A MODERN LUCRETIA BORGIA.

Wholesale Poisoning Charged Against a Boston Widow.

INSURANCE MONEY THE TEMPTATION.

The Attempt to Kill an Entire Ice-Cream Party.

A Boston despatch says: The people of West Somerville were startled to-day to learn of the arrest, last night, of Mrs. Sarah J. Robinson, a comely widow of 48, for poisoning her son William, 23 years old by administering arsenic in his food. Developments to-day indicate that the woman has been engaged in the poisoning business for years, and that her husband, her three children and seven other people have fallen victims to her cold-blooded scheming.

The widow Robinson has lived for a year in Holland street, Clarendon Hill, and has supported herself by taking boarders. A frequent visitor at her house since her husband's sudden death, four years ago, has been Thomas R. Smith, a married man, 58 years old, who lives with his family at Hyde Park. His intimacy with the widow has excited much comment, and he is now under arrest, charged with being her accomplice. When her husband died, from drinking ice-water while overheated, as was supposed, Mrs. Robinson was living in Cambridge. Then she moved to Hews street, and soon after her 10-year-old daughter died suddenly. Subsequently she removed to Dewolf street, and while there her sister died suddenly in South Boston, and her sister's husband, James Freeman, and his two small children, took up their residence with the widow. In a short time an infant child of Mr. Freeman died. This death was followed by another change of residence to No. 54 Boylston street, where Mr. Freeman was taken suddenly ill and died. Then Mrs. Robinson removed to Holland street, where, four months ago, her eldest daughter, Elizabeth, 24 years old, was taken ill and, like the other relatives, died soon after. This death was followed a month ago by the death of the other Freeman child, who was 7 years old. These last two deaths caused suspicion, for in neither case could the doctors determine the nature of the illness. The suspicion was increased when, a few days ago, Mrs. Robinson's son William was taken with similar symptoms. Dr. White secured part of the contents of the young man's stomach and had them analyzed at Harvard College. Large quantities of arsenic were found. Dr. White informed the police at once, and Mrs. Robinson was arrested. The widow screamed loudly for help when told that she was under arrest, and struggled violently to escape. Mr. Smith was just entering the house, and he too was arrested. Then the widow fainted, straightening out as rigid as if dead. Smith, who is a Methodist Sunday School superintendent, asked the officers if he might pray for the mother and boy who was so near the point of death, and kneeling down made a fervent camp-meeting prayer. Then the couple were taken to the station. The young man William died at 3 o'clock this morning in horrible convulsions, with every symptom of arsenical poisoning.

The prisoners were brought up before Judge Story to-day. The woman trembled in every limb and showed great mental distress. She wore a black polka-dot cambric dress, with long widow's weed and black bonnet. Her face is refined and intelligent. Mr. Smith pleaded not guilty to a charge of mingling poison with medicine with intent to kill Wm. J. Robinson. Mrs. Robinson, when called upon to plead, threw her head back in a dramatic manner and in an agonizing tone cried out: "No sir; I am not guilty of poisoning my own child! No, sir! My God! My God!" A moment later she turned sobbing to her counsel and asked theatrically: "Is Willie dead? Is Willie dead?" An evasive answer was given and she resumed her trembling attitude. Mr. Smith was cool and collected. Both prisoners were held for trial on Aug. 18th.

The motive for Mrs. Robinson's crime is supposed to be the insurance money on the lives of the victims. All were insured for $3,000 each. Just before he died her boy William said: "My mother and Mr. Smith poisoned me, and I knew it at the time, but I thought I could be cured. Since I have been sick I have taken neither food nor medicine from anybody else. All I have had they gave me."

A later telegram says: The facts coming to light regarding the charges of wholesale poisoning by Mrs. S. J. Robinson, of Somerville, and her alleged accomplice, Thos. R. Smith, are of the most damaging nature. The physicians who attended the members of her household that have died during the past four years all say they have no doubt that their respective patients died by poison. They declare that a woman is one of the most cunning and skilful of poisoners. All of them were puzzled and two or three of them were suspicious at the time they were engaged on the cases, but Mrs. Robinson always succeeded in allaying suspicion by her apparently genuine and extreme grief over the condition of the patients. She always seemed willing, too, that there should be consultations of physicians, but she would not consent to a *post mortem* examination in any case. It is now charged that Mrs. Robinson is responsible for poisoning upward of 100 persons at the strawberry festival of Park Avenue Methodist Church in June last. It was reported to Hicks, the Charlestown caterer who furnished the ice cream for the festival, yesterday that Mrs. Robinson was one of the ladies who dished out the cream that evening. Upward of 80 people were poisoned and vomited all night, and everybody attributed the cause to the ice cream which they had ate. Mr. Hicks served several hundred gallons of cream for other parties and no complaints were made. The symptoms were those of arsenical poisoning. Chief of Police Parkhurst, of Somerville, has a constant stream of people coming into his office offering information regarding the woman, and he will have 40 or 50 witnesses for the State.

