

Considerable publicity has been given **Investments** given lately in Great Britain to a **in Canada.** lecture at the Society of Arts, by Mr J. Obed Smith, Canada's energetic assistant superintendent of Emigration in London. Mr. Smith's subject was Canada as a field for British investment, and his paper formed in reality a comprehensive survey of the Dominion's present economic and commercial condition. While insisting that capital already invested in Canada is safe and profitable he pointed out that there are almost daily opportunities for further profitable investment. The speaker suggested also that attention should be given to the possibilities of commerce on the Pacific, where developments, he said, warranted serious consideration. A lecture of this kind, delivered as it was at a well known and influential institution should do much to spread further a knowledge of both Canada's resources and requirements.

It is understood that the Joseph **Ritz Hotel.** estate property at the corner of Sherbrooke and McTavish Streets has been secured as a site for a magnificent hotel to form part of the Ritz Hotel system, which controls similar establishments in London, Paris, Vienna, Rome, Madrid, Naples, Hamburg and New York, and has in contemplation the erection of others in Boston and Washington. The project is said to involve the investment of \$1,500,000. That such an institution would be a great addition to Montreal goes without saying, but many Montrealers will regret that some other site was not chosen. It is a great pity that some one did not buy the land and give it to McGill University and thus round off the McGill property. However, it is probably not too late.

Philadelphia's The City of Brotherly Love, is **Car Strike.** once more in the throes of a car strike, with one policeman shot, probably fatally, a hundred people injured, five cars wrecked and ten burned. Nobody who has enjoyed the privileges of riding in Philadelphia street cars could imagine that a strike or anything else could make them travel any slower than their usual gait. It seems a pity to shed human blood in order to show whether the cars are moving or not.

Forest At the very successful banquet **Preservation.** given in his honour at the Windsor Hotel, Sir Lomer Gouin announced that it was the policy of his government to stop the export of manufactured pulpwood from the Crown lands of this province. It is none too soon to adopt measures for the preservation of Quebec's forest resources for the benefit of the people of Quebec.

Ontario Loan. The Province of Ontario has just floated a loan of \$1,150,000, 4 p.c., thirty years bonds, at par and accrued interest. A syndicate of Toronto bankers and insurance companies took the whole issue and the money was handed over to the Hon. A. J. Matheson on June 1.

DOMINION COAL COMPANY'S output for May was 316,000 tons against 325,000 last year.

THE MANUAL OF STATISTICS.

The 1909 edition of The Manual of Statistics has just appeared, being the thirty-first annual issue of that useful publication. As its publishers point out, the past year has been productive of many changes in corporate affairs in the United States and Canada, as well as in the financial position of different railroad and industrial organizations. The 1094 pages of this carefully compiled reference volume present a vast fund of information for the use of investors everywhere. The present edition also devotes much attention to the newer industrial and mining companies, and gives the many changes in dividend payments which have occurred down to the date of its issue. It gives throughout evidence of accuracy and careful compilation, and is brought down to date in its descriptive and statistical details, making the volume one which investors and all who are interested in the financial and other markets of the country cannot well afford to be without. It is published by The Manual of Statistics Company, 20 Vesey Street, New York. Price, \$5.

LIFE INSURANCE IN MEXICO.

Mr. F. A. Williams, A.I.A., F.A.S., director-general of La Nacional—a leading life company in Mexico City—was in Montreal this week on a brief visit among aforesaid friends and insurance associates. Mr. Williams states that the outlook in his chosen field is most hopeful. While conditions generally were dull during 1908, commercial and financial matters are now brightening considerably. The partial price-recovery of silver means much to Mexico.

The Mexican Government is shortly to put through its new insurance law. The proposed measure, as outlined in THE CHRONICLE some months ago, has had a similar experience to the pending Canadian bill—it has been amended and improved not a little.

Mr. Williams has many insurance friends in Canada who have followed with interest his success in the South.

THE RECIPROCITY MOVEMENT is not making much progress on either side of the line. The United States Senate has raised the duty on Canadian barley from 25 to 30 cents and on Canadian potatoes from 25 to 45 cents a bushel. The chief trouble with reciprocity is that the Americans don't want it, and the Canadians won't have it.

AUTUMN DROUGHTS AND SPRING FLOODS have in turn interrupted milling activities at Hull and Ottawa within recent months. The relation between preservation of wooded areas and the regulation of water supply is being gradually forced home upon Canada.

ONTARIO LAW REFORM, in so far as the legislature's recent measure affects the increased jurisdiction of county courts and the right of solicitors and clients to make terms and bargain agreements as to costs, will come into force by proclamation on June 10 next.