

Prominent Topics.

The King and Queen in Germany.

The reception of King Edward and Queen Alexandra in Berlin, has been most gratifying in its cordiality; notwithstanding the alleged strained relations between England and Germany. The obstinacy with which certain elements in England refuse to see in the friendly demonstrations of the German people any encouragement to the hope of a permanent peace, goes to strengthen the impression that the war scare has been to a certain extent manufactured in order to facilitate a no doubt much needed reform of the British Army System. We are not accusing all the distinguished statesmen and soldiers who have predicted trouble, of insincerity in the matter; but men keenly anxious for the increase of the army, are apt to see signs of danger very easily. As the Montreal Gazette well says:

"King Edward's visit to Berlin is apparently pleasing the people as well as the Kaiser. If it could put the editors into good humor perhaps there would be a cessation of war talk and two peoples would have reason to bless the occasion."

Anti-Japanese Legislation.

The California State Assembly by a vote of 48 to 26 passed a bill requiring Japanese children to attend separate public schools. President Roosevelt denounced the measure as "the most offensive bill of all", and clearly unconstitutional. The bill naturally gave offence in Japan and gravely threatened the peaceful relations between that country and the United States. Wiser counsels have, however, prevailed, and on Wednesday, the California Assembly by a vote of 43 to 34 decided to reconsider the bill. This is the most satisfactory solution possible of a grave problem. The incident illustrates one of the worst weaknesses of the American constitution. The eccentricities or crude attempts at statesmanship of any state legislature may involve the whole nation in serious international complications. The United States Government has of necessity to be held responsible by foreign powers for actions over which it has no control and of which it may cordially disapprove. The unrestricted veto-power of the Governor General in Council, and of His Majesty in Council save Canada from this danger.

An Army of Empire.

Mr. Haldane, the War Secretary, announces that the Imperial Government is negotiating with the over-sea dominions with a view to the creation of an Army of Empire—not of Great Britain merely. The idea is a grand one and we feel sure that the response of the colonies will be favourable and enthusiastic. A British Empire Army could not and would not be a source of danger to the nations; but it could and would compel the peace of the world.

The Imbecilities of the Press.

At a dinner in London one of the police magistrates, Mr. Plowden, deplored the imbecilities of the press, and Lord Alverstone, the Lord Chief Justice, denounced the publicity given to divorce proceedings as a public evil and appealed to the leading journals to take a stand against it. The old country papers, even the best of them, are much less reserved in the publication

of reports of divorce cases, than the papers of Canada if not the United States. Whatever is good enough for the court is, as a rule, thought to be not too bad for family reading; an idea which finds its justification, we imagine, chiefly in the exigencies of newspaper competition and the depravity of public taste. It was high time for some influential authority to enter a protest.

The Metropolitan Life.

The Metropolitan Life Insurance Company of New York favours us with a handsomely printed and bound volume entitled: "The Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, its history, its present position in the insurance world, its Home Office Building and its work carried on therein." The volume is really a splendid specimen of modern book manufacture. The paper, the typography, and the lithographing are all of the highest order. With the book comes an excellent photograph of Mr. Charles Stanfield, the superintendent at Montreal.

Among its plans for 1909, the Metropolitan announces that Dr. Frankel, the recently appointed manager of its industrial department, will devote special attention to the further adaptation of the company's methods to the needs of the working class. Eminent as a sociologist, Dr. Frankel is well qualified to undertake this task, with benefit alike to the company and its policy-holders. Modifications made may possibly be along the lines of furnishing insurance against sickness, disability or old age.

Removing a Town.

The town of Cowley in Southern Alberta, is to be removed bodily next week, to a site two miles south of its present location. The removal is rendered necessary by the re-grading of the Canadian Pacific Railway. Fortunately for the interests of municipal bond-holders such removals are only possible in the very early infancy of towns; probably before they have passed through the throes of a first bonded debt. We imagine, however, that in the case of an exception to this rule the principles of common law, would, in the absence of special legislation, be sufficient to protect the interests of the bond-holders. In the present case the railway company is paying the entire cost of removal.

The Shipping Federation.

The Shipping Federation of Montreal held its annual meeting on Wednesday, when Mr. Hugh A. Allan was elected president for the sixth consecutive term. During the meeting it was reported that the tonnage entered for the federation showed an increase of 20,489 tons in 1908. While westbound passenger traffic had shown a considerable falling-off, there were already signs of improvement. The general business outlook was referred to hopefully.

A Real Estate Transaction.

The Sun Life Assurance Company has purchased for \$280,000 a magnificent site for a new office building fronting on Dominion Square, opposite the Windsor Hotel. The building will extend from Metcalfe Street to Mansfield. A number of separate properties are included in the purchase, the prices varying from \$3.65 to \$10.00 a foot.