THE LAST OF LITTLE POPLAR.

A Half-breed Takes the Indian Chief's Life in Self-Defence.

A despatch from Maple Creek, N.W.T., says: "Two white men, just in from Fort Assiniboine, report that the Indian chief, Little Poplar, was shot and killed by a half-breed two miles from that post on Tuesday last. No particulars have been received, further than that the breed was looking for stolen horses when the dispute occurred. The killing seems to have been done in self-defence, as Poplar fired seven shots with a revolver at the breed, Ward, who replied with three shots from his Winchester rifle, all taking effect.

Al Ritter, of Wenas, W. T., was showing his wife a new breech-loading rifle when it was accidentally discharged. Neither was hurt; but the fact that their 2-year-old boy, who had been sleeping on the bed, did not awake, led them to hurry to the bedside. They found the child dead. The ball had entered the left groin, came out at the chest, entered again at the chin, and lodged in the top of the head.

At a recent picnic near Chicago, held by the Central Labor Union to raise money to defend the indicted Anarchists, pictures of August Spies, which were offered for sale, were bought eagerly by the women, many of whom kissed the portrait.

"Pa," said Bobby, sleepily, "can I ask you one question if it ain't foolish?" "Ya-as, one more." "How much older is a ripe old age than a green old age?"

THE LORD MAYOR'S BANQUET.

Salisbury Tells the Irish They Can't Have Home Rule.

SIR ADOLPHE CARON SPEAKS.

A last (Wednesday) night's London cable says: A banquet was given by the Lord Mayor this evening. The usual loyal toasts were responded to.

Sir Adolphe Caron, Canadian Minister of Militia, who responded to the toast of the "Army and Navy," referred, amid loud cheers, to the Canadian assistance sent to Egypt.

Lord Salisbury, who was heartily cheered on rising, congratulated those present on the result of the elections. He expressed his pleasure at Lord Rosebery's consistent continuance of a foreign policy that raised England in the estimation of nations, whose people were yearly showing a growing desire for peace, which would be maintained if rulers were guided by their people's will. He regretted that there still remained a subject for painful meditation. "Every day's news," he said, "reminds us that Ireland is not yet inhabited by a concordant and homogeneous people. It is too early to enter into details, but it is the duty of every Government to devote its whole energies to freeing the loyal people of Ireland from the constraint exercised upon them, whether in the form of riot or in the more dangerous, insidious and effective form of outrage and intimidation. While admitting the great difficulty and responsibility of the task—which are so great that previous Governments, equally anxious with ourselves, only succeeded temporarily and to an imperfect extent—we possess an advantage over our predecessors, which we hope to turn to good use. We bear a mandate from the people deciding finally, and in my opinion irrevocably, the question which has wrecked the peace of Ireland. (Cheers.) The question of an independent Government in Ireland, after deep discussion and advocacy by the most powerful statesman this country has ever seen, has been rejected emphatically and unequivocally by an enormous majority of the people of the Kingdom. (Loud cheers.) It is not unworthy to remark that most of the voices in favor of separation have been obtained by the personal influence of the great statesman and upon other considerations apart from the merits of the question. I believe that our opponents will eventually admit that this is England's final decision, armed with which it is our duty to restore in Ireland that social order the loss of which is the only cause of its discontent. I am convinced that in such a policy we shall find the strongest support in the enormous population of which you are true representatives."

The *Daily News*, commenting on Lord Salisbury's speech, says: "Lord Salisbury's speech fails to give promise of a smooth course in Parliament. It showed only too plainly that in his opinion the only medicine for Irish disorder is a good dose of drastic coercion."

KILLED BY A CHERRY STONE.

How a Father, Playing With His Son, Caused the Death of the Boy.

At the Enfield Petty Sessions, before Messrs. H. C. B. Bowles and A. G. Kitching, Divisional Justices, Edward Fenn, of Ishambrook Cottages, Alma road, Edfield Wash, bootmaker, was charged, on his own confession, with causing the death of his son Edward, aged 5 years, by throwing a cherry stone down his throat. The prisoner on being placed in the dock seemed much affected, and his wife, who was weeping on her entrance into court, became hysterical and had to be carried away. A constable deposed that on Monday afternoon he was on duty near the church at Enfield Highway, when the prisoner came up to him and said, "I have choked my son." Mr. Bowles—What state did he appear in? Witness—He seemed in great distress, and was crying very much. I said to him, "How did you choke him?" and he replied, "I was playing with cherry stones trying to throw them into his breast." I then asked him how he knew the boy was dead, and he answered, "I am quite sure, because he was black and cold before I left the house." I then took him to the police station, where he was charged. The other testimony showed that prisoner is a respectable man, and that after dinner on Sunday he was endeavoring to pitch cherry stones down the deceased's breast, the collar of his shirt being open. Several attempts having been made the next stone thrown went into the boy's mouth and lodged in his throat, drawn there by strong inward breathing at the instant The lad began to choke, and died before assistance could arrive. Dr. Shaw, who was summoned to the case by the police, found the cherry stone sticking in the throat, and removed it, but the unfortunate lad had been dead for some time. The Bench were informed that notice of the occurrence had been given to the coroner, and the prisoner was remanded on bail to await the result of the inquest

JAMES STARNS' DILEMMA.

