

**Prominent Topics.**

**St. James Methodist Church.**

The reported purchase of Dorchester Street property, taken in connection with the rumoured hitch on the transfer of the St. James Methodist Church property is a suggestive coincidence. Of course, the Joseph property and adjoining properties on Dorchester Street would make an admirable site for a big railway station.

**Ontario Provincial Elections.**

The Ontario Provincial Elections are announced for December 11, and Sir James Whitney has issued his manifesto to the electors, calling attention to what his government has accomplished and declaring his policy. The manifesto is a dignified and modestly-worded statement. The Hon. A. G. Mackay has resigned the leadership of the Opposition and Mr. N. W. Rowell, K.C., of Toronto, has been chosen to succeed him.

**Cost of the Coal Strike.**

Mr. A. C. Flumerfelt, president of the International Coal & Coke Company of Alberta, and a director of the Eastern Townships Bank, who has been in Montreal this week estimates the cost of the western coal strike which has lasted 175 days at \$10,000,000. Seven thousand men ceased working in the mines. About 40 p.c. went to the harvest fields or the coast or left Canada; the others remained at the mines doing nothing. He gives the men great credit for refraining from the acts of violence which usually characterise these big strikes. The principle of the open-shop is maintained by the settlement which is to remain in force until the end of March, 1915.

**The Suit against the Steel Trust.**

The United States Government's suit against the Steel Trust is said to be the most sweeping anti-trust suit ever brought. Thirty-six subsidiary corporations are involved including the United States Steel Corporation, Carnegie Steel Company, Carnegie Company of New Jersey, Federal Steel Company, National Steel Company, American Steel & Wire Company of New Jersey, National Tube Company, Shelby Tube Company, American Tin Plate Company, American Sheet & Tin Plate Company, American Sheet Steel Company, American Steel Hoop Company, American Bridge Company, Lake Superior Consolidated Iron Mines, all of which were organized under the New Jersey laws, and the H. C. Frick Coke Company, Tennessee Coal, Iron & Railroad Company, and the Great Western Mining Company.

The individual defendants are J. Pierpont Morgan, John D. Rockefeller, Andrew Carnegie, Charles M. Schwab, George W. Perkins, E. H. Gary, John D.

Rockefeller, jr., Henry C. Frick, Charles Steele, James Gayley, William H. Moore, J. H. Moore, Edmund C. Converse, Percival Roberts, jr., Daniel G. Reid, Norman B. Ream, P. A. B. Widener and William J. Palmer.

The United States Steel Corporation declared its usual 1/4 per cent. quarterly dividend on the common stock on Monday, in spite of the suit and in spite of rumours that an injunction would be applied for against the payment of the dividend. The financial statement, which was for the third quarter of the year, ending September 30, showed earnings of \$29,522,725, with net earnings of \$22,716,157. These compare with \$28,108,520 and \$21,839,840 respectively for the quarter immediately preceding. For the corresponding quarter of 1910, earnings and net earnings were \$37,265,187 and \$31,048,725 respectively.

China's foreign trade in 1910 was, according to a statement issued by the United States Bureau of Manufacturers compiled from Chinese official sources, as follows:

	1909.	1910.
Imports . . . . .	\$262,436,003	\$302,084,593
Exports . . . . .	212,751,890	248,493,746

The trade with British possessions was divided as follows:

	Imports.	Exports.
United Kingdom . . . . .	\$46,294,312	\$12,287,841
Hong Kong . . . . .	111,881,548	70,941,709
British India . . . . .	28,682,742	2,958,839
Canada . . . . .	755,402	1,025,129
Australia . . . . .	427,879	403,487
Straits Settlements . . . . .	5,421,310	3,665,947
	\$193,463,193	\$91,282,952

The trade with other foreign countries was divided as follows:

	Imports.	Exports.
Japan . . . . .	\$50,983,002	\$40,197,826
United States . . . . .	16,181,670	21,068,462
Belgium . . . . .	7,536,823	4,267,976
Germany . . . . .	13,942,455	8,705,601
France . . . . .	1,801,598	25,336,270
Russia . . . . .	10,479,500	29,990,164

While the largest increase was with Japan, the British Empire still enjoys two-thirds of China's commerce.

Montreal Life Underwriters met last evening at Cooper's when there was a large attendance. Messrs. J. C. Tory (president) and George E. Williams (secretary) resigned in order to take similar positions in the Provincial Association. In succession, Mr. H. H. Kay (vice-president) was elected president, Mr. Champlain, vice-president and Mr. William King, secretary. In the absence of Mr. T. B. Macaulay, managing director, Mr. Woods, actuary of the Sun Life, gave an excellent address which was much appreciated. Out-of-town members present included Messrs. T. J. Parkes (Sherbrooke), Lachance and J. T. Chénard (Quebec) and Alexander (Richmond).