

THE ADVENT OF LAGER BEER.

OPENING CEREMONY AT THE BREWERY.

On Tuesday afternoon Messrs Hancock invited a number of gentlemen to be present at the opening ceremony of their new lager-beer brewery—the first to be established in New Zealand. Over three hundred gentlemen were present, the assemblage including doctors, lawyers, members of Parliament, merchants, publicans, sinners, and other prominent individuals. The guests were received by Mr Moss Davis and his sons, and after a preliminary explanatory address by Mr Metzler (the expert who superintended the erection of the plant) a general inspection was made by all present. We shall be able to give a full description of the plant in a future issue, but lack of space and the lateness of the hour confines us in this number to the particulars of the opening ceremony. We may incidentally remark that the prevalent atmosphere in the vicinity of the plant was of a distinctly Arctic character, and the guests on emerging from the vacuum room welcomed the sunshine, not only for its genial warmth, but as an incentive to that thirst which was so quickly and satisfactorily allayed by sampling the delightful beer, which was lavishly placed at their disposal. A little desultory conversation, and then we all adjourned to the main cellar, which was gaily decorated with bunting. There were long tables spread with various dainties and enticing looking long-necked bottles, while attendants pressed upon each visitor foaming beakers of sparkling amber-hued lager, and while the inner man was refreshed and enlivened the pleasurable excitement was enhanced by strains of appropriate music. Suddenly a muffled report was heard, succeeded by a flash of light, and a general impression gained ground that the Boers had somehow got wind of the opening of the brewery and had come in force to commandeer all the beer. Apprehensions were dissipated, however, when we found that it was only the photographer taking a flashlight photo. of those present. When quiet had been restored, the Hon. E. Mitchellson declared the brewery open and proposed "Success to Messrs Hancock and Company's Lager Beer Factory, coupled with the name of Mr Moss Davis," which was drunk with musical honors. In responding, Mr Davis said that he had travelled all over the world, and had studied the different processes of lager-beer making. He was satisfied that he had got the best process, and, further, he wished his hearers to know that the beer would be made from local products and by local labor. He hoped that the New Zealand public would appreciate the inauguration of a new industry under such circumstances and accord him a generous patronage for his endeavors. It meant keeping the money in the country and finding employment for a great number of people. Although philanthropically inclined he was not altogether a philanthropist in starting the new brewery, as he hoped to personally profit after the great outlay of capital which had been entailed upon him. He thanked those present for their cordial wishes and the way they had drunk his health. "God Save the Queen" was then sung, and cheers given for Her Majesty and Lord Roberts. After which Dr Laishley, who couldn't resist the opportunity of giving a brief resume of his experiences in Germany and the taste he acquired for lager beer while there, proposed "Commerce of Auckland," with which he felt compelled to couple the name of Mr Moss Davis. The last-named gentleman responded to the toast in fitting terms, and, referring to the growth of commerce in New Zealand, expressed his pleasure at seeing Mr J. Mills, of the Union S.S. Company, present. Mr Mills had been one of the most prominent factors in the advance of commerce in New Zealand, and he wished all present to drink his health. Mr Mills briefly acknowledged the toast. He said that during the last few years his company had spent over £500,000, and although at times they had been misjudged they always had at heart the progress of New Zealand. He thanked Mr Davis for his kind remarks. Mr Gerald Peacocke, in a somewhat humorous speech, then proposed the health of the "New Zealand Legislature," coupled with the names of Messrs Kelly, Palmer, and Lawry. He claimed that England's power had to a large extent been built up on beer, and although he was not quite sure what analogy there was between beer and Parliament, still Mr Lawry was an authority on the subject and could make all necessary explanations. Referring to the name "Bismarck," which had been chosen as the brand of the new manufacture, although he had rather something more English had been chosen, still he was satisfied that any beer that Bismarck regularly drank must be good. Mr Peacocke is evidently not aware of the fact that Bismarck died some time ago and is still dead. Mr Kelly replied first, and was followed by Mr Lawry, who was received with cheers. He made an excellent speech, during the course of which he referred to the disabilities under which the publicans suffered. He said that it seemed as though the whole police force of the colony were devoting their attention to persecuting the licensed victuallers. He claimed that although he had always been looked upon as the champion of the Trade in the House he had never been asked a political favor by any one, directly or indirectly, connected with the Trade. Mr Jackson Palmer, who spoke after Mr Lawry, said that although he appeared before them as a moderate he was strongly in favor of amending certain clauses in the existing Liquor Act, which were really an insult to humanity. Under the law, as it stood at present, a publican was obliged to clear an intoxicated man out of his house, for if he attempted to put him to bed or look after him a policeman was liable to bring a charge against him, and he would run the risk of losing his license. He spoke of lager beer as a temperance drink, and complimented Mr Davis on introducing a beverage that would tend to promote sobriety. The "Health of the Licensed Victuallers" was proposed by Mr J. M. Shea and responded to by Mr J. McLeod, the chairman of the Auckland Licensed Victuallers' Association.

