

was submitted by Mr Clendon that the men, though not permanent boarders at the hotel, were staying there. They had stopped at the hotel the previous night. Evidence was given to this effect by several witnesses, and eventually His Worship dismissed the information, holding that the evidence for the defence showed that the men were staying at the hotel, and therefore no offence was disclosed.

ENGLAND'S INCREASING TRADE.

With one solitary exception the monthly Board of Trade Returns ever since the beginning of the year have shown a gratifying and, in some instances, a most remarkable increase, and when the figures for 1906 are made up at the end of the present month they will show a record trade of which England may feel justly proud. It is not alone this country that has been forging ahead. The distant possessions of the Crown, save and except South Africa—which has been in a state of political unrest, and cannot be expected to settle down until the Transvaal elections are over—have all being doing well. Canada and Australia were never in a more prosperous condition than they are to-day, and next year, when the Colonial Conference takes place, London is expected to be full of wealthy Colonists from all parts of the Empire. This should be good news for English, Irish, and Scottish hotel keepers, for our visitors from abroad, as a rule, make a point of seeing all the "beauty spots" in the kingdom before returning to their colonial homes, and there will be plenty of entertaining. Meanwhile it is satisfactory to note that an additional £3,367,000 has been put on to our exports, and a further £2,602,000 on to our imports during the past month, making an increase of nearly £6,000,000 in our oversea trade.—"London L.V. Gazette."

ALL THE LUCK.

"Some people 'as all the luck," said the gloomy man with the heavy jaw, as he read the paper in the window.
 All the bloomin' luck. 'Ere's a girl gets a gold watch for bein' the millionth visitor to the exhibition. Just does nothin' but wander in, same as I might wander in ter a pub. Gets a gold watch, an' a 'and-shake from Mr Munro."
 "Sir George Munro now, ain't 'e," said the little man with the thin beard.
 "'E might be. Some people as all the bloomin' luck. Wot do I get when I breasts up anywhere. I just bin in the pub on the corner. 'Hout yer go,' says the barman, an' hout it was. W'y? Well, 'e said I was number thirteen—bin me thirteenth trip ter see if they 'ad a spare beer that wasn't workin'. Some b'okes just simply 'appen inter luck—can't 'elp it. If I'd bin goin' in the gate just behind the nine ninety nine thousand nine ninety ninth b'oke, what 'ud 'appen? W'y, that bloke 'ud drop dead an' I'd be pushed through just ahead of time. An' I'd apaid me bob, too. Yes, some b'okes 'as all the luck. I couldn't ever be the millionth anything. I was number 321 once, and it was 'ard mozzle, too."
 "Wot was it? A Tatt's ticket?" asked the little man.
 "No, up on the Terrace."
 —"Touchstone" in the N.Z. "Times."

FOLLOWING HIM UP.

The strange story of a publican who has had his license taken from him three times, through no fault of his own, is told by a gentleman who recently visited the South Island. The hotelkeeper in question was in business in Ashburton, when he was closed up by the carrying of no-license. He moved to Invercargill and started again; but once again was deprived of his license in the same way. Woodlands was the next town he took a hotel in, and here for a time all went well. The Representation Commission got to work, however, and altered the boundaries down there, and now he finds himself in the Mataura district, another no-license region. This means that he will be closed up again as soon as the present license expires.

THE COLONY'S BREWERIES.

The number of breweries in the colony shown in the census returns for 1906 was somewhat fewer than that returned ten years previously in 1896, but the hands employed were more numerous and the quantity of beer manufactured considerably greater.
 While in the year 1895 there were 5,249,278 gallons brewed, the output for 1905 amounted to 7,634,362 gallons, being nearly 2,400,000 gallons of increase in a ten-year period. The money value rose from £336,734 to £572,579.
 The quantities of beer on which excise duty was paid for consumption were, for 1895, 4,936,400 gallons, and 7,796,160 gallons for 1905. These quantities are in

close agreement with those returned in this census as manufactured.

The imported beer entered at the Customs for home consumption only increased in quantity from 201,770 gallons in 1895 to 218,270 gallons in 1905 which tends to show that the colonial made beer is by degrees displacing the beer brought from abroad. In the year 1892 261,394 gallons were brought into New Zealand, when the population was only 650,433 persons. The consumption of beer per head of population, which was 7,421 gallons in the year 1895, reached 9,150 in the year 1900, since when it has been almost stationary, the figures for 1905 being 9,212.

	1906.	1896.
Breweries	72	85
Hands employed	731	465
Amount paid in wages	£92,308	£57,327
Value of land	£82,590	£51,533
Value buildings	£156,541	£115,033
Value machinery and plant	£95,800	£63,850

	1905.	1895.
	gals.	gals.
Quantity	7,634,362	5,249,278
Value	£512,519	£336,734

COMMISSION CLAIMED.

Further hearing of the claim for £80 commission by J. M. and J. Mowbray against W. Abbott, as executor of the estate of Mrs Catherine Jones, was continued before Mr C. C. Kettle, S.M., last Thursday. The amount was claimed as commission upon an alleged sale of the Kentish Hotel, Waiuku. Mr R. McVeagh appeared for the plaintiffs and Mr Brookfield for the defendant.

