

lature to repeal the clause in the charter which now gives power to the corporation to tax manufacturers' machinery. In view of frequent successful burglaries in the city of late the council declares the police force incapable and asks the city council to reorganize it with special reference to the detective service. As to the telegraph line extension to Belle Isle, for which the council agitated, word has been received from the Minister of Public Works that the desired line will be completed by 1st June next.

The president's address at the meeting, where 220 members were present, quoting statistics to illustrate the growth of Canada's trade and the share Montreal has had in it, refers to the accumulating wealth of the country. He considers that inasmuch as the capital of Canadian banks has not appreciably increased during the past twenty-five years, though it has really been added to by surplus profits in the shape of "Rest," he does not see the necessity for enlarging the capital of banks now. "Bankers," he says, "are very much like merchants; if they have a very large capital, they are inclined and anxious to make good dividends for their shareholders. I think it is a mistake to increase the banking capital too fast. I think it is much better for the banks to avail themselves of the large deposits that are bearing interest." Considering that the United States send to Great Britain wheat, flour, corn and meat to the extent of \$255,000,000 a year, Mr. Smith urges that Canada improve her natural resources so as to compete for a large share of these exports. "I believe," he asserts "that the best field for Canada to extend its business is with the mother country." A significant statement was that made by Mr. Crathern, in response to some critical members who objected to the bargain with the Connors syndicate, that the first week he sat on the Harbor Commission it became evident to him that the Government was not prepared to go on with the harbor works in full, and the commissioners had to make the best bargain they could with the Connors syndicate. As to the promised deepening of the water at Port Colborne, Lake Erie, to 18 or 20 feet, he added: "This is the assurance of the Hon. the Minister of Public Works, who told us he had the money ready and was prepared to do the work at once."

When some four hundred members of the Toronto Board of Trade can be got to attend in person at the ballot-box on a given day for the purpose of voting to elect certain friends to office, it seems a pity that barely one-third the number can be induced to remain one hour for the proceedings of the annual meeting. On Tuesday last, brief reports of practical interest were submitted by the chairman of different sections of the board, and finally the address of the president was read. Valuable deliverances have been made on many similar occasions by previous presidents, and it is only due to President Kemp to say that his address well maintained the traditions of the office. His censures of freight discriminations by our railways only expressed the feelings of many a merchant and manufacturer in Toronto and the west of Ontario who has suffered and still suffers from such inequalities; while the concrete instances which he gave emphasized the difficulties of doing business on such unequal terms. A strong word was spoken, too, on the disadvantage under which Toronto business men labored who have to pay taxes on merchandise, that is to say on personalty, where a merchant in Montreal is assessed instead on rental value.

Referring to the approaching Trade Congress in London, Mr. Kemp mentioned the resolution forwarded by his Board suggesting a committee of delegates from various parts of the Empire which should frame something of

the nature of a commercial bond for its various parts. The Ottawa Board of Trade, it will be remembered, went a step further, and advised a small uniform duty, over and above local tariffs, on all importations from foreign countries, into every part of the British Empire. Such duty to be applied for the defence of the Empire and for other common Imperial purposes. This is the boldest and most definite suggestion we have yet seen towards the end in view, and merits patient consideration from those who would reach a tenable ground on which to act. The point was well made by Mr. Kemp in one of his strongly patriotic paragraphs, that to longer allow the inhabitants of those little islands known as the United Kingdom to be at the expense of the whole enormous outlay needed for the defense of a world-wide Empire, is not in accordance with the notions of fairness which should animate loyal subjects of Greater Britain.

LITTLE BILLS OWING BY RICH PEOPLE.

Much discomfort is suffered by artisans, shopkeepers and others by reason of the neglect of well-to-do people to pay their bills. Whether such failure to pay results from lapse of memory or lack of disposition on the part of the rich man who owes bills, the shopkeeper or the mechanic suffers. It is an unjust and often a cruel neglect. One cannot blame a grocer or a shoe dealer for crediting a man or a family whose means and standing perfectly justify either of them in so doing. And yet the shoe dealer or the grocer may be as much inconvenienced when his rich customers do not pay as if he had trusted "dead-beats" or moneyless people. We recall the case of a painter in poor circumstances in the Province of Quebec whose bill against a well-known resident was something like \$100. The resident went off to the New Orleans Carnival leaving the bill unpaid. Meantime the painter, for lack of its payment, was thrown into insolvency. A Toronto lady, not so long ago, owing a bill of \$800 to her dressmaker, paid \$200 on account and went to Europe. She was absent six months, and the dressmaker was put to great financial straits in the meantime. This dressmaker might have done as did a milliner in a Canadian town. One day a customer remarked while trying on a bonnet, "oh, by the way, Mrs. Dashaway is going to England next week." At this, the miliner turned quickly, and excusing herself, went down to the office of her lawyer. Coming back to the shop, she said to the trying-on lady: "Thank you for telling me about Mrs. Dashaway's movements. She has been promising me long enough to pay my bill, so now I have ordered my lawyer to serve her with a paper that will compel her to pay. *She shan't go to England on my money.*" And accordingly the bill was paid next day.

We have read with extreme interest the scathing terms in which a prominent New York banker, Mr. J. G. Cannon, spoke the other day before the board of trade of that city of the heartless carelessness of many rich people in such matters. He denounced people who were able to pay their bills and did not; and asserted the duty of paying the butcher, the grocer, the dressmaker, the doctor, the dentist, the local tradesmen—all who supply our daily needs and keep the household wheels turning. He said that the prompt payment of obligation to such creditors was a duty that was scandalously neglected, to the derangement of business, to the distress of individuals and the detriment of the whole community. Persons who hadn't the money to pay for their honest debts he sorrowed for, but persons who had the money and didn't pay he denounced. He told of the dressmaker who tried to throw