

THE VANGUARD.

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER, 1894.

THE CAUSE OF HARD TIMES.

As shown by careful calculations already published in the VANGUARD, our Dominion has an average annual expenditure for strong drink of about THIRTY-TWO MILLION DOLLARS. This is the amount paid for the liquor by the consumer. If we were to take into calculation the indirect cost to the country through loss of time and other losses and expenses, the result of drinking, the bill would be swelled to nearly three times the sum named.

Dealing however, with only this actual outlay by drinkers, we have to consider an expenditure, the termination of which would increase the prosperity of our country to a marvelous extent. "Hard times" may always be taken as the result of a number of causes operating together, the liquor traffic being one cause continually at work. If that were abolished, there would be an increase of wealth that would probably put us, even under present circumstances, in a position far more prosperous than we have yet occupied. It must be borne in mind that it has been demonstrated that money spent in drink means invariably so much diminution of the actual wealth of the country.

As illustrative of the great relief which might be secured from a stoppage of this drink expenditure, the following calculation is submitted. The thirty-two million dollars would establish in the occupation of farming no fewer than FOUR THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED AND SIXTY-FIVE families, taking them absolutely destitute and equipping everyone with the following outfit: