

The Chronicle

Banking, Insurance & Finance.

ESTABLISHED JANUARY, 1881

PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY

Vol. XXXI. No. 50

MONTREAL, DECEMBER 15, 1911.

Single Copy 10c.
Annual Subscription \$2.00

OUR ROYAL VISITORS. **M**ONTREAL has extended the heartiest welcome to their Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess of Connaught, who are evidently enjoying their visit to the Canadian metropolis. We hope that the present visit may be the forerunner of many others. The new Governor-General has won golden opinions wherever he has gone in Canada. He evidently has ability and tact in a marked degree.

WALK THIS WAY. **H**IS Royal Highness is said to have expressed a preference for a thoroughly democratic civic reception in Montreal. According to some of the daily papers, the democratic character of the event must have exceeded his expectations. Probably the Prince enjoyed the experience more than he would have enjoyed a more orthodox ceremony. One reporter declares that most of the people presented hadn't the least idea what to do, and many got out of the difficulty by imitating those in front of them, right or wrong. This recalls the story of the bandy-legged shop walker who invited a lady customer as usual to "Walk this way, please." "Oh, but I really couldn't" replied the lady.

THE CITY AND THE HARBOUR.

THE Council of the Montreal Board of Trade passed a resolution on Wednesday severely condemning the proposal of the Legislative Committee of the City Council to tax non-residents of Montreal seeking work in the harbour. All local discrimination of this kind is certainly open to objection and we doubt whether it is *intra vires* of the Quebec Legislature to grant such powers of municipal taxation of non-residents. It is difficult to see how Montreal can consistently ask that the Port of Montreal shall be recognized and subsidised as the National Port of Canada, while the City Council treats it in this way. The reasons set forth by the resolution of the Council of the Board of Trade are as follows:

(a) That the city has no right to interfere with the employees of the harbor;

(b) That the harbor of Montreal has a separate charter from the Dominion Government and is entirely independent of the city of Montreal; besides, the city of Montreal contributes nothing towards the upkeep of the harbor;

(c) That the harbor is national and that the moneys expended thereon are loaned from the national purse, and that to allow only the citizens of the province of Quebec the right to work on the harbor front would be a discrimination against the citizens of the other provinces;

(d) That large expenditures are made in the city by the steamship lines using the harbor, upon which expenditures the local trades-people depend so much for their livelihood;

(e) That any restriction in the supply of labor would undoubtedly be detrimental to the city and also to the harbor, by creating a monopoly that would ultimately drive trade from the port, a sad example of the effect of such restriction being the port of Quebec, which has suffered so seriously from the result of agitation by agitators who have no other purpose to serve but their own selfish interests;

(f) That already the supply of labor is short of the requirements of the port, and such action as that proposed could have but one result, namely, to divert trade to other channels.

A DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH.

AT the meeting of the Canadian Public Health Association on Wednesday evening at the Royal Victoria College, which was formally opened by H.E.H. the Duke of Connaught, the Hon. Martin Burrell, the new Minister of Agriculture, made an excellent suggestion. He proposed a Department of Public Health and possibly, a Minister of Public Health. It has always seemed to us a mystery why Governments should attach so much importance to cattle disease and so little to the diseases which afflict humanity. Looking at the matter from the lowest point of view, a man has an economic value to the State, as well as a cow or a pig. The Dominion, Provincial and municipal governments would all be justified in spending money to reduce the death rate. The Department of Agriculture has altogether too many odd jobs to attend to now, most of which have nothing to do, with agriculture.