

PROMINENT TOPICS.

Efforts are being made to induce the Government to withdraw the 20 cent pieces now in circulation, also the \$4 bills. The 20 cent coin is doubtless a source of much unpleasantness and occasionally of loss, as it is so liable to be taken and passed unconsciously as a "quarter." On street cars, when they are crowded and dark, it is quite easy to have 20 cent pieces passed on the passengers instead of quarters, which many allege is done continually. The 20 cent coin has no convenience in use to compensate for the annoyances it causes, and the 25 cent piece is a much more convenient coin as it enables a dollar to be divided into parts that correspond more with the divisions incident to buying and selling than the 20 cent piece. The same objection is raised in England to the 2 shilling piece which was coined at the request of a number of eminent men who thought it would be the thin end of the decimal currency wedge, as being one-tenth of a pound sterling. In this it has utterly failed, as the "Florin," or two shilling piece, is so disliked that a movement is now afoot to secure its withdrawal. The \$4 bill is objected to because it is so defectively designed and executed as to be often mistaken for a one dollar bill. This is no objection to a \$4 bill of itself, but only to the present appearance of those issued. Were the figure 4 made so very definite as to be impossible of being misread the notes of this denomination would not be so disliked as they now are. The circulation of \$4 bills only amounts to \$516,552, against \$9,800,487 of \$1 or \$2 notes, which figures show their respective popularity. The Government would meet the public convenience by abolishing the 20 cent piece and either putting out a \$4 bill with the denomination quite clear or withdrawing these bills altogether.

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A circular has been issued inviting an expression of opinion in regard to a proposal to close our banks at 12 noon on each Saturday. The hour of closing at present is 1 o'clock, from which the bank officials derive little advantage of a holiday nature as there is a considerable amount of work to be done after the doors are closed. The suggestion to close at 12 noon is made solely to afford the bank officers in this city a better opportunity of seeking health and healthful recreation in the country during the summer months and an afternoon all the year round for athletic sports and exercises. The leading bankers of Montreal have signified their approval of this suggestion as they recognize the reasonableness of making the Saturday half holiday a reality; at present it is only nominally so. At New York, Chicago, Boston, and 24 other large American cities, the

banks close at 12 noon. The change cannot seriously inconvenience the public as business men will quickly adapt themselves to the situation. They will also benefit by getting their banking affairs over at the earlier hour. We, therefore, give the proposal our support, which, we believe, will be endorsed by all the city bankers and approved by their principal customers.

PERSONALS.

MR. F. F. PARKINS, chief agent of the Travellers' has recently taken a lease of a very handsome and commodious suite of offices in the new Royal building in this city. The change has been necessitated by the growth of the business under the control of Mr. Parkins, which needed more commodious offices.

MR. R. MCD. PATERSON, of the Phoenix of London, has returned from a pleasant holiday spent on the continent of Europe. He spent a week in London, and visited his head office.

MESSRS. GEO. E. BUCK and W. D. MCVEY have been appointed general agents for Western Ontario for the Royal Victoria Life Insurance Co., with head quarters in the company's branch office, Toronto.

ROYAL INSURANCE MANAGERS TO MEET.—A meeting is to take place on Tuesday next, the 24th inst., at Lennox, Mass., U.S., of all the managers on the American continent of the Royal Insurance Company, to consider and discuss the general business and interests of the company in America and Canada. Mr. Geo. Simpson, the Canadian manager, will be present.

MR. JAMES SCROGGIE, the newly appointed manager of the Winnipeg office of the Equitable Life Assurance Society, was presented with a group photograph and solid gold locket on the occasion of his leaving Dun & Co.'s service, the present being from the members of the staff.

MR. J. W. PRESCOTT has been appointed general agent on the mainland of British Columbia for the Mutual Life Assurance Company of Canada, of which R. L. Drury, of Victoria, is provincial manager. Mr. Prescott was some time with the Sun Life of Canada.

CAPT. W. H. PETRY, for fifteen years connected with the Quebec Bank and for the past few years manager of Up Town branch of Quebec Bank, in Quebec city, has resigned his position and accepted the city agency at Quebec of the Standard Life Assurance Co.

Capt. Petry is well known in Quebec city and exceedingly popular.

STORING AUTOMOBILES without assent of the company in which the premises are insured may lead to the policy becoming invalid, as these machines when run by petroleum or gasoline introduce a danger not covered by an ordinary policy.