Local News.

In bringing in their verdict of "accidental death" at the inquest on the body of James Macdonald, killed by a street car, the jury recommended that conductors be put on all one horse cars and also that guards be placed on the front wheels of the cars They also suggested that a responsible man be appointed to examine all cars before they are sent out for public service These safeguards could easily be taken if the road were worked by the city, but it is useless to expect that any monopoly will do so Frank Smith cares nothing how many people are killed or maimed by the cars so long as his millions keep rolling up, neither will any other corporation

On Saturday last the property owners voted on a money by-law to provide $127,000 for a new engine house pumping well and ten million gallon engine. The vote was the lightest in the municipal history of this city, the total vote polled being 1,105 Of this 697 votes were cast against the by-law and 408 for it To show the apathy of the owners of real estate, it may be mentioned that in some sub-divisions, with 600 and 600 qualified ratepayers, only thirty and forty votes were cast. The defeat of the by-law will not prevent the erection of the new engine, a contract for which has already been let The rate of taxation will, however, be increased by half a mill for the raising of the money.

The many friends of Mr. S T Wood, the president of the Single Tax Association of this city, will be glad to learn that he has secured a position on the parliamentary reporting staff of the Ottawa *Free Press*. Mr. Wood is a valuable acquisition to Canadian journalism, as he is thoroughly versed in poltico-economical subjects, from the progressive point of view He is an earnest student of the social problem in its varied phases, and as a reader and thinker will bring to the service of any live newspaper a fund of information and ideas of much greater value than those of the ordinary newspaper man. We wish Mr. Wood every success in the new career he has chosen, and in which he is in every respect well adapted to rise.

The monthly meeting of the Toronto Letter Carriers Association was held on Monday evening in Richmond Hall. Favorable reports were submitted regarding the petition to the Dominion Government for an increase in salaries. Under the present regulations the carriers commence service at $360 a year, with an annual increase of $30, until the maximum sum of $600 is reached. They ask that a maximum of $800 be reached after five years of service. Third-class clerks start on $400 a year with an annual increase of $40, and the carriers claim that they should be on an equal footing The organization of the letter carriers of the Dominion was considered, and a committee was appointed to formulate a scheme to that effect. A deputation of Post-office clerks, comprising Messrs. Boddy, Curran and Milligan, addressed the meeting, advocating the formation of a benefit association for all Post-office employees.

The regular meeting of the Eight Hour League was held in Richmond Hall on Tuesday, 5th inst. Several new members were received. The announcement of an address by Mr. Titus to be given at the next monthly meeting, June 2nd, was made, the subject being "The Best Method of obtaining Labor and Social Reforms," including an outline of the coming system of legislation by the people, known as the Swiss "Referendum." A large audience is expected. A resolution was passed in reference to the alleged intention of a street railway strike, that "in the opinion of this League the granting of shorter hours of labor to the street railway employees will only be assured by the complete control of the railway by the city." A motion was carried appoving the object of the Trades and Labor Council endeavoring to form an executive council of Labor Reformers from the representative leaders in the various reformative bodies. The League wishes to call the attention of a certain Factory Inspector and also a prominent paper bag and box factory to the flaring violation of the laws relating to the locking of doors during working hours, also the fact that doors should open outwards. Workers, prepare for the Eight Hour demonstration: make it the holiday of the year

The C. J. Smith Coal Co, has removed its head office to much more commodious and lightsome premises at No. 58 King street east, where Mr. Noel Marshall, the able manager, has displayed much taste in the internal arrangement and furnishing. Under his management every step of the company has been one of progress, and it is safe to predict that he will keep his great business in the very front rank of coal merchants, and it is now without exception the largest dealer in wood in the Dominion of Canada The company has the best facilities and can guarantee satisfaction

CASUAL COMMENTS.

