

Prominent Topics.

The Regency. Premier Asquith has introduced a Bill to appoint Queen Mary Regent in the event of the demise of King George during the minority of the Duke of Cornwall. The appointment will be a popular one. England has generally been well served by its queens-regnant, which is more than can be said for all its Kings. Then Queen Mary is reputed to have exceptional qualifications for the regency which we trust will never be required.

Conduits. The Board of Control has reported to Council in favour of appointing a commission of engineers to consider plans for the construction of conduits, in which to place the various electric wires. The subways are certainly badly needed and every great fire emphasises the need, but if the city undertakes the construction there is no telling what the ultimate cost will be. If carried out in connection with an underground railway system for instance, the expense would, of course, be very much less.

A Year of Disaster. The year 1910 will surely long be remembered as a year of world-wide disaster and the superstitious will not fail to find a connection between the fact and the coming of the comet. The extraordinary cloudburst floods and thunderstorms in Germany are not the least remarkable of the meteorological phenomena of the year. Even Canada has not entirely escaped. Incessant rains in eastern Canada and June snow-storms in the West have demoralized all weather traditions and records.

The Two Police Chiefs. It is much easier for the Board of Control to deal with a difficulty like that which has arisen between Chief Campeau and Chief Carpenter, than for a body like the City Council to adjust it. The position of the controllers is more analogous to that of private employers, and private employers make short work of strained relations which imperil the efficiency of their servants. It would seem to be common sense to give Chief Carpenter the utmost possible latitude in the selection of men for the detective force. The preservation of order on the streets and the detection of crime are two very different businesses. The good offices of some of the controllers have, it is understood, restored peace at police headquarters.

Jeffries v. Johnson: the Attorney-General Intervening. The Attorney General of California announces that he will prevent the Jeffries-Johnson fight. He would have met with less opposition had he started earlier; before so much money was spent in preparations. Half his critics will declare that he is now intervening to prevent the

United States suffering the humiliation of seeing a white man knocked out by a coloured brother, on the fourth of July. The prize fight is unworthy of American modern civilization. It belongs to the age of the bull ring in Spain; or to the lands in which bull-fights and cock-fights still survive. The newspapers which publish elaborate reports of these brutal and degrading exhibition could do much to discourage them by ignoring them. But in this as in other instances of a somewhat similar character the newspapers are simply catering to public taste. They give the people what they want, rather than what is good for them. Lots of good people will read the sickening details just to see how bad the world can be.

THE FIELD CROPS OF CANADA.

Large Increase in Wheat Area.

The Census and Statistics office has issued a report on the estimated area and condition of the principal field crops of Canada at the end of May based on the reports of a large staff of correspondents. From this report the following table showing acreage and standard of condition has been compiled by THE CHRONICLE.

| | Acreage 1910. | Inc. or Dec. on 1909. | Std. of cond. 1910. | Std. of cond. 1909. |
|--------------------|---------------|-----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Fall Wheat..... | 707,200 | +45,100 | 87.65 | 82.15 |
| Spring Wheat..... | 8,587,600 | +1,499,300 | 91.49 | 92.15 |
| Oats..... | 9,864,100 | +561,500 | 93.95 | 92.32 |
| Barley..... | 1,834,000 | -30,500 | 92.94 | 91.49 |
| Peas..... | 386,100 | -7,200 | 93.01 | 90.59 |
| Mixed Grains..... | 575,000 | -6,400 | 94.72 | 91.71 |
| Hay and Clover.... | 8,515,400 | +395,100 | 97.64 | 90.36 |
| Total Area*..... | 30,554,200 | +2,359,300 | | |

*Including rye.

The acreage of rye is not given but it is stated that the crop continues to decrease though its condition is about the same as last year. While there has been a gain of 2,359,300 acres in the total area of these field crops on 1909, the gain of 1908 is no less than 4,951,050 acres. The largest increase has taken place in wheat as follows:—

| | Acre. |
|-----------|-----------|
| 1910..... | 9,294,800 |
| 1909..... | 7,759,400 |
| 1908..... | 6,010,300 |

This is a gain in two years of 2,684,500 acres or more than 40 per cent.

The provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta increased their area in wheat from 2,495,466 acres in 1900 to 5,624,000 acres in 1908 and to 8,395,400 acres in 1910. In Saskatchewan alone the increase of this year over last year is 1,163,000 acres.

The condition of pastures is over 100 in the Maritime Provinces and Quebec. It is 93.60 in Ontario, 89 in British Columbia and around 80 in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta.

The effects of late frosts have been felt in many places, and injury has been done to fruits and tender vegetables in some localities. But generally, says the Census and Statistics office, the prevailing low temperatures of April and May have strengthened the field crops and have left them better able to withstand the attacks of night frosts, and re-seeding and re-planting have been less necessary than in former years.