

city. A deputation has waited upon the mayor to protest against the plans now before the council. The views expressed were identical with those which had appeared in THE CHRONICLE.

We pointed out the desirability of any structure erected on the Mountain for the convenience of visitors when enjoying the magnificent panorama visible from the summit, being in artistic harmony with the beautiful surroundings. We deprecated the erection of a restaurant as quite needless and as likely to create conditions which would be a discredit to the city, possibly indeed would establish a nuisance.

All that is needed is a platform railed around and surmounted by a picturesque rustic roof so as to afford shelter from rain. This could be provided at a moderate cost, would entail a trifling expense to keep in good condition, and there would be no necessity for such a structure being kept under the surveillance of the Park rangers or constables—as would be the case were a restaurant erected.

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THE LIGHT QUESTION.—The supply of light to this city came before the City Council on 9th inst., in the form of a motion to extend the contract to the Light, Heat & Power Company, on specified conditions, so as to terminate in April, 1905. The main conditions, as stated in the motion, are, a reduction in the price of gas for all purposes to 85 cents per 1,000 feet from the 1st May, 1910, and from May, 1906 to 1910, the prices to be \$1.10 for lighting, 95 cents for cooking and heating and \$1 for automatic meters; and for electric lighting and street lamps a reduction to be made.

The motion stipulates that, the company shall pay the city 3 per cent. on its gross earnings from the supply of gas in the city, commencing May, 1, 1910. Except during the last 3 years of the contract, no person or company to be allowed to lay gas mains in the streets for lighting purposes. The council will consider this motion on 9th inst.

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AN ALTERNATIVE SCHEME.—The scheme submitted in these columns, briefly stated, is as follows. A franchise extending over a moderate number of years to be granted the Montreal Light, Heat & Power Company, which should be required under its contract to pay the city a percentage of its annual profits, after providing for, fixed charges, a sinking fund and earning a dividend of 5 per cent. The city's share of profits might either be passed into the general civic revenue, or, by a special arrangement with the company, the profits due to the city might be utilized for the purpose of reducing the price of light, heat and power.

A representative of the city to be given a seat on the Board of Directors, and a certain amount of the company's stock might be secured in order to give the city the rights of a shareholder.

It would be necessary to employ an independent, expert auditor to ascertain the amount of each year's profits made by the company supplying the citizens with gas and electricity.

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THE COMMERCIAL TRAVELLERS' TAX.—It is reported that, owing to the strong protests made against the tax of \$300 imposed in this province upon outside commercial travellers, the tax will be reduced to \$100. This will be less onerous, but the objection to the tax on the ground of principle will still remain.

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TORONTO, HAMILTON, BRANTFORD. POPULATION BY RECENT CENSUS.—A census just completed by the assessment department, Toronto, the population of that city is shown to be 256,045, which is an increase of 12,597 over a year ago. The property valuation is not yet issued.

The same department at Hamilton concluded its Census this week which shows the city's population to be 59,547, an increase of 1,989 over 1904. The total value of land and buildings at Hamilton is stated to be \$27,161,313, an increase over last year of \$1,754,595.

Both these cities are developing rapidly.

Brantford is in high spirits over a change in the route of the Grand Trunk by which this busy manufacturing centre is now on the main line. The convenience of this will be of material advantage to the manufactories of Brantford, which have shown remarkable development under the stimulus of local capital, enterprise and mechanical skill.

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THE WANDERING DOUKHOBOURS.—It was a mistake to bring out a large number of Russians of the Doukhobour sect. In some respects these people have qualities requisite for good citizenship. They abhor physical violence being used for any purpose, by or to man or beast. They are thrifty and in their own way industrious. But they altogether lack the sense of duty to the State, or to any local government except their own. They have in their very blood the restlessness which has made wholesale wandering so marked a feature in the life of Russia, to which, indeed, is due the settlement of a large section of the Empire in northern Asia. The Doukhobour is not a "settler" in the best sense, for, by instinct he is a wanderer as his people have been for generations.

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CANADA IS NO PLACE FOR NOMADS.—This country wants settled settlers. Loth as we in this free land are to restrain the exercise of any man's religion, there is a limit to such liberty and the limit is passed when hundreds of men and women, of all ages, abandon their homes and wander abroad as aimlessly as wild animals under an impulse which they regard as religion. The wanderings of these strange people must be stopped, even if force