

grocery stores of late years. The sweetness of glucose varies greatly with different specimens. Some kinds approach cane-syrups in intensity; others act slowly and feebly on the sense of taste. The variety made for confectioners' use is much thicker and denser than that employed for table syrup, but it has no tendency to become hard and solid like the so called "grape-sugar."

Glucose is employed chiefly for the manufacture of table syrups and candies, as food for bees, for brewing, and for artificial honey. A large percentage of all the glucose made is used for the manufacture of table syrups. The process is very simple. The glucose is mixed with some kind of cane syrup until the tint reaches the required standard, the amount of the latter used varying from three to ten per cent. These syrups are graded according to tint, sent to the shops, and are sold to consumers under such high sounding names as "Amber Drip," "Golden Syrup," "White Loaf Drip," "Maple Drip," and so forth.

In confectionery, all soft candies and taffies, and a large proportion of stick-candies and caramels are made of glucose. A little cane-sugar is often mixed with the glucose in order to give the candies a sweeter taste, but this is usually in as small a proportion as possible. The glucose used for candies is almost thick enough for taffy without further condensation. All syrups from glucose are made thinner in winter, as they are much affected by the temperature, being frequently difficult to pour from one vessel into another in the cold season. Bees are said to attack glucose with the keenest avidity, or rather they act as funnels by which the glucose is poured into the comb. Honey made by bees in this way differs but little from the glucose itself, but the quantity is there if not the quality. The over-indulgence, however, soon saps the constitution of the busy little laborer, who consequently does not always live long to enjoy the fruits of its apparent good fortune. In much of the honey of trade, which is free from bee industry or mediation, the comb is made of paraffine and filled with pure glucose by appropriate machinery. This honey rivals the real article in appearance, and can be sold at an immense profit at less than half the price.

Brewers as a rule do not admit their indebtedness to glucose, barley and hops being the apparent principal ingredients. Those who consult the tables of trade and navigation will learn with some surprise the extent to which this article, under its real name, is imported. Tobacconists

distillers, mucilage makers and others employ small quantities of glucose in their business. Further reference to this subject, and to "grape-sugar" in particular, will be made in a future number.

THE TELEGRAPH QUESTION.

Whatever may be the result of the pending legal proceedings to obtain an injunction to prevent the Montreal Telegraph Company from accepting the offer which has been made to them, there seems to be a desire on the part of the shareholders to get rid of their stock, which cannot be much wondered at under the circumstances. The interests of the public are, it must be obvious, wholly at variance with those of the shareholders in railroad, steamboat, telegraph and many other companies. The competition which leads to the cutting of rates and the destruction of capital is hailed with the greatest satisfaction by the general public, whose interest is to have all services of the kind performed at the lowest possible rates. It seems to us, however, that the interference of the public has been postponed too long. A gigantic company in the United States has been permitted, without remonstrance on the part of the public and with the sanction of Parliament, to obtain the control of one of the two lines which were competing for the Canadian business, and the very line which was established to compete with the Montreal Company, which, it must be admitted, has given reasonable satisfaction to the Canadian public. Threats are now held out that unless the shareholders in the Montreal Company accept the conditions which have been offered to them, they will be exposed to a ruinous competition with a company which has the power to deprive them of a very lucrative branch of their business. We need not enter into the details of the proposal made to the Montreal Company, because it may be presumed that the directors and shareholders will take care to have them made satisfactory. The public have, in our judgment, no cause whatever for apprehension as to the consequences of what is termed a telegraph monopoly. Should any attempt be made, which we consider highly improbable, to establish excessive rates, there cannot be a doubt that a remedy would speedily be found. It seems, however, most unreasonable that a few shareholders or the public should prevent the Montreal Company from accepting a proposal which they consider beneficial to them, and thereby subject them to a competition which will most assuredly materially depreciate the value of their property. It may, we admit, be

a question whether the Government should assume the entire telegraph lines in the Dominion, but that question ought long since to have been determined on its merits, and not on an occasion like the present. It must be borne in mind that a very large portion of the business of the Canadian companies has been done with the United States, and many difficulties would be found in the connection of the Government with the United States lines. We doubt much whether the general feeling of the people would be favorable to a Government monopoly of the telegraph business. It is argued that new lines are being established in the United States to compete with the Western Union, in other words a much larger amount of capital is being uselessly expended. The service is being satisfactorily performed, and at rates that cannot be deemed excessive. Experience should have taught the public that the result of the cutting of rates in all companies of the kind is amalgamation leading to higher charges, and inadequate returns for the augmented capital which has been unnecessarily expended. Of course if the Montreal Company really desire to engage in the warfare with which they are threatened, we should think them entitled to all possible support from the Canadian public, but we find it difficult to believe that, under the circumstances, any large number are prepared to reject the offered terms, and we cannot think it fair that either the outside public or a small minority of the shareholders should obstruct the majority in obtaining the best terms in their power from a company which has already secured the control of competing lines in Canada.

The injunction has been granted, but the case it is hoped will be disposed of before the adjourned meeting.

THE STREAMS BILL.

The Ontario Court of Appeal has reversed the judgment of Vice-Chancellor Proudfoot in a case which has obtained a degree of celebrity, and which is known as that of McLaren v. Caldwell. The judges who concurred in the decision were Chief Justice Spragge, Judges Patterson and Morrison, while Judge Burton, who dissented from the judgment, expressed himself as "pleased to find that the other members of the Court have seen their way to the allowance of the appeal, as a contrary conclusion could not have been otherwise than disastrous to one of the most important industries in the Dominion." It would be difficult to vindicate in stronger language the course of the Ontario Legislature in passing an Act, the object of which was to