

The Transcontinental and Montreal.

With reference to the resolution passed some time ago by the Montreal Board of Trade, with regard to the importance of building the Grand Trunk Pacific Transcontinental Railway simultaneously from Montreal and from Quebec, the Council of the Board, to whom the matter was referred did not think it wise to embarrass the Grand Trunk Pacific with any resolution upon the matter. The reason assigned is that in its own interest the company would naturally connect with this city. This we have no doubt, is quite true, but what about the political aspect of the matter? It does seem strange that a Transcontinental railway which is for the benefit of the whole country should be permitted to give the go by to the metropolitan city and national port of the Dominion.

The Strike.

Although the longshoremen's strike was most deplorable and caused considerable loss to the port and to the community generally, we cannot refrain from congratulating the strikers upon their good behaviour, and also the police upon the excellent service they rendered. In the latter case we think it goes a long way to prove that proper precautions always save trouble. It would be well for some other places to follow Montreal's example in this particular.

The Streets.

The aldermen have taken a trip around the streets and find them "not so bad as represented." This, of course, is a question upon which a citizen really does not need to be an alderman in order to form a very decided opinion for himself. We are glad, however, to see that they have determined to do something about the streets, because it is the most important thing that can be done for Montreal. It is of no use minimizing the bad state of affairs.

Prince Fushimi.

It is to be hoped that the civic and social reception of His Imperial Highness Prince Fushimi, G.C.B., will be worthy of the city and its distinguished guest. Not only are the relations between England and Japan most cordial and mutually advantageous, but there is every probability of a great development of business between Japan and Canada.

San Francisco's Troubles.

San Francisco which has had its share of troubles in earthquake and fire now seems to be in the hands of the mob, and a committee has been formed of seventy-five of the most influential business men of the city to devise means for preserving law and order.

St. James Street Improvements.

The demolition of the Temple Building to make room for the splendid new banking building of the Canadian Bank of Commerce is going on with creditable rapidity, and the erection of the new bank will unquestionably be one of the finest additions to Montreal's architecture that has been seen for a long time. The Royal Bank's new building on St. James Street is also beginning to take a shape which gives the public some idea of the character of what promises to be a unique and most imposing structure. The marble which is being used for the front is greatly admired.

The Sydney Route.

There is once more considerable talk about the Sydney steamship route and considerable enthusiasm among people who have not much practical knowledge on the subject. The best thing Canadians can do is to devote their attention to the rapid and complete development of the Montreal route.

Insurance Items

THE SURETY UNDERWRITERS' ASSOCIATION at its April meeting decided to work out a reinsurance plan. At a more recent meeting held in New York an agreement was entered into. According to the official announcement a committee will be selected, to whom all propositions exceeding 10 p.c. of capital and surplus will be submitted for reinsurance. It is understood that this committee will be composed of the managing surety underwriters of each company or an alternate in case the manager is unable to respond to a call for a meeting personally.

THE ROYAL & QUEEN INSURANCE COMPANIES' head offices, Montreal, have been removed from the ground floor to the 6th floor in the Royal building. The city offices will remain on the ground floor. The change has been necessitated by the want of greater accommodation for the staff of both companies. The entire floor has been remodelled and fitted up, and appears spacious enough for the transaction of the large business of both companies. The ample light is an especial feature in connection with the change. The life department of the Royal has also been domiciled on the 6th floor.

OWNERS OF BUILDINGS DYNAMITED or damaged by the shock of dynamite exploded for the purpose of stopping the spread of flames at San Francisco are entitled to insurance according to a decision rendered by Superior Judge Hunt in the suits of Florin H. Brandenstein against the Royal Exchange and Hartford Fire insurance companies.

THE JAMAICA CO-OPERATIVE FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY has rejected the invitation of the British companies to contest Kingston earthquake claimants, and will adjust claims on a compromise basis.

Further Insurance Items on pages 706 and 711.