

# The Chronicle

## Insurance & Finance.

ESTABLISHED JANUARY, 1881

PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY

R. WILSON SMITH  
Proprietor.

VOL. XXI. No. 10.

MONTREAL, FRIDAY, MARCH 8, 1901.

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

### "Commonwealth" as a Title.

The Sydney and Melbourne "Review" does not approve of the federated Australias being given the title "Commonwealth." It is all very well in itself, but when the title has to be applied to the people we get the very clumsy word "Commonwealthers," or "Commonwealthians," or "Commonwealthy." Our Antipodean contemporary pokes fun at the word "Dominion," the title of the federated Canadians. "For instance, 'Dominioners,' or 'Dominionians' becomes painfully suggestive of the vegetable garden, besides arousing a suspicion that people who should be so called would be no better than they ought to be. But there is nothing the matter with the term 'Canadians,' which promises to altogether oust from use, except in official documents, the term 'Dominion,' and that of no very distant period. It is quite a common expression that 'Canada approves' this, or 'Canada proposes' that, but it is much more rare to read that 'the Dominion intends' to do anything in particular." No person ever applied the word "Dominioner," or "Dominionian," to a Canadian, and the "Review" is right in regard to the original word "Canada" being the popular title of the "Dominion." We have two strings to our bow, in a titular sense, but the original one is by all odds the favourite.

### A New Light Gone Out.

The marvellous new light, the discovery of which was trumpeted some time ago seems to have gone out. A substance named "Radium" was said to omit light so freely, that a piece the size of a silver dollar was enough to light a large room perpetually. The material was declared to have an inexhaustible supply of luminant rays. A German scientist, we are told, had failed to discover any waste of its power in using, it was stated to be capable of giving light for a million years. Gas and electricity were to become obsolete, matches needless, pipes, wires, taps, meters, gas bills, gas and lamp explosions, smells, and fatalities at hotels, were prophesied as being about to pass into mere memories of a literally dark age. A bit of radium carried in a watch chain as a charm would give light to the wearer perpetually. Every man would be his own

lamp post and burner. Darkness in houses, offices, streets, pits and caverns would be an unknown condition. "More light," for which Goethe desired when dying, would never again be wished, for radium would turn night into day. The discoverer of this marvellous substance was stated to have been rewarded by the French Academy of Science, and its display at the Smithsonian Institute, Washington, is said to have amazed the professors, as it did also those of Germany and Russia. Since the first outburst of wonder, nothing has been heard of this greater marvel than Aladdin's Lamp. Were the scientists fooled? Or, were the descriptions of "Radium" a hoax? The light companies should see to this before they amalgamate, as if radium will do what has been described, both gas and electric and oil lighting are all doomed, for, as the old glee says, "Before its bright presence darkness flees away."

### This Date, 1838.

The Montreal "Transcript" of this date, 1838, contains long narratives of raids made on the Canadian frontier by what are styled, "Whisky-sling and cocktail heroes," "brigands," "pirates" and other complimentary phrases, who came from the States. On this day, 1838, Pelee Island, off the coast of Essex, Ont., had just been rescued from the hands of a gang of marauders, who were threatening to burn every Canadian house and barn in the district. They were severely punished by British troops. In the 8th March number of the "Transcript," is a copy of an "Address adopted by the House of Assembly, Upper Canada," "To the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty," stating the causes of the troubles existing in the Canadian Provinces, and praying that Upper and Lower Canada be united. It is amusing to read in this address that in the division which took place in 1791 constituting Upper and Lower Canada, or, as we now say, Ontario and Quebec, into separate and distinct colonies, "all the wealth, and means of acquiring wealth, were given to and placed at the control of the French, and a mere wilderness allotted to the English portion of the population." Were the men who signed that Address to re-visit Ontario and Quebec, their opin-