

will be heard above the confusion of recollections of Manila and Santiago, admonishing the people that war, despite the declamations of Doctor Chauncey Depew, will never "set the wheels of industry in motion," except for a few fitful revolutions. When the shrill clarion of war calls men from the pursuits of peaceful industry, the nation has to pay for their lost time.

It is difficult to account for such divergent views about the condition of business in the neighbouring Republic; except that the brilliant talker at Chicago and his political opponents are both blinded by party prejudice. The Clearing House returns indicate commercial activity in the principal cities of the United States, and the trade outlook is decidedly bright. At the same time, it must not be forgotten that these signs of improvement in business were quite noticeable before the war, and it must be evident to the independent thinker in New York and Chicago that the war did not create but simply retarded the "good times," about which the advocates of war, glorious war, are now talking.

MONTREAL CITY AND ITS GOVERNMENT.

(Some thoughts about the affairs of the great and growing Metropolis of Canada.)

If good management and great regularity in the appropriation and employment of money really increase the wealth, comfort and happiness of individuals, the same must be the case with cities and States. The question of the hour for the people of Montreal to consider is how best to obtain the revenue necessary to the maintenance of the growing metropolis of the Dominion, and also how to allot and direct the application of said revenue with economy and method.

The publication of the following table is well calculated to set every serious-minded citizen thinking of the growth of Montreal, and the pleasing increase in the taxable value of property.

The startling fact is that the annual expenditure exceeds the revenue by an amount which makes it incumbent upon every citizen, even the most apathetic and indifferent about public affairs, to ask himself if

A MORE EQUITABLE CONTRIBUTION OF TAXES is not absolutely necessary for the reputation and welfare of Montreal.

The mechanism of Montreal's civic affairs may be in some respects faulty, and more economy in their administration possible; but, even if the imperfections disappear and the best of government be introduced, the revenues of Montreal are insufficient to ensure freedom from increased debt and the proper maintenance of the city. The devising of new methods of raising revenue sufficient to enable the city fathers, in homely language, to

PAY AS THEY GO

will be a delicate task, yet we believe that a committee of citizens could be chosen capable of framing a system of taxation bearing so equitably upon all classes as to ensure its ready acceptance as a just and necessary measure of relief from the present difficulty. The existing system contains much that is very commendable, has the merit of being reasonably fair and just, and, with some exceptions, compares favorably with that of any city on the continent. But, in conformity with the growth of Montreal, changes must be made, and we are now compelled to consider the necessity for a more perfect organization, and also to grapple with the serious and delicate question of tax exemption, the amount of property exempted having reached the extraordinary total of \$37,000,000. It is useless to waste time in trying to find a new source of revenue by imposing arbitrary class taxes. No special tax should, as a rule, be imposed upon any business or individual, save when some special privilege or benefit is conferred beyond that given to the ordinary citizen and taxpayer.

A THIRTY YEARS' HISTORY IN FIGURES.

Year.	Valuation of taxable property.	Debt.	Population.	Debt per capital.	Revenue.	Exemptions.
1868	\$ 39,175,000	\$ 5,157,000	102,000	\$ 46.6	\$ 778,288	\$ 6,017,000
1878	71,300,000	10,408,000	135,000	73.19	1,533,000	14,657,000
1888	89,634,000	11,270,000	198,000	56.80	2,095,000	19,750,000
1898	140,000,000	26,232,000	300,000	90.00	2,921,925	37,000,000

But the gratification must be clouded when study of the following figures accentuates one startling fact: Revenue and Expenditure, 1897.

Sources of Revenue.	Amount.	Expenditures.	Amount.
Real Estate	1,678,770	Interest	1,100,000
Water Rates	652,056	Damages, Lawyers'	
Business Tax	268,783	Fees Costs, etc.	100,000
Markets	77,599	Schools	320,000
Licenses	79,555	Prisoners, Insane	
Sundries	165,161	Orphans	60,000
			\$1,580,000
		Bal. for Administration	1,341,935
Total	\$2,921,925	Total	\$2,921,925

EXEMPTION FROM TAXATION.

The difficulty in dealing with church property and religious and educational institutions is a serious one to grapple with, and we thoroughly appreciate this fact. Yet we decline to believe that the obstacles are insurmountable, or that any great opposition to the necessary legislation will have to be encountered. Thirty years ago, exempt property was valued at \$6,000,000; to-day it is valued at \$37,000,000, about 25 p.c. of the total taxable property of the metropolis of Canada. Of course, this includes the parks, government buildings, city hall and other municipal property. But we should be sorry to subscribe to the somewhat general belief that sensible men interested