

The Chronicle

Insurance & Finance.

R. WILSON SMITH,
Proprietor.

ESTABLISHED JANUARY, 1881

PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY

JOHN T. P. KNIGHT,
Editor.

VOL. XX. No. 38. MONTREAL, FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 1900.

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

Our Health Committee and Vaccination. Although there are thousands of present day people, and among them physicians, who deride the practice of vaccination not only as useless but injurious, it ought to be highly satisfactory to Montrealers to note the vigilance and activity of the Health Committee of their city in guarding against another serious outbreak of small-pox. The daily papers state that the principals of the schools in the city have been notified by the Health Committee that public vaccinators will visit all the schools from October 1st to 15th, in order to ascertain if the pupils have been vaccinated.

This is as it should be. Everything possible must be done to prevent wholesale evasion of vaccination. The opinions of the eminent doctors forming the council of the illustrious British Medical Association were embodied, only a year ago, in a strong and earnest resolution of which the following formed a part:

"That this Council urges the Government and Parliament to pass an Act during the coming session to promote the re-vaccination of children on reaching the age of about twelve years, and the primary vaccination of unvaccinated children on reaching the school age." We can afford to ignore the strenuous and persistent opponents of vaccination, when we have this valuable bit of evidence of what the eminent heads of the British Medical Association think of the duty of using the only known means of protecting children against small-pox.

The vigilance of the Health Committee is commendable.

Among the Orders of Merit created by the Queen is the Victoria Cross, instituted in 1856 and bestowed as a reward for the highest and most unselfish valour. It is a Maltese cross,

made from the metal of cannon taken in the Crimea; in the centre is the crown, surmounted by the lion; below is the scroll, "For Valour;" on the clasp are laurel branches, and the cross itself is suspended from it by the letter V, a red ribbon being used for soldiers and a blue for sailors. During the forty-four years which have elapsed since the creation of this reward for cool courage, daring deeds and heroic enterprises, about four hundred persons have received the decoration.

And now to the list of those who have won this high distinction has been added the names of Sergeants Lindsay and Richardson, of Strathcona's Horse. These gallant riders from "the strong young North" seem, from the brief report of their conduct, to have exposed themselves to a heavy fire from the Boers while rescuing wounded troopers. Sergeants Lindsay and Richardson probably thought at the time but little of the danger to their own lives. The brave deeds performed by them are an illustration of the unselfish valour which their Queen loves to reward, and Montrealers who recall the banquet to Strathcona's Horse at the Windsor Hotel in March last will rejoice that two of the bronzed faces they saw grow tender and sympathetic at the sight of their colonel parting with his little daughters belonged to gallant gentlemen who have since won the highest earthly distinction by exhibiting a willingness to lay down their lives in the attempt to save those of their comrades.

Let us all hope that when the Strathcona Horse take the homeward trail and with

"bugles ringing shrill"

and bridles swinging free, are once again riding to the boundless plains of the North, that among their number we may see, safe and unharmed, Sergeants Lindsay and Richardson who have won coveted distinction for themselves and conferred honor upon the troop they belong to.