proffers of wordy intervention, he may possibly harbor a lurking suspicion that the patriotism of the northern republic hopes to preserve its proteges for a fate similar to that which it forced on Texas, New Mexico and California. Senator Cullom hints that a supplementary chapter of the Monroe doctrine may lay down some new rule with regard to Canada and the West Indies. In any declaration of this kind several European nations would be directly interested. A French jurist writing in the *Debats*, says of the Monroe doctrine that " it simply does not exist from the point of view of international law, or, rather, it exists only so far as it agrees with international law, but is justly ignored when it conflicts therewith." And neither this nor any other European jurist would be likely to admit that the embodiment of the Monroe doctrine in the municipal law of the United States would impart to it any additional international authority. But this side of the presidential election, it is likely to loom large in Congressional debates and declarations.

A winter mail for the Upper Yukon was made up last week at Victoria, B.C. The route is by steamer to Juneau, and thence by dog train over the mountains to Fort Cudahy, which is hereafter to be known as Fort Mackenzie. The stories started in the United States about this mail being sent to a place on disputed territory, are declared at Ottawa to be entirely unfounded.

MONTREAL MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS.

There is some reason to hope that the ratepayers of Montreal will now make an effort to rid themselves, by exercising their votes at the coming municipal elections, of a certain gang of extravagant and unscrupulous aldermen, who have brought the government of that city to a humiliating pass. During the past week the private bills committee of the Quebec Legislature has been busy with Montreal municipal affairs, amendments to the charter being sought. The following are some of the explanations made by Mr. Robb, the city treasurer, of the conditions existing, and which necessitated the application. One of the clauses was to empower the city to borrow not over $2,000,000, repayable in forty years.

Mr. Robb explained the reason of the demand as being the action of the Legislature in 1894, which prevented the city from collecting nearly one million dollars due on street improvements for a couple of years previously, and also the deficits for the last two years of about $750,000 dollars, besides some slight excesses over the estimates. The treasurer said that the revenue had been steadily increasing every year in Montreal. The estimates for each year were based upon the revenue of the preceding year, and the committees were kept within their appropriations. Notwithstanding all this, and the fact that actual payments were kept within the revenue, the committees invariably incurred obligations. These were carried forward to the next year, and were made the first charge in the accounts of the following year, and thus wiped out. The average increase in revenue for the last ten years, he said, had been $100,000. There had been a similar crisis in 1880. In the present year, the appropriations asked by the different committees amount to about $520,000 more than the revenue, and this amount is represented by debentures.

The mayor, Mr. Villeneuve, stated to the committee that the city's money was being squandered, and that, going on giving contracts without tenders, etc., the deficit, next year, would be $800,000. The increase in expenditure, owing to the interest on the new loan, would be $100,000 alone. He considered that from $150,000 to $200,000 a year could be saved by economy, and that $600,000 had been squandered last year. As mayor of the city, he did all he could to keep down expenses, but to no avail, for the mayor had no say, and was the most powerless of the city officials, being merely the president of the council, without any power of veto.

By a decision of the Court of Review, overruling Judge Davidson's finding, the city is bound, it appears, to make what are known as the St. Lambert Hill improvements, at a cost of half a million of dollars. Hon. Mr. Morris characterized the bills which were brought down from Montreal in this matter as a perfect scandal and a disgrace to the city, saying that aldermen were simply trying to shift the responsibility from their own shoulders, and moved that the borrowing clause be struck out; and struck out it has been by the committee. Alderman Wilson Smith sets forth in council that the city has obligations amounting to about $1,800,000 unprovided for, and a revenue which, even with economy, is not sufficient to meet expenditure. It is thus plain that additional taxation is an absolute necessity. He therefore proposes that the present obligations of the city should be met by a special tax, but that this tax be capitalized, and the necessary amount be raised by a special loan, extending over a period of, say, ten years. Alderman Stevenson warmly seconded Mr. Smith's scheme, suggesting, however, fifteen years instead of ten, but the council by a vote of 18 to 4 rejected the proposal. It was proposed, by the way, in order to raise funds, to tax bicycles, telegraph and electric poles, exempted property, laundries, and the salaries of non residents working in the city. This would give a revenue of $140,000. Chinese residents petition against the taxing of laundries. The revenue of the city from real estate taxation is about $1,600,000 a year. The debt limit of Montreal has been fixed at a figure 50 per cent. higher than that of New York, and there has been an inclination to raise the assessment figures to nearly the market value of property. But even then it has been found impossible to keep the council within its borrowing power.

The "enterprising" and extravagant members of the Montreal council are perhaps now realized to be to the city what the Old Man of the Sea was to Sinbad the Sailor. And it will be of no avail to attempt to shake them off as Sinbad did his burden, by getting them intoxicated. This, we are told, is not so easily done. The only course for the municipality is for the citizens to use their voting power and thus rid the city of a serious incubus.

DEAD MEATS AND COLD STORAGE.

On behalf of the Ottawa Government, it is claimed that the experimental purchase of butter, in connection with cold storage, has been successful in raising the price in the English market higher than it ever rose before. And it is given out at the casual hustings of by-elections, by two members of the Government, that further like experiments in other articles are to be entered on. A dead meat trade is the form in which the export of cattle is to be encouraged. England imports nearly three times as much dead meat as of live cattle; measured in value, the respective figures are $110,000,000, against $44,000,000. In the larger trade, Canada is at present not represented at all. The United States, Australia and Argentina have got the start of us; but the case is one in which the being early in the field does not secure an overmastering position. As a means of starting the dead meat export business, the Canadian Government is to make the experiment, purchasing at Montreal every week some 500 cattle, which will be slaughtered and shipped under the security of cold storage. The meat is to be sold in Liverpool, London, Bristol, Manchester, Glasgow, and other large centres, at retail shops where no other meat is sold. As there is no part for the local butcher to play in this business, the only intermediary will be the retail seller. This trade, once opened, may expand, but not indefinitely; it is a delusion to say that the market is unlimited. Pork and poultry will also come in for the benefit of cold storage across the Atlantic. The plant necessary for starting this business will be costly, and when the Government has done its part by showing what can be done,