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THE QUEBEC LEGISLATURE AND MONTREAL **T**HE generosity of the Quebec Legislature in giving away other people's money surpasses imagination. On Wednesday the Montreal City Council passed a resolution protesting against one of these beneficent actions. Not satisfied with imposing upon Montreal the privilege of paying an additional \$25,000 a year to the Technical School, which is, no doubt, an excellent institution, they now propose to force Montreal to pay \$60,000 for bridges. Montreal might very properly get the power to vote these grants, but those who have to pay, should surely have something to say about whether they want to pay or not. Some day Montreal will make such a kick for her rights, that the rest of the province will be astonished.

TERMS OF DEMOCRACY. **C**OLONEL Roosevelt's remarks at Chicago about the Kings he has met, were in execrable taste. He was treated with marked courtesy by some of the greatest European monarchs, as a compliment to the country of which he had been the chief magistrate. To sneer at them in order to appeal to the anti-monarchical vote was the cheapest kind of stump oratory and was unworthy of an ex-president of the United States. To say that he was expressing himself in the terms of democracy is a poor compliment to the democracy.

THE HANDY REVOLVER. **A** Rimouski man has got nineteen months imprisonment through the stupid habit of carrying a revolver. Incidentally he had killed a man, whom he did not know, with whom he had no quarrel and against whom he had no designs and who had just landed from a steamer. The prisoner was taking part in a political demonstration and could not express his convictions without firing a revolver, probably without intending to hurt anybody. The punishment is not too severe either in law or in justice. The law of England holds that a man who while committing any illegal act kills another is guilty of murder. Justice makes it impossible to treat such fatal follies lightly. The court took a merciful view of the crime, the results of which were no doubt largely accidental. But people do not carry

loaded revolvers by accident; they carry them through sheer stupidity and they must expect to be held severely to account for the consequences of their folly. It must be remembered that a revolver is absolutely useless except for the purpose of taking human life and in nine hundred and ninety-nine cases out of a thousand, the owner has cause to regret bitterly its use in this direction.

THE COAL STRIKE. **T**HE Miners Federation will probably effect, what the British Government has utterly failed to do, by means of the referendum about to be taken. The simple question submitted to the miners is: "Are you in favour of resuming work pending the settlement of the minimum rates of wages in the various grades by the district boards to be appointed under the Coal Mines Minimum Wage Act?"

There is every reason to believe that a large majority will vote in the affirmative. The privation suffered by thousands, including the miners themselves, and their families forbids the contrary assumption. There is nothing to be gained by prolonging the starvation of the miners and the demoralization of British trade by continuing the strike, while the district boards appointed under the Minimum Wage Act are discussing the rate of wages. That the Act itself will have any permanent effect in alleviating the labour troubles, which are now chronic, with occasional acute crises is in the highest degree improbable. The ministers themselves appear to take a hopeless view of the situation. They are not in agreement with each other and their supporters are all at sixes and sevens. The strike has shown how interdependent are all the industries and all classes in Great Britain, and it has also shown the absolute necessity of the firm application of some basic principles in dealing with labour troubles. For instance, the right of a man to labour is as sacred as the right of a man to strike, and any government which allows the men who want to work to be terrorised by the men who want to strike, has simply abdicated the first essential of government. The United Kingdom has been very near to anarchy, largely through the indirect encouragement given to a reckless social propaganda by vote-catching politicians.