

The Chronicle



Banking, Insurance & Finance.

ESTABLISHED JANUARY, 1861

PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY

Vol. XXXI. No. 44

MONTREAL, NOVEMBER 3, 1911.

Single Copy 10c
Annual Subscription \$2.00

HOME RULE. **T**HE British Cabinet has been discussing the question of Irish Home Rule. The financial side of the question will, no doubt, arouse a good deal of public interest. The expenditure in Ireland is said to exceed the revenue by \$6,500,000 a year. The Nationalists claim that this is an exaggeration and that whatever deficit there may be, is due to extravagance, and particularly in connection with the constabulary. It is stated that the British Government will be asked to launch the Irish Government with a subsidy of \$75,000,000 to \$150,000,000. An alternative scheme is for the Imperial Government to assume the responsibility for some item of Irish expense, such as old age pensions.

CARLTON-RITZ HOTEL. **T**HE promoters of the Carlton Hotel Company, met on Wednesday with Mr. C. R. Hosmer, the president, in the chair. It was resolved to increase the five per cent. bond issue from \$600,000 to \$1,000,000 with a view to enlarging the hotel, which is to be called the Carlton-Ritz. The hotel will have 240 rooms, instead of 170, as originally contemplated. Seeing the great depth to which the excavation has been made through solid rock, suggests the idea that it would have been cheaper to have bought all the land between Drummond and Mountain streets. More building could have been done on the surface with less burrowing and less expense.

SHEEP RAISING IN CANADA. **M**R. W. T. RICH, of the Dominion Department of Agriculture, who was appointed as one of the commissioners to investigate the causes of the failure of the sheep-raising industry in Canada, says that the number of sheep in this country has fallen from 3,000,000 twelve years ago to a little over 2,000,000 at the present time. He says that the Canadian farmers need educating in the business, and suggests government instructors and inspectors as in Australia. He also suggests that the farmers be allowed to graze sheep on the crown lands in Alberta and Saskatchewan. He also advocates more attention being given to wool-growing, as more remunerative than raising mutton. His report is not yet out and meanwhile, it is premature to discuss the reasons

why Canadian farmers are abandoning sheep-raising. The industry is well worth preserving from the point of view of the consumer, as well as the producer.

AUTOMOBILE FATALITIES.

THE awful slaughter of the innocents by reckless automobile drivers in Montreal goes on unchecked, and rarely punished. Three facts stand out prominently in this connection:—

I. We are continually impressed by the number of these shrieking machines, which go tearing through the busiest street, often in charge of howling rowdies, who are not infrequently too intoxicated to be trusted with a steam roller.

II. The number of fatal accidents recorded week after week.

III. The remarkably few convictions or even arrests recorded for these disgraceful crimes.

It cannot be well understood that the man who kills any human being through driving an automobile at excessive speed, is guilty of a much more serious offence than a mere breach of the speed by-law. He is guilty of manslaughter, if not of murder. If a man through negligence is responsible for killing another, that is manslaughter. But it is a recognized principle of law that the man who while engaged in committing an unlawful act accidentally kills another, is guilty of murder. For instance, a man who in trying to kill a policeman, or to rob a store, accidentally kills a by-stander, is guilty of murder. The drunken rowdy who rushes an automobile through a crowded street, is morally guilty of murder, even if he kills nobody. If a thousand fools indulge in this crazy pastime, it is safe betting that a certain number of citizens will be killed, and every one of the thousand is just as responsible for the deaths, as the particular individuals who actually do the damage. The courts should take a most serious view of this kind of crime; and if the police are unwilling to, or incapable of, checking the offenders by wholesale arrests, it is a sign that they are not up to their business. One reason so many of our laws are ignored, is that the duty of enforcing them is a divided responsibility. What is everybody's business, is nobody's business. Some of our civic authorities must waste a lot of time in wondering; each one wondering why the others do not do something to protect the lives of the citizens.