

**Prominent Topics.**

**Nobody to Blame.** It only took the coroner's jury two minutes to decide that nobody was to blame for the death of the two brave firemen, Milloy and Holbrook, who were killed by the collapse of a floor in Rolland Bros. factory on Windsor St. It is very difficult for the average citizen to arrive at the same conclusion in the same time. Perhaps coroners' juries are more rapid in their mental processes than the average man. To most people the lamentable affair suggests something wrong with the civic building inspection. Nobody was to blame for the fatal accident to firemen, the other day on McGill Street! On Wednesday there was another serious collision between a street car and a hose wagon, five men were thrown from the wagon, but nobody was badly hurt. Therefore, there will be no inquest and we shall miss the solemn verdict that nobody was to blame. We cannot help thinking that these collisions are too frequent and that as a rule somebody is to blame. On Wednesday two children were burned to death in a fire at Berlin, Ontario. It was calmly assumed (and not improbably) that the children were playing with matches or overturned the stove, and, therefore, no inquest was necessary. Because there was no suspicion of actual crime, nobody was to blame.

**Resources and Development.** Thorough is the word with Lord Northcliffe in all his undertakings—and in the advice which he has been handing out to Canada during his recent visit here. He has no hesitation in saying that the Dominion Government should take steps to make American papermakers manufacture their products in Canada, instead of taking raw material from the country.

With the coming of cheaper cable communication—in the striving for which he is taking leading part—Lord Northcliffe looks for still more rapid growth in the investment of British capital here. Referring to the success of Canadian flotations in London, he urged upon our financiers that they guard rigidly against any other than *bona fide* undertakings being offered to old country investors. John Bull is not suspicious, but once fooled he is very slow "to come again."

**\$10,000 for Prince of Wales Armoury.** Lt.-Col. Burland, at the King's Birthday dinner of the 1st. Prince of Wales Fusiliers, made the speech of the evening by promising the generous subscription of \$10,000 towards the cost of the new armoury on condition that Lt.-Col. Evans would undertake to raise one-half of the estimated cost, which is \$100,000, the government contributing the other half. This, Colonel Evans promptly promised to do.

**Insurance Office Opportunities.** The inaugural address of Mr. William Hutton, F.F.A., F.I.A., as president of the Insurance and Actuarial Society of Glasgow, had for its subject "Opportunity." The topic suggested itself to Mr. Hutton, to quote his words, because from time to time he finds himself "in the position of being called upon to answer a father who wishes to know whether, in the work of an insurance office, his boy may hope to find reasonable opportunity for advancement," and also because of the tendency in some quarters to regard an underwriting career unfavourably from this particular standpoint. While admitting that there is a large proportion of routine work in insurance offices, and that many clerks never rise above this groove, Mr. Hutton points out that for intelligent and alert young men there are abundant chances for work of wider scope.

**The Handwriting on the Wall.** The new Lord Mayor of London entertained angels unawares at his dinner on Lord Mayor's Day.

The angels also entertained His Lordship, by smashing one of the stained glass windows of the Guildhall by stones thrown from the roof. Following the smash, a voice fell like a falling star: "Votes for women." There has been nothing more dramatic in its way since Belshazzar's feast. It rather spoils the joke to add that the two humorous suffragettes, who supplied the most interesting item in the programme, are serving a month's hard labour, for trying a joke on people who have no sense of humour. Who knows but some aldermen who have passed the chair may yet live to see a woman sitting in the chair of Dick Whittington.

**Canadian Navy.** Mr. John Herron, M.P., says that 95 per cent. of the western people are opposed to the idea of a Canadian navy. He says: "Shipbuilding in Canada, of course, should be encouraged, and Canadians should be trained for the Empire's navy, but the ships and men should be under the control of the Admiralty Board. If the ships can be built economically in Canada, so much the better. When they are launched, though, they should belong to the Empire as a whole, not to Canada alone. Canada could then have representation on the British Admiralty Board, so that the principle of no taxation without representation would not be violated."

**New Zealand Budget.** The New Zealand budget includes a loan of £2,000,000 to be floated to redeem the colony's Dreadnought pledges to Great Britain. New Zealand is setting a grand example of spontaneity, liberality and patriotism to the other British dependencies.