

Five per cent. of say 94,000 would be 4,700, and this is certainly a very low estimate of the number of lives that are cut short in Canada every year by strong drink.

Many of the persons whose lives are thus shortened would otherwise have been useful citizens for many years. If the untimely death of each one of them meant a loss on the average of ten years of participation in the activities of this young and progressive community, then our country was last year deprived because of this loss of the services of 47,000 persons who were in untimely graves, instead of being useful citizens, enjoying life and helping to build up the nation's prosperity.

A calculation made in the preceding article of this series gives as the result of one year of a citizen's life and work, an addition to the country's wealth of \$500 beyond what was necessary for his own maintenance.

The liquor traffic robs this country annually through shortening the lives of citizens, of not less than 47,000 times \$500. Our annual financial loss from the liquor traffic, through this loss of life alone, aggregates \$23,500,000.

5. The Waste of Grain

Canada is a grain-growing country. Every year it produces vast quantities of wheat and other cereals more than the people of the country need. These products are shipped to other lands, and their value is represented by the products of other lands which our country is made able to buy. Every surplus bushel of Canadian grain is a national asset, an increase in the accumulating wealth of this prospering country.

In the year ending March 31st, 1908, the quantity of barley turned into malt for the production of beer and spirits was 124,728,869 pounds. In addition to a part of this malt the distillers used the following:

Corn	72,997,200 lbs.
Rye	14,921,209 lbs.
Wheat	3,117,070 lbs.
Molasses	17,212,802 lbs.

besides some small quantities of oats and other materials. If we take all the grain thus disposed of, we shall find it totalling more than 4,300,000 bushels and worth at average market prices, not less than \$2,750,000.

A good deal of the distillery-used grain was imported. It was mainly American corn, but money for which Canadians worked hard had to be sent to purchase it. Nearly all the grain used in the making of malt was Canadian product. It is true that some of the spirit produced was exported, but the quantity was small, and the value of the material used in manufacturing it would not equal the value of other material used in the manufacture of strong drink for consumption in Canada in addition to the grain above specified.

Here we have the wasteful destruction of grain that might have been exported, and a consequent lessening of the wealth of the country to the extent stated. Someone will say: "The farmers were paid for their grain." That is true, but the grain was destroyed, and the liquor consumers had to be impoverished to produce the price which the grain grower received. If all the grain in the country were insured, and all burned up, the farmers would be paid for their grain but the country would still be the loser. There can be no waste or destruction with-