

PROMINENT TOPICS.

THE HON. CHARLES FITZPATRICK, K.C., who has been Minister of Justice in the Laurier Cabinet, for several years, has been appointed Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. The Hon. Mr. Fitzpatrick has won this honour by distinguished services and will adorn the office. He has been one of the strongest members of the Government, being a very able debater and commanding a high degree of respect on both sides of the House of Commons for his talents and urbanity.

* * * *

OTHER CABINET CHANGES.—The Hon. Mr. Aylesworth has left the Post Office Department to succeed Mr. Fitzpatrick as Minister of Justice, where he will feel more at home than managing postal men and affairs. Solicitor General Lemieux has been given the portfolio of Postmaster General. We trust he will effect some of the reforms in the service that are urgently needed.

* * * *

MONTREAL STREET RAILWAY FRANCHISE.—Alderman Carter has prepared a draft in connection with the extension of the franchise for the Montreal Street Railway. This draft proposal is well worthy of the serious consideration of the City Council. It is not reasonable to expect a first class service except a lengthened franchise be given, but in doing so, the interests of the city should be safeguarded from every standpoint, and care should be taken that no part of the city should suffer for lack of car accommodation, and regular service, more especially at hours when ordinary traffic is so active. Provision should be made with a view to the future growth of the city, and if great attractions be developed in any section of the city, provision should be made for the extra traffic required in connection with them.

The city should also when granting an extension of the franchise take into consideration its great value, and take steps to provide for a share of the profits after paying the shareholders a reasonable dividend on the stock. Of course, there are other means of the city drawing revenue on the business of the company, such as charging a percentage on the increased earnings, but we believe that it would be in the best interests of both the city and the company to base the appropriation for the city on the net profits. The future requirements of this great city make it necessary that the most expert knowledge be brought to bear in drafting a contract, and conserving the interests of the citizens, and at the same time those of the company. A good and convenient service is of the first importance, and every possible precaution should be taken to provide this, as well as secure for the city its share in the prosperity of the enterprise in exchange for the value of the privileges which it grants.

THE HON. MR. MCCORKILL, treasurer of the Province of Quebec, claims a surplus of \$100,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1906. The honourable gentleman is to be congratulated.

* * * *

AN INCIDENT WHICH DOES NOT REFLECT CREDIT of the House of Commons occurred a few days ago, when some honourable members introduced the race and creed cry. If there be one country under heaven where the race, creed, or any sectional cry should not be raised, it is Canada. Surely those who raised it cannot realize the great blessing and strength for those of all races, and creeds in the Dominion when all live in harmony. The country has not much use for men who are liable to foster divisions on these lines.

* * * *

UNITED STATES CURRENCY.—What is known as the Fowler Bill which has been favourably reported on by the House Committee on banking and currency, authorizes National banks, with the approval of the comptroller of the currency, to issue an amount of National bank notes not exceeding 50 p.c. of its paid-up capital without depositing, as now required, United States bonds for the amount of such currency with the Treasury as a security therefor. The Bill requires banks issuing these notes to keep a deposit in the Treasury of an amount equal to 5 p.c. of their value to provide for the redemption thereof. This feature is following the example set by the banking laws of Canada. The object of the Bill is to provide currency when the demand becomes active during the Fall in connection with the moving of the crops.

* * * *

MR. GEORGE W. PERKINS NOT GUILTY OF LARCENY.—The Appellate Division of the Supreme Court of New York, has rendered a decision declaring that Mr. G. W. Perkins is not guilty of larceny. He was charged with this offence owing to his having participated in the contribution by the New York Life Insurance Company, of \$50,000 to the Republican Campaign Fund. Under the law when the alleged offence was committed the officers of corporations who made contributions out of the corporate funds were not guilty of larceny.

This decision was foreshadowed in THE CHRONICLE. Since then the law has been changed making it a misdemeanour for the officers of a corporation to make contributions to a political party.

* * * *

A BLASTING OPERATION FATALITY.—On 5th inst., a woman at Montreal Annex, was seated at her door, when she was instantly killed by a fragment of rock alighting on her head, which was crushed in. The stone was hurled from a quarry where blasting was in progress. This terrible incident will surely stop the reckless use of dynamite where it is so apt to be dangerous. Quite recently blast-