CHICAGO AND THE ST. LAWRENCE.

There is nothing to be gained by prematurely making an international issue out of the project for a ship canal from Chicago to the Gulf of Mexico. The scheme is very much in embryo at present and there is a good deal to be said and will be said against it, by sensible Americans, even if we are indiscreet enough to challenge the national sensibilities of the less thoughful citizens of the United States, by blustering unduly about our neighbours' "stealing water belonging to Canada." Of course, Canada cannot afford to be indifferent to, and the Dominion Government cannot ignore any scheme which threatens to seriously affect the level of the water in the Great Lakes or the St. Lawrence. If for no other reason, the fact that up to June 30, 1905, Canada had spent $111,639,259.35 on its canal systems, and is now with commendable enterprise spending at a greater rate than ever in improving the national water-ways; we would be justified in objecting to any project that would appreciably lower the water levels in the Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence. But we are not the only people who are interested in the Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence, or who have spent and are spending money on canals, and Chicago is not the whole United States!

What is not known at present about the engineering aspect, or about the financial aspect, of the scheme for constructing a ship canal from Chicago to the Gulf of Mexico, is something considerable. The only estimate of the cost worth considering, is the perfectly safe one that it would be something enormous. Give him money enough and almost anything on earth is possible to the Twentieth Century Engineer—even the canalization of the Mississippi. That the construction from Lake Michigan to the Gulf of Mexico of any canal within the bounds of financial possibility would materially affect the depth of water in Lake St. Peter remains to be proven.

There is another reason why we should not cry out too loudly before we are hurt and that is that at present the Port of Montreal, the National Port of Canada has more hostile critics in the Dominion Parliament than it has in the United States Congress.

FIRE AT ST. LOUIS DE MILE END, MONTREAL.

On the 26th instant a fire occurred in a congested district of St. Louis de Mile End. The water pressure was weak and the fire practically burned itself out. Fifteen houses were destroyed. The town valuation of property burned is stated to be $21,220. At time of going to press we learn that the following companies are interested:

Mount Royal, $9,000; Montreal-Canada, $10,000; North British & Mercantile, $700; Guardian, $3,500; Liverpool & London & Globe, $4,000; Western, $4,000. Total, $27,600.

FIRE AT ST. JOHNS, N.B.

By the fire which occurred on the 26th instant, in the Methodist Church, St. Johns, N.B. The following companies are interested: Quebec, $9,000; Pheonix of Hartford, $7,000; Peonix of London, $7,000; Sun, $5,000; Commercial Union, $5,000; Guardian, $2,000; Anglo American, $5,000; New York Underwriters, $10,000; Atlas, $10,000; Esimated loss, $20,000.

INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF ACTUARIES.

Mr. T. B. Macaulay, F.I.A., secretary and actuary Sun Life of Canada, who was one of the delegates to the fifth International Congress of Actuaries, convened at Berlin, Germany, on September 10, has been honoured, by being appointed vice-president, for the United States, and Canada, Mr. H. L. Hoffman, of the Prudential Insurance Co., Newark, N.J., has been appointed secretary. Every important country is entitled to a vice-president and secretary. The United States and Canada are in this connection considered as one, the actuaries of the two countries, being internationally organized.

OCTOBER DIVIDENDS.

The disbursements in interest and dividends during the month of October will be very large both here and in the United States. The following is a list of the leading Canadian payments:—

Halifax Tram	1½	p. c. quarterly.
Sao Paulo	2	"
Toronto Railway	1½	"
Winnipeg Electric	1½	"
Twin City Pfd	1¾	"
Laurentide Paper Pfd	1¾	"
Mackay Companies Com. and Pfd	1	"
Crow's Nest Coal	—	"
Canadian General Electric	3	"
National Trust Co	3	"
Dominion Bank	3	"
Metropolitan Bank	—	"
Molsons Bank	2¼	"
Royal Bank	2¼	"
Montreal Steel Works	—	"
Trinidad Electric	1¼	"
Bell Telephone	2	"
Dominion Textile	1¾	"
Nova Scotia Steel	2	"
Montreal Telegraph	2	"
Canadian Pacific	3	p. c. Semi-Annual.
Can. Northwest Land Pfd	3	"
Western Bank	1¾	"
Bank of British North America	1½	"
Soo Railway	2	"

Bonds.

Commercial Cable Co	—	"
Montreal Power	2¼	"
Can. Colored Cotton	3	"
Dom. Iron and Steel	3	"
Intercolonial Coal	—	"
Bell Telephone	2½	"
Grand Trunk Pacific	—	"