

Gallons of wine made in 1880..... 2,500,000  
Gallons of grape brandy in 1880..... 300,000

Comparing these figures with those in the Surveyor-General's report for the same county for 1877 and 1878, there is no increase in the acreage planted in vines, but a very large increase in the production of both wine and grape brandy. The reported yield of wine in 1877 was 1,690,000 gallons; of brandy from grapes, 65,000 gallons. In 1878 the yield was: wine, 1,703,500 gallons; brandy, 70,000 gallons. The increase in wine production in three years is 810,000 gallons, or 48 per cent; in brandy, 235,000 gallons, or 361½ per cent. It is probable that there has been a corresponding increase in the acreage planted, but that the report includes only so much as is old enough to be producing wine. This would exclude the plants set out since 1878, for vines to produce anything of consequence must be in the third year of their growth. Financially considered, the production this year is a grand success. Averaging the wine at but 20 cents a gallon, and the brandy at but \$1.50, we have for the wine, \$500,000, and for the brandy \$450,000; total cash value, \$950,000, and this from a little more than 5,600 acres of producing vineyard. It gives very nearly \$170 to the acre.

THE COMMERCIAL UNION Insurance Co. has issued a strong appeal to its agents in regard to the suppression of the gasoline fiend. The use of this villainous material is rapidly increasing, especially in the West, and unless the most active measures are employed in destroying the sale of the various stoves and heaters burning this gasoline, the evil will become a costly one for underwriters. Gasoline is entirely unsafe, and it is only a question of time when each one who is duped into its use will become a victim. It is said that one pint of gasoline will impregnate 200 cubic feet of air, and render it explosive on the approach of a flame.—*Insurance Age.*

A MEETING of the policy-holders of the Joliette County Mutual Insurance Co. was convened at the office in this city last Saturday to consider the expediency of going into liquidation. Owing, however, to the violent opposition of a few policy-holders, who, it is alleged, had some petty jealousies to gratify, nothing was done. As already stated in these columns, the Company became involved in difficulties last October, and Mr. Webster was appointed manager in November following, with a view to winding up the business. The next meeting called was for last Saturday, when the opposition feeling became so strong that a warrant was procured for the arrest of the officers on charge of conspiracy; they gave bail in \$200 each to appear in Court on the 3rd inst., and the meeting was adjourned till the 10th inst.

BET sugar manufactories in California seem to be experiencing a greater degree of prosperity than has heretofore fallen to their lot. Prices are more remunerative, competition less urgent, and by reason of careful management, the field of saccharine matter appears to return a greater percentage of sugar than has been in past seasons. Few complaints are heard as to the quality of their output. About 2,000 bbls. per month are now said to be turned out by the two beet-sugar factories now in operation in that state.

THE South-Eastern Railway Co. have purchased the Lake Champlain and St. Lawrence Junction Railroad from Stanbridge to St. Guillaume, a distance of 63 miles, making the line of the South-Eastern 300 miles long. The South-Eastern assumes the bond-debt,

The New Merchants' Cotton Manufacturing Co., of this city, have secured about two-thirds of the total stock to be subscribed, and intend erecting a mill in one of the western suburbs—the exact site is not yet fully decided. It is expected that the stock of this Company will be offered on the market in a few days.

#### THE ENGLISH LOAN COMPANY.

The second annual general meeting of the shareholders of the English Loan Company was held at the head offices in London, Ontario, on the 12th ult., the President, the Hon. Alexander Vidal, in the chair. The following statement for the year ending 31st December, 1880, was submitted and unanimously adopted:

Your Directors, in presenting their Second Annual Report and Balance Sheet for the year ending 31st December, A. D. 1880, desire to congratulate the Stockholders on the very marked success which has attended the Company from its commencement to the present time.

Your Directors have exercised the greatest care in investing your money, their policy being to always have a personal inspection of the properties offered, and never to loan more than one-half the cash value of farms, and one-third the cash value of the most eligible town or city properties. By adopting this method of conducting the affairs of the Company, it is confidently believed that a loss will seldom take place; and in a few years the Company will stand second to none in the Dominion.

