

quently plague, it becomes a contingency to be avoided by every possible means. It is not unlikely that fear of the awful consequences will cause both Russia and England to act with the utmost caution, inducing them to stop short of an actual cause for the opening of hostilities.

THE LIQUOR WAR IN GERMANY.

THE advocates of beer drinking have been in the habit of quoting Germany on all occasions as an example of temperance, their theory being that owing to the quantity of beer absorbed by each citizen per diem there was no room in his stomach, or perhaps more correctly speaking, no need in his system for the stronger and more harmful beverage. As to the intrinsic quality of the "harm" of getting drunk on beer compared with that of arriving at the same state of moral torpidity by means of a more powerful stimulant no opinion is given. These fine differences in such coarse-grained subjects are troublesome.

But what will become of all this pro-beer argument, now that drunkenness has become so appalling in Germany that the Emperor has become alarmed and taken the subject under especial observation? He evidently has the legislative power behind him in the work of reform. A law has been formulated and will probably pass, requiring that before obtaining a license for selling liquor the dealer shall show that there is a public need for a liquor store, and it shall not be located in places undesirable to the community. No one can obtain a license who has an immoral character or who is suspected of using his business in connection with gambling or other debauching practices. The druggists can sell only in sealed bottles. Dealers are also restricted as to the sale of liquor to minors and as to the abuse of liquor-drinking on their premises.

An important feature of the law is, that while liable to punishment for the drunkenness of their customers, dealers are not allowed to thrust a drunken man into the street; they must either give him shelter or take him home.

In addition to this, physicians, nurses and other people engaged in similar professions are liable to heavy fine and imprisonment if proven to be intoxicated while attending to duty. Firemen are likewise punishable for drunkenness.

CANADIAN DECADENCE.

THE Dominion of Canada is at present passing through a political crisis. An investigation relating to official corruption is being held at Ottawa, Ont. It is reported that one of the ministers, Sir Hector Longevin, has been acquitted of the charges made against him, but the Canadian people regard the result of the investigation as a sort of whitewashing process. However, the railway committee of the Senate has found that Mr. Mercier, Premier of the province of Quebec, and several other equally prominent persons, are among those who "profited" by the "misapplication" of the subsidy grant-

ed by the province towards the completion of certain railroad lines.

Discontent and dissatisfaction prevails to an alarming extent in the various provinces of the Dominion. The exhibit made by the last census brings disappointment, the disclosures of corruption in high places bring humiliation, and the cost of government brings chagrin and angry remonstrances. It was confidently asserted until the taking of the census during this year that Canada would show a population of 7,000,000. In 1871 there was a population of 3,686,596, in 1881 4,324,810, and in 1891 4,823,344. These figures show an increase of 17.31 per cent for the decade 1871-81, and only 11 per cent for 1881-91. During this last named decade there was an immigration to Canada of 886,171, while the increase during this period is but 698,534. This means that either there has been no natural addition, or that most of the immigrants simply passed through the Dominion, or, if they remained, took the places of native Canadians who themselves left the country.

The eastern provinces of New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island show actual losses by the returns of this year's census. Ontario and Quebec had small gains, while the western provinces show the principal increase. When it is remembered that tremendous efforts have been made by means of subsidy, protection and immigration during the past ten years to develop the resources of Canada, the above showing is disheartening.

The national debt of Canada is now \$50.00 per head, making a total of about \$250,000,000. Taxation at present averages \$7.00 per head of the population, the highest probably of any nation in the world. The cost of government is astounding. The cost of heating and lighting the Governor-General's residence is annually \$8000. His salary is \$50,000 a year, and his expenses usually aggregate \$40,000 more. The Lieutenant-Governors of provinces also receive large salaries, and the catalogue of sinecure offices is enormous. These are evils that even a change of administration can not remove. The Liberals, though confident of ascendancy in the near future, have no means of lessening debt and taxation, unless by adopting revolutionary measures. They may prevent and expose corruption, but they can not reduce salaries nor dispense with figureheads in the government.

THE CZAR'S LATEST.

THE latest movement of the Russian Czar connected with the Eastern question will increase the feeling of uneasiness in Europe caused by the Dardanelles incident. He insists that his naval cadets be permitted to take passage on ships traversing the Danube. The object of this is that these officers may become thoroughly conversant with details connected with the navigation of that stream. The ultimate intention must of course be that Russian warships shall freely sail through the waters of the river in question. This request in relation to naval cadets is as much in violation of treaty stipulations as was the passage of a Russian

ship loaded with munitions of war through the Dardanelles.

There will be much speculation regarding the object of this latest movement. It looks as if the Czar was trailing his coat for the purpose of having England or some other power tread upon its tail. Should he travel far enough on the road indicated by his present policy he will probably be gratified.

In the face of short crops and consequent distress existing in many parts of Russia, the conduct of the Czar may be justly deemed extraordinary. It would seem as if the present situation would be most unfavorable for the inauguration of a stupendous war. Probably the internal troubles of the empire lead him to adopt his present line of policy, in the hope that a war would save it from greater ruin than is likely to issue from causes within itself. The army is impregnated with revolutionary sentiments, which might be obliterated by a measurement of arms with another power.

Bismarck pursued a similar policy previous to the breaking out of the Franco-German war, in 1870. He offered one indignity after another to France, until the latter nation was aroused to a blaze of indignation and Napoleon acted upon the popular impulse. Germany wanted war, but did not wish to be the first to initiate actual hostilities, for which, however, she had been for years preparing. Now it seems that the Czar wishes a fight to be inaugurated, but is averse to striking the first blow. He is evidently bent, however, on giving plenty of cause for its being struck. In the event of a struggle being opened, he will not only be in a position to say that he did not open the ball, but that the other principal in the combat—England—is as much a treaty-breaker in connection with the eastern question as he.

Prof. Buchanan, of Boston, predicted, last year, that a gigantic war that would have the effect of revolutionizing Europe would break out some time near the beginning of the twentieth century. If the Czar insists on his present semi-belligerent course of action the fulfillment of the forecast of the noted Boston scientist will come sooner than he anticipated.

John Penn, who has just been elected to the British parliament, is a descendant of the great William Penn.

The Minnesota wheat crop will be worth sixty million dollars. The wheat crop of the United States would weigh 15,500,000 tons; it would take a million freight cars to carry it, and the train would reach more than twice across the continent, from Boston to San Francisco. We have enough wheat to send a million bushels every day in the year to Europe, and have plenty left.

The issue of standard silver dollars from the mints during the week ended August 29th was \$585,895. The issue during the corresponding period of last year amounted to \$787,295. The shipments of fractional silver coin since he 1st inst. aggregate \$1,885,420. The shipments of fractional silver coin during the corresponding period of last year amounted to \$1,035,607.