

this city to visitors, and an invaluable sanitarium to the citizens. The carriages of visitors would continually be liable to run alongside a vehicle containing a sufferer from small-pox or fever. One of the first objects visible to visitors in ascending the Mountain, directly below the spectator, would be this detectable institution, with all its charming associations, and all its horrible possibilities. The gods must have some evil design upon certain members of the City Council for, we all know, whom they intend to destroy, they first deprive of reason.

What an attractive feature it will be in a future description of our glorious Mountain Park, the very lungs of the city, to read: "Within this Park, adjacent to the path leading to the slopes of the Mountain, is situated the City Hospital for Contagious Diseases."

The utter lack of energy prevailing in Civic departments is woefully manifested by the condition of nearly all the street crossings. In a number of places the roadway is covered several inches deep with muddy water. It is impossible to cross over without the whole foot being immersed. Rubbers are no protection as the water-mud goes over them and soaks into the boot. It is impossible to avoid this occurring when a heavy rain falls, but, when the flood is allowed to remain a whole day, sometimes longer, after rain has ceased, the nuisance becomes intolerable and inexcusable, as by a little energy on the part of the authorities, the surface water could be quickly drained off. There were places yesterday where it was impossible to get aboard or alight from a street car without plunging over boot-tops in a pool of water which, in five minutes, could have been cleared away by a labourer with a pick and shovel. Perhaps it is thought that one man could not be entrusted with such an onerous task without being accompanied by a foreman, and that the work did not justify two men being engaged upon it.

The action of the Legislature of the Province of Quebec in upsetting the arrangement that was made years ago with the proprietors, is manifestly of a character not in the interests either of the city or the Province, and a very serious question arises as to how far the Legislature is justified in interfering with the inherent rights of the city. That the Legislature has the power, no person will deny, but that power is supposed to be exercised with discretion and in the public interests generally. How can any city manage its affairs from a financial standpoint, or make its arrangements, if they are liable to be upset at any moment by the action of the Legislature? The great majority of the members do not know the first thing about Montreal, except by reputation, and certainly can know nothing about its internal management. Again, will it be fair to make an exception in the case of Notre Dame street east? Are not the proprietors on all the other streets entitled to similar treatment? In dealing with a matter of this nature we are afraid the more serious aspects of it are lost sight of. However, we have faith in the Legislative Council, for we know of old, that it came to the rescue of Montreal time and time again, and no good reason can be given why it should go back on its record.

There is another serious aspect, and a very serious one too, to be considered, and that is, the interference

with the limit of the debt of the city. The limit has been established by the Legislature, and there are no visible means of paying back the proprietors except by borrowing more money. The full limit of the debt has been reached. Can the Legislature of the Province of Quebec afford to play fast and loose with the creditors of the city? If they do, what guarantee is there that they will not do likewise with the credit of the Province, and the credit of everywhere else? Gentlemen of the Legislature of the Province of Quebec consider well what you are doing, and let the people of Montreal, as far as possible, manage their own affairs.

There is a bridge scheme and a terminal railway Scheme. Citizens of Montreal ought to consider carefully both these enterprises before it be too late. There are those who think that another bridge across the river will be in the interests of people living on the South Shore, as well as in the interests of those who wish to avoid paying taxes in Montreal. It will also give railways greater facilities for carrying grain and produce past the harbour in connection with the terminal railway, and to United States ports.

Then the terminal railway scheme, if carried out, would enable grain, etc., to be shipped direct over the Chateauguay & Northern and Great Northern, to Quebec and other places.

It was suggested that a public meeting ought to be called and these questions fully discussed. However, we presume there are good reasons why this meeting was not called. Certainly, some person should take the initiative, and a very strong protest be made against undue interference in the management of the internal affairs of the metropolitan city of the Dominion.

What is the matter with the preliminary civic reports? They have not been issued as yet. Is it the fault of the officials, or the squabble over the printing? When these reports are not issued in the early part of the year they are not of as much value when left over until the year is almost ended.

St. Cunegonde is applying for powers to consolidate its debt, and do other things which, if granted in the shape asked, would be unjust to its creditors and others. If St. Cunegonde desires to pay off its existing debentures it must be prepared to pay the market price for them. Legislative power to do otherwise would be inimical to public interests and practically dishonest.

In reference to the visit of Colonial officials to London to attend the Coronation festivities, the "Canadian Gazette" remarks that some misapprehension exists in Canada. Only the Premiers of self-governing Colonies have been invited as the guests of His Majesty's Government, that is to say, the Premier of Canada, of Australia, New Zealand, Cape Colony, Natal and Newfoundland. The Premiers of the several Provinces of Canada, as of the Australian States, are presumably being informed that they will be heartily welcome should they visit London, and that facilities will be given them for viewing the ceremonies, but they will not be guests of the British nation. Imperial Privy Councillors at home and in the Colonies are to be invited, though not as guests of the nation.