

were invited—or, rather, invited themselves—to a bee, a "hunking bee," to hunk the corn. Then tea and a dance followed on the barn floor after the work was finished.

There was great sport at these gatherings. The loud glee that followed the fiddling of a red corn, which entitled the fiddler to a kiss from the fairest girl, and sometimes a kiss all round, that is, if he had nerve enough to do so. This was a standing custom in the country, as old as our grandfathers. We often detected some fair one slyly slip her prize into the lap of her favorite boy—as much as to say—do your duty. There were also "paring bees," to peel and slice the apples preparatory to stringing them for drying; also, "quilting bees," &c., but we must not forget the old spinning wheel bee.

The young girls—pardon us—the young ladies, of the present day, know nothing except by hearsay of the "Gossiping Wheels" the grand old spinning wheels of early Canadian days. We remember the time when from four to six of these old wheels could be found in some of the larger farm houses, and plenty of work they had to do. In those early days in Canada, the men wore home-made gray, and women stuff gowns. In some of the farm houses the wool of one hundred sheep was carded, spun and woven or knitted at home.

The gathering to a spinning bee would be a novel sight to day. This was a gathering of the young girls from both sides of a concession road to assist a poor neighbor, very likely a widow. The boys of the neighbourhood were sure to invite themselves there for the evening, to close with a dance, or rather what was then called a "hop." It was none of your *bowes* and *scraps*, but real dancing—such as old Scotch reels and jigs and other country dances, the girls and boys, and even the old men and women could dance a Scotch reel to perfection, but all this is now changed! Fashion, imperious fashion, has discarded these old farm house dances for new ones having foreign names.

Just fancy yourself, fair reader, on a concession road of Upper Canada forty years ago—on a fine Autumn morning; you would observe, tripping gaily along, fair girls in neat homely attire with a something strapped to their shoulders. What is it? It is one of those neat little old spinning wheels to be used at the spinning bee, to which the fair ones are wending their way. Do not laugh, fair reader; your mother or your grandmother, if brought up in this country, would substantiate this.

The fair daughters of Upper Canada three generations back, venerated the old spinning wheel, and were lovely in their home-made stuff gowns. They needed not the aid of foreign ornaments, but were, "when undressed, adorned the most." It was a jolly time to be there in the evening, to meet the youth and beauty of a country side.

These country people, with their apparent want of knowledge of the outside world, were the keenest of critics of what was proper. You could not pass or pawn on them the sham for the real in good breeding.

"Ride and Tie," an instance of old-time hospitality. The writer found himself, in one of his rambles, some twenty miles off Yonge Street Road, and was desirous to catch the morning stage at Richmond Hill at ten on his way to Toronto. The old Dutch farmer suggested a "Ride and tie" as the only way to do so. This was something novel. A farm horse was saddled, on which we mounted, to ride five miles, and then tie the horse to a tree or leave him at a farm house. A farm boy was sent ahead on foot to mount

the horse at the end of the first five miles and then to ride five miles and tie.

We walked the next five miles, and then mounted the horse again, and rode the last ten miles to Richmond Hill, leaving the horse at the inn there, with a quarter of a dollar to pay for the boy's dinner; thus making the tramp of twenty miles in this ride and tie fashion in a little over three hours. This "ride and tie" through the deep forest of a "concession side-line" was not only a novelty, but very enjoyable. Some of our old readers may recall such another ride.

The old-time hospitality of the farmers of Canada was unbounded; visitor and visited felt themselves mutually benefited. Such were some of the primitive customs then existing in the times of old and in the days of other years in this Canada of ours.

CANADA'S DRINK BILL.

OUR HOME PRODUCTION.

BY T. W. CASEY ESQ., NAPANEE, ONT.

No 2.

In a previous article the figures of the Trade and Navigation returns of the Dominion were given, showing that last year there was imported into Canada, for home consumption, no less than 1,984,227 gallons of intoxicating liquors, for which, according to the statements of the Importers, at least \$1,992,107 must have been sent to other countries, besides which corn was imported to the value of half a million dollars for purposes of distillation, and malt to the value of \$17,722, also to be manufactured into intoxicating liquors here. Large as our consumption of imported liquors appears to be each year, it is small compared with the quantity of our home manufactured liquors annually consumed. In presenting the following facts, I shall again confine myself entirely to the Government's official returns, and every figure may be verified by reference to some of the last "blue books." If any of the figures are incorrect or misleading, it may be safely taken for granted that the quantities given are too small and not too large, as it is on the figures thus supplied by these in the business that heavy duties have to be paid, and the temptations are many and strong to make the figures as small as possible.

MADE LAST YEAR.

According to the recently published Report of the Inland Revenue Department the following quantities of home produced liquor were taken for consumption during the past fiscal year:

Proof spirits.....	4,274,722 gallons
Malt liquors.....	4,000,000 gallons
Total.....	18,340,474 gallons

There should be properly deducted from this 252,429 gallons of proof spirit taken for the production of vinegar and mytilated spirits. It should also be taken into calculation that one gallon of proof spirits on which excise duty is paid represents probably three or four gallons of the whiskey and other spirituous liquors retailed by the glass to drinkers. Probably twenty million gallons of home-produced intoxicating liquors would be represented by the returns laid before the Dominion Parliament.

The Hon. Minister of Inland Revenue sees a good deal to be thankful for even in figures of such magnitude as these. In his report he says:—"It is pleasing to note, however, after reducing all spirituous and malt liquors and wines—domestic and foreign—to the basis of alcohol, the allowance per head of the population does not

exceed three quarters of a gallon per annum, barely one-third the quantity consumed throughout Europe."

