

which nearly adjoins the hotel, are patrons of this fashionable resort. Mr. D. Collins, the popular proprietor, is an Englishman of wide experience in hotel management, and this fact is at once discernible in every department.

That prohibition has failed to decrease the consumption of alcoholic beverages is clearly shown by the United States Commissioner's report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1909. In twelve years over one-third of the United States, geographically speaking, has gone "dry," and during these twelve years the production of distilled spirits has increased over 100 per cent.; it will scarcely be contended that the population of the United States has increased 100 per cent. in twelve years, therefore the pro rata consumption has also increased.—Captain Smith, of the National Model License League.

The advocates of the prohibition law, when chided with the fact that these laws do not lessen drunkenness nor prevent crime, answer that neither do laws against murder prevent the taking of human life. No attempt has ever been made to prevent murder by forbidding the manufacture or sale of the weapons by which murder is committed. Legislation against murder is directed entirely against the unlawful use of the weapon. The law against murder is the result of the wisdom of the ages, and has accomplished its purpose far more successfully than have the prohibition laws. Then, why should not those persons who would reduce drunkenness and its attendant evils to a minimum, follow the theory of the criminal law by punishing the improper use of the article, rather than seek to prevent its manufacture and sale?—Captain Smith, at National Model License League Convention.

The imports of wine in March from the various wine growing countries of the world totalled 1,507,628 gallons valued at £518,263 which compares with 1,330,343, of the value of £461,837 in March, 1909. France sent more than all the other countries put together, namely, 503,828 gallons of the value of £315,982. Of this quantity, champagne figures for 177,464 gallons of the value of £251,837. This does not include Saumur, which increased from 11,506 to 14,668 gallons. Portugal sent 352,399 as against 321,164 but there was a decline in both Spanish red and white; the imports of the former amounted to only 180,940 gallons as compared with 230,223. Germany's shipment increased from 94,963 gallons valued at £27,722 to 104,484 of the value of £33,835; and Italy sent only 36,184 gallons as compared with 32,271. The Netherlands and Algeria also sent more, but the shipments from Madeira declined from 3,724 to 2,965 gallons. The Australian wine trade shows up exceedingly well, the imports having risen from 66,546 gallons valued at £11,050 to 137,420 of the value of £22,879. This Colonial wine industry (remarks the L.V. Gazette, London) would undoubtedly receive a great filip if the Government would only grant preferential treatment and this will come if the Unionists are returned to power at the next election.

A laugh was caused at the Royal Commission the other morning, says the Ohinemuri Gazette, when Mr. Asher Cassrels was giving evidence. Witness was telling about the depreciation of his property, including the Criterion Hotel. When Mr. Myers came to cross-examine he asked if witness attributed the depreciation of the value of the hotel since 1907 to the flood or to the drought. The sally was immediately recognised in Court, and there was a general laugh.

Referring to the recent test case to determine the responsibilities of vignerons in no-license districts, says the "Wairarapa Daily Times" So far, there are but seven hundred acres of vines in New Zealand, yielding crops which may be worth £200,000 per annum. This is not a large sum, but it constitutes a local industry of a decided value, and the bulk of the money is spent in labour. The community generally approves of this industry. There have been no scandals in connection with the sale or the distribution of the excellent wines it turns out, and on moral grounds there does not appear to be any reason for objection. Mr. Lamb and his fellow vignerons whose vineyards are in or near prohibi-

tion districts have been kept in a state of suspense for the past six months. They had heard of the legal kink, and did not know whether it would compel them to give up their vineyards and start the world again with some other occupation. All has ended happily, but a body of respectable and industrious settlers ought not to be subjected to worries of this kind when they are building up a local industry. We should not have referred to this question only that it has absolutely nothing to do with the broader issue of License and No-License.

While a case under the Licensing Act was before him at the Masterton Magistrate's Court Mr. C. C. Graham, S.M., mentioned that various perfumes contained alcohol, and were consumed by sections of the public. Eau de cologne was particularly fancied by some people. The question was raised by counsel whether the sale of eau de cologne in lesser quantities than two gallons was permissible in a no-license district.

