

### THE SAFETY FIRST MOVEMENT.

The Safety First Movement inaugurated by some of the leading railroads in the United States has spread with remarkable rapidity throughout the continent. Not only have the majority of our great railroads adopted the "Safety First" slogan, but the movement has also extended to street railways, to fire insurance companies and to scores of industrial and commercial enterprises.

Investigations show that the largest percentage of accidents in a factory or on the street occur through thoughtlessness or carelessness. There seems to be a great temptation in this age of hurry to "take a chance." When things break right, the venture passes unnoticed or, if noticed, is favorably commented upon. Very often, however, the venture ends disastrously with the result that property is lost and lives are endangered. In fire insurance, it is shown that much the largest percentage of our fires is due to carelessness, and educational campaigns are being inaugurated which will instill a little more care and thoughtfulness into the people who handle matches and inflammable materials.

The Safety First Movement has also been carried into the public schools where efforts are being made to teach children the importance of safeguarding lives and property. As a matter of fact, we cannot start too early in life or emphasize too often the importance of taking extra precautions where life and property are at stake. The other day, one of the largest railroads in the United States announced that no employee who was known to use intoxicating liquors would ever be promoted and, at the same time, it was announced that whenever there was a reduction made in the staff of the railroad, men addicted to the use of liquors would be the first to go. It has been found by railroads and other great corporations that the use of intoxicating liquors makes for carelessness and a reckless disregard of life and property. Altogether it would be well if this Safety First Movement were more widely adopted than it is. It might well be taken up by automobile drivers, by motormen, and also put into practice by policemen and pedestrians. It might well be taught in our public schools in place of some of the fads which now engross a considerable portion of the children's time. We are far too careless in regard to life and property in this country, and some of the "Safety First" principles in vogue elsewhere might with profit be adopted by us as a people.

### THE TARIFF CHANGES.

No budget speech in recent years was awaited with more interest than the one delivered by the Hon. W. T. White on Monday of this week. It was a well-known fact that for the last few months influential deputations had been waiting upon the Government asking that some form of assistance be given to the iron and steel industry. On the other hand, deputations have waited upon the Government, urging upon them the necessity of granting

free flour and wheat to the western farmers. Counter demonstrations were made by the millers, who claim that free wheat and free flour would mean the ruin of the milling industry. There were also demands for a reduction of the duty on farm implements.

The budget speech is in a measure a compromise. In order to put the iron and steel industry upon a better footing, the Government has decided to increase the duties and afford a greater degree of protection to the iron and steel manufacturers in Canada. To the farmers, who asked for free flour and wheat, they have given a curt refusal, but handed out a sop in the way of a small reduction in the duty on agricultural implements. Farmers will also benefit from the fact that steel rods used in the manufacture of wire fences will be entitled to a drawback of duty.

The changes made by the Government are about what was expected by business men in Eastern Canada. It is undoubtedly true that the iron and steel industry has not been in any too flourishing a condition since the removal of the bounties. We are inclined to the belief, however, that there will be a big outcry from the West and from the farmers in general, who will see in the increase of the duties on iron and steel and refusal of the Government to grant them free flour and wheat a fresh example of the power and influence of the so-called "Big Interests." The benefits which the farmers will derive from a reduction on the duty on implements is not likely to meet with any degree of approval from them. They will regard it in the nature of a sop, and refuse to be comforted. Like the historic picture of the small boy and the cake of soap, the western farmers have set their hearts on free flour and wheat, and "will not be happy until they get it." The present tariff changes are likely to accentuate rather than lessen the struggle now going on between the manufacturers and the farmers.

### THE CIVIC ELECTIONS.

The Mayoralty Elections held this week proved most disappointing to the business men of Montreal. The election of Mederic Martin was a reactionary step, as he has absolutely no qualifications for the high position he now occupies. His past record, especially his connection with the famous "twenty-three" aldermen found guilty of corrupt practices, should have been sufficient to cause his defeat. On the other hand, Major Stephens possesses all the earmarks of a good chief executive, he has the training for big business, the education, experience and wealth necessary to make for success.

Another disappointment was the failure of the Slate. The Citizens' Committee, organized four years ago after the exposures made by Judge Cannon, tried their best to secure a Slate that would be acceptable to the great mass of the people. Out of the four men they selected, only two were returned to power, and these came last among those elected.

In a very large number of cases, the men to be elected will return their Slates by the papers. Where he did not, his faint praise. His was inexcusable, they could understand by a whole men possible for the

Montreal is a combination of races, the large foreign business of the speaking people, are in the majority. We trust the eous conglomerate Board of Control result than would

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John Bull's Uls

There is something of the success of the nation bore the mag

Mr. G. F. Johnson, Canadian Lumber Co. return from London vote \$35,000,000 for continental exposition given on. Perhaps these help in carrying on. helped give us a list of the British Canadian list of causes.

Last week Sir T. conditions were improved. year business would. T. White says the and courage, and but temporary."

The chart illustrated used in our issue of Canada Year Book was not given the

Statistics of the show that Germany of 6,497,000 metric tons in 1912 with 5,050,919 gross tons. against