

MONTREAL SERIOUSLY IMPERILED DUE TO STRIKE OF WATERWORKS EMPLOYEES

It is greatly to be deprecated that present conditions existing in Montreal will permit public servants, occupying such important and responsible positions as that occupied by men who have charge of the waterworks (and depended upon for supplying the community with an ample supply of water), to endanger the life of the city by such a desperate course as that taken by the employees of the Montreal waterworks on New Year's Eve. These men (numbering some 220) deserted their posts without any warning to the public. Such an act can only be designated as criminal, and in committing such an outrage, both the men themselves and the labour union involved in the strike, must have sufficient intelligence to know that their abrupt action in mid-winter, has placed the city in deadly peril from fire and sickness, together with all the misery and inconvenience, consequent on the stoppage of the water supply. It would appear that there have been many powers at work influencing the strikers. Every credit is due to those who are endeavouring to bring about a return to normal conditions, more especially to Mr. Decary, Chairman of the Administrative Commissioners, handicapped as they have been by sympathizers of the strikers who have not only been draining the system but encouraging citizens to do the same by wilfully spreading false reports.

Without entering into the justice or otherwise of the men's demands for increased pay, these men before imperilling the lives and property of the citizens by leaving the waterworks unmanned should have given the public, at least, some hours notice, and their failure to give warning of the impending danger, by as much publicity as possible, has accentuated a most dastardly act, in addition to alienating any sympathy, they might otherwise obtain from the public in their demands for increased pay.

As we go to press we learn that the waterworks conditions are now practically normal.

BELATED RESOLUTION OF THE MONTREAL BOARD OF TRADE

The Council of the Montreal Board of Trade, at its regular meeting, held on the 7th instant, adopted a resolution, pledging its support to the Administrative Commissioners in the latter's efforts to maintain an adequate water supply, in view of the strike which occurred on New Year's Eve. While giving the president and members of this august body due credit for their sagacity in passing a resolution which they could not very well avoid doing, considerable surprise is expressed that a week has been allowed to elapse, during which time the Board of Trade neglected to take any

active interest in the waterworks strike, by calling a public meeting, the vital importance of doing so would undoubtedly have had a considerable moral effect, as the belated resolution was adopted on the 7th instant, which states in part: That the Council of the Montreal Board of Trade has learned with deep regret and astonishment that practically all the regular employees of the Montreal Waterworks, including not only the pumping operators, but also the outside staff of the pumping service, abandoned their work on New Year's Eve, the resulting lack of water placing the city in peril of fire and pestilence, and causing citizens untold suffering, and great inconvenience."

It would be interesting to learn when the gentlemen responsible for this "better late than never" resolution first heard of the strike.

RE QUEBEC CITY FIRE PROTECTION.

The 40-inch main broke on the 5th inst., about 9 o'clock, at a point known as Beaumont Road, outside the city limits. The break is said to be serious and will probably take two or three days to be repaired and in full operation. In the meantime, the city is being supplied by the 30-inch and 18-inch pipes. Gauges on these mains, at No. 8 Fire Station, at 3.30 p.m., the 5th instant, showed a pressure of 122 pounds and 46 pounds respectively. As we go to press we learn that the break has been repaired.

ROYAL AND LIVERPOOL & LONDON & GLOBE FUSION CONSUMMATED

The shareholders of the Liverpool & London & Globe Insurance Company, having accepted the terms offered by the Royal for the fusion of the two companies, the merger is now consummated, and a meeting of the Royal Insurance Company's shareholders was called to increase the capital from £3,000,000 to £6,000,000, in £5 shares, whereof £531,000 worth will go to the Liverpool & London & Globe shareholders.

TRAFFIC RETURNS

Canadian Pacific Railway				
Year to date	1917	1918	1919	Increase
No. 30	\$136,010,000	\$138,420,000	\$156,390,000	\$17,970,000
Week ending	1917	1918	1919	Increase
Dec. 7	3,289,000	3,480,000	3,797,000	317,000
Dec. 14	2,908,000	3,780,000	3,935,000	155,000
Dec. 21		3,731,000	3,715,000	Dec. 16,000
Dec. 31		4,613,000	5,403,000	790,000
Grand Trunk Railway				
Year to date	1917	1918	1919	Increase
Nov. 30	\$53,960,414	\$53,272,039	\$61,546,136	\$8,274,096
Week ending	1917	1918	1919	Increase
Dec. 7	\$31,442			
Canadian National Railways				
Year to date	1917	1918	1919	Increase
Nov. 30	\$	\$72,809,715	\$82,698,389	\$9,888,674
Week ending	1917	1918	1919	Increase
Dec. 7	\$	1,714,173	2,070,372	356,199
Dec. 14		1,800,902	1,918,932	118,030
Dec. 21		2,095,401	2,002,317	Dec. 91,084
Dec. 31		2,679,493	2,836,861	157,368