

natural consequence of strikes. Still the conclusion that the darker record of insolvencies is attributable to the great strikes only rests upon inference. But, in this instance, the inference is especially justified, for no other cause has been at work to develop and account for the increased failures among storekeepers, but, on the contrary, the manufacturers, generally, have been exceptionally prosperous, so that had the labour market not been disturbed it is reasonable to believe that storekeepers would not have become insolvent to the extent revealed in above returns.

PROMINENT TOPICS.

The "Ophir" with its precious freight is now drawing anxious attention as it speeds onward to our coast. Its gleaming white hull, "walking the waters" like a gigantic sea gull, was seen on Tuesday last passing the Cape Verde Islands which are north of the Equator, near the extreme western point of Africa, and on a line with the West Indies. This point was reached one day ahead of scheduled time, so, with ordinary weather, the Royal yacht will be able to reach Quebec with the punctuality of a railway train. As a display of seamanship and administrative talent the voyages of the "Ophir" stand without parallel. Princess May, as a traveller, will be the most distinguished of women.

It is not quite clear what has been decided upon in regard to the arrangements of the reception to be held by the Duke and Duchess at the City Hall. To throw such a function open to the public might impose such a task on the Royal visitors as would be distressingly exhaustive. At the same time the work of selecting those to be presented, would necessarily be a very invidious, thankless and unsatisfactory duty. We should pity the Aldermen who had tickets to distribute! For every favour he conferred he would make a hundred enemies. The arrangement is that tickets will be issued according to the official list which includes Bankers, Aldermen, Insurance Managers, ex-Aldermen, ex-Mayors, members of the Board of Trade, Brokers, etc. At the same time a proclamation will be issued stating that all reputable citizens who require a ticket and who will conform to the regulations, will receive one on application.

The work of decorating the public buildings of the city has commenced, the arches to be erected are decided upon, the addresses to be delivered are being illuminated, the dresses to be worn at the civic reception are being sewn, the flags to adorn, or at least hide, the stores, warehouses and residences are bought or old ones laid ready, the myriads of electric lamps are being collected and grouped, the school

platforms are all in preparation, the fireworks are ready; what remains now to be done is for the clerk of the weather to be won over, for he may "make or mar" the reception by an unpropitious storm. But, let the elements do their worst, there will be such a magnificent display of Canadian loyalty to welcome and honour the Duke and Duchess as is likely to win for this city the distinction of having outshone all others during the Royal tour.

The Harbour Commissioners have awarded the elevator contract to Mr. J. A. Jamieson of this city, for the sum of \$642,000. The structure will be opposite the Custom House. Its capacity will be one million bushels. It will take grain in from cars and vessels and deliver it to vessels direct. The elevator will be fire-proof, and be connected with a mile and a half of conveyers. The tender of Mr. Jamieson was the lowest.

Commissioner Ross, of the Yukon Territory, is on an official visit to Ottawa. He reports that \$16,000,000 of gold was shipped out of the Yukon this year up to 1st August. He favors an export tax in preference to a royalty. Mr. Ross has proved himself an efficient commissioner and won the general esteem of all classes. Mr. Ross has our sincere sympathy in his bereavement, which will throw a cloud over his life at Dawson City.

Mr. Albert I. Lesperance has been appointed manager of the City and District Savings Bank in succession to Mr. Henri Barbeau who has been given a seat on the Board of Directors. Mr. Lesperance has been in the service of the bank over twenty years, during which time he has been a most diligent, faithful and intelligent official, who was equally esteemed by his superiors and the customers of the bank. He has had the inestimable advantage of a training under Mr. Henri Barbeau.

The promotion of Mr. Lesperance is regarded with favour in financial and business circles, where, as manager of the City and District Savings Bank, he is regarded as, "the right man in the right place." We congratulate Mr. Lesperance on his advancement and wish him as long a career as he himself desires to enjoy.

Dissatisfaction with the Census is causing a movement in a number of places for a re-numbering the local population. Were this to be carefully arranged and the schedule to be filled in made very simple, covering say, only the number in each dwelling, including all who are actual residents, whether at home, or temporarily absent, there might be a census taken in one day of any city at a trifling cost. Investigating the census of 1891 seems a futile effort. So far