

forces to be raised. On the recent occasion the City Hall authorities appear not to have appreciated the possible effect of such a scandal as they have allowed the matter to drag on for over a week without any decisive action to cause the withdrawal of the Sheriff. It is contended that the seizure was illegal in which case there is a prospect of further litigation, with the chance of another seizure. The wisdom of promptly settling claims seems to be the lesson of the Sheriff seizing the moveables in the City Hall.

So far as the seizure was caused by security not being given in a suit, this difficulty should have been at once met as all the security required could readily have been found to prevent so annoying, so damaging a scandal.

• • •

The City Council decided a few days ago not to pass a by-law to render vaccination obligatory. The vote was a somewhat remarkable one. It has called out an indignant protest from "La Patrie," which is regarded as the most inspired by racial feelings of any paper in this Province. However this may be "La Patrie" has poured hot shot into the French-Canadian aldermen who voted against a vaccination law. Its article, when translated, reads:

"The French-Canadian aldermen gave a vote on the question of obligatory vaccination which does them no honour, and is of a nature to humiliate us. One would say that we alone are unable to understand that public order requires vaccination.

"All the French-Canadians were on one side and the English on the other; so we must conclude, to our shame, that the latter have the sense of responsibility better developed, also the spirit of duty, and are less the slaves of stupid prejudice. The vote of the French aldermen at the City Hall yesterday makes us appear as a retrograde and ignorant race."

We should shrink from using such severe language in censuring any body of our fellow citizens, but, when a leading Journal, so devoted to the interests of their race as is "La Patrie," condemns its compatriots for obstructing a wholesome and necessary law for protecting the health and guarding the reputation of this city, we can only express satisfaction at its independence and sound judgment.

• • •

The city has won a lawsuit of great consequence, involving some \$250,000. For several years the south western part of the city has suffered heavily from floods owing to the local sewer being insufficient to carry off the drainage and surface water during a rainfall. The city allowed the town of St. Cunegonde to empty its sewage into a city main sewer on St. James street west. St. Cunegonde afterwards slyly took this privilege to the towns of St.

Henri and Westmount, the result being that the extra volume of water thus thrown into the city sewer was beyond its capacity, hence the "backing up" of sewage and flooding of cellars for the injuries done by which Montreal has paid very large damages. The case came up finally before the Supreme Court, Ottawa, on the 6th inst., when the city's case was presented by the City Attorney, Mr. Ethier, and Mr. A. W. Atwater, K.C., as consulting counsel. The court gave judgment for the city by which the towns of St. Cunegonde, St. Henri and Westmount are made jointly liable for the damages caused by the floods and for a share of the cost of a new sewer large enough for the outflow. The case will go to the Privy Council.

• • •

The Primrose League anniversary afforded an opportunity for Lord Salisbury to make a powerful defence of the Imperial policy of the Government, more especially its course in South Africa. The past seventeen years he regarded as the most troublesome time in the political history of Great Britain, a judgment which we venture to question; for, though the troubles from war have been serious enough they have not approached those of the first fifteen years of the last century, and at no recent time were there any such internal troubles in the old land as those which menaced the very monarchy after the death of George IV. and William IV., nor any outside troubles such as those which once threatened the disruption of the Empire.

• • •

Lord Salisbury declared that "the power, prestige and influence of their great Empire were more potent, more efficient and more admirable than ever before. They had suffered, but they had greatly won."

He indignantly denied the insinuation of Mr. John Morley in a speech made recently, that if the Government in 1899 had foreseen the results of the South African war "they would have checked the diplomacy that led to such deplorable results." His lordship put the war question pithily:

"When a neighbouring power or tribe invaded His Majesty's domains and made an attack, which was a gross and flagrant outrage, it could only be met as they had met it, by fighting in their own country those who had despised the rights and sovereignty of the British sovereign."

Had the Empire not sprang like a roused lion to the defence of Natal and Cape Colony from an attack avowedly made to wrest those colonies from British control, the Empire would have acted with such ignominious pusillanimity as would have covered Great Britain with disgrace.