

# TALK

**N**OVA SCOTIA is inaugurating a system of technical schools. There is to be a central institution at Halifax and secondary schools in several industrial centres. A hundred thousand dollars has been appropriated for the initial expense.

Mr. J. J. Stewart, editor of the Halifax "Herald," died a few days ago. He was one of the best known newspaper men in the Maritime Provinces. A lamp was overturned in his room and he was so severely burned that he did not recover from the shock.

Dr. Young, member for Atlin, is now provincial secretary of British Columbia.

When General Prince Fushimi, Japanese Envoy to Great Britain, passes through Canada next month, the Government will provide him and his party with a special train.

The Quebec Government will grant \$5,000 for a chair in land surveying at Laval University.

Hamilton is becoming more and more a city of factories. The talk now is of a new factory for the manufacture of balbriggan, to be managed by two men connected with a similar establishment at Lowell, Mass.

When the Earl of Aberdeen was in Canada, he was much taken with the fruit possibilities of the Okanagan Valley in British Columbia, and he showed his interest by investing in a farm. Earl Grey has, it is said, done the same since his visit to that district last October.

Mr. A. P. Low is now director of the Geological Survey at Ottawa.

Most people have already forgotten the Martineau forgeries in connection with the Militia Department. It was recalled the other day when the Supreme Court decided that the Bank of Montreal is liable to the Government for the seventy-five thousand dollars lost on that occasion.

British Columbia hopes to get a fair portion of the immigration from Europe this season. A forty dollar rate from Liverpool to Vancouver and other points has been arranged by the provincial government and the Canadian Pacific Railway.

Many people are pleased because Nova Scotia Steel common stock has again been placed on a dividend basis.

There is a vigorous struggle going on in Kent County, Ontario, between the Canada Land Company and the farmers, who assert that oil operators are moving on the different farms without consulting the owners and are commencing the work of drilling. Over 56,000 acres in Kent County are

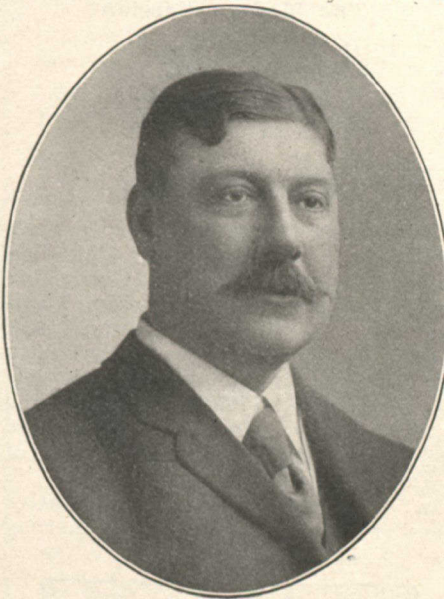
in dispute, besides large tracts in Essex and Lambton. The dispute arises about the terms of the original Imperial charter granted to the company. In the Ontario Legislature, Mr. A. B. McCoig has given notice of a bill to protect the farmers. The richness of the newly-discovered oil fields makes the struggle of unusual importance for to the victors will belong the oil.

The increase in immigration into Canada for the seven months from July to January inclusive was 49 per cent. The prospects for the "spring rush" are excellent.

Winnipeg is looking forward to a horse show and military tournament in June.

The first luncheon of the St. John, N.B., Canadian Club was held on Tuesday with Dr. G. R. Parkin as the speaker. Over 200 persons have signed the membership roll.

Ottawa has the proper sort of hockey enthusiasm, as many an attack of influenza will testify. On the



The late Major A. B. Lee  
President of Rice Lewis & Son, Toronto

last night of winter, a crowd stood through the small hours and through the cold grey dawn in order to get tickets for the Ottawa-Wanderers match.

Mr. James S. Beek, for twenty years Auditor-General of the Province of New Brunswick, passed away on March 1st at the ripe old age of ninety-two.

Last Sunday will go on record as the day on which the sale of United States Sunday papers in Canada was first stopped by legislation.

The last fortnight of Canadian disaster holds nothing else quite so horrible as that of February 26th when sixteen kindergarten pupils and their teacher, Miss Sarah Maxwell, lost their lives in a fire which destroyed the Hochelaga Protestant School, Montreal. To Miss Maxwell's unaided efforts about forty children owe their rescue. The building was of wood, thinly disguised with brick, and without the pretence of a fire escape, and the kindergarten pupils were given rooms on the third storey. Poems are being written about the heroism of the teacher and

already a memorial is being discussed. In the meantime it may be well to discover who was responsible for the criminal conditions which made such heroism necessary. Toronto harbour and a Montreal suburban school are a poor comment on our civilisation. When it might have been avoided with ordinary, decent precautions, such an accident shows a lack of civic conscience worse than deplorable.

All signs point, it is said, to a decided boom and great change at Montmorency Falls. This is being brought about by the general prosperity of the Dominion and of Quebec City and by the near completion of the new dam and power house at the Natural Steps.

The list of railway accidents seems to be extending into March, the first day of this month being marked by a head-on collision at Mountain, twenty-eight miles east of Smith's Falls. The Canadian record in this respect may rival that of the United States if spread rails and out-of-place freight trains become popular.

The Private Bills Committee reported favourably for the incorporation of the Village of South River, in the townships of Laurier and Machar, Parry Sound District, as a town, as it has seven hundred inhabitants. So, the West is not the only growing community.

The Canadian Pacific Railway is trying to shorten the distance between Montreal and Yokohama by cutting out the run from Vancouver down the Strait to Victoria and out into the Pacific. They propose to put a bridge or a fast ferry between Vancouver and Nanaimo speaking without preciseness; then a railway across the Island from Nanaimo to Alberni, and start their Pacific Expresses from that point. Anyone who will take the trouble to look at a map of Vancouver Island will see the advantages of this scheme, if it can be economically worked out. Alberni is to-day a village without a railway; to-morrow it may be a Vancouver or a Seattle.



The Hon. A. J. Matheson  
The lucky Provincial Treasurer of a lucky Province—Surplus in two years, One Million Dollars; estimated total provincial surplus at the end of 1907, Four Million Dollars