

which wants to hold some-one responsible for every great loss of human life that can be regarded as preventable. Still we must recognize that there are forces at work which seem to set human ingenuity and caution at defiance, and one of the most difficult with which to cope in the art of navigation is fog.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier's Return.

The enthusiastic welcome accorded to the Canadian Premier on his return from England is one more illustration of the fact, that every strong type of government, whether it be called autocratic or democratic, is the development in some form, of the one man power. An oriental potentate with despotic authority was quietly deposed this week, because his intolerable blundering had for years lowered the status and threatened the independent existence of his country. An occidental statesman of democratic principles with a cabinet somewhat disorganized and a party somewhat demoralized, is rapturously welcomed home by his followers in the serene confidence that his personal influence will suffice to restore and maintain political cohesion and discipline. Any system of government may develop this type of leader, or rather the type tends to develop itself by, or in spite of, any system. Of course the men are rare; which is simply saying that exceptions must be exceptional. Canada has produced two—Sir John Macdonald and Sir Wilfrid Laurier.

The Weather. Do we Canadian grumblers at the weather recognize how much there is for which we ought to be thankful, when we read of Austria suffering in July from ten degrees of frost, of Austrian railways blocked by snow, and of 2,500 heat prostrations in a single day in Philadelphia? A trip to New York is always interesting—so interesting just now, that the well-posted Montrealer would almost as soon take a trip to that bourne from which no traveller returns. Men of little faith were panic-stricken last spring about the Canadian crop outlook; to-day it is admitted that the crop prospects of the Dominion are exceptionally good.

Sovereign Bank. It is officially announced that Mr. A. H. B. MacKenzie has been appointed manager at Montreal, of the Sovereign Bank. Mr. MacKenzie has had large experience and is well and favourably known in banking circles, having been connected with the Canadian Bank of Commerce for over twenty years, filling various positions up to that of assistant manager in this city. He has been for some months acting as inspector for the Sovereign Bank. We are sure that the appointment will be popular in this city.

Fire at Victoria, B.C.

A disastrous fire occurred on the 23rd instant, in the Chinese Section of Victoria, B.C. The buildings destroyed were principally frame ones. The property loss will aggregate about \$125,000, with insurance amounting to probably \$50,000. The number of buildings burned is stated to be about 70, including two or three churches. The fire, which started in Store street between Discovery and Herald streets, spread very rapidly, and in the course of two hours had extended east for five blocks.

Montreal Harbour. The Montreal Harbour Commissioners are evidently alive to their duties and responsibilities. They have engaged the services of a well known English engineer, Mr. R. C. H. Davidson, of London, for the purpose of giving them a report on the problems of port development. Mr. Davidson has, it is stated, been engaged in connection with a number of important works in the old country.

Winnipeg's Industrial Exhibition.

Both as to exhibits and attendance, the Winnipeg Industrial Exhibition for 1907 would appear to have surpassed all previous records. Various improvements had been made in grounds and buildings, and others are projected for next year. The showing of Western products—manufacturing as well as agricultural—was of a character to impress all visitors with a sense of the country's remarkable growth and progress during recent years.

The All-Red Route. A prominent member of the Imperial Government is quoted as authority for the statement that: "the All-Red Route is as dead as a door nail." There are door nails and door nails. If the nail referred to is a nail of the door that was banged and bolted in the face of the colonies, the metaphor may have or may not have, a sombre significance.

**Montreal's
Population.** According to Lovell's Directory just issued, the population of the City of Montreal and suburbs is now 434,000, the city proper being estimated at 360,000, the suburbs being responsible for the difference. Within a few years, it is safe to estimate that the population of Montreal will double.

**Winnipeg and its
Board of Control.** The City Council and the Board of Control of Winnipeg are said to be at loggerheads. It may not be a bad idea to appoint what are known as paid commissioners to attend to all the detail work of the City of Winnipeg.