

The Chronicle

Insurance & Finance.

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Proprietor.

ESTABLISHED JANUARY, 1881
PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY

JOHN T. P. KNIGHT,
Editor.

VOL. XIX. No. 45. MONTREAL, FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 1899.

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

The Deadly Bulletin. So far as military operations in South Africa are concerned, the newspaper bulletin has ceased to be a brief statement of facts issued for the information of the public. Meagre and insufficient as the intelligence communicated by the British War Office may be, it is evident that we must rely thereon for the truth concerning military movements in Natal.

Cape Town and other papers, a few days ago, published a story (brought in by "a reliable native") of the destruction of a thousand Boers and the capture of double that number. As this fairy tale has not been officially confirmed by General Buller, to whom three thousand Boers would thus seem to be a mere mouthful, we are reluctantly compelled to conclude that the reliable native is a sanguinary perverter of the truth.

The Burglars. Montreal is fast obtaining an unenviable notoriety as a desirable field of operations for enterprising burglars. All sorts of surmises as to the secret of their success in evading capture are being hazarded, and numerous suggestions are being made having in view greater protection for the lives and property of our citizens. Without desiring to underestimate the seriousness of the situation, or to scoff at the proposal to increase the numerical strength of the police force, we cannot help thinking that the engagement of half a dozen experienced detectives would be more likely to rid the metropolis of this scourge than the arming of any number of constables.

The Fire Loss. The record of fire losses of the United States and Canada for the past ten months is about fifteen million dollars worse than the amount recorded for the same period of 1898, and twenty million dollars greater than for the first ten months of 1897. Such figures are calculated to make the most sanguine of underwriters look serious, and must result in very poor statements for many companies in January next. The monthly table published by the "Commercial Bulletin" (N.Y.) which

is compiled from daily records kept by that journal, gives the total fire loss for October as \$12,046,250. The exhibit of losses for the ten months is as follows:

	1897.	1898.	1899.
January.....	\$12,049,700	\$9,472,500	\$10,718,000
February.....	8,676,750	12,629,300	18,469,000
March.....	10,502,950	7,645,200	11,493,000
April.....	10,833,000	8,211,000	9,213,000
May.....	10,193,600	11,072,200	9,091,900
June.....	5,684,450	9,206,900	6,714,850
July.....	6,626,300	8,929,750	11,426,400
August.....	6,454,950	7,793,500	9,703,700
September....	9,392,000	14,203,650	12,778,800
October.....	11,387,500	7,539,400	12,046,250
Totals.....	\$91,801,200	\$96,703,400	\$111,654,900

The World's Commerce. The Philadelphia "Commercial Museum" is endeavoring to increase the foreign trade of the United States and to secure for its merchants and manufacturers a more direct and mutual trade with every nation of the world. The literature distributed by this capital commercial organization is of a character to commend it to every mercantile community. It dissects and analyzes the commerce of the world, and, in addition to showing the United States' share of it, points to every possible avenue to improvement in the trade relations with other countries. It reminds us that the commerce of the world in 1897, including both imports and exports, amounted in value to about \$18,500,000,000, of which Great Britain had 18.3 per cent., Germany 10.8 per cent., and the United States 9.7 per cent. Since the Philadelphia Exhibition in 1876, the exports of American manufactured products have increased 237 per cent.

Recognizing that the Orient is on the eve of great changes which will increase enormously the demands for the products of manufacturing countries, the United States exporters are busily engaged in securing information as to the trade possibilities in every quarter of the globe. The opening up of China is being made a matter of special interest to our wide-awake neighbours, and how closely they are watching the movements of Russia in Manchuria may be gathered from an article elsewhere in this issue.