

WOODSTOCK, N. B., SEPT. 28, 1904.

passed by the British Parliament. The new bill went through against the bitter opposition of the Liberals just before adjournment last month.

Its chief object is to reduce the number of places where liquor is sold. Although the magistrates have had the necessary power, the number has not been reduced in the past because, in England, the house rather than the man, is licensed for the sale of liquor, and the license goes with the lease or the sale of the property. If the magistrates cancel a license they take from the owner of the property a valuable asset. Therefore, they have not been willing to do this save a punishment for violation of the law.

In 1890 Lord Salisbury's government tried to pass a bill providing for compensation to the owner of licensed property, when a license was cancelled for the sake of reducing the number of places where liquor was sold, but the opposition was too great.

The bill which Mr. Balfour has succeeded in passing fourteen years after in a compensatory measure. Parliamentary opinion has come round to Lord Salisbury's view. An annual tax is to be levied on the liquor dealers, grouped in districts, and the fund thus provided is to be used to reimburse the property-owner for the loss of income due to the cancellation of the license. The amount he will receive is to be based on the difference in value of his house with and without a license.

This measure was opposed by many temperance people on moral grounds, as well as by the Liberals for political reasons. Mr. Balfour insisted that it was politically expedient and morally sound. He did not expect, however, that it would "make an end of the crying evils of intemperance," for, as he said in a letter to one of his critics, "My hopes of seeing an immense improvement in national sobriety are based rather on the growth of a healthy public opinion than on any specific legislation."

The working of the new law will be carefully watched by the friends of temperance on both sides of the ocean.

"Canada's Rail Trade Lost."

Representatives of leading rail interests in this country reluctantly admit that the new Canadian tariff on steel rails will lose to this country one of its best customers at a time when the outlook for increasing the present business with Dominion roads was never better.

All the principal roads in Canada have extensive development plans now under way or soon to be and these called for large amounts of rails and track equipment which the steel mills of this country had reason to expect would come to them.

Last year United States Steel concerns sold to Canada a total of light and heavy rails of \$1,397,858 as compared with \$1,896,822 sold to the Canadians by Great Britain. This year until the new tariff became operative the rail business with Canada was not only good, but constantly improving.

When the last rails in orders now on the books of the American steel companies are sent across the line before November 30, however, it will practically mark the loss of one of our best rail customers, unless the Canadian steel companies fail to carry out their agreement with the Dominion Government.—The Wall Street Journal.

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The Irishman's Cant-Hook.

A farmer, accompanied by several of his hired men, went into the woods one morning in the early fall of the year to cut down some trees. When about to begin work it was discovered that the cant-hook was left behind. Turning to one of the men, an Irishman not very long over, the farmer instructed him to drive back to the farm for the missing tool. The Irishman did not know what a cant-hook looked like, but was averse to exposing his ignorance, so he drove off on his errand, trusting to find someone at the farm who would enlighten him.

At the barn, however, there was no one to help him out of the dilemma. Casting his eyes about the place for the thing which would be most likely to bear the name of "cant-hook," he saw a mooley cow with never a sign of a horn upon his head, and concluded it was what he was sent for.

Procuring a rope, he fastened the cow to the rear end of his vehicle and exultantly drove back to the woods.

"What in Sam Hill have you there?" shouted the farmer, on seeing his messenger and the cow. "I sent you for a cant-hook to use in moving the logs; what have you brought that cow for?"

"Be jabber! boss, divil another thing could I see around the barn that can't hook but this."—Star of hope.

Bulletin of Weed Seeds.

