

**Prominent Topics.**

**Property Qualification** It is now proposed to take a referendum on the question of abolishing the property qualification of Montreal aldermen. Won't it seem hard on the aldermen to abolish the only qualification some of them have?

**Dominion Elections Completed.** By the election of Dr. Thompson, the Conservative candidate in the Yukon, over the late Liberal member, Mr. Congdon, the Dominion elections are completed. The net result is as follows:—

	Con.	Lib.
Prince Edward Island	2	2
Nova Scotia	9	9
New Brunswick	5	8
Quebec	27	38
Ontario	73	13
Manitoba	9	1
Saskatchewan	1	9
Alberta	1	6
British Columbia	7	0
Yukon	1	0
	—	—
	135	86

**Duke's Colonisation Scheme.** One of the most interesting of the many schemes now on foot for settlements in the Canadian West is that of which the Duke of Sutherland on his return to Eastern Canada has given some particulars. One part of the scheme prepared by the Duke, follows closely the "ready-made farm" operations of the Canadian Pacific Railway. His Grace has acquired a tract of land in Southern Alberta, which has been divided into twelve farms and is now ready for occupancy. Picked farmers from the Duke's estate in Scotland will be placed on each of these farms next spring with the view of eventually becoming proprietors. Payments will be extended over a period of ten years, the money bearing interest at 6 p.c., but if the tenant is able to complete all payments within five years the interest rate will only be 4 p.c. Another part of the Duke's immigration scheme is represented by 1,500 acres of land near Edmonton, to which his Grace proposes to send laborers from Scotland. Farm laborers to start with, these men will be trained as farmers capable of starting out in a few years for themselves. The wages they receive will probably be double what is paid in Scotland, and it is hoped that in time they will select homesteads for themselves and have sufficient from their savings to start well. The Duke hopes to associate with the scheme a number of prominent Canadians, and the expectation is that if the present scheme develops satisfactorily, larger tracts will be taken up for settlement. It may be noted that the Duke disclaims the intention, which rumour had imputed to him, of maintaining an estate in Canada.

**Montreal Real Estate Movements.**

Major John T. McBride on behalf of Mr. John T. McGreevy, of Winnipeg, has made a formal offer of \$2,000,000 for the St. James Methodist Church property and expects it to be accepted.

Negotiations for the sale of the old Ottawa Hotel property on St. James Street are in progress. The price named is \$400,000 or about \$40 a square foot.

**New York City Budget.**

The New York City budget is always interesting on account of the fact that it is probably the biggest civic budget in the world. The figures are certainly colossal. The first draft or tentative budget for 1912 totals \$190,000,000, an increase of \$16,000,000 over 1911. The appropriations for the two years respectively are as follows:—

Department.	1911. (final allowance).	1912. (tentative).
Education	\$29,007,747	\$36,500,000
Police	15,517,213	16,500,000
Fire	8,187,459	8,500,000
Water, Gas and Electricity	7,121,395	7,750,000
Street Cleaning	7,223,080	7,930,000
Parks, all boroughs	3,247,502	3,313,000
Charities	3,098,446	3,500,000
Health	2,823,499	3,250,000
Docks and Ferries	2,710,715	3,057,000
Finance	1,350,550	1,419,000
Correction	1,266,714	1,297,000
Bellevue and Allied Hospitals	1,202,125	1,310,000
City Record	1,149,320	1,085,000
Board of Elections	1,056,750	1,200,000
President, Manhattan Borough	2,254,816	2,936,000
President, Brooklyn Borough	2,214,179	2,250,000
President, Bronx Borough	1,115,468	1,155,000
President, Queens Borough	1,332,019	1,875,000
President, Richmond Borough	754,343	814,000
Bridges	793,053	825,000
Tenement Houses	820,412	805,000
Minor city departments	4,521,900	4,811,000
Minor city courts	2,442,562	2,600,000
County officials and courts	4,112,693	4,408,000
Miscellaneous—		
City debt charges	50,661,821	51,754,328
Tax collection, deficit	10,000,000	8,000,000
Direct State tax		4,301,000
To charitable institutions	4,600,000	5,000,000
Rents	1,120,000	1,080,000
Outside judges	110,000	110,000
Total	\$174,079,335	\$190,000,000

The Health estimates provide for such novelties as dentists for the schools at \$1,200 a year each.

**Breaking Up the "Steel Trust."** The United States Government now proposes to break up the "steel trust." It has brought action in the courts at Trenton, New Jersey, asking not only for the dissolution of the United States Steel Corporation, but for the dissolution of all constituent or subsidiary companies, which are alleged to have combined in violation of the Sherman law to "maintain, or attempt to maintain, a monopoly of the steel business." There are 36 subsidiary corporations named as defendants, and a host of well-known men as individual defendants from J. Pierpoint Morgan, John D. Rockefeller and Andrew Carnegie downwards.