

Prominent Topics.

The Campbellton Victims. The people of Campbellton, New Brunswick, have that peculiar claim upon the help of their brother Canadians, that is due to people who help themselves. They have accepted a colossal misfortune with a calmness and courage that commands admiration, and will, it is to be hoped, bring them assistance from every possible source in Canada. A town that produces people like these is worth re-building.

The Weather. The atmosphere in Montreal on Sunday was about the worst in the memory of man, but conditions were worse elsewhere. In New York alone ten people died and others went mad through the heat. In London there was not one hour's sunshine for a whole week. It does not make us any better off, that other people are worse off, but it helps us to realize how well-off we are.

Ship Channel. Cap à la Roche is evidently the weakest link in the chain of the St. Lawrence Ship Channel. No less than four steamers have touched bottom there this season. The actual damage in the last case is trivial, but the accident will tend to give the route a bad name. No expense or effort should be spared and we imagine the government is sparing none to ascertain the cause of the trouble and remove it.

Women's Suffrage. The Women's Suffrage Bill has passed its second reading by a majority of 109 notwithstanding the opposition of the Prime Minister and Mr. Balfour and even of ardent supporters of women suffrage, who, however, do not approve the details of the measure. The Bill which is a sweeping one has been referred to a committee of the whole House and will probably not come up again until next year. Meanwhile it is manifest that the suffragettes have made some impression upon the House of Commons.

Botha's Speech. Premier Botha's speech at Johannesburg outlining his political programme captured his whole audience, which was mainly of British origin, by its sturdy imperialism. It will echo and echo throughout the Empire; and will once more attract the attention of the whole world to the most remarkable phenomenon in political history; a vanquished race actually dominating their victors by their loyal and sensible acquiescence in a situation they fought magnificently to avert. They have won not only the hearts but the admiration of their fellow subjects.

A Sweeping Proposal. A Bill has been deposited in the Chamber of Deputies, proposing that the State shall have a monopoly of insurance business in France. It is further proposed that insurance against fire, trade accidents and agricultural risks, shall be compulsory, but that life, maritime and ordinary accident insurance shall be optional. The Bill, which is a private one, suggests a credit of 500,000,000 francs to indemnify private enterprises.

Wireless Telegraphy Compulsory. The British House of Commons is following the example of the United States Congress in compelling all passenger-carrying vessels to be provided with a wireless telegraph installation capable of receiving and transmitting messages a hundred miles. The Bill, which has passed its first reading, applies equally to all passenger ships calling at British ports whether British or foreign and provides a penalty of \$5,000 for failure to obey the law.

High-Flying Record. Walter Brookins in a biplane flight at Atlantic City broke the world's record by reaching an altitude of 6,175 feet. The most remarkable thing about the performance was that although his engine broke down and stopped altogether at 5,600 feet while he was over the sea, he was able to reach the ground in safety. The breaking down of a gasoline motor is a pretty frequent occurrence in automobiles and there is no reason to expect the machine to behave any better in the air, where a break down may involve serious consequences. What is needed is a light auxiliary motor for life-saving purposes.

Automobile Scorching. Five automobile scorchers have been fined \$20 each for exceeding the speed limit on the Dorval road. The sentences will give much public satisfaction. If the fines had been doubled, public satisfaction would have been twice as great. There is no sympathy among the general public for the men who are guilty of the cowardly terrorism involved in automobile scorching. The best deterrent, however, is not so much severity of punishment as certainty of punishment. The automobile lunatic takes gamblers' chances of being fined as he takes gamblers' chances of killing other people. Were he reasonably sure of being convicted and fined or imprisoned for every offence, the knowledge would have a wonderfully sobering effect upon him.

LAST YEAR Canada exported to the United Kingdom 17,979,945 cwt. of wheat.