Mr McLeod went into the detail of the difficulties a publican had to combat, and put the position of the average licensed victualler very lucidly before his listeners, referring particularly to the system of granting and distributing prohibition orders. A few other speeches were made, and the gathering broke up, after a very enjoyable afternoon, with hearty wishes for the success of the venture.

HANDICAPS.

THE CANTERBURY JOCKEY CLUB'S MIDSUMMER MEETING.

FEBRUARY 22 AND 24.

Table with columns for race names and weights (st lb) for the Halswell Hurdles, one mile and three-quarters.

Table with columns for race names and weights (st lb) for the Hornby Welter, seven furlongs.

Table with columns for race names and weights (st lb) for the Lyttelton Plate, five furlongs.

Table with columns for race names and weights (st lb) for the Craven Plate, seven furlongs.

The Flemington correspondent of the Leader writes:—"Everything is in readiness for the reception of the intercolonial contingent, the several tracks being in the best of order. The arrival of the visitors will necessarily cause things to assume a lively attitude next week, Walter Hickenbotham has been moving Finland and Kenley along in anticipation of determining the two-year-old championship with Haut Boy and any other ambitious youngsters who may come along. Finland is showing to advantage. The same trainer has not been hard on Fleet Admiral, who varies a long, slow exercise with an occasional sprint, which suggests that the Richmond horse is to be tried over short distances during the autumn meetings. Blunderer continues to do all that is being asked of him, and does it with characteristic freedom, while his stable companion, Strathjoy, is also on the improve. Carrara and Model have been eased since their recent victories, but both can be again got ready for action at short notice. Olaf is doing well, albeit he is never asked to do anything good against the watch. They are such a bad lot in the Futurity Stakes that there are more unlikely things than for him to capture the big prize. He is certainly going to have a try for it. Cripps has taken up Scotchman again, and Beau Brummell has also resumed acquaintanceship with the tracks. Burabari tried his hand over the hurdles for the first time, and shaped well for a beginner."

The Premier Picnic will be held at Home Bay, Motutapu on Saturday, February 17. Steamers from Auckland, Thames, Coromandel, Paeroa, Warkworth, Puhoi, Turanga Creek, Howick Wharf, Panmure Bridge, Waipu, Wade, and everywhere. All profits go to the Patriotic Fund.

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Under the Patronage of His Excellency the Governor. DON'T FORGET THE PREMIER PICNIC. HOME BAY, MOTUTAPU, ON SATURDAY NEXT, FEBRUARY 17. ALL PROFITS TO THE PATRIOTIC FUND. No Guns or Dogs Allowed. STEAMERS from Auckland, Thames, Coromandel, Paeroa, Warkworth, Puhoi, Turanga Creek, Howick Wharf, Panmure Bridge, Waipu, Wade, and Everywhere. JOHN McLEOD, A. H. J. RIDER, Hon. Secs.

Arthur Cleave & Co., GENERAL PRINTERS, VULCAN LANE, AUCKLAND.

ACCEPTANCES.

VICTORIA RACING CLUB'S AUTUMN MEETING.

MARCH 3, 5, 8, AND 10.

Table with columns for race names and weights (st lb) for The St. Leger Stakes, one mile and three-quarters.

Table with columns for race names and weights (st lb) for The Newmarket Handicap, six furlongs.

Table with columns for race names and weights (st lb) for The Australian Cup, two miles and a quarter.

AUCKLAND RACING CLUB'S AUTUMN MEETING.

APRIL 16, 17, AND 21.

Table with columns for race names and weights (st lb) for Northern Champagne Stakes, six furlongs.

THE CANTERBURY JOCKEY CLUB'S SUMMER MEETING.

FEBRUARY 22 AND 24.

Table with columns for race names and weights (st lb) for Midsommer Handicap, one mile and a half.

