

The items of the 1906 revenue of the city of Montreal follow, together with increases over the preceding year.

Montreal Statistics.

	1906.	Increase.
Municipal and school tax	\$2,473,357	\$182,855
Water rates	963,599	52,079
Business and personal taxes	390,437	33,228
Licenses	223,008	18,319
Recorder's Court fines	39,419	3,766
Market revenues	102,305	1,543
Dept permits	23,785	6,021
M. S. R. percentage	177,586	24,545
Miscellaneous revenue	50,720	20,230
Interest collected	56,001	10,602
M. L. H. & P. Co.	40,836
	\$4,541,066	\$391,494

An interesting card has been issued from the City Hall, giving many facts concerning the city in a succinct form that should prove of value to strangers and citizens alike. Among the information given, are the following items:

Population (city proper)	350,000
Taxable property	\$200,600,344
Exempt property	50,048,795
Streets miles	220
Paved streets miles	35
Brick sewers miles	214
Territory of city acres	7,714
City's debt	\$31,669,000
Public parks	35
Area of public parks acres	615
Ocean vessels arrived	820
Total tonnage	1,973,220
Inland vessels arrived	12,557
Total tonnage	3,095,174
Customs receipts	\$14,143,616
Pupils, Prot. pub. schools	10,991
Pupils, Cath. pub. schools	21,515
Value of Prot. public school property	\$1,325,871
Value of Cath. public school property	1,100,958
Percentage paid by Montreal Street Railway Co.	177,586
Mileage of Montreal Street Railway miles	85
Passengers carried annually	77,356,000
Passengers carried with transfers	24,516,000
Number of arc lights	1,522
Number of gas lamps	340

Insurance Publicity in Australia.

There has come recently to hand a copy of the Quinquennial Valuation Report of the Australian Widow's Fund Life Assurance Society, Limited. This report was submitted to the members of the society at its annual general meeting held in February last, and was unanimously approved. All who spoke at the meeting seem to have concurred in expressing the greatest satisfaction with the results announced, especially as these were found associated with so high a reserve standard as a 3 1-2 per cent. net premium valuation. The directors of the society are not in sympathy with the tendency of certain other companies to abandon the system of medical examination in connection with a large proportion of business written. Instead, they are convinced that the maintaining of a low rate of mortality requires a continuance of most skilled medical selection. A steady improvement in the death rate is a feature of the five-year period.

The surplus shown at the close of 1906, is £135,364, after provision of £12,614 for policies which became due during the quinquennium. For every £1,000 distributed in 1896, £3,157 was distributed in 1901, while there is correspondingly £4,112 now available for distribution. Actuary Graham is to be congratulated upon the thoroughness and clearness of his report. Incidentally, it well illustrates certain features of the principles of business publicity which Australia, with Great Britain, prefers to excessive Government regulation of business details.

Inter-Colonial Commerce.

At a meeting of the St. John Board of Trade on Tuesday afternoon, H. B. Schofield, one of a recent delegation to the West Indies, made an exhaustive report on the possibility of enlarging Canada's trade with the islands. Arising from a section of the report dealing with preference, it was decided that a committee should lay before Sir Wilfrid Laurier, while he is in St. John on his way to England, the matter of preference between Canada and the islands, and ask him to take it up at the Colonial Conference.

The meeting further adopted a resolution, "That this Board of Trade is of opinion that Great Britain will best serve the commercial interests of the United Kingdom and of her colonies by establishing a reciprocal preference trade within the Empire, whereby at all British ports British goods would be admitted at a lower rate of duty than foreign goods."

Forestry Association.

Deserving of all possible encouragement and commendation, is the work of the Canadian Forestry Association in arousing the interest of Ontario in the securing of a permanent crop of pine from great stretches of land suited to that, but to scarcely any other purpose. A reforestation system should assuredly be established in Ontario and other Provinces, whereby each succeeding year's growth will replace, or more than replace, the quantity of timber cut.

For the Port of Montreal.

Mr. Fielding has given notice in the House of Commons, of a resolution to loan the Harbor Commissioners of Montreal, such sums, not exceeding in all three million dollars, as are required for the completion of the terminal facilities of the port. As security for repayment, the commissioners are to deposit with the Minister of Finance debentures redeemable in 25 years, bearing interest at the rate of three per cent. annually, payable half-yearly.