

# The Chronicle

## Insurance & Finance.

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### Victoria Day.

The Government has shown wisdom in accepting the Bill introduced by a private member for perpetuating "Queen's Birthday" as a national holiday. It would have caused universal regret had the observance of the day been allowed to lapse by being left to individual taste. In such matters legal authority is requisite to maintain a custom as the majority of people are not in a position to act independently as their tastes incline. It is very meet and right to perpetuate the observance of the birthday of the noblest Queen who ever adorned a Throne. All Canadians from Gaspé to the Pacific will thank Sir Wilfrid Laurier for establishing "Queen's Birthday" as a memorial for ever in this land.

**Industry Needed.** On the 29th ult., a cargo of 2,700 tons of lead mined in British Columbia was shipped from St. John, N. B., to Antwerp. On arrival it will pass on to Belgian lead works to be manufactured into the various compounds used in mixing paints, and for plumbing purposes. This product and its derivatives, when manufactured, will be either returned to Canada direct, or go into the market whence our supplies are drawn. The distance travelled from the mines to lead works and back to Canada will be about 10,000 miles, the cost of which transportation is very large, and would be saved were a lead industry established in this country. In England the lead works are situated near lead mines, one extensive enterprise is within 20 miles of mines. Imagine the enormous advantage a manufacturer of lead products has whose mill is so close to the source of raw material compared with the situation in Canada. Last year Canada imported lead and manufactures thereof to value of \$367,963, the great bulk of which came from Great Britain, when our native mines were capable of meeting the demand for all the raw material, the pig lead, out of which were made the products we imported. The smelting, and refining of lead and

manufacturing it into commercial forms should be done in Canada. Our vast mineral resources only realize a fraction of the value they are capable of being raised to, when shipped abroad as they come from the mine. Their chief value to Canada is in their capacity for sustaining native industry.

### A Fire Anniversary.

Many of the citizens of Ottawa and Hull celebrated the anniversary of the great fire of April 26th, 1900 by attending a special divine service. Terrible as was that calamity in the suffering and pecuniary losses it caused, it is beginning to be realized that it may prove to have been a blessing in disguise. The remedy is drastic, distressing, costly, but, at times, an extensive fire is the only cure for evils imperatively needed for a city's welfare. London would never have become what it is to-day had the great fire of 1666 not occurred which swept out 400 streets and reduced 13,000 houses to ashes. "The plague which used to break out with great fury twice or thrice every century, and, indeed, was always lurking in some corner or other of the city, has scarcely ever appeared since that calamity." London's fire was London's greatest blessing, so it is likely that the Hull-Ottawa fire of 1900, will, in the long run, prove to have been of inestimable benefit to both places. The wooden shanties, which the fire cleared away by wholesale, have been replaced by brick dwellings which are more comfortable, wholesome and safe. Hull is even a busier manufacturing centre than before the fire. There are more factories there than a year ago. Though neither of the municipalities realized it, it was a fact, that manufacturers looked askance at Hull and Ottawa because of the imminent danger of fire which existed, a danger that kept down enterprise. The first anniversary of the great fire of April, 1900, found both Hull and Ottawa enjoying such prosperous conditions as are fast wiping out traces of that calamity—a black cloud which had however a silver lining.