

The Chronicle

Banking, Insurance & Finance.

ESTABLISHED JANUARY, 1881

PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY

Vol. XXXI. No. 24

MONTREAL, JUNE 16, 1911.

Single Copy 10c
Annual Subscription \$2.00

BRITISH EMIGRATION TO THE DOMINIONS.

THE Imperial Conference has unanimously passed a resolution urging that British emigration be encouraged to go to the British overseas Dominions. In this connection it may be noted that the United Kingdom is suffering from rather too much emigration. The census just taken shows that the population of England and Wales has increased in the last ten years by only 10.91 per cent., which is the lowest increase in a hundred years, and it must be remembered that even this is partly accounted for by a large influx of alien immigration, especially from the poverty-ridden districts of Europe. At the same time, the population of Scotland has only increased by 287,342 persons, the lowest on record since 1861 and the population of Ireland has decreased by 1.7 per cent. The present population of England and Wales is 36,075,269, of Scotland 4,759,445 and of Ireland 4,381,951. In 1841 the population of Ireland was 8,196,597. The population of Greater London has increased 10.20 per cent. and is now 7,252,963. It would be interesting to know what proportion of these are aliens by race, nationality and language. In the last ten years about 2,000,000 immigrants have entered Canada, and of these, the largest number, 560,000, are from England and Wales, while 150,000 are from Scotland, and 45,000 from Ireland. The majority of the foreign immigrants, as figures given previously in **THE CHRONICLE** show, come from Austria-Hungary. The British immigrants, 750,000, exceed the American by 50,000.

That the Twentieth Century belongs to Canada may be inferred from the falling off of immigration to the United States, which received about 150,000 fewer immigrants during the year ending this month than last year. This is attributed at Washington to the decrease in the demand for labour generally. A more probable explanation is the filling up of American agricultural lands and the rapid development of Canada. Most of the immigrants now go to the industrial centres of the United States. In Canada the agricultural West gets the majority. Immigration into the United States reached its highest level in 1907, when 1,285,349 foreigners were added to the population. In all probability these figures will never again be equalled, at any rate until Canada is filled up. Both in France and in England, as in the United States, the decline in the birth rate is causing much discussion.

CIVIC GOVERNMENT BY COMMISSION.

TRENTON, N.J., will vote next Tuesday on the question of adopting the system of civic government by commission. An active campaign is in progress. Governor Wilson, speaking in favour of the change roundly condemned both political parties for the way in which they have governed the cities and declared that those who really objected to the measure were afraid to speak out openly. He said: "With our Yankee ingenuity we made a machine so complicated that we could not run it ourselves. It's a perfect labyrinth, in which we can play hide and seek with the men we have elected and can't find them."

On this point as well as on the general question Governor Wilson is right. Much of our legislative and administrative machinery breaks down because it is too elaborate and complicated. As a general principle the simpler the construction of a machine the more steadily it works.

WHO GOVERNS ENGLAND?

A CONTRIBUTOR to London "Truth," asks: "Who governs England?" And he answers himself thus: "Colonial opinion dominates in politics, American millionaires are all powerful in the country, American women lead 'society,' American journalists guide the public, French dressmakers set the fashions, foreign painters and musicians direct our taste, American prices rule the financial market, French chefs dictate what we shall eat, and American collectors fix the value of our art treasures. It appears that between them they have very effectually taken John Bull by the horns."

We must certainly take exception to the first statement that Colonial opinion dominates in British politics. How is it possible for the colonies which do not agree among themselves in Imperial politics to dominate in England? The first step towards getting what you want is to know what you want. The proceedings of the Imperial Conference seem to be largely unfit for publication. If John Bull undertook to be guided by our colonial spokesmen on such questions as the tariff or Imperial defence he would be in as bad a position as the unfortunate chameleon which busted up in an attempt to live up to its reputation for changing colour with its surroundings. When it was placed on a crimson cloth it