

The Chronicle

Insurance & Finance.

R. WILSON SMITH,
Proprietor.

ESTABLISHED JANUARY, 1881
PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY

JOHN T. P. KNIGHT,
Editor.

VOL. XX. No. 33.

MONTREAL, FRIDAY, AUGUST 17, 1900.

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

Coddling the Colonies.

"They left without a note of music to cheer them on their way and without a voice to bid them godspeed, and to testify to the gratitude of the Old Country. They were bundled through the metropolis in vans, for all the world as if they were so many 'returned empties'."

Daily Mail.

Dealing with the British South Africa Chartered Company's offer of free farms in Rhodesia to colonial volunteers, the "Morning Post" maintains that, although it is well meant, it is a breach of courtesy to persuade Canadians and Australians to desert their own country in favour of South Africa.

"In the immediate past," says the "Post," "we have so often slighted these great but sensitive English-speaking nations, that it will be well to avoid even the appearance of such discourtesy."

The manifest wish of the people of England to signify in every possible way their admiration and esteem for the valor and patriotism of their brethren from across the seas who rallied round the flag when danger menaced the Empire, is almost sufficient to arouse a feeling of diffidence and shyness arising from the painful impression that everyone is looking at us. It is true that we are not accustomed to receiving so much attention. It seems to us these good-natured, grateful friends who resent the apparent lack of an official farewell to our returning representatives are somewhat hasty in bestowing blame on "the bane of the Empire"—the War Office. It is just possible that the majority of the Canadians and Australians prefer to be spared the coddling which their friends would like to bestow upon them. To pass through London in vans must certainly be preferable to walking—as the majority of the returning thousands of soldiers will. As to the "breach of courtesy," on the part of the Chartered Company in offering inducements to soldiers from other colonies to remain in South Africa, the London papers are altogether too tender and regardful of our supposed sensitiveness. If any of the Canadians see fit to remain in the country they have fought for, they will care not a penny

for the opinions of those who think they should return here. If the British South Africa Chartered Company can offer desirable homes to any of the gentlemen in khaki now in the country of the Boers, there is no appearance of discourtesy in this desire to retain them as settlers. They are soldiers in case of need.

A Racy Reminder.

The Rev. Charles M. Sheldon scents danger to the United Kingdom from the drinking habits of the people. He evidently forgets that, in days of old, a gentleman dining as a gentleman should dine, usually put three bottles of hard port away, and finished up with a pint of "peat reek." A decided change has taken place. The days of three bottle dinners have passed away, and it is no longer considered necessary to have a seasoned head to be thought a good fellow. But Mr. Sheldon is only concerned with the dreadful condition of the people of the present. He was simply horrified with the Englishman's capacity for beer, and he evidently thinks that the public-house puts a premium upon conviviality. He regrets that it is as it is in the beautiful isles of the sea known as Great Britain, and he solemnly warns the world that the downfall of the Empire will be traceable to drink.

Among the notices accorded to Mr. Sheldon's dismal prediction of disaster to the country of our Queen, we have seen nothing to equal the comments of the Montreal "Gazette." After remarking that the Englishman of to-day is a degenerate compared with his grandfather, we are treated to this rich and racy reminder of the virtues of the old gentleman:

"That deceased individual drank and fought and developed the principles of modern political freedom, and won and built empires. Perhaps he transmitted to his progeny enough of his strength to keep up the game, and even to stop drinking."

Shocked Mr. Sheldon from Topeka, Kansas, will find much to worry him in this world, if he will insist upon keeping in the vale of tears, prowling about looking for trouble.