

INVERCARGILL BEER DUTIES.

In view of the attention being paid throughout the colony to the experiment of no-license in Invercargill, the following particulars relating to the traffic in beer will probably prove interesting. A return of excise duty shows that Invercargill brewers paid £88 11s 4d in July, and £108 0s 1d in August, for duty stamps. As the amount collected as excise on each gallon is 3d, it is evident that the total quantity sold at the local breweries and depots amounted to over 7000 gallons during July, and to over 8600 gallons last month. It is understood the proprietors anticipate that they will double their output when the warm weather sets in. A little more local ale was disposed of during July and August this year than during the corresponding period of 1905, but whereas a large quantity of beer brewed in Otago was despatched to Invercargill monthly before the advent of no-license, none or very little is now sent. Returns of duties collected in Invercargill on imported alcoholic beverages show the following figures:—July, 1905, £2232 17s 8d; August, 1905, £2189 15s 0d; total, £4422 12s 8d. July, 1906, £1594 5s 10d; August, 1906, £1880 11s 1d; total, £3474 16s 11d.

THE SLY-GROG SHOP.

The "Dunedin Star" has had a reporter in Oamaru "doing" the sly-grog shops of which he says he is informed there are about a dozen. In the course of his remarks he thus unburdens himself:—"Bill took me to a place where we bought whisky. The price of it was six shillings a bottle. We drank it, and played cards on the premises, without any particular effort at concealment. We were neither steadily nor remarkably quiet. We were even mildly rowdy, off and on—when one of us got a lone-hand march, for instance—and by-and-by some of us wanted to fight some more of us, and the rest of us had to interfere. I obtained a kick on the shin. The thing finished up with an altercation in the public thoroughfare at something after two a.m.; and nobody took any notice of us, so far as we know. If a policeman had happened to pass by the place where we were he could easily have discovered what we were doing. But he could not have made a successful sly-grog prosecution out of it, for this was private enterprise of a sort that may not be disclosed."

IRKSOME AND VEXATIOUS.

A Director of "Wonderland," the great pleasure park which will be attached to the New Zealand Exhibition, was recently interviewed by a representative of the "New Zealand Herald," on various matters in connection with the Exhibition. In connection with liquor at the Exhibition, this gentleman is reported as having said that, "Another point that needs attention is that of the hotel and liquor facilities. The Christchurch Licensing Committee has decided on closing at ten o'clock. Now, I don't wish to be understood as teaching them their business, but as one who has had many years of experience of exhibitions, I cannot help thinking this to be a mistake. The express from the South arrives at twenty minutes to eleven p.m., and travellers arrive only to find all hotels closed. This is exceptionally inconvenient to New Zealanders, but people who visit the Exhibition go there more, I maintain, for pleasure than instruction, which explains the *raison d'être* of the side shows, and that is why I think visitors from the other side will find the licensing regulations and the administration of the liquor trade generally irksome and vexatious in Christchurch during the Exhibition, and those who go there during the opening of the Exhibition from Australia will carry back with them unpleasant recollections of compulsory abstinence which will not induce them to recommend the Exhibition to their friends.

"I believe that liquor will be served in the Exhibition only with meals, and that twice a day; but it seems to me to be a very arbitrary measure for the State to limit the drinking of its visitors, whatever may be done with New Zealanders, whose right to manage their own affairs I do not, of course, question for one moment. But if a committee were set up to go into the matter, and settle it once and for all, I think some solution of the difficulty might be obtained. Such a committee, I would suggest, should be composed of the Mayor and City Council of Christchurch, the Commissioner of Police, the president of the Christchurch Chamber of Commerce, the president of the Tramway Board, the chairman of the various Exhibition committees, the Licensing Committee, the chairman of the Harbour Board, Exhibition Commissioners, and a Minister of the Crown. Surely among them all something could be done to solve the question which, believe me, if left unsolved, will militate

against the success of the Exhibition—an undertaking which is a colonial and not a local affair."

When asked whether the accommodation in Christchurch would be equal to the demand made upon it, by the Exhibition, the gentleman interviewed said it would, if anything, be in excess. There was, he said, an impression that quarters would be most difficult to obtain, and perhaps for the first week there might be a little congestion, but the Commissioners had the matter of accommodation well in hand, and when they said that accommodation for visitors would be ample, their statement could be accepted with absolute confidence.

INTERESTING TO HOTELKEEPERS

The question of whether or not billiard playing in hotels for drinks constitutes a breach of the Licensing Act, last Friday forenoon came before His Honor Mr Justice Edwards (who, sitting in chambers at the Supreme Court, heard the appeal case *Marshall v. Crean*). This was an appeal by George Marshall, hotelkeeper, of Kawakawa, Bay of Islands, from the decision of the stipendiary magistrate (Mr Florance) whereby he convicted appellant of an offence under the Licensing Act, and inflicted a fine of 5s and costs. Mr J. C. Martin was for appellant and Mr Tole for respondent.

