

allowed to stand in the way of Montreal going promptly to their relief. Meanwhile the New Brunswick Government might very properly follow the example of the Quebec Government in the case of the Three Rivers fire and guarantee Campbellton's bonds, for a term of years; with the most serene confidence that Campbellton will redeem the bonds at maturity, if it is in a position to do so. While we are chopping logic and splitting hairs about law, men, women and children are starving.

**New Zealand
Finances.**

The New Zealand budget provides for a sinking fund which is intended to extinguish the present national debt in seventy-five years. All future loans are to be treated on the same basis. It also provides for national annuities, the state contributing in some cases, in proportion to the number of children.

**New Down
Town Hotel.** The well-known Carsely building on St. James street recently purchased by The City Central Real Estate Company, is at present being altered and fitted up as a Commercial hotel, which will contain about 130 bedrooms. The premises have been leased for a term of 10 years to Freeman's Limited. As soon as the alterations are finished Freeman's will close their well-known restaurant at 158 St. James Street and move into the new premises.

**British Columbia
Companies Act.**

The Attorney General of British Columbia is reported to have stated in an interview that the Government of British Columbia would not make any change in the Companies Act, and would enforce its provisions. This means that all incorporated companies seeking to do business in British Columbia must either become incorporated there or take out a provincial license. The act applies only to companies or their agents or travellers. Firms that are partnerships and individual traders are not brought under the provision of the law.

**Grand Trunk
Strike.**

That the Grand Trunk strike has failed is proven by the fact that the leaders of the movement have offered to allow the men to return to work upon the terms offered by the company when it accepted the report of the Board of Conciliation, upon the sole condition that the strikers be allowed to resume their old positions as though nothing had occurred. Unfortunately Mr. Hays cannot so easily ignore accomplished facts. While the strikers have been doing their utmost to embarrass the company and to paralyze the business of the country, he has been forced to incur moral responsibilities to new employes, whose claims to consideration are pre-eminent.

The situation is an unfortunate one, but it is not of Mr. Hay's creation.

**Handling of
Explosives.**

The explosion on the National Transcontinental Railway near La Tuque, by which nearly a dozen men were killed and others injured, is attributed to the efforts of a workman to open a can of gunpowder with an axe. He succeeded in opening the tin and probably nothing but the magnitude of the disaster which followed, brought his accomplishment to public notice. It is said that most of the great railways have their private grave-yards in which are buried the victims of accidents during the work of construction, caused by their own or their fellow workmen's carelessness or incompetence. Familiarity breeds contempt, and the use of explosives is so universal and so indispensable in railway building, that the men who handle them have lost all respect for their dangers. That the contractors have rules for the handling of gunpowder and dynamite we may safely take for granted; and that these rules are habitually ignored in proved by the great number of accidents that occur with fatal results to the men who break the rules, and others. That the rules contemplate the opening of powder cans with axes, or the thawing of dynamite cartridges on hot stoves is highly improbable. There ought to be a law to compel respect for such rules under the severest penalties.

**The Royal
Declaration.**

That the Asquith Government is a government of shreds and patches and compromises is amusingly illustrated by the mutations of the Bill concerning the King's Declaration of religious faith. To please the Roman Catholics Mr. Asquith introduced a very reasonable measure to abolish the offensive features of the Declaration and substituting a formal declaration of the King's adhesion to the Protestant Church "as by law established." This stirred up an opposition among the Premiers Non-conformist supporters, and although he has carried the Bill by the large majority of 410 to 84, it was only accomplished by making the essence of the measure a declaration by His Majesty to the effect that "I am a faithful Protestant." His Holiness the Pope could take this oath, with a good conscience, for he protests against "the errors of the Church of England as by law established" and those of the Non-conformist churches, as vigorously, as any of them protest against "the errors of the Church of Rome." To define a "Protestant" to say nothing about a "faithful Protestant" would puzzle a Philadelphia lawyer. The declaration is meaningless.