

Prominent Topics.

Dominion Steel. The Dominion Steel Company, which has, as we announced last week acquired the Springfield coal mines is now negotiating for the purchase of iron ore areas in St. George's, Newfoundland.

Smoke Nuisance on St. James Street. The citizens of St. James Street are a long-suffering folk. It often occurs to us, that in no other city on the continent would the people put up with the smoke and the poisonous gases which emanate from certain tall chimneys. Surely it would not be a great hardship to insist upon hard coal being used within the city limits or at any rate in the office district.

British Elections. The results of the British elections so far announced do not hold out any hope of a decisive victory for either party; and anything short of that means a prolongation of the deadlock. It is a striking commentary upon the unavoidable limitations of popular government, that the balance of power is likely to be held by a party which is numerically insignificant. The Unionist party up to Thursday night had elected 193 members. The Liberals had 147, the Nationalists 45, and the Laborites 27. The indications are that the Nationalists will dominate the situation by coalition with elements with which they have no natural sympathy or affiliation.

Montreal's Toll-Gates. It seems strange that at this period of its development a city of the size and population of Montreal should have to be discussing the question of abolishing toll-gates within its borders. Even suburban toll gates belong to the class of municipalities which depend upon town pumps for their public water supply. Every toll-gate on the Island of Montreal should be wiped out of existence without loss of time, not necessarily, however, at the expense of Montreal exclusively. A toll-gate is a very unsuitable piece of furniture for a great metropolitan city.

Lord Strathcona on Canada Past, Present and Future. At the dinner of the Canadian Club in London, on Wednesday, Lord Strathcona presided and presented the club with two handsome loving cups. He made an interesting comparison between the present time, when the Canadian West is producing a hundred million bushels of wheat per annum, and the time when the Club originated and when the Canadian West was not producing a single bushel of wheat. He suggested another interesting comparison by predicting that the sons of the present members would regard Canada's

present prosperity as a mere bagatelle. His Lordship is obviously right in assuming that Canada is only on the threshold of the era of its progress.

And this was in Toronto! **Riotous Toronto.** Toronto the Good! Toronto, the godness of which has ever been a reproach to the sinfulness of Montreal! Two thousand citizens held a meeting in Massey Hall to protest against the pay-as-you-enter cars and the non-smoking regulations. Then not contented with passing resolutions "viewing with alarm," they threw bricks and stones at the street cars until they put them out of business for the night. Occasionally, once in a few years, the windows of Montreal street cars are smashed, but always on labour union principles. The bricks are union bricks, the stones are union stones and they are thrown by union hands in "emphatic protest" against the wages schedule or something of that sort. The passengers never throw stones. They write to the papers occasionally, but nobody seems to mind it. Toronto the righteous has become Toronto the riotous.

The Estimates. The estimates for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1912, presented to Parliament by Sir Wilfrid Laurier, show an estimated expenditure of \$138,863,200, or an increase over the present fiscal year of \$6,035,575. Of the total, \$100,674,627 an increase of \$5,095,717, is represented by consolidated fund expenditure. Of the vast array of items presented in the statement, perhaps the most piquantly interesting is \$3,831,500 allocated to the naval service. For the National Transcontinental an appropriation of \$27,000,000, the same amount as last year is asked and for the Quebec bridge \$2,000,000. Interest on the public debt will, it is anticipated, reach \$15,431,554, an increase of \$989,525 over the present year. The chief departmental increases are in arts, agriculture and statistics, for which there is an appropriation of \$2,225,000, an increase of \$1,039,500 owing, specially, to the taking of the census next year, but the following list shows that increases are general:—civil government, \$5,060,578, an increase of \$209,874; militia, \$7,524,950, increase, \$592,201; railways and canals (income), \$1,002,547, increase, \$190,970; public works (income), \$12,871,409, increase, \$105,000; Indians, \$1,719,889, increase, \$139,535; Dominion lands, \$1,216,934, increase, \$312,020; naval service, \$3,331,500, increase, \$155,000; ocean and river service, \$1,258,400, increase, \$303,500; immigration, \$1,066,250, increase, \$25,448; customs, \$2,582,500, increase, \$375,000; post office, \$8,490,657, increase, \$626,080; railways and canals (collection of revenue), \$11,235,720, increase, \$630,754; public works (collection of revenue), \$614,900, increase, \$11,850; trade and commerce, \$418,400, increase \$49,600.