

mist has settled down over the landscape after the sun has risen. His rays are struggling fitfully through the parting clouds, shedding down and spreading around, a soft, grey, white, lambent radiance, giving promise of a day of warmth and beauty. One such morning comes to mind, when sailing far north on the Ottawa, watching the mist shape itself into all kinds of fantastic forms. Lo, before our eyes, there rose a lofty, graceful aerial bridge of the towering, majestic-looking span reaching from bank to bank fitted for the tread of light-footed fairies, while the river swept on and away broad and deep below.

This particular morning, however, we are not sailing, but rushing along by the much less poetic railway train. And yet there is beauty everywhere. The country is now gently undulating, and again it stretches away in long, level reaches. As we pass along farmers' homes, embosomed in their sheltering trees, and bountiful, capacious-looking outbuildings lie in the fields pictures of rest and peace. The cock on a lordly perch on the nearest fence, makes the welkin ring, and below, his feathered subjects are busy feeding, or pricking their feathers, finishing their morning toilet. The fields, for the most part, are bare, stripped of their waving grain, their deepening brown and dun regrettably suggestive of approaching winter. Their produce stands round the barns in stacks, suggestive again of bountiful abundance for man and beast. Cattle in groups are grazing in happy satisfaction, switching their tails about, some lazily, as it were from force of habit, some from simple gladness and thankfulness, and others with an air of business and purpose against molesting flies. Sheep and horses in like manner are dotted about the fields, the latter sometimes scampering off at the approach of the train, not from fear at all, simply for a caper. And so the morning goes, passing familiar towns and villages showing their church spires, their High and common schools, their factories and tall smoking chimneys and homes, for the most part speaking of comfort, or of plenty and affluence. Children, younger or older, laden, all too heavily, with books, are tripping along, not sadly, often gaily, to school. As we pass station after station, it is interesting to watch travellers coming and going, their wonderful variety of faces a study of inexhaustible interest, their appearance, conduct, and manner, some rough, noisy, bustling, showy, vulgar; more, quiet, courteous, polite. Where are they all going, what is their business, what eventful issues depend upon it, when will they return, or will they ever?

A morning's ride at any season may be full of interest, and even profit. We have a fair country, and upon the whole, a virtuous, sober, intelligent, peaceful populace. Happy is the people that are in such a case.

ONTARIO'S DRINK BILL.

SOME FACTS OF THE RECEIPTS AND EXPENSES IN CONNECTION WITH THE LICENSED LIQUOR TRAFFIC.

BY THOMAS M'CASEY, NAPANEE, ONT.

In view of the Prohibition Plebiscite in this Province, at the January municipal elections, it may be of interest to many readers who have not access to the various Government official reports, to have at hand the following facts and figures in regard to some sources of revenue and expenditure, in connection with the licensed liquor traffic in Ontario. The various Dominion reports give a large amount of information in regard to the quantities of liquors imported and manufactured, the grain consumed, the labour employed, the capital invested and the probable cost to those that buy of the liquors consumed, which may be given in some future papers by the editor, if desired.

According to the last published returns of the Ontario License Department there were, during the last license year, 3,040 tavern licenses granted in the Pro-

vince of Ontario, besides 403 shop licenses, and 21 wholesale, making in all 3,464 licenses to sell. These figures, for both taverns and shops, were less than for a few years past. It looks as though, in many places at least, the business is not now nearly so remunerative as it has been in past times. The total amount paid for licenses during the year is reported at \$942,288, and from fines collected for unlawful liquor selling \$23,310, making a grand total of \$965,598. From this was deducted \$73,311 for license inspectors' salaries, Commissioners' expenses, and the like. The share of these funds which went into the Provincial treasury is reported at \$300,604, and \$289,487 were divided among the various municipalities in which these licenses were issued and the fines collected. These sums include the entire amounts of revenue to the Province and the municipalities from the entire liquor license system. The last Dominion census gives the population of the Province at 2,114,321. This, then, makes the total revenue from this source equal nearly \$2.21 per head.

