

The Proposed Royal Commission.

The judgment of the Court of Kings Bench that the Provincial Government has the right to appoint a Commission to enquire into the civic administration of Montreal without specific charges of mal-administration, obviously makes it unavoidable for the Government to appoint such a commission. To ask for such authority and then not exercise it, would be ridiculous. At the same time it is right to point out that the people of Montreal would not regard the appointment of such an investigation commission as a sufficient reason for deferring the creation of a civic administration board, which is a matter of far greater importance to the tax-payers. The two things are in no way incompatible with each other and indeed have no necessary connection with each other.

Employers Liability.

Abuses of the Employers' Liability law in France as in England threaten to bring about the repeal of legislation which while it is good in principle and purpose, is unjust and injurious to public interest in its common application. One result has been a great increase in the number of accidents due to the negligence of the employees and another has been that the most trifling accident causes the average employee to lay up for a minimum of ten days when the liability of the employer for damages commences. The law appears to be in its operation one of the most mischievous and irritating nuisances in the industrial world.

Water Filtration.

The Provincial Board of Health has issued a circular regarding the necessity for a system of water filtration for Montreal, and recommending that several systems should be examined. We believe that the citizens will approve of this idea, and that the two great water companies, the City of Montreal and Montreal Water & Power Company, should work together to this end. Of course, there is a difference of opinion as to whether the water is the cause of the typhoid epidemic, but there is no question that the citizens should get as pure water as possible.

An Elective School Board.

Dr. Finnie has introduced a bill into the Quebec Legislature to provide for the establishment of an elective Protestant School Commission for Montreal. The elective system has worked well in England, especially through the election of lady school commissioners who have a natural aptitude for superintending the education of children. How it would work in Montreal is problematical. Judging by the operation of some other elective institutions in this city the experiment is a risky one.

Canon Ellegood.

The Rev. Canon Ellegood, of St. James the Apostle, Montreal, who celebrated his eighty-fifth birthday on Tuesday, is one of the most picturesque as he is one of the most dignified and esteemed members of the Anglican clergy. Until quite recent years his athletic performances were the admiration of many much younger men. His motto might well have been "Solvitur ambulando" for he has solved the problem of long life by walking.

The Canadian Pacific Accident at Montreal.

One of the most extraordinary, as well as most distressing accidents, that ever occurred in the history of Canadian railroading was surely that which occurred at the Windsor terminus of the C. P. R., on Wednesday morning. The element of culpable negligence which is so common a feature of railway accidents seems to be remarkably absent. It is difficult to blame anybody in particular, or to see what could have been done to avert the disaster. The train hands at any rate are hardly open to reproach. Defects of construction or material in the new engine, there must have been and possibly also in the brakes. It is too early yet to form judgment on these points. Sympathy for the victims direct and indirect must be universal. Let us hope that the help to the survivors will be commensurate with the sympathy.

The Blue Ribbon of the St. Lawrence Route.

The "Corsican," of the Allan Line and the "Canada," of the Dominion Line will sail from Liverpool on April 22nd for Montreal. The "Empress of Ireland," of the Canadian Pacific Line, will sail on April 23rd for Quebec. It will be an interesting race from Liverpool to Rimouski. That three such magnificent steamers should be crossing the Atlantic at the same time en route for Canada, speaks well for the development of the passenger traffic between the Mother Country and the Dominion.

The Royal Victoria Life.

The Royal Victoria Life Insurance Company of Canada is asking Parliament for leave to change its name to the Royal Life Insurance Company of Canada; to reduce the minimum number of its directors from eleven to seven, and to modify the liability of its shareholders, so that after the re-issue of cancelled stock, the liability will be limited to the amount actually remaining unpaid on the shares held.

St. Patrick's Day.

The glorious "Seventeenth of Ireland" was celebrated with the usual fervour in Montreal. There may be some place in the world where the dear little Shamrock is sported with more enthusiasm than it is in Montreal, but wherever that place may be, it is certainly not in Ireland.



THERE WAS INTRODUCED in the New York legislature last week a bill inserting a new article in the insurance law in relation to the establishment of insurance departments by savings banks. It provides for the establishment of such departments by a vote of a two-thirds majority of the trustees present at a special meeting called for the purpose. These insurance departments are to be under the supervision of the State Department of Insurance and elaborate provisions are made for the regulation of their business.

The Massachusetts experience of savings bank insurance has not yet gone to show any very immediate response on the part of the working-class public.

THE OGILVIE MILLING COMPANY has declared the regular half-yearly dividend on the common stock of 3½ per cent, payable April, 1, to stockholders of record March 22.