He Finds Himself at an Interval of Thirty Years With Two Wives on His Hands.

A Chattanooga, Tenn., despatch says: A domestic romance was brought to a climax here last evening. Over thirty years ago there resided near this place James Starns, a young farmer, his wife and two little boys. In 1854 Starns concluded to try his fortune in the West, and went to California. A month later, having found a pleasant settlement, he sent his wife money with which to join him. Mrs. Starns wrote that she would start in two months, but at the end of that time she had received no reply. Starns wrote letter after letter to his wife and relatives and she wrote to him, but neither ever received a word from the other. Ten years afterwards Starns sent his wife $500, but the money went back to him as no one called for it. By this time both husband and wife supposed each other dead. Starns went to Michigan and from thence to Wisconsin, where six years ago he married the daughter of a wealthy farmer. By some strange fate he drifted to Chattanooga last week, but no one remembered him, and he could find no trace of his folks. Yesterday he learned that a family named Starns resided near the city and procuring a carriage he took a drive to ascertain whether they were his relatives. On arriving at the house Starns was horrified to find that the aged white-haired lady who received him was his first wife, and he then realized that he had two wives. An explanation followed and the two wives were introduced, but each exhibited marked coolness. It is not known what the parties will do.

Relics of a Great Battle.

The Nipissing (Ont.) *Times* says: One of our townsmen made a trip to French River last week, and when looking for minerals discovered a deposit of human bones. The bones of nearly 200 forms were found in the one hole. Since the discovery it has been learned that these were the remains of a tribe of Iroquois, who about 200 years ago came up from the head of Lake Ontario on a hunting expedition. They were met at the head of French River by a tribe of Hurons and massacred in a night attack.

It is said that electricity will put a piano out of tune. We have many pianos that have evidently been struck by a whole broadside of lightning.

"I am looking for employment," said a young man entering a merchant's office. "You are, hey? Well, you'll find it in the dictionary over there—er—among the E's."

POISON BY WHOLESALE.

A Woman Believed to Have Murdered Eleven Relatives to Get Their Insurance.

A Somerville, Mass., despatch says: Mrs. Sarah Robinson, who was arrested yesterday for attempting the death of her son by administering poison, was arraigned in court this morning. The boy has since died, and the charge against her is now wilful murder. The examination has shown conclusively that poison was administered. It is understood the police have information of the suspicious death of at least eleven persons directly or indirectly related to Mrs. Robinson, who were insured in benefit organizations. The money in most cases fell into this woman's hands. Thomas R. Smith, her supposed accomplice, was also arrested and bailed. He has reported to the police that since the death of Mrs. Robinson's husband eleven of her relatives have died, all within four years. These include children of Mrs. Robinson and others she had the care of. Most of them were insured. On the death of a father or mother she would take charge of the children, and as the insurance money came down to the children she, it is alleged, would put them out of the way. Her husband died very suddenly four years ago. The alleged cause of his death was overheat and drinking ice water. His life was insured in the New England Relief Association for two or three thousand dollars. The association refused to pay the money to the widow, and the case is now before the Supreme Court. It is stated when any of Mrs. Robinson's family were sick the same physician was never called twice.

A THUNDERBOLT

Plays Pranks in a Chicago Office.

A Chicago despatch says: The State Grain Inspector's branch office at Centre avenue and 16th street narrowly escaped being destroyed by a thunderbolt during the rain storm yesterday morning. The bolt struck a telegraph pole which stood against the wall of the building, ran in on the switch-board of the telegraph instruments, and went out of the window on the other side of the office, taking the glass, sash and all with it. A messenger boy, who was sitting on the table, was thrown ten or twelve feet through the open door and knocked insensible, and the telegraph operator, whose hand was on the key at the time, had his right arm paralyzed, and was partially stunned. The telegraph apparatus was melted, the table thrown across the room, and all of the occupants of the apartment were stunned and partially deafened by the shock. The bolt looked like a round ball of fire, about as large as a man's head. It shot in as far as the table and disappeared with a flash, leaving the crowd standing bolt upright, with their limbs rigid, and their ears ringing painfully. The office took fire, but the flames were speedily extinguished.

SAN DOMINGO TROUBLES.

Defeated by the Ballot he Tries the Bullet.

A Boston despatch says: A letter published here this afternoon from San Domingo gives the first details of a revolution that broke out there attending the late Presidential elections. The letter is dated San Domingo City, July 8th, and reads as follows: The Presidential elections took place here on the 26th of June, General Ulysses Hereaux being elected by a large majority. General Mayer, the defeated candidate, left for Savager two days after the election and raised an army of 3,000 men and attacked Santiago, and was defeated by the Government forces. General Hereaux, the President elect, left here to-day, leading 5,000 men to reinforce General Duperon at Santiago. General Scaraman left Portau-Piat, on the north side, with 5,000 men, and will join Hereaux, making an army of 10,000 men. This is the strongest insurrection that has started in San Domingo for some years, but the revolt will be of short life, as Hereaux is a brave man and understands how best to deal with such difficulties.