The quantity per head consumed by the people of the Dominion is given as follows:—spirits 1.276; beer 2.538; wine .153. The spirits, of course, represents "proof," or at least one third less than the actual quantity of spirituous liquors consumed.

THE GRAIN CONSUMED.

The manufacturers report that the following quantities of grain were used during the years for brewing and distilling purposes:—

	Lbs.	Bushels.	Value.
Corn	49,780,423	818,007	\$487,802
Rye	10,178,666	181,726	109,033
Wheat	1,191,531	19,461	19,463
Oats	338,228	9,340	8,730
Barley	49,226,213	1,024,526	618,315
Totals	109,710,878	2,049,063	1,233,850

It is a well understood fact that our commerce largely depends on the surplus grain we have to export after deducting what we require for home purposes. If we unnecessarily destroy over two million bushels of grain each year for liquor making purposes, worth, according to average market rates, a million and a quarter of dollars, we have just that much less to export than we otherwise would, and the country is that much poorer in consequence.

Taking average yield per acre of the various kinds of grain as given in the report of the Bureau of Statistics of Ontario for last year the entire yield of grain of the following number of acres of land was destroyed in liquor making purposes.

Wheat.....	1,093 acres
Rye.....	11,333 "
Oats.....	267 "
Barley.....	4,295 "

The corn was not produced in Canada, every bushel of it, or its equivalent, having been imported from the United States. Had it been our own native grain it would have probably represented about 27,100 acres more. We have then the field products of eighty thousand one hundred and twenty-one acres of our best tillable land as surely destroyed for all purposes of export as though blight or drought had done its effective work in scourging us.

THE LICENSE AND REVENUE.

The total number of distilleries licensed in the Dominion last year was 10, which was licensed half the year, one being in Montreal, and all the others in the Province of Ontario. The license fee for distilleries is \$250. The total excise duty on proof spirits manufactured during the year, is put down at \$3,579,532, and of this sum, \$1,600,802 was paid by the large Toronto distillery, of Gooderham & Worts.

The total number of licensed maltsters last year was 86. Of these, 66 are in Ontario, 12 in the Province of Quebec, 2 in Nova Scotia, 4 in Winnipeg, Manitoba, and 2 in Victoria, British Columbia. The excise revenue collected on malt liquor is reported, at, \$6,343, and on malt, \$477,184.

LABOUR AND CAPITAL INVESTED.

A great national need in Canada is additional labour to properly develop our industrial resources. We also stand badly in need of more capital to develop our manufacturing and our resources. What manufacturing facilities we have and what mineral and other natural sources of wealth we possess, that new life useless for want of more labour and more capital in the country! What sums of money we are expending every year in trying to induce more labour to our shores, and what thousands and thousands of interest we are annually paying for the capital borrowed of foreign lenders! What vast quantities of manufactured goods we are sending our money

out of the country to pay for when there is abundance of raw material lying useless at home to make if we had the labour and capital at our disposal to manufacture here! Under the circumstances it seems criminal to divert our labour and capital in unnecessary and injurious enterprises. Taking the last Dominion census returns for our guide, we find that the capital and labour invested in liquor-making in 1881 was as follows:—

	Hands employed	Capital invested.
In brewing.....	1,411	\$4,768,447
In distilling	283	1,300,000
	1,694	\$6,074,447

The same return puts down the annual product of these manufactures as follows:—
The breweries..... \$ 4,704,447
The distilleries..... \$ 1,790,800

Total..... \$ 6,500,247

It will be seen that, according to these figures, the number of hands employed in proportion to the value of the product is ridiculously small,—smaller than in almost any other branch of manufacture requiring so much capital and yielding such a value of products. It is evident, however, that the outside hands in either case are not taken into the count at all. Probably more than double the number of hands here reported are engaged in some shape, and a much greater amount of capital is diverted, too.

THE INFERENCE.

In view of the great destruction of grain, for which we are having nothing to show at the end of the year, having drunk up the products; in view of the great loss of labour and capital diverted, which is so much needed in really useful industries; in view of the great moral and physical havoc the use of these home products surely entails upon us, who can withstand the conclusion that in the best moral and material interests of the people of Canada we need a law, at the earliest practical moment, prohibiting the manufacture, as well as the importation and sale, of intoxicating liquors?

In a future paper some important official figures may be given regarding the sale of intoxicating liquors and the deplorable results arising therefrom.

FLOWERS THAT BLOSSOM.

BY ANNIE L. JACK.

With many window gardeners the heliotrope is a shy bloomer, and has no beauty of foliage to recommend it, but give it a sunny window on rather sandy soil, and plenty of warm water, and it will repay with fragrant blossoms. This flower grows to a large shrub in its native climate, Peru, and the flowers are in clusters, with the fragrance of vanilla so strongly marked that I have known children when passing the bed to say, "there is a smell of ice cream somewhere"—when recognizing the flavoring to which the perfume bears strong resemblance.

The name is derived from the Greek *Helios*, sun, and *trepo* to turn, in consequence of the fabled mythology that Clytie, being deserted by Apollo, pined away with her eyes gazing continually upon the sun—and was turned into a flower with this meaning. It blooms best when basking in the full beams of the sun, and resents drouth and shade. The language is "devotion," and the poet Stedman has sung its praises in a little poem in which he speaks of his lady-love:

"But when she came to the border
At the end of the garden slope,
She bent, like a rose bush over,
That beautiful heliotrope."

The pure white flowers are very effective in a green house when they have light and heat, but in a window they are likely to take on a purplish tinge. The plant is easily cultivated and can be propagated by cuttings.