

THE LICENSED WINE & SPIRITS DEPARTMENT'S GAZETTE

The Wanganui "Herald" says it costs at least one hote' in Wanganui £1 per week in water rates, and this, on a basis of 9d per 1000 gallons supplied over and above the 23 to 30 gallons allowed per individual per day for necessary ablutions, consumption, house-cleaning.

It is officially announced that the French vintage for 1907 totals 13,000,000 hectolitres above that of the previous year.

Mr Moss Davis, of Messrs Hancock and Co., Ltd., returned to Auckland last week, after having spent some four years in London.

At the March meeting of the Franklin Licensing Committee, application will be made by William Jones, for a transfer of the license of the Tuakau Family Hotel to J. R. D. Baker.

Last month the amount of duty collected in Auckland on spirits amounted to £7229 6s 3d, and on tobacco, £11,157.

In the local Court last week, a man named Edward Joseph Jones, alias Edward Kess, was sentenced to three months imprisonment for stealing three bottles of beer, the property of Archibald Bishop. Accused had a bad record.

It is stated that there may be no less than six candidates for the Bay of Plenty seat at next election.

The new building which is being built for the Auckland Working Men's Club, will probably be ready for occupation early next month.

Mr Owen McArdle, the Wellington manager for Staples and Co.'s brewery business, died suddenly at Masterton last week.

The beer duty collected in Auckland last month amounted to £2319, being an increase of £613 over the amount collected in January of last year.

At the Supreme Court last week Alfred Crossey was sentenced to two years' imprisonment for issuing valueless cheques to local hotelkeepers.

Constable Simpson, of Kaiapoi, has been promoted to the rank of Sergeant to replace Sergeant Rogers on the Auckland City police staff.

"I don't see why persons who have been prohibited should not wear some badge," remarked Mr Kett'e, S.M., one morning last week, after issuing one of the mandates in question. "Police officers wear stripes; blue ribbon people wear little badges—and are proud of them. Why should not a prohibited person wear some distinguishing mark?" Sergeant Hendry said that under the licensing laws at Home prohibited people were photographed, and hotel-keepers supplied with copies. The task of keeping in order the growing array of "orders" is evidently exercising the minds of both magistrates and police, and a patent way out of the present rather farcical position of affairs would be hailed with every satisfaction.

Mrs Power, wife of Mr M. G. Power, who is well-known in hotel circles, died at Waihi last Saturday. Mr Power was for some time licensee of the Central Hotel at Waihi. The deceased lady was highly esteemed by all who knew her and much sympathy is felt for the family in their sad loss.

Mr McNab, Minister of Lands, talking about grape importation at Wellington, said: "Our experience, after all the work we have done in the grape industry, is that in the Hawke's Bay district grape growing is a pastime of the wealthy. It is to Auckland we must look, and I am satisfied, from my own personal observation, that Auckland grapegrowing will flourish under the tariff of 1d a lb."

One day last week a married man named Thos. Taylor, 68 years of age, who resided at Te Papapa, died suddenly. It appears that he went to Hancock's brewery a little earlier in the day with a

spring dray, to obtain a load of grain for his cattle. When he finished his loading he mounted the front of the cart and a few moments later an employee named Parker noticed that the man was lying apparently lifeless over the splashboard. He was then semi-conscious and restoratives were applied, but before the arrival of Dr Girdler, who was summoned, the man had expired. After hearing the evidence of Dr Girdler, and the results of the post mortem examination, the jury at the inquest, brought in a verdict of death from heart failure.

Messrs Macdonald, Wilson and Co.'s hotel and valuation business is now under the management of Mr W. Evensen, late proprietor of Bacon's Cordial Factory, Wellington, and the public can rest assured in placing any business in the firm's hands of competent and expert treatment, as Mr Evan's has had 25 years' experience in the hotel and valuation business.

With the Webb-Tresidder race for the Championship of the world, visitors will be flocking into Wanganui and will naturally want to know where there is a good place to stay at. To such, Foster's Hotel should be just the place. It is situated nearly opposite the Town Bridge, Taupo Quay, and is within three minutes of the railway station and the river steamers' landing. The hotel is a particularly comfortable one, being fitted with the electric light throughout, and only the best brands are stocked. A line to Mr J. R. Foster, Box 54, P.O., Wanganui, will meet with prompt attention.

