MEXICAN POWER-TRAMS. DISPUTE.

Those favouring the lease of the Mexican Light & Power Co. to the Mexican Tramways Co. did not have plain sailing at Wednesday's meeting of the Power shareholders. While claiming to represent 102,000 out of 160,000 shares, the lease advocates found themselves confronted by the ruling of the chairman, Sir Edward Clouston, Bart., that their resolution looking to that end was out of order. The adjournment of the meeting sine die means that the fight will be renewed at the annual meeting in February. Even though the plan then carry, the end may be not yet. Minority shareholders, with Sir George Drummond and Mr. C. H. Cahan, of the Power Co. in the lead, are showing determination in contesting the desirability and legality of the proposed lease.

THE CITY AND THE MONTREAL LIGHT, HEAT & POWER CO.

The City Council, on Wednesday, after discussing the report of the experts appointed to recommend a basis of arbitration between the City and the Montreal Light, Heat & Power Company, passed a resolution adopting a modus vivendi, under which it is proposed that the Company shall continue the street lighting, pending the result of the arbitration. The arrangement, which will no doubt be accepted by the Company, provides for the temporary continuation of the contract, which expired on December 31st.

CALENDARS FOR 1909.

THE CHRONICLE is in receipt of an unusually large number of calendars for the new year; which are characterized for the most past by marked artistic merit or practical utility. They will be acknowledged and reviewed in detail in our next issue.

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THE APPOINTMENT OF MR. FRED. A. WILLIAMS, A.I.A., to be general manager as well as Actuary of La Nacional Compania de Seguros sobre la Vida S.A., Mexico, has been learned of with pleasure by his wide circle of insurance acquaintances in Canada. It is well for Mexican life insurance interests that the companies are coming more and more to realize the necessity of being officered by men grounded in the science and practice of sound underwriting.

Owing to the Principal Vaults of the San Francisco Mint being full of gold coin, the Treasury Department has just completed the removal of \$225,500,000 of gold coin from San Francisco to the Denver Mint, a distance of a thousand miles. The transfer was commenced on August 15th, and finished on December 19th, and is said to be the largest transfer of money ever made by the department.

PORTO RICO RAILWAY COMPANY'S earnings follow for November:

1907. 1908. Increase.
Gross earnings, Nov. ... \$30,947.28 \$32,745.00 \$1,797.72
Net "12.852.60 18,636.00 5,783.40

FOR ELEVEN (11) MONTHS ENDING NOVEMBER 30.

Gross earnings \$319,498 11 \$342,611.38 \$23.203 27

Nef 132 436.98 153,769.91 21,332 93

Insurance Items.

IN THE CHRONICLE OF 24TH ULT. it was stated that Mr. O. H. Jackman had been appointed inspector for the Eastern Townships for the North American Life. This announcement, while indicating correctly the work in which Mr. Jackman will be engaged, was not entirely correct. The exact arrangement is that to-day Mr. Jackman becomes associated with the firm of W. S. Dresser & Co. (in business in Sherbrooke since 1883) for some years back managers for the North American Life in the Eastern Townships. Mr. Jackman, who is an energetic and successful insurance solicitor, will take charge of the field work of the life insurance branch of the firm's business, giving his chief attention to that work.

THE GUELPH ASSOCIATION OF LIFE UNDER-WRITERS has adopted the rule that "in cases of competition, once an application has been signed, the matter shall be considered as closed for the time being, and that three weeks shall be allowed from the date of the signing of such application in which to have the prospective insurer examined by the doctor of the company to which application has been made. In the event of the medical examination not being completed inside of the said three weeks, the case shall be considered open again, and the agent of any other company shall be justified in trying to procure another application on behalf of the company which he represents."

MR. W. O. NARES, Winnipeg, of the firm of Robinson & Black, spent a few days in the city this week. He reports a prosperous year's business for the various insurance companies, which his firm represents. Mr. Nares states that a considerable amount of English capital has been attracted to Winnipeg lately in connection with the elevator business. Notably the Scottish Co-operative Company with a capital of about \$15,000,000 has erected no less than six elevators during the past year.

Manitoba's Alert Fire Commissioner, Mr. A. Lindback, is doing yeoman service in arousing public attention to the necessity for better building construction from the standpoint of fire prevention. He has drafted a bill for introduction in the provincial legislature, with a view to regulating the matter in so far as governmental enactment can do so. The bill certainly should give rise to a helpful discussion, whatever modifications may be made in it before it becomes law.

THE PROMOTION OF C. E. ROBERTSON, of the head office of the Canada Life Assurance Company, to be cashier of that company's branch office at Cincinnati, was announced a few days since. His office associates presented him with a well-appointed travelling bag as evidence of their interest in his good fortune. The Canada Life's management has firm beliefs as to the desirability of sending well-trained men into its branch offices.

AN IMPORTANT INSURANCE AGENCY AMALGAMATION is announced from Toronto, by which a leading insurance brokerage firm joins forces with Ioseph Murphy, under the firm name of Murphy, Love, Hamilton & Bascom. This strong firm will represent the New York Underwriters' Agency, the German-American and the Springfield.