

The Chronicle

Insurance & Finance.

R. WILSON SMITH
Proprietor.

ESTABLISHED JANUARY, 1881
PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY

JOHN T. P. KNIGHT
Editor

VOL. XX. No. 48 MONTREAL, FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 1900.

SINGLE COPY - - .10
ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION - \$2.10

Our Future King.

The statement made in several reliable London newspapers that the Duke of York has definitely decided to visit Canada after the ceremonies in connection with the birth of the new Commonwealth of Australia, will be hailed with delight all over the Dominion, and especially in the cities he visited when serving in the North American squadron under Admiral Watson. As a naval officer, the unflinching simplicity and courtesy of his manner made Prince George a great favourite with everyone, and the people of Halifax and Montreal may be relied upon to extend a warm welcome to the erstwhile commander of the gunboat "Thrush."

The Sinews of War.

The comparative ease with which Great Britain meets the enormous expenses of the South African war is commencing to attract much attention.

Mr. Valfrey, in an article in the "Figaro," of the 14th inst., says England is so rich that the question of money for her does not exist. He is of the opinion that "The slight financial difficulties with which Great Britain may be confronted in consequence of the war in South Africa merely amount to the momentary embarrassment of a grand seigneur." Great Britain has no need to ask herself, as so many other Powers would have to do in like case, where she will find the wherewithal to pay her extraordinary expenditure. She wishes only to be quite sure as to the most expeditious method of defraying the expenses of the bill.

To Tax Bachelors and Reward Benedicts. Viewing with alarm the extraordinary signs of the depopulation of his country, a certain Mr. Piot has introduced in the French Senate a Bill, the chief clauses of which are indeed curious and interesting. The Bill provides:

1st. That from the 1st of January, 1901, the "celi-

bataires" of both sexes above thirty years of age shall be subjected to a tax equal to a fifteenth of the principal of the full direct taxes paid by them. Couples who have been married at least five years shall pay a twentieth, calculated in the same way, if they have not a child living, and shall continue to pay the tax until the birth of a child.

2nd. A credit of twenty millions of francs is to be opened at the Ministry of the Interior, under the head of "Subventions, help, and encouragements to numerous families."

3rd. This credit is to be distributed every year in the following manner:—To fathers, and, in default, to mothers of families having more than four children living."

Other clauses are said to provide for the manner in which the help is to be given to families, according to their circumstances in life.

We sympathize with M. Piot in his effort to grapple with a serious decline in the population of his country, and we hope the tax upon bachelors will be heavy enough to make them see the error of their ways. At the same time, we cannot help thinking that if a few thousands of Dr. Drummond's people were induced to settle among the "cornfields green and sunny vines" of the pleasant land of France, the entire country would soon ring with the merry sound of juvenile voices, and "mothers of families having more than four children living" would be numerous enough to absorb the entire twenty millions of francs.

The French "Ministry of the Interior" might do worse than send M. Piot to this Dominion to enquire into and report upon the rather extraordinary occurrence of childbirth recently reported from St. Jerome, Quebec. Within the space of one year five children, consisting of triplets and twins, have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Alphonse LeBel. There are now eleven children in the family.