

of a \$500 shanty as to the owner of a residence or warehouse worth scores of thousands of dollars. An equitable municipal law gives property a voice to some extent proportionate to its value, so as to overcome the gross wrong of the right to vote on a tax by-law being given equally to each owner of real estate, however small, or however large its assessable value. It is quite likely that the aggregate total value of the real estate owned by those who object to the city's fire protection being improved does not amount to as much as the value of many individual properties which are prejudiced by the present defective service.

* * * * *

Victoria Day, or Queen's Birthday, for the old name will survive, is continued as a legal holiday. The season is the most appropriate in the year, and as the sentiment of loyalty to the Queen's memory will be perpetual, it is well to have its expression given a yearly opportunity. The King entered this sublunary sphere at the most inauspicious season for public celebration. It seems likely however that His Majesty will have the honors due to his natal paid at a more suitable season, as the reigning monarch's birthday has ever been "a memorable feast" fixed to suit the convenience of the Court.

* * * * *

It is not a good sign for movements to be initiated to change the names of public places which they acquired by association with prominent Canadians. This is a form of restlessness which is inspired by a desire to shake loose from historic facts and conditions that is born of irreverence and levity. The largest park in this city, apart from Mount Royal, has for long years been known as Logan's Park, owing to its association with the proprietorship of Sir William Logan, the celebrated scientist, whose name stands high in Canadian annals. A proposal has been made to cancel this distinguished name on the grounds that Sir William was only a cattle breeder! So little do some, who initiate public movements, know of public affairs and of the honorable men who in their day served Canada with distinction to themselves as they did also to the advantage of this country. Logan's Park is fast becoming a most attractive resort of which Montreal may be justly proud, as proud also Canadians should be to have the history of their nation adorned by such names as Sir William Logan.

* * * * *

Parliament has shown itself very sympathetic to its own wants by increasing the sessional indemnity from \$1,000 to \$1,500. The reason assigned is the greater length of the Sessions now as compared with

the time when \$1,000 was the indemnity. The plea is reasonable enough in itself, but suggests the question whether these long Sessions are necessary? Old parliamentarians, and experienced observers of the manners and customs of the House of Commons affirm that fully as much public business was done in the shorter Sessions in earlier days as in the prolonged modern ones. Loquacity in the House is very expensive, but high as it comes it seems the country must pay for it, not as a luxury, far otherwise, but as an indulgence the enjoyment of which is confined to the exuberant talkers.

* * * * *

The King's escape from sudden death will inspire thankfulness throughout the Empire. Some will condemn his being on board a yacht which was built for racing, but that love of the sea, with all its perils, which is a British instinct, which has brought such strength to the British Empire, will protect His Majesty from any but carping critics. Bravery is the essential virtue of Kings; the royal office sprang from the homage paid to bravery; its display vibrates a chord in human nature which has ever pulsed with admiration at the sight, or recital of a brave deed. The King's self possession in a moment of terrible risk; His instant enquiry, "Is any one hurt?" His prompt decision to be on board the next trial of the Shamrock will thrill His subjects with delight, "Every inch a King," will be the Empire's verdict.

* * * * *

Mr. George Hague, General Manager of the Merchants' Bank, has returned from a prolonged visit to Europe and the East. After seeing most of the principal cities of Europe he pronounces the streets of Montreal to be more unsightly and unclean than even those of the old cities of Holland. The streets of cities and towns in Great Britain and on the continent are not only well paved, but are kept clean and in good repair. The electric wires are often strung from the buildings, not on unsightly poles. When poles are used they are made as neat as possible, and are so painted as to be no such eye-sore as they are in this city. Mr. Hague, whose family connections have been engaged in the production and manufacture of iron and steel for three generations, was naturally a close observer of the conditions of those trades. He laughs to scorn, as too absurd for discussion, the idea that England, in this respect, is in decadence. The note of this vast industry in England is expansion. In the works he visited he found manufactures destined for markets all over the world. The main difficulty expressed was that of raising the output to the level of the demand.