I was in the Division court room on Monday last while Judge Moison was holding his usual monthly reception of delinquent debtors, and took advantage of the opportunity to note the class of people who had been invited to pay their respects and if possible their debts. They nearly all looked as though the world hadn't used them any too well, and like men who had to work hard for all they did get. Yet there they were being worried and badgered, and compelled to lose a half day's pay in a good many cases, while this was being done Of course it was their own fault, they shouldn't have got into debt, you say. I know they shouldn't, but are not many of us whose means are limited, compelled to contract a debt perhaps through sickness or lack of work, which we intend to pay just as soon as we get the money. Perhaps we are longer getting work than we expected, or the sickness continues, then we can't catch up, and first thing you know you're with the rest at this same monthly reception. The judge orders you to pay so much a month including costs, and you pay it for a month or two Then the money really has to go to fill some of the many holes for it, and up you come again, costs $2.75 This continues, costs all the time piling up, the debt is not paid, you lose a half day's pay every time, and the lawyers get the money.

This is how it is if you are poor and the debt is small, but if you are only fortunate enough to owe over two hundred dollars and have got your property in your wife's name, its different—totally different. Then you are summoned to appear at the Court of Assize, your case goes before a jury—who are likely to give you more justice than law—you are able to employ counsel and even though you lose your case, only a judgment stands against you, which you evade by being careful to let your wife continue to own the property.

This are big and little debtors treated, and yet there is not one law for the rich and another for the poor in Canada. I say it is a crying shame that men whose only misfortune is their poverty, whose only fault, in this particular, is that they don t owe large enough amounts, should be bullied and terrorized into contributing to the support of their persecutors That is just what it amounts to, for nearly all the payments wrung out of them go to pay costs and lawyers' fees, as many of those who use the machine can testify. I say it is a shame that this should be, while the gilded debtor is gently handled with kid gloves, for fear his serenity of luxurious living should be disturbed and his valuable time wasted. The Division Court must go, and the sooner it is legally impossible to collect a debt the better it will be for those who owe and are owed.

So the boys are to be driven out of the parks. They are ruining the grass, and grass you know is much more valuable than boys. True the boys may be ruined, but what matter so long as the parks look pretty. Parks must be parks, and if boys will be boys let them play in the lanes or gutters, anywhere so long as they "keep off the grass." What though they be driven to loaf about the streets, to associate with others who like that sort of thing, to form habits which eventually lead them to become recruits to that class already too large, who fill the police cells and later on the gaols, we have the grass. This is the result of depriving the boys of healthful amusement, and will a little "mee green grass" be accounted a sufficient offset to it? Hardly, and yet it looks as though we thought so. The civic authorities won't provide playgrounds for them, the teachers don't appear to be interested, and the Church says it's not its business to provide secular amusements. The boys are told they mustn't play, they can go on the first day of the week to church and Sunday school, to school five days, but if they dare to make use of the one day left as it seems natural to them to do, the police take them in charge. Truly hard lines have fallen upon them and if we cannot contrive in some way to make room for the boy, and give him a chance to become a healthful and manly man, he had better be abolished as an institution.

Up in Rosedale Sunday afternoon, under the shadow of a great sign, "Trespassers will be Prosecuted. Ald Hallam was addressing a gathering of the "bone and sinew," presumably upon the question of the right of individuals to erect such signs. I could not get near enough to hear the worthy alderman's flow of eloquence, but the gestures were grand, and the impression upon his hearers marked As he warmed to his subject I could distinguish the word "dollar," coming out strongly and forcibly and evidently carrying all before it as it usually does (Probably he was protesting against the possibility of being fined a dollar and costs for coming inside a fence.) More than this I cannot truthfully report, and failing to find the reporters table I moved on to inspect and mourn over the Belt Line's destruction of the beauties of Rosedale's lovely ravines.

That useless undertaking is "being pushed rapidly forward," to quote the prospectus, and soon the owners of farm lands situate at convenient points will be able to organize excursions to examine the stake they have in the country This will no doubt be of immense advantage to the community, and will amply compensate us for the desecration of the graves of the dead, and the despoiling of some of the loveliest spots around the city Then the opportunity it affords the Grand Trunk to grasp another slice of the peoples' property is another advantage. Others might be mentioned, but the many benefits accruing—to the owners of lots—from its construction, have been ably pointed out by the daily press at so much a line. As you can readily perceive I neither own lots nor want advertising so I look at it from a slightly different point of view

