

at the rate of five pounds per horse power would produce 551,137,590 tons per annum.

Speaking of forest wealth Mr. Young said much ignorance existed. It was variously estimated at from 100,000,000 to 800,000,000 acres. He spoke of the losses by fire as the great problem of conservation and suggested bulletins showing the consumption in Canada of forest products.

The Recall in Politics. A correspondent of the Montreal Gazette suggests the adoption in Canada of a principle in force in Los Angeles, California.

This gives the electorate, which entrusts a public man with responsibility, the right to recall him if in its opinion he abuses his trust. That is to say, if an alderman offends public opinion a certain proportion of his electors may demand a new election, without waiting for the expiration of his term of office. There can be no question that the existence of such a possibility must cultivate in the average alderman a wholesome regard for public opinion.

Disestablishment in Wales. A bill has been introduced in the British House of Commons by Premier Asquith to disestablish the Church of England in Wales.

That it will become law during the present session is exceedingly improbable. It may not even run the gauntlet of the Lower House, although it is a Government measure. It will certainly meet with strenuous opposition in both Houses and in the country, even from people who favoured the disestablishment of the Irish Church. For most legislative purposes England and Wales are regarded as a unit.

Lake Superior First Mortgage Collateral Trust Bonds. Five millions of these bonds were recently offered in London by the Bank of Montreal on behalf of the new interests which have recently acquired large holdings in this corporation. The bonds bear interest at five per cent. per annum, payable half-yearly and maturing in 1942. They were offered to the public at 90, or at par of exchange £184:18:7 per \$1,000 bond. The issue is said to have been successful, over sixty per cent. having been subscribed for.

Reciprocity not Wanted. The Council of the Montreal Board of Trade has declined an invitation to send a representative to Detroit to attend a conference held to discuss the question of "better trade relations" between Canada and the United States. This is one of the signs of the times. Canadians generally are contented to let well enough alone. There is no disposition to be churlish towards our nearest neighbours, but nothing should be done to encourage the idea that we want commercial reciprocity.

Sub-Chief Jackson. A movement is on foot to get the City Council to grant a bonus to Sub-Chief Jackson, of the Fire Department, upon his retirement after no less than fifty-two years of faithful and efficient service to the city.

There certainly should be some means of the city taking care of such deserving officials, as Sub-Chief Jackson. If the Council has not the legal powers, now is the time to get them.

Iron Bounties. The iron and steel industry is of such great importance to the general prosperity of the Dominion that we imagine there is little danger of Mr. Fielding abolishing the bounties without providing compensation therefor in the way of protection. As there is nothing in the budget on this subject, it is a fair inference that the bounties will not be disturbed for the present at least.

The Havoc of the Winds. Great wind storms have done considerable damage in several parts of the United States during the last week. Montreal is remarkably free from this kind of trouble, no doubt owing to the fact that the city is well screened from the tornadoes that occasionally tear down the Ottawa Valley, by Mount Royal.

From Western Fields

MARKED INCREASE IN WHEAT ACREAGE.

Immigration Stimulated by High Grain Prices—Lake Bill of Lading for Grain—British Columbia and Railroad Rates.

Sensational declines in the speculative Chicago wheat market yesterday brought Board of Trade closing prices there to \$1.21 for May and \$1.10 for July delivery. Winnipeg quotations also declined 3 $\frac{3}{4}$ c to 3 $\frac{7}{8}$ c yesterday, the closing prices being \$1.18 $\frac{1}{2}$ for May and \$1.10 $\frac{1}{2}$ for July delivery. The possibility of a slump as the end of the Chicago manipulating has been interestingly discussed throughout the West. That fairly high prices are bound to rule throughout the year is not, however, doubted.

Profitable wheat prices have had much to do with stimulating immigration from the United States, and the increase in wheat acreage this year promises to be large indeed.

Wheat Acreage and Seeding.

Mr. Frank O. Fowler, secretary of the Northwest Grain Dealers' Association, states that the increase in acreage reported, will be about 800,000 acres at a rough estimate. This is the result of lands thrown open and homesteading. The acreage last year was about 6,700,000 acres; this year it will be about 7,500,000 acres. At an average crop of 17 or 18 bushels per acre, which is a small one, this will mean an increase in the estimates of last year of about 15,000,000 bushels. Add this to the estimated 100,000,000 bushels of last year, and it will be seen that this year's crop may be roughly estimated at about 115,000,000 bushels. Of course, this is taking every advantage and disadvantage into consideration. In older sections, Mr. Fowler thinks the acreage may increase to some considerable extent.

The first report of the Canadian Northern Railway on the crop conditions in the West was compiled this week. The agents all over the system send in good reports of the farming situation.

While seeding has not had so early a start as was hoped, it is now getting well under way, and there is still considerable time available for the purpose.

The West has naturally been much interested in the outcome of the agitation for restoring last year's bill of lading on the part of Canadian lake grain carriers.