

**THE WATER CONDUIT QUESTION.**

The live question with the aldermen to-day appears to be whether they shall do the construction of the new conduit by day work or let it out by contract. If it could be relied upon that the city could do its work under proper supervision, and without the patronage system intervening to secure the employment of men who are not able to work, because they are poor or because they belong to certain wards, there is no reason why the work should not be done as well and as cheaply by day work as by contract. Of course, the cost is a little uncertain. Theoretically at least, one knows the cost of a contract, but even in a contract job there are such things as "extras." Referring to the whole question of these improvements, it would be well to seriously consider, not only the existing conditions, which have changed greatly in the last ten years, but also looking to the future: Is the City Council satisfied that by placing a pipe out in the river, it will not be impeded by frasil? Are they satisfied that by making provision for fifty million gallons of water, they are providing for any lengthened period? Would it not be more desirable to deepen and protect the present intake which is well known to answer its purpose? May it not be desirable to prepare an extra large reservoir, which would contain a supply sufficient to last a couple of weeks if necessary? Then it would be interesting to know what quantity of water is actually consumed by the citizens and what quantity is used by the pumps. These are questions which have no doubt been well considered, but we simply reiterate them. In addition to all these it would be well to consider the acquisition of a lake in the north which could be relied upon to give a plentiful supply of water, and have a gravitation system. The cost would be more in pipes than anything else and two pipes might be laid, so that if anything happened to one, the other would still be available. So far as fire pressure is concerned, this seems a simple matter, which can be accomplished by laying a main specially for the purpose to and in the congested district. We hope that the business men will be able to give some valuable advice and assistance.



THE MONTREAL HARBOUR COMMISSION has invited the cooperation of the *Chambre de Commerce* in making representations to the proper authorities with reference to the height of the new bridge which is to take the place of the fallen Quebec Bridge. It appears that the masts of the C.P.R. liners are four feet higher than the bridge at high water and there are many ships already afloat, with much higher masts. The masts of the C.P.R. liners with average cargoes are 154 feet above the water line, and the *Lusitania's* measure 102 feet. It is more important to keep the river unobstructed than it is to build the bridge.

DOMINION IRON AND STEEL people are naturally jubilant over Judge Longley's decision, which was so eminently favourable to their side of this important and intricate question. There will, of course, be an appeal by the Coal Company and unless the directors get together and arrive at an amicable settlement the case will no doubt go to the Privy Council.

**Prominent Topics****The New York Markets.**

Such developments in the copper situation as the reduction of dividends by the Calumet and Hecla and other companies, and the rumour that the amalgamated mines would shut down indefinitely, seemed to overbalance any favourable effects from such financial factors as the New York city bond sale, fall in foreign exchange towards gold-import point, easing in money rates, and decision in Pennsylvania that two-cent railway fare law was unconstitutional. Saturday's stock market was characterized by heavy liquidation in United Steel stocks, it being evidently assumed by the Street that copper conditions might shortly extend to those of the iron trade also. The bank statement did not show the expected increase in cash. Changes for the week were, however, small and the surplus of \$6,918,700 was nearly double the amount of that a year ago, the ratio to deposits being 25.7 p.c. as against 25.3 p.c. in 1906.

Monday brought considerable professional activity, the bears first selling stock to a lower level and then apparently buying to cover shorts after a fairly brisk rally that was considered by some to denote special market support on the part of some strong interests. The market later became apathetic. Call money hardened in consequence of market demands for various large dividend payments.

Stocks showed brisk recovery on Tuesday, unfavourable influences having apparently been already discounted. Short coverings by professionals were prevalent. The rise in copper in London was a further strengthening factor, although there was continued reduction at the New York Metal Exchange. Money on call continued firm.

The shorts having effected their coverings there was let-up in activity on Wednesday. Influences that made for price declines were progress of the Government suit against the Standard Oil Co., New York Traction merger investigation developments, and the selling of some large blocks of United States Steel. Mercantile paper continued to be offered in large amounts, the result being a stiff 7 p.c. rate even for best names. Call money still continued firm at a ruling rate of 4 p.c.

**Money and Securities in Europe.**

It has come to be looked upon almost as an axiom that when extended financial liquidation has taken place in anticipation of commercial and manufacturing recession, improvement in financial conditions sets in almost coincidentally with the actual beginning of such business recession. Financial conditions in London, during the week ending Saturday last, were apparently in accord with this view. The London market settlement was made without apparent difficulty, and the Bank of England's return was a gratifyingly strong one; the reserve being about £800,000 higher than at the same time last year. On the continent too, the world's great money markets are apparently beginning to see their way a little more clearly than before. The Berlin situation, however, is still one requiring careful "nursing," though more healthy than was anticipated a month or so ago. London, of