

in the hands of a single person, to wit, the Securities Company, by virtue of its ownership of a large majority of the stock of both companies."

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The point at issue was not whether the rates fixed under this arrangement were reasonable or unreasonable, but that:

"Such a contract or combination confers power to establish unreasonable rates and directly restrains commerce by placing obstacles in the way of free and unrestricted competition between carriers who are natural rivals for patronage; and, finally, that Congress has the power under the grant of authority contained in the Federal Constitution to regulate commerce, to say that no contract or combination shall be legal which shall restrain interstate trade or commerce by shutting off the operation of the general law of competition. The organization of the Securities Company, accomplishes the object, which Congress has denounced as illegal, more effectually than by other methods."

The judgment will be appealed to the Supreme Court. The far reaching effects of the decision and the perturbation it caused on the stock market are dwelt upon in the letter of our New York correspondent.

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The City Council on 14th inst., authorized the Finance Committee to enter into negotiations with the fire underwriters to secure lower rates. A statement was read from Chief Benoit, of the Fire Brigade, in which he sets forth a list of improvements made in the equipment of the fire protection service at a cost of \$65,000. Superintendent Janin, of the Water Department reported that certain improvements had been made in the water service. These will be given full consideration by the Fire Underwriters' Association, whose plea in defense of the advanced rates will, probably, be much more forcible and reasonable than some of their critics are prepared for.

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An attack has been made upon the local Recorders because some of their judgments are alleged to have been too severe. Two cases only were used to support this very wide, general charge. One was that of a student who had used most reprehensible language in abuse of a police officer, with whom he had interfered when in discharge of his duty. For this gross offence the penalty of a few days imprisonment was imposed. Another case is a most painful one, but, as stated by Recorder Weir, there was every consideration shown to the unfortunate culprit, and ever leniency displayed rather than undue severity. The latter case was so exceptional in all its phases and the facts so distressing to all concerned, to the Recorder as well as to the family of the offender, that full particulars could not be published without inflicting intense and utterly needless suffering upon innocent persons who have no ground for complaint, but rather for gratitude that they were shielded so considerably.

The Recorders are charged with announcing that they intended to be more strict with offenders of good social position than with others of a lower class. This policy is and has long been the rule in other Courts, when offenders have no reasonable excuse. When discrimination is shown in criminal Court it should be in favour of the ignorant; the victims of bad training, of vicious example and of deplorable social conditions. For an offender to come into Court and say, "I belong to a good family; I have been well brought up; I have received a good education; I have had excellent examples before me all my life, therefore, I am entitled to the most favourable consideration!" is to mock at justice and if such a plea leads to any especial leniency, the administration of justice is brought into contempt.

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At the time of going to press the condition of Sir Oliver Mowat is announced to be very critical. We trust to have a more satisfactory report tomorrow. Sir Oliver can ill be spared at this crisis in the affairs of Ontario, under any circumstances indeed the veteran statesman's life is a precious one, for few men in public life are so universally respected. Although a hard fighter when a contest was in progress, Sir Oliver was a loveable person and his keenest political opponents held him in affectionate esteem. All Canada would rejoice over his life being prolonged.

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The Council of the Board of Trade of this city has expressed strong opposition to most of the amendments inserted by the Legislative, Quebec, in the City Charter, and it outlined its views in the killed entirely than be allowed to pass with the instructed it to use every effort to procure the defeat of the same, when before the Legislative Council.

The Board of Trade in council expressed the opinion that it was better that the bill should be killed entirely than be allowed to pass with the iniquitous amendments that have been inserted against the wishes of the city.

That the internal affairs of this City should be so controlled by persons who have no personal, commercial, or financial interests at stake is a serious wrong to our citizens.

TWO CANADA LAND COMPANIES.

The Canada Company was the pioneer in a large area in operations dealing with the lands of Canada.

The report of last year shows that an extensive movement is in progress for converting the leased lands of the company into freehold. This is a move in the right direction, for though in an early stage of a country's settlement the acquisition of extensive areas by private capitalists has certain advantages, the distribution of land amongst freeholders is the more desirable. Last year the acreage as converted