

# The Chronicle

## Insurance & Finance.

R. WILSON-SMITH,  
Proprietor.

ESTABLISHED JANUARY, 1881

PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY

VOL. XXIV. No. 2

MONTREAL, FRIDAY, JANUARY 8, 1904.

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

### Royal and Queen in New York.

The Royal Insurance Company has purchased properties on William St., New York, and the Queen Insurance Co., properties on Maiden Lane, for the purpose of erecting office buildings to be used principally by these companies. The locality is destined to become the fire insurance centre in New York.

### Down on Abstainers.

The "Review," London, England, is always refreshingly frank and outspoken. Regarding the mortality of abstainers, it says:—"We are not prepared to enter into an actuarial discussion as to the longevity of total abstainers, but amongst our acquaintances the most hopeless wrecks that are going around at present with rheumatism are men who have been total abstainers during their whole lives. One or two others ranging from a quarter of a century to thirty years are quite broken up. In other words, it is possible to have a long life, and yet not a merry one."

### Sanitation and Death Rate.

Because one event succeeds another, with which it has an apparent connection, it by no means follows that these events are cause and effect. When, however, a certain action is performed that is designed to produce a given effect, it is a strong presumption in favour of the action having succeeded in its aim when the designed effect follows. The health department of New York was administered last year with exceptional vigour and intelligence, and the death rate 18.15 per 1,000, was the lowest recorded for that city. Here, cause and effect seem to be so manifest as to be beyond cavil. From a merely pecuniary point of view it is a paying business for a city to have its health department vigorously administered under the guidance of scientifically trained experts.

### Mr. B. E. Walker Elected.

The election of Mr. Byron E. Walker, as member of the Board of Education, Toronto, is creditable to the 9,052 citizens who gave him their votes and placed him ahead of over forty candidates. Mr. Walker, on being interviewed, said he had no "fats" to exploit in regard to educational affairs. The public school system rather needs a strong broom to sweep away the fads that have grown up within it, and to strip off some of the "frills" to which attention is given to the detriment of real, practical education. The present system and practices are comparable to the capital of a pillar being chiselled with elaboration, while the base of the pillar is left half finished.

### New York Assessment.

President Wells, of the Tax Commission, has made public the figures for 1903, for the department. Subject to revision between January 11 and March 31, the realty figures for 1903 are:

Manhattan.....	\$3,507,139,411
The Bronx.....	237,773,772
Brooklyn.....	848,196,612
Queen's.....	122,652,590
Richmond.....	41,227,974
Total.....	\$4,756,910,359

The personalty is reported as:

Manhattan.....	\$3,890,390,845
The Bronx.....	53,863,811
The Bronx.....	518,819,733
Brooklyn.....	66,259,873
Queen's.....	18,818,410
Richmond.....	
Total.....	\$4,548,152,672

The increase in bank assessments is \$64,119,394, the tax increasing \$646,927.33. The assessed values of real estate of corporations for 1903 was \$28,976,495. The estimated value for 1904 is about \$35,000,000. The assessed value of special franchises as made by the State Tax Commissioners for 1903 was \$235,184,325, with little change.