



England uses over 30,000 tons of tobacco yearly, but Germany gets through 85,000 tons in a twelvemonth.

At Rotorua recently a Maori was fined £3, in default three months imprisonment, for stealing a bottle of whisky from the Grand Hotel.

An offender who appeared before Mr Kettle, S.M., last week to answer a charge of drunkenness, was asked by the magistrate, "How about a prohibition order?" "No, no, your worship, it against my grain," the accused broke in quickly. The Magistrate decided not to issue the order.

With regard to the discovery in Ireland of a pipe-line conveying whisky from a distillery to a duty paid Customs building, which was reported last week, it is now announced by later cable news that the Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr Asquith) stated in the House of Commons that the Inland Revenue Department was in possession of information indicating extensive irregularities in connection with dealings in spirits at Tullamore. Proceedings would be instituted and a court of law would investigate the whole matter.

Three of the local police, says the New Plymouth "Herald," were rather harshly treated the other morning. They were watching for carts taking spirits to Parihaka and had one particular vehicle under observation for some time; but investigation proved that all on board was sugar, flour, and tea.

At an inquest last week at Opunake, a Maori witness was asked what deceased drank when in the hotel. "Raspberry," said the witness, thinking to get out of a difficulty. The native interpreter said it was nonsense to say that, as he could not get drunk on raspberry. "Oh, well, beer" said the native.

Hop-picking commenced in the gardens at Spring Grove, Nelson, early this month. Despite the care taken by the growers to prevent the depredations of the red spider (by pulling off and burning the lower leaves and syringing the berries), this pest, says the "Colonist," is very prevalent in the district, and will affect the yield considerably.

Mr J. Molloy purchased the privileges of the publican's booth at the South Auckland Racing Club's meeting for £43. Tenders have been called for the re-painting of the Pacific Hotel at the Thames.

Las: Thursday the lease of the block of buildings comprising the Imperial Hotel, the Colonial Mutual Life Offices, and sundry other offices, was put up for sale. The property was withdrawn from sale after £14,000 had been reached. The lease is for 44½ years. It is understood that a sale has since been made, the figure being £16,000.

Mr J. H. Garrick, a visitor from Fiji, died very suddenly at the Royal Hotel, Victoria-street, early last Saturday morning.

Mr Thompson, S.M., in giving judgment at Taihape in a case in which defendant was being sued for the cost of a banquet, said if a person was present at a committee meeting, and consented to an expenditure, he would be personally liable for the whole amount.

Lord Lorne a century ago bet 15,000 guineas that a punch-bowl flung against a wall would break into an odd, and not an even number of pieces. He won.

Julius Lindauer, a German brewery worker of Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, who committed suicide recently, leaving £620, directed that £220 be spent in cremating his body, and that the other £400 be spent in buying drinks for the members of the Brewery Workers' Union, who were requested to drink his health at the funeral.

Mr J. J. Graham, proprietor of the Pukekohe Hotel, who is laid up with blood-poisoning, we are pleased to hear making satisfactory progress toward recovery.

One shilling in every pound of what the British workman spends in food is paid for tea, one shilling for milk, and tenpence for potatoes.

Mr C. Smith, a grazier, while asleep, jumped over the balcony railing of a hotel at Narrabri (N.S.W.), and fell over 20ft on to the roadway. He dreamt he was chased by a cow in a stockyard, and so jumped the balcony rail. His injuries included dislocation of the hip, thigh, and arm.

Wanganui had the pleasant and creditable record during a recent week of not having a single case of drunkenness before the court during the whole week.

In Christchurch recently two men were brought before the Court on charges of smuggling tobacco and cigars. Fines of £27 in one case and £10 in another were imposed.

The average income of English people is £38, of Scottish people £45.

It is reported that Mr S. Atkins of the Commercial Hotel has sold out to a gentleman from Wellington.

At the last meeting of the Auckland City Council, a communication was received from the City Valuer, with reference to the valuations for 1907. The present valuations totalled £476,415, against £442,303 last year, representing an increase of £34,112. The Mayor said that was very satisfactory, and they would see that the annual valuation for the City of Auckland was now nearly half a million. The increase was considerably more than it was last year, and he hoped that when the detailed report came before them, that the increase would be accounted for by the erection of new buildings.

