

grape-grower a profitable market, at present untouched, in the manufacture of unfermented grape-juice. In America this industry is fast reaching large dimensions. In the Chataqua district alone 300,000 gallons of unfermented grape-juice were made in 1901 and disposed of at 7s 6d a gallon, and all those engaged in its manufacture were enlarging their vineyards and plant. I am confident the public here would soon cultivate a taste for this valuable beverage and profit by its use in preference to the many injurious decoctions at present on the market. Unfortunately, I have had great difficulty in convincing growers to this effect, and the hesitation many have shown in planting vineyards for fear of legislative interference has hampered the more rapid progress of the industry."

Knowing the methods adopted by the average prohibitionist, however, we are inclined to the belief that the wine-grower is wise in looking askance at the further development of the industry under existing conditions. A man would be foolish indeed to go in for extensive outlay in an industry that may be at any moment threatened with extinction by Act of Parliament. When Parliament ceases to give such a ready ear and so much of the country's time up to the ravings of a lot of prohibition fanatics, then will be time enough for the grape-grower to think of starting ahead on the scale that every reasonable man interested in the welfare of New Zealand wishes to see established.

HOME NOTES.

("L.V. Gazette," August 25.)

In view of the continued increase of drunkenness one can well understand that the Bailies are at their wits' end to know what to do—what to suggest. Not only every Monday morning, but every week tells its sorrowful tale—the number of charges at the police courts compares unfavourably with the corresponding date of last year. The latest suggestion is the municipalisation of the liquor traffic, and the question was keenly debated at the last meeting of the Glasgow Town Council. Bailie Forsyth moved:

"That this Corporation is of opinion that one of the most satisfactory methods of dealing with the liquor question is that of direct public or municipal control, and that, therefore, a committee be appointed to prepare a scheme for carrying this into effect, and to report."

Frankly admitting that Scotland was not ready, by a long way, for prohibition, he drew a glowing picture of the beneficial results which he contended would ensue from public control—brighter and better public-houses, better liquor, better management, and shorter hours for employees. A chimera, truly, as has been proved wherever municipalisation of the liquor traffic has been tried.

Although it was a small meeting of the Town Council that met to discuss the subject, the voting showed that Bailie Forsyth's brother members of the Corporation were not in sympathy with him over this matter, "the previous question" having been carried by 23 votes to 12. It was just another step towards Socialism, urged Mr. W. F. Anderson. Would the Corporation make Glasgow more sober by seeking to do in its official capacity what the license-holders were doing? He held that they could not. He did not care whether the license was held by Bailie Forsyth himself or whether they brought down an angel from heaven to sell the drink—the same results would follow. Mr. Battersby was equally demonstrative. He was utterly opposed to the municipality taking over the sale of intoxicating liquor, and maintained that the men who were in the Trade to-day were as respectable as any class of men any municipality could place in it. Moreover, he pointed out that the Corporation would require an Act of Parliament before they could establish municipal public-houses.

Discussions of this character, although of no practical utility, are interesting as showing the wide divergence of opinion that prevails on a well-worn subject. Temperance reformers and the Trade are agreed that the liquor business is not a legitimate field for the enterprise of any corporation. The public would not be benefited one iota by the municipalisation of the liquor traffic. The teetotaler, of course, objects on the ground that no public body should in any way be associated with the sale of intoxicating drink; the Trade, on the other hand, is satisfied that private enterprise is vastly to be preferred to municipal management since license-holders, who are mere servants, have not the same weighty responsibility as those whose fortunes are bound up in the good conduct of their business.

The dispute between the Birkenhead

G. Lewis) (Thos. Davies)
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Town Council and the borough licensing justices over the expenses incurred in fighting the recent mandamus cases in the King's Bench Division and the Court of Appeal has taken an unexpected turn. The Town Council having authorised the Finance Committee to pay the costs, amounting to some £700, it was anticipated, after the opinion expressed by a well-known King's Counsel, that the ratepayers would take steps to restrain the corporation from making any such payment, instead of which the local Licensed Victuallers' Association has promptly moved in the matter, and obtained from Mr. Justice Bray an interlocutory injunction. The case cannot come before the Courts until after the long vacation. Meanwhile the Town Council have determined by a large majority to fight the matter, and have given instructions to the Finance Committee to this effect. The case will be looked forward to with much interest, as a second point is now involved—have Town Councils the power to insist upon payments authorised by them to be made by the Finance Committee?

There are as good churchmen amongst licensed victuallers as there are amongst any other commercial body of men, and since the licensing business has been sanctioned by Parliament and is carried on under the law of the land—a fact which many people seem to forget—it is regrettable that attempts should be made to widen the breach between the Church and the Trade, caused by the unfortunate incident at Derby, where Miss Williams was turned out of St. Peter's Church Bible Class because she happened to be a publican's daughter. Mr. Thomas Weston, of the Reresby Arms, Denaby Main, and vice-president of the Doncaster Licensed Victuallers' Association,

has felt bound to defend himself in the Press against what he considers some slanderous remarks made against him by the local church minister. His name, it is said, was mentioned in the pulpit "in reference to his meanness" in not giving more liberally to the children's treat on Whit-Monday.

Mr. Kettle, the magistrate at the Tower Bridge Police Court, on Wednesday decided that "there is no 'standard' for vinegar any more than there is for beer," and the Trade are now looking forward with interest to the decision of the North London magistrate in regard to the forthcoming whisky prosecution. The question: "What is whisky?" is one of such vital importance to the Trade that the distillers and wholesale houses have been approached in regard to the matter, and at a meeting held in Glasgow the other day, it was decided to defend the actions coming into Court. The ten summonses that have been taken out, it is now understood, are for selling as malt whisky what is really a distillation from grain. Presumably the authorities wish to establish that whisky should be the product of pure malt, and that all other kinds are not whisky, and cannot legally be sold as such. What the distillers have been endeavouring to do is to study the palate of the whisky-drinking public, and if a mixture of malt and grain is preferred to a whisky of pure malt, that mixture will be sold—but whether in future under the name of whisky remains to be seen.

Messrs. Dale and Reynolds are now busily engaged in connection with the annual Brewers' Exhibition and market, and from the support already received it is quite evident that this year's show, which will open at the Agricultural Hall on October 14, will be equal in point of interest and number of exhibitors to any of its predecessors. For the first time prizes will be offered for cigars, cigarettes and tobaccos, and many of the leading firms, it is expected, will put in an appearance. There will be the usual competitions for beers, cider, barley and hops, and the managing directors announce that the latest dates for making entry will be as follows:—Beers, September 26; cider, September 28; barley, October 4; and hops, October 7. Forms should be sent direct to the Exhibition Offices, 46, Cannon-street, London, E.C. Last year business called Mr. A. T. Dale away to South Africa, and he was greatly

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