

# The Chronicle

## Insurance & Finance.

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**Fire and Life Insurance in Canada** In consequence of not having returns from all the Companies, in 1899; we regret that we are unable to publish the figures for last year in this issue of THE CHRONICLE. We hope, however, to be in a position to insert the complete returns in our next issue.

**Accidents and Ambulances.** The London "Lancet," having been calling attention to a singular disregard for the extraordinary waste of life by accidents in the streets of the centre of civilization, Great Britain's metropolis, the London "Globe" makes the matter the subject of a special article which we reproduce in this issue. The reference therein to the urgent necessity for horse ambulance wagons and speedy telephonic communication with hospitals will be apt to surprise Canadians. In our principal cities, we have long possessed an ambulance system admirable to contemplate. It is evident that London does not lead the world in everything, and the "Globe" admits that the horse ambulance wagon is seen "in towns in America." We are glad to be able to inform the Globe that all these necessary means of rendering speedy aid to the injured may be found nearer home than "in towns in America." The answer to an "emergency call" upon one of our splendid Montreal hospitals would be a liberal education for our kinsmen across the sea.

**Kruger Cementing our Closer Union.** Some weeks ago we expressed the opinion that the cementing of the closer union between Britannia and her Colonies was really the work of Mr. Kruger, and that her foreign critics were beginning to bark the louder as they recognized the real effect of Oom Paul's mission. We remarked that those who hate England will yet execrate the Boer rebel's name as they realize how his attempt to cripple the British Empire has resulted in welding its scattered forces into a mighty Power.

That this view of the present trouble in South Africa is the truest as well as the most pleasant view seems to be generally conceded. Dr. Conan Doyle,

the novelist, speaking at a dinner, previous to his departure for the front, said:

"I would build a monument to President Kruger of the size of St. Paul's Cathedral, putting him under it, and I would write across it. "To the memory of the man who federated the British Empire."

**Another Sympathetic Senator.** On Friday last in the Senate at Washington a speech said to have been "sensational in its interest and international in its importance" was delivered by Mr. Hale, of Maine. Mr. Hale denies that the American people are "in sympathy with Great Britain in the South African war to stamp out the liberty of a people," and he wants his fellow countrymen to take steps to correct Mr. Balfour's impressions regarding their leanings in this struggle. Mr. Hale is credited with making an impassioned speech, in which he declared that nine-tenths of the American people sympathized with the Boers in their gallant struggle for liberty against "one of the greatest powers in the world." He also incidentally declared that "the war which Great Britain is waging is the most fell blow at human liberty that has been struck in the century."

So far so good. No Briton will deny this sympathetic soul from the State of Maine the right to express his sympathy with that lover of freedom, Mr. Kruger, of Pretoria. We may even accord to Mr. Hale the privilege of regarding the war as a "fell blow at human liberty." But, we question if Mr. Hale, of Maine, is familiar with the subject upon which he wasted so much passionate eloquence. During his speech he declared that the English people themselves were not in favour of the war, which "had been brought on by a sharp Cabinet Minister engaged with gold speculators."

Surely this gifted orator from the State of Maine is not silly enough to believe that Lord Salisbury and his followers could be coaxed into war by such a character as he describes. Is it possible that Mr. Hale's surroundings at Washington are such as to render him suspicious of all men in public life. If he had been talking of the Philippines. . . . . But that "belongs to another story."