

MONTREAL STREET RAILWAY.

The Montreal Street Railway Company object to paying taxes on their poles, wires and rails, although these latter are taxable, according to the provisions of the present city charter. They have filed in court an appeal from the assessors' decision, which is quite serious in its import, and contains interesting declarations. Briefly, the allegations of the petition of the company may be summed up, as follows:

That the city, under article 361, of the charter, is empowered to tax the poles, wires and rails of the company, but that article 567, of the same charter, provides that nothing in the Act contained shall be construed as allowing the city to violate any of its obligations, undertaken by contract;

That the contract giving the company the right to operate their railway within the limits of the city, stipulates that a percentage of the earnings of the railway shall be paid to the city in lieu of taxes, except taxes on real estate;

That this contract was made in consideration of the percentage which the company agreed to pay the city, which payments have been made, monthly, by the company, and accepted by the city, in lieu of all taxes and assessments, with the exception of the tax on such immovable property which was immovable at the time of the making of the contract;

That the said contract was made for thirty years, and that section 567 was specially inserted in the charter, with the object of preventing the violation of their rights by the city under claim of additional statutory powers;

That the contract was ratified by the Legislature;

That the company are willing to pay taxes on their lands, buildings and machinery;

That the city valuers assessed the poles, wires and rails of the company at \$280,000, which is in any case exorbitant;

That they calculated more miles of tracks than the company actually have, and that the sum above mentioned is not the actual value of these tracks.

The company further complain that their premises, situated on Notre Dame East, have been assessed at \$234,000, while they consider them to be worth only \$70,000.—Gazette.

INCREASED CANADIAN TRADE.

An Ottawa despatch of Tuesday, which appeared in the Canada Gazette, giving figures showing the trade revenue for September, shows the total imports for the month to have been \$15,939,869, and exports, \$17,089,536, as compared with \$13,016,145 and \$14,610,112 in September, last year, an increase for the month of \$5,403,148, in the total trade, of which \$2,923,724 was in imports, and \$2,479,424 in exports. The increases in imports were \$657,440 in free goods, \$59,067,383 in dutiable, and \$298,901 in coin and bullion. In exports there was an increase of \$3,409,374 in produce of Canada, and \$54,141 in coin and bullion, and a decrease of \$984,092 in produce of other countries.

For the three months of the fiscal year, the increase has been \$10,992,042, of which \$3,528,663 was in imports, and \$7,463,379 in exports. Following are the details for the three months, compared with the same period last year:

IMPORTS.		
	1898.	1899.
Dutiable	\$24,548,547	\$26,476,054
Free	16,531,472	17,223,428
Coin and bullion.	3,110,151	4,019,351
Total	\$44,190,170	\$47,718,833
Duty collected ..	6,784,944	7,373,964

EXPORTS.

Canadian	\$36,925,092	\$43,994,892
Foreign	6,167,147	6,331,981
Coin and bullion ..	372,846	601,591
Total	\$43,465,085	\$50,928,464

MINING EXPERTS.

At a recent meeting of the Canadian Mining Institute, in Rossland, Mr. Hector McRae delivered the following amusing address, which will be read with interest by those of our readers who have met any of the gentlemen referred to. By "Henry," Mr. Bratnoher is meant.

In my early years, my parents, who were strict Presbyterians, taught me to shun the mining expert, and to avoid, as a pestilence, the man who made a study of rocks and other low-down things for a living. Shortly after leaving home, however, it was my misfortune to run across one, Holstein Loken, whom I looked upon as the greatest geologist of the age. I knew he was a geologist because he always signed that way. This Holstein was not a grasping geologist, for all he charged me was \$2 per day and board, and \$1.50 for his "rapport," as he termed it. In the end he came high, and I had to turn him down. I saw, shortly after, a living star in the form of Henry G. Vennon, and followed his advice till he published an almanack, which disturbed the equanimity of all the farmers in 14 townships. As far as Doctors Selwyn and Hoffman were concerned, they had my deepest sympathy, as they failed to get desired results from tons of rocks I had brought them from time to time.