The net trading profits for the year of the Imperial Tobacco Company amount to £2,000,000.

In the big fire that occurred in Christchurch last week, the White Hart Hotel, a fine up-to-date structure, was destroyed.

The other day William Smith, licensee of the Sportsman's Arms Hotel, New Lambton, N.S.W., was found lying in an unconscious condition beneath the balcony of the hotel. An examination showed there was a fracture of the skull and other injuries. Smith was alone in the hotel the previous night, and he died the next morning without recovering consciousness.

PICNIC AND SPORTS.

On Saturday last the employees of the Campbell and Ehrenfried Company, Ltd., held their annual picnic and sports at Pine Island, a most enjoyable day being spent. Usually the meeting is held at Motutapu, but owing to the recent death of Mr James Reid, Pine Island was chosen to take the place of the usual rendezvous. A lengthy programme of sports was gone through, results of which appear in our athletic report columns. In addition to the laid down programme of events for the adults, Mr W. Griffiths, the head brewer, was busily engaged throughout the day in carrying out a long programme of races for the young members of the party; also extra races for the ladies. All the events were eagerly contested, bringing forth a large number of competitors, and providing unending amusement. As on previous occasions, the barrel rolling race for ladies proved the most exciting contest of the day, the fair competitors not wanting for plenty of shouts of encouragement and advice from the spectators. For the adult races, Mr A. O. Bankart, the company's secretary, acted as judge, being assisted during the day by Mr B. M. Myers. The starting was in the hands of Mr C. F. Bell, who discharged his duties in an admirable manner. The journey to and fro, in the ferry steamer Eagle was most enjoyable, beautiful weather prevailing and abundance of good music provided by Burke's orchestral band, tending to add greatly to the general enjoyment. Most complete arrangements were made by the Ferry Company for landing and taking off again the large party from the island, this part of the outing being carried out comfortably and expeditiously. On the return journey, the interesting business of presenting the prizes to the successful competitors in the races, was performed

by Mr Bankart, who in the course of a little speech, voiced the regret felt by the company's employees at the recent death of Mr James Reid, of Motutapu at which is and the employees had usually held their reunions, and all had always carried remembrances of the late Mr Reid's kindness and hospitality. Remembrances which nothing can efface. Speaking of behalf of Mr A. M. Myers, Mr Bankart expressed great regret that Mr Myers could not be present, owing to the recent injury to his leg, but that Mr Myers, as managing director of the company had by substantial assistance and the granting of a full day's holiday to the employees, had shown a pleasing appreciation of the annual sports and picnic. Hearty cheers were given for Mr and Mrs Myers, and also for Mrs Myers, senior, the employees recognising that the generosity of the heads of the firm was the prime factor in a day of hearty enjoyment.

WHISKY £6 A BOTTLE.

A TALL STORY.

The old days that o'd goldminers can remember are not dead. A bottle of whisky can still fetch £6 in New Zealand—one is said to have been sold the other day in Okahune for that sum (says the Wellington Dominion), Okahune is on the Main Trun line, in the prohibited King Country. The nearest pub'house is at Tokaanu, on the south end of Lake Taupo, distant much more than a Sabbath day's journey. More accessible, for there is the Public Work's Department's train, is the hotel at Taihape, but that, though the next nearest, is 40 miles away. And on the north the nearest legal place for quenching thirsts with strong stuff is Te Awamutu, further distant still. The normal price of whisky in Okahune is £1 a bottle. It was fairly plentiful at that price, when an official of the Public Works Department visited the district some weeks before Christmas, and the rough, thirsty men at Okahune told him that when Christmas came it would be very plentiful indeed.

Christmas had not long passed when it was strangely scarce. Drought reached a serious point, and a gentleman who passed through Okahune before the holiday excitement and thirst were finished states, as a fact widely vouched for, that a bottle of whisky was disposed of for £6. One man, reckless for the moment, bought two large "nips" at £1 a nip, and the remaining contents of the bottle were, it is said, then put up for auction, and were "knocked down" for £4.

