

We have only to look at the increase in the assessed valuation of property to note the increase in the growth of Montreal in recent years, a growth still in progress. Take for instance, those magnificent structures which have been, and are being erected on St. James and St. Catherine Streets, which add so materially to the revenues of the city. Surely this growth warrants the civic authorities in an outlay of a couple of hundred thousand dollars, if necessary for fire protection purposes. The penny-wise and pound-foolish policy has been carried too far in providing for fire protection in this city.

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An esteemed correspondent, who is managing director of a prominent life company, writes to us as follows:

"I have read with much interest the excellent articles which have appeared in THE CHRONICLE on the position of the stock market. I entirely concur with your views that the present is a most excellent time for the investor to secure bargains in first-class stocks at a price that may never occur again. I fancy the reason the market remains stagnant is not that the people do not realize good values are offered, but that a majority are so tied up that they really have not money to invest. The outlook is exceedingly encouraging, and I believe bond values will appreciate much sooner than stocks."

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An insurance agent, who has before addressed us on the subject of outside canvassers and what we may call "amateur" insurance agents, considers that nothing will be done to protect the regular agents who rely upon the business for a living until an Agents' Association is formed, through whose exertions and influence the required changes might be made in this matter. We cheerfully give publicity to the views entertained on this topic by those interested, but, though feeling runs high in some quarters, there seems a regrettable indisposition to give it voice.

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"Water, water everywhere, but not a drop to drink" or fit to drink, is the case just now, in this city, which is on an Island; is within walking distance of a large lake, and built along the shores of the finest river in the world. The water supply is contaminated with clayey mud, which will not "settle," or deposit its particles. A landslide behind Ottawa is said to have blocked the Ottawa river with clay, through which the stream flows from which the city reservoirs are supplied. The waterworks have no filtering basin or equipment, so we take to abandon water altogether, or imbibe a fluid, and wash in water that seems to have been already used for a dirty person's ablutions. There is something radically wrong with the water supply here; it is periodically contaminated, reptilian

creatures get into the pipes, and only for short periods is the city water up to a potable standard. It would pay the City to secure the advice of some eminent engineer, a specialist in water supply matters. It is a scandal and an injury to the city to have water served on tables and baths that has all the appearance of having been drained off a kitchen sink.

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The Alaska Award is already losing its grip on the public mind. The excitement was expected to be stimulated by a speech to be delivered by Mr. Aylesworth, K.C., who was one of the Commissioners, on his return to Toronto. The expected speech was delivered on 2nd inst., before 350 of Toronto's leading citizens; but the exciting stimulation anticipated was not given. Mr. Aylesworth pointed out that the question was not submitted to "arbitration," but "adjudication," the distinction being practically merely verbal. He paid a high tribute to Lord Alverstone, but thought he assumed too much the position of an umpire. Sir Louis Jette he also spoke of in terms of highest praise.

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The question, as stated by Mr. Aylesworth, is too complicated to be judged without prolonged study of the documents, charts, maps, etc. After giving his own views, he said:—

"I deeply deplore the circumstances which has led to the present situation. The situation had, however, arisen, and the one practical question for us was, 'What is to be done about it?' There was but one answer. When two men went to law and fought their fight, when there was no possibility of appeal, as in this case, what could the loser do but submit?"

"Under such circumstances, with a case that we in Canada at all events might be pardoned if we thought was a just one, with a case in support of which, at all events, there was much to be said, with a case that was thoroughly prepared beforehand, with a case that was most ably presented, we had fought a good fight, and had lost in the struggle. Under these circumstances what could any man do but bow with such graceful submission as he might be able to command to the inevitable result? Our love, our devotion, our loyalty to the Empire and to the Crown will stand, and whatever may be the result of this Alaskan Boundary Award now, and in the development of our diplomatic relations in the future, I am sure that Canada is for England, and that Canada to the end is part of the grand British Empire."

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The opinions of the English Press have been, and are being freely quoted on the Alaskan award, as though British journalists had some special authority to pronounce upon a question which is of trifling importance to Great Britain, compared to its interest to Canada. Many of our contemporaries in the old land seem never to have seen a map of Canada, or to have read any Canadian history. The "Birmingham