

Prominent Topics.

The Coward's Weapon Again.

Alphonse Martel shot and killed James McGovern, for about the same reason that Dillon shot the policeman, because he was asked to leave his lodgings. We do not wish to discuss the merits of the case; but why should a man like Martel, a hurdy-gurdy grinder with no money and nothing else worth stealing, have a revolver in his possession? Why should he or anybody else for that matter be allowed to have a revolver in his possession? We hardly ever hear of a revolver except in connection with a cowardly crime, or a stupid accident. A proposition has been made in Parliament to search immigrants for concealed weapons. That will be quite in order when we have taken measures to prevent the people already here from playing with revolvers. No man should be allowed to buy, or to have in his possession a revolver without first obtaining a police magistrate's license; and the sale of a revolver to a customer without a license should be a crime punishable by imprisonment.

Amendment to the Address.

It is announced that at the opening of the Imperial Parliament, Mr. Austen Chamberlain will take the aggressive, by moving an amendment to the Address, in favour of Tariff Reform. This is a good tactical move, and is moreover quite justified by existing conditions. If it does not win the support of the Nationalist Party, it will split the Nationalist Party, which is already getting near Donnybrook Fair. The motion will test the adhesion of the Liberal-Nationalist-Labour coalition, and the division will probably decide Mr. Asquith's policy. The political sky in England is like the horizon in the Arctic regions. While the sun is setting in the West, the dawn is breaking in the East. While the day of one general electoral campaign is only drawing to a close, the day of another campaign has actually commenced. It promises to be a fine day.

Western Ontario Dogs.

Both the Dominion and the Ontario Provincial authorities are acting upon the assumption that there is an outbreak of rabies in Western Ontario sufficiently serious to justify such extreme measures as the muzzling or chaining up of all dogs. The Hon. Mr. Hanna justifies the action on the ground that there are no less than forty-one persons from Western Ontario now being treated for hydrophobia in the Pasteur Institute in New York. If these have all really been bitten by mad dogs the situation is certainly serious enough to justify almost anything in the way of protective measures. But it must be remembered that every one who is bitten by a dog suspects the dog of being mad, and the sus-

picion is shared by all the man's friends. In England the theory of the law is that "every dog is entitled to one bite." It is a mistake to kill the dogs too promptly, because it prevents the possibility of determining whether the animal suffered from rabies or not. A suspected dog should, of course, be locked up as quickly as possible. Chaining up and muzzling dogs is not calculated to develop the natural sweetness of their disposition. While the law is enforced, the Western Ontario dog will certainly lead a dog's life.

The coroner's inquest into the **Webwood Disaster.** Webwood accident has failed to bring out the cause of the train's derailment. The jury, however, sensibly recommends that certain points be thoroughly investigated by the Railway Commission. All such matters should be investigated, as THE CHRONICLE has suggested, by officials of the Railway Commission. This would be as much in the interest of the railway companies, as of the public. The uncertainty as to the cause of the accident will not relieve the Canadian Pacific of its financial responsibility. A thorough and impartial investigation by competent experts might go far to prevent the recurrence of such expensive disasters.

A United States Circuit Court Judge **Libel Law.** has decided that the proper place in which to try a newspaper for libel is the place where the paper is published. Hitherto it has been held in the United States as in Canada, that a paper may be sued in any place in which it is circulated. That, for instance, a Montreal paper may have to defend itself in Halifax or Vancouver. The decision has the merit of being in accordance with Justice, common sense and the public interest.

France is going to spend \$28,000,000 a year for the next ten years in naval reconstruction. **The French Navy.** (This is an important factor in the naval supremacy question which may have a discouraging effect upon Germany's naval policy—or the contrary. The permanent strength of the French navy is to include twenty-eight battleships, fifty-two sea-going torpedo boats and ten ships for distant foreign service. Most of the other vessels are intended for coast defence.)

A Connecticut jury has brought in a **Mad Hatters.** verdict of \$74,000 damages against two hundred hatters for boycotting. The action being brought under the Sherman Anti-Trust law, triple damages are assessed, amounting to \$222,000 and the costs will amount to \$10,000. The judgment practically affirms that the members of trade unions are responsible for the actions of their officers. It is not too much to say that there are, at least, 200 mad hatters in Connecticut.