

Prominent Topics.

The Census. The Canadian census starts on June 1. In Montreal it is expected that it will occupy three weeks to complete it. The census should be taken in three days if it is to be of value. There is no reason why this should not be done, if the census were carried out in the same way as in Great Britain, where the whole thing is completed within 24 hours.

The British Budget. The details of Mr. Lloyd George's budget now to hand show an estimated revenue of £181,716,000 sterling. To the extent of £12,000,000 this will be absorbed by old age pensions and unemployment will take £4,126,000. Our fellow British subjects in Great Britain are taxed exceedingly heavily, and the taxes are on the increase.

Montreal City Treasurer's Retirement. The announcement that Mr. William Robb, city treasurer of Montreal, will retire at the end of the present year has been received with regret by all. Everyone knows the excellence of the work he has performed at the City Hall. A strenuous and faithful service of 47 years, during which Mr. Robb has successively filled the positions of accountant, auditor, comptroller and city treasurer, makes the contemplated step a well-earned one. But the loss to the city of Mr. Robb's able administration and sagacious counsel will be severe. That he may be spared for many years to enjoy the leisure he so well deserves will be the hearty wish of those, whether in civic or financial circles, who have come into touch with him.

Aeroplane Accidents. Two distressing aeroplane accidents occurred on Sunday last. By one at Issy les Molineux near Paris, the French Minister of War, M. Berteaux, was killed, the Premier M. Monis and M. Henri Deutsch de la Meurthe, an aged patron of aerial navigation were seriously injured. The distinguished visitors, who had gone to see the start of the aeroplane race from Paris to Madrid, were admitted to the doubtful privilege of the entree to the race course from which the start was made and from which the general crowd of spectators were excluded. One of the machines, a monoplane, fell upon them through a gusty wind. At Kurak near Odessa a similar accident occurred. An aeroplane fell unto a crowd of spectators injuring a hundred persons, five of them fatally. On Monday another similar accident occurred at Berlin, killing one and fatally injuring two spectators. The average aeroplane accident seems to

find as many victims among the spectators as among the aviators. The lesson is obvious. Not even ministers of state should be allowed on the race tracks on these occasions. Most of the troubles occur at the start.

Black Lists and White Lists. Co-operation assumes some curious forms nowadays. Sixty-five manufacturers in the United States are now using the label of the Consumers' League and there are similar organizations in France, Germany and Switzerland. The League publishes a White List of establishments which it thereby certifies treat their employes fairly and in accordance with a certain standard adopted by the League. This is the union label, with a difference, in that while it is intended to benefit the employes, it is issued by the consumers, who are philanthropically pledged to encourage by their patronage stores which treat their employes fairly in the matter of wages, vacations, hours and sanitary conditions. Black lists have been tried by other organizations. These were intended to facilitate the boycotting of stores and factories which do not treat their employes well, but the men who issued the black lists assumed a great legal responsibility. If the White List were to become general, which it is not likely to do, exclusion from it would become about equivalent to inclusion in a Black List and it is doubtful whether all legal responsibility might not be evaded.

The Cracker Nuisance. Fifty-eight boys and four men were arrested on Wednesday, in Montreal, for breaking the by-law against discharging fireworks on the streets. The Board of Control cannot be too insistent and the police cannot be too active in stopping this growing nuisance. Just as the people of the United States are insisting upon a sane celebration of the Fourth of July, our people seem to have made up their minds to have insane celebrations of Victoria Day and other public holidays. There is nothing patriotic or amusing in frightening horses and causing fires by using fire-crackers in the streets of a big city. There is something interesting and even beautiful about a good display of fireworks. Crackers are simply a noisy and dangerous nuisance.

U. S. MONETARY REFORM.—Secretary MacVeagh, supporting the Aldrich monetary reform scheme before the bankers' associations of Missouri and Kansas on Wednesday, said that a central reserve association would bring the 25,000 American banks into a workable organization. It would only be a question of organization, and not at all one of centralization. That the proposed system would be a central bank Secretary MacVeagh denied.