

Our Montreal Letter

(From Our Own Correspondent)

LAGER FOR THE GENERAL ELECTIONS.

Politicians are getting ready for the Liberal Government at Nova Scotia General Elections. The overthrow of the Liberal Government at Nova Scotia and New Brunswick has caused general rejoicings among the Conservatives, and they see the handwriting on the wall for the King Administration. The leader of the Opposition, Arthur Meighen, is on the qui vive and is touring the West, crying out for the elections and telling the people that economy should be practiced. Yet, strange to say, when he was in power, economy was forgotten and he refused to practice what he is now preaching. Premier King says that he will not be stampeded into a general election to satisfy Mr. Meighen and his followers. When his Government think the elections are near, both leaders are very weak men. In fact, the weakest that have stood at the head of the affairs of the Dominion for years back, compared to Sir Wilfred Laurier, Sir John A. McDonald, Sir John Thompson, Sir Charles Tupper and others, they are only poodles. The great issues before the country are the enormous debt, the heavy taxation and the Canadian National Railways. Speaking of Canadian Railways the "Canadian Railroad Employees Monthly," says:—

Canada is the super railway country of the world. It has enough railway trackage to circle the earth twice at the equator.

With its nine million of population Canada has 40,000 miles of railway lines, the United States with 112,000, 000 people has 251,000 miles of railway, the United Kingdom with 48,000,000 people has a little over 25,000 miles. All the world with a population estimated at 1,700,000 has 741,000 miles of railway according to the Statistical Department of the Interstate Commerce Commission of the United States. Of course many of the railway lines in other countries being double tracked the trackage mileage will be greater than the figures given here. Canada has only 2500 miles of second track lines.

Canada has built railways for a population of 25,000,000 people according to one Canadian economist. Since 1913 Canada's railway lines have been extended at the rate of 1,000 miles a year.

Canada would need an increase of about nine million in population to reduce her per capita railway mileage to that of the United States. But even then her railways would be in a position as favorable as those of the United States. Canadian railways will always have to bear the expense of comparatively long hauls. No concentration of population such as is found from Chicago to New Orleans is likely in the centre of Canada along the northern shores of Lake Superior or Lake Huron.

The railways of the United States with one-third of the world's mileage apparently handle more freight traffic than all the railways of the rest of the world do. Julius H. Parmelee, director of the Railway Bureau of Economics estimates that all the railways of the world in 1923 handled 910,000,000 net ton miles of traffic. Of this great total American railways are credited with handling 437,000,000,000 ton miles, or more than half. Canadian railways in 1923 carried 30,000,000,000 tons of freight one mile.

While Canadian railways are overbuilt, it can hardly be said they are overmanned. In 1913 when their operating lines were 29,304 miles in length, 178,562 employees of all classes were required to operate them. In 1922 and 1923 when 36,000 miles had been added the number of employees were respectively 155,335 and 178,052. In 1913 there were 609 employees to every 100 miles of line, in 1922, 412, and in 1923, 445.

FOUR BOYS HAD A NARROW ESCAPE.

Four boys were rescued from drowning in the waters of the St. Lawrence just below the Lachine Rapids, opposite Verdun, late Sunday afternoon. The boys had hired a rowboat in Verdun and had rowed up towards the rapids intending to go in for a swim. They undressed and plunged into the water from the boat, but the strong current carried their craft away, and although they managed to cling to it, they were unable to get into it and it finally upset, their clothing and other belongings going to the bottom of the river. The boys floated away, and the boys perched themselves on the keel of the upturned boat and shouted for help.

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boat party, including Walter Wilson, paymaster of Verdun, D. Trotter, J. J. Justin, of Brooklyn. They pulled the boat into the motor boat and finally landed them in Verdun, exhausted and ill from exposure.

TWO MEN LOSE THEIR LIVES.

