

fire only. The quantity of spirits produced by these distilleries in the year in question was 2,695,016 litres. The number of distilleries for the production of potable spirits has increased by 268 in the last ten years. Most of the new establishments are organized on the best system, and turn out liquor of superior quality. Five of them alone produce yearly 1,600,000 litres of pure spirits, which, mixed with an equal quantity of water, give 3,200,000 litres of *eau de vie*. Their output is more than that of all the other distilleries put together; and while the latter, 666 in number, employ 1,332 operatives, the five larger distilleries, owing to their superior appliances, employ only fifty. The smaller concerns, moreover, produce spirits of an inferior quality, abounding in fusil oil and other impurities; and the facilities for drinking allowed to the work-people give rise to the worst forms of intemperance. The report is very emphatic in its condemnation of the evils produced in the canton by the enormous spirit-drinking in which the people indulge. It is leading to their moral and physical degeneracy; it produces the most deplorable effect on family life, and has caused the ruin of hundreds and thousands of citizens. With a view to checking the evil the cantonal Legislature has lately raised the license for distilling from a minimum of 200 francs to a minimum of 300 francs a year. In addition to the spirits distilled in the canton there were imported last year from other parts of Switzerland and from abroad 967,000 litres. After deducting the alcohol taken for manufacturing purposes, the amount left for ordinary consumption reached a total of 4,737,000 litres, equal to 8.92 per head of population, and 13.85 (rather more than two-and-a-half gallons) for each adult, including women. The consumption of 1882 exceeds that of 1881 by half a litre a head. This was, of course, in addition to the consumption of wine, beer and cider.

Berne is not the only Swiss canton in which the habit of spirit-drinking is on the increase. It is increasing enormously in Geneva. According to M. Charles Archinard's 'Statistique Agricole du Canton de Geneve,' the consumption of wine, beer, and cider is slightly decreasing. In 1860 it was at the rate of 241 litres, in 1880 at the rate of 233 litres (fifty-two gallons) per head of population. But this slight falling off is far more than made up by the increased drinking of spirits. In Geneva spirits of every sort are classed for official purposes under one denomination, and the *octroi* dues are levied, not on their bulk, but on their alcoholic strength. According to the *octroi* returns, the spirits consumed in the city of Geneva in 1870 were equivalent to 987,000 degrees of alcohol. In 1875 the consumption was 1,652,000 degrees; in 1879 it had risen to 3,186,000; and in 1880 to 3,568,000 degrees. A part of the increase may be due to the greater quantity used for industrial purposes, but M. Archinard is of opinion that the augmentation arises in far larger measure from the growth of spirit-drinking.—*Correspondence of The London (Eng.) Times.*

## General News.

### CANADIAN.

The Toronto Exhibition has attracted enormous crowds from all parts of Canada, and has turned out to be a great success.

The National Beekeeper's Association of North America is now in session in Toronto, as is also the International Convention of American Cigar-makers.

There is considerable excitement in London over the case of Mrs. Stockwell who gave birth to four children last Saturday. All are getting on well.

The banquet to Lord Carnarvon, at Montreal, on Wednesday was a great success.

Dr. T. H. Rand, Chief Superintendent of Education for New Brunswick, has resigned his position to become Professor of Didactics, in Acadia College, Nova Scotia.

The Exchange Bank at Montreal has suspended payment. It has been in difficulties for some time. There will not be much loss, except to some shareholders who are wealthy.

A complimentary banquet is to be given to Sir Hector Langevin, at Montreal, next week.

Bishop Hellmuth's resignation has been accepted. The Synod will meet at London on October 17th to elect his successor.

Crops in the Algoma district are reported as being very good.

A vacant building adjoining the Whitby Collegiate Institute was burned on Monday.

Last Thursday evening some burglars made a raid upon several places at Bridgen Station, on the Canada Southern Railway. They did not get much booty.

The same day a daring robbery was committed at London. John Blackburn was suddenly attacked by three colored men, who carried off his watch.

McMillan's oil refinery, at Petrolia, was burned on Tuesday.

A disastrous fire occurred at Woodstock on Tuesday. Pocock's planing mills were completely destroyed, and some other buildings damaged.

Some sparks from the burning steamer *Queen Victoria*, near Chatham, set fire to Mr. Clement's barn. The building and contents were totally destroyed.

A serious fire in Toronto, on Wednesday evening, destroyed some small houses, and damaged several stores.

A fire occurred at Uxbridge on the 14th inst. The *Guardian* office was destroyed, and some other buildings were badly damaged.

A horrible accident occurred at Alvinston on Friday. A fourteen-months-old child was attacked and badly mutilated by a pig.

A little girl, infant daughter of Mr. John Balfour, Omamee, got possession of some strychnine pills on Wednesday morning and swallowed some of them. She died in a couple of hours.

Mrs. Nathan Noble was killed by a Credit Valley train near St. Thomas on the 14th inst. On the same day Wm. Waite was killed while helping to move a building in St. Thomas.

John Moran, a brakeman on the G. T. R., was killed near Grafton. While on top of a moving train he struck against a bridge, was thrown off the car, and died almost instantly.

On Thursday last a man named McDowell was fatally stabbed in a drunken row at Cobourg.

Henry Cathcart, a blacksmith of Lucan, died on Monday from the effects of injury received while shoeing a horse.

A boy named Addie Matheson was shot dead on Monday at Drummondville, Ont., by a drunken Italian.

Mrs. Baldrow, of London, was killed by a train at Kincardine Station last week.

Jas. Clark, a laborer, was fatally injured on Saturday near St. Thomas. He was at work on a bridge, and was crushed by a heavy stone.

Peter McTavish was killed on his own farm in Sullivan, on Monday, by a vicious bull.

Miss E. Laing of Stanton, Eng., who came to Canada on a pleasure trip a short while since, was badly crushed by a train in Hamilton station on Tuesday, and is not expected to live.

Arthur Blackmore, who lives near Toronto, has been missing from his home since last week. His relatives fear that he has committed suicide.

Thomas Vine, a moulder in a Toronto foundry, was badly burned on Monday evening by the upsetting of a ladle of molten iron.

A. Carmichael, a carpenter, was killed by a piece of falling timber while he was at work on a bridge across the G. T. R. track near Newcastle, last Friday.

George D. Ansley, Montreal City Engineer, has been seriously injured by a fall from his horse, and is not expected to recover.

While Mrs. Ignace Hamel, of the parish of St. Gertrude, county of Nicolet, Quebec, was lighting a fire in a stove a cinder communicated the flames to her clothing. She was fearfully burnt, and died three hours later in great suffering.

### AMERICAN.

The Sovereign Grand Lodge of the Independent Order of Odd-fellows began its fifty-ninth annual session on Monday at Providence, R. I.

The *Chicago News* publishes letters from physicians in answer to a circular asking opinions as to the probability of a cholera epidemic. Most of them anticipate more or less cholera next year, and urge the necessity of a thorough observance of sanitary precautions.

A conference of Bishops of the Roman Catholic church is being held at Baltimore.

The United States Greeley relief steamship *Yantic* has returned. Her tidings are lamentable. No word has been received from Greeley or any of his party. The steamer *Proteus* was crushed in floe ice at the entrance to Smith's Sound, July 23rd. Captain Pike and his crew and the scientific party are passengers by the *Yantic*.