

## Prominent Topics.

**Mr. Hosmer on England.** Mr. Charles R. Hosmer, who has just returned home from England gives what looks like an accurate diagnosis of the old country's condition, when he says that "the country is prosperous, but sick of politics." He says he has never seen so much prosperity in London as at the present time and never heard so much optimism expressed. People who form their opinions of the state of the United Kingdom, from the trans-Atlantic news dispatches, may be pardoned for considering the country to be in a state of chronic crisis and despondent desperation.

**B. C. Workmen's Compensation Act.** The Privy Council has decided that foreigners residing abroad may get compensation under the Workmen's Compensation Act of British Columbia, for the death of their relatives who may be killed in that Province. The judgment is in accordance with justice, common sense and the elementary principles of law. If a man is killed in British Columbia, why should any discrimination be made against his widow because she lives in Ireland or in Austria? The case arose out of a mining accident, which caused the death of a man whose wife and family were living in Austria and the Crow's Nest Pass Company put in a plea that the British Columbia Legislature could not legislate for the benefit of defendants living outside the province. On this principle, if a railway man were killed in an accident, the company might claim exemption from responsibility to his dependents because they did not live in the province where the accident occurred.

**Political not Criminal.** Mrs. Pankhurst and Mr. and Mrs. Pethick Lawrence have put in the novel defence that their conspiracy to induce their followers to damage property was a political and not a criminal offence. The distinction is one that the law does not recognise. An offence may be both political and criminal, and breaking windows is not politics. If the suffragettes cannot revolutionise the British Constitution without breaking the windows of people who have nothing to do with their quarrels, neither will they be able to run the government or help run the government without running amok now and then and smashing things. It is difficult to withhold a certain amount of sympathy from a lady who, as she says is no longer young, and who is placed in a position of suffering through her mistaken efforts in aid of a cause in which she has no personal interest to serve. It is all the more difficult, because of the uneasy feeling that the failure of the ruling sex to deal effectively with problems affecting the women and children affords, in some sort, a palliation if not a justification of something like extreme measures.

The difficulty is that the defendant's plea for sympathy is not accompanied by any profession of regret or promise of amendment. She really asks the law to declare itself impotent to deal with systematic offences against law and order and the rights of individuals. Unfortunately, Mrs. Pankhurst cannot very well say a word on her own behalf without to some extent betraying her cause and condemning her associates. The situation is a painful one for all concerned.

**Marriage Law.** The mixed marriage question will probably come before the Supreme Court, on the 27th instant, the Privy Council having decided that the court has jurisdiction in the matter. The first question to be submitted is:—

"1. (a) Has the Parliament of Canada authority to enact in whole or in part Bill No. 3 of the first session of the twelfth Parliament of Canada, intituled "An Act to Amend the Marriage Law?"

The bill provides that every ceremony or form of marriage heretofore or hereafter performed by any persons authorized to perform any ceremony of marriage by the laws of the place where it is performed, and duly performed according to such laws, shall everywhere within Canada be deemed a valid marriage, notwithstanding any differences in the religious faith of the persons so married and without regard to the religion of the person performing the ceremony.

Other questions submitted to the Supreme Court will be

"(b) If the provisions of the said bill are not all within the authority of the Parliament of Canada to enact, which, if any, of the provisions are within such authority?"

"2. Does the law of the Province of Quebec render null and void, unless contracted before a Roman Catholic priest, a marriage that would otherwise be legally binding, which takes place in such province

"(a) Between persons both of whom are Roman Catholics, or

"(b) Between persons one of whom only is a Roman Catholic.

"3. If either (a) or (b) of the last preceding question is answered in the affirmative, or if both of them are answered in the affirmative, has the Parliament of Canada authority to enact that all such marriages whether (a) heretofore solemnized, or (b) hereafter to be solemnized, shall be legal and binding?"

At a meeting of directors of the Ogilvie Flour Mills Company, Limited, on Wednesday, Mr. W. A. Black was elected to succeed the late Mr. F. W. Thompson as vice-president and managing director of the company. Mr. Black has been closely connected with Mr. Thompson and the management of the business for the past twenty-eight years.