

Prominent Topics.

The Late Mr. H. Castle Scott.

By the death of Mr. H. Castle Scott, Montreal and the Canadian financial world lose a notable citizen. The founder of the Stock Exchange firm of H. C. Scott & Co., whose success is well known, Mr. Castle Scott was much more than the successful business man. A cultivated musician, a lover of literature and the arts, a philanthropist whose deeds of charity were done in secret, and a sympathetic friend, he touched life at many points, and adorned it.

The Meurling Bequest.

There have been many suggestions as to the purpose for which this legacy shall be used. It should be for something of permanent character and should not be divided up, or it will fail to commemorate the donor. One of the city's most crying needs to-day, is for some provision for the treatment of cases of tuberculosis. The ravages of this disease in Montreal are very serious and constantly growing. Something will have to be done by the city in this connection. Why not use the Meurling bequest as a nucleus?

Montreal's Death Rate.

There has been an appreciable falling off in the death rate of Montreal. In 1911 it was 21.39 per thousand or 1.56 per thousand less than in 1909. The rate still looks high, but in fairness a number of facts must be taken into consideration. There is not only the high birth rate, which involves a high death rate, but Montreal is the centre to which a great number of hopeless cases are sent from a wide area of country. There are homes here to which are sent thousands of infants which have little chance of survival, and there are great hospitals which receive cases, most of which are serious, from places far distant. The death rate among the permanent adult population is probably no higher than that of other great cities.

The British Government Insurance Act.

A few weeks ago THE CHRONICLE pointed out that the British Government's insurance scheme, was open to the same objection as the plan of taking the bull by the horns instead of by the tail — "You can't leave go when you want to." This point has just been recognised by Mr. Bonar Law. During the debate the new leader of the Opposition said he did not believe the Act would ever come into operation. The Premier, thereupon, asked, "Why not? Is the right hon. gentleman going to repeal the Insurance Act when he comes into office?" Mr. Bonar Law nodded affirmatively and said, "Yes, certainly." When the tumult of ironical cheering caused by this admission subsided, Mr. Asquith exclaimed: "So this is the first plank in the Tory programme reor-

ganized under its new leader; the Insurance Act is to be repealed. Truly we are getting on."

Subsequently, Mr. Law wrote a letter to the press in which he said:

After the adjournment of the House it was brought to my notice that my interjection while the Prime Minister was speaking was understood to mean that I undertook, on behalf of our party, without qualification, to repeal the Insurance Act.

That was not my meaning. My understanding of the Prime Minister's question was, "If you come into power now will you repeal the Insurance Act?" and my answer was, "Certainly."

If the Opposition had the opportunity of dealing with the subject of insurance at once the repeal of the present Act would be necessary in order that a thorough reconsideration of its provisions might be made.

But it is, I should have supposed, evident that if the Act were actually in operation, or if serious commitments have been made in anticipation by bodies interested, the subject could only be dealt with by drastic amendments of the existing Act.

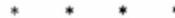
It is stated that over 100,000 applications have already been received for jobs under the Act.

A Canada Life Souvenir.

The Canada Life has issued a handsome souvenir edition of its monthly publication, giving an account of the golden jubilee of its president, Hon. George A. Cox, who for fifty years has been associated with the Canada Life. Excellently got up, this special number will, we imagine, be widely appreciated by Canada Life field men. One of the illustrations is an interesting portrait of Senator Cox, at the age of 21, when he first joined the Company and commenced writing insurance in a district of Eastern Ontario, which under his direction and energy soon became the largest of all the Canada Life branches. We notice that at the banquet tendered to Senator Cox on February 1, Mr. Alexander Bruce, K.C., who has been for many years the company's solicitor, mentioned that in all its history the Canada Life has only been sued three times by claimants, and in every one of these the position of the company has been upheld by the courts. A record of this kind, like that of Senator Cox, will require some beating.



NEW PRESIDENT OF THE NORTH AMERICAN LIFE. — At a meeting of the board of directors of the North American Life Assurance Company, held in Toronto, on Wednesday, Mr. Edward Gurney was unanimously elected president, and Mr. L. Goldman, managing director and first vice-president. No other changes were made in the directorate.



The problem of Staff Pensions for Life Offices was taken up for discussion at the recent meeting of the Actuaries Club, Toronto, and a very instructive paper was given on the subject by Mr. F. Sanderson, Actuary of the Canada Life. The pension schemes of Canadian, British and American companies were dealt with, and some valuable suggestions given. Mr. J. B. Hall, of the Dominion Life, and Mr. Grant recently with the Insurance Department at Ottawa, also contributed some interesting information on the subject.