

Prominent Topics.

Canon Ellegood. The news that the Reverend Canon Ellegood appears to be nearing the end of his valuable life, will be received with the greatest concern by his fellow citizens generally. He has served the church and served the city well and no clergyman in Montreal has a greater circle of devoted friends and well-wishers.

The McGill Fund. The raising of \$1,526,965 for McGill University in five days, is a record of which any university and any city might well be proud. It shows in what high esteem Montreal's great educational institution is held by the business men of this city. Great credit is due to the gentlemen who so actively engaged in the work of organising and collecting.

Tracks on Sherbrooke and Dorchester Streets. We do not think that any thanks are due to the City Surveyor for suggesting the laying of car tracks, on Sherbrooke and Dorchester streets, the only residential thoroughfares running east and west left in western Montreal. It means depriving the people who pay most of the taxes of the only streets upon which they can walk or drive in comfort and the change suggested would be principally for the benefit of people who, being residents of Westmount, contribute little or nothing to the civic revenue. We do not believe this recommendation will be entertained either by the Controllers or Aldermen.

Cost of Living. The rise in prices of provisions, which has been treated largely as a local question in the United States is becoming a problem of international and almost universal importance. Prices of food in London, according to a report of the British Board of Trade, have advanced greatly since 1896. Taking 100 as the basis in 1909, prices in 1896 and 1910 respectively were as follows:

	Price p. c. 1896.	Price p. c. 1910.
Bread	93	114.8
Flour	88.2	120.6
Beef	92.2	113.5
Mutton	89.7	104.4
Pork	94	105.2
Bacon	78.1	138.9
Butter	95.1	106.4
Eggs	91.2	112
Cheese	89.6	100
Tea	90	100
Cocoa	93.3	100
Sugar	100	124.3
Oatmeal	100	113.9
Potatoes	88.5	80.1

Niagara Navigation Company.

The Niagara Navigation Company is absorbing the Hamilton Steamboat Company and the Turbinia Steamship Company consisting of three steamers and the wharf properties at Hamilton. The Niagara Navigation shareholders are being officially notified that the

purchase has been arranged and are being advised of a new stock issue to provide for part of the purchase price. Payment is to be made partly in the treasury stock and partly in cash. This money is provided for partly by funds in the treasury now, and the balance will be secured through proceeds of the new stock issue.

This new Niagara Navigation issue will be 1,002 shares of par value of \$100, which will bring \$100,200. The Niagara Navigation Company has an authorized capital of \$1,000,000, of which \$701,700 is paid up. The company has paid 8 p.c. consistently since 1903 and last year earned 17.77 p.c. In 1909 it earned 12.32 p.c., in 1908 14.60, in 1907 14.30, and 1906 17.63 p.c. Last year's earnings of \$124,000 will be considerably increased this year. There was a balance of \$141,000 carried forward last year.

Post Office Statistics. The annual report of the Post Office Department for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1911, shows a very considerable expansion both in the service and transactions of the post offices in Canada. The issue of postage stamps for the year shows a marked increase, the aggregate output being 648,764,666 pieces, of a total value of \$11,011,042.90, as compared with 584,264,774 pieces valued at \$9,942,435.90 the preceding year, an increase of eleven per cent. in pieces and ten and three-quarters per cent. in value.

The estimated increase in the number of letters and post cards sent during the year is 48,148,000. The total estimated number of letters sent was 504,233,000; of post cards, 49,313,000; of registered letters, 11,584,000; of free letters, 16,382,000; of second class matter (transient newspapers), 10,648,000; of third class matter (books, circulars, samples, etc.), 85,165,000; of fourth class (packets of merchandise, etc.), 7,612,000; of closed parcels for the United Kingdom and elsewhere, 180,151.

The total revenue of the department was \$12,212,952.37, of which \$10,697,830.15 was from the sale of postage stamps. The total expenditure on salaries, conveyance of mail by land, railways, and steamboats, was \$11,020,222.69, leaving a surplus of \$1,192,729.68.

The total amount of money remitted by money orders and postal notes was \$77,280,364.65, as compared with \$66,871,576.86 for the previous year.

During the year stamps were sold by 2,890 vendors in addition to the postmasters, an increase of 296 in the year. There was an increase of 437 in the number of post offices in operation, the total number on March 31, 1911, being 13,324.

The transactions of the dead letter branch included the reception of 28,449 letters which were registered or contained articles of value. A total of 2,550,808 pieces (letters, etc.) were returned by Canadian post offices and 342,588 from British, United States and British colonies and foreign countries.