feelings as a son of the Church or his desire for her aggrandisement to blind him to the unfairness of a state of things which allows some $26,000,000 worth of convents, schools and church buildings in Montreal to go free of taxes. The realty in that city, other than church property, has to pay the taxes which ought to be paid upon this enormous value. And thus a sum of, say, $520,000 is yearly saddled upon the remaining taxpayers of Montreal.

Speaking in his representative capacity as mayor of the city, and also as a property holder therein, Mr. Prefontaine replied to the episcopal head of the archdiocese, that he, the mayor, had been elected by acclamation to represent all classes and creeds at the City Hall. It is perhaps well that a dignitary of the Church of Rome, as well as the authorities of other churches, should be made aware of the growing feeling in commercial and manufacturing circles as well as in other quarters that exemptions of church properties from taxation is inequitable and should be either greatly modified or entirely abolished.

BUSINESS INDIFFERENCE.

The Halifax Board of Trade, a quarterly meeting of which was held last week, is rebuked by the Chronicle because out of a total membership of about 150, only twenty-five or thirty were present on that occasion. There is room for the rebuke; for we happen to be aware that the burden of the work of this representative body has been left to a mere handful of men, most of them on the council of the board. And they have done genuine serviceable work, these few, not only in stimulating the Government to recognize the importance of Halifax as a winter port and to assist her to a fair share of terminal facilities, but in striving in other directions in the commercial interests of the city. Now that the Halifax Board of Trade by refitting its offices has made them convenient and attractive for business men, it is a duty which the members owe to their executive to strengthen their hands by at least putting in an appearance at important meetings. To stand aloof from and perhaps to criticize the Board of Trade is, of course, the privilege of sundry merchants outside such bodies in Halifax as well as other cities. But it is well for merchants and manufacturers to remember, in these days of associated effort, that apathy and divided counsels are not so likely to achieve great ends for either city or country as "a long pull, a strong pull, and a pull all together."

GOLD MINING IN CANADA.

Recurring to the matter of which we wrote recently in answer to a correspondent, the probable value of shares in gold-mining companies, there is something more to be said on the general subject. Many a dollar has been locked up during the last three years by investors who were crazily anxious to get a chance to buy mining stock, but who did not buy the right kind. To buy shares in a dividend-paying mine is just as legitimate as to buy shares in any other kind of property whose earning power is proved. To purchase shares in a developed and producing mine is still legitimate, but more risky. But to buy shares in May in a so-called "mine," which as yet is but a hill-side, or a shoulder of rock as heaved up by nature, and to expect a dividend in October the same year, is very much like subscribing money in May to build a large steamer for passenger traffic on a new route and expecting dividends in October from her earnings of the five months. The thing is utterly unreasonable; the boat has to be built, fitted, officered, provisioned, advertised, her agents appointed, and her wharfage secured. All this takes time, and it is much likelier to be a year than five months before the steamer is earning. So in the case of a mine. The eager people who put money into a company which owns merely a "claim" or a "prospect" make the mistake of expecting the impossible. A mine has to be *made*, and it takes time and money to make it. Drilling and blasting hundreds of feet into rock is a slow process, and when the hoisting machinery is at last got into place and the ore secured it may take weeks or months to get it treated. It costs far more, as a rule, to develop a gold mine than sanguine folks think. Not a few instances can be given where Canadian promoters have raised $10,000 or $15,000 with which to "develop and equip" a mine, and found when this was spent that they needed five times as much money to do what they had undertaken. Indeed it often happened in Kootenay, and we believe the same has been true of Ontario, that the $10,000 or $15,000 spent in development work was locked up and useless for lack of the additional capital to put the mine in productive shape and so the work came to a stand-still.

A STRIKER'S WAGES.

A most interesting decision was given in Montreal last week by Recorder de Montigny in connection with the strike of the employees of G. T. Slater & Sons. It appears that one of the men employed by this firm, Napoleon J. Daunais, left the factory without giving any notice to the firm when five days of the week in which he was working had elapsed. He then brought an action against the company for $7.50, the money which he claimed he had earned during those days. As the circumstances are similar to those which have previously arisen in connection with strikes, and are likely to arise again, the Recorder's judgment is of such interest that we give it, as follows. The concluding sentence of the decision is very significant:

"Danuais was employed by Messrs. Slater at a salary of $9 per week, but he did not finish his week, as the other men were on strike, and he claims salary for the time he worked. He gave as an excuse that he was forced to leave work by the Union, of which he was not a member at the time, but which he joined later on. The law does not show that he was forced to leave, as there was no violence used. The law protects the employee, but it must also protect the employer, as it is the former that makes the latter live. The law obliges the employee to give one week's notice to the employer before leaving his employment. Messrs. Slater had in their factory the rules of the place printed in both languages (on which fact they are to be complimented). In the said rules it is stated that an employee shall give one week's notice before leaving work. Mr. Daunais has pretended that the Union had sent a notice to Messrs. Slater, stating that all men would leave work, but no Union has any right to send in such a notice."

INSURANCE CANVASSING.

Canvassing for business of any kind, what the Americans call soliciting, is not easy work. Whether a man is trying to sell books, to sell steam-boilers, or to sell insurance by walking or traveling about and calling on people, his task will be more or less arduous, and he will have to consume time, speech and shoe leather. Much of the difficulty will vanish, however, if the canvasser knows all about the goods he offers and understands human nature and business men's habits sufficiently to be warned what *not* to do. A vast deal of time and effort is wasted by poor canvassers, and a great deal of needless annoyance is caused to the people whom they canvass. Such annoyance injures not only those who inflict it but the houses or institutions they represent, and it does injustice to the good and successful canvassers in prejudicing the minds of the long-suffering public against all persons in that occupation