## PROMINENT TOPICS.

The conviction of the assassin Czolgosz after a trial that occupied two days was inevitable as the deed was witnessed by so many and the death of his victim so clearly its result. For the honour of the United States it is to be hoped that there will be none of the ingenious devices adopted for delaying execution of the sentence which is provided by the American forms for administering justice, and which, in so many cases, defeat its ends. Recently a prisoner suffered death in the States under a sentence pronounced ten years ago. It now becomes the duty of all civilized nations to concert measures for the restraint of anarchists. Absolute suppression is impossible, but any overt act tending to such crimes as anarchists deem virtues, should lead to the perpetrator b ing placed where his violence will be under the control of authority. An anarchist community is suggested to be established, a sort of preserve for would-be assassins. Were these persons herded like cattle they would soon develop a form of government, and anihilate each other by killing off the leaders in succession.

The royal progress to the Pacific coast so far has brought out loyal demonstrations along the whole line to Winnipeg, which city was reached on the 26th inst. The strain put on the royal pair by such long journeys, with the break in them filled in, not with rest, but with ceremonious functions of a most anxious and wearying nature is enough to break down their strength. We trust they will have a short time of recuperative leisure at Banff to fortify them for the journey to the western coast and return one to the the eastern, after which a few days sailing will land the Duke and Duchess at home where they deserve to have a prolonged rest from all public duties.

The Brophy case which excited considerable interest when heard some time ago before Justice Street, Toronto, was decided this week in the Appeal Court in favour of the North American Life Assurance Co., on the ground that, the policy in question was contrary to or in evasion of the Act 14 Geo. III, ch. 48, sec. 1, under which the Court declared that the policy was a gambling or wagering policy and absolutely illegal and void as the defendant who secured the policy had not an insurable interest on the life of the insured man Cromar. The Court also declared the policy void because "the insurance was effected for the benefit of Brophy, though his name did not appear in the policy, and the fact that it was an endowment policy and not one ordinary life policy made no difference, and that as to the recovery of

the premiums sought by the counter claim there was no evidence that the plaintiffs, the insurance company, knew that the policy was a wagering one." A detailed report appears in another column written by a Toronto barrister.

The cabmen in this city charged such extortionate fares during the royal reception as aroused great in. dignation amongst citizens and visitors. The latter were especially victimized as they were not aware of the civic by-law regulating fares, and were not in a position to prosecute any offender. There is a general willingness to pay something extra to cabbies on such occasions, but \$5 per hour, to which they raised the tariff was a gross imposition. Indeed, in several cases this charge was a cruel outrage, as persons unable to bear such a charge were unable to reach the railway station to catch a train by which they had arranged to leave the city, and they and their friends suffered serious inconvenience and loss. One passenger, Mr. Dion, a lawyer, who was refused the use of a cab brought the driver before the Recorder, who set aside the man's plea that he was "engaged" when Mr. Dion hailed him and pointed out that the by-law reads; "Every carter or driver of any public licensed carriage or vehicle for hire when unemployed, shall be held to accommodate the first person who shall offer him employment." By refusing to carry a passenger who offered him a fare the man broke the law, but the Recorder inflicted a fine of only \$10, as he thought this would be an effective warning, and would show strangers that this city is not so lawless as some thought it to be in this matter.

Sir Louis Davis, Minister of Marine and Fisheries, has been given a seat on the bench of the Supreme Court of Canada. His successor will probably be Dr. Borden, but the details of Cabinet changes are not published.

It is reported on good authority that another British company will shortly enter Canada, and that Mr. Walter Kavanagh, Chief Agent of the Scottish Union & National, will get the management for Canada, while continuing, of course, his connection with the Scottish Union & National, which he has represented with marked success for 20 years.

MISS KATHLEEN WILSON-SMITH, eldest daughter of Mr. R. Wilson-Smith, proprietor of THE CHRON-ICLE, passed away on the 23rd inst., at her father's summer residence, St. Agathe, Que.