

Prominent Topics.

New Entrance to Mount Royal Park.

An important deputation including: Sir William Macdonald, Messrs. R. B. Angus, C. R. Hosmer, Charles Meredith, Robert Reford, Lt.-Col. Stevenson, Peter Lyall, D. Guthrie, Farquhar Robertson, A. W. Hadrill, Senator Casgrain, G. W. Stephens, G. C. Foster, R. W. Reford, A. W. Stevenson, James McShane, M. J. Walsh, S. Carmichael, Ald. Yates, Ald. Carter, Senator Beique, Lt.-Col. Burland, S. Ewing, J. Ballantyne, Ald. Carter, Ald. L. A. Lapointe, Ald. O'Connell, Ald. Lariviere, Ald. Ward, Ald. Dagenais, and P. E. Leblanc waited upon Mayor Payette the other day to urge that the city should acquire certain portions of the Redpath estate for the purpose of acquiring a main entrance to Mount Royal Park. Montreal possesses what is probably the finest and certainly the most unique (if the expression be allowable) park, in the work. But it suffers from the serious defect of having no front gate. There are several more or less obscure ways of sneaking into it. You can get into the park by several side entrances and back entrances; but not even the youngest of us could point to any one spot and say: "This is the chief entrance to Mount Royal Park." The coming into the market of the Redpath property offers the most natural and easy solution of the problem. It is an opportunity which will not occur again. The deputation passed the following resolution:

"That a committee consisting of Mr. Farquhar Robertson, president of the Board of Trade; Mr. Isaie Prefontaine, president of La Chambre de Commerce; Aldermen L. A. Lapointe, Giroux, Levesque, Prud'homme, Roy, Guy, J. B. A. Martin, Sadler, Gallery, Dagenais, Yates, Fraser, Resther, Lieut.-Col. Stevenson, Senator Beique, Senator Dandurand, Senator Casgrain, Senator Mackay, Ex-Justice Lacoste, Ex-Justice C. J. Doherty, M.P., Messrs. Robert Bickerdike, M.P., H. B. Ames, M.P., H. Gervais, M.P., T. Chase Casgrain, Robert Reford, C. R. Hosmer, George E. Drummond, R. Wilson-Smith, with power to add to their number, be appointed a committee to give immediate effect to the previous resolution, and to take such steps as may be legally necessary to place the matter in proper form before the City Council for adoption."

The main resolution advocated the acquisition of the Redpath property north of Pine Avenue, as an addition to the park and also the acquisition of Redpath Avenue and such other land as may be necessary to make a central and proper entrance to Mount Royal Park. A broad, dignified entrance to the Park at the spot indicated would be a great embellishment to Montreal.

Level Crossings. The Montreal civic committee on level crossings, after struggling with the question committed to it for many years, has passed a report, practically washing its hands of the whole responsibility. The report recommends that in view of the negotiations with the Grand Trunk having fallen through the whole matter be referred to the Rail-

way Commission. This is begging the question with a vengeance. The question at issue is as to the relative responsibility of the city and the Grand Trunk respectively. While the Railway Committee has almost absolute powers over the company, we doubt if it has any at all over the city. What it could do and might be tempted to do under the circumstances would be to order the Grand Trunk to fence off all the level crossings completely until an agreement is reached. Were the City Council to go to the Railway Commission with a common sense suggestion recognizing its own share of the responsibility the Commissioners might feel disposed to order the company to carry it out. The matter has simply been allowed to drift for years at a great cost in human life and public convenience.

Forest Fires. A settler in Bonaventure County to save himself a little trouble, burnt some rubbish and incidentally destroyed several lumber mills and hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of lumber. Many houses and barns have been wiped out, many families have lost everything but their lives and, of course, hundreds of people are thrown out of work—all to save one man a little trouble. There ought to be some adequate punishment for such criminal carelessness as this. Canada is losing millions of dollars every year, by just such stupid tricks and much of the mischief is simply irreparable. The most valuable asset of the national capital is rapidly going up in smoke, the climate is being injuriously affected, magnificent water powers are menaced with destruction—and all to assert the right of a lazy settler to save himself work by starting fires on his own land without the slightest attempt to restrict or control them. The situation is getting too serious to be ignored. Some of these men should be held criminally responsible for the consequence of their acts, just as other men are held responsible for criminal negligences which have far less serious consequences. The man who lights a big fire in a forest and then goes to bed takes the risk of doing more harm than the man who lights a fire in the heart of a big city, where it has some chance of being caught in its incipency and where all the resources of civilization are available to check it. The man who lights a fire in the forest without proper precautions imperils lives and property over an area of hundreds or thousands of square miles. Our parliaments, legislatures and governments have no more important matter to deal with than this subject of forest preservation.

The Late M. Chauchard.

M. Chauchard, the proprietor of the Magasin du Louvre, Paris, left an estate valued at 250,000,000 francs, or \$50,000,000. He is said to have been the pioneer of the departmental store business. Apparently he was the personification of the vulgarity of wealth, absolutely lacking in taste and in the sense of humour. Pompous and ridiculous to the last, the day of his funeral was made a Parisian holiday, and the pageant itself treated as a huge joke. Paris beats even London, in its contempt for ostentatious vulgarity.