The Dominion Private Hotel, at Levin, better known as Cheeseman's Hotel, was severely damaged by fire on Tuesday, the diningroom being gutted and the kitchen and some bedrooms practically destroyed. The occupants had barely time to get out of the building, having to grope their way through dense smoke. Both building and contents were partially insured.

THE HOTEL EMPLOYEES' DISPUTE.

A FURTHER ADJOURNMENT. ILLNESS OF MR. J. S. PALMER.

The Conciliation Council was sitting the greater part of Monday in connection with the dispute between the Auckland Hotel and Restaurant Employees' Union of Workers and the Auckland Licensed Victuallers' Association and others. The assessors for the employers were Messrs. James Rolleston, John Morrison, and Joseph Molloy, and for the Union of Workers, Messrs. George Phillips, E. Mulligan, and E. Kceami.

Mr. J. S. Palmer appeared for the employers, assisted by Mr. J. H. Pagni, while Mr. Thomas Long appeared for the Union. Leave was granted to add the names of Messrs. Bennett (Marine Hotel, Howick) and Brodie (King's Arms Hotel, Newton), also to alter the names in the case of the Freeman and Wynyard Arms Hotels, owing to changes in licensees. The claim of the Union was for increased wages, shorter hours, and generally improved conditions of working.

Mr. T. Harle Giles (Conciliation Commissioner), in opening the proceedings, suggested that it would facilitate matters if they merged into a conference, and that course was adopted. The conciliation Council was accordingly adjourned sine die, and the assessors became delegates for their respective sides. The whole of Monday was occupied in a general discussion regarding the claims, and a good deal of useful work was done. When the conference was resumed on Tuesday, Mr. Rolleston asked for an adjournment, stating as his reason that Mr. Palmer nearly got to the rooms when he was taken suddenly so unwell that it was imperative to send him home again as quickly as possible.

Under the circumstances, the hearing was adjourned to the sixth of June when, in the event of Mr. Palmer not being able to appear, a substitute will be provided. On the motion of Mr. Phillips, seconded by Mr. Mulligan, a vote of sympathy was passed to Mr. Palmer, and hope was expressed for his speedy recovery.

NEW ZEALAND WINES.

EXEMPT FROM THE LICENSING ACT.

AN IMPORTANT DECISION.

One of the most interesting cases that has come before the Masterton Magistrate's Court for some time was heard on Friday, before Mr. C. C. Graham, S.M., when William George Lamb was charged, at his own request, with selling liquor and keeping it for sale within the No-License area of Masterton. Mr. Lamb contended that on account of the fact that his wine was manufactured from New Zealand grapes, no breach was committed, and in order that a test case might be brought before the next sitting of the Supreme Court in Masterton he asked Sergeant Miller to witness an alleged breach of the Act. The whole point of the proceedings lies in the fact that

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 - 5 Years' Lease; rent, £7; trade, £68. Price, £2700.
 - 6 Years' Lease; rent, £7; trade, £80. Price, £3400.
 - 5 Years' Lease; rent, £2 10s; trade, £25. Price, £700.
 - 4 1/2 Years' Lease; rent, £18; trade, £150. Price, £3500.
 - 8 1/2 Years' Lease; rent, £10; trade, £150. Price, £5200.
 - 3 1/2 Years' Lease; rent, £2 10s; trade, £45. Price, £1050.
 - 3 1/2 Years' Lease; rent, £12 10s; trade, £160. Price, £4000.
 - 3 Years' Lease; rent, £5; trade, £50. Price, £2000.
 - 3 1/2 Years' Lease; rent, £3; trade, £25. Price, £1000.
 - 2 1/2 Years' Lease; rent, £4 10s; trade, £70. Price, £1600.
 - 3 Years' Lease; rent, £3 10s; trade, £40. Price, £1000.
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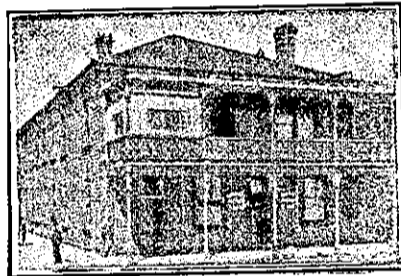
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