John Mowbray, one of the plaintiffs, said he was present when Mrs Jones told his brother to find a purchaser for the Waiuku Hotel. She mentioned £3000 as the price of the lease, furniture and goodwill. Questioned by Mr Brookfield, witness said that the late Mr Jones had borrowed money from the Great Northern Brewery Co., of which witness was managing director. He agreed that it would be more satisfactory to himself if the new tenant was prepared to put himself in Jones' shoes and take his beer from the Great Northern Brewery.

Archeus Thomas, licensee of the Criterion Hotel, Otanuhu, stated that in November, 1905, he called at Mr Mowbray's office to tell him that in a note was on his books for sale he would like to know. He received a telegram in December from Mr Mowbray, and in consequence went to Waiuku, where he saw Mrs Jones at the hotel. He offered £2500 for the property, apart from the bar stock, but Mrs Jones said she would not take less than £3000. When he reached Auckland on his way back to Thames he made an offer, through Mowbray, of £2750, and he was informed subsequently by wire that the price had been accepted. He went to Auckland so that the purchase could be completed, and found that a Mr Schultz had bought the hotel.

Cross-examined by Mr Brookfield, witness said he did not see Mrs Jones more than once, but it was generally understood that the price included everything but stock.

Mr Brookfield submitted that the plaintiffs ought to be non-suited, because on Mr Mowbray's evidence the contract was to pay him £100 if he made a sale, whereas he was not the person who effected the sale. Mr Jones or Mrs Jones had not accepted the contract of Mr Thomas.

His Worship remarked that so long as the agent had the purchaser bound so that he could be forced to make the purchase he had succeeded, and on the letters produced there was a contract.

Mr Brookfield contended on behalf of the defendant that the plaintiffs were not entitled to commission from Mrs Jones because they acted in the interests of Mr Thomas.

Mr McVeagh (for the plaintiffs) said it was shown on the evidence that the contract was to find a purchaser, which was done. On the lowest ground his clients, having had their authority to sell revoked, were entitled to be recompensed for any expenditure they had undertaken.

Evidence for the defence was then taken.

Robert L. H. Biss, solicitor, said he acted professionally for Mr and Mrs Jones. On January 4th Mr Schultz came to him with the object of getting particulars of the lease held by Mr Jones. The lease was purchased on that date, and witness went to Mr Mowbray for the documents. He was referred to Mr Mowbray's solicitors. The contract with Schultz dropped through, but the hotel was sold to a Mr Molloy.

William Abbott, executor of Mrs Jones' estate, and defendant in the action, said that, although the Schultz transaction fell through, Thomas did not renew his offer.

His Worship reserved his decision.

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MEDICAL MEN AND ALCOHOL.

(Concluded From Last Week.)

Another side of the question as to the value of alcohol was presented in the therapeutics section of the American Medical Congress, when the usefulness of the drug in medicine and surgery came up for discussion.

Dr. Blackader, Montreal, said that the value of alcohol as a stimulant had been over-estimated, but under certain conditions it was useful and was a food.

Dr. Meitzler, New York, declared the facts as known to-day were favourable to a judicious use of alcohol, as it had a distinct action, which might be utilised in the treatment of disease.

"There is no Imperialism without its concomitant Puritanism." From this text Dr. Emil Reich argues that teetotal nations go to the wall, while moderate-drinking ones survive.

In an interview with a "Daily Mail" representative he replied to Sir Victor Horsley's statement that alcohol is practically worthless as food or medicine, basing his arguments on grounds of physiology, history, statistics, and personal experience, and incidentally commenting on the Shoreditch coroner's obiter dictum that no moderate drinker ever becomes a teetotaler.

"The whole process of nutrition," said Dr. Reich, "is more or less a mystery. Neither we nor the doctors understand it. How, then, can medical men, no matter how high their position, presume to talk with such dogmatic assurance on a subject of which nothing can be surer than that they know little or nothing?"

"Look at the emphatic refutation of

Sir Victor Horsley's opinion given by history. All the great nations of antiquity and of modern times—the Greeks, Romans, French, English—have been moderate drinkers—that is, as nations; each nation had, of course, exceptions, the few who totally abstained. The Greeks, the wisest of all nations, preferred moderate drinking even to moderate eating, and, save the Spartans, who abstained, all Greece drank in moderation. On the other hand, look at the record of two great nations which were practically teetotalers, if not entirely so—the Mahomedans and the Spaniards of Europe. It is a fact that the Mahomedans are lower in the scale of civilisation; and the Spaniards to-day are not among the first nations of Europe.

"Where does this fearful wave of teetotalism come from? In my opinion it is only a part of that indispensable Puritanism without which no Empire has ever been made. Puritanism when it first arose took the religious or theological form. It existed furiously through generations; but now, somehow the religious aspect does not seem to be able to maintain the hold it once had; it has dropped the theological and adopted the physiological with the same intensity of emotion and purpose.

"The Greeks made fun of teetotalism as a kind of puritanical desire to browbeat Nature, which indeed it really is. Puritanism always condemned the pleasures of man—the theatre, gaiety, dancing, the love of woman and man; now Puritanism is fanatical on teetotalism. The Spartans were the Imperialists of ancient Greece; the Carthaginians were Imperialists too, and also, like the Spar-