The Officer of the Public Works Department, who is acquainted with Okahune, states that he does not find it difficult to believe this story. The normal price of whisky in the thirsty township is, he says, £1 a bottle, and people who buy a dozen bottles in a licensed district for about £3, and smuggle them into Okahune to be sold at that rate, make a very pretty profit. The Public Works Department, which runs the train to Okahune, is always on the watch for such people, and when an officer of the Department sees a suspicious-looking swag or portmanteau with no obvious owner, he makes examination. Whisky by the dozen bottles can be carried easily, rolled up with the blankets, tent, and other articles that make a bushman's swag. Scores of bottles are seized by officers of the Department, and are sent to the Taihape constable. There is never any inquiry on the part of the owners. Most

of the Department's officers on the line know who the men are who are likely to smuggle liquor in for trade, and, on the first suspicion their baggage is overhauled.

Though it requires some cunning to get liquor in large quantities into Okahune by the train, there is hardly any check on the pack-horse loads that come from Tokaanu and other places. There is always, on the part of many, sympathy, and, perhaps, a covert admiration, for the smuggler, and unless the penalties for breaches of the law are made much heavier, this Public Works official does not think that Okahune and its district will easily be kept "dry."

HOTEL SALES.

Messrs Dwan Bros., Collis street, Wellington, report having made the following hotel sales:—Mr Thomas D. Thomas's interest in the lease, goodwill and furniture of the Levin Hotel, Levin, to Mr Frank Rhodes, late of Bulls; Mr Denis Moynihan's interest in the lease, goodwill and furniture of the Club Hotel, Stratford, to Mrs O'Neill, late of the Masonic Hotel, Cuba street, Wellington; Mr William Butler's interest in the lease, goodwill and furniture of the Martinborough Hotel, Martinborough, to Mr Chas. Brewer, Wanganui; Mr William Pacey's interest in the lease, goodwill and furniture of the Pier Hotel, Kaikoura, to Mr Richard Hickson, late of Foxton; the lease goodwill and furniture of the Red Lion Hotel, Rangiora, to Mr Hubert Collins, late of Levin and well-known on the East Coast, on behalf of the owner, Mr Frank Egan, of Christchurch; Mrs O'Neill's interest in the lease, goodwill and furniture of the Masonic Hotel, Cuba street, Wellington, to Mr Frederick Dobson, late of Manakau; Mrs S. J. Hickson's interest in the lease, goodwill and furniture of the Family Hotel, Foxton, to Mr Charles Bird, Palmerston North; Mr Alfred P. Bishop's interest in the lease, goodwill and furniture of the Porongahau Hotel, Hawke's Bay, to Mr James Callaghan, late of Kaitangata; the lease and goodwill of the Trafalgar Hotel, Nelson, to Mr Charles Eager, late manager of the Empire Hotel, Wellington, on behalf of the owners, Messrs Harley and Sons; Mr A. G. Kimpton's interest in the lease, goodwill and furniture of the Post Office Hotel, Picton, to Mr R. J. Paul, late of the Globe Hotel, Renwickton, B'enheim; Mr Halligan's interest in the Club Hotel, Dannevirke, to Mr H. Baker, Palmerston North; Mr D. Pilmer's interest in the Zealandia Private Hotel, Clyde quay, to Mr J. Bacovich, late of Carterton; Mr Robert Hutcheson's interest in the railway Hotel, Hawera, to Mr Joseph Caldwell, West Coast.

THE BARMAID QUESTION.

In a recent issue of the London L.V. Gazette, we find particulars of an interesting side of the above question.

The deputation from the Barmaids' Political Defence League which waited upon Mr Gladstone at the Home Office, was successful in every possible way. The public interest which it created is perhaps best shown by the fact that there were no fewer than thirty representatives of the Press present, while there were snapshots at the entrance ready to photograph the ladies as they put in an appearance. The deputation consisted of Miss Eva Gore Booth, of the Women's Trade and Labour Council, of Manchester,