Briefly the facts of the case are that on November 15, 1905, the appellant, being the licensee of the Junction Hotel, Kawakawa, is held to have permitted gambling on licensed premises, by allowing two men to play a game of billiards for drinks. The magistrate, in entering a conviction, held that though billiards was a game involving an amount of skill, it nevertheless also necessarily imported a large element of chance, and that to play the game of billiards in a licensed house for drinks amounted to gambling under, and was in contravention of, the Licensing Act, 1904.

In submitting the case for the appellant, Mr Martin drew attention to the wording of the New Zealand and English Acts, and also contended that a game of billiards was a game of skill and not of chance, and, therefore, did not come within the meaning of the Act, not being an unlawful game. The English Licensing Act was passed in 1872, and contained a prohibition against allowing "gaming or any unlawful game." The New Zealand Act was passed in 1881, and only contained a prohibition against allowing any "unlawful game." The Supreme Court had held that unlawful games were only those declared to be unlawful by statute. In 1904 the New Zealand amending statute was passed, prohibiting "gambling or any unlawful game." The English Courts had held that playing at any game for money or money's worth was gaming, and if "gambling" and "gaming" meant the same thing, the English decisions concluded the matter, and the conviction must stand. However, as the New Zealand Legislature, having the English Act and decisions in front of it, had in its amendment substituted the word "gambling" for "gaming" the colonial Act did not mean the same thing as the English Act, but used the word "gambling" in the proper sense, i.e., that the gaming must be excessive either in play or stakes. Further, one of the New Zealand judges, as well as one of the English judges, had expressed a doubt whether either the English or the New Zealand Act would apply to games of skill, and that question was also now submitted to the Court for decision. Counsel quoted cases and authorities in support of his contention.

Mr Tole, for respondent, held that the terms "gaming" and "gambling" were synonymous, and quoted several English decisions supporting the magisterial decision.

His Honor: I should say that in common parlance the man who played a game of billiards for drinks could hardly be called a gambler.

Mr Tole: No. I would not call him a gambler, but would say that the act was an act of gambling. Although a game may be lawful in itself, it becomes unlawful when money is staked.

His Honor: Would you call billiards a game of chance?

Mr Tole: Absolutely, Your Honor, after many years experience of the game; not, of course, of late years. (Laughter.)

His Honor: My experience is that the game of billiards is essentially a game of skill.

Further argument was heard, and His Honor reserved his decision.

URIC ACID THE CAUSE OF MANY DISEASES.

The health of man is influenced to a very great extent by the condition of the kidneys. Any disease of the kidneys, or interference with their action affects the whole system, because the purity of the blood is dependent upon the proper ex-

traction from it of certain specific poisons, which it is the duty of the kidneys to remove.

The kidneys are situated in the small of the back, one on each side of the spine. Human kidneys are similar in shape to those of a sheep, but are somewhat large. They are encased in fat, and are supplied with arteries which convey blood to them from the heart. By a process akin to filtering, the kidneys take any excess of water from the blood and they also extract from the blood various waste poisons with which it becomes laden in its journey through the veins.

When a person is in good health these waste poisons are dissolved in the water taken from the blood by the kidneys, and the solution is passed through narrow passages leading from each kidney into the bladder, and is thence expelled from the body. This solution is known as urine. Some of the poisons contained in urine are animal matter, such as urea and uric acid; others are mineral matter, being salts of lime, magnesia, potash and soda.

Unless the kidneys do their work thoroughly, the waste matter is incompletely extracted from the blood, and becomes actively poisonous, causing us to suffer from various disorders which cannot be cured until the kidneys are restored to health and activity.

After the blood is filtered and purified by the kidneys it enters the veins, and is, in due time, returned to the heart, having, in the meanwhile, traversed the body and taken up a fresh supply of waste matter. The heart again sends the blood to the kidneys, which once more filter it and extract the impurities. This process goes on without ceasing day or night.

The kidneys of the average man filter and extract from the blood about three pints of urine in twenty-four hours. In this quantity of urine are dissolved about an ounce of urea, and ten or twelve grains, in weight, of uric acid, together with other animal and mineral matter, varying from a third of an ounce to nearly an ounce.

The blood, in the course of its circulation, carries nourishment, derived from the food we eat, and oxygen to every part of the tissues of the body, and receives from the tissues matter which they have consumed and for which they have no further use. This waste matter is the duty of the skin, lungs and kidneys to throw off and get rid of. In the form of carbonic acid, the lungs throw off the equivalent of eight ounces of pure charcoal every twenty-four hours, and the kidneys do their share by eliminating urea, uric acid, etc., as described.

The principal disorders directly attributed to failure of the kidneys to perform their allotted task are Rheumatism, Gout, Lumbago, Sciatica, Persistent Headache, Neuralgia, Anaemia, Gravel, Stone and Bladder Troubles. When the kidneys are properly doing their work none of the complaints mentioned can exist, because the causative poisons are then duly removed in a natural manner.

The only remedy known to science which is able to establish a regular and healthy action of the kidneys in Warner's Safe Cure. This remarkable medicine is the outcome of years of research, and has been in use throughout the world for more than a quarter of a century. It is the only known medicine which has the power to expel uric acid from the system, and it owes this power simply to its ability to restore worn, weak, or diseased kidneys to their natural vigour. Nature does the rest.

