

HAMILTON AND PRINCE ARTHUR.—The officials who arrange the movements of H. R. H. Prince Arthur gave great and reasonable offence to the people of Hamilton by devoting only quarter of an hour and later on three quarters for his visit to that city. Thereupon a loyal demonstration was cancelled by the Mayor with universal approval and the Prince passed by Hamilton without being noticed. "Some one has blundered" in this matter. Hamilton is an important industrial centre and it would have been wise to have given the inhabitants an opportunity of displaying their loyalty and kindly feeling towards the Prince by arranging for his spending a few hours at the "ambitious" city.

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A LESSON ON THE VALUE OF INTERNATIONAL CONCORD.—Recently at Huenhin, Germany, near the Swiss frontier, a fire broke out. A fire engine from Basle, Switzerland, rushed to offer help. Owing, however, to the Customs officers ill will to the Swiss they would not allow the fire engine to pass unless duty was paid on it! The buildings on fire, which were only 100 yards from the Custom House, were consequently utterly destroyed.

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UNDERGROUND CONDUITS.—The Council of the Board of Trade on 24th inst., considered the underground conduits question. It was ordered that a letter be addressed to the City Council urging that no contract be entered into with any light or power company which did not carry with it the condition that the wires should be placed in underground conduits.

It is to be hoped that the City Council will realize the necessity of adopting the course urged upon it by the Council of the Board of Trade. This plan will have to be adopted sooner or later and the earlier it is carried out the less will be the expense, and the inconvenience to the citizens while the work is in progress.

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AN INTERESTING CELEBRATION.—In September next, the University of Aberdeen will celebrate its 400th anniversary. On this occasion McGill University will be represented by Lord Strathcona, Chancellor, Principal Peterson, Dean Walton, and Dr. Shirres. One of the most distinguished graduates of Aberdeen University is the Rev. Wm. Clark, D.D., LL.D., who is one of the professors of Trinity University, Toronto.

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PRESENTATION TO EX-MAYOR LAPORTE.—On 25th inst., a number of prominent citizens assembled in the Council Chamber of the Board of Trade where a presentation was made to ex-Mayor Laporte to mark their and public appreciation of his services during the nine years during which he was alderman and mayor of Montreal. The presentation was a handsome cabinet of silverware, all made in Canada and worthy of the most accomplished silversmiths of the old world. Mr. Laporte earned the gratitude of the citizens by his unflinching devotion to duty and efforts to promote the best interests of Montreal.

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THE GAS AND ELECTRIC LIGHT PROBLEM, MONTREAL.—The Fire & Light Committee has made a recommendation to the City Council in regard to the terms on which an extension of the contract with the city should be given to the present company.

As we have pointed out the gas question is only a small part of the problem, as the supply and cost of electricity affect the city to a much larger extent than gas.

Nothing is more calculated to retard the progress of this city, or be more aggravating to the citizens than inefficient and needlessly costly lighting and power services.

The city authorities should take a broad view of this matter and enter some arrangement by which it would have a guarantee of excellent service on a reasonable basis, and at the same time be a participator in the profits arising from the business of supplying light, heat and power, which would become increasingly profitable as the city grows and prospers under wise and enterprising administration.

We have already outlined a policy that might with advantage be adopted, which would be fair to the companies, to their shareholders and a source of large revenue to the city.

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OUTSIDE CONTRIBUTIONS TO RELIEVE SUFFERERS AT SAN FRANCISCO.—The policy of rejecting contributions by those outside the United States which have been subscribed and offered towards relieving the distress in San Francisco is, we are convinced, most unwise. Suffering and benevolence are of no nationality. There are those in San Francisco whose needs specially appeal to sympathisers elsewhere than in the States, who, indeed, feel aggrieved at being prevented showing their sympathy with those in the stricken city. Such a calamity is not wholly an American one, it has even inspired by the Empress of China with a desire to give aid to the distressed, her offered contribution being the very handsome sum of \$70,000. Why should this be rejected when there are so many Chinese in the ruined city? There are thousands there who have connections in foreign countries who will be grieved at being denied the opportunity of showing their sympathy by generous contributions. The action of President Roosevelt is somewhat churlish, narrow and out of harmony with the broad views of humanity which are so noble a feature in this era.

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A MUCH NEEDED REFORM IN THE ADMINISTRATION of this city has been effected by placing several kinds of stores, which, in some cases, not a few, are used for most reprehensible purposes, under the more direct authority of the police. If the officers do their duty there will be places suppressed that are mere vice-traps for youths and young men and are the *rendez-vous* for persons of both sexes who are very unfavourably known to the police.

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SOME WEIGHTY EVIDENCE.—It is stated in a Toronto paper that the documents sent in by the Sun Life of Canada to the Royal Commission on Insurance in response to the demand for replies to a schedule of questions weighs 228 pounds and that an equal quantity has yet to be sent in. If this is so the total weight of the documents which the Commissioners will have to study, personally or by deputy, will weigh several tons.

The value of documents of this class is not measured as is the worth of iron and other merchantable goods by weight, but a reverse rule is often more rational.