When the balance sheet comes to be made up it will be found that, outside of all moral considerations, which no money can compensate for, the people of Ontario are every year heavy losers in the matter of dollars and cents alone, by the legal sanction of the drink traffic. Every dollar of the revenue requires more than a dollar of expenses from the public treasury, in consequence of the existence of the drink traffic. Sir Oliver Mowat is one of the best informed and most reliable of our public men in Provincial affairs. He has had exceptionally good opportunities of arriving at a correct conclusion of the results of the drink traffic in Ontario, having been so long in public life and having now been for nearly a quarter of a century the Attorney General and Premier of the Province. In his carefully considered reply to the large Temperance deputation, during the last session of the Legislature, he declared through them to the people of Ontario that it was not a mere oratorical flourish when he stated "that three-fourths of the poverty, crime and wretchedness throughout our land arose from this one source." No doubt that statement is correct. It is amply corroborated, as he himself then stated, by the testimonies and reports of "Judges, magistrates, and those connected with the administration of justice." He went on to intimate that the reports of prisons, hospitals and asylums that were yearly laid before him had fully confirmed the truth of the calculations he had first made over twenty-five years ago.

Now, what does such a statement as that represent in hard, cold cash to the taxpayers of Ontario, outside of all considerations of human sympathy or Christian regard for immortal souls? The last Ontario Prisons and Asylums' official report gives among other things the fact that the hard-taxed people of Ontario are now carrying on their shoulders every year nearly twelve thousand prisoners alone, two-thirds of whom, or nearly eight thousand, are directly chargeable to the licensed drink traffic. There are fifty-two county jails in Ontario now maintained at the people's expense, and there are in these an average of over three thousand commitments each year for drunkenness alone, besides a large proportion of all the other crimes being induced by drink—the direct result of the licensed liquor traffic. Here is a summary of the commitments as given in these official returns:—

Total Commitments to County Jails.....	9,011
" Central Prison.....	935
" Mercer Female Prison.....	234
" Penetanguishene Boys' Reformatory.....	252
" Kingston Penitentiary.....	702
TOTALS.....	11,144

Even these large figures contain no reports of the many arrested by our police and constables that are not imprisoned, the many in the asylums, hospitals and poorhouses from this one cause. Of course, the labour of these thousands, who ought to be among our taxpayers and country-builders, is lost—worse than lost—and it requires the labour of some thousands of others—of police, constables, jailers, guards, judges, jurors, and the like—to arrest, try and care for, all this army of convicts, thus thrown as a heavy burden on the taxpayers. The Provincial Prison reports give these items of information about the expenses incurred:—

Annual cost of Common Jails.....	\$135,706
" Central Prison.....	65,955
" Mercer Female Prison.....	26,725
" Penetanguishene Reformatory.....	36,977
" Kingston Penitentiary.....	139,358
	\$404,721

These costs, of course, are merely incurred in the imprisonment of these convicts, after all the expense of their arrest and trial, and after all the loss that has been sustained to the country in consequence of the many depredations committed. But even a three-fourths of this large amount nearly swallows up the entire three hundred thousand dollars the Provincial treasury received from the licensed liquor business.

The last published Provincial accounts contain also the following among many other suggestive items that the taxpayers of Ontario were burdened with during the fiscal year:—

Administration of Justice.....	\$391,689
Hospitals and Charities.....	151,574
Insane Asylums.....	185,081
Reformatory Asylums.....	9,216
Central Prison.....	46,915
Lock-ups in Outlying Districts.....	11,967
Crown Counsel Prosecution Fees.....	8,882
	\$805,224

These are but a few of the many items with which the licensed liquor traffic has so much to do; but take three-fourths of these, as indicated in Premier Mowat's positive assertions, and then compare them with the \$300,604 of Provincial revenue from the same license system, and it leaves the enormous sum of \$303,314 to the loss side of the cash account. So much for "Revenue" from the licensed liquor business.

It will be seen, by reference to the revenue figures in the beginning of this paper, that the share falling to the various municipalities amounted in all to \$289,487. Against this the building and maintenance of each of the county jails had to be provided for, the local expenses of the various courts and juries, and the other enormous expenses of the administration of justice had to be met, the poor had to be maintained, and a whole lot of other items of expenditure had to be added in; so that the municipalities have been, on the whole, quite as great losers as the Provincial treasury, because of the legalized existence of this dreadful business. The Prohibition question should be more frequently considered from a purely economic standpoint than it is.

A SUCCESSFUL SABBATH SCHOOL.

THE SUPERINTENDENT'S PLACE.

