

## Prominent Topics.

### Sympathetic Strikes.

The Philadelphia strike goes from bad to worse. All the Union men in the city are expected to quit work in support of it. Anything more illogical, unjust, unwise, or unsympathetic than the sympathetic strike is difficult to imagine. The fight is with the Rapid Transit Company, and everybody including the general public is made to suffer for the Rapid Transit Company's alleged offences. We can imagine the President of the Rapid Transit taking the position of the Irish landlord whose tenants had threatened to shoot his agent, and who said to the latter: "If these fellows think they are going to frighten me, by threatening to shoot you, they are very much mistaken." We question the worldly wisdom of alienating public sympathy in this manner. At a meeting of the strikers, telegrams were read from Chicago and San Francisco unions, pledging moral and financial support. The financial support is logical and intelligible enough; but what does the moral support include? More sympathetic strikes? Are the people of Chicago and San Francisco to walk because there is a dispute between the Rapid Transit Company of Philadelphia and its employees?

### Floods and their Causes.

New York State and the Netherlands are both, like Paris, suffering severely from floods, but the causes of the inundations are probably not the same in all three cases. The trouble at Herkimer, N.Y., is due to an ice jam. The rising of the Seine was due to persistent forest denudation. If Canada does not take vigorous forest-conservation measures it will incur great risk of suffering from floods through both causes. The peril of the ice jam is inseparable from the climate, and while in some cases it can be minimized by engineering science, it is practically impossible to prevent occasional troubles occurring here and there. The danger from forest denudation is strictly preventable.

**Canal Projects.** A Georgian Bay Canal deputation from the Canadian Federation of Boards of Trade and Municipalities waited on the Premier this week. Sir Wilfrid stated that the Government did not feel justified in any present move in the matter.

"But if the resources of the country keep on increasing as they have since the recent financial crisis, I see no reason why we cannot start soon," said Sir Wilfrid, amid applause.

At Toronto, on Wednesday, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Improvement Association decided to urge the Dominion Government to place a sum in the estimates at the present session of Parliament for a beginning on the enlarging of the

Welland Canal. Two million dollars was suggested as the desired amount this session, though the whole project of improving the St. Lawrence route is estimated to cost at least \$20,000,000.

No less than three hundred **A German Invasion.** German commercial travellers are, it is announced, on their way to Canada. Our Teutonic friends evidently realise the possibilities opened up for Canadian trade, by the removal of the surtax. This is a kind of German invasion that has no terrors for us. They will be as welcome as the flowers in May. It suggests the possibility of a similar invasion of Germany in the interests of Canadian commerce. Germany is, and always must be a great importer of such products as Canada has for export. The Germans are a long way ahead of any people in the world in their methods of selling whatever they have to sell, and we need not be too proud to study and emulate their methods.

**Our Mineral Wealth.** The mineral production of Canada during 1909 amounted in value to \$90,415,763, according to the preliminary report of the Department of Mines. This was an increase of practically \$5,000,000 over the 1908 showing, and is nearly \$4,000,000 greater than the 1907 high-mark.

In reality, the advance in mining activity was rather greater than the foregoing figures indicate, as, owing to a slight change in the method of compiling statistics the values given for 1909 are somewhat less than they would otherwise have been. The total output is pretty evenly divided, as to value, between metallic and non-metallic minerals.

**The Crown.** One result of the British elections has been to throw an immense responsibility upon His Majesty and to place great political power in his hands. That the most violent radicals realise the fact is shown by the remarkable moderation which now characterises their utterances. While a few of them are making ridiculous efforts to persuade Mr. Asquith into coercing the King, it is significant that we hear nothing nowadays about throwing the crown into the melting pot. The monarchy is a power that has to be reckoned with, and it is well for England that it is so, and that the power is in such good hands. Without the crown, England might be almost in a state of anarchy to-day.

**The War Situation.** Mr. Frederick Villiers, the celebrated war correspondent who is now in Alberta, sums up the war situation by saying: "If war were declared at 2.30 to-morrow Germany would be ready. England would not." The other day Germany mobilized and embarked 200,000 troops inside half a day. How long would it take England to perform this feat, even leaving out the embarkation part of the business? Mr. Villiers regards war as not only possible but probable.