

the editors of the principal newspapers, and will place before them the exact position, showing actual figures and agreements to demonstrate the fact that charges will not be unreasonable. It is estimated that the average charge will be about 25 per cent. above normal, and it is thought that when the inevitable rise in the price of food is considered, the increase is only what might be expected.

#### THE WHISKY LABEL CASE.

In Wellington last Friday, at the Magistrate's Court, Mr W. G. Kiddell, S.M., gave reserved judgment in the action against Mrs Margaret Byth, licensee of the Royal Tiger Hotel, Taranaki Street. Defendant was charged under the Licensing Act with having in her possession certain bottles, the labels on which she failed to destroy, and which she re-filled with whisky or other brands. She was further charged under the Trade Marks Act with applying a false trade description to certain bottles of whisky. She was convicted and, under the latter act, was fined £10 and costs (£7). Mr Myers, prosecuting counsel, said that in this decision the police had attained their principal object—showing "the trade" generally that this sort of thing was an offence against both acts, and was of a serious character. Also, he intimated, prosecutions would follow like offences in future. Mr Campbell was for the defendant. Similar charges against Thomas W. Clapham and Edward Fitzgerald, Ngahauranga hotelkeepers, for whom Mr Blair appeared, were then taken. In both instances it was admitted that whisky other than was described on the labels of the bottles containing it was sold to two constables. It was, however, contended by counsel, who called evidence in support, that defendants on selling the whisky stated that it was "draught" whisky, and not "case." Judgment in these two cases was reserved.

#### LICENSING CASE.

Last Monday the adjourned hearing of the case in which George Taylor, licensee of the Fitzroy Hotel, was charged with selling whisky to John Joseph Poland, a person already in a state of intoxication, and also with permitting drunkenness to take place on his licensed premises, was continued before Mr C. C. Kettle, S.M., at the Police Court.

Mr S. Mays prosecuted, and Mr F. Earl defended.

Sergeant Hanson stated that on August 9 he visited the defendant's premises in Wakefield-street, and saw Poland in the hotel. Witness said to him, "Hello; what are you doing here?" and he muttered something in reply. Witness then called the licensee, and said: "Don't you see the state that man is in?" and Taylor replied, "What is the matter with him." Witness then said, "Can't you see that he is in a beastly state of drunkenness?" Poland was subsequently arrested for drunkenness, and pleaded guilty to the charge on the following day.

In answer to Mr Earl, witness said Poland did not say that he would walk a chalkline.

Sergeant Hendry said that in response to a message from Sergeant Hanson he visited the Fitzroy Hotel, and found Poland lying on a bed in a drunken condition.

Questioned by Mr Earl witness said he did not see Poland on his feet.

Constable Quirk, who accompanied Sergeant Hanson to the hotel, gave corroborative evidence.

Constable Nash also gave evidence as to Poland being drunk.

This closed the case for the prosecution, and the further hearing was adjourned.

The Commercial Hotel, Camperdown, Victoria, was destroyed by fire last Monday. Several of the inmates had narrow escapes. Two New Zealand visitors jumped 22 feet, and were uninjured.

The Tarawera Hotel on the Taupo line, was totally destroyed by fire last Sunday night. Everything was lost. The insurances were for £975 in the North Queensland, and for £225 in the Sun. Mr McKay, the owner, is a heavy loser.

At the Thames last Monday, in the Magistrate's Court, Mr Bush, S.M., gave judgment in the charges against Thomas Glasgow and James Millar at Tapu. The charges were those of insulting behaviour and refusing to leave licensed premises (Royal Oak Hotel), when ordered, and also of obscene language. The latter charge was against Miller, who was fined £6 and costs. Glasgow had to pay £2 and costs. The fines and costs totalled nearly £15. Sergt. Darby prosecuted, and Mr Clendon appeared for the defence.

#### SURGERY AND CRIME

An interesting experiment has been begun in Philadelphia by the health and charity officials of the city, with a view to depriving children of criminal tendencies by means of surgical operations. Nine eminent physicians met recently to see operations performed upon seven children. There were two operations on the brain, three on the eyes, and two minor operations for nervousness. These seven patients had been picked from a large number as being children who appeared to be destined to careers of evil-doing unless something was done to alter their organisation. Their past history and the conditions of their general health had been made the subject of careful study, and, finally, the consent of the parents was asked and obtained before the knife was used. The Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children is largely responsible for this novel campaign against the incipient disposition to crime, and medical men are deeply interested in the experiment. It is intended to perform a great number of operations upon feeble-minded and criminal youths if these experiments prove to be successful.

