

Our Montreal Letter.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

May 20th.—Spring weather has arrived at last, and activity reigns supreme in all sections of the city. The harbor front is one of the busiest places at present. Several steamers have arrived, both ocean liners and canal boats, and day and night the longshoremen are engaged loading and unloading. The first arrival this season was the C.P.R. liner "Bolingbroke," Captain Edmund Alkman. The second was the Cairn Line freighter "Cairnvalona," Captain A. W. Melling, who said that had he been in the sealing business he and his crew would have made a small fortune, for they saw hundreds of thousands of them while the ship was just able to make headway between Cape Race and Cape Ray. Evidently the large herds of seals seen by Captain Melling must have been the main patch which the sealing steamers missed again this season. The Captain spent ten days and nights in field ice, and with heavy fog at times, he had a very strenuous time of it so much so that he was practically worn out for the want of sleep. Another steamer, the Norwegian freighter "Horda," which was ahead of his ship in the ice pack took a course close in shore at Cape Ray, and Captain Melling left her 800 miles behind, and apparently still ice-bound. Capt. Melling also sighted an apparently abandoned sealing schooner, locked fast in the ice. Not being sure as to her condition he brought the Cairnvalona close to the ice to investigate when suddenly the crew jumped out of the schooner and ran over the ice towards the big freighter. "They stood and talked to me right under the bow of the ship," said Captain Melling, "just as they might on this wharf."

"I asked them if they required any food or medical supplies and they said they were quite all right and asked to report them as 'all well.'"

"I passed another ice-bound sealing schooner the next day and came in close enough for them to show a flag if they needed assistance. When we saw these little schooners sticking it out we felt that we were not so badly off."

Captain Melling was formerly in command of the Cairnvalona, which sailed to this port and was also commander of the well-known Montreal freighter "Freemont," which was torpedoed under him in 1917. It took three-quarters of an hour to revive him after his immersion in the entrance to the English channel. He lost all his officers in this sinking and 11 of the crew. To-day, he wears a torpedo badge on his cuff as a remembrance.

Although losing a lot of time in getting here Captain Melling mentioned, with a grin of satisfaction, that he has come to the right port for making up lost time. "I got in here last evening," he said, "and before midnight they had shot over a thousand tons of grain into the ship. Everything is going fine now and we will soon have a quick turn round."

Captain Alkman was presented with the gold-headed cane by the Harbor Commission, owing to his ship being

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the first arrival for 1923.

Faulty foundations caused the collapse of a two-story building in Mansfield Street, the property of the Sun Life Insurance Company. It was occupied by Mrs. David Crawford and five other members of the family, who were away from home at the time. The building is about forty years old. The back wall of the foundation had given away, throwing the whole edifice into the lane behind.

Whether it will ever be possible to keep ocean vessels plying the St. Lawrence to and from Montreal throughout the winter months is still considered as remote by the majority of people both lay and scientific, out one thing appears to be certain—the man who feels that he can manage to bring about this consummation will receive plenty of assistance from Governmental and shipping circles. This is suggested by the fact that the young Roumanian engineer Demetri Joanovici, who claims that he can keep the channel from freezing, already received considerable encouragement to go ahead. He is now back from Ottawa, where he was well received by Government officials.

Accidents and murders seem to be on the increase. A young girl of 4 years was killed by being run over by a motor truck. A boy of 9 while running across the street after a ball was killed by an automobile. An old watchman was shot to death by a gang of supposed robbers. A chauffeur of a taxi was hit on the head by a man who hired him to drive him to a certain place, and died a few minutes afterwards. A man was killed by falling from a load of furniture.

A great military and naval tournament will take place at the Mount Royal Arena, on Saturday, May 26th. The events so far scheduled include a musical ride and mounted feats by the Royal Canadian Dragoons; gymnastic display by the gentlemen cadets of the Royal Military College at Kingston; an exhibition of horsemanship, etc., etc., by instructors from the R.M.C.; demonstrations by the R.C.R. and many other interesting numbers which will be highly attractive.

The band of the R.C.R. from London, Ont., will play during the performances.

