

# The Chronicle

## Insurance & Finance.

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Proprietor.

ESTABLISHED JANUARY, 1881

PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY

JOHN T. P. KNIGHT,  
Editor.

VOL. XX. No. 14.

MONTREAL, FRIDAY, APRIL 6, 1900.

SINGLE COPY - - .10  
ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION - \$2.00

**The Queen Visits Ireland.** Because of the social and material progress of the past sixty-three years, and because the extraordinary spirit of unity throughout the Empire is due to the impulse from the aged Sovereign, the green isle of Erin is re-echoing with shouts of welcome to the Queen. She has the supreme satisfaction of knowing that her Irish people, among whom we are informed she is happy once more to be, appreciate a visit from their reigning monarch. If any loyal Irish hearts have felt sore at the failure of Her Majesty to visit them more frequently, they will not hesitate to accept her gracious assurances of recognition of the conduct of her "brave sons" in defending the crown and empire, and they will fervently respond to her fervent wish that God may "bless Ireland with increasing welfare and prosperity."

**The Prince of Wales.** Whatever the ultimate purpose of anarchism may be, its methods are always revolting and vile. Were their attacks made upon representatives of tyrannical despotism, they might be, not justifiable, but intelligible; the perpetrators might pretend they were actuated by zeal for the interests of their country or of their class. The tinker's apprentice, Sipido, is evidently a fit companion for Luccessi, the murderer of the venerable Empress of Austria. As the attempt upon the life of the most popular prince in Europe has failed, it is hardly likely he will be executed. Perhaps the best punishment for this dangerous young anarchist would be to let him loose in the streets of London, where the Prince of Wales is so well-liked, and promise the crowd that they would not be interfered with by the police until Sipido had received the beating he deserves.

**Standard Life Changes.** General satisfaction is being expressed at the announcement that, although Mr. W. M. Ramsay, the widely esteemed and much respected manager for Canada of the Standard Life Assurance Company, will retire from that position next year, the shareholders and policyholders will still have the use of his mature judgment and ripe experience in the advisory capacity of a director of the company he has served so faithfully and well for fifty years. From every corner of Canada, from hosts of devoted friends and sincere admirers on both sides of the Atlantic, will come the best of good

wishes for a lengthened period of rest for the honorable, courteous, and kindly gentleman who is to relinquish the reins of management of the Standard Life a year hence.

His successor, Mr. David M. McGoun, received his insurance training under Mr. Ramsay in the Standard Life office in Montreal, which he entered some twenty years ago. He left this city about nine years ago to take charge of the West India branch, and subsequently he was appointed Manager in South Africa. He now returns to Montreal, and, being the senior in the service of the company here, will next year succeed Mr. Ramsay in the active management of the Canadian business. Mr. McGoun has had a long experience, and has been receiving a hearty welcome and congratulations upon his return and prospective promotion.

**Montreal Agency of Western Assurance Company.** Mr. Robert Bickerdike has been appointed Manager of the Montreal branch of the Western Assurance Company, and Messrs. C. H. Routh and R. L. Charlton, who have been connected with the Montreal office for a long time past, will continue as City Agents. These changes have been necessitated owing to the death of Mr. J. H. Routh. Mr. Bickerdike may be said to have been identified for many years with the Marine branch of the Company.

The Western is to be congratulated in having made the above arrangement, and more especially in securing such a well-known representative as Mr. Robert Bickerdike. He is at present Member for St. Antoine Ward in the local Legislature, and a couple of years ago he ably filled the position of President of the Montreal Board of Trade. He is well known and highly esteemed, and we are sure that the appointment will be satisfactory to all concerned.

**The Wealth of Colonies.** The official returns respecting the gold mines of West Australia for the past calendar year issued by the West Australian Chamber of Mines show the following table of the quantity and value of the gold produced in the colony for each of the past three years:

	Ounces.	
1897.. . . . .	674,994	\$12,824,885
1898.. . . . .	1,050,184	19,953,490
1899.. . . . .	1,643,877	31,233,655