The second letter of "an English lady" on Toronto's Snobocracy reminds me of a slight inconsistency between her letters and the Labor Advocate's platform. They ridicule the pretentions of Toronto's so-called aristocracy, because they or their immediate ancestors had worked at some trade or made their money in business. This, while good and sufficient reason from the writer's point of view, hardly seems to me sufficient in itself to disqualify them from being considered ladies and gentlemen. It is their shame of having made their money in a comparatively honest manner, and their desire to conceal this *horrible* fact that brands them as aristocrats. True members of nature's aristocracy take pride in honest work and in doing it honestly. This with a true nobility of character which seeks others pleasure before ones own, is to my mind nearer the Labor Advocate's standard of what constitutes the only real aristocracy, than that laid down in the letters mentioned. Ben.

VAGUE GENERALITIES.

It is amusing to hear opponents get up time after time and accuse Social Democrats of propounding "vague generalities" because such antagonists nowerthemselves take the trouble to study what it is that we do propound. No doubt, we say, and say truly, that it would be as absurd for us to lay down a definite scheme of what the workers will do under developed Socialism as it would have been for an enlightened burgher of the middle ages to map out a plan of what his economic descendants in direct line would do under developed capitalism. Neither could foresee the full effect of the growing power of man over nature and the consequent changes wrought in the social organism But we can confidently point to the form in which railways, shipping, mines, factories, storehouses and public services generally are found to-day as rendering socialization inevitable within a calculable period. What does such socialisation mean? It means that all who work in these various trades will appoint their own organizers and managers and will share with another the full fruits of their own industry, subject to the provision to be made for education, sickness, experiments, old age, children, the helpless, and so on. This might be arranged to-day if the workers were sufficiently organised and understood why they were about. Thus would co-operation be substituted for competition in the great productive and distributive agencies of our country. Thence forward, all improvements coming into the hands of the community instead of the grip of the capitalists, the communistic evolution would go steadily on under the conscious control of the people. But perhaps those are "vague generalities" too —*London Justice.*

The Communist-Anarchists of Sheffield, Eng, have issued a manifesto to criminals It begins: "Criminals! Brothers! We salute you brothers in the desire which we have to make you understand that you are so, and not only that, but the hope we also have to make you our comrades. We Communists are, like you, at war with society, and are, therefore, like you, criminals. We are desirous to do all that you do, in order to show our contempt and hate of the present condition of things, and because we believe that you criminals are really benefactors of humanity, while those who sit in judgment on you are the real malefactors, the present system of society being nothing more than a robbery of the workers for the benefit of idlers."

NIAGARA

AT THE DAWN OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY.

Electricity to Move the World.

ONTARIO TO SOON BECOME

A GREAT MANUFACTURING COUNTRY.

The progress made during the last twenty-five years has been so marvellous, that we are not surprised at anything at the present time in the way of development, and of all development that has been made during the last few years, the most wonderful is that of the power of electricity, so that in these days everyone is more or less interested with the utilization of electricity as a power for driving machinery. It is now looked upon as a foregone conclusion that electricity will supersede all motive power; our railways will be operated entirely by it, and the world moved by this subtle agent; and on its advent, water power, that has been running to waste for years, has now gained new prominence, because in the development of electricity such enormous power is required, that it cannot be made cheap to use, commercially, except where this can be done by water power The consequence is, that the attention of all mathematicians and mechanical engineers, and in fact all that are interested in the industries of the world, are turning their eyes in all directions to discover and utilize water power wherever it can be found. It is then not to be wondered at that, during the last three years, the attention of capitalists has been directed towards the Niagara River, where the most stupendous power on earth is running to waste over the far-famed falls, and the most talented minds in the United States have been trying to solve the problem of how the power which is now running to waste can be chained so as to move the manufacturing wheels of the Continent. And the consequence is, that one Company alone is spending seven millions and a half on the American side to develope that power. It is, therefore, not surprising that English capital is trying to develop the Canadian side and utilize part of that great power, and a Company has been formed on the Canadian side called the Niagara and Queenston Land and Electric Company, whereby they are tapping the Chippewa River, which runs out of the Niagara River some two miles above the Falls, the bottom of which is on a dead level with Niagara.

