

PROMINENT TOPICS.

The Citizens' Insurance Co.—The directors of this Company originally appointed the former manager and secretary, Mr. E. P. Heaton and Mr. William Smith, to wind up its affairs. The winding up, owing to various causes, incidental to the closing out of an insurance company, has been slow work, and as there are still claims outstanding, amounting to about \$8,000, application has been made to the Courts to have the work of finally winding up the Company placed in the hands of the Montreal Trust and Deposit Co., with Mr. J. O. Gravel as inspector.

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DAME RUMOUR.—Mr. Relton, of the Guardian Assurance Co., is quite amused at the imaginative and silly rumours which have been so freely circulated in the press and elsewhere with reference to his Company. It is evident that there is keen competition as to who will make the most sensational statements.

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However diverse may be the opinions of our citizens in regard to the fire protection of the city, or the equipment of the fire brigade, there is but one view possible to be taken as to the men who are called upon to extinguish fires. Every fireman stands ready at the call of duty to undertake work, which, under the most favourable circumstances, is exceedingly responsible, arduous and dangerous. When a fire assumes formidable proportions the firemen bravely assume the risk of severe personal injury, even of death, of the imminence of which they must be conscious, yet which they face with splendid courage, a courage equal to that which, when shown by soldiers in storming a fort, elicits a nation's applause and rewards. For services of this nature the men deserve to be liberally paid, as well handsomely compensated for any injuries they suffer, and, when stricken down in the path of duty, it is the city's obvious duty, and should be the city's melancholy satisfaction to make liberal provision for the bereaved members of the sufferer's family.

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The following Aldermen of this city have been re-elected by acclamation: Messrs. Ames, Bumbray, Carter, Couture, Clearihue, Deserres, N. Lapointe, Levy, L. A. Lapointe, Lemay, Lavallee, Payette, Robertson, Robillard, Stearns, Sadler, Turner, Walsh, Wilson.

There are three candidates for the Mayoralty this year, viz., Aldermen Laporte, whose record in the Council is regarded as a strong point in his favour; Mr. W. H. Dandurand, and the present Mayor.

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Toronto is in an excited state over some irregularities that have been exposed in the recent election of members of the Board of Control. There

are a number of cases of personating absent rate-payers. Singular enough, so well known a citizen as the Honourable Geo. A. Cox, who was out of the city on polling day, was personated by some audacious person. In one district from three to five voters out of every twenty-five were personated. The affair is in the hands of the police, and the culprits, if convicted of this crime, will be placed where they will have time to realize the extent of their folly and guilt.

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The system of placing each polling place in the hands of a partisan of some one candidate, has led to numerous irregularities of a criminal nature. However carefully such an officer may be watched by a representative of the other candidate, the one who is in charge of the ballot box and voting papers has opportunities for committing irregularities, which the ordinary class of those who act for the opposition are not experienced enough to check. The present voting system is open to radical improvements.

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Sir Thomas Shaughnessy, President of the Canadian Pacific Railway, delivered an address at Toronto, on the 18th inst., on "Transportation." He dwelt chiefly upon the history of the great enterprise, which owes so much to his indomitable energy, enterprise, organizing talent and his quickness in responding to public requirements. He made out a strong case for a more thorough utilization of the unequalled waterways of Canada, by showing how much more cheaply grain and other classes of freight could be carried from the Northwest to the seaboard, by water than by rail. Sir Thomas considers Canada to hold a commanding position in this respect, which, however, needs developing. He showed how the anticipated annexation of Canada, owing to the superior advantages of American Pacific lines for transcontinental traffic was being reversed, as Canada was now drawing thousands of settlers from the States, owing to the advantages afforded them by railway facilities.

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The Ontario Legislature was opened last week. The Lt.-Governor read his address, which dealt briefly with the following questions in very general terms; municipal assessments; provincial institutions; agricultural education; sales of timber limits; railway extension; immigration and license laws. The debate on the address is being conducted with much animation, the two parties being so nearly even in numbers as to make the situation critical. The forest wealth of Ontario was the theme of one speech, in which it was stated that at the last sale of timber limits there had been cleared \$3,687,337. The Province may well be out of debt. That sum, however, was a realization of capital resources.