Mr and Mrs Draffin took over the Waipa Hotel at Ngaruawahia last week, as they have many years of hotel-keeping experience they will no doubt soon become very popular in their new venture, and do good business.

It is reported that Mr W. Derham of the Freeman's Hotel, will succeed Mr T. B. O'Connor in the Victoria Hotel. Mr O'Connor takes possession of the Thames Hotel early in March.

Mr Harry Dyer, late of the Newton Hotel, proceeds to Dargaville this week to take over the Central Hotel from Mr P.P. Cullen. Mr Dyer is so well known and popular in the trade, that any words of praise from us are unnecessary, and we have no hesitation in saying that we feel sure his new venture will turn out a most profitable one.

Some time ago a deputation from the Wellington tobaccoists waited on the Minister of Labour and made a request that the Labour Department should move in the matter of the sale of tobacco and cigarettes by Chinese storekeepers and fruiterers after 8 p.m. The Minister then informed the deputation that he would inquire into the matter and obtain the opinion of the Solicitor-General as to whether proceedings could be taken with any prospect of success. In answer to a further letter from Mr Fisher, M.H.R., upon the subject, Mr Millar replies "that an opinion has been obtained, but the opinions supplied by the officers of the Crown Law Department are intended only for the information of Ministers. An amendment of the law would be necessary before any successful action can be taken." Mr Millar's communication means that the present anomaly of allowing Chinamen practically to sell tobacco after 8 p.m. will continue until legislation is passed to stop the abuse. An amendment of the Act is almost certain to be made this coming session.

The tobacco monopoly has yielded the Austrian Government the enormous net profit of £5,000,000 for one year.

In Melbourne an extraordinary position has arisen in connection with the Licensing Act. Mr Justice Hood, in reviewing a case, decided that the hours prescribed under the Act during which the sale of liquor is prohibited do not include day time on Sunday.

Mr Abbott, of the Masonic Hotel, Wanganui, so well known in hotel life and in Otahuhu, who catered at the races, and shows so oft is up to his old games. No sooner landing than he secures the booths at the Wanganui races next month. There's nothing like push!

Mr Bennett, late of the Masonic Hotel, Wanganui, is about to take over the Albion Hotel in Patea. We wish him the best of luck.

QUARTERLY LICENSING MEETING, MARCH, 1907.

Waitemata, Friday, March 1, Borough Council Chambers, Devonport.
Thames, Friday, March 1, Court House, Thames.
Bay of Islands, Friday, March 1, Court House, Kawakawa.
Eden, Friday, March 1, Epsom Hall, Epsom.
Kaipara, Friday, March 1, Court House, Dargaville.
Manukau, Friday, March 1, Court House, Onehunga.
Marsden, Tuesday, March 5, Court House, Whangarei.
City of Auckland, Tuesday, March 5, S.M. Court, High Street.
Franklin, Tuesday, March 5, Court House, Mercer.
Parnell, Wednesday, March 6, Borough Council Chambers, Parnell.
Waikato, Wednesday, March 6, Court House, Hamilton.
Ohinemuri, Wednesday, March 6, Court House, Paeroa.
Bay of Plenty, Wednesday, March 6, Court House, Tauranga.

NEW ZEALAND WINE.

At a meeting of Auckland grape-growers who had met in the Federal Hall last Thursday for the purpose of protesting against the proposal to allow Australian grapes to be imported into New Zealand. Mr Bollard, the member for Eden, who is one of those strongly against the proposal, said in the course of his remarks, that he thought every grape-grower who made wine should be allowed to sell a bottle of it to his neighbour, and that every restaurant should be permitted on payment of a small license fee, to sell customers a glass of New Zealand wine at a moderate price. The encouragement of wine-drinking would be a step towards temperance.

SOUTHERN CHANGES.

