

VICE-PRESIDENT TARBELL ON THE SITUATION.—

The circular issued on May 1, by Mr. Tarbell, 2nd vice-president of the Equitable, gives no sign of his intention to retire. He announces that, "the number of policies issued by the society for April last is more than 1,000 in excess of the number issued in April, 1904," and that, "the Society's actual paid business this year up to 1st May is almost exactly \$5,000,000 ahead of the paid business of the first four months of last year." Mr. Tarbell makes no direct reference to the existing troubles. He has, however, the following passage which refers indirectly to the question at issue, viz. the mutualization scheme.

"Let every one know that the Equitable is and always has been conducted on a mutual basis, that its fund of over eighty millions of dollars is the fund from which policy-holders received their dividends, and can be disbursed in no other way, since the charter and policy contracts forbid participation in surplus by any other interests."

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THE ELGIN LOAN COMPANY.—The liquidation of this company is likely to result more favourably than was anticipated. The depositors and other creditors have been paid 87½ per cent. of their claims, the balance still due being about \$62,000. Towards this the liquidators report having assets available estimated to realize \$95,000. The shareholders, therefore, are not likely to be called upon, but will probably be repaid part of their stock.

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MONTREAL WATER SUPPLY.—At the last meeting of the Council of the Board of Trade, the committee which was studying the fire protective service of the city, urged, amongst other things, the special need for the immediate provision of an extra pump at the lower level pumping station. It seems to us that no time should be wasted in complying with this request. A new pump operated by electricity, erected in a fire-proof building, would be advisable, and in addition the present pumping station should be made as fireproof as possible, and kept as a reserve. It would be well to have a reserve steam apparatus, although, no doubt, there is practically no danger of a failure of a continuous supply of electric power there being various sources from which it is now supplied to the city. The great City of Montreal cannot afford to take any chances in connection with its water supply. The cost in carrying out the above suggestion would not involve a large expenditure.

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BUSINESS MEN'S LEAGUE.—The Council of the Board of Trade also endorsed what is being done by the Business Men's League. This league, if carried out on proper lines, and having the right men in connection with it, to give advice and assistance, is capable of becoming a power for good in con-

nection with the affairs of the city. It would be highly desirable for this organization to take a more active interest in municipal affairs. It is, no doubt, highly commendable to issue pamphlets descriptive of the City of Montreal, and its surroundings, giving information respecting its attractions, and spreading these broadcast. The first thing, however, which should demand their attention is that of endeavouring by every possible means to have our streets and sidewalks put into good condition, for we are afraid that it is a poor advertisement for Montreal to bring visitors here who go away necessarily impressed by the deplorable condition of the streets of the metropolitan city of the Dominion. Between ruts and dust, and breaks in the asphalted roadways, driving is anything but pleasant during the summer time. Another matter which might demand attention is the provision of an up-to-date hotel accommodation. We are glad to note in this connection the statement made by the Windsor Hotel directors, that it is their intention to enlarge and remodel their building. It cannot be accomplished any too quickly.

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SPEAKING OF OUR STREETS.—It may not be out of place for the Council of the Board of Trade to call a meeting of the citizens to discuss this important question, and strengthen the hands of the aldermen somewhat by making suggestions as to requirements, and ways and means. Those who come in contact with visitors to this city feel very much humiliated by the remarks heard on the condition of our roads and sidewalks generally. A few practical suggestions as to providing the ways and means needed for street repairs would be appreciated by the citizens generally.

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PROPOSED EXHIBITION.—It is pleasant to know that a little more life is being infused into the Exhibition question, and we have no doubt, whatever, but the Federal Government, the Provincial Government and the City will each do their duty in furthering this enterprise, provided it be shown to them that it will be carried out on a proper basis, and as a strictly business proposition. Montreal is peculiarly well adapted for holding an Annual Exhibition of a national character. It is at the head of ocean navigation, and the terminus of the great railway and canal systems of the Dominion. It is the one city of the Dominion where the two leading races, which form the citizens of Canada, are most largely in evidence. Nearly ten years ago, a large delegation went to Ottawa to urge upon the Federal authorities the desirability of making a grant to such an Exhibition. Amongst those who took a lively interest in the matter at that time were, Lord Strathcona, Sir William Van Horn, Sir Thomas Shaughnessy, and representatives of our banks, railway and navigation systems. The benefits to be derived from an exhibition in this province are too obvious to need dilating upon.