#### "DEVIL'S POOL."

At Cambridge last Friday before Mr H. W. Northcroft, S.M., A Underwood, licensee of the Criterion Hotel, was charged with permitting gambling on August 8 last by allowing a game of billiards, known as "Devil's pool," to be played for money. Constable McNamara proved that the game had been played. Mr Gillies, who appeared for the accused, admitted all the facts as to the game having been played. He said the proprietor of the hotel leased the billiard room to the marker, and the police had not warned the marker. He believed the game had been played all over the colony, and it was only on the 4th inst. that Mr Justice Edwards gave his decision that the game was unlawful.

Mr Northcroft said as the decision referred to was given since the offence now charged was committed accused would be discharged, but a conviction would be recorded. It would now be known that playing pool for money was illegal.

#### SUPPLYING MAORIS.

The usual sitting of the Magistrate's Court was held at Hamilton last week by Mr H. W. Northcroft, S.M. Daniel Holland, proprietor of the Frankton Hotel, was charged under section 46 of the Licensing Act, 1904, with supplying liquor to a Maori, to be consumed off the premises. Mr Gillies appeared for defendant, and pleaded not guilty. Pepi, a young Maori, residing at Te Kuiti, deposed that on the date in question he was returning from a funeral at Taupiri, and called at the Frankton Hotel, when he procured a bottle of whisky from defendant. No questions were asked as to whether he was a half-caste or not. Wharenui King deposed that Mrs Holland served Pepi with one bottle and him (witness) with three. Mr Holland came in and tried to prevent the bottles leaving the house, but he eventually allowed them to go. He told the police that Holland had served him, because he had consented to the sale. Mr Gillies said the defence was an absolute denial of the sale. Daniel Holland deposed that he never remembered seeing the two witnesses in his house. Their story was untrue. Since the amendment of the Licensing Act he had never served a native with liquor to be consumed off the premises. His Worship said there was no doubt the natives got the liquor, and in order to disprove their evidence the defendant would have to prove that the natives got it somewhere else. Mr Holland was responsible for the acts of his wife. Maria Teresa Holland was also convicted of having sold a bottle of whisky to a native named Te Arika. His Worship said the costs were heavy, and as they were the first cases brought under the Act he would not inflict heavy penalties. Fined £5, and costs £8 is 6d. on the first charge, and £2, and 9s costs on the second.

Judgment in two other cases in Wellington of selling draft whisky in labelled bottles has been reserved. It is understood that the authorities are giving this matter their attention all over the colony, and that in future bottles with an undestroyed label must contain only what liquor the label represents.

In cricket field or football bounds,  
Sporting with gun or following hounds,  
In swift horse-race or yachting course,  
Where'er a man's delight finds source,  
One more delight keeps him aglow—  
Best game of all—'tis sport we know  
That Woods' Great Peppermint Cure was sent  
To be man's best medicament.

#### NO RIGHT THERE.

In a case of being on licensed premises on a Sunday which is reported elsewhere in this issue, the reserved judgment was given last Friday. The defendant, charged with being found in a hotel on Sunday claimed that he was entitled to be there, as he made up the books on Sunday, and had to consult the licensee on contemplated improvements. Defendant was fined £2. The magistrate said: "The mere presence of the defendant on the premises is sufficient prima facie evidence of an offence unless explained. The onus falls on the defendant of showing that he had a right to be there. Defendant has failed to show to my satisfaction that he was on the premises for any lawful purpose."

#### CALCULATIONS IN WHISKY.

The great whisky fire at Dundee in July last caused damage to the value of some £400,000. The "Dundee Courier" has been making some interesting calculations in connection with the conflagration. Had the whisky that was consumed been placed in bottles, and the bottles laid end to end, they would have made a track of whisky sufficient to guide liners across the Atlantic from Queensown to very nearly Liberty Statue—a distance of 2744 miles—or to have made a track from Dundee to Moscow, and leave a few miles over. Anything from 1½ millions to 1¾ millions of gallons were destroyed, but when regard is had to the fact that the spirits were overproof, and would, consequently, have to be diluted to at least fifteen underproof before being sold for public consumption, the quantity that fell a prey to the flames would be represented by no less than twelve millions of bottles. What, one wonders, would have been Sir Wilfrid Lawson's comment? The reflections of toppers on the awful catastrophe are not difficult to imagine.

#### A FAMOUS BREWING FIRM.

For the first time in their history, Messrs Bass, Ratcliff, and Gretton, Ltd., have issued to the public their annual financial statement. The accounts are brought up to the 30th June, and in their report the Directors, of whom Lord Burton is Chairman, state that the profit and loss account for the year ended on that date, shows a profit, before charging interest on debenture stock, of £360,832 odd, which with £7,717 odd brought forward from the previous year makes a total of £368,549. Of this amount, £216,800 have been appropriated to the payment of interest in debenture stock, dividends on preference stock, and an interim dividend of 5 per cent. on the ordinary shares free of income tax, leaving a balance of £151,749. Out of this it is proposed to declare a further dividend on the ordinary shares of 9 per cent., free of income tax, representing £122,400 payable on the 8th inst., making 14 per cent. for the year. £20,000 are to be placed to the credit of the reserve fund, which will then amount to £1,370,000, carrying forward to the balance of the next account, £9,349.