You have been elected to fill a very important office, and it is of the greatest moment that you realize the influence that you will have, either for good or for evil. Every teacher, and every child, will look to you for an example, and remember, some, yes, very many of these little ones, have no other religious training except that which they receive in the Sunday school. As superintendent, you cannot afford to make light of any of the commands of God. Now, perhaps, you are even more than shocked, that we should imagine for a moment that any one holding the position which you do, would dare do such a thing as make light of God's commandments; and yet it is done—thoughtlessly, perhaps, but can you afford to be thoughtless? When so many children are looking to you as their example, you cannot, if you want the Sunday school to be a success in the highest sense of the word. A school where the little ones will learn to know and love Jesus, to reverence the Sabbath and keep it holy. As an instance of the want of this, we may refer to the annual entertainment. It was necessary the teachers should meet and consider it, and so it was decided to hurry through the closing exercises, or even do away with them altogether, in order that the teachers might meet and arrange for the concert. If conscience reproved, it was silenced with the argument that the teachers could not, or rather, would not, come together on a week night, and as the concert must be held, there was no help for it, in other words it was not right, but it was a case in which it appeared lawful to do wrong. What an opportunity to show every teacher and every child that it was your full purpose and aim, to honour God in the observance of the Sabbath, as well as in all the other commands He has given. Perhaps the entertainment was a success in a worldly sense, but it was not, could not, be anything more. How will the children honour and keep the Sabbath, when the superintendent does not. Do not put all the blame on the teachers. Has it not been taken for granted that they would not attend these meetings on a week night; try them, and tell them the concert must be given up rather than that the Sabbath be broken by those who are trying to teach others to observe it. Every teacher and every child will think more of the superintendent, and he will find that instead of losing by keeping the Sabbath, he and the school, will be the gainer in every respect.

Chatham, Ont., Sep. 16th, 1893.

Books and Magazines

ARCHIE OF ATHABASCA. By J. Macdonald Oxley. Boston: D. Lothrop & Company.

This bright and breezy tale for boys is the story of a boy's life in our great Northwest during the early part of the century. The hero is the son of a Hudson's Bay factor, and his half-breed wife, and the character of the scenery and the roving life of that wild region are sketched so graphically, and, as it seems to an uninitiated reader, so naturally, that the author must have made a special study of his subject. The book is full of adventure, at times somewhat exciting, with plenty of hunting and Indians, and half-breed escapes, such as boys delight in. No boy will take it up without reading every line, and it ought to be a favourite with them, and a successful rival to the pernicious "penny arcadians" and "dime literature," in which so many of them so much indulge. As the author's name would guarantee, there is a healthy vein of nearly Christian morality pervading the book. "Archie of Athabasca" will be welcomed in many a home. FIDELIS.

A feature of the September number of The Century, is Bret Harte's opening chapters of "The Heir of the McHulishers." Anything by the author of "The Luck of Roaring Camp," will be welcomed and read with avidity. "Sights at the Fair," is an account of humorous incidents at the "White City," from the pen of Gustav Kobbie. "Leaves from the Autobiography of Salvini," describes most graphically, his New York visit, his experiences in London and Paris, and also in the Southern half of this continent. Mellen Chamberlain in "A Glance at Daniel Webster," gives an interesting summary of the attributes and influence exercised by the powerful debater from a modern standpoint. The sketch, with a portrait of Wm. J. Stillman, will afford instruction as well as interest to many readers of The Century. Prof. Geo. E. Woodbury's "The Taormina Notebook," sets forth the advantages of travel in a way that is at once irresistibly attractive. Mrs. Oliphant contributes an essay on the author of Robinson Crusoe, Daniel Foe, or De.oe, as he thought proper to write it. Besides other good articles in the number, there are several short stories, and Walcott Balestier's novel, "Benefits Forgiven," is brought to a climax, the concluding portion of which will be found in the October number.

The chief article in the September Harper's is "A General Election in England," by Richard Harding Davis, whose experience, as he describes it, while most entertainingly written, is not, we are happy to believe, common to all parliamentary campaigns in England. W. McLennan contributes "A Gentleman of the Royal Guard," and readers of "The Refugees," which recently appeared in Harper's, will take deep interest in it. "Down Love Lane" is a good paper relating to a suburb of the City of New York, by T. A. Janvier. Two articles of historical bearing, are "Texas," by Samuel Bell Maxey, late a member of the U.S. Senate, and "Edward Emerson Barnard," director of the Lick Observatory, by S. W. Burnham. "In Riders of Egypt," Col. T. A. Dodge continues his horse studies of other peoples. A paper by Elizabeth Robbins Pennell, entitled "An Albert Durer Town" is a description of Rocamadour, and is illustrated by Joseph Pennell. "The Letters of James Russell Lowell," by Charles Eliot Norton, are very characteristic of the famous poet, and will, to many readers, be the article of chief interest. The two serials, Mr. Black's "Handsome Homes," and Miss Woolson's "Horace Chase," are continued, and with two short stories, etc., complete a capital issue.