

granting of the necessary subsidy for such service. The resolution was unanimously adopted.

The most desirable policy for the Government in this matter would be to associate the subsidy with the mail service, and not confine it to any one line. A quicker mail service between here and England is most urgently needed. Such a service would necessarily develop a better passenger service and a quicker service for special freight. Indeed, it would raise the standard of the whole steamship service of this port were the mails brought several times a week with extra speed and regularity.

In considering this matter the special, exclusive natural conditions of the port of Montreal must be duly weighed. By the decree of Nature this is the natural national port of the Dominion, its peculiar advantages as the head of navigation, both outward to the sea and inwards from the interior, are not shared by any other Canadian port. If then for any reason the trade does not come to this port it will find its way to Canada through American ports, no other port in the Dominion could hold the trade. The St. Lawrence and Montreal Harbour improvements should, therefore, receive the most earnest and prompt attention of the Government for this city as the national port must maintain its prestige, it must not allow its steamship service to fall below that of American ports, or gradually Montreal will decline. Into our harbour ought to come as fast and well equipped steamers as any which cross the Atlantic. The Government will be blameable if by any indifference or neglect Canada's great port is left to take a secondary position in regard to fast Atlantic service.

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JUDGES SALARIES.—The question of Judges' salaries has been discussed for several years without any success in the effort to secure more adequate remuneration for these distinguished officials. At the dinner of the Montreal Bar, on 28th ultimo., Mr. Geo. E. Drummond, president of the Board of Trade, announced that, the Board of Trade would continue to press this question upon the Government, which would be supported in making a large increase to the salaries of Judges.

The grave responsibilities of the Judges, the enormous extent of the interests affected by their decisions, the eminent social position they occupy, the responsibility of their being elected from the ablest members of the Bar, whose professional income usually far exceeds the salary of a judge, all combined constitute an argument in favour of enlarging the salaries of judges as, at present, they are notoriously inadequate. Since these salaries were fixed Canada has changed from being a comparatively poor to a very well-to-do, if not a rich country. This change has imposed far weightier duties on the Judges, and with the change has come a rise in the scale of expenditures imposed by social usage upon different classes. It is not credit-

able to a nation to pay its servants to-day, when their social obligations are so much more costly, what was paid them when living expenses were so much below the present standard.

No country in the world has greater reason to be proud of its judiciary than Canada. Our Judges would do honour to the Bench of any nation, but Canada shows a lamentable lack of appreciation of the dignity and the responsibilities of the judicial office, and of the value of a judge's services by paying salaries to these officials which are so inadequate and so unworthy of them and their country.

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MR. J. H. PLUMMER.—The illness of Mr. Plummer is, we trust, rapidly passing away. He is now under responsibilities so grave as to render it a matter of national concern that his health be maintained so that his whole energies and talents may be devoted to the Dominion Iron and Steel Company's operations and the developments of this vast enterprise.

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OUTLYING MUNICIPALITIES.—This city is in a most anomalous position in its relation to a number of municipalities by whom it is literally surrounded, like a cordon of outposts. The places that abut upon this city, so far as their local trade and their property values are concerned, are practically dependencies of the city of Montreal. They are like the ivy clinging to a wall, which could not maintain itself without that support. A large portion of their inhabitants live directly by income earned in this city, and the other portion live on the trade they provide. Thus, this city provides the great bulk of the income of the suburban municipalities, whose inhabitants enjoy all the benefits of our civic institutions and services, but towards their maintenance they contribute nothing directly and little indirectly. Unless some comprehensive scheme for annexing these suburban municipalities to this city is carried out there will be such complications arise, and such vested interests, and such physical difficulties created as will prove most embarrassing in the future when circumstances will imperatively compel the city to so extend its bounds as to embrace the suburban municipalities. That necessity is certain to come in the near future, and the quicker this is realized, anticipated, and arranged for the better it will be for all concerned. To put a tight girth around such a growing city as Montreal is an outrage, it may be tolerated for a time, but eventually this city, like a roused giant, will break the bonds asunder which hamper its natural expansion.

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APPRECIATION.—THE CHRONICLE is glad to observe the growing tendency of its contemporaries to copy its tables and items financial. Typesetting for newspapers is now done by machines and it is no doubt owing to some defect in the typesetters that the giving of credit for the borrowed matter is often omitted.