AN EX-CONVICT'S ESCAPADE.

He Elopes With a Chicago Heiress and Marries Her at Montreal.

Fred. Rickner *alias* French Fred, who eloped with Miss Kessler, a Chicago heiress, last week, is in Montreal and the police authorities have been notified. It appears that Miss Kessler's father, who was a flour merchant in Chicago, died about three weeks ago, leaving an estate valued at about $200,000 to his daughter. She was introduced to Fred., who is a married man, having been married to a Madame Chequette in 1885, and after some flirtations they eloped. An uncle of Miss Kessler, who now keeps the store, says she will not get anything. Mrs. Chequette says she knew Fred. in Montreal, and his picture was in the rogue's galleries of several places, and that he had beaten her out $7,000 in seven months, and that he had also served a term in the Kingston Penitentiary. A later despatch says the couple were married by a Protestant minister on Monday. Before having the ceremony performed, Rickner consulted a well-known criminal lawyer, who advised him that his marriage with Madame Choquette is null, inasmuch as the divorce she obtained in Chicago is not binding in Canada. Miss Kessler, the runaway heiress, is very handsome.—*Montreal Gazette.*

HE LOVED UNTO DEATH.

A Young Man's Devotion to His Affianced Costs Him His Life.

A Detroit despatch says: Joseph Pfister, of No. 156 Napoleon street, who contracted smallpox, after suffering terribly for over two weeks, finally succumbed this morning. This makes the second fatal case of smallpox during the present contagion. His was a peculiarly sad case. When Mary Arnold was taken sick, and such an old established authority as Dr. Klein disputed the smallpox diagnosis, young Pfister did not exercise any caution in paying visits to and sitting for hours by the bedside of the young girl, to whom he was devoted. When the dispute was settled and Health Officer Wight was proven to be correct in his alarm it was too late. The young man had contracted the contagion, and was in a few days laid low. Mary Arnold recovered. The body of Pfister was buried to-night.

Dr. Carver's Valuables Sold.

A report from New York says: To obtain advances of money, Dr. William F. Carver, the noted rifle shot, pledged some time ago with the American Exchange in Europe, Limited, the rifles with which he had performed his feats, and articles of jewellery and ornaments presented to him by high personages of Europe. He did not repay the loan, and yesterday Auctioneer John F. B. Smyth proceeded to sell the pledges at his auction room, 63 Broadway. Thirteen of the Doctor's rifles were put up. Eddie Cahill bought three, and William P. Kirk, ex-President of the Boodle Board of Aldermen, bid in one of them. Buffalo Bill and some of his men got the rest.

Other things sold were a diamond ring given by the Emperor of Germany, and a watch given by the Prince of Wales. The ring contained forty-two diamonds, the centre one being at least ½ inch in diameter. The ring bore the inscription: Presented by His Majesty the Emperor of Germany to Dr. William F. Carver, Berlin, June 15, 1880." It was bought by James H. Wells for $600. Mrs. Lynch, the well-known diamond merchant, was a bidder. The watch weighs nearly a pound; the covers of the case represent dogs at rest—the eyes of the animals being of diamonds. Jeweller Blumenheimer bought the watch for $575. The entire sale brought in about $2,000.

ONTARIO CROP PROSPECTS.

Acreage and Estimated Produce—Effect of the Drought—Wages of Farm Hands.

Following is a summary of the report of the Bureau of Industries for August—the progress of harvesting, state of the crops, and estimated yield being based upon information supplied by 578 correspondents of the Bureau on the 2nd inst., and the statistics of areas, number of live stock, etc., being compiled from returns made by farmers on the 25th of June: The breadth of wheat land sown last fall was 962,753 acres, but the injury by winter exposure was so severe that 76,171 acres were either ploughed up or re-sown in the spring. The remaining 886,402 acres in crop have produced an estimated yield of 18,057,794 bushels. The straw was short, owing to a period of drought in June and July in the fall wheat districts of the Province, but the heads were well filled and the quality of the grain is reported excellent. The reaping season began about the middle of July, and nearly the whole of the crop was safely housed by the end of the month. The great drought area of the Mississippi Valley appears to have included Ontario about as far eastward as the meridian of Port Hope, and all spring crops have been affected to some extent. Of spring wheat, barley, oats, peas, hay and roots the reports say that growth was visibly arrested at one time, but a succession of showers in the second week of July saved them from serious harm. The cereals and peas are uniformly reported as short in straw and slightly thin on the ground over the whole dry area, but there was no appearance of rust and scarcely any of insect enemies, and the crops were maturing favorably. In the eastern portion of the Province, and especially in the St. Lawrence and Ottawa counties, the rainfall has been abundant and vegetation is luxuriant. Complaints are made of rust and mildew in localities, and the barley crop is likely to be discolored to some extent. The acreage and estimated produce of crops are presented in the following table:

