

ance they will be as well off. It is true, the tendency of the times is towards amalgamation, and the small banks now in existence in the Maritime Provinces may decide that it is more to their interest to unite than to be merged in some of the large institutions in which their identity would be completely lost. As far as the outsider can see, the projected alliance is yet some distance off, but circumstances may bring it about at any time.

There was great excitement throughout New Brunswick for a few days, due to the report that a 12-foot seam of coal had been discovered by Provincial Government employees, working with a drill in the vicinity of the Grand Lake coal fields. The story turns out, unfortunately, to be untrue. The only coal so far discovered is on the surface; while the geological survey men say that this is all there is, the New Brunswick Government intends to have the field thoroughly explored.

St. John is a dirty city these days—that is, dirtier than usual, for no street cleaning is being done. The men employed at this work have formed a union and have struck for a uniform wage of \$1.50 per day. The city says it is willing to pay good men this wage, but that among the street laborers are many old men, practically unfit for work, who have been paid \$1 per day, as it was considered more humane and more economical to give them work than to keep them in the Alms' House. The men say that all must get a uniform wage, and so the streets go dirty. To-day there is a rumor that the city firemen are going to demand more pay on threats of a strike if it is not forthcoming. The strike of the street laborers has tied up some important civic work, including extensive improvements to the water service.

Within the past few days, city bakers have advanced the price of bread—a two-pound loaf is the standard—to 7 cents. There is comment over this in view of the fact that within a very short period many of the bakers have tendered for bread for public institutions at from 4 to 5 cents per loaf.

The Murray & Gregory sawmill at St. John destroyed by fire on Saturday with three tenement houses and more than a million feet of lumber, will be replaced by a larger and much more modern mill. A portable mill is to be installed at once on the site, for the firm have a large supply of logs on hand, and with this they will manufacture lumber for the building of the new mill, and also for the general market. There is some doubt whether or not Mr. W. H. Murray, head of the firm, will again enter active business life. If he decides to retire, a joint stock company will be formed, and he will be one of the capitalists. In any event, it may be deemed advisable to become incorporated.

Mr. T. A. Wakeling, for twenty-six years in charge of the gentlemen's outfitting department of Messrs. Manchester, Robertson & Allison, has severed his connection with that house and gone West. It is understood he will start in business in Salt Lake City.

St. John is now enjoying the Saturday half-holiday. Practically all the businesses in the city, excepting the grocery stores and drug stores, now close at 1 o'clock on Saturdays, so that Friday evening has become the big shopping evening of the week. The idea has been growing in favor year by year, but last Saturday was the first that the retail dry goods and such stores joined in, and a July and August agreement has been signed, so that the scheme will have a fair trial. Even the newspapers are in line, and under the new arrangement several thousand clerks get off for recreation. So far as can be seen, there is no financial loss.

St. John, New Brunswick, 7th July. * * *

THE LATE MR. A. F. GAULT.

The death of Mr. Gault removes a prominent figure from the business circles of Montreal. Few men were better known, in dry goods and textile manufacturing especially; and to know him was to conceive an admiration for his business and social qualities. He had passed half a century of business life, almost the whole of it in Montreal. In that

city he arrived about 1850, a boy, from Strabane in Ireland, and was trained in the dry goods warehouse of Walter Macfarlane. It would be about 1855 that he began, as a principal, in the firm of Gault, Stevenson & Co., wholesale dry goods. A few years later he and his brother, Robert L. Gault, formed the firm of Gault Brothers. Then by the addition of Mr. Samuel Finley, and later of some younger members, the firm became Gault Bros. & Co., and then, as at present, the Gault Brothers Company, Limited. At all stages of its career, it may be said, the firm's reputation for being "straight" and for being generous, was as wide as the Dominion. Indeed they were often too generous—sold retail people too freely and made bad debts in consequence. However, the firm prospered, having great faith in the future of the country, great enterprise, a large volume of trade, and the confidence of their bankers, and is one of the great dry goods houses of Canada.

Andrew Gault was framed on no narrow scale. His mind was broad, and he had a large grasp of business affairs. This is what made him a valued councillor on many boards of manufactories, etc. And he made friends of his customers and was a friend to any and everyone in his employ, who asked his confidence. He was one of the leaders in our textile industries, and believed in the ability of Canada to build and foster cotton and woolen mills and to carry them on to the striking variety of product which they display to-day. Steadfast, as well as sagacious, he held to his opinion, in good times and bad times, and was placed upon the board of some of our largest textile concerns. And his services were often sought in other directions, where, talent and rectitude were valued. Of the Bank of Montreal he has been a director for many years; and we can think of but one among the weekly assemblage of able men who sit around that board who would be more missed by his colleagues than he; for Mr. Gault was an engaging man, with a warmth of heart and a benignity of disposition that never left him. Upon his charities and his recent large gifts to church and other schemes for good, it is not necessary to dwell. These, let us hope, wisely administered, will long flourish while he sleeps in dust. His seventy years have well become him; and he has left to those who mourn him the memory of a man who had friends because verily he showed himself friendly.

Mr. Gault was president of the Montreal Cotton Company, of the Globe Woolen Mills Company, of the Dominion Cotton Mills Company, of the Campbellford Woolen Mills Company and of the Canadian Colored Cotton Mills Company. He was a member of the Montreal Board of Trade, a director of the Liverpool, London & Globe Insurance Company, of the Royal Victoria Insurance Company and of the Bank of Montreal, and vice-president of the Manufacturers' Life Insurance Company, besides being interested in many other enterprises.

RAILROAD ACCOMMODATIONS.

We appreciate the strides which have been made in the providing of comforts for passengers travelling on the railroads of this country in recent years. We appreciate, too, the fact that railroad officials, as a rule, show a praiseworthy desire to rectify such errors of omission or of commission, as may be pointed out for their attention. Every now and then, however—perhaps more often than that vague combination of adverbs might imply—we hear people grumbling at the treatment they have received, not perhaps at the hands of the officials themselves, but in regard to the service rendered. And sometimes these "grumbles" are legitimate enough. For example, take the case of the Grand Trunk train from Stratford to Toronto, technically known, we understand, as "No. 6." On last Saturday the only accommodation which a certain friend of ours could obtain was on a car which might, perhaps, have been considered new say fifty years ago, but which looked as if it had been recently gathered from the scrap heap. Even on this dilapidated specimen of a public carrier, many passengers had to