



# The Chronicle

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**KING'S BIRTHDAY.** **M**ANY happy returns of the day, to His Most Gracious Majesty, King George V. At his own request there is no formal celebration this year, but next year and for many years to come, his subjects hope to make up for the omission.

**EIGHT NEW WARDS FOR MONTREAL.** **T**HE Private Bills' Committee of the Legislative Council has adopted clauses in the Montreal Bill, annexing eight suburban municipalities. These are: Notre Dame de Grace; St. Paul; Ahuntsic; Emard; Longue Pointe; Bordeaux; Cote des Neiges and Rosemount. That the terms in every case are satisfactory, would be too much to say; but there is no risk in adding that they are more satisfactory than they would be likely to be at any future date. The longer these annexations are deferred, the more they will cost the city. Every step towards suburban annexation is the signal for all kinds of grabs by all kinds of grabbers. It is only a question of time when every inch of the Island must be annexed. The sooner the better for all concerned. The only regrettable feature of the present annexation is that it involves eight new wards, and therefore eight new aldermen. It is as hard to keep that City Council within reasonable numbers as it is to keep a good man down.

**DUAL LANGUAGE LEGISLATION.** **T**HERE is something very ludicrous about Quebec's Dual Language Legislation. When Mr. Lavergne's bill is passed, every public utilities company will be compelled, not simply to print all tickets, bills of lading, notices and other documents in both French and English, which would not be unreasonable, but to print every single copy of each of these documents in both languages. That a man should prefer to get a bill of lading or a notice, in his own language is intelligible, but why on earth should he want it in two languages? At the same time that this onerous obligation is being forced upon the railway companies and other companies, any man in the province is liable to be served with a writ or other legal document printed or written in a

language he does not understand. The ignoring or misunderstanding of the legal document may involve the recipient in serious pains and penalties. This practice has been nothing less than a public scandal for many years, and has been the cause of real hardship and inconvenience. Mr. Lavergne's bill in its present shape benefits nobody but the printers.

**KING EDWARD'S STATUE.** **T**HE public meeting called by the Acting Mayor at the Montreal Board of Trade on Wednesday, was one of the finest and most representative gatherings held in Montreal for a long time. The object of the meeting, to consider the erection of a monument to King Edward VII., was one that could hardly fail to bring out a large and enthusiastic meeting. The unanimity of opinion as to details was as remarkable as the agreement upon the main question. Before the meeting much difference of opinion was publicly expressed as to the best form for the memorial to take. At the meeting everyone seemed to shrink from striking a single discordant note as though it would have been sacrilege. Sir Thomas Shaughnessy expressed the true public sentiment when he said that the memorial should not be a rich man's monument, but that the poor man's dollar should be as welcome as the biggest subscription. He and the other speakers also struck a responsive chord when they argued for a statue, something purely personal to the King, and permanent in character rather than some institution of a utilitarian character which would be regarded in future as having only a secondary and incidental reference to Edward, the Peace-maker. A strong committee was appointed to consider the question of the design, the site and the ways and means. Suggestions from any source will, we are sure, be heartily welcomed. Our own feeling is that the best site in Montreal is not too good for King Edward's Monument, and that this is particularly a case for the combination of public and private effort. The ideal spot for the monument would be at the new entrance to Mount Royal Park, already authorized by the Legislature. The city should build a marble arch at the Park gates, and citizens should erect thereon the finest statue of the late King that Canadian art can produce, and Montreal money can buy.