

by their own hands will have reduced themselves into perpetual castes bound within unscaleable limits, like animals in a ring-fence with trade's union officials as their keepers. It is a very dangerous thing for men to abandon their right to enter into individual free contracts, in a word, the right to sell their own labour to whom and at what price they choose.

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The City Council, after discussion of the proposal, has decided not to have "Censors" appointed to pass upon what books are to be placed in the Free Library when it is organized for Montreal under the conditions of the gift from Mr. Carnegie. The choice of literature is to be left in the hands of a librarian and a committee of aldermen. If the librarian is, as he should be, a cultured literary man, of high character, of good judgment, with business qualifications, the selection of books may be safely left in his hands, with a veto power exercisable by the committee, a function which, however, calls for a much wider knowledge of literature than is the ordinary accomplishment of our civic rulers. Had a Board of Library Censors been appointed, Montreal would have been subject to a torrent of jibes and sarcastic ridicule. This metropolis of commerce is not a young ladies' boarding school. Certain persons should read Milton's essay on Unlicensed Printing, the study of which might expand their minds, and enlighten their judgments as to the folly, the inutility, the utter vanity of the censor system.

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As we are going to press news has arrived of the death of Mr. Henry Hogan, who for many years has been the proprietor and for over half a century has had charge of the St. Lawrence Hotel in this city. Few men in Canada had a wider circle of friends, fewer still who had been in intimate association with the most distinguished public man of the Dominion, before and since confederation, and with visitors of fame and illustrious rank. Mr. Hogan's life, if written, would be a most interesting record of the history of Montreal extending over two generations.

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The Toronto Assessment department has just issued a statement which gives the total value of assessable property in that city as \$139,586,477, an increase of \$5,620,930 over last year. The population is put at 211,735, without counting transient residents. The value of land makes up \$60,374,598 of the total assessment; buildings and improvements, \$63,098,828; personal property, \$10,359,748; taxable income, \$5,464,775. The amount of exemptions is \$24,243,198, an increase of \$293,348.

The Premier is now in mid-ocean homeward bound. He had a splendid reception when at Liverpool, and will have a very hearty one on his arrival next week. We trust his health will have been completely re-established by the sea voyage. He will need all his strength to pull one of his colleagues into line—unless the line laid down by the Minister of Public Works is adopted by the Cabinet.

Notes and Items.

At Home and Abroad.

AUTOMOBILE CARRIAGES are styled "Devil Wagons," by the "Insurance Press," owing to the numerous fatal accidents they cause.

"THE LAND OF CONFLAGRATIONS" is the title given to the United States by Mr C. R. Colquhoun, of the North British and Mercantile, Victoria.

BATLEY TOWN HALL having been burnt, municipal insurance has had another set back. The building was insured in a responsible company.

ACCIDENT ASSURANCE, Double Convention Number, is devoted to the convention held at Crawford House, July 8 to 10. It contains portraits of a number of Accident Company officials, amongst others, Mr. A. L. Eastmure, Toronto.

THE AUSTRALIAN WIDOWS' FUND LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY announces the business of its sixth quinquennium as exceeding that of the fifth by \$3,250,000. The existing business now exceeds \$25,000,000, and the annual revenue is \$1,250,000. The valuation is based upon 3½ per cent.

THE ROYAL ARCANUM COUNCIL, No. 1414, Chicago, has issued a circular in which there is the following offer: "The Council has decided to give a cash prize of \$25 to the Brother who brings in the most candidates who are initiated from now until last meeting in December."

LAPSES in policies issued by British life companies and American are considerably higher in the latter in all the years up to 15, when they are the same, as the American ratio gradually declines after the first year. The higher commissions paid by American companies on first year business seems the key to this variation of experience.

THE COLLAPSE OF BRITISH SHIPPING is not very apparent in the following statement, by the "New York Evening Post": "More British vessels came into the port of New York, from foreign countries last month than those flying the flag of any other five countries. The total British vessels was 189, and total of American, German, Norwegian, French and Dutch was 183."

A MONTH'S ACCIDENTS IN CHICAGO, from Aug. 16 to Sept. 15 last, are scheduled by the "Argus;" they number 193, of which 68 were fatal. Railways killed 19 and injured 17; trolley cars killed 4 and injured 35; runaway horses killed 2 and injured 9. Bicycles, carriages, falls from buildings, burns, etc., complete the list, of which every line says: "Take out an accident policy right away."