

**A MAMMOTH DISTILLERY.**—A correspondent of the *Louisville Wine and Spirit Review* who has been visiting the Dublin distilleries, gives some account of the large establishment of Messrs. Geo. Roe & Co., represented in Montreal by Mr. James Guest. This distillery was founded before the middle of the 18th century, and became the property of an ancestor of the present proprietor, Mr. Henry Roe, jun., in 1775. It has meantime been largely extended, until it is now the largest pot-still distillery in the United Kingdom. The corn-mill contains seven pairs of stones and can grind 1500 barrels of grain in 24 hours. Steam has long since been substituted for wind-mill power, the three largest engines being 120, 150 and 180 horse-power respectively. Some idea of the magnitude of the works may be gathered from the fact that there are 17 warehouses on the premises, several of them of a storage capacity of 12,000 casks each.

From the annual report of the Minister of Internal Revenue, the city of London stands first on the list of the cities of Ontario for the manufacture of cigars and petroleum. In the latter industry the collections aggregate \$13,504. The following table shows the comparative returns of the cigar industries of the most important cities in Ontario:—

*Cigars at \$3 per M.*

	Lbs. material used.	Pro-duced.	Paid duty.	Total duties.
Brantford	154,646	5,819,400	4,577,550	\$14,745 15
Hamilton	160,225	6,090,825	5,454,675	17,224 54
London	307,769	11,365,750	8,275,800	25,839 91
Toronto	281,827	10,242,535	4,674,080	15,147 28

Advices from Boston expose the method of a gang of swindlers who have been fleecing the farmers of Quebec, as well as some of the neighboring States, under the pretence of conducting a *bona fide* commission business. Three of the swindlers are awaiting trial in that city for conspiracy. The practice was to adopt a firm name, differing only by a single letter from that of some house doing a legitimate business then to have printed letter heads circulated among the farmers, with a prospectus offering prices for produce in excess of market quotations. They also engaged in business under the name of the National Loan and Trust Company of Boston, assuring their victims they banked with that concern, and that drafts on the same would be honored. Unsuspecting farmers drew on the concern only to have their drafts returned. Under the title of the American Co-operative Co. they secured many victims.

The Phelps Induction Telegraph Company have been experimenting for the past few weeks on the New York and New Haven railroad with a new invention by which it is claimed that a train in motion can be kept in constant telegraphic communication with the stationary world. A single insulated wire is laid along the sleepers midway between the rails, and is connected at the various stations. Under the body of the car is arranged a coil of copper wire inclosed in a 2-inch pipe. The upper portion of the coil is carried along inside the car proper. The lower portion is carried parallel with the track and directly over the line conductor at a distance of 6 or 7 inches. The coil is connected with an instrument in the car. The telegraphing between the car and the main line is effected by induction. Experiments recently made were not wholly satisfactory in receiving, but any number of messages were sent while the train was in motion.—*Ex.*

SCIENCE is becoming more practical. The endeavors of the last few years to bring the Electric Light into general use have not been entirely successful, owing to the great expense of the motive power; and the promoters have latterly directed their attention to the formation of local joint stock companies rather than to the working of the business in the large cities. Our intention here, however, is not to enter into a discussion of the economy of electric lighting, but to direct attention to a remarkable lamp which is being manufactured in this city by Messrs. Frank Weir & Co., which, owing to its intense brilliancy, has been named the Electric Lamp. This lamp resembles an American invention of the same power, but it is sold 25 per cent less. The expense is said to be one-eighth that of gas, while it is four times as brilliant.

**THE DOMINION SAFETY FUND.**—We are favored with a copy of a handsome little volume prepared by Mr. J. H. Wright, superintendent of agencies of the Dominion Safety Fund Life Association of St. John, N.B., "being," as it claims, "a complete exposition and defence of the principles and practice" of that institution. We are obliged to defer any lengthy review of the work, but must notice the opening sentence of the preface, headed "Warfare and Wherefore," where it says:—"a bitter warfare" has long been raging between the advocates "of Life Insurance by Level-Premiums and the 'friends of Insurance (sic) by post-mortem assessments," etc. This made us pause, for it was only the day before, in the course of conversation with the courteous and able manager of the Aetna Life agency in this city, that we heard from the lips of that gentleman that they had no feeling of antipathy whatever to the Dominion Safety Fund Association; indeed he entered into an apology for its *raison d'être*, one which sounded odd to us when we remembered how well the old line companies are represented in the sister Province and its metropolis. Mr. Wright, in a letter, takes exception to the "Governess' Story" published in the *JOURNAL OF COMMERCE* of 23rd December last. We may ask the "Governess" to reply to his charge of ignorance of the principles, etc. It is only fair, however, to say, in a general way, here, that the Safety Fund people disclaim identity with the methods of some of the new-fangled concerns on the other side of the border.