A few years ago I came out west, and found there were others, and for the benefit of those who may be in the dark tonight, I have prepared roughly a paper on some of the "Men of To-day and Yesterday," whom I have either met or heard of in my travels.

I used to know Henry well. Worked with him on the Drum Lummond. Had no technical training, but just raised from the pick and shovel. Had lots of savvy, and knew how to work the Englishmen. Discovered big copper deposits a year or two ago in the Yukon, about 2,850 miles from transportation. Guess he's well fixed and don't care whether school of mines keeps or not.

Ham, Ham Smith, a has-been—He turned down the Jim Crow Group in '79. She made a mine under Dutch Mike's management just the same. Got a good job from the Rothschilds looking over the Rand. Sent his pard Perkins instead, and turned down the whole proposition for less than a million. The blow killed Rothschild. Smith is now living on a farm in New Hampshire, is consulting engineer to a creamery company, and Perkins is foreman in a pickle factory at Battersea.

L. M. Davis—A Quaker, born and educated in Pennsylvania. Fought under Washington, and after the war was ended joined the London Exploration Company. Worked \$15,000,000 out of the Calio mine, Venezuela, and then went to Mexico, Australia, etc. Has examined 1,411 propositions in 32 years, and bought three. Is a bachelor but not bigoted. Has his doubts as to there being any more good mines on earth to-day.

Ross E. Brown—Also with the Exploration Company, with headquarters in San Francisco and London. A very charitable mining expert. Has turned down many a good mining proposition, but seldom a poor one. Ross thinks the good ones can take care of themselves. (Vide Esperanza report).

Darlington—Is the man who made it possible for Oliver Durant to obtain two cold millions for the Centre Star. Works

for John M. Mackay, and that time for Oliver.

Louis Janin—Can report on a mine in three languages. Worked the Comstock, and is now working the Iron Mask. Louis doesn't have to work real hard now.

John Hayes Hammond—Why "Jack" couldn't get a job as shift boss in the Mountain Goat twelve years ago. Was dead strapped. Had to go to South Africa. Made his pile there, and gets \$120,000, half cash and half shares, for just turning down propositions. Got interested in Boer affairs, and not being considered a regular Boer, was run in and nearly strung up. After promising never to do it again, was let off.

Curtis.—Him as used to be in Comstock for the United States geological survey staff, swiped too much and lost his job. Saved up enough to buy a cheap excursion ticket to Johannesburg, and is now worth millions.

Dr. Rossiter H. Raymond wears a skull cap and black frock coat. Writes scientific articles for the papers, and gives expert testimony for revenue purposes only. The doctor is very slim goods, I tell you, and lives in the upper stopes of New York society. They say that he knows more law than Joe Martin, too.

Clarence King—His intimate friends, after paying his fee, are at liberty to call him "Clarry." He's pretty slick—the slickest as is made. You should hear him giving evidence in a mining suit. He pulls the legs off the judge with smiles and specious argument, and works the jury by palmistry. He doesn't know how to work a mine at a profit himself, but gets \$25,000 a crack for advising the other man. Nature has made some serious blunders, which Clarence has taken years to rectify.

Captain Plummer—Say, he's dead, but he was the mine manager. Whenever he had a big proposition to examine and report on, he always acted on Mike Foley's advice. Mike got \$5 a day and the company the balance of the mine.

J. B. Hastings—I guess he's all right now. Made a 10-strike on the War Eagle and about ten shillings a share on a big block of the stock. Gets more for his writings than Kipling. Charges \$500 a day for saying "no good."

W. A. Carlyle—He didn't graduate from the Comstock, or ever played a nickel-in-the-slot machine. Worked for two years on mines in Colorado. Took a rest in a McGill College chair for a like term, and learned his B. A. C.'s in Rossland. Has just accepted a position as manager of 15,000 Spaniards in the Rio Tinto at \$2 apiece.

John Hardman—Hails from Nova Scotia, where they've coals to burn. Made money there in mining because there was nothing in the rocks but gold, and gold was always legal tender in Halifax. Could have made more money in Spokaneing, but didn't have the pleasure of O. G. Labree's acquaintance. Came

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