	Acres.	Bush.	Per acre.
Fall wheat	886,402	18,057,794	20.4
Spring wheat	577,465	9,527,783	16.5
Barley	735,478	19,695,830	26.8
Oats	1,021,931	58,231,517	35.9
Rye	67,719	1,146,371	16.9
Pease	703,936	16,452,355	23.4

Compared with the average of the past four years, the fall wheat this year is 120,000 acres and 3,219,224 bushels less; the spring wheat, 96,119 acres, and 1,255,118 bushels less; the barley, 9,448 acres, and 107,987 bushels more; the rye, 70,995 acres and 1,205,080 bushels less; and the peas, 123,798 acres and 4,107,846 bushels more.

The area in hay and clover is 2,295,151 acres and the yield 2,994,446 tons, being an average of 1.30 tons per acre.

The average of the previous four years was 2,159,580 acres and 3,125,807 tons, or 1.45 tons per acre.

The area in beans is 21,072 acres, and the estimated yield 461,104 bushels. The area in corn is 156,494 acres, being 26,555 acres less than the average of four years, and the prospect of a good crop is not encouraging.

The numbers of farm live stock are: Horses, 569,649; cattle, 2,018,173; sheep, 1,610,949; hogs, 860,125; and poultry, 6,968,915. The number of sheep is 144,666 less than last year; in each of the other classes there is an increase. The wool clip is 5,547,867, being 690,480 less than the average of four years.

The average wages of farm hands for the Province is $168 with board, and $251 without board, per year; and $17.06 with board and $26.64 without board per month of the seeding and harvesting season. These figures are slightly lower than last year. The rate of wages of domestic servants is $1.52 per week; last year's rate was $1.51.

OPIUM PIPES IN TORONTO.

Prevalent Use of the Infamous Drug—A Physician's Statement.

It is not known that Toronto has so far graduated in the scale of modern vices as to maintain a regular opium "joint," but the *World* learned yesterday on good authority that considerable of the drug is now used in the city. "There are about twenty-five Chinamen in the city," said a gentleman who has taken an interest in this class of our population, "but I don't believe that over half a dozen of them use opium. In fact the number may be less."

A well-known club man informed the reporter that it was a positive fact that two private "pipes" were maintained in the northeastern part of the city. Only a few friends of the owners visit the houses where they are kept. Some of them are ladies. "I was there by accident one night," said the club habitue, "and I was considerably surprised to make the discovery. I was invited by the gentleman of the house to have a pipe; but I respectfully declined. I tried the experiment once in Buffalo, and I want no more of it."

About six months ago an elderly female made her appearance on the streets of Toronto. She can still be seen on King street at night. "That woman," said a physician, "is a confirmed opium-eater. She does not use the pipe, however. I treated her for a couple of weeks, but could do nothing for her. The quantity of the drug she consumes is appalling. Look at her color." The same authority said that the use of morphia and kindred drugs is greatly on the increase both in the United States and Canada. It was now a common thing for men to carry around hypodermic syringes and a bottle of morphia, which they resorted to quite often. He recorded the case of a young man whom he had treated for a gun wound. During his illness he gave him a few hypodermic injections of morphia. The young man secured a syringe of his own and used the drug in large quantities unknown to his physician. When he got better he did not relinquish the needle, and he is a confirmed morphia user.—*Toronto World.*

OPENED HIM UP.

A Man Swallows His Teeth and They are Cut Out of His Stomach.

A Boston despatch says: On Thursday a remarkable surgical operation was performed at the Massachusetts General Hospital by Dr. Maurice H. Richardson, of this city. About a year ago John McCarthy swallowed a set of artificial teeth. The passage of food to the stomach was almost wholly prevented, the patient grew emaciated and weak, and it became evident that unless relief was had he must soon die. Dr. Richardson made a transverse cut in the left side of the abdomen, through which the man's stomach was drawn out and then cut open, when by the insertion of his arm to the elbow Dr. Richardson was able to reach and remove the teeth. The internal opening was then closed with fine silk and the stomach replaced, the external cut being also closed with stitches. The whole operation was completed in forty-five minutes. The patient is doing well, and his complete recovery is now considered little less than certain.

A Sight to Make Angels Weep.

The passers-by on Young street were shocked, yesterday afternoon, at seeing three boys, the eldest not over 8 or 9 years of age, carried out of the yard adjoining St. Ann's School. All of the children were in a most helpless state of intoxication, and are described by a gentleman who witnessed the scene as part of a party of five, who had obtained liquor presumably from one of the adjacent corner groceries with which this district abounds. The school itself is at present closed.—*Montreal Witness.*

MILK AND BEEF FROM PERMANENT PASTURE.

By William Brown, Professor of Agriculture at the Ontario Agricultural College.

