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to contain any adulterant coloring matter, or even chemical preservative. Two cases (only), were found to be other than strictly first-class, and these were tins of corn, which had evidently decayed, and would not have been thought of as food. Only two cans of Canadian peas were found to contain traces of poison, and these showed an infinitesimal amount of copper.

WEATHER REPORT FROM MANITOBA.

We have received the following telegram from our correspondent at Winnipeg, dated noon of Thursday, 19th May:

With scarcely any exceptions, all points in the West report weather as most favorable for farm work, it being cool, clear and dry. In a few districts there has been delay, but altogether the showing is very favorable. The farmers in many localities are now engaged fitting the ground for coarse grain seeding, and indeed have made a start with oats and barley. There will be a largely increased acreage sown in coarse grains if the weather holds favorable.

—The remarkable increase in the last two or three years in the number of new settlers pouring into the Canadian North-West is having its effect across the line, where it cannot be truly said that all the available good land has already been taken up. A body has been formed of land agents and dealers, under the name of the American Immigration Association of the North-West, headquarters, St. Paul, Minn., for the purpose of drawing attention to these vacant lands. At the same time, it is not its aim to engage in a land business. It will simply set forth to the world what it considers to be the advantages of the American North-West, and incidentally to obtain from the railroads good rates, etc. Even in such old states as Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan, it is claimed the good land still open is by no means exhausted. There can be little doubt that the real object of the new association is to offset the growingly successful efforts of the Canadian Government to attract high-class settlers, especially from the United States, to this country.

—The intelligence is satisfactory that another furnace is being lighted at the Hall Mines smelter, Nelson, B.C. We take the following announcement from the News of that place: "Yes," said manager Robert Hedley of the Hall Mines smelter yesterday, "I can give you some news of general interest here. We have decided to blow in the second furnace at the smelter immediately. We have just received a fine consignment of concentrates from the Highland mine, at Ainsworth—about 320 tons—representing the shipment for April." The News comments, as under: "Evidently the smelter in question is beginning to feel the beneficial effects of the lead bounty in common with the rest of the community. As has been already stated, the shipment from the Highland mine is the largest ever sent out from that property in any single month, and doubtless from this time on the output from the mines to the north will steadily continue to increase.

—Mr. Edwin Greenacre, of Durban, Natal, who has been travelling in this country for some months past, is of opinion that a trade between that part of South Africa and Canada might be worked up without difficulty. If trade is to be secured in any volume, however, it is absolutely necessary that the manufacturers here should send out to Natal numerous samples of the goods they wish to introduce. There is now direct transportation between the two countries, but it is not very regular, and much of the space is booked weeks ahead by United States firms.

—On one day last week, in the British House, so the London papers say, a parliamentary question was addressed by Mr. Morrell to the Chancellor of the Exchequer: "Could he state, approximately, the amount of indirect taxation carried by a glass of light beer and a half-pint cup of tea of moderate strength?" "I fear it is impossible," replied Austen Chamberlain, "to give an accurate reply to this question. The answer must depend on the lightness of the beer and the strength of the tea." It might help the Right Honorable Austen, or anybody else, who desires to reach an answer to such a question, to know that in 1902 a calculation was made by the Midland Mail of the incidence of taxation, under the system of duties levied in the United Kingdom. Here follows the table that paper published, illustrating the addition to the consumer's cost made by taxes upon the seven articles which furnish the bulk of the revenue. Necessaries and luxuries alternate, as will be seen:

	£.	S.	D.
72 shillings worth of beer pays	0	8	0
72 " " spirits pays	1	9	6
72 " " wine pays	0	9	0
72 " " cheap tea pays	1	4	0
72 " " coffee pays	0	9	0
72 " " sugar pays	0	16	0
72 " " threepenny tobacco pays	3	0	3

CLEARING HOUSE FIGURES

The following are the figures for the Canadian Clearing Houses for the week ended with Thursday,, May 19th, 1904, compared with those of the previous week:

	May 19th.	May 12th.
Montreal	\$20,644,099	\$20,909,015
Toronto	17,979,835	16,618,624
Winnipeg	4,825,880	5,420,466
Halifax	1,742,365	1,681,997
Hamilton	1,211,101	1,069,306
St. John	956,354	915,693
Vancouver	1,447,776	1,509,828
Victoria	644,699	586,628
Quebec	1,524,741	1,157,416
Ottawa	1,909,246	1,990,625
London	846,431	846,906
Total	\$43,732,527	\$54,706,504