INCREASED TAXATION.—The city has asked various public bodies, such as the Montreal Board of Trade, the Chambre de Commerce and the Real Estate Owners' Association for suggestion in regard to getting more revenue. We have no doubt that some valuable suggestions will be made, but it must be borne in mind that as a rule people will prefer that "the other fellow" shall pay the taxes and will not suggest what will hit themselves. The City Council has to take the ultimate responsibility.

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"COBALT AND ITS SILVER MINES" is the title of a pamphlet which we have received, giving some valuable information concerning this mining camp. That the deposits of silver, nickel, Cobalt and other minerals are among the richest in the world seems beyond doubt. Yet it is necessary that investors should not lose their heads, for the capitalization of some of the mines would seem to be altogether too high.

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THE FIRM ATTITUDE of the United States peace delegates seems to have brought the Cuban Government to reason. President Palma and his ministers appeared to be quite willing to sacrifice Cuban independence to keep themselves in office even as the vassals of a foreign government. Until the last day or two American armed intervention appeared inevitable. No wonder Secretary Taft described the situation as disregarding.

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THE CUBAN MINISTRY shewed such lamentable weakness that they were in danger of occupying the position of rebels against a stronger and more popular if unrecognized and unorganized "Government."

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THE CUBAN REPUBLIC has had a close call. After the experience of the last few weeks it may be taken for granted that if the American Government is forced to land troops in the island the date of the withdrawal of the American flag will be as problematical as that of the evacuation of Egypt by the British.

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THE SAN FRANCISCO fire claims appear to be much larger than the companiec expected and bear rather heavily upon some offices.

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MR. HART, OF EDINBURGH, secretary of the National Bank of Scotland, and Mr. J. G. C. Cheyne, of Edinburgh, secretary of the Scottish Widows' Fund, spent a couple of days in Montreal, during last week. They sailed for Great Britain by the steamship "Dominion." These gentlemen also visited Toronto and Niagara and were delighted with the evidences of prosperity in every direction. Mr. Hart who had not been in Canada for over twenty years saw great progress. He considered the growth of the City of Montreal reflected the growth of the Dominion generally. But he added: "What streets!"

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MR. E. S. CLOUSTON, vice-president and general manager of the Bank of Montreal, occupied by the Hon. Adam Beck, of London, Ont., has been visiting Brandon, and according to the Brandon "Sun" they expressed themselves delighted with the progress of the city. Mr. E. F. Hebden, general manager of the Merchants Bank, has also been in that rising city and expresses the opinion that it has a great future. Brandon is only one of many rapidly developing cities in Western Canada.

QUERIES' COLUMN.

In order to furnish our readers with information we propose to devote this column to replies to correspondents. Letters should be addressed to "THE CHRONICLE, Enquiry Department, Montreal."

Answers will only be given to such communications as bear the writer's name, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and only to questions referring to matters of general interest in regard to which the Editor of Queries' Column will exercise his own discretion.

1590.—J. B., Toronto.—The Lake of the Woods Milling Company and the Ogilvie Flour Mills Company paid up capitalization is as follows:—

	6 p. c. Bonds.	7 p. c. Pfd. Stock.	Com. Stock.
Lake of the Woods..	$1,000,000	$1,500,000	$2,000,000
Ogilvie..	1,000,000	2,000,000	1,250,000

1591.—G. H. R., Ormstown, O.—The Canadian Salt Company, Ltd., head office is at Windsor, Ont. The paid-up capital is $500,000. The stock is listed in Toronto, but is inactive. The president is Sir Wm. C. Van Horne. Quarterly dividends at the rate of 8 p.c. per annum are paid.

SAN FRANCISCO.

The adjustment and payment of claims in San Francisco, by the different fire companies, still continues, according to advices from that city.

Six companies, with Head Offices in Hartford, Conn., it is stated, have paid losses to the extent of $15,952,749. One company, the Hartford Fire, having paid one-third of this amount, Hartford is well known as an important centre, for the Head Offices of fire companies transacting business in the United States.

Large amounts have been paid in settlement of losses by American fire companies with head offices in other parts.

It is difficult to ascertain the correct amount, already paid by British companies, but judging from the information received, it leads us to estimate, the losses paid, by these companies, in San Francisco, as aggregating about $50,000,000.