

tion and cheated the revenue accordingly. The seizures extended from Halifax to Winnipeg, but it is only justice to say that Ontario furnished all but seven of the entire list of delinquents.

MALT AND MALT LIQUORS.—The manufacture of malt during 1878 was large—in fact, much above the average. Strange to say, however, the quantity taken for consumption was considerably less. The official returns, which will be found below, show that whilst the quantity of malt manufactured was over 7,240,000 lbs. more than the average production of the four preceding years, the home consumption was smaller by 4,954,000 lbs. When we turn to the exports of malt, we find what became of the extra production last year, for our shipments were 10,998,000 lbs. in excess of the average exports of the four previous years. So long as it remains unmolested by United States' legislation, malting will continue to be a valuable branch of Canadian industry, and we are sure the following particulars of last year's trade, as compared with the returns of the previous four years, will be read with interest:

	AV. 1874-7	1878
In Warehouse, 1 July...	11,122,661	17,791,332
Manfd during year....	40,988,664	48,229,293
Taken for consumption	31,489,274	26,524,587
Exported	8,153,130	19,151,181
Otherwise accounted for	113,938
In Warehouse, 30th June	12,354,984	20,334,857
Revenue collected	355,779	538,592

There was used during the twelve months in the manufacture of malt liquor, 25,180,329 lbs., and in distilling, 2,868,260 lbs. The excise on malt and malt liquors, including \$14,525 for maltsters' and brewers' license fees, produced in all \$560,201. In 1877, the corresponding receipts were only \$431,548, and the average for four years, only \$360,757. It would appear, therefore, that the consumption of malt liquors, chiefly "Lager" beer we fancy, is materially on the increase amongst the people.

TOBACCO.—The manufacture of tobacco in Canada declined in 1878. The decrease was no less than 1,051,448 lbs. as compared with the returns of 1877, and of 1,626,960 lbs. as compared with those of 1874, in which year the production was the largest in our experience. The quantity taken for consumption also declined. The statistics of the past five years are as follows:

	Man'd.	Consumed.	Exp'd.
1873-4 lbs.....	8,805,276	8,484,193	483,357
1874-5 "	9,507,152	6,575,443	359,809
1875-6 "	7,168,446	8,353,955	630,492
1876-7 "	8,991,610	7,720,633	610,996
1877-8 "	7,940,192	7,475,622	401,221

On turning to the figures setting forth the quantity of raw leaf taken for consumption, we find that the consumption of Canadian leaf has dwindled down to a merely nominal quantity. In 1874, there were 113,797 lbs.

used; last year, only 3,202 lbs. There have been a large number of seizures of such tobacco during the year, and the officers of the Inland Revenue do not hesitate to say that this fact gives "reason to fear the existence of a widespread determination on the part of the cultivators to evade the duty." If the Government were to show greater energy in pressing the collection of the excise on raw leaf, particularly in the Province of Quebec, the revenue would be the gainer, and justice would be done to those who honestly pay the duties on all they grow or consume. But probably the present government finds the same difficulty in treating this subject that its predecessor did; a difficulty arising from the wide diffusion of the offenders and the small quantities which each produces.

CIGARS.—There was not much change shown in the cigar trade, but what change there was, was favorable. The consumption was 496,869 lbs. as against 417,703 lbs. in 1877, being an increase of 18.95 per cent. This is a moderate improvement, but is much beneath the consumption of 1874, which was 676,429 lbs. Home-made cigars continue to be chiefly used, only a little over one-fourth of the entire consumption of 1878 being imported. The change that has taken place in this respect of late years can be seen at a glance by the following statement of the proportions of imported and of Canadian made cigars, taken for consumption for the years mentioned:

	IMPORTED.	CANADIAN.
1873.....	72.09 per cent.	27.91 per cent.
1874.....	64.64 "	35.36 "
1875.....	36.00 "	64.00 "
1876.....	38.48 "	61.52 "
1877.....	28.85 "	76.15 "
1878.....	37.00 "	73.00 "

BILL STAMPS.—The receipts obtained by the Government from bill stamps have again fallen off, and last year the amount was only \$200,614, and doubtless betokens restricted commerce. In 1875, the amount was \$244,592. It has often been a matter of surprise to many persons, that the revenue from bill stamps is so trifling. We fear that the law is evaded to a very large extent, and judging by the small amount returned by some of the smaller Provinces, it would appear as if it were not generally known in some of our country districts that such a law is in existence. Not a few of the commercial public have always regarded this tax as a troublesome and unequal one, and it is a question, when it only produces some \$200,000, whether it should not be abolished. One thing at least, all will agree to: it either ought to be repealed, or equally enforced in all parts of the Dominion.

Besides the foregoing branches of the

Excise, the Inland Revenues also embrace receipts from Public Works, from the culling of timber, and from the inspection of weights and measures, and gas. The business public were anxious for changes in regard to the Weights and Measures Act. Some of these are about to be put in force, and we shall wait till the effects have been seen before expressing an opinion upon them. This entire department, we venture to say, has been among the worst managed bureaus under the Dominion Government for several years past. This has arisen from the difficult and divergent matters it has had placed under its control, and the frequent changes of the minister in charge of it. It requires ministers of the highest talent to manage it properly, and even then it is doubtful if public satisfaction can be guaranteed.

—The Grand Trunk and the Great Western railway companies have agreed to throw their earnings into a common purse, and certain details of the union are to be worked out by arbitration. The terms of the agreement will be closely scanned in Canada, and as some legislative permission may be required, there will be an opportunity for protecting the public interests.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

G. T. We are quite aware of the pretensions put forward by the agent of the commercial journal you name; they are nothing new for that paper to make, but they are not therefore true. For example, the latest issue of that journal, which professes to have superior market reports to all other newspapers, contains just (8) eight lines upon Toronto markets, while this paper, though now printed in Toronto had 3½ columns on Montreal markets.

E. G. R., LONDON, ENG. There was some uneasiness of course, but no panic created by the circumstance you mention, the general public not being largely interested. The facts were, we believe, that the Roman Catholic Bishop of Montreal found it needful to retrench expenditure seriously, and accordingly dismissed a staff of servants &c., about the Episcopal palace and went to live quietly elsewhere, thereby effecting a saving of some \$15,000 to \$20,000 per annum. The rents of the Fabrique, and indeed of other Romish Church property in Montreal have fallen off seriously; some accounts say one third, and the value of their real estate in a still greater ratio. Not much wonder that there should ensue financial difficulty in such case.

FLAX SEED, WATERLOO.—We know of two Canadian firms who press oil, and they obtain the most of their seed in Ontario; Stratford, Baden, London, and St. Marys being the points at which it is mostly purchased, buyers furnishing bags. The price of flax seed has depended almost entirely upon the price of oil in the