

Prominent Topics.

Tag Day. Montreal by which over \$23,000 was raised for the benefit of the School for the Blind is most encouraging for the promoters of that very desirable institution. It shows what can be done for a good cause, in a generous community, by well organised effort and indefatigable energy.

Conservative Caucus on Reciprocity.

A Conservative caucus held at Ottawa, on Wednesday, has decided that: "The Liberal Conservative Party will make no truce on the Reciprocity question which involves the national existence of this country and gravely affects its relations to the Empire." This probably means that Sir Wilfrid Laurier will not go to the coronation or take part in the Imperial Conference, but that the Dominion Parliament will settle down to an endurance contest over the most vital issue ever raised in Canada. It is a fight to a finish.

Morocco. The danger to the peace of Europe involved in a French military expedition to Morocco is very great, no matter how serious may be the circumstances justifying the step. France cannot pacify Morocco, nor over-protect legitimate French interests in that turbulent country without giving mortal offence to Germany, which is also anxious to play the role of peacemaker with guns and bayonets there. Morocco, in fact, threatens to become a worse storm centre than the Balkans.

The Late Senator Forget.

The representative character of the attendance when the remains of the late Senator Forget were laid to rest on Wednesday, and the tributes paid to his memory in the Senate by Senator Dandurand and Sir Mackenzie Bowell give some indication of the esteem in which the late Senator was generally held. Senator Forget was one of the men, who have done a great deal towards the building up of Canada, and his influence upon many lines of development will remain after him. Upright and honorable in business, he was at the same time a man of great ability. The Canadian business world and Canadian public life is the poorer for his loss.

Anglo-American Arbitration. Mr. Asquith and Mr. Balfour are to appear on the same platform in support of the proposed Anglo-American Arbitration Treaty.

On the general principle that almost anything is better and cheaper than war, this agreement in opinion between the leaders of the two great political parties in the United Kingdom is pleasing. Canada has most to gain and most to lose by arbitration between Great Britain and the United States. Its experience of arbitration has not been encouraging, but its experience of war might be worse. As matters stands, it would seem only pro-

per that Canada should be consulted regarding the essential conditions of an arbitration treaty between the United Kingdom and the United States.

Anglican Procession in London Streets.

Few men have done more to strengthen and popularise the Church of England than the present Bishop of London. He is afraid of nothing, not even of a new idea, the *bête noir* of so many clergymen. His training in the east end of London was an admirable education for the Bishop of one of the biggest and at the same time the richest and poorest diocese in the world. To perform the duties of such an office acceptably, a man's sympathies must be broad indeed. The procession of clergy and laity from St. Martin's-in-the-Fields to St. Paul's Cathedral to take part in a service of intercession for the Empire as a prelude to the Coronation was a happy thought and intensely characteristic of Dr. Ingram. It serves to mark the national character of the Church and brings home to every spectator and to every participant some of the realities of religion.

The U. S. Senate and the Tariff Question.

The fate of the reciprocity agreement in the United States House of Assembly can scarcely be said to have been in doubt since the commencement of the present session. The only thing certain about the progress of the measure in the Senate is its uncertainty. The American Senate is a very different institution from the Canadian Senate. It has a mind of its own, a will of its own and fully realises that it does not exist upon sufferance and that its life and the political lives of its individual members do not depend upon conciliating the Government of the day or the Lower House. Within its sphere it is more autocratic than the House of Assembly. On the whole tariff question, which is a much bigger matter than that of Canadian reciprocity it is split up into many ill-defined groups. While the attitude of individual senators is fairly well known there is no knowing to what extent any of them are prepared to sacrifice their preferences for party considerations, or even for the higher principle of accepting half a loaf rather than no bread. With a certain democratic element Canadian reciprocity is admittedly a step towards free trade. Other democrats are frankly protectionist, and to some of them the free list bill is anathema, not only in its details and especially its ambiguities, but in its general principles. Some want Canadian reciprocity dealt with separately from the free list, others want the one measure to carry the other. It is among the possibilities that the two measures may block each other for the present session, even if they do not kill each other. It is not difficult to conceive of a radical reconstruction of party lines, not only in Congress but in the country. One thing fairly safe to assume, is that the real congressional fight on the tariff question has yet to come.