

burdensome in effect as to seriously endanger the position of New York as a financial centre. A movement of exchange equivalent to two cents on one hundred dollars has often caused the over-sea shipment of gold to the extent of millions of dollars. There seems to be no reason why the same burden on stock transfers might not produce a similar effect on the business of buying and selling stocks.

Evidence was adduced that most injurious results had resulted from a similar tax in other countries.

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THE NORTHWEST SCHOOL QUESTION is still the leading political topic of the hour. We hope, however, a solution, satisfactory to all, will be arrived at. In the meantime it is desirable that the subject be discussed in a statesmanlike manner, and having due regard to the future peaceable prosperity of the provinces, and their educational interests.

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BY THE DEMISE OF EX-MAYOR O. A. HOWLAND, Toronto, loses one of its brightest and most public spirited citizens, and Canada loses a loyal, devoted and gifted son. His death, which occurred at his residence in Toronto, on the 9th inst., will be regretted, not only by his immediate friends, but by a wide circle of admirers.

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EARLY CLOSING BY-LAW.—The Montreal Civic early closing by-law has gone into force, and it is stated that it has been generally observed by a large number of the storekeepers. Leaving aside the legal aspect of it, this by-law will, we hope, have a good moral effect.

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MUNICIPAL OWNERSHIP.—Another instance of the folly of Municipal ownership has been demonstrated in connection with the Village of La Grange. This village, which is a suburb of Chicago, has decided by a vote of five to one to sell its Electric Light & Water Plant to a private Corporation. Since, the village owned the Plant, it is said to have deteriorated to the extent of \$50,000.

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MR. J. A. ROBERTSON has been appointed secretary of the Toronto Board of Fire Underwriters. This gentleman received his fire insurance training in the office of the Royal, and came out here some years ago to make a position with the Canadian branch. He subsequently became associated with the United Fire, which ten years ago was taken over by the Western, and since that time he has filled the position of inspector for the Province of Quebec, for that company. Mr. Robertson succeeds Mr. J. C. McCuaig, who for many years occupied the position of secretary of the Toronto Board, and who has resigned. Mr. Robertson is considered a capable and conscientious underwriter, and it would be difficult to select a man more suitable for the position.

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THE LOW LEVEL PUMPING STATION of this city has been visited by the Committee of the Council of the Board of Trade, in connection with the question of fire protection and insurance rates, which has been

agitating the citizens for some time. The committee was composed of Messrs. F. H. Mathewson, vice-president of the Board of Trade; G. F. C. Smith, Alexander Hebert, R. M. Ballantyne, and J. J. McGill. These gentlemen did not seem to be favourably impressed with the condition of affairs. For instance, they found the building was lighted by coal oil lamps, whereas they allege that electric lighting could be introduced at a very small expense. They seem to think that many improvements should be made forthwith, and these need not necessarily cost a large amount of money. Another pump and new boilers are requisite. We understand that a pump has already been ordered.

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WATER WORKS ITEMS.—When a deputation visited the water works the lack of a spare pump and boiler was noticed and this is regarded as a very serious matter, for were an accident to occur the supply of water would be interrupted.

The volume of water pumped yearly is stated to be over 8 thousand millions of gallons. An offer was made from an electrical company to do the pumping at \$5 per million gallons, the cost being about \$40,000 per annum, the city to find the apparatus, which would not be costly.

The proposition to take a pipe out into the St. Lawrence and erect a pumping station at a cost of over \$2,000,000 is a very large undertaking, and it might entail greater expenditure as well as have drawbacks to contend with in connection with winter conditions.

The present cost of pumping by steam is about \$40,000 yearly, which does not include what is pumped by water power, the relative proportions being 5 thousand millions of gallons by steam and 3 thousand millions of gallons by water power.

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WINNIPEG'S SANITATION.—An eminent authority, after making a scientific examination of Winnipeg's water supply, reports that the prevalence of typhoid in that city is owing to the water being polluted, and the local sanitation defective. A new city, growing as fast as Winnipeg, is in a difficult position in these matters, as it is impossible for provision to be made so far a head of population as to meet the expanded and expanding requirements. The city authorities, who have not been neglectful, may be relied upon to do all in their power to improve the water supply and establish a better sewerage system.

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TORONTO EXTENDS ITS BORDERS.—The City of Toronto is to be extended to take in a large area of the valuable land and houses on its northern border, where are several of the most costly residences in that district. The new area will yield a considerable revenue from city taxes, but the outlay for city conveniences, as water, sewers, lighting, roadways, police and fire protection will probably effect this new revenue for a length of time. The change will effect rates of fire insurance in the area added to the city. The Hon. George Brown, thirty years predicted that the centre of Toronto would, in half a century, probably be near to the south border of this new part of Toronto.