The Coward's Weapon. The sensational murder case at Hamilton, whatever its motive, is one more illustration of the folly of tolerating the existence in a civilized community of the ever-ready revolver. It is impossible to imagine any possible use for a revolver, except to kill or maim human beings. In this respect it is worse than the much condemned Italian knife. It cannot be used for sport of any kind and the common plea that it is used for defensive purposes will not bear investigation. For every case in which its use has saved life, there must be thousands of cases in which it has served for murder, suicide or as the means of fatal "accidents" so-called. Before long the law will prohibit the manufacture, importation, purchase, sale, or possession of the most deadly, useless, cowardly invention ever desired by man. Exception might perhaps be made in the case of the military, the police and bank guardians and messengers. A general confiscation of all the revolvers in Canada would be a good thing.

Ontario Libel Law. The Hon. Mr. Foy, attorney-general of Ontario, announces that the Government will introduce a bill radically modifying the libel law of the province. For one thing, the period for issuing a writ against a newspaper will be materially shortened. At present it is three months in Ontario. In Quebec it is twelve months. Provision will probably be made for reducing costs, by consolidating actions for the same libel, against more than one paper. The libel law of Ontario as it stands is not nearly so ridiculous as that of Quebec, which one could imagine to have been devised to encourage litigation, to prevent the exposure of public abuses, and to enrich the lawyers.

Old Age Pensions. That the Imperial Government rushed into the old age pension scheme without adequate consideration is shown by the fact that the cost exceeds the original estimates by 80 per cent. The worst of the matter is that neither the present government nor its successors can undo the mischief. The country is hopelessly committed to a financial responsibility the extent of which even now may not be fully realized. There is a hint here for other governments with socialistic bees in their bonnets.

The Insurance Bill. The appearance of the Insurance Bill, now definitely promised for this session by the Minister of Finance, is naturally awaited with considerable conjecture. No doubt is expressed as to its having been considerably modified since its appearance in draft form. The practical outcome of Armstrong legislation across the border is sufficiently marked to have assured that.

The White Star Dominion Line. The announcement was lately made that the White Star Line is to put two fine steamers, the "Laurentic" and the "Megantic" into a passenger service jointly with the Dominion Line between Liverpool and Montreal. The "Laurentic" will make her first trip from Montreal on Saturday, May 15, being preceded by the "Canada" of the same line on May 8th. The "Laurentic" which was launched on September 10th, 1908, is of a new type combining reciprocating engines with a low pressure turbine. The "Laurentic" and "Megantic" will be the two largest vessels in the Canadian trade—having such a tonnage of 1,534. They are luxuriously equipped. The sister ship, "Megantic was launched on December 10th.

MARCH DIVIDENDS.

March interest and dividend disbursements as estimated by the New York Journal of Commerce will reach $78,730,000, against $78,844,000 in March a year ago. Interest payments will call for $37,000,000, an increase of $1,700,000. Dividends involve only $41,730,000, a falling off of $1,813,000.

A score of Canadian companies pay quarterly or half-yearly dividends this week. The list is:

Quarterly: Lake of the Woods pfd., Montreal Rolling Mills Co., Ogilvie Mills pfd., Richelieu and Ontario, Bank of Hamilton, Bank of Montreal, Bank of Ottawa, Bank of Toronto, Banque d'Hochelaga, Canadian Bank of Commerce, Home Bank of Canada, Merchants Bank of Canada, Quebec Bank, Union Bank of Canada.

Semi-annual Dividends payable: Bonds—Dom. Textile Co., Electric Development Co., of Ontario, Keewatin Flour Mills Co., Mexico Tramways Co., Richelieu and Ontario Navigation Co., Western Canada Flours Mills Co. Stocks—Dominion of Canada Guarantee and Accident Insurance Co., Intercolonial Coal Mining Co., common and preferred.

FIRE AT SOREL, QUE.

On the 3rd instant, a fire occurred at Sorel, P.Q., destroying the following buildings: P. Chevalier's drug store; C. Trempe's grocery; L. T. Trempe's grocery; A. Champagne's tailor shop; J. A. Lussier's dry goods; A Bank's dwelling and Mrs. Colette's dwelling. The following companies are stated to be interested, London & Lancashire Fire Insurance Co., $7,500; Norwich Union, $800; Stanstead & Sherbrooke, $3,000; Guardian, $4,000; Union Assurance Society, $2,000 and $900; Phoenix of England, $2,000; Royal, $1,500; Queen, $3,000 Total, $24,700. Total loss.