The United States agricultural press has taught for many years that "Grass is King." This sound aphorism is built largely upon what nature gives, for with all their age, wealth and enterprise our neighbors have done comparatively little with cultivated permanent pasture. They find, as Ontario can also tell in her experience, that it requires fully three acres of the average cultivated hay and natural meadows to maintain one cow, or one 2-year-old store. This is no adequate return for these days, when other agricultural products here and elsewhere are in such keen competition. There is no doubt of the fact that the present limit of North American pastures is 1,300 lbs. of milk, or 85 lbs. of beef per acre per season of five and one-half months. These at three-fourths of a cent and five cents per lb give $9.75 and $4.25 respectively, or an average value of $7 per acre, with the very marked difference of nearly 130 per cent. in favor of the milk product. If these deserve to be called "King," what may the future as indicated by the following?

The pasture seeded down in 1884 is still holding two cows per acre easily, and producing at the rate of 7,692 lbs. of milk per season of five and one-half months by common grade cows—cows which under any conditions never give over 25 lbs. per head daily. Were they Holsteins, Ayrshires or Shorthorns, the season's produce would amount to about 14,000 lbs. of milk per acre. The two common 6 year-old cows in this experiment are also adding to their weight at the daily rate of fully three-quarters of a pound each, which therefore may become an unfavorable feature of this pasture; for so far as known, matured cows in full milk on ordinary pasture hold their own good-condition weight only, and may reduce rather than increase in flesh. Four acres of these experimental plots were laid down last year with our selected eight varieties of grasses and five clovers, the conduct of which is given in last year's annual report. This year, the first of their depasturing, one-fifth of the area consisting of low-lying spots was killed by frozen lodged water in spring. Elsewhere the pasture is very wealthy. The continuous heavy spring rains delayed occupation until 20th May, when two 2-year old and two yearling store steers were put on. Had we disregarded poaching and spoiling otherwise, the animals could have had a full bite on 10th May; and were we followers of much of the ordinary practice we could have cleaned our cattle's teeth by a four hours' run daily during the first week of that month, when rolling was done.

The rush of growth became so strong in the last week of May that, rather than mow so early, we added three 2-year-old heifers to the four steers for a week in order to keep pasture within sweet conditions. These heifers had to be removed to avoid the seasoning trouble, but we now realize that it would have been better to purchase six steers in place of four, as under proper management heavy stocking is better than allowing plants to seed and become rank. As it was, we kept under by mowing and mulching the early grasses on June 11th. I am of opinion that our mixture contains too much clover, and as cattle prefer good grasses to clovers our future recommendations will have to note this among other things. Why cattle also often choose dandelion and prefer the maturer but unseeded grasses on the outside of a field as against the more tender and less branchy ones of the like kinds in the closer conditions of the crop, we have yet to learn precisely.

The four steers are not able to keep down the four acres (or rather the three and one-fifth acres of fully covered ground) which are divided into two fields of two acres each, the cattle being rotated weekly and receiving unlimited water and rock salt. No grain and no top-dressing has been given. The rain, which fell on seventeen days during the period, amounted to 5.017 inches; maximum temperature in the shade, 89.8°; minimum, 33.3°; mean, 60.47°.

These ordinary Short-horn grade steers have made an average daily gain of 3.03 lbs. per head from 20th May to 31st July. This is at the rate of 3.79 lbs. per acre per day, or 625 lbs. of beef on foot per acre per season of 165 days.

That these facts will surprise many we do sincerely hope, and that they may have to be reduced when several years' experience is gathered is not unlikely. Meantime is the future to be $58 for dairy produce, or $31 for beef per acre per summer?

A British authority in 1872 said that "first-class land is that which will produce twenty imperial stone (280 lbs.) of meat per acre without artificial assistance;" and in the public press of last month it was stated that "in Scotland the average of permanent pasture and rotation pasture requires 1.96 acres to each dairy cow." Compare these with the results we have obtained for nearly two seasons at this experimental farm.

We have in view to test the value as pasture of several of our best native grasses, and though not looking for results equal to a proper mixture of varieties, there may be other qualities that will show how much they are deserving attention by selection and proper management.

I submit to the Ontario farmer, under every measure of caution, that our pasture tests even now are decisive enough in the sense of showing how much we have yet to learn of certain lines of our profession, and that the possibilities of Canadian climate and soil are but being touched upon.

Strawberries not a Fruit.

Botanically the strawberry belongs to the genus Rosaceæ, or rose tribe, and the part we eat is not a berry or even a fruit, says *Longman's Magazine*, but is merely a fleshy receptacle, the true fruit, H. G. Glasspole tells us, being the ripe carpels which are scattered over its surface in form of minute grains, looking like seeds, which they really are not, for the seed is inclosed inside of the shell of the carpel. This is exactly the contrary to the raspberry; here you throw away the receptable under the name of the core, never suspecting that it is the very part you have been feasting upon in the strawberry. In one case the receptacle robs the carpel of all their juices in order to become gorged and bloated at their expense, in the other case the carpels act in the same selfish manner upon the receptacle.

