

**Standard Oil.** The war against the Standard Oil Company goes gaily on, and another victory has been won in the United States Circuit Court, which simply orders that this great "combination in restraint of trade" shall be evicted, ejected and utterly expelled from this mundane sphere. Naturally an appeal will be taken to the United States Supreme Court before the Standard Oil decides to obey the Circuit Court and extinguish its light. Even if the decision of the Supreme Court is adverse, our impression is that the company will not get entirely off the earth—probably not farther than Paris; where it has already organized and secured the incorporation of several holding companies.

**Persecuted Manhood.** A suffragette meeting at Bristol, England, on Wednesday, was broken up by a gallant band of students who threw flour balls and peas at the women and tried to storm the platform. It is gratifying to learn that so far none of the students have been arrested and condemned to three months' hard labour. It would be distressing to hear of a man being imprisoned, compelled to wear prison clothes and fed with a stomach pump for violently expressing his political principles. Men have such delicate sensibilities. The only painful thing about it is that none of the suffragettes have been imprisoned for being assaulted.

**Wheat Prices.** Mr. James Carruthers, of James Carruthers & Co., grain exporters, Montreal, believes wheat prices are bound for higher levels.

"I base my belief," he said, "on a number of points which are now affecting the market. European stocks are at a low ebb. Prices have been so high for the past two years that foreigners have accumulated no surplus, but have only taken enough wheat to satisfy immediate demands. In spite of manipulation, wheat prices eventually come to a supply and demand basis, and that is the prime factor we must look at to determine the future trend of the market."

The high quality of Canadian wheat this year is another factor making for most satisfactory prices to western farmers.

**Dominion or Provincial Control of Insurance.** Coming as it does almost on the eve of the new Dominion Insurance Bill's enactment, Judge Leet's decision in the case of *The King vs. Willis, Faber & Co.*, is of special interest. In effect he rules that a contract for fire insurance is not a "trading contract" coming under Dominion jurisdiction, but one of "property and civil rights" and as such a matter for Provincial jurisdiction. On which grounds he dismissed the charge, brought against

the defendants under federal law, of having acted as agents for a company not licensed by the Insurance Department. That the case will be taken farther is certain; the point at issue is an all-important one. The details of the decision are given elsewhere.

**Operation for Appendicitis.** The Medical Congress at Budapest has been discussing the question of operations for appendicitis. Most of the American surgeons were in favour of early operation, but the general feeling among the European delegates was against the practice. The late Dr. Wyatt Johnson, who had great experience in connection with autopsies, used to say that no man who had seen as many vermiform appendices as he had seen, would ever question the wisdom of early operation.

**Winnipeg in the Dark.** Winnipeg was suddenly plunged into darkness and its car service was stopped on Tuesday by the bursting of the Electric Power Company's dam at Lac du Bonnet, fifty miles east of the city, and the consequent flooding of the power house. Temporary power is partially provided for by an auxiliary steam plant, but the serious loss and inconvenience is still being experienced.

**Waterways to the West.** In response to a deputation urging deepening the Welland Canal from 14 feet to 22 feet, Sir Wilfrid Laurier stated that the Government was thoroughly alive to all needs for waterway development. Indeed, it had in view the whole plan of a waterway to the Rocky Mountains and this year the Saskatchewan River was being deepened in order to have water transportation from Edmonton to Winnipeg. He admitted, however, that in the great project of transportation from the great lakes the Welland canal must be first.

So far as the Georgian Bay canal was concerned, said Sir Wilfrid Laurier, the two schemes were not in competition. With American traffic to count on, there would be plenty for both. In conclusion he stated that the problem was simply one of finance. As soon as the money problem was solved the work would be done, but not before.

**House of Lords Debate.** The debate in the House of Lords on the budget will be much longer than was expected. The issues incidentally mixed up with the main one are so complicated, that many of the peers feel it incumbent upon them to give a reason for their votes. It is said that the free trade lords will even abstain from voting and some of them may feel under the necessity of explaining their abstention.