

glass, toilet table, perfume bottles and puff-powder. A free lunch counter for bank customers is among the possibilities. Branch banks are becoming too numerous, some will have to be closed and some members of the over-extended staff will be sent adrift.

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The Committee of the Legislative Council, Quebec, has again shown its superiority in common sense and statesmanlike wisdom over the Lower House. The Bill to regulate the affairs of this city by strangers to its conditions, and by those who have no material interests in its welfare, has been amended by the Legislative Council in some features, but, as we said last week, the whole Bill should be struck.

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The City of Montreal has made good, solid progress, in a municipal sense, because of the restrictive clauses of the present Charter. Those clauses were framed by citizens of high business ability who were thoroughly conversant with the city's needs and the city's financial capacities. They were designed to restrain useless and extravagant outlays, so that the monies paid by the citizens in taxes should be devoted strictly to their interests and not diverted to the promotion of selfish, untimely, needless schemes. As has been the case since we have any record of human nature, some restless, inexperienced spirits associated with civic management have fretted at and determined to break loose from these wholesome restraints long before the city could safely throw them off.

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Enlargement of Bonsecours Market and expropriations are premature. They should be postponed until the city is in a financial position to carry out such costly improvements, as far as they are improvements, without borrowing the needed funds. If the proprietors of Notre Dame East are either legally or morally entitled to damages, these should be settled on an equitable basis, but no expropriations of any kind should be carried out just now, or, in the near future, as the need for them is not so urgent as to justify the borrowing of money to meet the outlay.

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Appropriations such as are contemplated are not, and are not designed, in the best interests of the city. Our crying, urgent, universally admitted needs are, better roadways and improved sidewalks; these are necessities, and, until they are provided to an extent worthy of the leading emporium of commerce in Canada, expenditures on incomparably less important projects should be postponed.

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The best interests of the city demand that the Charter Amendment Bill be struck. Some of those at Quebec who are promoting this measure will realize later on that it would have been wiser to let a Charter remain unaltered for some time to come

which has worked so beneficially. Charter-tinkering has been the bane of Montreal.

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King Edward is paying a round of visits to some of the chief potentates of Europe, His mission being in the interests of peace and good-will—the noblest cause a monarch can promote. If the world is not bettered by His reign, as it was by that of his sainted Mother, it will not be the fault of the King, who is following Her lofty example most commendably, most royally.

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The serious accident in this city by horses being frightened by an automobile vehicle calls for action by the City Council. Such carriages are needless in this city of narrow streets, congested areas, and ample supply of passenger transportation facilities. The wretched roadways are already a serious nuisance to drivers of all manner of horse-drawn vehicles, private carriages more especially, but, if automobiles are to go flashing about our streets, like locomotives let loose, the pleasure and convenience of a private carriage, or hired cab will have to be abandoned.

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Six workmen riding home a few days ago on the foot-board of an overcrowded car were swept off by coming in contact with a load of furniture. There was room clear for the car to pass the waggon, but not for men standing on the foot-board. This practice has repeatedly been shown to be very dangerous. The Street Railway Company ought to forbid the foot-boards being occupied as they might do under their present powers. The police also have full powers to stop persons endangering their lives, as those do who ride upon the foot-board of a street car.

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A stock broker's office is not the place where one would naturally look for a financial incident, one humorous enough to "make a horse laugh," as the late Hon. George Brown used to say of his opponent's proposals, but one occurred in this city a few days ago. An official in a highly respectable position entered a city broker's office and gave him an order to buy 200 shares Dominion Iron and Steel, saying, with his hand in his pocket, "Shall I pay for them now?" as though he were handling a wad of several thousand dollars. The broker said payment would do to-morrow, when the shares were bought, as they were that day at 28. Next morning the buyer entered, and on learning that 200 shares had been bought for him he planted down \$56 saying, "There is 10 per cent. on the purchase." The broker's response was somewhat explosive as he told of the purchase amounting to \$5,600. "What" said the buyer, "I was told that Dominion Iron and Steel Stock was selling at 28 cents per share, and \$56 is all the money I have in the world."