In the statement the freehold and leasehold brewing and other premises, together with licensed properties, are valued at £3,005,724.

Bad and doubtful debts, depreciation of investments, etc., are estimated at £73,748.

#### BEER AND LIQUOR CONSUMPTION

Whilst the consumption of alcoholic liquors in the United Kingdom is on the decline, the reverse is the case in the United States. The amount of beer and spirits consumed in 1905 in America was 1,659,921,000 gallons, as against 1,620,142,000 gallons in 1904, the increase, however, being entirely in malt beverages. The increase in beer consumption was about 6 per cent., and the per capita use is now 18.50 gallons, as against 18.28 gallons in 1904, and only 15.38 gallons ten years ago. If due allowance be made for teetotalers it is estimated that the consumption of beer by actual absorbers is from 75 to 100 gallons per head. The cost of beer and whisky consumed was about £245,887,000, and the yield to the Government was £37,264,000. To the liquors mentioned must be added wines, of which 14,377,500 gallons, valued at £19,201,000, were consumed last year.

From Napier it is reported that the stamp duty case in which a tradesman was charged with failing to stamp a duplicate receipt was again before the court, when defendant, on legal advice, pleaded guilty. The magistrate, Mr Brabant, said he considered the advice was good, as, having carefully read the Act, he believed that duplicate receipts required stamping equally with originals. A nominal fine was imposed.

#### THE SAN FRANCISCO EARTHQUAKE.

#### WINE THAT WENT UP IN SMOKE.

In order that the trade may have some idea of the enormous quantities of wine that were destroyed by the fire, it is only necessary to mention a few of the leading houses whose plans were burned. For instance the California Wine Association in its San Francisco cellars lost 4,750,000 gallons of wine. Of this 2,300,000 were red and 1,000,000 white wines; the balance were sweet wines and brandy. The great house of Lachman and Jacobbi lost about 2,500,000 gallons of wine and 100,000 gallons of brandy in bond.

The house of C. Schilling and Company carried stock of 1,000,000 gallons of wine, and the Gundlach Lundschu Wine Company also 1,000,000 gallons of wine, largely selected stocks. Some of the minor houses carried as high as 200,000, 300,000 and 400,000 gallons. The aggregate was 15,000,000 gallons.

The wine firms were all injured to a considerable extent, but their losses will be largely confined to temporary inability to promptly supply customers. At this writing, shipping facilities are fairly well restored, and the particular hardship of the dealers will be difficulty of securing matured wines for blending purposes. Some of the houses had stocks of finished wines they had been carrying from ten to fifteen years, which were highly valuable for the purposes of the blender; and these will be greatly missed.

It was certainly a wise policy of the California Wine Association in scattering reserved stocks of matured and young wines in their various country cellars. By placing these stocks at the disposal of the general trade, which had its city stock destroyed by fire, they enabled the general wine trade to resume business much sooner than would have otherwise been the case. It is stated that these reserved stocks were supplied to competitors as well as customers at the uniform price which prevailed before April 18th. The trade were, therefore, enabled to some extent to make themselves whole by the advance of ten cents a gallon which was later announced.—"Pacific Wine and Spirit Review."

#### ITALY'S TOBACCO MONOPOLY.

The tobacco monopoly maintained by the Italian Government has proved very profitable. The total revenue for the fiscal year 1904-05 amounted to £9,000,000, while the total expenses were only £1,900,000, and the value of the stock employed £117,000, leaving a net profit in the operation of the monopoly of nearly £7,000,000, which was an increase of £500,000 over that of the preceding year. Thus the net profit represents 77.08 per cent. and the expenses 29.92 per cent. of the total proceeds, a considerable increase in the income and a proportionate decrease in expenses. There were sold in Italy for domestic consumption during the year 981,022lb of manufactured tobacco and 147,486lb were exported in excess of the exportations of last year. Although the annual amount of tobacco consumed by each individual has increased by 11 grams, it is still much lower than during 1886-87, the year after the change of tariff rates. During that year the average consumption of tobacco was 558 grams a head.

#### ...THE ENGLISHMAN IN THE COLONIES.

The blunders perpetrated in conversation by the English visitor to the "colonies" are often mentioned in Canadian and Australian novels. The use of the term "colonials" is the most common of those betises and among the most irritating. Perhaps the worst of all was committed by a young Balliol man who, being asked to address a meeting of ranchers on the subject of Preference, began his speech with the words: "Gentlemen,—and you who do not profess to be gentlemen." But he was allowed to finish his speech. Another young Englishman, a Free Trader, made a

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