

**End of
a Banking
Suit.**

A length of time ago a man named Bower made a small deposit in the Bank of Hamilton's Toronto branch. He then drew a cheque for \$5, which was marked "good." He raised this cheque, after being marked, to \$500, and deposited it with the Imperial Bank and drew on it to amount of \$495. When the cheque was presented it was paid to the Imperial Bank for \$500. Shortly afterwards the forgery was discovered which was committed by raising the cheque, after acceptance, from \$5 to \$500. Suit was entered by the Bank of Hamilton to recover the \$495 paid to the Imperial Bank in mistake owing to the forgery. The Canadian Courts decided that the Imperial Bank was responsible, not the Bank of Hamilton. On appeal the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council has confirmed this judgment, which puts the loss on the Imperial Bank.

THE INSURANCE INSTITUTE OF MONTREAL.**FIRST ANNUAL DINNER—LARGE ATTENDANCE—
DISTINGUISHED GUESTS.**

The Executive of the above Institute recently decided to inaugurate a succession of annual dinners, for the threefold purpose of cultivating a social spirit amongst those engaged in the insurance business, of bringing the institution into public notice, and of impressing the people at large with the magnitude of insurance interests and the services which they render to the community. The first annual dinner was held at the Place Viger Hotel in this city which was attended by a very large company comprising the managers, chief agents and staff of all the fire and life companies established in this city who are members of the Institute. The guests were: The Hon. Raymond Prefontaine, M.P., Minister of Public Works; the Hon. Chas. Kirkpatrick, M.P., Minister of Justice; Mr. Justice Davidson, the Hon. Senator MacKay, Mr. Wm. McCabe, managing director of the North American Life, Toronto; Mr. J. Alsop, Liverpool, Eng., assistant manager of the Liverpool and London and Globe; Lieutenant-Colonel Macdonald, actuary of the Confederation Life, Toronto; Mr. Blackburne, manager of the Sun Insurance office, Toronto; Mr. F. Newcombe, Deputy Minister of Justice, Ottawa; Leighton McCarthy, M.P.; F. D. Monk, M.P.; Mr. Thos. Bradshaw, Imperial Life; D. Dexter, Federal Life; T. Hilliard, Dominion Life; F. Sanderson, Canada Life; John Milne, Northern Life; Robt. Junkin, Manufacturers' Life; E. E. Reid, London Life; Chas. E. Good, C.E.

The banquet was presided over with geniality and tact by Mr. B. Hal. Brown, manager of the London

& Lancashire Life Insurance Co., who is president of the Montreal Insurance Institute. After the toast of "The King" had been loyally honoured, the toast "Canada" was given by the president, who dwelt upon the magnificent resources of and the great future before the Dominion. As a native Canadian he felt proud of his country and looked forward to its occupying a distinguished position amongst the nations of the world. In response to the toast "Canada," the Hon. Mr. Fitzpatrick made an eloquent speech delivered with much earnestness, vim and flashes of humour. He described in picturesque language a traveller entering the Straits of Belle Isle and sailing up the St. Lawrence, one of the noblest, most important and most historically interesting of rivers. It was the gateway and entrance to a great continent; it had been the prize fought for by two of the greatest nations of Europe. Passing from the St. Lawrence the Minister of Justice depicted the riches of the West where wealth "beyond the dreams of avarice," awaited to reward the miner and the farmer. "The granary of the world," he said, was Manitoba and the Territories. Coming East Ontario's climate and productions, her rich farms, vineyards that extended for miles, her peach orchards, were eloquently described as far surpassing what the old land could show. This Province with its vast forests of incalculable value and its inexhaustible water powers were spoken of as having in them the promise and the potency of national progress that would advance Canada to eminence and wealth. The coal and iron mines, the developing industries of Nova Scotia were regarded as likely to make Canada a great manufacturing country.

At a later period the Hon. Raymond Prefontaine, M. P., Minister of Public Works, and Mr. F. D. Monk, M.P., enlarged upon the themes suggested by the toast "Canada."

Mr. Prefontaine said that as Minister of Marine and Fisheries he was interested in the subject of insurance, but more particularly marine insurance. He was aware that there had been much criticism of rates charged on risks coming by the St. Lawrence route. He did not think that the rates were quite fair, considering all that had been done toward improving this great waterway, and in view of the security of the ports of Montreal, Quebec and Halifax.

The government had done a great deal for the betterment of the St. Lawrence, and it would be his aim to aid in this. He looked for a decrease of rates, and he intended to do all in his power to secure a diminution, not by antagonistic, but by pacific means.