Mr T. B. Bell's br f Rosaphela, by Hotchkiss—Reproach. Mr J. C. Caulton's ch f Kismary, by Hotchkiss—St Mary. Mr J. Chaffee's br f St Olga, by St Leger—Satanella. Major F. Nelson George's ch f Zealous, by Nelson—Mo nga. Mrs Lennard's br c Val Rosa, by Seaton Delaval—Vieux Rose. Mr J. Marshall's ch f Balbirnie, by St Leger—Coalscuttle. Mr J. Marshall's b c Paul Seaton, by Seaton Delaval—Leocant. Mr Dan McLeod's ch f Matamatatarakiki, by St Leger—Bellona. Hon. H. Mosman's b c Hengist, by St Leger—Hilda. Hon. H. Mosman's b f Formula, by Hotchkiss—Formo. Mr L. D. Nathan's br g Beddington, by Seaton Delaval—Miss Letty. Hon. J. D. Ormond's ch c Renown, by Dreadnought—Lyrebird. Hon. J. D. Ormond's blk c Paphos, by Robinson Crusoe—Aphrodite. Hon. J. D. Ormond's br f Apollo, by Dreadnought—Mount Ida. Mr J. G. Ralph's b f Lady Avon, by Soult—First Love. Mr E. J. Watt's ch c Nobility, by St Leger—Lady Emily. Mr G. Wright's b f Aleger, by St Leger—Brown Alice. Mr G. Wright's ch f St Amy, by St Leger—Hazel.

THE CANTERBURY JOCKEY CLUB'S AUTUMN MEETING.

APRIL 16 AND 17.

Table with columns for race names and weights (st lb) for Great Easter Handicap, seven furlongs.

Table with columns for race names and weights (st lb) for Great Autumn Handicap, one mile and a half.

HAWKE'S BAY JOCKEY CLUB'S AUTUMN MEETING.

MARCH 17 AND 19.

Table with columns for race names and weights (st lb) for Hawke's Bay Cup, one mile and a half.

AUCKLAND RACING CLUB'S AUTUMN MEETING.

APRIL 16, 17, AND 21.

Table with columns for race names and weights (st lb) for Easter Handicap, one mile.

Table with columns for race names and weights (st lb) for Hurdle Handicap, two miles, and Autumn Handicap, one mile and a half.

BAY OF PLENTY JOCKEY CLUB'S ANNUAL MEETING.

MARCH 1. WANGANUI JOCKEY CLUB AUTUMN MEETING. MARCH 8 AND 9.

Table with columns for race names and weights (st lb) for Wanganui Cup, one mile and three-quarters, and Flying Handicap, six furlongs.

DUNEDIN JOCKEY CLUB'S AUTUMN MEETING.

MARCH 21, 23, AND 24. DUNEDIN CUP, one mile and a half.

Table with columns for race names and weights (st lb) for Dunedin Cup, one mile and a half.

Table with columns for race names and weights (st lb) for Publicans' Handicap, seven furlongs.

THE CANTERBURY JOCKEY CLUB'S AUTUMN MEETING.

APRIL 16 AND 17. GREAT EASTER HANDICAP, seven furlongs.

Table with columns for race names and weights (st lb) for Great Easter Handicap, seven furlongs.

THE CANTERBURY JOCKEY CLUB'S AUTUMN MEETING.

APRIL 16 AND 17. GREAT AUTUMN HANDICAP, one mile and a half.

Table with columns for race names and weights (st lb) for Great Autumn Handicap, one mile and a half.

HAWKE'S BAY JOCKEY CLUB'S AUTUMN MEETING.

MARCH 17 AND 19. HAWKE'S BAY CUP, one mile and a half.

Table with columns for race names and weights (st lb) for Hawke's Bay Cup, one mile and a half.

AUCKLAND RACING CLUB'S AUTUMN MEETING.

APRIL 16, 17, AND 21. EASTER HANDICAP, one mile.

Table with columns for race names and weights (st lb) for Easter Handicap, one mile.

BUTCHERS' ANNUAL PICNIC. BUTCHERS' ANNUAL PICNIC.

HOME BAY, MOTUTAPU (By kind permission of J. Reid, Esq.). WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21. Boats leave Ferry Company's Wharf at 9 and 10 a.m., and 1.30 p.m. FUN GALORE. Splendid Trophies for Ladies' Races. Toys for the Children. Artillery Band in Attendance. Hot Water Provided Free. No Guns or Dogs allowed. Tickets—Adults, 1s 6d; Children, 6d. W. L. MOYLAN, Secretary.

Are you a student of racing? We offer a big reward to a successful man. Just have a look at the Skill Competition on page 24.