

there would appear to be no need for Canadian money to be so invested, and certainly our home securities and enterprises are capable of utilizing all the spare cash Canadians have to invest.

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THE MOUNTAIN LOOK-OUT.—The plans adopted for a building to be erected at the "Look-out" on Mount Royal have been annulled by the Parks and Ferries committee of the City Council on the plea, that further information was required as to the cost and that other designs should be invited. This policy of dilly-dallying, accepting plans one day and setting them aside next day, is likely to result in the Look-out being left in its present unsafe and discreditable condition for another year. In a few weeks the stream of tourists will set towards this city and if the site so popular with them and our citizens is occupied by workmen and lumber and other building materials the effect will be to deter visitors, not attract them, which will be highly detrimental to the city.

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OUR IMPASSABLE STREETS.—Were a fire to break out on one of scores of streets in this city, while in their present condition, we fear the fire brigade would be paralyzed, as many roadways are quite impassable by sleighs or wheeled vehicles. The snow is several feet deep, the track is a perfect quagmire, full of holes and traps, into which horses sink so deep as to endanger their legs in trying to extricate themselves. As to drivers and passengers they are very conspicuous by their absence on a number of streets. Milkmen leave their carts at some safe spots and deliver on foot. Owners of carriages have to abandon their use, and cabmen refuse to carry persons who desire to reach certain locations.

On streets where the mounds of snow were removed, there was a quantity left to form a solid bed of ice from one to two feet thick, which has occasioned a gang of several hundred men several days to break up with pick-axes. Sunday last was desecrated by gangs of men working on the streets. Why should snow be left to solidify into ice? It has cost three times as much to break up the ice on leading business thoroughfares as it would have cost to clear the snow down to the road-bed when the mounds were being removed.

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MEXICO'S CURRENCY.—When the Mexican government decided to put the currency on a gold basis no arrangement was made for a reserve of gold to give stability to the system. This is to be provided under a decree just issued by the president by which the "peso" or silver dollar is fixed at 50 cents gold and the theoretical unit of the Mexican currency is defined to be the "peso" of 75 centigrams of gold. The reserve fund for exchange purposes is to consist of \$10,000,000, or \$15,000,000. The Mexican mints will be closed to the free coinage of silver on 16th April next, and the new currency system will come into force on 1st May. The new system will give steadiness to Mexican Exchange and finance generally and will enable those having business with Mexico to conduct it under less uncertain conditions than has been the case in

the past. This is of great interest to many capitalists in Canada who have become associated with Mexican enterprises.

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THE HOCKEY FATALITY.—The young man Loney, who struck his opponent a fatal blow during a hockey match, was tried this week on a charge of manslaughter and acquitted. The jury seem to have taken the view that the victim of this deplorable fatality was in some measure to blame. Certainly, neither of them was playing hockey when the death blow was struck, for the game allows of no such use of the stick as, even by accident, could cause it to smash a hole in another player's skull, as was done in the above case. If lovers of this game wish to keep it from being declared unlawful, like prize-fighting and other brutalities, they must stop the violence which is too commonly displayed by contestants who seem to think a hockey stick is a weapon made to injure an opponent.

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A NEW INDUSTRY FOR MONTREAL.—It is stated by the New York "Commercial Bulletin" that contracts have been let to the extent of \$200,000 for the erection of lead corroding works in Montreal by a company which proposes to expend another hundred thousand dollars and obtain a plant with an output of seven thousand tons by November next. The company is a branch of a Wisconsin firm and is to be incorporated in the Dominion as the Carter Lead Corroding Works of Canada. The finance Minister has been asked to increase the duty on corroded lead or white lead to thirty per cent. It is now five per cent. If this is done it is anticipated that there will have to be some increase in the rate of duty on mixed paints, as the corroded lead is the raw material of the paint manufacturer.

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CANADA AND SOUTH AFRICA.—The trade being done by Canada with South Africa is reported to be developing. Already half a dozen steamers are engaged in the service. Our exports consist of timber, cattle, poultry, fruits, and dairy products, which formerly were supplied direct from the United States. Our timber is in great demand for building purposes. The trade with Canada is promoted by the preferential treatment given by South African Colonies to Canadian imports and expectations run high that Canada's trade with them will reach large dimensions.

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MR. R. E. HARRIS, K.C., of Halifax, on 29th inst., was elected president of the Nova Scotia Steel Company.

PERSONALS.

MR. C. T. GILLESPIE, General Manager for Canada of the Provident Savings Life Assurance Society is now in Winnipeg, and has appointed Mr. John C. G. Armytage, of that city, Manager for Manitoba and the Territories. Mr. Armytage's headquarters will be in Winnipeg.

THE PHOENIX, of Hartford, Insurance Co. in this city, under the management of Mr. J. W. Tatley, has removed its offices to No. 22 St John Street. These offices were occupied by the National of Ireland until its absorption last year. They were situated on the ground floor, in a convenient business centre, and afford ample accommodation for a large business.