

PROMINENT TOPICS.

The Dominion Exhibition at Toronto closed on 12th inst. The attendance is stated to have been 510,000, an increase of 130,000 over previous year. One attraction which drew many thousands, the magnificent Victoria Jubilee gifts sent so kindly by His Majesty King Edward, will never again be seen in this country. The expenses involved in bringing them out, arranging them for exhibition, guarding them by soldiers, etc., amounted to \$7,000. The work of unpacking and placing them in glass cases occupied three weeks. Another specially powerful magnet was the Coldstream Guard's Band, who aroused the enthusiasm of the visitors to the highest pitch.

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The manufacturing exhibits are reported to us as having been a remarkably fine display of Canadian industries. The exhibitors were intensely gratified at the extensive orders they received for such goods as were on show, the buyers being from all parts of Canada and some from Great Britain. As to the Toronto hotels, restaurants, boarding houses, stores, the Exhibition was a bonanza. It is estimated that, not less than \$1,500,000 was spent in Toronto during the Exhibition, some think much more. It is gratifying to record that not a single complaint arose from visitors, or exhibitors. The Street Railway Company earned universal praise and dollars galore. Toronto is entitled to congratulations on the magnificent success of its 1903 Exhibition. Why cannot Montreal have an Exhibition worthy of its pre-eminence, its wealth, its business prestige?

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What can be said of the situation in the Balkans that is not stale as, "the remainder biscuit after a voyage?" There has been a "Balkan situation" closely akin to the present one for near upon a century. There will be one for as long as the Turks occupy a dominant position in, or adjoining lands where there is a Christian population. But for the jealousy of each other of the great Powers of Europe, and their joint jealousy and dread of Russia, the Balkan problem would have been solved generations ago. The difficulty is this, if Turkey is muzzled and manacled politically, as it must be to stop the massacre of Christians by fanatical Mohammedans, some other Power must occupy Constantinople. Whatever Power reigns there will hold the finest site in the world, strategically. That Power is bound to be Russia, if the Turks are ejected from Europe. But neither England, France, Germany, Austria nor Italy could see Russia on the Bosphorus without the gravest alarm. The peril to their interests in such a situation would be so great that they will suffer any moral humiliation, as

they are now doing rather than lift a finger to bring peace to Eastern Christians by suppressing the Turks. Before the Balkan situation is brightened by a civilized power being established in the frontiers of the Balkan States, there will almost inevitably be such a conflict as Europe has not seen since the Napoleonic wars.

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The decline in Consols brings them lower than the figure in March last. Why they have gone so low has been much discussed as there is nothing known to account for it. The most reasonable explanation is that Consols were bought up some time ago by a sanguine syndicate, which operated in hope of a rise. As the advance did not come they have had to realize their holdings and the market price has been lowered owing to the urgency of this syndicate to turn their Consols into cash. This may be so and doubtless some buyers will do well out of securing Consols at their present extraordinary price.

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Buffalo is giving an object lesson as to the accessibility of preventing the streets of a city being used by a railway company without the express permission for a specific service being granted by the Corporation. In Buffalo the local street railway is running steam railway freight cars through the streets to the great alarm and annoyance of the citizens. How should we like to see steam locomotives drawing freight cars along St. James, St. Catherine, or any of the thoroughfares of this city?

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Mr. Robert Archer, has been appointed to a seat on the Board of the City & District Bank, in succession to the late Hon. James O'Brien.

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Mr. Wm. Cassils McIntyre, senior partner of Messrs. McIntyre, Son & Co., the eminent dry goods merchants, has been elected a director of the Molsons Bank in succession to the late Mr. Finley. Mr. McIntyre is president of the Dominion Wollen Manufacturing Co., and a director of the Dominion Bridge Co., and Windsor Hotel Co. The appointment is highly approved in business circles.

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The Western Union insurance representatives held their annual meeting at the King Edward Hotel, Toronto, yesterday, for the first time in its history outside the United States. The Canadian Fire Underwriters' Association tendered them a luncheon on board the "Kingston." The Montreal managers present were: Messrs. G. F. C. Smith (L. & L. & G.), George Simpson (Royal), and E. P. Heaton (Guardian).