

Prominent Topics

The Late Dr. Drummond.

By the death of Dr. Drummond, Canada loses a writer who has done perhaps more than any other to promote sympathetic and cordial relations between our French-speaking and English-speaking peoples. He has greatly helped the latter to appreciate the sterling qualities of the former. He loved the habitant because he knew the habitant intimately. How greatly the doctor was esteemed by his fellow citizens and fellow countrymen generally was demonstrated by the great number of people of all races, classes and creeds who attended the beautiful and pathetic funeral service at St. George's Church, and by the expressions of heartfelt sympathy which have been showered upon the bereaved family. In such expressions we would sincerely join.

The sympathy so universally expressed testifies also the great esteem in which the doctor's brothers, Messrs. George E. Drummond, T. J. Drummond and John Drummond are held by our people.

Expropriation of Toronto Electric.

The Private Bills Committee of the Ontario Legislature meets again to-day to consider the basis upon which expropriation of the Toronto Electric Light Company may be proceeded with. At the Wednesday session Mr. Johnston, on behalf of the company, suggested that the amount to be paid by the city should be capitalization of the earning power of the company. Mr. Fullerton, on behalf of the city, submitted the procedure by which the city would pay for the lands, plants, machinery and assets, but altogether ignore shareholders' interest in future profits. Aside from questionings as to Toronto's proposed methods in bringing about municipal ownership, the query suggests itself as to whether its taxpayers will be as enamoured of the principle two or three years hence as they appear to be to-day.

Second-Class Mail Matter.

The new convention respecting second-class matter passing between Canada and the United States has been approved by President Roosevelt. It will go into effect on May 8 next, and is terminable upon six months' notice given by either country to the other. The amendment agreed upon imposes a rate of one cent for each four ounces upon newspapers. When separately addressed copies intended for delivery at one post office are enclosed under one wrapper bearing the address of such office, the individual copies are to be delivered to the addresses without further charge.

Canadians are to be congratulated upon the

result of the postal negotiations, not only for financial reasons but for political and social considerations. The effect of the old tariff was practically to discriminate against Canadian and British publications and (with all respect to our esteemed neighbours) in favour of a vast amount of trashy periodical literature with which the American publishers have flooded the Canadian market.

Civic Finances of Toronto.

Rapid growth in the civic finances of Toronto is shown by the following abstract of receipts and expenditures for 1906 presented to the Council by City Treasurer Coady this week.

Receipts.....	\$11,169,921
Expenditure.....	10,947,573
Surplus for year.....	222,348
Cash on hand including balance in the bank, January 1st, 1906.....	981,911

The receipts for 1905 were \$8,815,138, including a balance from the preceding year of \$740,288.

Interesting items among the 1906 expenditures were \$278,584 for Fire Department, \$388,135 for police protection, \$977,817 for schools, \$124,242 for street lighting, \$1,840,556 for Works Department, and \$888,532 for interest on debentures and other debts.

The water works department cost \$483,291.08, while the receipts were \$503,258.15.

Street railway mileage and percentage amounted to \$427,408, and taxes to \$3,719,010.

Application of New Labour Act.

The mine owners of Alberta and British Columbia have notified the Dominion Labour Department that an application will be forwarded for a Board of Arbitration, under the new labour act, to investigate the matters in dispute between the men and the owners. Their conference with the unions at Calgary broke up without any agreement being reached. The principal point in disagreement is as to the men's demand for strictly union mines.

The Minister of Labour announced in the House this week that the new act had practically terminated the strike of 1,700 men who had gone out at Springhill, N.S. The men returned to work, without raising the question as to the declaration of an open shop.

Mr. Lemieux Congratulated.

The Council of the Montreal Board of Trade has resolved to send a letter of congratulation to the Hon. Rodolphe Lemieux, upon his excellent bill for the prevention and settlement of strikes and lock-outs. Canada has suffered so severely from these things that the Minister of Labour deserves the thanks of the whole community for his efforts to avert such public calamities.