

**THE USES OF ALCOHOL.**

Alcohol, even temperance reformers will admit, has its uses. There is no need to enter on the interminable discussion as to whether it is a food or not, because, apart altogether from its consumption by man, it may be put to a great variety of industrial and artistic uses. Last month an international exhibition of appliances in which alcohol is employed was held in Peru, the only one of the leading commercial nations not represented being Britain. Britain, however, is sufficiently interested in the general subject to recognise that scientific and public institutions ought to be encouraged to experiment with alcohol with a view to extending its usefulness, and pure spirit is now obtainable by these institutions duty free. But the people who deal with alcohol as an article of commerce are still not satisfied. They are urging the Home Government to remove the duty entirely from the methylated spirit. Mr Sigmund Stein, a Liverpool authority, calculates that duty-free alcohol could be sold in Great Britain at tenpence a gallon. This would give a cheap illuminant without smell, and free from the risks of explosion. In Germany, he says, there is scarcely a house that does not use the spirit for heating or cooking. For power purposes, Mr Stein holds, the spirit has much to recommend it. In works, such as laundries and dairies, where cleanliness and purity of atmosphere are highly desirable, alcohol might be employed with great advantage over gas, owing to its freedom from unhealthy fumes. Moreover, it would be much cheaper. Comparing it with the price of Liverpool gas, for example, the cost of alcohol would not be much more than a third. Again, for motors it is preferable to petrol, because it does not explode, and because its calorific value is greater. Mr Stein belongs to a firm of sugar refiners who deal largely in beet, and the removal of the restrictions on the manufacture of the spirit would naturally benefit the sugar manufacturers. The commercial value of alcohol seems to have been more fully recognised in America and in Germany than in Great Britain, and it is reported that quite recently France has decided to remove the duty on methylated spirit, so that Mr Stein and his friends have plenty of evidence to support their agitation.

**"MADE IN GERMANY."**

**DISHONEST TRADE PRACTICES.**

The Customs authorities of New Zealand recently intercepted and confiscated, on arrival at various ports here, consignments of cigarettes, packed so as to resemble the famous Vanity Fair brand. These goods were being imported from Germany—in fact, a previous consignment had been landed and placed on the market—and on its being shown to the satisfaction of the Customs Department that the packages were coloured imitations of the "fragrant Vanity Fair" prompt measures were taken for the confiscation of importations. The exposure is one that will tend to increase the prejudice against goods "made in Germany." These methods of some foreign manufacturers are most reprehensible, and it is to be hoped that no New Zealand trader will either be duped by these unscrupulous persons or will connive at their ways of doing business. It was a most daring idea to pirate the cover of a brand of cigarettes that have been sold in New Zealand since 1873, and which are protected under the Trade Marks Registration law; but, thanks to the acumen and vigilance of the Customs officials, the public are protected from having an inferior article foisted upon them, and at the same time the proprietors of Vanity Fair cigarettes have not been robbed of the great reputation they have gained or of the legitimate profits of their enterprise.

It is only recently that Mr Justice Williams gave one of the most full and clear decisions ever given in a trade mark case, in favour of the proprietors of the Vanity Fair cigarettes against a Southern manufacturer, wherein he stated:—"Knowing that the fragrant Vanity Fair cigarettes had a great reputation he used a wrapper similar to the Vanity Fair wrapper, with the intention of imitating the plaintiff's get-up, in order that the defendant's goods might be mistaken for the goods of the plaintiffs." And now we have a similar case "made in Germany." This is proof of the high quality of Vanity Fair cigarettes, but it is also evidence of what the proprietors of a trade mark have to contend with, owing to unscrupulous people selecting a favourite brand and endeavouring to foist on the unwary purchaser a low grade of goods to make money. The law in Great Britain is stringent in suppressing the sale of any article under a name or guise which might make it liable to be mistaken for some widely-known article of the same character, and the New Zealand Customs Department is to be congratulated on stamping out such practices.

**BIG HOTELS.**

A marked change has come over the character of London hotels in recent years. The somewhat mucky establish-

ments of fifty years ago have given place to huge and palatial mansions. The Grand was the first, but the Savoy and the Metropole followed rapidly, and Jabez Balfour's huge building was transformed into the Hotel Cecil. Other great hostels have been erected even during the past year or two, while many of the older houses have been extended and improved. Claridge's, for instance, was once an almost private hotel. Now it is a caravan-serai with all modern improvements. "The impulse of this enterprise," says Mr H. W. Lucy, "was of itself novel. Our fathers built hotels with the idea of accommodating the public, and, incidentally, making a fair revenue out of their capital. Their sons build hotels in order, primarily, to secure an order for furnishing them from roof to basement." Some idea of the profits of successful hotels was disclosed in a prospectus recently issued by the directors of the Carlton Hotel. When in the summer of 1889 the hotel and restaurant were opened, the modest estimate was made that its net profits would amount to £40,000 a year. In 1901 they were £55,000. Last year they ran up to something over £63,000. Encouraged by this success, the directors are seeking fresh fields and hotels new. They have acquired the Piccadilly sites on which the Walsingham House Hotel and the Bath Hotel have long stood. These will be pulled down and a huge palace of culinary delight built in their stead. "In no department of social life more strikingly than in hotels," says Mr Lucy again, "do the changes in fashion more swiftly and on the face of it more unaccountably display themselves. For a season, or through a succession of seasons, a particular hotel dining or supper-room is the rage with society. Suddenly, like a flock of pigeons, which in other respects they resemble, they fly off to another place. At one time it was "the thing" to lunch or dine on the balcony of the Savoy, overlooking the river. To-day it is the Carlton Hotel, with its French cafe-like arrangement of small tables, chairs, flowers, and a covered-in courtyard, that makes all the running." The big hotel movement is spreading all over the world. We see it even in our colonial cities. It has reached Khar-toum. Arrangements have been made to build huge establishments in South African centres. Probably we owe this fashion, like the fashion in so many other big things, to the Americans.

