

Prominent Topics.

McGill and the Joseph Property.

The Joseph property has evidently been preserved to round off Old McGill; thanks to that old generous friend of the University, Sir William Macdonald. The Hon. Lionel Guest writing on behalf of the gentlemen interested in the hotel project said that it was entirely out of respect for the wishes of him who had done so much for education throughout this province in general and for McGill in particular, that the site had been surrendered at considerable sacrifice on the part of those who have the hotel scheme at heart. Following is the memorandum which accompanied Mr. Guest's letter:

"Solely out of sympathy for Sir William Macdonald, who has done so much for educational establishments here, we agree to transfer to him, at cost price, our interests in the Joseph property.

(Signed), C. Meredith, E. S. Clouston, E. L. Pease, T. J. Drummond, George A. Drummond, L. J. Forget, C. D. Wetmore, H. Montagu Allan, H. S. Holt, A. Baumgarten."

While the hotel, wherever built, will be a great addition to Montreal, its presence alongside the McGill campus would have been detrimental to the students, and the erection of any outside institution on the site would have prevented the natural completion or rounding off of the University grounds.

Australian Dreadnought.

The British Government has, it is stated, finally decided to accept the gift of a Dreadnought from the Commonwealth of Australia. Presents of battleships between governments threaten to become as fashionable as were presents of snuff-boxes between kings and those they delighted to honour in an earlier century.

St. James Street Purchase.

The Trust & Loan Company has purchased from the Credit-Foncier the building adjoining their present location on St James Street. The area is 5,142 square feet and the price about \$10 a foot. The company was founded in 1848 and has had a consistently creditable record.

Imperial Press Conference.

The discussions in the Imperial Press Conference have so far been of a character to indicate that it was a very happy thought to bring together a number of the representative journalists from the various parts of the Empire for the discussion of matters of imperial interest. All the speeches have been patriotic in tone, and the speakers have taken a broad view of Imperial questions. Such a conference cannot be barren of useful results. It would be difficult to over-estimate the educational value of the meeting.

Building Operations in May.

Building operations reported from some forty leading building centers throughout the United States, show an aggregate gain of 93 per cent. over May, 1908, when construction work was almost at a standstill in some sections.

In Canada the increase has been no less marked, judging by the records of several leading cities. Indeed, Montreal's May showing of \$1,107,790 is more than double that of the corresponding month a year ago.

Crown Trust Company.

A new trust company has been organized in Montreal and has commenced business under encouraging auspices, to be known as the Crown Trust Company. The authorized capital is \$500,000 and some prominent Montrealers are associated with the undertaking.

The company's charter is a broad one and permits of the transactions of a trust business in all its branches.

A meeting of the Provisional Directors was held June 4, 1909, at which were present Messrs. Robert Reford, W. I. Gear, Peers Davidson, James Cooper and Lt.-Col. John Carson.

Messrs. John Carson, J. C. Gardner, W. I. Gear, T. F. How, J. R. Laurendeau and Robert Reford were elected to the Board of Directors, and Mr. Robt. Reford and Mr. W. I. Gear were chosen as president and vice-president respectively.

Lt.-Col. John Carson was appointed managing director. Mr. Irving P. Rexford was appointed secretary.

The company has secured offices on the ground floor of the British Empire Building at the corner of Notre Dame and St. Francois Xavier Streets, which have been fitted up to meet its convenience.

French Naval Programme.

The French naval programme contemplates the expenditure of \$600,000,000 in ten years. Six battleships of the Danton type, six of the Republic type and four armoured cruisers of the Gambetta type are included in the estimate. Nations are almost under the necessity of following the bad examples of other nations. England and Germany are making the pace for the rest of the world in the matter of naval expenditure.

Imperial Defence.

Differences of opinion there are and will be at the Imperial Press Conference regarding the manner in which the Dominions (that word is a great improvement on "colonies") should contribute to the national defence. As to the propriety of contributing, these journalists representing so many diverse interests and shades of opinion seem united to a man.

England in Egypt.

Mr. Abner Kingman, who has just returned from an extensive visit to North Africa and Asia Minor, is an enthusiast on the subject of British rule in Egypt. "Thirty years ago," he says "irrigated land on the banks of the Nile was selling at \$60 per acre, to-day it is worth \$1,200. In Egypt British rule has made the desert blossom, and bloom as the rose."

Y. M. C. A. Building Fund.

Messrs. Henry Birks & Sons, Limited, were the first to subscribe to the Y.M.C.A. \$300,000 building fund. Their subscription had not only the merit of being first, but was handsome in amount—\$25,000. If the old proverb be true: "*Bis dat qui cito dat*," the man or the firm that beats this subscription, will have to give something over \$50,000 and give it quickly. Messrs. Birks have set an inspiring example to other large employers of labour. The Y.M.C.A. cause needs no recommendation. Up to noon to-day the total sum subscribed was about \$133,000.