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REPUBLICAN CONVENTION
THE Taft and Roosevelt delegations to the Republican Convention are so nearly equal, that at present it looks like anybody's battle; and it is no wonder that medical and ambulance preparations for ructions at Chicago are being made upon an extensive scale. The result not less than the tone of the campaign for the nomination is such as to engender bitter feeling and it will take all the party loyalty there is to prevent a dangerous split in the Republican ranks.

MACADAMIZED ROADS FOR MONTREAL
THE City Surveyor has asked for \$160,000 to put macadamized streets in the new wards in order.

THE CHRONICLE has always held that macadamized roads are not sufficiently appreciated by the municipal authorities of Montreal. This may be partly due to the fact that in this city, as a rule, the best is not made of what is, taking it all round, the best and cheapest road-making material in existence. A macadamized road properly made and well maintained of good stone, is for ninety-nine times out of a hundred in town and country, the best road in the world. Exceptional traffic conditions make other materials more suitable for certain streets, and a macadamized road badly made, of soft stone and inadequately repaired, is an abomination anywhere.

LONDON DOCKS STRIKE
SIR Edward Clarke's report on the dock labourers strike decides five points in their favour, and two against them; one of the latter being the immediate cause of the strike. Thus, as the London Chronicle puts it, the investigation shows that while the strike was not justified, it has also revealed genuine grievances. It is to be feared that this is the explanation of most strikes which are attended with any considerable degree of success. As the dramatists say of the pit and gallery, the men are good judges but bad critics. Their reasons are wrong and their methods atrocious; but they have substantial grievances and it will be for those who criticise the reasons and the methods to help in ascertaining and redressing the genuine grievances. The idea of coercing the employers and the government, by starving the people of London (which would mean almost entirely the poor) is unworthy of civil-

ization. In time of war, martial law would make short work of the criminals who advocated such tactics.

THE BOMBASTIC SENATOR

NEVER did a man manage to cover himself with more ridicule than has Senator Smith in connection with the Titanic investigation at Washington. He has made himself the butt of the press at home and abroad. He has not even the excuse of being a presidential candidate, who is by international courtesy allowed the privilege of doing offensive and stupid things, to catch stupid votes. His extravagant statements and unintelligent questions have gone far to deprive the report of the Senate committee of any practical value. His bombast was in bad taste and he has destroyed the utility of what but for him might have been a very practical investigation.

CANADA AND IMPERIAL DEFENCE

THERE will be general satisfaction both in Canada and the United Kingdom over the statement that the Right Hon. Robert Borden, the Hon. J. D. Hazen and another cabinet minister not yet selected will sail for England on June 24th to confer with the Imperial Government on the naval defence question. While there has never been any serious doubt among sensible people as to the Premier's attitude on this question political rumours of cabinet dissensions have been industriously circulated, culminating in the statement that the visit to London had been abandoned for the present. The Asquith Government is evidently as strongly impressed to-day as the Opposition itself with the urgent necessity for preparation for defensive emergencies and very properly attaches the utmost importance to the whole Empire presenting a united front. The official decision to use a colonial Dreadnought in the North Sea was at once and correctly interpreted by the German press as a declaration of the unity of the Empire for Imperial Defence. The presence in good time of a Canadian naval contingent in the North Sea might go far to preserve the world's peace; not because of the actual strength it would add to the Royal Navy, but because of the moral force of a demonstration of Imperial unity; the formal declaration that in every dependency of the Empire there is adequate appreciation of the fact that, in Gilbertian language "The enemy of one, the enemy of all, is".