

last word on the subject. But even if alcohol may become a "food" in minute quantities and under certain conditions, no well-informed man will pretend that the whole of even a single small glass of whiskey or wine, when taken into the most receptive stomachs, is disposed of in this way. The tell-tale breath goes forth to notify the bystanders that part of the alcohol is not consumed and is returned unchanged to pollute the air they breathe. A very small quantity of wine a day will in the course of years produce that chronic blood poisoning which betrays itself in enlarged veins, enpurpled nose, and bloated features. An infinitesimal part of the alcohol may have been assimilated as food; a larger part of it has certainly been excreted by various organs of the body which have been impaired by the work thus thrown on them; but a third, and by no means insignificant part, has taken up its abode in a system that is unable to throw it off so long as the supply is continued. Alcohol may be properly described as a poison, or a drug. It cannot be described as a "food," except by a gross misuse of the term.

The Scott Act is not a sumptuary law because it does not assume to regulate the expense of people's eating and drinking. It is not even a sumptuary law in the sense in which the "liberal" temperance advocates use the term, because it does not assume to restrict the freedom of the people in eating and drinking. It is not a sumptuary but a police measure, as the judgment of the Privy Council in *Russell vs. the Queen* shows. Parliament, seeing that even restricted traffic in certain substances produced results injurious to society, passed a law to enable people to restrict it still more. That is the genesis of the Scott Act in a nutshell. It does not assume to absolutely prohibit the traffic in alcoholic liquors, much less their manufacture. No so-called prohibitory law ever proposed to do that. The use of alcohol as a drug has always been allowed and probably always will be.

ONLOOKER.

General News.

CANADIAN.

The annual meeting of the Diocesan Church of England Temperance Society was held in the Pavilion, of the Horticultural Gardens, Toronto, on Tuesday evening last.

The number of smallpox patients in the Montreal civic hospital has increased to twenty.

A true bill for manslaughter has been returned against Mitchell, who killed McIntosh at St. Thomas.

Smallpox has broken out near Picton and at Glenora. Three cases have been reported, but the authorities hope to prevent the scourge from spreading.

St. Patrick's street bridge over the Rideau river at Ottawa has been carried away by the present floods. Several other bridges are endangered.

Much suffering has been caused to the residents of the portion of Belleville flooded by the sudden rise of the river last week. The water has now entirely subsided.

Farmers from all parts of Elgin county report that the growing wheat was never in better condition, and the prospects are that next harvest the yield will be the largest for a long time.

The Nova Scotia House of Assembly in Committee defeated an amendment to the Franchise Bill, proposing that voting power be given to unmarried women possessing the property qualification. The amendment was thrown out by a majority of only one.

The Grand Trunk Railway Company are still discharging large numbers of workmen from their shops and yards in different places. The new O. & Q. division of the Canada Pacific Railway being now in competition with the G.T.R., has taken over a good deal of the traffic once monopolized by the latter. Grand Trunk receipts show a decrease of \$34,020 for last week as compared with last year.

At Quebec, a large wooden tenement building was burned down on the 17th, and Jos. Gravel, aged 5, Adelaide Gravel, aged 3, and a 5-year-old daughter of Timothy Lizotte, perished in the flames. Mrs. Gravel was out visiting the sick child of a neighbor and left the children playing in the kitchen.

A shocking accident occurred at Kingston on the 19th, by which George Hornbeck, a Kingston and Pembroke switchman, lost his life. He was standing at the switch watching the arrival of the express when a Grand Trunk freight came behind him, knocking him down, when the wheels passed over his neck and cut off his head.

Eather E. Montgomery, school teacher, aged 38, single, drowned herself in the aqueduct between St. Catharines and Merriton on the morning of the 18th. The deceased, who suffered from mental aberration several months, left her sister's house unobserved, was seen to plunge in by some boys, and was dead when the body was recovered. She belonged to a wealthy family and was highly educated.

A young man named Alex. McLellan, aged about 18, attempted to board the train at Chatham station while in motion, but missed his footing and fell

beneath the wheels, horribly crushing both legs from the knees down. He was a resident of London, and leaves a mother and two brothers to mourn his untimely end.