Thousands suffer from kidney disease and do not know it. The commonest first symptom is pain in the back. A simple test to make as to the condition of the kidneys is to place some urine, passed the first thing in the morning, in a covered glass, and let it stand until the next morning. If it is then cloudy, or there is a brick-dust like sediment, or if particles float about it, then the kidneys are not healthy, and no time should be lost in adopting remedial measures or Bright's Disease or some serious illness will be the result.

Remember that Warner's Safe Cure will in all cases restore the kidneys to health and will consequently cure—and permanently cure—all diseases arising from their feeble condition and the retention of uric acid in the system.

A treatise containing a full description of the curative action of Warner's Safe Cure and many accounts of cases cured will be sent free on application to H. H. Warner and Co., Limited, Australasian Branch, Melbourne.

Small boy,—little pool,
Oh joy,—no school,
Felt wet,—bad cold,
Home get, mother scold
Boy sick,—nearly dead,
Cure quick, doctor said,
Don't wait, but secure
Woods' Great Peppermint Cure.



TENDERS FOR INLAND MAIL SERVICES FOR 1907, 1908, AND 1909.

General Post Office,

Wellington, 14th August, 1906.

SEALED TENDERS will be received at the several Chief Post Offices in the colony until MONDAY, the 24th September, 1906, for the conveyance of mails between the undermentioned places, for a period of THREE years, from the 1st January, 1907, to the 31st December, 1909.

POSTAL DISTRICT OF AUCKLAND.

1. Ahipara and Herekino, weekly. (Alternative to No. 53a.)
2. Ahuroa, Komokoriki, and Glorit, weekly.
3. Auckland Chief Post Office, Railway Station, and Wharves, as required.
4. Auckland, clearing receivers: Within a radius of three miles and a half of Chief Post Office, thrice daily.
5. Auckland, delivery letter-carriers' extra bags, as required.
6. Auckland, landing service (landing and shipping mails from and to vessels in stream), as required. (Note.—Mails to be landed from San Francisco mail steamer by ferry-boat when necessary.)
7. Auckland parcels delivery (delivering parcels in city and suburbs), twice daily in city, once daily in suburbs.
8. Auckland, Tamaki West, and St. Heliers, daily. (Alternative to No. 103.)
9. Avondale, Titirangi, Brooklynn, and Huia, weekly.
10. Awanui Landing to Kaitaia, weekly.
11. Awhitu Central and Manukau Heads, weekly.
12. Awhitu Wharf, Awhitu, and Awhitu Central, thrice weekly.
13. Birkenhead and Birkdale, wayside delivery, including Borough of Birkenhead as far as Hadfield's Corner, Roberts' Road, daily.
14. Birkenhead, Freeman's, Albany, Dairy Flat, Wade, Orewa, Waiwera, and Puhoi, thrice weekly. (Alternative to Nos. 14A and 28A.)
- 14A. Birkenhead, Freeman's, Albany, and Dairy Flat, thrice weekly. (Alternative to No. 14.)
15. Cabbage Bay and Port Charles, weekly.
16. Cambridge, Cambridge West, Pukerimu, and Kaipaki, daily. (Alternative to Nos. 18A, 19, and 87.)
17. Cambridge and Cambridge West, twice daily.
18. Cambridge and Maungatautari, thrice weekly.
- 18A. Cambridge and Pukerimu, daily. (Alternative to Nos. 16 and 19.)
19. Cambridge and Pukerimu, thrice weekly. (Alternative to Nos. 16 and 18A.)
20. Cambridge Post Office and Railway Station, as required.
21. Cambridge and Rotorangi, twice weekly.
22. Clevedon and Maraetai, weekly.
23. Coromandel, Amodeo Bay, and Cabbage Bay, weekly.
24. Coromandel and Driving Creek, daily.
25. Coromandel Post Office and Wharf, as required.
26. Coromandel, Tererenga, Opitonui, and Whangapoua, weekly.
27. Dargaville, Aoroa, Aratapu, and Te Kopuru, thrice weekly.
28. Devonport and Takapuna, twice daily.
- 28A. Devonport, Takapuna, Oneroa, Redvale, Wade, Orewa, Waiwera, and Puhoi, thrice weekly. (Alternative to No. 14.)
29. Drury, Ramarama, and Bombay, daily.
30. Ellerslie, Panmure, Pakuranga, and Howick, twice daily.
31. Fairburn's, Victoria Valley, and Takahue, weekly. (Alternative to No. 32.)
32. Fairburn's, Victoria Valley, and Takahue, twice weekly. (Alternative to No. 31.)
33. Frankton Junction, Hamilton Post Office, Hamilton Railway Station, and Kirikiriroa, as required.
34. Hairini and Te Awamutu, twice daily.
35. Hamilton, Tamahere, Pukeroro, and Cambridge, daily.
36. Hamilton, Whatawhata, Waitetuna, Te Uku, Okete, and Raglan, thrice weekly.