

Prominent Topics.

The Late Lt.-Col. Stevenson.

There was, we feel sure, no more universally popular man in Montreal than the late Lt.-Col. Stevenson. He could legitimately boast in his declining years that he had "done the state some service." As a soldier, as an alderman, as a public man in the broadest and best sense of the term he did much for the betterment of Montreal, for the improvement of the relations between the various sections of its population, and for making the city pleasant and attractive to its distinguished visitors. Thanks to the never-fading geniality of this most representative of our prominent citizens; big men from all over the world carried away happy recollections of Montreal. You could hardly mention Montreal to a man of any standing in New York, Chicago, or any other great American city, but he would bring up the name of Colonel Stevenson, and always with some friendly allusion or anecdote. A loyal friend, he had thousands of appreciative friends by whom he will be sincerely mourned. Few men have been more richly blessed with the saving grace of humour, or with the added grace which generally goes therewith, of good nature. His wit had much point, but no sting, and the smile which accompanied the flash of wit, was like a ray of sunshine. He could make a joke, or take a joke with equal satisfaction, even at his own expense, or at the expense of the Scotland he loved so well. Montreal is much the poorer through his loss.

Male Teachers for Boys.

We quite agree with Dr. Finnie that for boys over ten years of age male teachers are more desirable than female teachers. They naturally have more sympathy with boy nature both in work and in play and have a better influence in forming the characters of the boys and more influence in preserving discipline. The only difficulty is that with the present scale of salaries, it is hard to get enough men to devote themselves to the teaching profession. Most of the young male teachers regard the business as a stepping stone to something more profitable and as a means of livelihood while they are completing their own education.

A Peaceful Demonstration in Berlin.

There was a gigantic suffrage reform demonstration in Berlin on Sunday, in which 120,000 Socialists and Radicals took part. No damage was done and nobody was hurt, because the police having learned something from the public criticisms of their conduct in the celebrated "Demonstrative Stroll" not only refrained from interference, but kept themselves out of sight. It is naively recorded that the Police Commission who had sanctioned the meetings and in civilian clothes watched the demonstration was

surprised at the discipline and good order. No wonder. It must have been a revelation to him that a Berlin crowd could behave themselves better without than with police supervision.

Sleeping Car Rates. The Interstate Commerce Commission holds it to be unjust and unreasonable to charge the same rates for the upper berths in the sleeping cars as for the lower berths. There is certainly a decided preference among the travelling public for the lower berths. The uppers are seldom taken, if there is a lower left available. A reduction in the rates for the upper berths might tend to equalize the public taste in the matter. For a large proportion of the passengers, the upper berths are simply inaccessible. The report of the Commission also declares in a favour of a general reduction in sleeping car rates from St. Paul to the Pacific Coast. The question is bound to come up soon in the Eastern States and Canada.

Toronto Referendum.

Toronto has just had a Referendum. By a vote of 3,803 against 542 the Hospital by-law was carried and by a vote of 3,773 against 516 the waterworks by-law was carried. The Hospital by-law authorizes the city to issue \$250,000 debentures towards the cost of the Toronto General Hospital which had been already voted \$200,000. The estimated cost of the hospital is \$2,500,000 to which the University of Toronto has contributed \$600,000 and private benefactions \$950,000. The smallness of the total vote indicates the characteristic influence of electors in Toronto as in Montreal with regard to questions in which personal interests are absent.

Westmount Improvements.

The Westmount rate-payers on Saturday by a vote of 204 representing a valuation of \$3,943,815 against a vote of 43 representing a valuation of \$957,943 endorsed the by-law authorizing the Council to borrow \$550,000 for improvements. The minority included the Nuns who represents a valuation of \$635,000. The total vote shows considerable indifference on the part of the electors. Another by-law was passed authorizing the consolidation of a number of bonds from different loans remaining unissued or in the banks as security for loans. This carried by a majority of 172.

Large Land Deal.

One of the largest land deals in the history of the Kootenay has just been put through, J. L. Hirsch, of Nelson, purchasing from John B. Winlaw, a lumberman of Winlaw, 3,000 acres between Winlaw and Perry on the Slokan river.

The price paid is \$80,000. The tract is the full width of the valley and comprises the townsite of Winlaw. It is all arable and the greater part has been logged. It will be subdivided.