

chanical industries will be regulated to a great extent by water, which forms the greatest source of power in all countries, and some of our western districts are dependent on irrigation to ensure the success of agricultural operations.

"In all the older provinces the clearing of the soil has been carried to such an extent that the ill effects on the water supply and on agriculture are clearly marked, while on the western prairies the need of sheltering trees for houses and fields is seriously felt by the settlers.

"The early construction of the Transcontinental Railway, and of other railways, through our northern forested districts and the consequent opening of those districts to general traffic, will increase the danger from fire which has already been a most active agent of destruction.

"These conditions are not new; they have from time to time received public attention, and during the Session just closed Parliament authorized the summoning of a convention for the more thorough discussion of the same."

The convention will be addressed by Mr. Gifford Pinchot, chief of the Forest Service of the United States, Mr. E. Stewart, Dominion Superintendent of Forestry, Mr. Thos. Southworth, director of Forestry for Ontario, Dr. Bell, acting director of the Geological Survey, and others who have a practical knowledge of forestry, irrigation, and other subjects on which papers will be read and discussed at the convention.

The proceedings will be of great interest and importance, as the forests of the Dominion constitute a large proportion of the national wealth and have a direct influence upon the commercial and agricultural prosperity of the people of Canada.

THE LATE HONORABLE RAYMOND PREFONTAINE.

By the calling away suddenly, in a foreign land, of the Honorable Raymond Prefontaine, M. P., Minister of Marine and Fisheries, Canada loses one of her ablest sons, the Government one of its most statesmanlike members, Montreal a citizen whose past services and projected efforts to promote her interests entitle the late Minister to a high degree of public gratitude.

Mr. Prefontaine had a strenuous nature. He was born at Longueuil, near this city on Sept. 16, 1850. His family settled in Canada in 1680. He was educated at St. Mary's College and McGill University from which he graduated with the degree of B.C.L. In 1873 he was called to the Bar and in 1893 was created Queen's Counsel. His inclinations were towards public life, so in 1875 he became member for Chambly in the Quebec Legislature. In 1879 he was re-elected, but lost his seat in 1881. In the former year he became a member of the Council of Hochelaga and at a later date Mayor. In 1894 this suburb was annexed to

Montreal and Mr. Prefontaine was elected as its alderman in the City Council. In 1898 he was elected Mayor of Montreal and in 1900 was re-elected.

While Mayor he made his influence felt in promoting what he regarded as improvements in the streets of this city, of which many disapproved as too costly.

His career as a Dominion politician began as member of Hochelaga County, the election exciting national interest as it was regarded as a test of party strength. Mr. Prefontaine's views on the Northwest Rebellion were those of French Canadians generally. In 1887-1890 he was re-elected. In 1896 he became first member for the new constituency of Maisonneuve and was re-elected in 1901 by a majority of 1774.

He entered the Laurier Cabinet in 1902 as Minister of Marine and Fisheries into the duties of which office he threw all his characteristic energies and desire to effect reforms. He was projecting such improvements in lighting and buoying the channel of the St. Lawrence as would have gone far to remove all the difficulties of this great waterway. He was much devoted to the interests of Montreal which he recognized as the National Port of Canada and as such, worthy of being thoroughly equipped with the most convenient wharfage, and its shipping interests furthered by the St. Lawrence route being made as safe as possible. Mr. Prefontaine was a steady friend and a chivalrous foe. He bore no malice, but to all was ever courteous and pleasant in manner.

His bereaved widow and children have our deep sympathy.

BANK STATEMENT FOR NOVEMBER, 1905.

The leading feature in the November bank statement is the decline in circulation after the maximum of the year being reached at the end of October or shortly afterwards. This year the fall at the end of November from the end of October figure was from \$76,890,863. to 72,592,540, a decrease of \$4,298,320 as compared with a decrease in same month last year of \$2,799,325. It naturally results from an unusual expansion of the note issues for crop moving purposes that, when that demand relaxes, there follows an unusual decline in the circulation, the increase above normal being balanced by a decrease down to normal.

This year the maximum of the note issues reached was \$79,226,877, from which there was a falling off to extent of \$6,634,334 in the course of a few weeks during November. Last year the decrease in November from the greatest amount of circulation to the total at the close of the month was