The Seed Division of the Department of Agriculture, Ottawa, has just issued an illustrated bulletin on the "Weed Seeds commonly found in Timothy, Alsike and Red Clover Seeds." It is well known that large quantities of seeds of many noxious weeds are each year unwittingly sown with grass and clover seeds. The resemblance of many weed seeds to the commercial seeds with which they are found makes their detection difficult to an untrained eye, even if they be present to the extent of several hundred per pound. It is therefore of great importance to be able to identify at least the seeds of those weeds which are seriously injurious in agriculture. The text and illustrations of this bulletin (No. 16, New Series) are published with a view to assist farmers to identify the more dangerous weed seeds common to grass and clover seeds. The illustrations of seeds are drawings by J. H. Faull, lecturer in Botany, University of Toronto, and the descriptions are by G. H. Clark, Chief of the Seed Division, Ottawa, to whom applications for copies of the bulletin should be addressed. As the edition is limited, it will be sent only to those who apply for it.

How to Test Eggs.

A new and simple method for testing eggs is published in German papers. It is based upon the fact that the air chamber in the flat end of the egg increases with age. If the egg is placed in a saturated solution of common salt it will show an increased inclination to float with the long axis vertical. A scale is attached to the vessel containing the salt solution, so that the inclination of the floating egg toward the horizontal can be measured. In this way the age of the egg can be determined almost to a day. A fresh egg lies in a horizontal position at the bottom of the vessel; an egg from three to five days old shows an elevation of the flat end, so that its long axis forms an angle of 20 degrees. With an egg eight days old the angle increases to 45 degrees; with an egg 14 days old to 60 degrees, and with one three weeks old to 75 degrees, while an egg a month old floats vertically upon the pointed end.

Liquor Legislation in England.

For the first time since 1872 a bill making radical changes in the liquor laws has been

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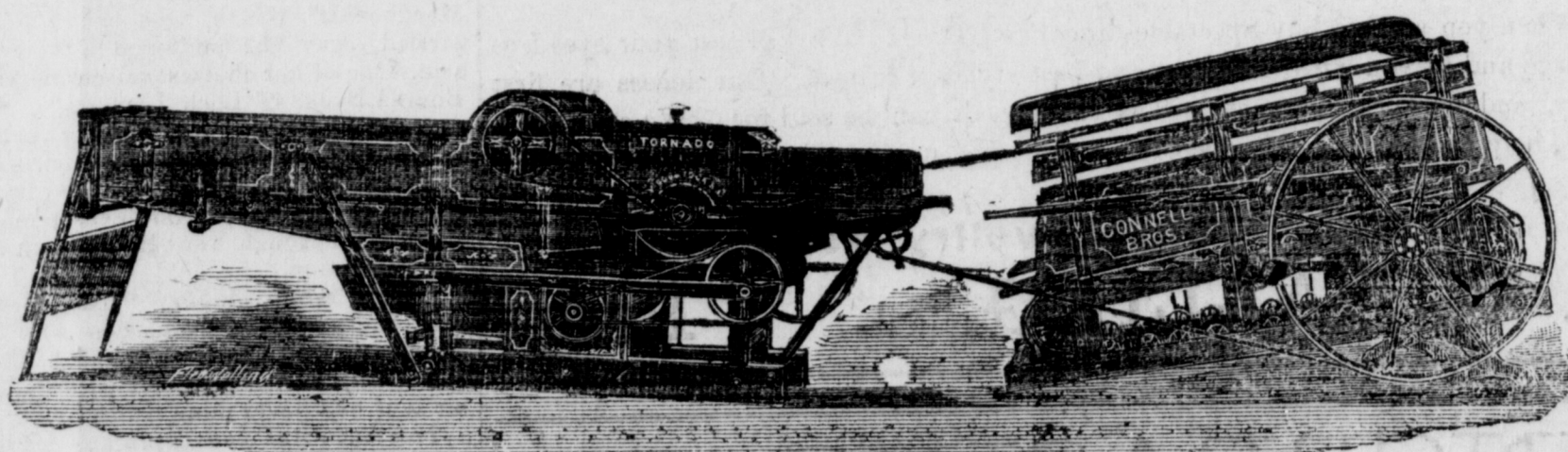
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