The money paid upon Stock, and received from the sale of Debentures, being the sources out of which capital for investment is derived, and now that the subscribed capital has reached the sum of \$1,819,000, and that no Debentures up to the present time have been sold, your Directors would recommend that one Million Dollars in Sterling Bonds or Debentures be placed upon the British market for sale during the present year; and considering that these Bonds will be a first lien upon the whole assets of the Company, namely, the whole subscribed capital, less the amount paid on stock, and also the whole of the mortgages now held, and all additional mortgages which are accumulating from day to day, as well as all other assets of the Company, and considering as well the exceptionally first-class standing of the body of the Stockholders, your Directors have no doubt of a rapid and ready sale of the Bonds at such low rates of interest as will be greatly to the advantage of the Company, and will meet the pressing demands made upon your Board for Loans, now far beyond their power to supply.

Your Directors would recommend that for the sale of the Debentures negotiations be opened only with such financial houses in Great Britain as are of undoubted standing and permanency; and, as far as possible, that the whole business be done with some one really reliable firm; even though the expense be somewhat greater than would be incurred by dealing with a number of less extensive houses.

During the last year a new issue of stock was made at ten per cent. premium, a considerable portion of which was at once taken by the former Stockholders, and a further amount disposed of from time to time to the general public, so that during the year your Directors have received in premiums alone the sum of \$1,735.99, which now forms part of the reserve fund. The balance of this issue is still offered for sale at same rate of premium.

Your Directors would recommend the Company to continue the practice of strict monthly audits.

The securities have been most carefully valued at the rate of interest at which the investments were made, and the books and vouchers thoroughly examined by the Auditors, and found correct and satisfactory.

According to law all of the Directors retire annually, but are eligible for re-election. The Directors are: Hon. A. Vidal; George Walker, J. P.; James Fisher, J. P.; I. F. Hellmuth, Barrister; Samuel Crawford, Esq.; David Glass, Q. C.; and Moses Springer, M. P. P.

The Secretary and other officers of the Company have performed their several duties to the satisfaction of the Board.

ALEXANDER VIDAL,  
President.

Dated at London, Canada,  
this 12th day of January, 1881.

Statement of Receipts and Disbursements and  
Balance Sheet for the year ending 31st  
December, 1880.

#### RECEIPTS.

Receipts on Stock.....	\$78461 62
Repayments on Loans.....	58905 03
General interest, and interest upon mortgages paid off before maturity.	2257 58
Sundries, rents, &c.....	442 85
Federal Bank—Bal. overdrawn Dec. 31, 1880.....	17836 08
Premiums on Stock.....	1735 99
	<hr/> \$159030 15

#### DISBURSEMENTS.

Dividends on Stock.....	\$10693 69
Interest account.....	678 18
Payments on Loans.....	74814 48
“ assumed Mortgages.....	44165 66
Expense account.....	206 89
Commission on Loans in 1879 and 1880.....	1579 33
Outstanding liability.....	300 00
Real Estate purchased this year.....	14000 00
Expenses of President to England and other travelling expenses.....	1001 00
Federal Bank—Bal. overdrawn Dec. 31, 1879.....	8970 38
Petty Ledger.....	29 34
	<hr/> \$159030 15

#### ASSETS.

Cash value of Mortgages.....	\$263427 85
Lands and Buildings on the corner of Dundas and Talbot Streets, Lon- don, purchased during the year (actual cost).....	14000 00
Interest in ten years' lease of build- ings, office furniture, &c., &c., be- ing a reduction of ten per cent. on last year's estimate.....	1000 00
	<hr/> \$278427 85

#### LIABILITIES.

Paid on Stock.....	\$170476 75
Assumed Mortgages.....	81611 12
Federal Bank.....	17836 08
Reserve Fund.....	\$4279 34...
Carried to Reserve Fund. 3030 66...	
	<hr/> 7300 00
“ Contingent Fund.....	1203 90
	<hr/> \$278427 85

We hereby certify that we have submitted the Books and Vouchers of “THE ENGLISH LOAN COMPANY,” for the year ending 31st December, 1880, to a careful and complete examination, and find the same to be correct and in accordance with the above statements.

CHARLES MURRAY,  
JOHN WRIGHT,  
JOHN BROWN, } Auditors.

London, January 10th, 1881.

#### FIRE RECORD.

##### ONTARIO.

Courtright, Ont., Jan. 28.—J. Featherstone's foundry and machine shop totally destroyed. Loss about \$2,500. No insurance. *Seaford.* Jan. 29.—Building occupied by the Montreal Telegraph Co. and Express Office, together with a boot and shoe store, destroyed. The following are the estimated losses:—George Offer, boot and shoe stock entirely consumed; loss about \$3,500; insured for \$2,000. Halley & Anderson's, merchant tailors, stock damaged by removal and water; loss about \$12,000; in-