

in a position to be duped. Longbottom, who had gone to England armed with a number of documents eminently calculated to mislead, after sounding Baron Grant in vain, offered the property, consisting of land, oil well, etc., to Mr. Mowatt, of the Credit Foncier, for £100,000, without success; and, incredible as it may seem, he afterwards succeeded in disposing of it for the enormous sum of £480,000 sterling. Sir Seymour Blane, Sir J. Hay, Mr. Eastwick, and Mr. Torrens, after examining the documents which Longbottom had taken with him, consented to act as trustees; some of them receiving gifts of stocks to qualify them, and one of them electing to pay for his. Among these documents was a certificate from the British Consul, at Buffalo, attesting the value of the property, and stating that his information was obtained from a personal inspection; a certificate which that official was paid a large sum for giving. The principal object of this certificate was to bolster up a report made by a surveyor, named Francis. Francis's report stated that the wells produced 826 barrels a day; Consul Hemans put the figure at 780 barrels per day. There were traffic railway receipts intended to prove that the produce of the wells was £100,000 a year; receipts swelled by storing up oil for years, and then shipping it in succession, and counting other oil than the product of the wells in question, to establish the appearance of an average. The trustees took what appeared to be a sufficient precaution by sending a deputation to Canada, to examine into the alleged facts on the spot. Two sons of two of the trustees were selected for this service, a son of Sir J. Hay, and a son of Mr. Eastwick. But the arch-rogue, Longbottom, was very imprudently allowed to go out with them: for that, in the words of the Chief Justice, "was sending the fox and the two geese in the same boat." The inspecting delegates were easily bamboozled. Longbottom played the bully as the wells were approached, as such characters often do in a critical juncture, and he put Eastwick into a wholesome state of terror. The shivering delegate was shown a hole in the ground, which he was informed was a well, and he ventured timidly to suggest that he should like to see the oil pumped; but he was easily put off with a reply that the tanks were all full and could not be emptied. They had been filled with oil from other wells. He asked for books of accounts, and was told that the vendors did not do business in that way. For cash books. None could be seen. At the railway office, where he went, he was told the books could be shown only to consignees, and it did not occur to him that Prince, who was assisting

Longbottom in the deception, was a consignor, and could have ordered the production of the books. Prince showed him a paper, purporting to come from the manager, in which it was stated that, in a few weeks, 25,000 barrels of oil had been shipped. But this oil was the product, not merely of the wells to be examined, but of the wells of the whole district. The second day's examination convinced poor easy, good-natured, and, it would seem, honest, Mr. Eastwick, that Francis's report had been confirmed by what he saw and heard, and he telegraphed to England for the purchase money to be sent out. Longbottom now returned to England, but he took care to go alone, having induced Mr. Hay and Mr. Eastwick to go, on another inspecting tour, to California. The fraud was consummated and the inevitable collapse came.

What most concerns us to know is, are the real culprits to go unwhipt of justice? How many of them were there, and who formed the disreputable ring? Prince, we believe has left the country. Are his partners in guilt still within reach, and are they to be put on their trial? Whose business is it to see that proceedings are taken against them? or is it nobody's? An answer to that question will be expected by the people of Canada, whose commercial reputation has been injured by what the Chief Justice fitly stigmatizes as a "villianous fraud." Let us show that we are not a nation of swindlers, by putting the promoters of this swindle on their trial.

#### THE EXCISE REVENUES OF THE DOMINION.

The steady increase for some years past in the receipts from excise duties, indicates increasing prosperity and ability to purchase on the part of the people. By far the largest amounts are received from spirits, malt, liquors and tobacco, although the revenue from Public Works are counted in the returns of this branch of the public service.

The total receipts for 1873-4, as we learn from the report of the Minister of Inland Revenue, just laid before Parliament, were \$6,589,848. This is an increase of \$1,158,593 over the returns of the previous year, and a very marked advance. When it is stated, however, that at the commencement of Confederation (1867-8) the total receipts were only \$3,755,621, it will be apparent how much more the public exchequer now receives annually from this source than it did seven years ago.

The increased excise revenue was derived from the following sources:—

Upon Spirits.....	\$678,224
" Tobacco.....	387,714
" Petroleum.....	36,663
" Manufactures in bond...	6,226
" Seizures.....	1,240

\$1,110,067

These figures show a very large increase in spirits and tobacco, but we may say to our social Reformers, that it would be a mistake to suppose that there has been such a large increase in the consumption during 1873-4 of these stimulants as these figures would indicate. There can be no question of the fact, that the changes in the tariff at the beginning of last year, caused a much larger quantity of these articles to be taken out of bond, than was then needed for consumption; the holders anticipating that higher duties would be imposed upon them by the proposed new regulations.

The following statement shows the transactions in spirits (in proof gallons), during the last year:—

In warehouse on 1st Feb., '73,	1,621,802 gal.
Manufactured during the year	5,433,741 "
Taken for consumption.....	5,479,809 "
Exported.....	197,676 "
Used in bonded factories.....	281,090 "
Otherwise accounted for.....	1,125 "
In warehouse on June 30, '74	1,095,843 "

The revenue which accrued on the spirits above mentioned was \$3,503,364, and it is estimated that there was actually consumed during the year as a beverage 4,923,331 gallons. This is an increase of eight per cent. over the two preceding years. We fear this fact does not indicate much decrease in the drinking usages of society. It must be remembered, however, that we have lately added Prince Edward Island to the Union, and it is more than probable that the good people of that Province indulge a little as in other parts of the Dominion.

Turning now to malt and malt liquors, we find that there were manufactured 10,771,519 gallons of beer and porter, as against 11,060,521 gallons in 1872-3. The exports of malt liquor amounted to 104,000 gallons as against 85,361 exported during the previous year. These figures show an increasing export, but the quantity held for consumption in Canada was 307,641 gallons less last year than during the preceding one. We may add before leaving this point, that 536,000 gallons were brewed from sugar, or syrup and malt combined, and that the use of glucose for the production of malt liquors, is largely on the increase. This article is a preparation of corn starch, converted into a species of sugar by the addition of sulphuric acid. The transactions in malt were as follows during the twelve months:—