**GUM ARABIC.**—The war in the Soudan has seriously affected the trade in gum-arabic. Prices have already more than doubled, and since the supply of this article is drawn wholly from the country in the Mahdi's possession a continuance of the trouble for a much longer period will result in a gum-arabic famine. Previous to the bombardment of Alexandria the supply of the gum was abundant and prices were exceptionally low, ranging from 9 to 10 cents a pound for ordinary gum-arabic, that is, the gum as gathered without subsequent preparation for market. After the bombardment the price advanced to 12 and 15 cents a pound, the native dealers believing that the war would interrupt the shipment of gum from the interior. Subsequently El Mahdi cut off communication between the Soudan and the seaboard, and his followers having possession of the entire gum country, the shipments ceased. Since the "False Prophet's" arrival in the vicinity of Khartoum practically no gum-arabic has found its way from the Soudanese territory to the usual markets, and the price has still further advanced to 25 and 30 cents per pound. The importation of gum-sengal from Senegambia, on the West coast of Africa, has been greatly stimulated by the high price of gum arabic. This gum is similar to the gum arabic

in nature and quality, and makes an efficient substitute. But for this importation from Senegambia and the bringing into use of substitutes of various inferior gums the price of sorts arabic would now be not less than 50 cents a pound. The supply of gum-sengal is limited, however, and its price is rapidly advancing.

**THE PEOPLE of Morrisburg** have for some two weeks past been discussing the circumstances of the dissolution of Munro & Capell, general merchants, which took place the 3rd inst. Mr. Munro continues the business, and assumes the firm's debts and collects outstanding accounts; Mr. Capell speaks of emigrating to Texas. For some time past he had had considerable expectations from his uncle, John H. Munro, who died childless about a month since, leaving quite an estate, but the will was made almost exclusively in favor of his brother and family. A liability held by the uncle against Mr. Capell's house and lot had not been registered up to the time of his death. It seems that about 18 months before when the late partnership was formed, he passed over the house and lot in trust for his wife and children, but this deed also was not recorded. After the declaration of the uncle's will an advance was obtained from a Hamilton loan company, for nearly all the property would stand outside of the wife's interest, and this mortgage was registered. Capell procured some endorsements for the firm and took a trip across the border, pending negotiations with his late partner, leading eventually to the dissolution of the 3rd. Mr. Capell is a man of no mean ability, and in a new and larger sphere will probably do well, especially in the absence of great expectations outside his own personal endeavors.

## CHANGES IN THE TARIFF.

The following are the resolutions amending the tariff submitted by Sir Leonard Tilley in his budget speech:

*Resolved.*—That it is expedient to amend the tariff of customs duties and schedule of free goods as follows:

### FREE GOODS.

1. By adding to the free list (Schedule B) the following articles now admitted free by orders-in-council under authority of sub-section 12 of section 230 of the Customs Act, 1883.—Gas coke, when used in Canadian manufactures only.—Woollen rugs.—Steel imported for use in the manufacture of skates.—Musk, in pods or in grains.—White shellac, for manufacturing purposes.—Jute cloth as taken from the loom, neither pressed, mangled, calendered, nor in any way finished, and not less than 42 inches wide, when imported to be manufactured into bags only. Salt cake, being a sulphate of soda, when imported by manufacturers of glass and soap for their own use in their works.—Foot grease, the refuse of the cotton seed after the oil is pressed out.—Tugging metal, plain, japanned or coated, in coils not over 1½ inch in width, when imported by manufacturers.—Shoe and corset laces; for use in their factories.—Locust beans, for the manufacture of horse and cattle food.—Hoop iron, not exceeding three-eighths of an inch in width, and being No. 25 gauge or thinner, used for the manufacture of tubular rivets.—Buckram, for the manufacture of hat and bonnet shapes.—Recovered rubber and rubber substitute.—Silver and German silver in sheets, for manufacturing purposes.—Steel of No. 20 gauge and thinner, but not thinner than No. 30 gauge, to be used in the manufacture of corset steels, clock springs and shoe shanks, when imported by the manufacturers of such articles for use in their factories.—Cotton yarns finer than No. 40 unbleached, bleached or dyed, and not finer than No. 60, for