

only consumed a fraction above 100 litres of wine per head per annum, the average was 119 each year during 1850 to 1860, and this figure rose to 160 litres from 1861 to 1865, to 197 litres from 1866 to 1869, to 216 in 1872, 219 in 1876, and 227 in 1881. Nor is this augmentation due to insufficiency of food. The average consumption of meat amounted to 75 kilos. in 1861, and it has increased to 78.3 kilos. in 1881; that of fish was 3.63 kilos. in 1861, and 12.81 kilos. in 1881. In 1861 the average yearly supply of eggs was equal to 153 per inhabitant; but for 1881 the figure stands at 180; and as a detail of less importance but perhaps of equal interest, we may note that the consumption of oysters has doubled within the last five years. A final proof of this increased prosperity will be found in the fact that though only 84,000 persons had accounts at the savings bank in 1837 there were 194,950 depositors in 1852, 242,000 in 1860, 304,000 in 1878, 358,000 in 1880, and 403,000 in 1881. Unfortunately we must oppose to these optimistic calculations the more recent figures obtained during the last two years. The customs dues levied on the admission into Paris of objects of primary necessity amounted to 30,412,000 francs in 1881, and only to 29,892,000 francs in 1883; while the receipts on wines and spirits fell in the same period from 65,673,000 francs to 62,267,000 francs. When we consider that the population was increasing while the food supply is thus shown to have decreased, we must conclude that the prosperity on which M. Cauderlin insists with the convincing eloquence of figures has received at least a momentary check.

Distress in British Iron Trades.

In the North of England it is reported on good authority that upwards of 25,000 men and boys are out of employment. The greatest distress exists in Sunderland, on the Wear, where 9,000 are idle, and Stockton-on-Tees, where about 2,500 are out of work. Of course only a percentage of these figures relate to the iron trade proper; the shipbuilders' men, and the crew of steamers laid up contributing most largely to the distress. It is stated that the number of those out of work is increasing almost hourly, and that the depression will yet affect many thousands who are still in work. The outlook is still very gloomy, the men on the shipbuilding rivers have for at least two years had a very good time, plenty of work and overtime, and those who have put up something for dark days, will now find their savings very useful.

Coal-Getting Machine.

A new coal-getting machine was recently tried at the Rainton collieries, North Durham, England, with very satisfactory results. The invention is a simple hydraulic wedge, inserted about 3 feet into the coal, and a force of 360 tons is exerted by hydraulic power, thus causing the coal to yield quietly without shock or concussion, thereby saving a large percentage of small or waste coal, as the coal in this instance came down in huge blocks, with scarcely any waste, and, what is more important, without any danger of life or limb. The inventors

and patentees of the machine are Mr. Thomas Hudson and Mr. E. Rowe, of Darlington, and Mr. Christopher Heslop, of Stanghow. By the adoption of this new invention, the use of gunpowder and other explosives is done away with; it will therefore be the means of preventing the sad loss of life which so frequently occurs in our mines. As showing the power of the machine—which, we may state, can be easily transported from one part of the mine to another by one person—about eight tons of coal were brought down at one time, and that, too, with little or no waste.

PORTAGE LA PRAIRIE.

Mr. W. McUrquhart has secured the agency of the North of Scotland Canada Mortgage Company.

W. P. Smith, Dominion License Inspector, has also been appointed Provincial License Inspector for Marquette.

The Y. M. C. A. public library is being put in excellent shape by the new librarian, W. H. Hall, and books will only be allowed to go out on Saturday evenings in the future.

Messrs. Murdock & Dancer, civil engineers, with a party of ten or twelve are encamped between the Portage and Lake Manitoba, they are engaged taking levels to ascertain the fall between the lake and the Assiniboine river.

Extensive prairie and bush fires have been doing considerable damage at Westbourne; W. H. Taylor and H. Wolf were burned out recently. Their barns, granaries, houses and contents were completely destroyed; loss, \$3,000; no insurance.

EMERSON.

Mr. F. Despars, the popular West Side merchant, contemplates moving his stock to the East Side of the river.

We understand that the Custom House now located at the C. P. R. station is to be moved to offices down town, which will be a great convenience to the public.

Emerson is blessed with a very peculiar so-called Board of Trade; this important association sent a request to the Council asking to be allowed to discuss with them the financial situation, and "other matters." The Council refused. The Board was immediately called together to pass a vote of censure to the Council, and after a very short but spicy discussion, a resolution was passed censuring the Board of Trade. It is rumored that the minority will bring the case to "the foot of the throne."

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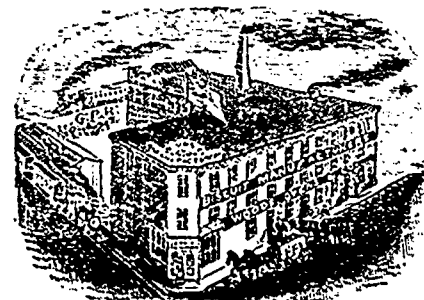
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