

ger to Canada's shipping interests." Mr. Allan was especially emphatic. He gave statistics relative to the trade of Canada that would be injured by lowering the depth of the St. Lawrence, the raising of which had cost an enormous sum. Vessels were growing in size every year and if the St. Lawrence were made shallower, Montreal would be prevented sharing in the trade created and accommodated by larger vessels.

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ALARM IS SOMEWHAT PREMATURE.—The Dominion of Canada owns the northern half of Lake Erie, both waters and shore. No dam could be built, as proposed, without the express permission of the Government of this country. In view of the incalculably great injury such a scheme would inflict on our shipping interests, it is inconceivable that any Canadian Government would give its assent to a dam across the outlet of Lake Erie.

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SILVER COINS.—The Government is much to be commended for having arranged a plan by which a large amount of American silver will be withdrawn from circulation in Canada. That all will go is impossible, for American visitors bring their country's money with them where it is most welcome, to hotels, stores, railways, etc. As great a nuisance as American silver are our own coins when badly worn, as a large portion of them are. Many thousands of quarter dollar and ten cent pieces are so abraded by wear as to be without any marks to show what they are. These smooth discs of silver should be called in and replaced by new coins; but no 20 cent ones issued.

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THE EQUITABLE LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY is still under discussion. Personal charges are flying about so freely it is dangerous to be in the line of fire by being associated with the company, or rather it would be dangerous if these slings and arrows of slanderous accusations and insinuations were shot from the bow of truth. We fear there are many active pens at work inspired more by the ill will of jealousy than an honest desire to serve the policyholders. It is far too common a practice in the United States to attack the character of public men. Whoever rises into prominence in America is a target for abuse. The higher he rises the more does he draw the fire of envious competitors, and of those who detest every one who is successful in business, or politics.

The Equitable's financial strength has not yet been questioned, it is being re-organized on lines that give promise of excellent results. There are those who think that a change in the controlling interest of the stock may not be of much advantage. The enactment of laws regarding investments and a general system of independent audit would be beneficial in connection with all insurance offices.

THE DUAL LANGUAGE DECISION by the House of Commons has given almost universal satisfaction. Even Premier Laurier opposed the proposal to impose two languages on the new Provinces.

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CHIEF DETECTIVE CARPENTER has done well, as usual, in taking prompt steps to put the principal, in a prize fight that took place a few nights ago in the very heart of this city, without a stone's throw of several churches, on trial; also the keeper of the bowling alley where the disgusting display of brutality took place.

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OUR LOYAL CONGRATULATIONS are tendered to the Prince and Princess of Wales on another son being added to their family circle. May he grow to be as amiable and level headed as his father!

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MONTREAL AND FIRE PROTECTION.—It is quite possible that a general meeting of the members of the Board of Trade will be held in connection with the above matter, for the citizens seem considerably worked up on the question of carrying out the necessary improvements in order to have fire insurance rates modified. The companies contend that the improvements which have been carried out are only such as are in keeping with the natural growth of the city. There can be no reason or excuse for not having a pumping station made fireproof and the fire alarm system placed in a fireproof building. There is one thing certain, and that is, the insurance companies will not reduce the rates until the improvements are carried into effect, and this whole question should be taken in hand and carried out without any unnecessary delay.

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ANNEXATION OF SUBURBAN MUNICIPALITIES.—Last week we suggested that a comprehensive scheme be drawn up and considered under which the outlying municipalities fringing the borders of this city be annexed. There seems a movement afoot amongst these suburban villages and towns towards joining Montreal. When the authorities of these places realize that this city is seriously contemplating a comprehensive scheme for their annexation, they will be anxious to put their affairs in the best possible shape. It will be advisable for this matter to be thoroughly discussed by our neighbours so that they may be prepared to consider a business-like proposition on general lines, which will need to be passed on by all concerned. The more thoroughly annexation is threshed out the less friction will arise after it is carried out.

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CONDUITS FOR ELECTRIC WIRES.—The sooner all the electric wires in this city now strung on poles are placed underground, the better for all concerned. We deprecate the city authorities undertaking the work of building conduits, the companies