

One of the most extraordinary resolutions ever passed by a legislative body was carried on 7th ult. by the Legislative Bills Committee, Quebec. The following motion was proposed by Hon. Dr. Guerin and agreed to:

"The Mayor of Montreal, in his discretion, may suspend the proceedings in any case brought before the Recorder's Court, or order the release of the accused before judgment."

The Mayor of Montreal, if this resolution goes into effect, will be given higher power than any enjoyed by His Majesty, King Edward, or any ever vested on a British sovereign. He will have authority higher than any Court of Law. The Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, the Supreme Court of the Empire, could not, of his own motion, suspend the trial of a prisoner duly indicted before a Criminal Court, nor could any recognized authority, short of an Act of Parliament, "order the release of the accused before judgment." Such things are done in several semi-barbarous South American Republics, not by the secular powers, but by officials claiming to wield higher authority than that of the State. It is to be regretted that the passage of this motion was reported in the papers, for, when the incident is read in Great Britain and on the continent of Europe it will elicit scornful comments on the state of Canadian civilization.

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A much to be regretted dispute has continued for some time between the contractors for work done in the harbour during the season of navigation and the men employed. The labour required is the loading and unloading of vessels, with other services of a like nature. While not of the ordinarily called, "skilled labour" class, such as that of a trained art san this work calls for a certain amount of experience and deftness in handling goods. The work is not continuous, save at broken periods, and the hours are irregular, as immediately a steamer hauls alongside her wharf, day or night, it is desirable to unload and reload as quickly as possible. The men are only wanted from May to November; in the intervening months some go down to Baltimore and other ports, but most of them are wholly or partially unemployed for several months. Such conditions entitle these men to consideration, but for them to be so obstinate as to compel the contractors to send to England for 1,000 wharf labourers is deplorable. The result will be an addition to the class in this city whose condition is that of absolute pauperism. Before the men are fetched from England every effort should be made to adjust the dispute.

A Bill is before the House of Commons, Ottawa, the principal clause of which respecting the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, provides that the Company being first authorized so to do by the votes of at least two-thirds of the shareholders present or represented at an annual meeting or at a special meeting of shareholders duly called for the purpose, may, from time to time, issue consolidated debenture stock in lieu of bonds which the Company is authorized to issue, and to the same amount, and for the purpose of satisfying or acquiring bonds of the Company, the issue of which has been authorized by the Parliament of Canada. The annual charge by way of interest upon the consolidated debenture stock so to be issued for the satisfaction or acquisition of bonds shall not exceed that borne by the bonds so to be satisfied or acquired.

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Two banks are seeking incorporation, the Bank of Winnipeg with a capital of \$1,000,000 and the Bank of Canada, capital \$1,000,000. The promoters of the first reside in Winnipeg and those of the other are citizens of London, Ontario.

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Economy run mad is an appropriate comment on what is being done in some streets on this city ostensibly to repair sidewalks. Rotten boards are removed and the gap is filled up with ashes and dirt. The meanest backwoods village would be ashamed of such a system of repairing sidewalks as is practiced in this metropolis.

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The death of Mr. John Crawford this week removes one of the links between old and new Canada. He had reached the age of 90 years, yet so vigorous was his constitution that it is only a short time since he was driving his dog cart looking as jaunty and lively as a young man. Mr. Crawford was born in Ireland in 1814, where his father was a land owner. On settling in this city he entered mercantile life in the service of the Gillespie firm. He went into business as a private banker and financial agent, where his experience was gained that was evident in his annual criticisms of the statements of banks of which he was a shareholder. These were always highly conservative and at times his criticisms were more caustic than managers cared for. Yet he was always a gentleman in courtesy and carried the air of one who was well bred and freared in the upper rank of society. Mr. Crawford was an enthusiastic fox-hunter, a lover and good judge of horses, and a successful farmer, his land being near to the Lachine Rapids. As a picturesque survival of a type nearly extinct, Mr. John Crawford will long be remembered with honour.