

written to the president of the Coal Miners' Society strongly urging that every effort should be made to avoid a strike, which he says, "would be a menace to the peace and general welfare of the country." A conference will be held between the men and the mine owners which it is most earnestly to be hoped will lead to a good understanding being arrived at and a strike averted.

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RETURN OF MR. BALFOUR TO PARLIAMENT.—The election of the Rt. Hon. Mr. Balfour, ex-Premier, to Parliament as a representative of the City of London, will give much gratification to all parties. His majority of over 11,000 was, probably, the largest on record. Men of his high culture, attainments, and statesmanlike qualities lend dignity to a legislature. The House of Commons will give Mr. Balfour a very cordial reception when he returns.

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WEDDING BELLS.—On Tuesday 27th ulto., a marriage was celebrated in this city between Mr. James Elmsly and Miss Clunie Ramsay. Mr. Elmsley is superintendent of the Bank of British North America and Miss Clunie Ramsay is the daughter of Mr. W. M. Ramsay, director and ex-manager of the Standard Life. As both the Bride and Bridegroom are well known in social circles in addition to being general favourites, hosts of friends filled St. Paul's Church, where the ceremony was performed by the Rev. Dr. Barclay. Subsequently, a largely attended reception was held at the residence of the bride's parents. The presents were both numerous and valuable. We heartily join in wishing Mr. and Mrs. Elmsly, every blessing, long life, and happiness.

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PAYMENT OF \$7,000,000 BY THE C.P.R. TO THE QUEBEC GOVERNMENT.—On 1st inst., the Provincial Treasurer received a cheque for the above amount from the C.P.R. being the purchase price of the Quebec, Montreal, Ottawa and Occidental Railway. This line was built by the Quebec Government, and sold to the C.P.R. by the Chapeau Government, the C.P.R. paying interest on the above amount to the Quebec Government. This sum has already been appropriated for and will be applied to the redemption of the Provincial Government loans of 1878 and 1876, and a part of 1874, in accordance with 45 Victoria, cap. 21, 1882.

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WIRELESS TELEGRAPHS.—It has recently been discovered that messages by wireless telegraphy are subject to failure if despatched at Sun-rise or Sun-set. Wireless telegraphic messages are liable to be influenced by many atmospheric conditions.

MONTREAL BILL.—We hope the Government will hesitate long before granting power to the civic authorities of this city to go into the gas supply or conduit construction business.

It would be a pity to direct their superfluous ingenuity and energy from the work of repairing and cleansing the roadways and sidewalks. Let this most essential work have their undivided attention during the ensuing twelve months.

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THE INTERCOLONIAL RAILWAY IS NOT FOR SALE.—So says the Hon. Mr. Emmerson. We quite agree with the Hon. Minister of Railways. We do not believe that any Government would be willing to dispose of this line.

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BANKING COMPETITION.—The severity of the competition amongst many of the banks is shown by the following card issued by a bank:

"Owing to the absurd abuse of banking privileges and usages by some of our chartered banks in reducing their collection rates to 7 cents per item, regardless of the amount, and the return without charge of all unpaid items, we have decided to meet this ridiculous method of doing business by collecting at par for all chartered banks sending their collections to us at this point, and we will also pay, without charge, all their drafts or certified cheques duly advised and crossed at this office."

This card bears no sign of having been approved by the Head Office of the bank it emanates from.

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THE BANK OF MONTREAL is stated to have made arrangements for opening a branch in the City of Mexico. This step is probably owing to the large investments made by Canadians in Mexican enterprises and the trade which is likely to be developed between the two countries.

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ONTARIO PUBLIC ACCOUNTS.—The revenue of the province for the year ended 31st December, 1903, was \$6,016,176, and expenditures \$5,396,016, leaving a credit balance of \$620,160.

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THE USURY BILL is long in coming, but we are assured it is being prepared. Before presentation the Bill should be submitted to Bankers and Boards of Trade for suggestions, or approval.

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THE PUBLIC REVENUE for the fiscal year, 1903-4, is showing signs of unprecedented increase. Up to January 31, the revenue was \$44,254,818 against \$40,822,850 in corresponding period 1904-5, the increase in 7 months having been \$3,431,950. This is a very timely expanse for every heavy expenditures and advances are ahead of the Government in connection with the Grand Trunk Pacific.