

On the other hand, it is to be noted that the expenditure both on consolidated and capital accounts, shows a considerable falling off. For the eight months the expenditure on the consolidated fund was \$42,726,569, or \$21,920,949 less than the total revenue and \$2,550,388 less than for the corresponding period of last year. The expenditure on capital account was \$20,646,866, or \$1,509,528 less than for last year.

The revenue for the year thus far has more than balanced the total expenditure on both capital and consolidated fund accounts, including an expenditure of nearly \$15,000,000 on the National Transcontinental railway. Pending the Budget speech of next week these details as to current national finances make interesting reading.

Molsons Bank May Increase Its Capital.

It is understood that the directors of the Molsons Bank have under consideration the advisability of increasing its capital, owing to the progress being made in the Dominion's trade growth. The bank naturally desires to provide facilities in keeping with the expansion of business in its many branches.

The Molsons Bank was established 54 years ago, and has always been characterized by its conservative but progressive management. Its present paid-up capital amounts to \$3,500,000. Its reserve fund is also \$3,500,000. At its annual meeting, held in October, the deposits were shown to be over \$27,000,000, with total assets of over \$38,000,000.

Westmount Car Service.

Westmount is hard to please. It generally has a public grievance. Just now it is the shortage of Street Railway cars in the rush hours. Many of the people who live there feel, and rightly we think, that the car service does not leave much to complain about. We are glad, however, to know that the municipal authorities and the company have got together and an amicable arrangement has been arrived at. People who complain forget how big and how congested Montreal is becoming. In the near future arrangements will have to be made to relieve the streets either underground or over-ground.

Dr. Cook and the North Pole.

When Dr. Cook's alleged discovery of the North Pole was announced THE CHRONICLE had its doubts. On September 7, we said: "The unanimity with which Commander Peary's announcement that he had discovered the North Pole, has been received, is in striking contrast to the general scepticism with which Dr. Cook's claim has been greeted. Fortunately, both men are Americans and there will be no danger of the coolness with which Dr. Cook's story was received in London, being misunderstood. There

will be no lack of enthusiasm in London over Peary's splendid triumph. Perhaps the most astounding thing about Dr. Cook's yarn is that an intelligent man could go so far and see so little worth recording."

The circumstantial story which two of his friends tell, of being employed by him to invent fake observations, makes painful reading. Their story is no more creditable to them than to Dr. Cook.

Municipal Lighting Plant.

On December 21, a referendum will be held in Montreal, in which the electors will be asked whether they approve of the establishment of a municipal lighting plant at a cost of \$2,000,000. Little interest is manifested in the matter. It comes at a most unfortunate time when the elections are nigh and new arrangements are inevitable. It is not likely that the vote will amount to much.

Christmas Shopping.

In her inaugural address as president of the Women's Club, Mrs. Roswell Fisher made a timely and eminently commendable appeal to ladies, to do their Christmas shopping with some consideration for the over-worked employees of the stores. Early in the month and early in the day was her excellent advice.

Notre Dame de Grace.

The Town Council of Notre Dame de Grace on Wednesday last passed a resolution in favour of annexation to Montreal. All the suburbs will have to be annexed sooner or later and that being the case, the sooner they are all annexed the better and the cheaper for all concerned.

Canadian Bank of Commerce.

The preliminary annual statement of the Canadian Bank of Commerce comes to hand as THE CHRONICLE goes to press. Net profits for the year amounted to \$1,510,695. Total deposits are well over \$120,000,000. Assets total almost \$140,000,000, of which over \$65,000,000 are classed as liquid assets.

Hamburg Gas Explosion.

A great gas explosion occurred at Hamburg on Tuesday, killing at least ten men, dangerously injuring forty and leaving seventeen unaccounted for. The details of the disaster as reported should be received with reserve until further information is forthcoming.

Predicts Victory.

Mr. Chamberlain predicts victory for the Unionists in the coming elections. If his health permitted him to lead the Unionist forces, their chances of victory would be immensely improved and in fact would be worth betting on.