

# The Chronicle

## Insurance & Finance.

R. WILSON SMITH,  
Proprietor.

ESTABLISHED JANUARY, 1881  
PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY

JOHN T. P. KNIGHT,  
Editor.

VOL. XIX. No. 26.

MONTREAL, FRIDAY, JUNE 30, 1899.

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

**The Transvaal.** It is not surprising that the so-called Utlanders desire to have some voice in the Government of the Transvaal, to which they contribute so much wealth by their work and enterprise. The development of the gold mines of the country has been owing almost entirely to British capital, and yet President Kruger seems obstinately bent upon killing the geese that lay the golden eggs at his very feet.

The Transvaal output of gold for the month of March amounted to 464,036 ozs, which exceeds the next highest month's record by 23,361 ozs. The output for the first quarter of the year is 1,320,216 ozs., of the value, at an average of \$17 per mine ounce, of over \$23,100,000, or ninety two millions for the year.

Such wealth deserves proper representation in the government of any company, and may be relied upon to secure it.

### A Modern Saragossa.

The material for stirring stories of adventure by land and sea is being furnished by the aftermath of Admiral Dewey's destruction of the Spanish ships at Manila. An incident just recorded may well find its way into any history of the war. For twelve long months, a small Spanish garrison, commanded by a young lieutenant, at Baler, in the Province of Principe, on the east coast of Luzon, has held out against repeated attacks from the Filipinos. The news of the American occupation of Manila, the departure of their countrymen for Spain, the treaty of peace and sale of the islands to the United States, failed to daunt the bravery of these Spanish soldiers. But even human endurance has its limits, and of the hundred "first-class fightin' men," who comprised the garrison of Baler, thirty-three survivors have just surrendered to the Filipinos.

Such a story when told in old Madrid ought to

brighten the eyes of many a proud Spaniard, and also serves to prove the cosmopolitanism of courage.

### Barriers to Insurance.

Wonderful are the ways of a man with a horse, when selling or racing the same. But the ways of the horse-dealer are simple and tame compared to the devices and stratagems sometimes adopted by the baffled applicant for life assurance. If he finds that a plain, unvarnished tale of physical imperfection and family failing proves to be a barrier to life insurance, he can transform himself before the next examination into a creature of rude health and faultless hereditary claims to a company's consideration. If the managers of banks and insurance offices were not, as a rule, such sober practical business men, more of the daily incidents of their lives would be embodied in print for the instruction and amusement of the rest of the world.

The following true story from a big British office doing business in Canada exhibits a fertility of resource we dislike to commend but cannot help recording. An applicant for a policy in the ———, less than a year ago, reported himself as suffering from hernia, and as having several sisters and brothers in a neighbouring graveyard. His memory and morals were evidently both loose and easy, for, quite recently, he again applied for a policy to the same company. His latest application shows that, finding his plain, unvarnished tale had been the barrier to his acceptance, he has in the interim deliberately sacrificed his hernia, and disowned all his dead relations. He now claims to be perfectly healthy and an only child.

But his punishment will come much more speedily than he expects, and, even if he had succeeded in obtaining a policy, let us hope his conscience would have compelled the truth at last. One of the Maxims of Hafiz, says:—

If we fall in the race, though we win, the hoofslide is scarred on the course.  
Though Allah and Earth pardon Sin, remaineth forever Remorse.