Latest despatches from the North-West bear the ill-tidings that Fort Pitt has fallen, and that the garrison and the refugee settlers withdrew from the place in boats down the river, leaving two policemen dead. Riel is supposed to be entrenched at Batocho, some 40 miles north of Clark's Crossing. It is stated he has 600 half-breeds, and a few bands of Indians, with him. Gen. Middleton is still at Clark's Crossing, but is constructing at that place entrenchments strong enough to fall back on in case of need. A day's march will bring him to the camp of the rebels. He is expected to start any moment. Col. Otter is moving across the country in a bee line towards Battleford. He is making rapid progress considering the difficulties he has to contend with. His supply service is very defective. The first division of the force stationed at Calgary, consisting of the 65th under Col. Hughes, and 20 mounted police under Captain Steele, has started for the front, the remaining divisions, two in number, following immediately afterwards.

UNITED STATES.

The discovery of an extensive tin mine near Glenwood, West Virginia, is reported.

General Grant continues to progress rapidly towards recovery. He was taken for a drive, being out thirty-five minutes. He was able to walk to and from the carriage without assistance.

A league of boy burglars belonging to good families has been discovered and broken up at Antioch, Georgia. Thousands of dollars worth of property had been secured by the young scamps.

At Chicago on April 18, Wm. Hassa, butcher, killed his sweetheart, Annie Neibert, aged 19. He then fired at the girl's aunt, and attempted suicide by firing two shots at himself. The aunt was not hit, and Hassa will recover. He says the girl's relatives would not let her marry him, and that the girl made fun of him.

At Waterford, N.J., large tracts of valuable timbers, cranberry marshes, and a number of buildings have been destroyed by forest fires, which started on the 24th. At Winslow, Camden county, a big fire is raging in a large cedar swamp. Thousands of dollars' worth have been consumed. At Pomona, Atlantic county, thousands of bushels of charcoal and hundreds of cords of wood valued at thousands, have been destroyed. Advices from Williamstown, Gloucester county, state that disastrous fires are sweeping hundreds of acres of growing timber. Several houses are endangered, and great damage has already been done.

At Buffalo the *Morning Express* office was totally destroyed by fire on the 16th inst. The fire originated, at 2.37 a.m., in the composing room of the *Express*, where the porter accidentally dropped a lamp on the floor. The woodwork caught fire, and in less than five minutes the office was a sheet of flames. The fire brigade was soon on hand, but the fire spread with such rapidity that the fine building was quickly in a mass of flames. There were several narrow escapes, the editor of the paper barely getting out with his life, and his son in trying to save him was badly scorched. Absolutely nothing was saved except a handful of copy. The loss altogether is about \$250,000. The *Express* loses about \$200,000, on which there is \$198,000 insurance, and Dunston & Co. lose about \$50,000, also well insured. The fire was well managed, and a general conflagration was fortunately averted.

BRITISH AND FOREIGN.

The Prince and Princess of Wales left Killarney on Monday and proceeded to Limerick, where an address was presented to his Royal Highness. Thence they proceeded to Dublin, where they were very heartily received. It is feared that when they visit Londonderry on Saturday there will be serious trouble between the Nationalists and the "Prentice Boys." On the return to Dublin ten thousand Sunday school children, with banners and music, marched to Phoenix Park, and presented an address to the Prince and Princess of Wales.

Wischnitz, in Galicia, has been burning since Friday. Six hundred families are homeless. 150 houses were destroyed.

It is reported that the natives of the Hermit islands in the Pacific have eaten the crews of two German merchant vessels. A gunboat has been sent out to punish them.

A protocol has been signed for the withdrawal of the Chinese and Japanese troops from the Corea. Japan waives her claim to an indemnity.

It is stated at Hong Kong that there has been severe fighting in western Tonquin between the French and Chinese troops. The Chinese claim to have been victorious, but admit they suffered heavy losses.

It is reported that one hundred of the worst rebels imprisoned at Colon were placed on a steamer by officers of the Colombian Government, carried out into the bay, and thrown overboard and drowned.

A despatch from Cairo states, that the rival Mahdis have met in battle, and that the original Mahdi was defeated, losing two Governors. It is reported that El Obeid has been plundered and burned.

Matters are not yet settled between England and Russia with regard to the boundary question, and the action of Gen. Komaroff in attacking the Afghans at Penjdeh. It was expected that satisfactory conclusions had been arrived at some days ago, but the old wound has been opened since the receipt of Gen. Lumsdin's report. His report is almost a complete refutation of Komaroff's statement. He gives the lie direct to every vital assertion of the Russian commander regarding the events preceding the battle on the Kushk, the battle itself, and Gen. Komaroff's subsequent seizure and present possession of Penjdeh. This, of course, if Lumsdin is to be believed, shows clearly the perfidy of Russia, and it is now expected that after a little more diplomatic sparring, England will demand the recall of Komaroff, and the evacuation of Penjdeh and other points. War preparations are still being vigorously pushed by both nations with unabated vigor.