

ment by state legislatures, definitely making it a felony to make false statements in writing as to financial condition for the purpose of procuring a loan or credit, or even to procure or negotiate a loan based on such false statement when known to have been made by another.

#### Toronto's Power and Light Question.

The Toronto Civic Board of Control has rejected the latest offer of the Toronto Electric Light Company, and favours prompt construction of the civic distribution plant. In brief the company's proposal was: to allow the city the use of the company's poles and conduits, on terms to be mutually agreed upon, and to allow the city to have the street lighting and lighting of public buildings under its management; to supply power for the city waterworks and to manufacturers in blocks, the definite amount of horsepower in these blocks to be agreed upon; the company to retain the monopoly of house and store lighting, and of contracts for small blocks of power; the company to pay 10 per cent. dividends on their capital, and the balance of the profits to be used on a reduction of the rates, less the amount of depreciation; a renewal of the Toronto Electric Light Company's franchise for thirty years.

The outstanding objection raised to the foregoing, even by those not over-enthusiastic at the idea of a municipal distribution scheme, is the "sting in the tail"—the thirty-year extension of franchise. The "moderates" in civic affairs are still anxious to avoid duplication of distributing mains all over the city. "The Mayor and Controllers understand this," says The Globe, "and renew their offer of 125 to the company to sell out. The company seems to stand for 160, which council regards as an impossible price. Is there no way of bridging the chasm? Is there not some big, disinterested citizen to bring the parties together and wrestle with them till they agree to forego the folly of wasting millions in a fight that can profit no one?"

#### Reciprocity and Absorption.

A Canadian Associated Press dispatch states that the London Daily Mail, in referring to the vote of the New York State Chamber of Commerce in favour of reciprocity, says: "If such a treaty is concluded it will mean nothing less than the absorption of Canada by her neighbour."

The Daily Mail need not be anxious. It takes at least two nations to make an international treaty, and precisely because a broad reciprocity treaty between the United States and Canada would involve the absorption of the latter country by the former, no such treaty will be made. That the Twentieth Century belongs to Canada is no more apparent to Americans than it is to Canadians.

#### Agent and Principal.

That a principal is bound by signature of an agent, only if the agent in so signing is within the actual limit of his authority, is in effect the basis of the ruling of the Court of Review confirming a judgment in the case of Vigaud vs. DeWerthemer, whereby the plaintiff's action was dismissed with costs. The claim was for the recovery of \$160, amount of a cheque dated 28th October, 1904, on the St. Lawrence Street branch of the Eastern

Townships Bank, signed by the "Cie. des Medecines Patentées Française, *per pro* A. Berthe, endorsed by Lauzon and transferred to plaintiff. The defence was that Berthe was without authority to sign.

**British Afforestation.** The British Royal Commission on Afforestation has reported that there are 9,000,000 acres of land available in the United Kingdom for afforestation; 6,000,000 in Scotland; 2,500,000 in England, and 500,000 in Ireland. It reports that 150,000 might be afforested annually giving direct temporary winter employment to 18,000 men, indirect employment to 18,000 more and permanent direct employment to 9,000 when the whole area is planted. The whole scheme calls for an expenditure of £2,000,000 a year and after forty years the forests would be self-supporting. The report shows a wholesome trend of thought in the old country, in favour of the improvement of climatic and industrial conditions and especially in the encouragement (not to say protection) of labour, on business principles.

**Young Australia.** Australia suffers from a Young Australia party, which, to judge from its political programme, so far justifies its title that it has hardly emerged from the age at which its principal needs are feeding bottles and soothing syrup. When it grows up, if it ever has that misfortune, nobody but an Australian is to own lands or mines in Australia; "the Australian Navy" is to be owned and controlled by Australians; and all titles are to be abolished. Youthful follies are never more in evidence than in association with political parties whose *raison d'être* is their youth.

**The Times in Canada.** The London Times has completed arrangements for a great extension of its Canadian correspondence. It will have special correspondents at the principal news centres of the Dominion, who will all report to Ottawa, where the whole system will be under the management of Mr. Fred. Cook. Lord Northcliffe is showing commendable energy in exploiting a rather neglected field and excellent judgment in his choice of a man to run the business.

**The British Constitution.** Alfred Austin aptly describes the British Constitution as "the collective common sense of the British people dealing with great questions and grave issues, as they arise." The Poet Laureate is right; the British Constitution is the most rigid and the most elastic constitution in the world. It has no concrete existence and defies analysis, but it meets all requirements. "The collective common sense of the British people" is an admirable definition.

**The Late Mr. Angus Hooper.** By the death of the late Mr. Angus Hooper, Montreal loses one of its most popular citizens. Mr. Hooper was prominently identified with both the business side and the social side of Montreal. Among his many business responsibilities he was a director of the Standard Life. He took great interest in educational, sporting and philanthropic affairs and will be greatly missed in the best Montreal society.