

CALIFORNIA WINES.

There never was a finer opportunity for California to step into a profitable market than the wine situation now presents. France alone will take all the sound claret we can make. But our vinegrowers appear to be making haste very slowly to turn their opportunities to account. Twelve years ago the President of the Agricultural Association predicted that in a very few years California would produce 50,000,000 gallons of sound wine, and would never produce less in any subsequent year. As a matter of fact, it is doubtful if the vinegrowers ever produced 20,000,000 gallons in any one year. It is exceedingly doubtful whether the vintage is any larger than it was six or seven years ago.

In searching for the causes of the failure of California to accomplish what appeared to be her natural destiny, a number of factors are discovered. A large proportion of the people who bought or planted vineyards were ignorant of the business—broken-down merchants, retired capitalists, amateur vinegrowers—and they made no wine that would sell. One of the largest vinegrowers in the State accumulated in his cellars an enormous quantity of wine which he was keeping to ripen; it was found so worthless that it had to be distilled and sold as brandy. Other amateurs allowed losses to discourage them, and practically abandoned their vineyards. Finally, the wine trade of this city drifted into the hands of a few men, who formed a close combine, agreed not to bid against each other for wine, and thus forced down the price to a figure which did not remunerate the honest and intelligent grower.

Combines and syndicates, when they begin to make money, provoke competition, and when competition awakes intrinsic values assert themselves. The vintage of France this year is valued at 25 cents a gallon, which is 8 to 10 cents more than the winehouses in this city are willing to give for wines from first hands. Where a California vinegrower can afford it he will consult his interest by marketing his vintage in the East. There the price of his goods will be regulated by supply, demand and real value.—*San Francisco Call.*

SIR OLIVER MOWAT'S REMINISCENCES.

On a recent occasion, the Premier of Ontario, Sir Oliver Mowat, indulged in some interesting recollections of the changes which had taken place in this province within his own lifetime:

"I call to mind," said Sir Oliver, "that in my own time and within my own memory a transformation has been accomplished in the political condition of the province, and in everything which goes to make up a great and a civilized community. I remember when neither our province nor any other British province had responsible government. I remember when the conduct of provincial affairs was not by the elected representatives of the population, nor by persons of their appointing, or having their confidence. I knew the province when it had no municipal institutions, now known to be essential to local interests and local progress. I knew the province when the various churches amongst which its people were distributed were not equal before the law, when the Established Church of Old England was practically the Established Church here, and when there were claimed for it the exclusive rights and privileges of an establishment, and one-seventh of the whole land of the country. I remember the province when there was in it not one university, not one college, and no system of public schools. I remember when at every election there was but one polling place for a whole county, no matter how extensive; when the election lasted for a week, and when (except in towns) the only voters were freeholders. I remember when the province had not a mile of railway, nor I believe a mile of macadamized road.

"I remember when the principal cities of the present day were but villages—when this great city of Toronto was "Little York," and its population three or four thousand. I remember when the whole province had—or was supposed to have—a population of but 15,000, and therefore less than the population now of Toronto alone. My memory thus goes back of the time when I began the practice of my profession here half a century ago. The

city had then a population of but 15,000, and Upper Canada a population of but half a million. The changes that have taken place in our province in that half century have been very great. Its progress in population, in wealth, in education, in intelligence, in political freedom, and in most other things which serve to make a country attractive and great, has indeed been enormous.

COLLAPSE OF THE INDUSTRIALS.

The break in the industrials, severe as it has been, was hardly a surprise. Conservative bankers and shrewd speculators have been looking for just such developments. The majority of what may be termed the speculative industrials were introduced upon the Stock Exchange, not for the purpose of raising funds and building up great enterprises, as the majority of railroads have been, but solely for the purpose of speculation. In these operations, the Stock Exchange has simply been the tool of clever promoters, who thus succeeded in finding a market for large amounts of grossly watered stock, the value of which was sustained entirely by manipulation and the forcing of extraordinary profits. The evil is working out its own cure by natural methods. New competition steadily threatens the old concerns, whose stock has been largely distributed to the very material benefit of original holders. To the latter, these operations may have proved very successful; but to the present holders, and to the trades in general which they represent, the effect is demoralizing in the highest degree. There are doubtless many industrial and commercial concerns which can be successfully operated on joint stock methods; but when that method is utilized solely for speculative purposes, we can expect only such developments as have been witnessed the last few months in Cordage, Whiskey, Sugar, Lead, Rubber, Chicago Gas, etc. It is worthy of note that the collapse is entirely speculative and not due to depression.—*N. Y. Bulletin.*

NEW PREMISES.

We learn with pleasure that the increased business in Montreal of the Toronto Radiator Company, has caused that company to open a new warehouse and offices at 706 Craig Street, in that city, where a full line of samples can be seen. H. McLaren & Co., who are well known to the citizens of Montreal, have full charge of the company's business in the Province of Quebec. Under their careful charge and administered with the experience and push of Mr. H. McLaren, the Safford radiators are assured of continued success.

