

Prominent Topics.

Accession Oath. The House of Lords has passed the Accession Oath Bill without amendment or division. This is about as satisfactory a solution of a dangerous problem as could be expected. It is matter for congratulation at any rate that the King has been relieved of the responsibility of taking an oath which was offensive to many of his most loyal subjects.

Prison Labour. The Hon. W. J. Hanna, Provincial Secretary of Ontario, has announced that after September 1st there will be no more prison labour contracts in that province. The convicts will be employed on road and farm work. This is a highly satisfactory announcement. The competition of prison labour has been fatal to a number of promising industries and has done infinitely more harm than good.

New Windsor Station. The contracts for the C. P. R. Windsor Station extension have been awarded. The Dominion Bridge Company gets the steel work at about \$250,000, and the steel work is to be completed by April 30th, 1911. The masonry goes to Mr. C. E. Deakin at about \$1,000,000 and this is expected to be finished in November, 1911. The whole cost is estimated at \$1,500,000, in addition to the large amount already spent on foundations, etc.

The Spanish Situation. We doubt whether Spain is so near to the verge of civil war as the press dispatches would indicate. Spain takes longer to settle down to modern conditions than most of the European countries, but its general tendency is in the right direction. A civil war, deliberately provoked in the name of Christianity, is almost unthinkable in these days. One can never tell what may be the effect of indiscreet utterances among a hot-headed people and that there will be some rioting is altogether probable. But between riots and revolutions there is a long step. The situation is, of course, complicated by dynastic ambitions.

Dividends Records Broken. All dividend and interest records in the United States for August will be broken during the current month when various railroad, industrial and traction corporations will distribute to investors the sum of \$87,601,595. These figures compare with \$81,132,223 in August a year ago, an increase of \$6,469,372. Of the grand total, dividends will call for \$44,501,595, an increase of \$3,338,372. Numerous corporations have resumed or increased their payments, while others have been able to make initial disbursements. Interest payments will amount to \$43,100,000, against \$39,500,000, an increase of \$3,600,000. This, of course, is due to the new bond and note issues.

Census of Forest Products.

The census of the forest products of Canada, to be taken on 1st June, 1911, will embrace square, waney or flat timber, logs for lumber and miscellaneous products. In the first class are included ash, birch, elm, maple, oak, pine and all other timber cut at square, waney or flat, and in the enumeration will be reported for cubic feet and value. Logs for lumber, which are included in the second class, are in such woods as elm, hickory, hemlock, oak, pine and spruce. They will be enumerated in the census by quantities of 1,000 feet board measure, with value in the same unit. Miscellaneous products of the forest include bark for tanning, fence posts, firewood, hoop and hop poles, masts and spars, piling, pot and pearl ashes, railroad ties, staves, stove-bolts and headings, telegraph and other poles, wood for pulp, and the furs and skins of forest animals undressed, and they will be enumerated by number or quantity and value. The census of forest products will be taken chiefly from farmers and the lessees of timber limits.

The King's English. An Academic Committee of the Royal Society of Literature has been formed in London with the following beautiful objects:

- (a) To take all possible measures to maintain the purity of the English language, and to hold up a standard of good taste in style.
- (b) To encourage fellowship and co-operation among those who are disinterestedly striving for the perfection of English literature.
- (c) By "discourses of reception" and "obituary addresses" to mark the current of literary history in this country.
- (d) To designate from time to time persons to become recipients of the medals of the society.
- (e) To make awards of merit to particular literary works.

The Committee will probably fail in nearly every one of its objects. English literature and the English language have no use for a weak imitation of the French Academy. English is a live language, a progressive language, and all the authority it needs to preserve it undefiled is that of good usage. The proposition is almost as ridiculous as President Roosevelt's attempt to reform the American spelling of English, by executive authority. Many cherished English traditions and liberties are vanishing, but for pity's sake leave our mother tongue free to develop itself on natural lines.

APPROXIMATELY 160,000 immigrants came to Canada in the six months of the current year, ending June 30. Of this number the proportion is about 90,000 Americans and 70,000 British and Continentals.