

H. S. H. PRINCE LOUIS OF BATTENBERG IN MONTREAL.—Not for the first time Prince Louis has visited this city. When here before he was a midshipman, now he is a Rear-Admiral in command of a squadron of warships. He was very hospitably entertained while in the city, as also were a contingent of the seamen under his command. Had Russian Admirals been as wise and humane as Prince Louis, probably the fight in the sea of Japan would have been less inglorious, and there would have been no mutiny at Odessa, for he is beloved by his sailors and their highest ambition is to merit his approval and praise. It is pleasant to know that the American navy is preparing to give a grand reception to the British squadron next month.

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THE PRINTERS' PROPOSED STRIKE.—The International Association of Typographers, has decided to strike on 1st January next, to secure the adoption of 8 hours as the standard time for a day's work. They are to be commended for giving 4 months' notice of this radical movement. The Association of Master Printers has taken up this challenge and announced their determination to refuse the 8 hours' demand. There is a prospect of a strike that has possibilities of very grave disturbance to trade. If the men are obstinate there will be a stop put to the issue of many newspapers. The output of business literature and current documents needed for merchants and others will be hampered during the strike. The cost of printing will be increased, for it is not rational to suppose that any printer in a day of 8 hours will accomplish as much work as in the ordinary day of 9 or more hours, although he will demand the same wages for the shorter day as the longer. Type-setters and pressmen, as a rule, are very intelligent artisans; their recent Conference at Toronto was conducted with admirable skill and strict attention to the business on hand.

Between now and New Year's Day it is to be hoped they will think over what is involved in a strike that will be a serious obstruction to other forms of business, that will increase the cost of all printed documents, and that will not be supported by public sympathy.

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TWO NEW LIEUTENANT-GOVERNORS.—The Hon. A. E. Forget has been appointed Lt.-Governor of the Province of Saskatchewan, and Mr. G. H. V. Bulyea, Lt.-Governor of Alberta. The three senators for each of these new provinces will probably be announced at the ceremonies of inauguration next month, though some think the elections will be held first. Both provinces commence their independent career under the happiest auspices. Their development and enrichment is a mere question of time.

THE DOMINION IRON & STEEL COMPANY has received an order from the Government for 25,000 tons of steel rails for use on the International. The price, \$32.50 per ton, is regarded enough to yield a large profit. On the 21st inst. the company shipped 16 carloads of rails and bullets from Sydney.

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A NOVELTY IN BANK OFFICES.—The Canadian Bank of Commerce, with characteristic alertness, has opened a branch at Cobalt, Ont., the new mining centre, the business of which is conducted in a tent. This is a decidedly novel feature in banking, though conditions somewhat similar existed when the Yukon branch banks was opened.

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PUNISHMENT OF BURGLARS.—Numerous burglaries have been committed recently in this city. In one case the miscreants damaged the furniture and fittings in every room, even destroying a lady's dresses. One was caught when escaping, a second when parading on Sherbrooke St., wearing his victim's clothes! This week the residence of the Hon. Senator Mackay was raided by burglars in the daytime, so audacious have these scoundrels become by so few being punished and then so lightly as to be no terror to law-breakers. A burglar quite recently was given one year in jail, only half what many are sentenced to for much less heinous crimes. Justice and the protection of homes call for the severe punishment of such dangerous marauders, who, as a rule, enter houses prepared to commit murder, if needful to prevent capture.

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SIX MONTHS' FOREIGN TRADE EXHIBIT.—The British Board of Trade has published the following statistics for past half year:

| | 1st ½ year. 1904. | 1st ½ year. 1905. |
|--------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Imports. | \$ | \$ |
| Belgium..... | 265,530,000 | 279,590,000 |
| France..... | 467,095,000 | 476,560,000 |
| United States..... | 529,520,000 | 615,395,000 |
| Great Britain..... | 1,174,450,000 | 1,165,345,000 |
| Exports. | | |
| Belgium..... | 195,440,000 | 202,850,000 |
| France..... | 423,260,000 | 454,615,000 |
| United States..... | 687,500,000 | 759,425,000 |
| Great Britain..... | 720,585,000 | 778,530,000 |

The imports into Great Britain in past half year exceeded the exports by \$453,865,000, which represented payments made by foreign creditors for interest and by foreigners for services. The exports of the United States exceeded the imports by \$144,030,000 which represents payments made to foreign creditors and for services. England's and America's foreign trade work the reverse way to each other and to England's advantage.