The Toronto Radiator Company have branch houses at Quebec, St. John, Hamilton, Winnipeg and Victoria, B.C., all of which are in daily communication with the head office and works at Toronto, where Jno. M. Taylor, secretary and general manager, is ever ready to meet the wishes of the trade. He is said, indeed, to sit up nights working up new schemes, so as not only to be abreast with but ahead of the times. The latest success they have to boast of is a contract, covering some \$8,000, taken to fit up Government Buildings in St. John's, Newfoundland, with Safford Radiators. There must be some marked advantages in this company's devices to cause them to be so largely in demand and so generally satisfactory.

HORSE FLESH AS FOOD.

Amongst the numerous trades which the Parisian capital boasts of is the somewhat unique business carried on by over 100 butchers who deal exclusively in horseflesh. This commodity is cheaper than ordinary meat, and finds a ready sale; in fact, its supply is not entirely limited to the tables of the poor, but is served up, under the name of "beef" and "mutton," in far more luxurious quarters. We feel much tempted to ask what course of circumstances renders horseflesh of less value in the market than that of oxen and sheep, but we are not told the secrets of the trade on which 150 butchers thrive, and we can only imagine that the reduction in the price of this spurious "beef" and "mutton" is due to condition of the animal, before it appears in the slaughterhouse, which it is, perhaps, to as well conceal from the demolisher.—*National Provisioner.*

TOO "SMART" FOR THE NORTH BRITISH.

We have heard a story about Sam. P. Blagden, manager for the United States of the North British and Mercantile Insurance Company, that we are really glad to publish. The North British had a \$1,200 loss on a barn in central New York State, and dispatched a special agent to adjust it. Arriving there, the latter found that the insured, in his ignorance, had failed to file proofs within the proverbial sixty days, and, taking advantage of the claimant's unintentional omission, adjusted the loss for \$800. Returning, the special agent went before Samuel P. and boasted of his salvage. "But was the barn worth \$1,200?" asked Mr. Blagden. "Of course it was," replied the special. "Very well then," said the indignant S. P. B., "go right back and pay that additional \$400, and then come here and close your account. We can dispense with your services."—*Insurance Post, Chicago.*

NOT A BAD INVESTMENT.

The Canadian big cheese, whose weight of eleven tons crushed in the floor of the building they put it in at the World's Fair at Chicago, attracts and will attract great attention, for the Americans are great people to run after "big things." It has been sold to an Englishman, Mr. J. T. Lipton, who will dispose of it, after the Fair, in England. This marvel of the dairy was made from the milk of 20,150 cows, and milked by 2,177 dairymaids, the milk weighing 250,885 lbs.—the equivalent to over 112 tons—or fully 29,554 gallons.

Some correspondent of the Toronto *Globe* found fault with the policy which arranged this unique exhibit; whereupon Mr. J. W. Robertson, the Professor of Dairying, rebukes the pettiness of the critic, and takes strong ground in favor of the step as a means of advertising Canada. He states that the cheese has been sold for enough money to pay the whole cost of its preparation and transport. It was a good scheme.

—Henry Clews & Co.'s circular, dated Saturday last, says: The gold question still continues to be the main factor affecting Wall street interests. President Cleveland's firm declaration that the payment of all Government obligations in gold shall be maintained under any circumstances, had an assuring effect. It at least set at rest one serious uncertainty, and that had the tonic result of bracing up the Stock market and checking the attacks of the "bears," which were becoming daily more vigorous.

—The Finance Committee of the City Council, at its last meeting, decided to place in the Quebec Fire Assurance Company, its insurance on municipal buildings, now expiring in an American company that has no office and pays no tax here. Other companies offered to take a share of this business, and some of them would, no doubt, have obtained a portion of it, but these all asked the regular Association prices, while the city has succeeded in making terms with the local institution to accept as low a rate of premium as has hitherto been paid to the Farragut.—*Quebec Chronicle.*

—The Toronto and Scarborough Railway are making rapid progress with the work of laying their line of the new railway in East Toronto. Two miles of grading is completed with turn-outs at the Woodbine, Norway, East Toronto and Blantyre Avenue. The rails are laid, and the company expect, as promised, to be operating this section of their road by the 24th of May. The work is being carried out under the management of Mr. John Galt, C.E., whose assistant is daily on the ground superintending the operations. The company have completed arrangements with the Toronto Electric Light Company to supply the necessary motive power, and a wire for this purpose is now being strung from that company's station on the Esplanade along Front street to George, and then along King and Queen streets to the Woodbine. Mr. A. W. Dingman, manager of the street railway company, has purchased from Messrs. Patterson & Corbin, St. Catharines, two vestibule cars supplied with Thomson Houston w. p. motors of 25 h.p. each, and furnished with a Taylor truck.—*Can. Elect. Review.*