

THE MINISTER OF MARINE QUESTIONS.

A very important communication was addressed to your Council in November last by the Honorable the Minister of Marine and Fisheries, on various subjects connected with the navigation interests of the Dominion, embracing the following questions:—River Police; Marine and Quarantine Hospitals; Harbor Commissioners; Trinity Boards; Classification of Vessels; Lights; Light-houses; Buoys and Beacons; Light and Hospital dues; Registry of Vessels; Shipping of Seamen; Steamboat Inspection; Pilot Service; Inquiry into Shipwrecks; Schools of Navigation, &c., &c. Your Council named a Special Committee to consider these subjects, who, after a careful examination and discussion of them, presented a full and complete report, which was adopted by the Council and forwarded to the Minister of Marine.

CITY CORPORATION.

The Council have continued to take an active interest in the affairs of the Corporation, especially matters relating to taxation. During the recent session of the Local Parliament, a bill to amend the city charter was submitted to the Legislature, and amongst other changes it was proposed to tax all stocks, bonds and mortgages. This was thought so very unfair and unreasonable, that they petitioned the City Council and the Local Parliament against it, and the clauses were withdrawn. A deputation also attended the Private Bill Committee, and watched the progress of the bill, opposing such of the additions and amendments as were considered detrimental to the interests of the tax-payers. Your Council are happy to learn that a "Citizens' Association" has been formed, for the purpose of promoting reform and efficiency in the management of the Corporation. If worked with energy and ability, it will, no doubt, be productive of much good.

POST OFFICE BILL.

The Council petitioned Parliament against this bill, on the ground that the present Savings' Banks were useful and could be adapted for Government purposes by compelling them to invest their surplus funds in Government securities; but finding that the bill was likely to pass, your Council opposed the clause exempting sums under \$800 from seizure, for the reason that it would open the door to fraud. This was amended, so as to provide that such exemption should only last while the money was in transitu from the place of deposit to the head office in Ottawa.

THE INSOLVENT ACT.

The Committee of the House of Commons on bankruptcy, having submitted to your Council a series of questions on the operation of the Insolvent Act, they were carefully considered by a Special Committee, whose report to the Council, recommending several changes in the act, was adopted and forwarded to the Parliamentary Committee. The reduction of expenses, the simplification of certain operations of the act, and the more summary

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