**WARNER'S NEW HOTEL, CHRISTCHURCH, N.Z.**

This Palatial Hotel is now Complete and Open for the Reception of Visitors.

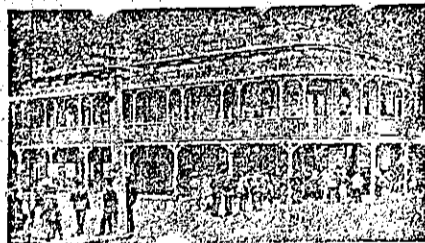
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SUPERBLY FURNISHED THROUGHOUT

The Hotel is now Complete with every Modern Luxury and Comfort. Electric Light throughout.

**PERCY HERMAN**.....Proprietor

**GREYMOUTH.**

**GILMER HOTEL**



**GREYMOUTH.**

This establishment is situated immediately opposite the Wharf and within three minutes' walk of Post Office and Railway Station. From its spacious balcony a grand view is obtained of the surrounding country. Acknowledged to be the leading hotel on the West Coast. Sample Rooms and Billiard Room. Night porter kept. Greymouth Brewery Company all on draught.

**T. OKENHAM**, Proprietor.

**EMPIRE HOTEL,**

CORNER OF TAUNU AND AOKAI STREETS, GREYMOUTH.

**MR Wm. CLAUGHESEY**  
(Late of Ashton's Family Hotel).

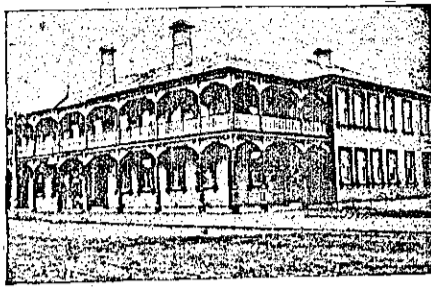
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**A. BEVINS**, Manager.

**HAMILTON HOTEL, HAMILTON, WAIKATO.**

**W. H. BRIGHT**.....Proprietor



**NEW HOTEL (FRONT VIEW)**

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**TERMS: 6s PER DIEM; 30s PER WEEK.**

**CENTRAL HOTEL, QUEEN-STREET, MASTERTON.**



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**MOST UP-TO-DATE**

**INLAND HOTEL**

**IN THE**

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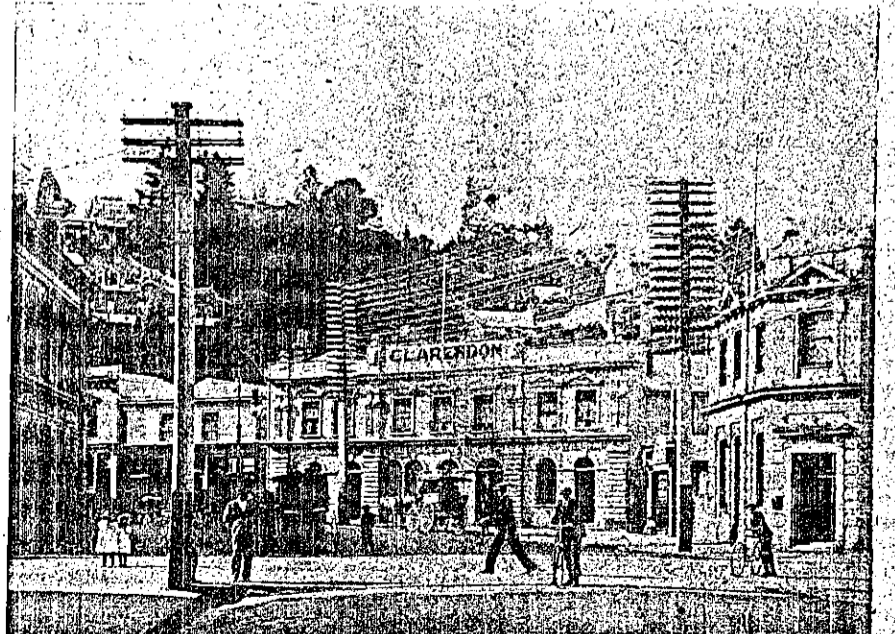
**R. J. HODGINS**.....Proprietor



**CORONATION HOTEL, ELTHAM.**

**JAMES HAWKINS**.....Proprietor.

The above splendid new Hotel is now open for the accommodation of the public. Special provision for comfort of travellers. Best brands of liquor in stock.



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**THE** most central and convenient **FAMILY HOTEL** in Napier, and the recognised resort of Cricketers, Footballers, and other Sportamen. The best of everything at most moderate rates. Special terms for Parties. Only the best brands of Wines and Spirits kept. Speight's Dunedin and Newbiggin's Special Brews on draught. Telephone, No. 90.

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