

should Montreal be treated so differently? Must a city plead in "forma pauperis," as a sturdy beggar, before it can get justice from Parliament?

The time has come when the interests of the trade of Canada demand that this port must be provided with the latest and best and most convenient facilities for handling, dispatching, all the varieties of freight that are brought here for shipment. While Canada is half asleep the States are wide awake, and unless we look out they will grab a great slice of our trade.

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Tenders for lighting the city are not yet called for. Probably the delay arises from a desire to give a chance for the amalgamation scheme being made more complete.

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The judges' salary question has again been raised by a speech in the Senate by the Honorable Geo. A. Drummond. It is to be regretted that such a matter should be thrown into the cauldron of public discussion. But this is one of the necessary, though disagreeable features of popular government. Since the salaries now paid to the judges were fixed nearly thirty years ago, there have been social changes made beyond their power to control, but which render those salaries less remunerative than they were years ago. Men occupying positions of such public prominence are in a social current which is beyond their strength to stem, or swim against. Cynics may rail at the conventionalities of society which imperatively impose conditions of life upon those in high places that involve drains upon the income, but such criticism is as ineffective as a pair of oars to pull up the rapids of the St. Lawrence. The income of the judges have remained stationary while the earnings of the leaders at the Bar have risen considerably in recent years. Promotion of the Bench is now a far more serious financial sacrifice to an eminent advocate than it usually was twenty or more years ago. Official honour and dignity have their charms, they are prized as the rewards of talent and of public service. But official honour and dignity are costly to maintain, which those who have the requisite qualifications for a judgeship cannot avoid weighing over when they are asked to give up, possibly, several thousand dollars yearly of income, earned at the Bar, in order to fill a vacancy on the Bench. Our Canadian judges stand in all respects on the level of their brethren in England. There is nothing more honourable to Canada than its unsullied, its legally distinguished judiciary. The country that is so proud of its judges, that receives from them such inestimable services should show its appreciation of their worth, and of the social exigencies of their position by awarding them higher salaries than those fixed in earlier days.

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If a traveller were to describe this magnificent city as it is to-day and were to depict some of its scenes, he would tell of roadways impossible to be used by

vehicles; of thousands of tons of ordure and all manner of filth piled in the streets; of loafers, with mouths to match the streets, obstructing street corners; of street cars blocked at the entrance by smokers whose offensive clouds have to be inhaled by ladies as they pass to a seat; of cars wherein passengers are packed like sardines in a tin; of gutters and crossings unswept; of pools on sidewalks ankle deep; of miles of lanes a yard or two deep with garbage; in a word, he would have to tell of and paint such scenes as could not be paralleled in any other city in the world, and of unutterable nuisances which Montrealers regard without any effort being made to civilize and modernize the management of their city.

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Citizens who desire a civic hospital and an improved fire brigade will have to speak out plainly. They have been so supine and dumb as to give certain aldermen the idea that Montrealers are too busy to take any interest in municipal affairs, or in the city's welfare. There is a greater lack of public spirit in this great city than can be found any where else. It is surprising what lassitude prevails amongst our citizens in regard to such vital matters as public health, fire protection, and harbour conveniences. Look at our streets, they are elongated dunghills even in the best residential districts. In other cities the people would be up in arms at such filthy conditions, here all growl, but no one moves to secure reform. Ratepayers look helplessly on with their hands hung down like children.

CANADIAN FIRE UNDERWRITERS' ASSOCIATION.

The usual quarterly meeting of the above Association was held in Montreal on the 17th inst. There was a large attendance, nearly all the companies being represented. Mr. H. M. Blackburn, president, was in the chair. The meeting was largely taken up with the consideration of the reports of the various Committees, the most important of which were the reports of the Eastern and Western Committees on the specific ratings for towns in the districts under their respective jurisdiction; the practical summation of the work of these two Committees was the recommendation to change the system of rating under which the Association has been working. Since the inception of the Association—now nearly twenty years ago—the ratings have been under a system of minimum tariffs, and while it is assumed that the ratings in question have been for the best risks of each class in each town, it has naturally followed that the minimum has also been the maximum rate. Owing to competition the working of this system has been that little regard has been paid to the different features of the same class of risk in the same class of town, by reason of which it has followed that the rates have been assimilated irrespective of the various considerations that make