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**MONEY AND MAGNATES**

THREE LEADING CAPITALISTS AND THEIR GAME OF CARDS.

THREE of Montreal's big financial men who are great friends are all very fond of different games of cards. They are Sir William Van Horne, Senator L. P. Forget, and Sir Thomas Shaughnessy.

Sir William, when with his most intimate friends, always dearly likes to have a little game of poker and there are many stories of the many games he has had with Mr. James Ross, the president of the Dominion Coal Company, who is another fiend at the game. At first sight there would not seem to be anything that affords Sir William as much pleasure as to beat his friend Ross, but then Mr. Ross is also always keen on beating Sir William and from the records available, he generally manages to do so.

Senator L. J. Forget is a bridge whist enthusiast. The Senator's Montreal home is situated right next to the Mount Royal Club on Sherbrooke Street and when any trio of keen players are anxious to get a fourth who will be just as keen as themselves, they telephone the Senator and ask him if he would oblige them by playing a rubber or two.

Sir Thomas Shaughnessy, when seeking a little relaxation seems to take a lot of fun out of a game of Patience. He plays quite a lot, especially at home after dinner in the evening. One habit they all three have in common, especially when playing cards, is smoking cigars, and one of their friends once remarked to me that they would likely play cards still more only they knew they would smoke a great deal too much.

\* \* \*

**BIGGEST CHEQUES ISSUED IN CANADA.**

WHEN the Dominion Coal Company recently issued its cheque for \$2,750,000 on the Bank of Montreal to the Dominion Iron and Steel Company in part payment of damages for breaking the old 99 year coal contract, the cheque was the largest that ever passed between any two Canadian industrial concerns. There are not many Canadian companies that could conveniently get a marked cheque for such an amount, but then most of the money the Coal Company gave the Steel Company had been received from the Steel Company as excess price for coal and the money had been kept in a special account pending the final decision of the Privy Council.

To the Canadian Pacific Railway goes the honour of having drawn the largest cheque that has ever passed through a Canadian bank, and it was drawn on the Bank of Montreal in favour of the Quebec Government for \$7,000,000 and was in payment of certain lines of railways.

It is seldom that cheques for more than a \$1,000,000 go through any of our banks, the only occasion being when some particularly large deal is put through, such as when the old Royal Electric crowd of Montreal purchased the Lachine Hydraulic and Light Company. Every six months the Canadian Pacific puts in a cheque for over \$4,000,000 at the Bank of Montreal to provide for the payment of the half yearly dividends on the stock.

\* \* \*

**CAPITALIST'S AIM AT VAST ACHIEVEMENTS.**

THE interest some of the leading capitalists take in their corporations was recently described by "Jere" Hutchins, the president of the Detroit United Railway. In discussing the Canadian Pacific Railway project one day with me Mr. Hutchins expressed the opinion that Sir William Van Horne and his associates in concerning and carrying out the construction of the big Canadian Railway had done an even greater thing for the world than most of the notable men of early generations. He would even say that the world was benefited more by their work than that of the many generals the world now looks upon as its great men, not even excluding Alexander nor Napoleon.

In a smaller way, Mr. Hutchins said he was trying to effect just as important a work in building up a system of urban and interurban traction lines in Detroit and the various towns surrounding it for a distance of close to a hundred miles. It would mean that thousands of families would be able to take advantage of the transportation facilities and enjoy the luxury of having country houses, while all the time the community becoming a larger and a more intimate one. To the outsider it would be a matter of some surprise to see the continued interest leading officials take in the corporations in which they are interested.

\* \* \*

**BOUGHT FOR \$10,000; WON'T SELL FOR \$100,000.**

ONE of Montreal's leading and richest capitalists has just purchased what is believed to be the only oil painting of the late Sir John Macdonald painted from life. The capitalist knew Sir John intimately and holds the opinion that he was just about the greatest man Canada ever had. It is understood he paid in the neighbourhood of \$10,000 for the painting, but he now says \$100,000 will not buy it.

The capitalist, it is almost needless to say, is one of the group that made a fortune out of the C. P. R. and they are all great believers in Sir John A., because without his assistance the road would have gone into liquidation.

\* \* \*

**DAYS WHEN THEY SOLD BANK STOCKS SHORT.**

NEARLY all the older members of the Montreal Stock Exchange have kept the books they used to take with them on the floor of the Exchange in the early seventies in which to register the sales and quotations of stocks.

Nowadays none of the younger members have anything but small memorandum books, but a few of the older members still keep up the custom of carrying their large ledgers under their arm.

The other day I came across a book belonging to one of the leading and oldest members of the Exchange bearing the date 1875.

From the list of transactions it was easily seen that the bank stocks were great things in those days, and when I asked the reason the member stated that in those days it was not a criminal offence to sell bank stock short as it is to-day, and it was not an uncommon thing to find a trader going short even of several hundred shares of Bank of Montreal stock. Among the bank quotations I found some that have since doubled in price. Here are some of them: Bank of Montreal, 179, now 255; Molsons Bank, 101, now around 210; Merchants Bank, 94, now 170; Bank of Commerce, 126, now around 184. Many of the leading firms of those days are still in existence, although in many instances there are no members of the original families in them. Among the familiar names to be seen were Forget, Strathy, Wilson, Macdougall, Burnett, Moat, Scott, Oswald.

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