Canada and the British Association

A special cable despatch from London says: The meeting of the British Association, which will take place at Birmingham on September 1st, promises to possess peculiar interest for Canadians. Sir William Dawton has been selected to preside, and will deal in his opening address with the geological history of North America. Prof. Macoun will read a paper on "Canadian Botany;" Alexander Begg will lecture on the Canadian Pacific Railway, and Professors Fream and Lowe, of Ottawa, will hold forth on various educational subjects connected with the Dominion.

Both Would Want It.

Mr. Jags and Mr. Cags were talking about religious matters.

"It is a great pity that Noah's ark could not have been preserved," said Mr. Cags. "It would have materially assisted in educating the masses in religion."

"I don't know about that," replied Mr. Jags. "If it were in existence, Barnum would have it."

"Yes, I suppose," mused Cags. "Either Barnum or the United States navy."—*Merchant Traveller.*

A NOTED BURGLAR'S DEATH.

Gilbert Yost, the Safe Operator, Expires in an Indiana Prison.

Gilbert Yost, the noted safe burglar and inventor of burglars' tools, has just died, so Detective Robert A. Pinkerton learns, in the Northern Indiana Prison, where he was serving a fourteen years' imprisonment. He was the inventor of a set of burglars' tools, weighing less than five pounds, which enabled him or any one understanding the tools to open any ordinary fireproof safe in less than fifteen minutes, without making the slightest noise. For a number of years Yost worked with these tools without the secret of his invention becoming known to other parties outside of those who were his immediate associates and worked with him. This whole set of tools could be carried in an inside coat pocket without being noticed. Yost and his confederates with this set of tools confined themselves almost entirely to robbing safes of country jewelry stores, and so successful was their work that the wholesale jewelers found it necessary in order to protect retailers, who in many instances were their creditors to large amounts, to form what is known as the Jewellers' Security Alliance, for the purpose of following up and punishing burglars who robbed its members. The Alliance retained the Pinkertons as their detectives. He was arrested for a jewelry robbery in Indiana, for which he was serving out his sentence when he died. Yost had a great habit of feigning insanity when arrested, and on this dodge succeeded several times in getting out of his trouble. When sent to prison in Northern Indiana for the Veil burglary the keepers recognized him as a former inmate of the prison who had feigned insanity, and this time, although Yost had pretended to be insane and refused to do any work, he was kept in close confinement from the time of his arrest until his death.

The Linen Industry of Ulster.

Ulster is the home of the flax plant, the grateful blue blossoms of which give such delight to the summer fields, affording a pleasant relief to the many acres of meadows carpeted with the snow-white linens which the factories have produced from this same plant. The manufacture of flax belongs almost to the beginning of things in Ireland, its introduction into the country being anterior to the period of historical record. The first English representative to manifest any real sympathy with local enterprise, so far as the Irish linen trade was concerned, was Thomas Wentworth, Earl of Strafford, who, when acting as the Viceroy of Charles I., adopted measures for the improvement of the cultivation of the flax plant. The Viceroy made a tour through Ulster in the summer of 1637. This trip was fruitful of observation and beneficial in its results. Lord Strafford was attracted by the abundance of wild flax which he saw growing along the hillsides near Ballycastle, and was not long in coming to the conclusion that under favorable cultivation the yielding power of the soil might be greatly improved. With the view of putting his ideas to the best possible test he had a cargo of seed imported from Holland, and got over several experienced Dutch farmers to superintend and instruct the native cultivators in the art of growing the plant. The result was most gratifying, the next year's crop being a hundred times larger in quantity than the previous yield, while in quality it was greatly superior to any that had formerly been raised in the country. In this, as in other things, the Lord Deputy was "thorough," and in promoting the linen manufacture of Ireland spent in one year £10,000 of his own private fortune. At his own cost he had a hundred of the best linen looms brought over from Amsterdam, these were distributed amongst the most worthy of the Irish weavers. Thus the linen trade of Ulster came to be a powerful factor in the sum of Irish industry, and had the foundations of its prosperity substantially laid.

In the Province of Ulster there is now not less than £50,000,000 invested in flax spinning and power-loom weaving, three-fourths of that sum being credited to Belfast alone. There are over 20,000 looms and 900,000 spindles at work, giving direct employment to about 100,000 persons. The full capital embarked in the Ulster linen industry, estimating the sum required for the carrying on of the various operations as equal to that invested in mills, plant, etc., will amount to £100,000,000.

