

The Chronicle

Insurance & Finance.

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Proprietor.

ESTABLISHED JANUARY, 1881
PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY

JOHN T. P. KNIGHT,
Editor.

VOL. XX. No. 5. MONTREAL, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 1900.

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

The Canadian Patriotic Fund.

Before the sailing of the troopship "Pomeranian" on Saturday last, the men commanded by Colonel Herchmer were addressed by Sir M. B. Daly. In the course of some admirable remarks expressing the confidence of Canadians in the courage and conduct of their volunteers in South Africa, the kindly and popular lieutenant-governor of Nova Scotia said: "While you have taken upon yourselves the responsibility of upholding the honor and fair name of our country, which I feel assured you never will forget, those who remain behind must assume the charge of those near and dear to you from whom you are parting, and whose care must be ours until you return."

The promise of Sir M. B. Daly that the Canadian people will relieve the care and anxiety of the absent as to the welfare of those they leave behind them is being endorsed by every contributor to the Patriotic Fund. Do not let this sacred charge be forgotten.

"No Turning Back."

Arm-chair critics of the present campaign in South Africa have been indulging in much caviling over General Buller's address to his troops before their departure for the relief of Ladysmith. These captious, fault-finding, censorious critics are reminding us that the General announced there would be "no turning back." The various checks to British arms and the sneers of foreign critics are hard enough to bear, without having to endure the peevish comments of our own countrymen. Those who are asking why General Buller "turned back" have evidently failed to remember that the words of the commander were intended for the encouragement of the soldiers, and not to be regarded by the British public as an irrevocable order consigning brave men to death, if the task assigned them proved, as it has, impossible of achievement by the route first taken.

Loyal London Stockbrokers.

Recent English financial newspapers report the London Stock Exchange as being much excited by a report that its Committee is investigating the case of a member of the "House" who is alleged to have sent the Boers a considerable contribution to their war funds. However, the accused gentleman has assured the "Financial News" that the only foundation for the charge against him is that he sent \$500 to the Dutch Ambulance Fund at the same time that he sent a similar sum to the Mansion House Fund. Even the loyal London stockbrokers are not likely to object to one of their number showing a disposition of heart which inclines him to sympathize with the wounded, both Boer and British.

The Material Resources of the Empire.

The Bankers' Clearing House of London, England, which is the first in time as it is in rank in the world, passed £9,150,269,000 through its books in 1899. This is equal to \$44,561,810,030, an amount not to be understood by the average reader without effort. It represents about 91,502 tons of gold. At the present value of silver (say sixty cents an ounce), this sum would purchase 2,321,000 tons of the metal, commercial tons at that, with sixteen ounces to the pound. Taking our quarter dollar as one inch in diameter, the clearings of London, leaving physical difficulties out of the question, might have paid for a chain of silver quarters from the earth to the moon, or have laid down a silver path of quarters all round the earth, and a foot wide.

It is only by such comparisons as these that one can begin to comprehend the vastness of London's commerce, and, as Mr. A. M. Crombie stated in his retiring address to the Clearing House of this city, the statistics of the London Clearing House give only a faint indication of the material resources of our empire "should a giant necessity come."