A young man lost his life when he received 3,400 volts from one of the overhead wires of the electrified railway system of the Montreal Harbor Commission. He was employed by the Commercial Alcohol, Ltd., as a foreman. He was examining a tank car of molasses with an iron pipe that came in contact with one of the overhead wires, and he received the full voltage carried on the wires. The pipe was found beside him. In his fall he also suffered a broken neck.

The second man fell from the lofty chimney of the C.P.R. Station, Windsor Street. At the time of the accident he was climbing to the top of the chimney to inspect it, when he lost his balance and fell to the ground. He was given first aid by C.P.R. employees and then rushed to hospital where he died shortly afterwards.

McGILL'S GREAT CRICKET RECORD.

The McGill Cricket Club has established another great record this season. None of the local Clubs could defeat them. Last Saturday they defeated Verdun by a large score and with only 4 wickets down. Verdun was disposed of for 21 runs. Henry Mitchell, McGill's star left-handed bowler, getting 9 wickets for 8 runs, bowling only 8 overs, two being maidens, and also performed "the hat trick." Westmount tried conclusions in the League and Cup games, but in the first match Westmount scored 85 runs in 2 hours. McGill responded with 60 runs in an hour and forty minutes. In the second innings Westmount scored 115, but McGill, with the loss of 4 wickets, made 135. In the two days' match for the John Ross Robertson Cup, Westmount made a good stand in the second innings, but McGill, with a weak team, beat them by 20 runs. The West Indians gave McGill a scare, when the ninth wicket fell and they were 8 runs behind. Mitchell, a weak batter, came to the rescue and the unbroken string of victories remained intact. The Albion Cricket Club, of Toronto, came and played a two days' match for the Ross Robertson Cup, but failed to win it. McGill, in the first innings, made 341 runs, one of the largest scores in the history of the Club. The Albions made only 125. In the second innings the Westerners piled up 278. McGill being away off in their bowling and fielding. The Albions have four colored players, all of them being good batsmen and three of them good bowlers. Two of them made the highest score for their side. Munro, the famous piano player, was the great scorer for McGill, getting 77 not out in the 1st innings. All bowlers looked alike to Munro, 4's and 2's coming in rapid succession. With 63 to win, McGill lost 3 wickets. Hedges and Goodman, two of their best batsmen being caught in the outfield, while Potter, who has lost his cunning this year in his "cannon ball" bowling, was bowled out by one of his colored brethren. Dr. Morrison Blackie, an Oxford graduate, was the outstanding feature for McGill in his fielding, catching, bowling and batting. McGill wins the championship of the Senior League, the local cup, and retains the Ross Robertson Cup for the fourth consecutive season.

AUTO BUS DRIVER THANKS THE COURT.

An autobus driver, who was acquitted in the Coroner's Court on a charge of killing a farmer, near St. Jerome, when the farmer became confused and ran in front of the car, quietly got up from his seat and said to the jury: "Gentlemen, I thank you."

DO YOUR DUTY WELL EACH DAY.

Dear Readers—Duty well done is its own reward. Each of us has his duties to perform. Duties to God, to our fellowmen and to ourselves. "Man, Know Thyself," was the great Greek maxim. Do you stand up to life or do you sneak away from it? Stand up to your work determined to do it well. Give your employer an honest day's labor and your conscience will never upbraid you with being a dishonest man. A writer says: Only this morning a big, grapping man came into my office looking for a job. He said he was down and out—that fate had been unkind to him and that he had had no much trouble that it had sort of soured him.

I said to him: "Man, don't you know that if life was all roses, we'd pretty soon tire of the sickeningly sweet odor and holler for variety. Do you know that if you get stuck by a thorn once in a while it makes you careful to steer clear of thorns? You're got health and strength and ability, and here you are whining just because you have had a few troubles. You ought to thank God you've got two good eyes and two strong arms and two sound legs!"

And he went out with a new point of view. That's all most of us need once in a while—a fresh point of view. The trouble is that we like to follow the crowd. We like to let somebody do our thinking for us. We follow the line of least resistance. We say to

ourselves: "Oh, I can't do that. Do you know you can't? The world won't think you can. Think you can."

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