

Prominent Topics.

Inaugurating the Hydro-Electric in Toronto.

On Tuesday Sir James Whitney officially inaugurated the Hydro-Electric Power in Toronto in the presence of forty or fifty thousand people who gathered as near the City Hall as they could get. The crowd was wild with excitement and enthusiasm, but although there were some dangerous moments, no serious accidents occurred.

Street Names.

We agree with our contemporary, the Montreal Gazette, that the authorities who are studying street names, should go slowly in making changes, where changes are not necessary to prevent confusion. Not only is an unnecessary change of street names an inconvenience to the public generally, but where numerous loans and mortgages have been made on property in the streets affected the change is a positive nuisance to business and professional men.

Street Paving.

Property owners on St. Antoine Street are asking that the matter of the paving of this street should be postponed for another year. While they are quite willing to pay a proportion of the cost of this work, they do not see why they should be charged with the whole amount. THE CHRONICLE has always maintained that paving of this kind should only be done when desired by a majority, in number and in value, of the proprietors who have to foot the bill, and that the city should bear a proportion of the cost. And in the case of important thoroughfares, like Craig street or St. James street, the proportion paid by the city should be large.

Death of Lt.-Gov. Pelletier

We regret to have to record the death of Sir C. A. Pelletier, Lieutenant-Governor of Quebec, who died at Spencer Wood on Saturday. The sad event was not unexpected, His Honour having been dangerously ill for a long time. Sir Charles had had a distinguished career both at the bar and in politics and saw some active military service in the Trent affair, and the Fenian raid. He was speaker of the Senate from 1896 to 1901, and a Judge of the Superior Court from 1905 to 1908, when he retired from the bench to accept the lieutenant-governorship.

Canadian Light & Power Company.

On Monday a deputation waited upon Sir Wilfrid Laurier in connection with the application of the Canadian Light & Power Company, for authority to construct dams, dykes, etc., in the St. Lawrence from Clark's Island to Coteau du Lac. The application was opposed on the ground that the project would interfere with navigation and trespass upon the vested rights of the other companies. Messrs. A. E. Robert and J. L. Perron, K.C., appeared for the

Canadian Power Company; Eugene Lafleur, K.C.; Duncan McCormick, K.C., and John Low, for the Montreal Cotton Company; C. J. Fleet, K.C., and Alex. Falconer, K.C., for the Beauharnois Power Company; F. H. Markey, K.C., and E. Lafleur, K.C., for the Richelieu & Ontario Company; Wallace Nesbitt, K.C., for the Cedar Rapids Company; and Francis King, for the Dominion Marine Association; Mr. Henry Holgate, Mr. John Kennedy and several other engineers were present.

It was urged for the Richelieu & Ontario Navigation Company that inland navigation would be seriously interfered with, for the Montreal Cotton Company, that their water power would be greatly reduced; and for the Marine Association that the works would be detrimental to the navigation of the St. Lawrence. It was also argued that as the variation in the level of Lake St. Francis would affect the American shore, the question must be regarded as an international one.

The Premier promised that a Commission would be appointed to look into the whole subject.

In our judgment no matter what other interests may be involved the supreme consideration should be the interests of St. Lawrence navigation.

May Day Socialistic Freaks.

The socialists of Montreal are a feeble folk and their leaders must feel rather grateful to the police for giving their May Day demonstration a factitious importance by seizing their red flags. The red flag represents no particular principle in Canada save the discontent of a certain class with things in general. Without attempts at official repression, which are always easy to represent as "persecution," socialism would die a speedy and natural death. There are political evils and scandals in Canada, but they are not inherent in the constitution, they are as foreign to the constitution as socialism itself. What the constitution needs is men to defend its principles, not agitators to run amuck among them, and to destroy the only real protection of the masses against selfish interests. Wholesale and reckless denunciations of evils, which have no existence in Canada and, therefore, do not need revolutionary methods to abolish them, would be laughed down if there were no attempts at forcible repression. England may have gone a little too far in its unbounded hospitality, its right of asylum to men who have made the Continent of Europe too hot to hold them, and who show no gratitude for these favours, but that is no reason why we should err in the other direction. In Canada revolutionists are insignificant in number, because the control of the country is absolutely in the hands of the people, whenever they choose to exercise it. If they do not choose to use their unlimited political power in their own interests that is entirely their own fault and they have nobody but themselves to blame. There is plenty of legitimate work for the police to do, possibly less spectacular than seizing red flags, but more useful.