

Prominent Topics.

Snow on the Great Lakes. Everything in the way of climate is possible on the continent of North America. Wireless messages received at Duluth, from steamers on the lakes, say that they are held up by a snow storm.

Fighting Fire on the Twenty-Fifth Storey. The story about the New York firemen fighting a fire on the twenty-fifth storey of a sky-scraper will be received not exactly with suspicion, but with a liberal discount. The man who puts his foot on a match is "fighting a fire" even if he does not wear a helmet, and he can do it as effectively on the twenty-fifth storey as in the basement.

Blocks and Blockheads. We do not know whose brilliant idea it was to pave the road opposite St. George's Church with granite blocks. Who ever suggests such a noisy nuisance alongside any church, should be allowed the privilege of wearing one of the blocks as a charm on his watch-chain, as a suitable decoration and recognition of his intelligence and good taste.

Tuesday's Thunder Storm. The world seems to have entered upon an era of exceptional and destructive natural phenomena. In the last three or four years earthquakes have become common place and now severe thunder storms have become frequent enough to call attention to their frequency all over the northern hemisphere. The storm which shook up Montreal on Tuesday was remarkable, not simply for the one bolt which did so much damage by setting fire to St. Jean Baptiste church as for its general severity, which, however, was mainly exhausted in spectacular effect. The actual loss of life and property by lightning in the great centres of population is surprisingly small, but the aggregate damage done in the rural districts of Canada is by no means inconsiderable.

Vindication of the Seven Aldermen. The glorious uncertainty of the law was never better illustrated than by the long series of contradictory judgments given in the suit to unseat and disqualify the seven members of the Finance Committee, who voted to pay the expenses of Mayor Payette and his secretary to Paris. The final judgment just rendered by the Privy Council settles the question of law and has the further advantage of being in accordance with justice, which is strikingly characteristic of the judgments of the Privy Council, where the judges have less regard for technicalities than they have for practical justice. The aldermen who have had

to wait so long for their vindication are to be heartily congratulated and so is the Hon. A. W. Atwater, K.C., who as consulting city attorney, fought the case to a finish with his usual ability.

Aviation Accidents. The French Senate has been discussing the perils of aviation, and the question was raised whether the Minister of War was justified in permitting army officers to take the risks that attend the art of aeroplaning, which is far from perfect. We cannot imagine the officers of the French army being debarred from taking part in any useful military experiments on the ground of the danger involved. We think, however, that the Government might very properly distinguish between aviation events which are experimental and those which are primarily exhibition or sporting performances. Nearly all the fatalities, it will be noted, occur at the start of races, where the presence of huge crowds adds greatly to the risks. Aviators are inspired or bullied into doing things against their own better judgment, and the spectators take risks themselves of which they are absolutely ignorant. The science, although it has made marvellous progress, is yet in its infancy. That it has come to stay, no thoughtful observer questions. Its possibilities are too great to allow of its being dropped through any fear of danger.

Port Hood Colliery Flooded. The submarine break in the Port Hood colliery involving the flooding of the mine is said to be unprecedented in the annals of submarine mining. Many breaks have occurred in mines under the sea, but never before it is said, at the bottom of a mine. The break at Port Hood is reported to be at 1,030 feet below tide level. At this depth, however, there is thought to be more chance of the fracture filling up with silt than at a higher level. No effort is being made at present to pump the mine, which may have to be abandoned. It belongs to the Port Hood and Richmond Railway & Coal Company. When, some time ago, the Company was reorganized, Simon and A. H. Dymont, of Toronto; Senator Robert Mackay, of Montreal; George D. Forbes, of Hespeler, Ont., and H. Waddington, of Toronto, became the directors, and chiefly interested in it. The total bond issue is about \$1,000,000 in two issues, on which there is a big suit, pending to determine which is prior, the Royal Trust Company and Eastern Trust Company respectively being interested.

A BRANCH of the Canadian Bank of Commerce has been opened at Golden, B.C., in charge of Mr. N. M. Foulkes.