



The Chronicle

Banking, Insurance & Finance.

ESTABLISHED JANUARY, 1881

PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY

Vol. XXXI. No. 51

MONTREAL, DECEMBER 22, 1911.

Single Copy 10c.
Annual Subscription \$2.00

A Happy Christmas to You

CHRISTMAS. **T**HE happiest festival of the Christian Church falls on Monday. At no season of the year are sociability, charity and goodwill, more timely or more in evidence throughout Christendom. There are many indications of a joyful holiday in Montreal. For the last fortnight, the stores have been crowded with purchasers buying gifts for distribution in the name of the Christ Child. The fact speaks prosperity as well as goodwill, which never seems to be wanting at this time of the year. Unfortunately, there is an element of poverty always with us. There must be thousands of poor to whom even very moderate prosperity is but a name and a dream, rather than a fact or even a hope. They are the golden opportunity for those who are better off. In no way can as much pleasure be got out of money, as by spending it in helping the poor at this season. Happy are those who can give through some of the many charitable organizations, and thrice happy those who can be their own almoners.

DINNER TO HON. SAMUEL HUGHES.

THE dinner to Colonel the Hon. Samuel Hughes, the new Minister of Militia, given at the Windsor on Wednesday by the officers of the Montreal district, was a striking tribute to the popularity of the new minister, among his brother officers. He is an enthusiast in his work and has a happy knack of communicating his enthusiasm to those with whom he comes in contact. That he is British to the core goes without saying. He announces his intention of having as many cadets as will turn out, from 25,000 upwards, drilled at the summer camps next year. He also promises that the cavalry barracks will be established in Mont-

real. This in itself should help the cadet movement by developing the military spirit in the rising generation. That is one reason why the withdrawal of the Imperial troops from Canada is much to be regretted.

The new minister is an ideal man for the port folio entrusted to him because he has had a long experience as a member of Canada's citizen army and has seen active service with the best troops in the British Army. Then, being a newspaper man, naturally he has the faculty of observation well developed.

That Colonel Hughes has opinions of his own and has the courage of his opinions was admirably shown by his speech, which was a master-piece in matter and delivery and was highly appreciated by everybody present. Naturally enough, as a member of the Government, he did not confine himself entirely to his own department. Touching upon the vexed naval question he referred to his visit to England during the Coronation, and said that he had met people from South Africa, Australia, New Zealand and other distant portions of the Empire who pointed with pride to their ships in the naval review.

"We Canadians alone could not point to one ship where we had a dollar's worth, and I had to hang my head with shame to think of it. Let us hope that the time will soon come when we shall find our autonomy broadened, instead of narrowed, increased instead of diminished, until the flag of the entire Empire will represent a full Empire partnership where every part of the Empire will stand for the upholding of human liberties, when we stand one King, one flag, one navy and one people."

The officers present were delighted with the minister's speech and evidently expect great things from his administration.