

Matches to the extent of 20,032 tons were exported from Sweden in 1905.

Of the 51,000 breweries estimated to be in the world, 26,000 are in Germany.

The Fifth Avenue Hotel, New York, which was recently sold, will be replaced by great office building, 25 storeys high.

It is a custom in the Belgian Parliament, when a member is making a long speech, to be supplied with brandy as a beverage, at the expense of the Government.

One of the principal cigar manufactories of Havana has lately been making some enormous cigars which measures 18in long and 6in in circumference. They are not very heavy, as they weigh only about 4oz, but they cost a sovereign apiece in Havana and £120 a hundred in London.

We regret to learn that Mrs. Martin, wife of the proprietor of the Hot Springs Hotel, Okoroje, met with a painful accident last week. Whilst walking along the verandah she slipped and broke a small bone in the leg, also dislocating the ankle joint.

At Wellington last Friday James White, forecabin steward of the Rotoiti, was charged in the Magistrate's Court with supplying liquor to a probationer constable while the vessel was alongside the wharf. The packet license only permits liquor to be sold on the vessel during the passage from port to port. Defendant stated that he refused to serve the man several times before finally serving him. A fine of 40s was imposed.

Frederick Weiss was convicted last Friday in Wellington for selling alcoholic wine without a license, and was fined £1 and costs. This charge was in connection with similar charges against Mrs. Weiss, which were reported last week.

At the Hamilton Magistrate's Court last Thursday judgment was given in the case against Albert Powell, charged with allowing pool to be played in his licensed billiard room at Hamilton. The Magistrate said that though the game in itself may be absolutely innocent, if played for money it became illegal. He fined the accused 40s and 35s costs.

In the local Police Court the other day an offender who pleaded hard not to be sent back to the gaol, said that he was not on speaking terms with the gaoler. However, he was sent back, so that he will have to inform the gaoler that in future he is "not at home" to him.

James Johnston, a prohibited person, was last Friday fined £2 and costs, or a month in gaol as an alternative, for being found on licensed premises.

The commercial travellers of Victoria made a request to the Attorney-General that they be excused from service as jurymen, as it interfered with their business arrangements. Mr. Davies replied that the duties of a jurymen were for the public benefit, and could not be modified to suit the convenience of individuals.

At the Paeroa Magistrate's Court last week five men were charged with having been on licensed premises on a Sunday. It was explained that they had not gone into the houses for liquor but for the purpose of seeing some friend. The Magistrate accepted the explanation, and inflicted a fine in only one case against one of the defendants, who did not appear. The other four appeared at Court to answer the charges.

In the Christchurch Supreme Court last Thursday, Elizabeth Annie Reid was committed for four months imprisonment for robbing a guest in a hotel in which she was a domestic servant.

Mr. David Robinson, who took over the Post Office Hotel at Neavesville after Mr. R. Gibb, left for Honolulu, has sold his interest in that house to Mr. M. J. Gill.

Some astonishing statements were made before the Acting-Collector of Customs in Melbourne, when several importers were called on to answer charges under the Commerce Act. Imported rings which were stamped "9 carat" were found to be very thin cases of 2.5 carat gold, filled with wax, and leather for the manufacture of books was found to contain 22 per cent. of barum and 11 per cent. of added oil. It was stated that the adulteration of leather sometimes exceeded 50 per cent. by weight.

The British-American Tobacco Co. has suspended production at its Melbourne works. The cause is the uncertainty of the trade with the increase of duty and excise. Five hundred hands will be affected.

It is no often that an application for a prohibition order is opposed, but an instance was furnished last week at Waihi, where the alleged user of alcohol to excess, successfully combated the application.

At the Ashburton Magistrate's Court last week Isabella Burgess was fined £10 for sly dog-selling, and Edmund Morley was fined 20s and costs for sending liquor into a no-license district insufficiently labelled.

The New South Wales Premier speaking at Balmain (Sydney) a few days ago, pointed out that the public indebtedness of the State to-day was nearly a million less than three years ago.

Margaret Turner, keeper of a Wellington boardinghouse, was last week fined £2 at the Magistrate's Court for supplying liquor to a Maori woman.

At the annual meeting of the Council of the Churches at Dunedin recently, the subject of the bottle licenses at that place came up for discussion, the fact of the police not being able to enter premises was commented upon, and the opinion was expressed that there should be legislation in the matter.

The magisterial district of Waikato is likely to be divided, and Mr. Cruickshank, formerly of Te Awamutu, may officiate at Hamilton and south of that town, Mr. Northcroft taking the remainder of the district as defined at present.

We hear that Mr. W. J. Brewin who for many years successfully conducted the Edinburgh Castle Hotel in Symonds-street, has purchased Mr. R. T. Michael's interest in the Manukau Hotel at Onehunga.

Some of the members of the finest club in the world, which is the House of Commons, are sadly deficient in the Imperial spirit. They drink Scotch and Irish whiskies, French and German wines, foreign brewed Lager beer, and British ales, and have been known to sample Australian wines, and fruit in season, without murmuring. But the other day Mr. Rees (of "Wales was Wales before England was born look you") asked the chairman of the Kitchen Committee to consider the propriety of substituting Welsh mutton for Canterbury lamb. Sir J. Jacoby, the chairman aforesaid, was not prepared to adopt the suggestion, though he was willing to supply the Welsh article to the House between the months of October and March, when, he understood, Welsh mutton was on sale in the London market. Mr. Dewar then pressed the claims of "Scotch black-faced," and Mr. Weir put in a claim for the mutton of the Western Highlands, and both received promises that their suggestions should be considered. Not one solitary English M.P. voices the claims of mutton grown south of the Cheviots or east of the Welsh border, but Mr. O'Shaughnessy, amid the cheers of his fellow Nationalists, demanded to know why the claims of Irish mutton should be overlooked. The Irish claim was, of course, not put forward seriously, but Messrs. Dewar and Weir were in earnest. New Zealand lamb, how-

ever, seems likely to hold its own in the House against all-comers, in spite of the efforts of "Taffy" and "Mac" to oust it in favour of their own product.