Messrs P. A. Zohrab and Co. report the sale of the following hotel properties:—The freehold of the Crown Hotel, Amberley, Canterbury, to Mr H. Franks, formerly of Carterton, Wairarapa; the lease and furniture of the Ferry Hotel, Spring Creek, Blenheim, to Mr H. W. Worger, late of the Strand Cafe, Wellington; the freehold of the Club Hotel, Carterton (subject to the present lease), to Miss E. F. Crawford, of Wellington; Messrs Whitworth Bros.' interest in the lease and furniture of the Pier Hotel, Wellington, to Mr P. J. Griffen, late of the Imperial Hotel, Waipawa, Hawke's Bay; Mr Thomas Costen's interest in the lease and furniture of the Hastwell Junction Hotel, Christchurch, to Mr Maurice Kenny, late of the Telegraph Department, Christchurch; Mr Edward Ahern's interest in the lease and furniture of the Grand National Hotel, Petone, to Mr William Redmond, late of the Island Bay Hotel; and the freehold and furniture of Middleton's Grosvenor Hotel, Blenheim, to Mr A. E. Brunette, formerly of the Foresters' Arms Hotel, Wellington.

A CLUB'S DIFFICULTY.

The Victorian Gaming and Licensing Acts are seriously affecting the position of the Victorian Betting Club, and a circular issued to members states that the club cannot be longer used for betting purposes, though it is permissible for members to settle in the club on all past events. It is not, the circular says, the Gaming Act, but the Licensing Act of 1906, which makes it necessary to alter the constitution of the Victorian Club. Under the Act all clubs have to be registered, otherwise the club cannot keep or sell liquor on its premises to members. In order to be registered, application has

to be made to the Licensing Court for registration. On the face of it, it is clear that the Victorian Club is not an association contemplated by the Act, and the rules do not contain all the provisions which the Act requires. The Victorian Club has been advised that it would be hopeless to apply for registration under the Licensing Act with the present constitution and rules. The matter being one of such great importance to the club, the committee submitted it to their solicitors, and upon their advice the necessary alterations to the rules were decided upon.

THE NEWEST GAMBLE.

The New York correspondent of the Auckland "Star" in last mail's letter, say that he asked a "man about town" the other day what was the principal game attracting attention. "Oh, at Canfield," (one of the most prominent gambling houses), said he. "the 52-solitaire is the thing. You buy a pack of cards for 52dol, and after they are shuffled begin by playing out a row of seven, the first face up, the others face down. Then a row of six, similarly; then a row of five, and so on till the row consists of but one card, making seven rows. The exposed cards you examine, and, if there are any that fit, place the next lowest red on a black and vice versa. A black queen on a red king, then a red jack, black ten, etc. When you transfer a card from one row to another always turn up the one underneath, and see if it will fit anywhere. When a vacancy occurs in the top row always put a king in it as soon as one shows up. Having transferred the exposed cards and turned others as far as they will go, now begin turning over the remaining cards in your hand, and see if any of them will fit anywhere. When an ace turns up, put it aside, and begin building upon it with the deuce, tray, etc., as soon as they show in the same suit. The object is to get the whole deck in complete suits, if possible. When this comes out at Canfield's the player gets roodol, and when all four aces come out he gets roodol, besides 5dol a card for each card on any of the aces that do show up. One man recently got two roodol wins in 12 lay-outs, but a dozen others at the same time lost."

"SENSATIONS" AT FEASTS.

Sages of all time have assured us that excitement of any sort during meals is fatal to digestion—especially, it may be presumed, when they express themselves in action. The truth of this being admitted, the melancholy conclusion is forced upon us, that throughout the ages history has been made, and fiction written by people absolutely regardless of their own epigastric economy, or that of any one else, for meal times have been chosen with malicious frequency for the enactment of some of the most sensational incidents in history and romance. A god many early instances might be quoted, but perhaps the most picturesque of all was that banquet scene in the Palace of Ulysses, where the suitors were disposing themselves to feast with copious cups of the wine they so appreciated, when the long absent-hero revealed himself on the threshold, and from his mighty bow flew hurling the arrows of death. There was

