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SIR THOMAS SHAUGHNESSY'S WHEAT PRIZE. **T**HE fact that Canada captured Sir Thomas Shaughnessy's prize of \$1,000 for the best exhibit of wheat at the New York Exposition is very gratifying, but not surprising to people who know anything about wheat. The prize was the only one open to all comers, other competitions being restricted to United States exhibitors. It is also gratifying to add that the judges were all American citizens.

RETIREMENT OF MR. BALFOUR. **T**HE retirement of the Right Hon. Arthur J. Balfour from the leadership of the Unionist party is a great loss to British public life. He has served in Parliament for thirty-five years and the leadership of the opposition lately has not been a bed of roses. He deprecates the idea of his retirement being due to dissensions within the party, although, as he says, there are always grumblers when the party is in opposition—in which respect the British Unionist party is not peculiar. Mr. Balfour modestly attributes his retirement to a desire to get out before he can even be suspected of getting petrified by advancing age in the old courses he has pursued through life. The blow will fall hardest on those who have been clamouring for his resignation. They have it; now, what are they going to do about it?

MUNICIPAL CENSUS FOR WESTMOUNT. **W**ESTMOUNT is to have a census of its own. There is a strong and probably well grounded impression that the Dominion Census is far from correct. The council believes that there are between 17,000 and 18,000 people in the city, although the returns only give it credit for 14,318. If all the municipalities, which have as good reason as Westmount to doubt the accuracy of the count in their cases, will take a municipal census the result may justify the Dominion Government in taking a new census for the whole of Canada. It would be expensive, but a widely inaccurate census is worse than useless. If it is worth while to spend a lot of money in counting the people incorrectly,

it is still more worth while to spend as much in getting a correct return. Trifling errors are to be expected, but it is to be feared that the mistakes in this case are not trifling.

TRIPOLI MASSACRES. **T**HE speaker of the British House of Commons refused to put a motion to adjourn a debate to discuss the Tripoli massacre charges on the curious ground that the matter was not of definite importance. This might have been better expressed otherwise. There may be good reasons for regarding it as inopportune for Parliament to take up the question, but lack of definite importance is not one of them. The Imperial Parliament has troubles enough of its own; but there was a time when it took many days to discuss the Bulgarian atrocities.

STREET RAILWAY MERGER UPHELD. **T**HE Public Utilities Commission has given judgment in favour of the Street Railway merger, or rather declares that it sees no justification for interfering with the shareholders of the interested companies, for doing as they like with their property. The commissioners discuss at considerable length the value of the property and franchises and arrive at the conclusion that the capitalization is not unreasonable and is not a menace to public interests. Our own impression is that so far as the public is concerned, it does not matter a button whether a public service company pays ten per cent. on \$10,000,000 or five per cent. on \$20,000,000. That is a matter for the shareholders and investors. The average citizen is worried less about water in the stock than he is about shortcomings in the service. That the present service is unsatisfactory is obvious; and that is a matter for both the city of Montreal and the Public Utilities Commission to deal with. If the city ever decides to expropriate the street railway, it will not have to buy the stock, it will simply have to take over the tracks, the plant and the business as a going concern; and the price of the stock or the amount of the stock should have nothing to do with the valuation.