

cumb, and there will remain only such a number of strong banks as with their branches can find a reasonable profit within the field to be occupied." After a reference to the practice of some Canadian banks of seeking investments in the United States as an indication that the Dominion is "in some degree over-banked," the writer of the article under review remarked: "the banks that carry on this business need to be very strong in resources and the capabilities of their managers."

At the close of an article which afforded Canadians a very good opportunity to ascertain what others think of the financial mechanism of the Act, the following tribute was paid thereto: "The defects of the Canadian banking system are so few, and its excellencies so great, that it will be comparatively easy for Parliament to bring it as near perfection, by some slight amendments, as any human institution can be made." Even the most vain of the framers of the Acts under which our banks are chartered to do business can hardly wish for higher praise than this, and we hope that the making of any changes in the Canadian Bank Act will be largely left in the hands of the Finance Minister and the bankers.

A Silver Cloud If the darkest cloud occasionally with a shows the proverbial silver lining, **Dark Lining** there is no good reason why we should not turn the saying inside outside, like Hiawatha's fur mittens, and represent Colonel Bryan as sitting on a silver cloud with a decidedly dark lining. We had hoped that, whatever may be the platform of the Democratic party at the next Presidential election, the silver plank would be omitted.

However, the commercial prosperity of the United States is hardly likely to be jeopardized by any further serious advocacy of the silver heresy, if the business men of the country have any belief in the sagacity of their bankers.

Under the circumstances, perhaps Colonel Bryan, now looming up on the political horizon, sitting on the silver cloud of 1896, will rely for more solid support upon bold denunciations of the greed of the British Empire, and hysterical appeals to his countrymen to interfere in South African affairs. Knowing these Boer champions to be insincere, we must keep cool.

Transvaal Gold: Probably rendered uneasy by the rumoured removal of Mr. Kruger and his ill-gotten gains from Pretoria to some unknown address, the owners of gold seized by him are beginning to ask for payment of the insurance thereon. The Dreifontein Mining Company has commenced suit against underwriters at Lloyds to recover \$1,500,000 worth of gold which the now tottering Transvaal Government commandeered just before the war. Lloyds insured the safe transit of the treasure to London, but the policy excepted

war risks. A week before the actual outbreak of hostilities, the gold was captured. Payment of the claim has been refused by the underwriters, they contending that the turmoil in the Transvaal at the time of seizure was really equivalent to war. This is said to be one of the largest insurance cases ever heard in the English courts.

As Lloyds and the Dreifontein Mining Company are equally interested in the recovery of the gold, it seems a pity they do not equip a secret expedition to attempt the capture of Oom Paul and hold him as a hostage until he disgorges part of the enormous fortune he is credited with.

However, perhaps Lord Roberts may have already made arrangements with Carrington, or French, Burnham, or the irrepressible Baden-Powell, to produce Mr. Kruger on the anniversary of the Queen's coronation, and he may then be induced to divulge what he has done with the Dreifontein Mining Company's treasure.

A DELIGHTFUL DINNER.

" 'Tis ever common
That men are merriest when they are from home "

* * *

" Good wine is a good familiar creature if it be well used. "
Shakspeare.

Mr. W. Molson Macpherson, president of Molsons Bank, entertained his colleagues of that institution, and a few other friends, at one of the most delightful dinners of the season on Tuesday evening last, at the Mount Royal Club. The guests were Messrs. S. H. Ewing; Colonel Henshaw; E. Stuar.; Donald Macmaster, Q.C.; A. D. Durnford; R. Wilson-Smith; W. M. Ramsay; W. Markland Molson; H. Markland Molson; S. Finley; T. Draper; J. Gordon (New York); Thomas Davidson, E. C. Pratt; H. Dobell; J. Try-Davies; H. Archibald; G. F. C. Smith. Regret was expressed at the unavoidable absence of Mr. James Elliot, the newly-appointed general manager of the bank, who was attending the bankers' meeting at Ottawa.

After dining wisely and well, several speeches were made to which no one could sit a dull, inactive listener. No citizen of Montreal could, we presume—at least as loyal citizens we hope he could not—eat his dinner and drink his wine in these stirring times without recalling to his mind the existence of the Queen, and the other loyal toasts. At the dinner in question, the guests showed themselves keenly sensible to the virtues of the good things set before them, and, round a table loaded with good cheer, the spirits and gayety of the company found vent in speeches breathing such loyalty to the Empire, that every utterance of the orators of the evening was received with "general applause and cheerful shouts." Several of those present made interesting references to the close connection of the Molson family with the financial history of Montreal, and many were the good wishes expressed for the continued progress and prosperity of the Molsons Bank. Reminiscences of the past, speech, song, and story combined to give pleasure to all present. It was indeed a delightful dinner.

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