The Company are digging an old fashioned raceway, or canal, across the country to Queenston Heights, on the banks of the Niagara river, seven miles below the Falls where the water will drop over the escarpment, giving a fall of 320 feet, or double that at the great cataract itself, and thereby generating 100,000 horse power, or in other words generating four times the power that is required to run the industrial wheels of Toronto, and this at a cost of $10 per horse power, which is from four to five times as cheap as it is sold in Toronto. This scheme is therefore the most important that can engage the attention of the workingmen of the Province, for when it is completed it will so revolutionize the cost of manufacturing that it is confidently expected that many manufacturers who move there will be able to compete with the world, thereby helping to make Ontario one of the great manufacturing countries of the world and give employment to thousands. This scheme is also of great additional interest to the workingmen of this country, in that it is the first experiment in Canada of a company building a town and becoming the municipal corporation, although the experiment has been successfully carried out in half a dozen places in the United States during the last five years by that great magician—English gold The Niagara and Queenston Land and Electric Company Limited, backed by the same magician, have acquired a couple of thousand acres at Queenston, and are now laying out between four and five hundred acres as a town plot, and intend to make it the manufacturing city of Canada, and it must be admitted that the place has all the elements of success The cheapest power on the Continent, and natural gas but a short distance away that can be supplied at half the cost of coal; these, combined with its great railroad facilities in happy conjunction with being situated at the head of navigation, and in fact everything in nature seems to have conspired to bring about the settlement of a great manufacturing community beneath the shadow of Brock's monument

It is also gratifying to know that the company is not allowing land sharks to grab up the land, profiting by the experience of Winnipeg, the progress of which was delayed for years by the speculators, who bled every man who sought to buy a holding for the purpose of establishing some wealth producing industry The purpose of the Niagara Company is to sell power so long as Niagara continues to flow—not to make money for a few months out of a land fever So to prevent the fruits of the improvements from falling into the hands of land sharks, it was decided to purchase 2,000 acres of land and found a city. This land is situated in and around the present limits of Queenston, and the intent is to supply it at nominal cost to settlers who thereafter will use the power supplied by the company. The intent is that several thousands of people will come together, and by purchasing one or more lots each—which will be made valuable on the completion of the canal—become possessors of all the advantages of splendid manufacturing sites, complete municipal services, and all the unearned increment that otherwise would go to speculators.

HOW THE LAND IS SOLD.

The capital stock of the company, $900,000, is not for sale, but the lots in the city have been put on the market under the most favorable circumstances. Land certificates are issued at $200 for each town lot. Applications will be received, beginning on May 15th The choice of lots will be decided in the order of application, that is to say the first applicant on the morning of the 15th will have first choice, and so on. $20 is all that is required down and the balance in monthly instalments of $10 per month

It may be asked what security the general public will have that after purchasing lots in Queenston the promises of the Company will be kept. The question is a proper one, and a safeguard has been provided that is absolute The purchasers of land certificates are expected to deposit them with the Trust Corporation of Ontario, where no one but the depositor can reach them. In the event of the Company failing to carry out its promise of building a power canal before February next, the depositor can withdraw from the Trust Company—one of the most stable of Ontario corporations—whatever has been paid on the certificate, together with interest. The strength of this arrangement lies in the fact that the promoters of the Company receive nothing until the canal is built, and the improvement made that will render the lots valuable Between the Company and the purchasers of land stands the Trust Company as arbitrator, and it, not the promoters, will return the investor's money if the project is not carried to completion.

A PERMANENT REVENUE.

The reason for this absolute security tendered to the public is apparent, when it is remembered that the Niagara & Queenston Company does not seek to make money out of the land, but out of the power to be sold to the residents of the city, and transmitted to other places

The Niagara district is occupying the attention of the public as it has never done before, and the possibilities of the cataract as a source of power are unbounded

At the Canadian offices of the Niagara and Queenston Land & Electric Company the fullest information can be had. Mr Richard Armstrong, the manager, or Mr Dean, the secretary, can be seen at office No. 31, Canada Life Building, King Street West. There plans and prospectus can be secured, and information given as to the Company.