Failing health, we understand, is the cause of Mr. R. T. Michaels' retirement from the Manukau Hotel, at Onehunga. Mr. and Mrs. Michaels are so well and favourably known in the Trade, that it is hoped their retirement will be of the briefest, and that Mr. Michaels will very soon be restored to perfect health.

Painting, repapering and renovating is being carried on at some of the hotels at the Thames.

Mr. W. Woodward, who has recently taken over the Royal Hotel, Victoria-street, is one of the best-known and most popular hotelkeepers in the Auckland province. "Rocks" Woodward, as he is familiarly known among his friends, and they are legion, has had many years of successful hotelkeeping at the Thames and Rotorua. Whilst at the Thames he made himself exceedingly popular with all classes, taking a prominent active interest in all branches of sport and racing. After a successful period as proprietor of the Mackaytown Hotel, Mr. Woodward proceeded to Rotorua, and assumed the management of the Grand Hotel, where he and Mrs. Woodward soon proved that they were adepts in the art of keeping a hotel in first-class style. We predict for them successful business in the Royal, their undoubted abilities in catering and hospitality making their success assured.

It is not generally known, but it appears that playing billiards in hotels for trophies at tournaments is illegal. Quite recently a Waikato licensee was fined by Mr. H. N. Northcroft, S.M., for permitting a billiard tournament to be played in his hotel.

Rumour has it that Mr. T. J. Buxton, who has sold out of the Naval and Family Hotel, has purchased Mr. T. B. O'Connor's interest in the Thames Hotel, Queen-street.

Mr. D. Nordern, well-known among the Auckland hotelkeepers, goes back to his old house the Naval and Family Hotel, he having purchased Mr. T. J. Buxton's interest in that hotel. It is not long since Mr. Nordern sold out to Mr. Buxton.

The "Manchester City News," of June 20 publishes the following:—"From the Albion Hotel in Piccadilly, to New Zealand's a far cry, and between the elevation of our antipodean colony to the dignity of a 'Dominion' and the hostelry at the corner of Oldham-street, the connection is not at first sight very apparent. But a link does exist, and in this way. Early in the last century, on March 7, 1826, to be accurate, a young lady was abducted from a boarding school in Liverpool, and brought to the Albion Hotel by Edward Gibbon Wakefield and his brother, afterwards being taken to Gretna Green, where a form of marriage was gone through. The lady was then taken to France, and was rescued by her uncle, and her abductors were sentenced to three years' imprisonment each. After his release from prison, Edward Wakefield assisted in the colonisation of South Australia, and then became manager of the New Zealand Association formed for the founding of settlements in those islands. Learning that a French expedition was at work annexing islands in the Pacific, Wakefield hurried on the preparations for colonisation, and landed and hoisted the British flag where the City of Auckland now stands some few hours before the French ships cast anchor in the bay. Although the country had been discovered by British seamen, no attempt had been made to assert our rights to it until Wakefield's expedition, and it is probable that had he not devoted his attention while in prison to the study of colonial questions, the new Dominion under the Southern Cross would, to-day, have been a colonial establishment under the French Republic."


HOTEL BURNED DOWN.

By the burning down of the hotel at Te Puke recently that place loses for the time-being its only public-house. The building was owned by Mr. T. Kenealy, wine and spirit merchant, of Swanson-street in this city, and was, we understand, insured for £1000. Mr. Kenealy conducted the hotel most successfully for many years. At the time of the fire Mr. C. A. Martyn, well-known in Auckland, was the licensee. The fire was discovered in a bedroom about half-past seven in the evening, and within two hours the building collapsed. The granddaughter of the licensee was rescued from a bed upstairs just in time. Several boarders and employees lost all except the clothes they were wearing. Practically nothing was saved from upstairs, and only some liquor and a few articles of furniture was saved from below stairs. The building was valued at £2000. The licensee is said to be a heavy loser, the furniture and stock being valued at £1000 and were insured for £500.

IMPORTANT HOTEL SALES.

Messrs. Dwan Bros., Willis-street, Wellington, report having made the following hotel sales:—Mrs. M. Blythe's interest in the Royal Tiger Hotel, Taranaki-street, to Mr. F. F. Dakin, late of the Customs House Hotel, Nelson, who has already taken possession; Mr. Arthur Haywood's interest in the lease, goodwill and furniture of the Wellington Hotel, Molesworth-street, to Mr. William Nidd, late of the Princess Theatre Hotel, Tory-street; Mr. James Biggin's interest in the lease, goodwill and furniture of the Taratahi Hotel to Mr. Patrick Cosin, late of the Halswell Junction Hotel, Christchurch; Mr. T. V. Procter's interest in the Herbertville Hotel to Mr. F. Mair, of Paekakariki; lease, goodwill, and furniture of the Tikokino Hotel, Hampden, Hawke's Bay,

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