

been declaring that Britain had been in the crest of a wave of Jingoism, and was continuing under its power. Sir Wilfrid said that Great Britain stands alone in Europe as the one great power which can never be wholly swayed by militarism. The compliment is as deserved as it is flattering. England has never had the military fever; its wars have never been inspired by military ambition; some have been most unwise, ill-judged, quixotic, but the most censurable have been carried on for defensive or strategic purposes, or to carry out diplomatic engagements with foreign allies or punish foes who threatened her commerce or honour. No nation has so splendidly rewarded military genius, but for mere "glory," Britain has never struck a blow or fired a shot. Sir Wilfrid is right; he showed genius in interpreting the spirit of the old land when he declared that England will never be carried away by the spirit of militarism.

The capacity of trolley lines for freight traffic has been freely shewn this week in this city where loads of ties far in excess in weight of what is usually hauled by horsepower have been traversing the streets propelled by electricity from the trolley wires. The Montreal Park and Island branch of the Street Railway service has inaugurated a system of parcel deliveries by the cars. Along this line there will be considerable developments at an early date by street railway tracks being used for carrying freight.

The general manager of the Montreal Street Railway Company and Park and Island Railway issued a notice on 9th inst. informing the conductors and motormen of their wages being advanced as follows: "Men who have been in the service over two years from 15 cents to 16½ cents an hour; under two years from 14 2-7 to 15½ cents an hour." The rise is about 10 per cent., and will take effect from 1st July. The advance is a spontaneous act on the part of the directors, and is consequently all the more valued by the employees who are highly gratified. The men deserve every consideration as their work which is onerous and responsible, as a rule is done intelligently and faithfully.

The extensive work now going on to improve the city's sidewalks are creditable to the City Council. A large number of dangerous places, where many accidents have occurred, have been made passable without risk. It is questionable, however, whether a considerable waste of good lumber has not taken place on some streets. There are sidewalks in this city wide enough for a carriage, on residence streets

where a path one-half the width would be ample for all pedestrian traffic. Why should ten to fifteen feet be boarded over for a sidewalk? Surely the wood so wasted would be better employed in extending improvements, and it would be much cheaper to have the roadway widened three or more feet than to lay down sidewalks double the width needed for pedestrians. A survey of the entire system of roads and sidewalks would reveal some remarkable specimens of most incongruous proportions existing between these conveniences for the traffic, and, were the whole of them systematized under a general plan there might be large economies effected, sufficient probably to cover the cost of annual repairs and renewals.

A passionate appeal has been made to the city authorities to take some steps to prevent street accidents such as children and others being run down by the street cars. What the City Council can do in the premises is not stated, nor is it easy to discover. Citizens who use the street cars for several daily trips suffer much annoyance from being constantly alarmed at the recklessness of children, older persons and especially drivers of vehicles, whose great ambition is to put as narrow a space as possible between themselves and death by rushing in front of street cars. This disagreeable spectacle can be seen every hour of the day. The motor men suffer seriously from the nervous strain caused by such mad recklessness. Were these men less keenly alert, watching out for apparently would-be suicides, and were they less prompt in stopping cars there would be a daily list of fatalities. As to very young children there is need for more parental oversight, a roadway makes a very dangerous play ground.

Commencing to-morrow the banks in this city will close every Saturday at 12 noon. This will enable the staff to enjoy a real half day's holiday as they will get clear of the office at one p.m., or a little later. The change will be happily appreciated and probably will not reduce the gross number of hours of service given by each staff, for when the Saturday half holiday was first introduced in England, registers of absence from all causes were compared with those before the change and it was found that the time lost by the half holiday was more than made up by the infrequency of absences from sickness or other causes.

The King's health has ceased to give anxiety. His Majesty proposes to enjoy a sail in his yacht shortly. There is ordinarily great danger in a patient who has been operated upon for appendicitis moving