In addition to the military numbers there will be displays by sailors from H.M.S. Wistaria, which has been especially ordered to Montreal by the Commander-in-Chief. Beside the demonstration by the personnel of the Wistaria, there will also be displays by H.M.C.S. Patriot men.

His Excellency Lord Byng, Governor-General of Canada, is the chief patron of the affair, and with him will be associated his Honor the Lieutenant Governor of Quebec and the Dominion Minister of Defence.

People should see that the keys of the gas stoves are turned off before retiring for the night. A family of five here lately were saved from asphyxiation by the presence of mind of a braver in the house and the assistance of two constables. The boarder was sleeping near an open window, and smelt the fumes of gas. He called the family, but found they were all unconscious, and shouting to two policemen who were on beat at 3.10 in the morning, the three worked for some time and revived the family.

A pathetic scene was enacted at the Coroner's Court, when a woman pleaded for assistance to bury her only son who died of narcotic poisoning. The young man of 21 years was employed at the Mount Royal Hotel and after his work visited a pool room, where he was taken suddenly ill, and died at the General Hospital shortly afterwards. At the inquest the mother said that her boy never used drugs, though a quantity of heroin was found on his person, and the medical experts of the morgue stated that he had died of drug poisoning. The city had to bury the body.

Sad scenes are in progress daily at Cote des Neiges Cemetery 4,000 bodies were placed in the vault during the long winter months. The burials start at early morning and continue until five or six in the evening. Friends and relations crowd the office and vault awaiting their turn to see the last sad act in life's drama, when their sorrow is again renewed, and they return to their homes poignant with grief over the loved ones, "who are gone, but not forgotten."

Over a thousand people stood in the street watching a long line of mourners following the remains of Charles Hamilton Barclay, the taxi driver who was murdered last Saturday night. St. Patrick's Church, where the service was held after the remains had been borne thither from Joseph Wray's establishment on Mountain street, was crowded to its doors with men in taxi uniforms, officers of the

companies and groups of friends. The service was conducted by the Rev. Father F. J. Singleton, assisted by Fathers J. M. Groves and H. A. Gaboury. Father T. O'Reilly met the body at the church door. The music was directed by P. Shea, conductor of St. Patrick's Church choir.

While the service was in progress, the crowds in the street and the church courtyard pressed to the curb lines, while a squad of six policemen under Capt. Kavanagh, paced to and fro before them. At the church gates men and women tried to force their way into the already dense crowd of onlookers, but were held back by the officers. Then the great ball of the church rang out, and as though some command had been given, the people stood silent in their places. The pall-bearers, drivers of the Kennedy Company, carried their burden.

Slowly the carriages moved from the entrance. Immediately following them came the taxi company's officials, then 22 Kennedy drivers and 41 of Bramson's men, all in uniform. Various men of the smaller auto services brought up the rear of the line which, filed two-deep, stretched from the church's south entrance to the gates on Dorchester street. Low horns of autos sounded at the gate as a column of 23 taxis drew away from the congested street and followed the procession to Cote des Neiges cemetery.

The two sets of time at present in vogue here are proving very annoying. Mayor Martin is wrathful that the Daylight Saving was adopted by so many large business houses. This week many of the Protestant churches and all the public schools adopted the new time. The Catholic churches and schools hold and will hold to Standard time. In thousands of homes two different hours are used, for rising, for meals and for retiring. The persons who attend to the cooking, seem to get the worst of it, especially at breakfast and dinner. It should be one way or the other, but at the present time, it's like a house divided against itself.

Over \$10,000,000 collected over a week-end here, is a record for income taxes. The first day of May brought 25,000 cheques, and some of them for hundreds of thousands of dollars. One of the cheques was for \$5 from a conscientious citizen. The receipt of this cheque nearly disgraced the staff for it is the first time that such a thing occurred.

Montreal's first automatic telephone exchange is now under way. The building will be nine storeys. The contracts have been awarded to E. G. M. Cape and the Dominion Bridge Company. The cost will house three automatic exchanges as well as the long distance equipment serving Montreal. The building will be at the corner of Ontario and St. Urban Streets.

