

Prominent Topics.

N. Y. Stock Market Holiday. The governors of the New York Stock Exchange have voted to close the Exchange on July 2. As July 3 is Sunday and July 4 a holiday, the Exchange will be closed from the afternoon of July 1 to Tuesday July 5.

Population of Russian and Indian Empires. The population of the Russian Empire is officially placed at 160,095,000, which is claimed to be an increase of 33,199,000 in twelve years—which we respectfully take leave to disbelieve. The total is about 140,000,000 less than the population of the Indian Empire.

Montreal Real Estate. There are many large transactions in real estate in Montreal just now. Although prices seem high as compared with those of a few years ago, we have no doubt that they will be largely enhanced in the near future. As the President and General Manager of the Grand Trunk Pacific said the other day "there is no investment so good as real estate in Montreal."

Street Railway Accidents. There are far too many street railway accidents in Montreal. This may be partly accounted for by the fact that there are far too many reckless motormen; and partly by the fact that the cars are evidently expected to make up in speed what they lack in numbers. This wholesale manslaughter has to be stopped and it is up to the Board of Control to stop it at any cost.

The Weather. All over the world the year 1910 is keeping up its phenomenal weather record. The disastrous thunderstorms of Europe have been repeated in New York and in various parts of Canada. Temperatures from 88 to 104 in the shade are on record during the last week. Even Montreal had a taste of the abnormal on Wednesday night in a storm which did little or no damage, but an immense amount of good in improving the atmosphere; and which gave a record rain fall of one fifth of an inch in five minutes.

Mr. N. B. Gunn. Among the distinguished visitors to Canada recently has been Mr. N. B. Gunn, of Edinburgh, manager of the Scottish Widows' Fund Life Assurance Society; one of the oldest and largest British life offices. It was founded in 1815 and its accumulated funds are about a hundred millions of dollars. This Society has large investments both in the United States and Canada. Mr. Gunn arrived in the United States on May 4th, and visited some of the principal cities there. He then went to the

Pacific coast visiting Vancouver, Calgary, Winnipeg, Toronto and several other Canadian cities arriving in Montreal on Saturday last. Mr. Gunn is no stranger in Canada, although it is seven years since his last visit, and he has many warm friends here. He is greatly impressed by the solid growth of Montreal and also by the evidences of progress on every side throughout Canada. He is accompanied by Mrs. Gunn.

Sir Byron Walker. THE CHRONICLE extends its hearty congratulations to Sir Byron Walker upon the distinguished honour conferred upon him by the King. Sir Byron was indicated for the distinction of Knighthood not only by his valuable services to Canada in connection with the Canadian Bank of Commerce and the active interest he has taken in great public questions, but by his eminent fitness to wear the honour with dignity. He will look and act the part now assigned to him gracefully and well.

Important Shipping Amalgamation. The announcement that representatives of the Pacific Steam Navigation Company have decided to recommend to their shareholders the sale of the undertaking to the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company is an important one. By this purchase the Royal Mail practically doubles its tonnage. It will have 400,000 tons under its control, and practically will have the monopoly of the good class British shipping trade to South America. The Royal Mail, which, dating from 1839, is the oldest of the large British shipping companies, has lately shown great enterprise, and ships under its flag or those of lines associated with it are to be found almost all over the world. Just lately it has acquired an interest in Elder Dempster & Co., and so has become associated with the St. Lawrence trade. Sir Owen Phillips, M.P., chairman of the Royal Mail, is co-director with Lord Pirrie, the well-known shipbuilder, of Elder Dempster & Co., Ltd. This company was formed a few months ago to take over the undertakings of the late Sir Alfred Jones, which Lord Pirrie and Sir Owen had purchased, and which include interests in a large number of shipping and kindred undertakings. Among Elder Dempster's assets is 10½ p.c. of the total paid-up share capital in the Cunard Steamship Company.

LIFE INSURANCE ORGANIZATIONS of the United States and Canada distributed \$532,500,000 in 1909, according to computations by the Insurance Press of New York. Of the total \$19,000,000 was disbursed in Canada. Toronto's share of the disbursement was \$902,854, and \$1,896,114 was paid on Montreal claims. The amounts received by some other Canadian cities were: Quebec, \$441,164; St. John, \$362,204; Ottawa, \$270,503; Winnipeg, \$196,158; Victoria, \$169,759; St. John's, \$168,359; Halifax, \$164,300; Vancouver, \$145,775; London, \$87,646; Hamilton, \$83,242.