

# The Chronicle

Insurance & Finance.

ESTABLISHED JANUARY, 1881

R. WILSON-SMITH, Proprietor

PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY

Vol. XXVII. No 11.

MONTREAL, FRIDAY, MARCH 15, 1907

Single Copy - 10c  
Annual Subscription, \$2.00

## Municipal Ownership Finance.

**T**HE defeat of municipal socialism in London has been followed by similar results in other local elections throughout Great Britain. The first measure adopted by the new London County Council will be to order an independent audit of accounts to ascertain the exact condition of civic finances. It is calculated that the old council left unpaid bills amounting to \$25,000,000, together with future capital commitments aggregating \$100,000,000. This necessitates an immediate new loan of \$35,000,000. These disclosures have caused London's securities, which rose sharply on the result of the election, to fall to the old figures.

## Mining Interests.

**M**ANIFOLD are the difficulties in devising a method of mining taxation that will be both practicable and equitable. Recognizing that many considerations must be taken into full account, the Minister of Mines and Lands for Ontario gave assurance last week to the members of the Canadian Mining Institute that he would be willing to consider a new bill next year modifying the one introduced this session. The Institute's committee has pledged itself to submit to Hon. Mr. Cochrane within twelve months the draft of a new bill more in accord with the mining interests of Ontario than the present government measure is considered to be.

More inimical to permanent mining interests than even a burdensome method of taxation is the "wild-cattling" of unscrupulous promoters. At the recent Toronto meeting of the Mining Institute, Lieutenant-Governor Clark, urged that all legitimately concerned in the Cobalt district should unite in protecting the public—and their own direct interests—against unscrupulous promoters of over-capitalized properties. Mr. J. C. Gwillim, of Kingston, emphasized the fact that prospectuses

of an unreliable character were continually the means of defrauding the public. He thought that a remedy might be found if it were insisted that reports on mining properties for use in prospectuses should be prepared and signed by duly qualified professional men. The opinion was also expressed that the government should not charter companies with a capitalization of \$1,000,000 to \$5,000,000 without absolute proof of their *bona fides*.

## Prosperity of Australia.

**T**HE record of prosperity in Australia during 1906 outdistanced that of all previous years, according to the Sydney correspondent of the London Financial News. In view of the possibility of new trade arrangements between the Dominion and that Commonwealth, some details are of timely interest. Those given by the aforementioned correspondent relate chiefly to New South Wales, but are indicative of conditions throughout the island continent.

The most striking feature is the great advance made in production; one that bids fair to be outdone during the year just entered upon. Prior to the drought of 1902-3, the greatest surplus production of New South Wales, was £28,445,000; but in 1902 it fell to £23,544,000. In 1904 New South Wales exports rose to £33,008,000 and in 1905 to £38,757,000, while this year the mother state will probably ship surplus products valued at £44,000,000. Prominent among the exports has been £4,500,000 worth of gold.

New South Wales banking has been prosperous, the increase in deposits last year being £2,713,000 and the previous year £3,180,000. This accounts for a large accumulation of wealth, for which investment could not be found locally, hence the deportation of large amounts of gold to London for more profitable distribution.