

The Jury System.

Complaints against the jury system and especially against the present condition of the jury list in Montreal are almost constant. Judge Archibald the other day advised some jurors who were protesting against the frequency with which they are summoned, to ask the Board of Trade to take steps to have the Government bring about a reform. The subject is certainly a proper one for the Board of Trade to deal with, because jury service under present conditions is a most vexatious interference with business in Montreal. One of the jurors made the suggestion that jurors in civil cases should be paid at least five dollars a day. It seems an absurdity to pay men intelligent enough to serve on a jury, less than the wages of a day labourer. The Board approached Premier Gouin on the subject of the list last February.

Plot Against the Tsar.

"Uneasy lies the head that wears a Crown." The truth of this is pathetically accentuated in the case of the Tsar of all the Russias. He is the victim of plot after plot and in his splendid and magnificent life of terror, has the sympathy and pity of the poorest of mankind. It is difficult for even an absolute monarch to bestow the blessing of liberty upon a people who seem to be destitute of the first qualification for freedom, the power of self-restraint, the individual power of self-government. If ever there was a country that needed strong government it is Russia.

Blacksod Bay Route.

Sir Thomas Trowbridge, the promoter of the Blacksod Bay steamship and railway route between England and Canada, says the scheme will necessitate a subsidy of \$1,500,000 a year for ten years. Sir Thomas has we presume overlooked the fact that besides subsidizing on this enormous scale a company to run the steamships it will be necessary to subsidize passengers to induce them to travel by the amphibious route.

Officials of the Stock Exchange.

The Stock Exchange is to be congratulated upon the election of Mr. Rudolph Forget as its president and of Mr. Turpin as its vice-president. Mr. Forget is the most active man on the Exchange. He has both pluck and ability and we are sure he will look well after the interests of the Stock Exchange.

CANADIAN PACIFIC GROSS earnings for the first seven days of May were well over \$200,000 a day, an average that compares well with its best records. The week's gross earnings amounted to \$1,472,000 as compared with \$1,200,000 during the same period last year, an increase of \$203,000. Ever since the end of the severe winter conditions the earnings of the Canadian Pacific have been increasing week by week.

In The Financial Realm

TOTAL GROSS EARNINGS of all railroads in the United States reporting for the month of April are \$63,877,497, an increase of 15.5 p.c. over the corresponding month last year. This large gain reflects a heavy freight movement.

The statement for March is now practically complete, embracing 140,730 miles of road in the United States, showing gross earnings of \$153,902,388, an increase of 8.9 p.c. over March last year.

	Gross Earnings		
	1907.	Gain.	Per Cent.
U. S. Roads	\$153,902,388	\$12,570,053	8.9
Canadian	6,098,000	1,047,000	20.7
Mexican	5,058,706	452,885	9.8
Total	\$165,059,094	\$14,069,938	9.3

TRADE WITH THE BAHAMAS was discussed by the Council of the Montreal Board of Trade on Wednesday. Mr. S. O. Shorey gave interesting particulars concerning the possibilities of increasing Canada's trade with the islands. He pointed out that Canada can supply everything the islanders need, and as they are anxious to trade with us, it is to be hoped they may be accommodated. They want our flour, oats, bran, hay, butter, cheese, hams, bacon, boots and shoes, clothing, cottons, prints, hardware, tinware, sailcloth, pitch, tar, chains, etc.

THE TOTAL EXPORTS AND IMPORTS OF THE DOMINION for the twelve months ending 31st March, 1907, were \$272,206,606; the total imports, \$340,374,745, making the aggregate trade \$612,581,351, as against \$520,452,356 for the corresponding period of 1905-6, an increase of \$92,128,995. The imports consisted of, dutiable goods, \$200,001,500; free goods, \$129,868,789; corn and bullion, \$9,604,464; a total of \$340,374,745. The duty collected amounted to \$53,006,546, as against \$45,120,000—an increase of \$7,877,537.

THE IMPERIAL BANK OF CANADA by its thirty-second annual statement shows that the profits for the year ending April 30, 1907, were \$710,020.04, while the premiums received on new capital stock were \$846,206.04, which added to rest account brings the latter up to \$4,773,948.44, practically equal to the bank's paid-up capital. The total assets now stand at \$45,641,257.36. The annual meeting takes place May 22.

THE WATER POWERS of the Province of Quebec formed the chief topic for consideration at the recent monthly meeting of the Montreal Executive of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association. It was decided to request the executive council of the association to endorse the scheme whereby all the water powers of the Province of Quebec will be carefully surveyed. This will be effected by the association in a memorial presented to the provincial Government at an early date.

THE NEW YORK BANK STATEMENT of Saturday last showed the following changes:

Surplus reserve, Inc.	\$ 1,661,600
Loans, Dec.	14,096,700
Specie, Dec.	399,700
Legal-tenders, Dec.	1,983,900
Deposits, Dec.	16,180,800
Circulation, Inc.	61,200
Ex. U. S. deposits, Inc.	1,669,950