

# THE TALK

CANADA has 109,304 Indians, an increase of 1757 in a year. However, the greater part of this is accounted for by tribes not before counted, leaving a natural increase of but 182, enough, however, to show that the noble red man is getting so accustomed to civilised ways that they do not necessarily prove fatal.

Five distinct parties have candidates in the field in British Columbia and as a consequence the issues at stake are somewhat clouded. In addition to the Conservatives, headed by Premier McBride and the Liberals, led by J. A. McDonald, K.C. and W. B. McInnes, there are Socialists, Labourites and Martin Independents. The McBride government is making a straight party fight of it notwithstanding the fact that they had only one of majority in the past three sessions and held power through an alliance with the Labour-Socialists.

Opponents of the government in Manitoba fear that Premier Roblin will prepare for the coming elections by a gerrymander. And this is so unusual you know.

They're still pumping water into the Hul colliery at Glace Bay, N.S. Experienced miners say the pit will not be recovered inside of a year.

The prairies are buried under an avalanche of snow. Never since the days of Fort Garry has so much of the beautiful been lying about loose. It is adding terrors to the fuel famine, piling up the expense of operating railroads. It is estimated that the last storm cost the C.P.R. \$250,000. However, the optimistic Westerners are comforting themselves with the reflection that heavy snows bring big crops.

Prince of Wales College, of Charlottetown, P.E.I., are discussing terms of affiliation with McGill University. The latter proposes by a slight extension in Prince of Wales' first year work to accept it as matriculation and by a further extension to have Prince of Wales cover McGill's first and second year in arts.

Manitoba, so sayeth the Speech from the Throne will erect a thousand miles of long distance telephone lines next summer, "which is a guarantee of greatly reduced rates for that very important service." From which it would appear that Mr. Roblin intends to make talk cheaper.

Woodstock, Ont., is a city, and as such is to have a city regiment of its own. Mr. John White is to be commanding officer of the new corps and organisation work is already under way.

And now it is estimated that the total grain crop of the three prairie provinces during the past year was 201,020,148 bushels. And in addition

to all this \$4,029,639 has been paid to ranchers for cattle. Now you know where the coonskin coats come from.

It is said that Ralph Smith, the B.C. Labour M.P. and leader can have the governorship of the Yukon if he wants it. For there never was a government so mean that it couldn't find a job for the poor labor leader.

Lumbering conditions in the Upper St. John River, N.B., are excellent this year and it is estimated that Upper St. John River Driving Corporation will be called on to handle about one hundred and sixty million feet.

Cobalt has its silver, the West has its wheat and now Manitoulin Island looms up as an oil field. It is said that 100 wells have been sunk and the discoverers believe they have a greater oil ground than Pennsylvania had in her palmiest days. Next!

During the deer shooting season, Nov. 1st to Nov. 15th, it is estimated that 5,000 hunters were in the different Ontario districts and that they bagged 10,000 deer. However, as the



Miss Eva Gauthier,  
One of our prominent Canadian singers.

deer are said to be increasing in numbers year by year these estimates may be built on the fish story system.

At least seventy-five thousand Americans are expected to cross the boundary and take up farms in the Canadian Northwest next year. But they're not coming to Americanise Canada. They're coming to get cheap land that will grow the most expensive grade of wheat. And they'll become Canadians too. There's nothing like prosperity to make a man proud of the flag that floats over him.

Sandwich, Ont., is excited over a report that the United States Steel Company will establish a mammoth steel plant there. It is claimed that a site of one thousand acres has been bought and that ore docks and coal storage facilities will be built, the whole to give employment to five thousand men.

According to Mr. Frederick Nicholls Toronto is receiving 6,000 horse power daily from Niagara Falls, and in the very near future this will be increased to 20,000 horse power. About 400,000 horse power is being developed altogether and as the Ontario Government restricts the export to fifty per cent., 200,000 horse power is available for use in Canada. And now the Dominion Government will place an export duty on the energy. That should further encourage its use at home.

Building against time for a \$66,000 prize, the St. Maurice Valley Railway Co. finished their work on December 30 and took down the money. The line covers the 22 miles between Three Rivers and Shawinigan Falls and the Government promised an additional subsidy of \$3,000 per mile on condition that it was in running order by Dec. 31st, 1906.

Nova Scotia mines produced five million tons of coal last year, an increase of half a million tons over the previous year. Business failures of the year totalled only 25 per cent. of the one that went before. No wonder the Bluenoses are satisfied with the government.

The heavy rains in North Saskatchewan this winter threaten to change the geography of the country somewhat. The South Saskatchewan River promises to break through its banks and follow the Wilton Creek into the Qu'Appelle. Should this happen the whole course of the South Saskatchewan would be changed and towns and villages in the Qu'Appelle Valley submerged. There is a tradition to the effect that a hundred years ago or thereabouts the Saskatchewan followed this route.

The burning Coal Arch, sixty miles west of Edmonton, is the outcroppings of famous undeveloped beds owned by a syndicate, of which the C.P.R. are the largest shareholders. The coal is said to be in unlimited quantity and of splendid quality. One seam which is on fire exposes twenty feet of solid coal. And all this heat is going to waste in the land of the fuel famine. Can't somebody invent canned heat?

The best New Year's gift the people of Stoughton, Sask., could ask came to them in the shape of a special train of coal. The fuel famine promised them a cold day, but the government found the coal, the C. P. R. furnished the "special" and Stoughton had a Happy New Year.

They're still building the Trent Canal. An engineer's party has recently made a survey of the Holland River which empties into Lake Simcoe. In the sweet bye and bye it is to become part of that great canal which comes nearer to being perpetual work than anything yet discovered is to perpetual motion.

Market prices of stock call on Cobalt to give returns on an estimated aggregate of \$250,000,000. And yet Montreal is wondering where it can get an unlimited supply of pure water.