

LORD STRATHCONA.

The leading citizens of the metropolis of the Dominion are, as we go to press, endeavouring to express, in an address, the feelings of Canadians towards a noble and beloved public man—Lord Strathcona.

He has endeared himself to our people by his distinguished and pre-eminent benevolence, and he has gained the admiration and gratitude of his Queen and the Empire by a splendid illustration of that true patriotism which aims to serve one's country. Monuments of his munificence abound in the city of Montreal, and to his extraordinary liberality the people among whom he has lived are largely indebted for several magnificent seats of learning, and homes for suffering humanity.

Finding pleasure in acts of kindness, Lord Strathcona, has, during his too-brief visit to Montreal, displayed his interest in the welfare of others, and in the success of the institutions he has created, by a constant endeavour to assist them. By his display of thoughtfulness, and those little attentions which our citizens value, he has deepened the impression already made on the hearts of our citizens, and we trust the day is not far distant when he will return as Governor-General of the land he has done so much to exalt among the nations of the world.

CANADIAN LIFE UNDERWRITERS.

The annual meeting of the Canadian Life Underwriters' Association was held in Toronto yesterday. An account of the proceedings will be given in our next issue.

THE COUNTER BETWEEN.

Mr. Charles W. Stevenson in an admirable article in the "Bankers Monthly," says in part:—"There is no business like banking. It embodies a distinctive principle, and stands alone. Though it has corporate form, the nature of the bank's business renders it peculiar. Capitalists loan money, brokers buy and sell bonds and stocks, there are safe deposit companies where money and valuables may be left, governments superintend coinage and issue bills; neither of these is a banker. Banks deal in credit of their own manufacture.

"In no other business does the mere width of a counter work so great a difference between thought, action, and purpose, on the part of the two engaged in the transaction. The buyer and seller come to terms according to mutual interests, each can put himself in the other's place. The employer and the employee seem often to work in antagonism, the essential difference between them is only too apparent. But the cashier and his customer occupy entirely dissimilar mental attitudes.

"The mechanism of the bank does not appear from the outside. Accommodations, which are accorded are not fully understood by a majority of customers.

Money being always ready, depositors grow forgetful of the principle upon which the bank works. No bank can pay all its depositors at once. The stream of money which flows through the institution must be kept at a certain gauge. The bank is a place for the safe keeping of money, but the money is not all there at the same time. When a panic comes, this is remembered by some, forgotten by others.

"It makes a deal of difference which side of the counter you are on. The depositor trusts the bank and the banker trusts the world. One puts money into a strong vault, to be returned when called for; the other sends it out into circulation, to be paid back when due. Originally, the depositor's faith depends upon trust in many. The interests of the two are really the same, but it is not always apparent.

"The customer watches his own business. He is largely the architect of his own fortune. Ability and industry, these he can direct; capital he can invest or operate, it is mainly under his control. The varying fortunes of trade affect him, but he cannot guide them; he can only meet them, be guided by them, Commerce is ultimately responsive to natural law. It may temporarily be influenced by human law. So that the individual merchant and manufacturer is but an atom of force in the world's business. Few men, among the vast number who do business, operate on such a scale that they can see these great movements which, like gulf streams in the ocean, sweep through the trade of the world. Being in the stream, they feel its current, but cannot tell whither it floweth. Hence, from their limited horizon, they are insensible of directions and danger. They are inspired with confidence in their own management; and, they are comparatively safe as long as they are prudent and avoid the counter movements of speculation.

MONTREAL CLEARING HOUSE.

	Balances \$	Clearings. \$
Total for week ending		
15 Nov 1900,	2,467,604	17,304,571
Corresponding week... 1899,	2,542,998	16,341,033
" " .1898,	1,743,177	15,899,967
" " .1897,	1,768,555	14,164,381

PERSONALS.

Mr. James Boomer, manager of the Manchester Fire Assurance Co. was in Montreal last Saturday. He returned to Toronto the same evening.

Mr. R. H. Matson, managing director National Life Assurance Company of Toronto, visited Montreal this week on official business in connection with his company.

Mr. G. H. Allen, inspector of the Kingston, Ont., district for the Standard Life Assurance Co., was in Montreal last week.