

Correspondence.

The Editor does not hold himself responsible for the opinions of correspondents. Correspondents must in all cases send name and address, not necessarily for publication.

Alcohol—\$3.60 a Gallon.

Editor CANADIAN DRUGGIST:

Fellow-druggists, do you want it?

How much would it save you in a year?

Why don't you have it?

These are three important questions which are worthy of every druggist's consideration.

To the first there is but one answer

The second: If you use two barrels a year, and pay \$4.20 for it, you would save \$48 each year on the cost. If it were all retained in tinctures and similar lines the whole \$48 would be net profit, as the prices of these articles would not alter; but at the worst you would probably clear \$25 a year extra.

The third point—why don't you have it?

Because our jobbers pay \$1.15 for their alcohol, and \$2 50½ duty net cash. Now there is no doubt that the government needs this money, and perhaps they might as well get it on alcohol as anything else. But our jobbers can buy the same alcohol in the United States for 35 cents, and the reason they don't do it is that the import duty is \$2.25 a proof gallon, equal to \$3.71¼ per gallon on alcohol such as you buy. The difference between the two rates of duty is 90¾ cents, or over 259 per cent. on the cost in the United States. This 259 per cent. is the rate of protection that we wealthy druggists pay to support our poverty-stricken distillers.

Is this fair to us?

Is it right?

Has the government any right to impose such a tax on one class of citizens for the benefit of another class?

Are you going to stand it without protest?

Can you invest an hour, or a whole day, to better advantage than in securing for yourself \$25 a year net profit?

If the government would impose an import duty equal to the excise duty of \$2.80½ per gallon and 25 per cent. *ad valorem*, you could buy alcohol the following week for \$3.60 a gallon, and begin to save that \$25 at once.

Under this system the government would secure not one cent less in revenue than at present, and if the alcohol were actually imported they would get the 25 per cent. additional.

This brings us to another point not in our original list of queries.

Who constitute the government?

How do they get there?

Now you see our point. If every druggist in Canada would spend an hour in writing to or interviewing his favored candidate, we would have in our next session of parliament a majority of members pledged to give the druggists justice,

and we would get it. Nay, more, if half or even a third of the druggists in Ontario alone would take this step, the end would be attained. Is this to be despised in these days of cut rates and departmental stores?

If not, will you do it?

It won't do for you to read this letter and say to yourself, "Yes, that's so; it is an outrage, and must be stopped," and then lay your paper down and do nothing. You will never see that \$25 again unless you work for it. See your member-elect, or write him, and get him pledged to support the movement in the House, no matter which side it emanates from. If we can get enough members in the House pledged to support us, the government will take it up, and there will not be the least trouble about it.

Will you spend your hour at this?

If so, do it now, and success is assured.

Fraternally yours,

ANDERSON & NELLES.

London, Ont.

Quebec Pharmaceutical Association.

The semi-annual examinations of the Pharmaceutical Association of the Province of Quebec for major and minor candidates were held in the College of Pharmacy, Montreal, commencing on Tuesday, April 14th, and closing on Friday, the 18th. Twenty-five candidates presented themselves for the major examination and twenty-three for the minor. Of these the following, named in order of merit, passed: As "Licentiates of Pharmacy," W. A. Smallwood, Jas. A. Gillespie, E. A. Ranson, J. Victor Levesque, A. Brillon, J. T. Gaudet, C. M. Dutay, J. L. Roberge, Joseph Bontin, J. J. Power, P. Emile Chevalier, J. A. Labranche, J. A. F. Bertrand, A. Veilleux, and A. C. Roy. As "Certified Clerks," Willie Bernard, R. J. Lunny, James Franckum, C. S. Webb, and E. Jolicour. Owing to Messrs. Smallwood and Bernard being ineligible to compete for the gold medal and minor prize respectively, Mr. Jas. A. Gillespie obtains the gold medal and Mr. R. J. Lunny the minor prize.

The candidates were subjected to a severe written and oral examination in materia medica, chemistry, botany, practical dispensing, reading of prescriptions, and weights and measures.

The examiners were Messrs. S. Lachance, A. E. DuBerger, R. W. Williams, W. H. Chapman, and J. R. Parkin.

The next examination will be held in Laval University, Quebec, about the middle of October.

ACOKANTHERIN.—Aglucoside obtained from the *Acokanthera Schimperii*, forming colorless crystals, melting at 186° C., slowly soluble in cold, but readily in hot water. The therapeutic properties of this glucoside are said to be similar to those of strophanthin.—*Phar. Post.*

The Acorns of Business.

In every line of business, no matter whether conducted on a large or small scale, it is the little things that count. The little expenses, the little wages, the little economies, are the ones that turn the balance of accounts, either for profit or loss, and it is these things that need the closest attention. The larger, more important details of every business are carefully looked after; there is very little chance for neglect, carelessness, or oversight.

The workman who spoils a costly piece of machinery, or causes a loss of any considerable account, is held responsible, and is generally very careful in this respect, but in the little things he is not as prompt in exercising care and economy, and these little things are looked upon as of no consequence, and as having no real value.

We have it asserted by a man who, beginning on barely nothing, succeeded in building up a large and profitable business, and retiring with a considerable fortune, when asked how he had managed, what was the secret of his success, replied:

"By saving what other people wasted. Looking after the small things and seeing that nothing was thrown away or cast aside as being too small or insignificant to be of any value. A few cents here and a few cents there made up quite a sum in the course of the year, and it was by paying careful attention to the little details, by looking after the cents, that I made my dollars."

Camphor.

In connection with the increased demand and increased prices asked for camphor, the *British North Borneo Herald* states that nearly twenty years ago Formosa camphor was quoted at \$20 per picul, but from various causes, chiefly owing to the invention of smokeless gunpowder, in the manufacture of which it is largely used, the price has now risen to \$70. Inquiries were made by the director of Kew Gardens of Sir Frederick Abel respecting the truth of this statement, and the reply is printed in the *Kew Gardens Bulletin*. Sir Frederick Abel wrote: "Any increase of demand, involving a rise in the price of camphor, is not due to its application as a constituent of smokeless powder. That material was used in the earliest days of the manufacture of a successful smokeless powder for artillery and small arms; but its employment was soon demonstrated to be attended with serious practical disadvantages, and its application for this purpose can, therefore, not be said to have been other than experimental, and of no great importance even at that time, as affecting the market value of camphor. This substance has, however, been used extensively for many years past, and no doubt in continually increasing quantities, for the conversion of collodion cotton into the material known as celluloid."—*Oil and Colorman Journal.*