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FRONTAGE TAX FOR LOCAL IMPROVEMENTS. THE Civic Legislation Committee is considering a proposition, that in future all permanent street works shall be paid for, one third by the city and two thirds by the proprietors of real estate on the streets improved. The suggestion is that the tax on the proprietors be levied in the form of an annual assessment of so much per foot frontage. This is practically the system which has been in vogue in Chicago and most of the other big American cities as well as in Toronto and other Canadian cities, for many years, and seems to work well. The incidence of taxation is certainly fairer than a system which makes the proprietors in one section of the city pay for the improvements in another section. At this particular juncture in Montreal's civic affairs, however, the proposition requires careful consideration, simply because so many improvements have already been made in certain sections of the city, at the expense of other sections. It would hardly be fair to adopt a system of local taxation for local improvements until matters have been evened up a little.

LABOUR LEGISLATION. A DEPUTATION of Montreal labour men is in Quebec to interview Sir Lomer Gouin regarding the Workmen's Compensation Act and the question of legislation to secure uniformity in the recognition of the seventh day rest. In connection with the latter they will be supported by the Lord's Day Alliance. While it is impossible for the working classes to be too jealous of their rights in connection with the day of rest, experience shows that it is quite possible to take too narrow a view regarding the subject and this is especially true in any attempt to secure uniformity of obligation in a very mixed community. The great desideratum for the working class as a whole is the ensuring of the absolute right of every man, woman and child to one day's rest in every seven. That is the great charter of the liberties of the sons of toil. The narrow view which insists upon uniformity in practice, for Jew and Gentile, is altogether foreign to the spirit of the civic law, and it is the spirit rather than the letter of the law which ensures the greatest rest and recreation to the greatest number. The Sunday work of one man may save hundreds from toil on the day of rest; but the man who sometimes has to work on Sundays to save others from working, should get his one day of rest in every seven all the same. Probably the greatest sufferers in this connec-

tion are the railway and especially street railway employees. To compel or even to allow them to work year in and year out seven days a week is both unchristian and inhuman.

FORESTRY CONVENTION. HIS Excellency, the Governor General opened the Dominion Forestry Convention at Quebec, on Wednesday. Earl Grey has always shown a strong and most commendable interest in the subject of forest conservation. The work of the Convention is chiefly educational, but it has the support of some of the most influential men in the Dominion, and must soon lead to energetic action by parliament and the provincial legislatures. An old proverb says that "You never miss the water 'till the well runs dry." This seems to be particularly applicable to the public attitude on the forestry question. In the United States the well has run pretty nearly dry and the agitation of the American people, especially the newspaper men, is great. They seem to attach more importance to the forests of Canada than do the Canadians who own them. Truth to tell, however, they are not so anxious to conserve them as to exploit them for their own benefit and for the conservation of the few trees they have left in the United States. This kind of thing should awaken our people to a realization of the enormous value of Canada's greatest asset. The lumber crop is not like the wheat crop; you cannot renew it every year. When it is gone it will be a long time gone, and with it will go many other sources of Canadian wealth. The destruction of the forest not only means the destruction of the lumber industry, it means the injury of agriculture and the ruin of water power.

NEW MONTREAL LOANS. THE City Council of Montreal has authorized three new loans, one of \$5,000,000 for underground conduits; one of \$1,500,000 for a filtration plant; and one of \$1,000,000 in connection with street paving, sewers, sidewalks and other permanent works; \$7,500,000 in all. The loans will not be issued for some time, there being no pressing necessity for the money. Before any loan is issued, a careful estimate of the cost of the proposed conduits and revenue to be derived therefrom should be made. What would be the object of purchasing the miles of conduits already constructed by some companies?