affairs generally, and summed up the whole matter in the concise statement that the City Council, as at present constituted, is unwieldy and should be reduced by one half and the administration of the city's affairs should be placed in the hands of a Board of Control. THE CHRONICLE has for years advocated that the City Council should be a purely legislative body and that its administrative functions should be transferred to a Board of Control or Commissioners. This would make the other reform recommended by Mr. Mathewson easy of accomplishment. A council half the size of the present one, could do all the legislative work necessary and do it quicker and better than the existing unwieldy institution. What keeps so many aldermen busy now, is the administrative work of the various departments which is improperly and unsatisfactorily performed by their respective committees, instead of by permanent, competent and well paid officials. The Dominion Government has set an excellent example in this direction in connection with the Harbour administration. It will be astonishing if the three new commissioners do not perform the work far better, more economically, and with infinitely less delay than the old debating society.



**Civic Problems of
the Early Future.**

Regarding the problems facing the city Mr. Mathewson observed:

"Great problems are facing the city at the present time—subways and rapid transit on our congested streets will soon have to be considered, the question of providing additional railway terminals, and the elevation of the tracks of the Grand Trunk Railway will shortly have to be dealt with, but I believe the most serious problem facing us to-day is that of our water supply, and steps should be taken at an early date to provide a system of water works capable of taking care of a city with a population double the size of that of Montreal as it stands to-day—say, 800,000 or 1,000,000 people."

The City Council.

Alluding to this same subject Mr. Mathewson remarked that the Mayor and several aldermen were doing their utmost to bring about an improvement in the state of affairs, but unfortunately they appeared to be constantly outvoted by a number of aldermen who were apparently quite incapable of intelligently grappling with the important problems at present facing this rapidly growing city. Overhead wires continue; the streets and sidewalks are most disgraceful; the atmosphere continues to be polluted by smoke; the gas question remains unsettled; the Street Railway Company has been begging for months to be allowed to make extensions; the pumping capacity at the lower pump-house is still being taxed to its fullest extent, the new pump-house which was to have been installed last March not yet being ready; the pumping station is still lighted by coal oil lamps; the fire alarm system is still housed in an inflammable building, and the fire brigade is still insufficient in equipment.



**The Pulpwood
Question.**

Discussing the wholesale devastation of the spruce timber of this Province for the benefit of American paper manufacturers Mr. Mathewson recommended that we should not any longer permit the great wealth of our spruce forests to be exported; and an export duty on pulpwood, or the insertion of a manufacturing clause in all leases of Crown lands should be instituted, as by this means paper manufacturers would be forced to establish their industries in Canada and Canada would ultimately become the greatest paper manufacturing country in the world.



**The Montreal
Firemen.**

Mr. W. P. Downey writes a letter to the "Gazette" warmly defending the Montreal firemen against criticism. We quite sympathize with Mr. Downey's object, but the Montreal firemen need no defence. Anyone who has seen them at their work knows that they are nothing less than heroes. If the work of the brigade is not always satisfactory it is due principally to two causes: one, inadequate equipment; the other, the mass of overhead wires which hinder and endanger the men in their work. For both of these the city itself is responsible.



**Immigration
from U. S.**

The total immigration from the United States from July to December, of this fiscal year, was 24,803. For the corresponding months of 1905, it was 18,803, an increase of 6,000, or 32 p.c. The total immigration from the United States to Canada for the calendar year of 1906 was 63,856.