The linen trade of Ireland benefited, like the rest of the fabric producing world, by the introduction of steam power in the first half of the century; still, although the Ulster looms are of the most improved pattern, the hand-loom is yet largely employed in the production of the finer kinds of damasks, a better quality of piece being obtained from it than from the power-loom. The Ulster landscape is thickly planted with factories—their tall chimneys and many-windowed frontages telling of an industrial prosperity which is in marked contrast with the agricultural depression that forms so unwelcome a feature of other parts of the country. As for Belfast itself, the capital of the province, with its 250,000 inhabitants, its miles of streets, its handsome public buildings, its splendid warehouses, its scores of gigantic mills, and its extensive shipbuilding and engineering establishments, it is a vast industrial metropolis, combining the best elements of an English manufacturing town with the more agreeable features of Irish life and character. Belfast has produced many notable commercial leaders, whose abilities have been wisely divided between the promotion of their own individual enterprises and the advancement of the general good, and to-day can show as noble a roll of industrial names as almost any city in the empire.—*London Society.*

A Female B. A. Thirteen Years Old.

The advance of the ladies is as marvellous as it is irresistible. Here is Miss Dolores Lleonart-y-Casanovas, M. D., who has just taken her doctor's degree at Barcelona. She began her university studies at the age of 8, when 13 she became a B. A., and now, at the ripe age of 19, after coming out first in all her examinations, and taking numerous prizes, she is a fully qualified physician and surgeon. Fancy a female B. A., of 13, discoursing on hideous diseases with six-syllabled names and correctly diagnosing and prescribing for her brothers and sisters! But it is what we have got to expect, and the fair Spaniard is to be congratulated on being the first of her sex to show what can be done in the way of rapid development. Miss Dolores, etc., may be fairly addressed, like her namesake sung of by Mr. Swinburne, as "wise among women and wisest, our Lady of Pain."—*Pall Mall Gazette.*

Shabby Clothes of Premiers.

Mr. Gladstone is some times censured by critics of the school who think that the tailor makes the minister, for not dressing up to the level of his part. But he is dandyism itself compared with Lord Salisbury, who may plausibly claim to be the worst dressed man in London. Mr. Gladstone brightens himself up with a rose in his button-hole and with the white waistcoat and light trousers of festivity. Lord Salisbury never departs from the costume of a dissenting minister—solemn black from head to foot, and the long surtout in which he is rivalled alone by Mr. Bradlaugh. The edifice is crowned by a masher that was imposed upon him probably by the shopkeeper, or selected for its fit rather than its shape, and usually brushed the wrong way, the whole terminating in the Wellington boots of his boyhood.—*New York Evening*

"What have you for supper?" asked the epicurian boarder of the girl with red hair and spit curls. "Beefsteak and toadstools," was the startling answer. He ordered plain beefsteak.

PUBLIC SCHOOL PRIZES.

Ontario Teachers' Association Protest Against the Custom.

THE NEW OFFICERS ELECTED.

The Ontario Teachers' Association concluded the business of its annual session last evening. These officers were elected without opposition:

President—H. I. Strong, Principal of Goderich Collegiate Institute.

Secretary—Robt. W. Doan, of Toronto.

Corresponding Secretary—D. H. Hunter, of Woodstock.

Treasurer—W. J. Hendry, of Toronto.

The retiring officers were warmly thanked for their services. Mr. McAllister, as President, spared no efforts to advance the interests of the association, and as Chairman of the convention he acted with a fairness and business promptitude that gave general satisfaction.

Mr. D.C. McHenry, of Cobourg, read an able paper on "Prizes and Scholarships." He contended that prizes were a failure. They incited to a competition among teachers and pupils in which the higher and truer aims of education were often lost sight of. He held that all who reached a fixed standard should get a prize, as it was manifestly unfair that one who happened to obtain a few marks higher than another should carry off all the honors. He moved a series of resolutions which were adopted as follows:

"Whereas the prize system in operation in our schools and colleges involves the expenditure of a large amount of money that should be devoted to better uses in advancing the interests of education; and whereas the incentives employed and motives thus appealed to tend to retard rather than aid the teacher in trying to employ the higher methods of culture; whereas competitive examinations are not sufficiently reliable in case of awarding prizes, and whereas the awarding of scholarships, ostensibly to aid needy students, is ineffective and misleading,

"Resolved, 1. That it is the opinion of this association that prizes, medals and scholarships should be abolished in all our educational institutions. 2. That public money now devoted to this purpose should be used to increase the general efficiency of the Provincial University. 3. That prize money now derived from private sources, supplemented by as much more as may be available, should be used: (a) To establish a beneficiary fund for needy students, to be disbursed according to a plan similar to that in operation in Yale College, including the principle of loans to such students, based on moral worth, present need and reputable scholarship, and independently of competitive examinations. (b) Any available surplus to be used to encourage original research and special post graduate work. 4. That instead of the present system of prizes, scholarships and medals, honor students should be classified in such a way that the highest distinction in the university shall be attainable by all whose scholarship reaches a certain standard—say that of present gold medallists, subordinate honors to be decided in a similar manner—the principle here involved to apply also to matriculation and ordinary sessional examinations. 5. That a copy of these resolutions be sent to the authorities of each university in Ontario as the expressed opinion of the association."

There were few dissenting voices. Mr. A. McMurchy, of Toronto, maintained that the scholarship was of great value in educational work. Teaching was the only profession that assisted to develop the talents of poor boys, and it was the thought of bringing out the hidden treasures of the m