

Prominent Topics.

Juvenile Court for Montreal. Judge Choquet, who is president of the Children's Aid Society, has addressed to the Board of Control a letter advocating the establishment of a Children's Court in Montreal. Most of the juvenile offenders arrested are to be regarded as victims rather than as criminals. The spectacle of parents prosecuting their own children is altogether too common in Montreal. In nine cases out of ten substantial justice would be done by releasing the child and sending the affectionate father or mother to jail. In most instances the child is what it is, through parental influence, prenatal or post-natal. It is an awful confession of incapacity or something worse, when parents have to invoke the criminal law against their own children. Their blubbing does not win them a particle of sympathy from right-thinking people. As a rule they are past praying for; it is the children who are entitled to the sympathy and for whom there is hope. A juvenile court would save many children from degrading associations, and save the community from many future criminals.

Rioting in Philadelphia. The Philadelphia strike is following its disastrous course and is characterized by unusual bitterness and violence. Many workmen with no grievances of their own are inflicting punishment upon themselves, their families and their employers, out of sympathy with the original strikers in the employment of the car company. There seems to be no strike which offers so many opportunities for general mischief as a street car strike. It is spectacular and gives exceptional changes to "win public sympathy" by inflicting a maximum of inconvenience upon the public and by doing serious injury to innocent bystanders. It is impossible for a street car company to protect its property without meeting violence with violence.

Selkirk Mountains Avalanche. The awful avalanche in the Selkirk Mountains by which fifty of the Canadian Pacific employees were overwhelmed was a disaster of a novel kind for Canada. Considering the nature of the country in which the accident occurred the chief wonder is that we have not had similar troubles before. But if we know the C.P.R. it will find ways and means of minimizing, and probably of averting all such dangers in future. The winter has been an exceptional one all over Canada. The same weather that has brought us almost to the opening of St. Lawrence navigation early in March, has, no doubt, rendered possible the sudden snow-slides in the mountains which have had such unfortunate effects.

New York's Banking. The Swiss Bankverein, of London, in its official review of 1909 strongly criticizes the way in which the American banking and credit system not only puts no obstacle in the way of rampant speculation, but actually facilitates risky transactions on an immense scale. The bank returns do not throw much light on this aspect of the matter, as the controlling interests are adepts at flattering or obscuring the picture, notably by wholesale shifting of balances from New York banks to trust companies and interior institutions.

A loan expansion of \$388,000,000 in twelve months was shown by the comptroller of the currency's detailed report, two weeks ago, on the country's 7,000 national banks. The New York banks actually reduced loans \$71,000,000. The surface inference might be that the credits extended in 1909 were wholly for inland industrial purposes. Looking a little below the surface, as The Evening Post points out, the figures are more likely to be taken as reflection of the process by which the Wall Street market, throughout the speculative autumn of 1909, shifted loans.

The Late Strachan Bethune, K.C. The city in which he lived so many years, and the profession which his career honoured, will long hold in memory the name of the late Mr. Strachan Bethune, who died on Tuesday in his 80th year. As Chancellor of the Synod of the Diocese of Montreal, he was beloved by all associated with him. His attitude was ever that of a Christian gentleman.

In legal circles, where until two years ago he was still an active figure, Mr. Bethune was held in the highest esteem as doyen of the local bar.

The funeral service in Christ Church Cathedral yesterday afternoon was conducted by His Lordship Bishop Farthing, assisted by Rev. G. Osborne Troop and Rev. A. J. Doull. The large attendance testified to the notable place which Mr. Bethune held in the affections of the public. Among the chief mourners were Mr. S. Bethune, son of the deceased, and the Very Reverend Dean Evans.

Politics and the Bench. The debate in the Senate regarding Judge Longley's alleged propaganda in favour of Canadian independence, suggests the wisdom of His Majesty's judges abstaining from all political discussion. The learned judge admits that he is not in a hurry to snap the tie that binds Canada to England; and that being the case he can well afford to wait twenty-five years, or say until he has retired from the bench, before advocating independence.