

PROMINENT TOPICS.

Chief Legault has made a good beginning. He evidently has some ideas about police duties outside of local traditions and routine. He has placed definite and large responsibility upon each captain in the force by holding him answerable for the maintenance of public order, the enforcement of by-laws and the discipline of the men in his district. Thus, without burdening himself with the oversight of each man on the force, which, being an impossible task, meant leaving every one of them to do as he pleased, the chief will keep in close touch with the captains by daily reports, and they each will be required to keep close watch upon the officers in his district. This arrangement shows that the chief has clear ideas about administering a large police force, which to be effective must be like a military body in having grades of officers who are held strictly accountable for those under them and all to the chief in command. The notion that a policeman's sole duty is to promenade along his beat, varied by an occasional arrest, is likely to give place under the new regulation to a wider, more rational and more serviceable conception of the functions of a peace officer, a conception calling for more intelligence in the men as well as more knowledge of and respect for their responsibilities. The arrangement just made to control street traffic in order to protect pedestrians at crossings is commendable. If the new police arrangements are carried out persistently, our streets will be safer, especially in winter, and the city will be saved thousands of dollars yearly by the cessation of accident claims.

The leader of the steel workers' strike in the States, Mr. Schaffer, has advised the withdrawal of their deposits from the banks by those who are interested in the strike, a course which he affirms will give a serious blow to the interests of the capitalists against whom the strike is directed. The advice is superfluous so far as the men out of work are concerned, for what little they have laid by for a rainy day will probably all disappear during their enforced idleness. What other moneys are withdrawn by depositors will return to the banks as surely as the moisture drawn up from the earth falls back again in rain. Were the result to be what Mr. Schaffer intimates, viz., the paralysis of capital, in what condition would the business of the country be, and how would all traders and their customers be affected? Surely any sane person knows that every form of business enterprise from a peanut stand to a steel mill is maintained by a supply of capital. Mr. Schaffer is evidently either grossly ignorant of even an elemen-

ary knowledge of business affairs or is an anarchist. He is finding public opinion in the States against his agitation, and his latest move against the banks will still further alienate public sympathy.

"Britannia rules the waves" need not be changed, but it is evident that Canada is doing well on the same line, for, that Canada rules the lakes, is manifest. A Canadian yacht, the "Invader," owned by Mr. Gooderham, Toronto, has beaten a crack American boat near Chicago, thanks, partly, to the skill of Mr. Jarvis, the Canadian skipper.

A scheme is reported to be assuming practical shape for building a harbour on the west coast of Ireland, from which a line of transatlantic steamers would run that would make the passage in four days and a half. The scheme comprises arrangements for a rapid ferry across the Irish channel having railway connections with the new harbour. Such an enterprise has been discussed off and on for many years, but never before has it given such indications of being carried out as what is now proposed. It would be a great boon to Ireland to be provided with an Atlantic port connected with a line of ocean steamers. Were the sea passage to Europe reduced to 4½ days, there would be a great impetus given to transatlantic travelling, though, unless the railway and channel ferry service were exceptionally rapid and well managed, these breaks would be a serious drawback to the popularity of the projected service.

The reception arrangements are making fair headway. The military displays will be confined to Halifax, Quebec and Toronto. Montreal will be distinguished by the royal reception being wholly a citizens' affair. Some opportunity should be taken to show the Duke and Duchess the shipping in this port, which is a very impressive sight to those who know how great is the distance from here to the ocean. "We've got the ships" to make a fine display of the prominent rank of Montreal as a seaport. The reception arrangements should not ignore this, the great feature that distinguishes Montreal over all the other cities of Canada. As the Duke is a sailor, he would appreciate a visit to the Harbour.

The city analyst tells us that the dirt in the city water is of vegetable origin, not animal, so he considers the water is potable. With all deference to a professional chemist, this may be regarded as very doubtful. Vegetable matter is not always innocuous; it is indeed often most deleterious to health. Certainly it is highly disagreeable for the water flowing