

which will be big enough for two railway trains to run through abreast, there is need for immediate financing.

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PRESIDENT PALMA has had to issue or at any rate has issued a decree suspending all constitutional rights and practically proclaiming martial law in three of the Provinces of Cuba. The incident illustrates the traditional difficulty of establishing a republic in a country in which there are no republicans. The only argument the masses understand, is the only one to which they have been accustomed, physical force. The United States could give Cuba freedom, it could not give the unfortunate Cubans fitness for freedom. That is a plant of slow growth.

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SOME INSURANCE MANAGERS seem to know how to take care of their own interests when drawing the contracts between themselves and their companies, at least this is to be inferred from some of the evidence taken before the insurance commission recently.

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A GERMAN TORPEDO BOAT flotilla is reported to have made a raid upon the English coast and got away without being discovered by the British fleet. That is not alarming. No troops were landed. Von Moltke boasted that he knew fourteen ways of landing a German army in England—but did not know one way of getting it out again.

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THE ALDERMANIC COMMITTEE appointed to consider the best method of increasing the city's revenue has decided to invite suggestions from the Board of Trade, the Chambre de Commerce, and the Real Estate Association. The idea is a good one. Nearly everyone in authority admits the necessity for more revenue and nearly everyone shirks the responsibility of adding to the burden of any particular class of tax-payers.

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ALDERMAN PAYETTE FAVOURS an increase in the real estate tax and sooner or later this plan will have to be adopted.

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THE SUGGESTION MADE by Alderman Lapointe, that proprietors should pay for improvements in front of their own property, has much to commend it.

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BISHOP TURNER, of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, of the United States, is in New York, trying to interest capital in a scheme for solving the negro problem by shipping the coloured citizens from Atlanta, Ga., direct to the west coast of Africa. According to the last census the coloured

population of the United States was 8,840,388 and increasing at the rate of 1,370,348 in the decade. The scheme will call for a lot of ships and a lot of capital.

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PREMIER ROBLIN addressing a meeting at Winnipeg made the following interesting announcement:

"The Provincial Government has decided that after the first of January, 1907, every school of this Province must have a Union Jack flying during school hours. The Government will provide the flag and it will be the duty of the trustees to replace any such flag that may have become useless. The rule of the department will be that any school-teacher or board of trustees that neglects or refuses to float a Union Jack in school hours will forfeit their right to the public grant. I trust in making this move we will not be misunderstood. We welcome the various peoples that come to our Province, who are born under foreign flags, who speak a different tongue, and we give them the benefit of our civil laws; endow them with civil rights; the benefit of our criminal law; the free education of the schools, all of which are the outcome of the civilizations and benefits that follows the Union Jack, and I think the man who comes from a foreign country in order to better his circumstances, and objects to perpetuating the glories of our flag, who declines to have his children infused with British patriotism, is a man that is undesirable."

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WESTERN CANADA is filling so rapidly with immigrants from foreign countries that it is eminently wise and proper to systematically inculcate respect for the British flag, and the school house is the right place, at which to begin.

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MR. F. H. MATHEWSON, president of the Montreal Board of Trade, at the first meeting of the Council of Board since the holidays, which was held yesterday, presented the report of the delegates to the Sixth Congress of Chambers of Commerce of the Empire.

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THE LONDON "STATIST" anticipates a heavy demand upon the Bank of England for gold from the United States and elsewhere. The bank, however, is in a position to meet a considerable demands, its reserve this week being 27 $\frac{3}{4}$ millions sterling.

BRITISH COLUMBIA AGENCY CORPORATION. LTD.

The British Columbia Agency Corporation, Ltd., with Head Office, Vancouver, B.C., has obtained a Dominion charter.

The corporation state that they will undertake financial and other agency business. We are informed that the company has already received the agency of several important concerns.