

U. S. Consulate.—The Board are again indebted to the courtesy of John S. Bowen, Esq., Vice Consul for the United States, for three additional volumes of Diplomatic Correspondence.

Public Exchange.—The Committee of Management of the Quebec Exchange have liberally placed their room at the disposal of the public for one hour daily, as a place of general resort for business purposes.

Sanitary Precautions.—The Council felt it to be their duty to bring under the notice of the city authorities the necessity of adopting sanitary precautions in view of the possible advent of cholera, and they have reason to believe that the requisite measures to secure so desirable an end are in progress.

Fire Regulations.—The Council were instrumental in organizing a meeting between His Worship the Mayor and several leading insurance agents and others interested in the organization of the Fire Department. They are happy to state that there is now every prospect of the early construction of a Fire Alarm Telegraph and the establishment of an effective Fire Brigade.

City Taxation.—The scheme for increasing the City Revenue, lately introduced by the Corporation, your Council conceive to be objectionable in many of its features, more especially in the extension of class taxation. It is believed that a mode of providing the increased amount required for the wants of the city, of a much simpler nature, could be devised, and in this respect the system in force in the sister city of Montreal might advantageously be adopted. That proposed, would, it is feared, proved complicated, troublesome, unequal in its operation and calculated to produce continued litigation. As it will be necessary to apply for amendments to the present Act, the Council strongly recommend that clause 25, which exempts the many wealthy Charitable and Educational Institutions from taxation, should be repealed.—No such exemption exists in the neighboring city of Montreal.

Trinity House.—The office of Master of the Trinity House having become vacant by the death of the late Mr. Gillespie, the Council have suggested to the Government that in future the appointment should be held by a gentleman of practical experience in nautical affairs.

New Custom House.—Representations to the Government on the necessity of an early completion of the repairs to the new Custom House have resulted in the adoption of vigorous measures to that end. The building will no doubt be ready for occupation early this month.

Ship-building.—It will be remembered that in their last annual report the Council alluded to the fact of an amelioration in the French laws being likely to promote the interests of our ship-builders. It is satisfactory to be able to state that six ships were built for this market during the past season, and that five more are now being constructed under contract. Four ships are also building for the West India trade. The services of the Surveyor to "Bureau Veritas" appear to be highly appreciated and are in increasing demand. Among the usual statistics in the appendix will be found a statement showing the number and tonnage of the vessels now in course of construction at this port.

Appointments.—Mr. William Brodie was appointed to succeed Mr. J. B. Renaud, on that gentleman's resignation of the office of Examiner or Inspector of Flour and Meal. Under the Act relating to the office of public weigher, measurer and gauger, a Board of Examiners was named, consisting of Messrs. M. G. Mountain, John Lemesurier, Robert Shaw, Thomas Fraser and J. L. Gauvreau. Mr. John Fraser was appointed to the office. Mr. F. H. Dunn replaces the late Mr. Lee on the Board of Examiners, under the Cullers' Act

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