

# The Chronicle

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## Fire Escapes for the Schools.

The Catholic School Board of Montreal has been ordered by the Provincial Building Inspector to provide all its schools with fire escapes. Some of the commissioners objected on the ground that the escapes would spoil the appearance of the buildings. There can be no question that all schools should be provided with fire escapes. The very fact of their existence tends to create confidence and may at any moment avert a panic which may be as dangerous as a fire. The practice of having a periodical fire drill for the children should also be made universal.

## Hamilton Street Railway.

The unfortunate strike of the employes of the Hamilton Street Railway Company is not settled yet. No thoughtful citizen of Canada can condone acts of violence, and it would be intolerable if strikers, whether their cause be good or bad were permitted to act like highwaymen, and prevent any company from doing business. Under such circumstances no one would invest money in Canada. Therefore, no matter what sympathy may be felt for the strikers, there can be no question of tolerating lawlessness. This is a free country and it is always open to men who are dissatisfied to seek employment elsewhere. Under present conditions in the labour market the employment should not be hard to find.

## Montreal's Water Supply.

The Water Committee has decided to recommend the City Council to ask for a loan of \$2,000,000 for the improvement of the water supply of the City of Montreal. The expenditure of \$2,000,000 on Montreal's water system ought to be very carefully considered. If the system is to be permanently improved, the best plan would be to get a sufficient number of pumps. So far as the

source of supply is concerned it has always been and probably always will be ample, no matter what the growth of the city. Mr. Janin, the superintendent of the Water Department, proposes to take the supply from the middle of the St. Lawrence, the majority of the experts who have investigated the subject report that the water of the Ottawa river is superior to that of the St. Lawrence for all purposes. The water of the St. Lawrence is declared to be too hard for manufacturing purposes and one would imagine that water, which is injurious to pipes and boilers cannot be altogether beneficial to the human system. The Ottawa water does not look as clear as the St. Lawrence water because it carries in free suspension a great deal of matter, that can, however, be easily removed by filtration. A filtration system would probably be the best solution, added, of course, to ample pumping facilities. It must also be remembered that the borrowing power of Montreal is very properly limited by law and it may not be in the power of the city to borrow two millions at present.

## Canadian Life Insurance Officer's Association.

The importance of the Canadian Life Insurance Officer's Association, as a factor, in connection with the business of life insurance, in this country is evident. The enormous interests involved in the business are scarcely appreciated by the public generally.

At the annual meeting held in Toronto, on the 22nd and 23rd instants, there was a large and representative attendance of members. Several important matters regarding the investigation by the Royal Commission were discussed, including the form of Annual Returns, by companies, to the Insurance Department. The loss and gain statement and other matters affecting anticipated insurance