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R. WILSON SMITH
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JOHN T. P. KNIGHT
Editor

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OUR COMING OF AGE

The "Chronicle's" 21st Birthday.

With the opening of the new century, THE CHRONICLE celebrates its coming of age, and the retrospect of twenty-one years yields encouragement and comfort. We have been rewarded in some slight measure for fidelity to the interests of legitimate underwriting and sound finance, and the fearless expression of independent opinion upon all matters of general interest has never involved us in litigation with those whom we have seen fit to criticize in the language of truth. It is with pleasant memories of the past, and courage and hope for the future, that we again extend the good wishes of the season to our friends and subscribers at home and abroad. We enter upon the century with no sounding promises to make, and no new policy to outline.

To a reflective mind the changes observable in the city of Montreal during the past twenty-one years ought to be sufficient evidence that the world we live in, with all its actors and spectators, is continually passing on. There is no rest—no cessation—no delay—in this age of progress. Each year is equally warm with projects, hopes and anticipations. A retrospective view of the century now fading ought to supply every citizen of Montreal with the most animating motives to diligence and perseverance in furthering the growth and improvements of the Canadian metropolis. We recall with mingled feelings of sadness, gratitude and the pleasure of most pleasant recollections, the memories of those with whom we have associated during the last twenty-one years, who have joined the great majority. In the field of insurance, in banking and other spheres, the changes have been very great, but happily a number of old, familiar faces still remain with us, whose presence is an encouragement and a stimulus to-day as it has been for many past years.

The Bank of England. In response to an enquiry as to the size of he Bank of England, we give the latest figures at hand relative to its capital, dividend, and reserve fund.

In September las, the proprietors assembled to a call "to consider of a dividend," and they came to the conclusion that, inasmuch as the net profits for the six months ended 31st August amounted to the comfortable sum of $3,639,295, it would be safe to declare "a half-year's dividend of interest and profits of 5 per cent." This dividend upon a capital of $72,765,000 absorbed $3,638,250. After this distribution had been made, the Bank of England's "rest," or undivided profits, carried forward, amounted to $15,123,665.

"Made in Germany." A few weeks ago we referred to the depressing census figures of the pleasant land of France, which showed the population to be about stationary, and which have been made the basis for a suggestion that bachelors and married couples having no issue, shall be specially taxed; while fathers of four children shall be rewarded by the government. The results of the German counting of heads have now been announced, and the figures are not likely to cheer the French.

The subjects of Emperor William are fruitful, and they have multiplied and replenished the earth to such good purpose that, while five years ago Germany possessed only twenty-eight cities with over 100,000 inhabitants; now the number has increased to thirty-three. The Berlinese have increased in numbers by 207,000 in the quinquennial period, and Hamburg by 80,000. The growth of population in these thirty-three cities during the five years is from 12 to 20 per cent., and the people made in Germany are, like those of the United States, the stoutest competitors for the world's trade and commerce that the British Empire has to meet.

These figures from the terrritory of the Teuton are calculated to make others than their French neighbours somewhat thoughtful.