The Shamrock Lacrosse team will leave for Winnipeg on Monday evening, May 21st, where they will play three exhibition games with the Winnipeg Lacrosse team. The expenses of the trip, \$3,500 will be defrayed by the Western people. No doubt, the gate receipts will assure largely in the payment of the expenses. The "Boys in Green," Champions of the Eastern Lacrosse League last year will play an exhibition game with their old rivals, the Nationals, the fast French Canadian teams, on Sunday, May 20th at the Shamrock Lacrosse grounds in order to get a few dollars to be used for incidentals on the trip.

The third instalment of profits on the tramway system for the year is being sent to the city this week and is for \$105,656. The two previous payments for the quarter ending October is \$318,720 and for the quarter ending December \$332,741. There is one more payment to be made before the end of the financial year of the Tramways Commission, and it is anticipated that this will bring the total paid the city up to a million dollars, which will be \$500,000 in excess of the amount, under the contract, has to be paid the city each year for the use of the streets. In addition to this the Tramways also pay the city in direct taxes and will this year pay something like \$200,000 for snow removal.

It is estimated that the Commission offices that the city treasury benefits to the extent of one twelfth of the revenue of the Tramways under its service at cost administration—one tenth in every twelve used by the passengers goes directly to benefit the city treasury and to that extent helps to keep down the taxes paid by the property holders of the city.

The dismissal of Principal Ernest Smith of the Verdun High school and Superintendent of Protestant schools in Verdun on short notice, has caused quite a sensation among parents, friends and scholars. The principal had sent his resignation to the School Board to take effect at the end of the present scholastic term in June. The answer that the Protestant School Trustees gave him was that they assembled in his office in the High School during his absence at lunch one day, and when he entered the Secretary told him that it

was his painful duty to inform him that his services were no longer required, and then gave him his check for the balance of the year. When the astonished principal asked when they wished him to go, the Secretary said, "Immediately," telling him to pass over to the Trustees any of their property which he had in his possession. As the principal was not ready to leave "Immediately," he was told that he'd get a few hours

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to pack his belongings but that he was not under any circumstance whatever to speak of his dismissal to the teachers or the pupils of the school. The Headmaster gave his solemn promise that he would not communicate the news to the staff or the pupils and he was allowed to remain in his office fixing up things under the supervision of the Secretary-Treasurer of the Board. It is stated that the press made the case public, the parents and pupils became angry and wanted to hold an indignation meeting in the High School. The Trustees refused the hall of the school for such a purpose and the pupils too keep a collection, hired a hall and held a social in his honor, presented him with an address and gifts and said, "Good-bye" to their old friend. A very peculiar phase of the case is that the various teachers and Principals of the various Protestant Board Schools in Verdun, passed a resolution with the School Trustees in dismissing on short notice Ernest Smith, ex-Principal of Verdun High School and ex-Superintendent of Protestant Schools in Verdun for the last fifteen years. The Commissioners are not obliged to give any reason or reasons for dismissing a teacher. And so the case ends and the last chapter of "School Life" in Verdun. Public schools so far as Ernest Smith is concerned is finished and, "the hand that has written it lays it away." It may be his finish in toto in the pedagogical line as he may try his activities in some other sphere of labor.

A writer in the Toronto Star gives some whiffs of wisdom over Canadian tobacco and remarks that a Montreal man "has devised a method of taking the bite out of Canadian tobacco and making it mild enough to smoke. Probably he boils it."

It is suggested, as a matter of fact, that many people do smoke Canadian tobacco regularly, but they do not know it, so what harm does it do them or what need have they for any such invention as that spoken of.

The year 1920 was one of Canada's big ones in tobacco production, over forty-eight million pounds, that of Quebec valued at \$2,640,000 and Ontario's valued at \$3,253,275. This would indicate that some people certainly were using it whether knowingly or not.

The Star person says a man can get used to anything, even Habitant tobacco, but though the smoker himself may get used to it, the fellow at the adjoining desks are always making nasty cracks. The writer smokes Canadian tobacco from motives of patriotism and thrift. "What-over's Canadian is good enough for me," he says, "especially since soft coal has got to be so dear."

R. J. LOUIS CUDDIHY.

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