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SCOTCH AND IRISH WHISKY.

Large Increase in the Imports of
Liquor from Great Britain in 1895.

A disquieting reminder of the encroaching influence of the "demon drink" is furnished by the official figures just at hand of the importations of Scotch and Irish whisky to this country from Great Britain.

The figures show that the United States received (most of it through the port of New York) 255,911 gallons of Scotch and Irish whisky last year. That is 60,000 more gallons than the United States ever before took in the way of imports in any single year.

While the importation of ordinary bulk whiskies of the cheaper varieties to the United States from Ireland or Scotland in casks has steadily been falling off (35,000 gallons at the port of New York in 1888, 34,000 gallons in 1892, and 26,000 in 1895), the importation of case goods, as Scotch and Irish whisky in bottles is called in the trade, has steadily increased, from 9,000 dozen in 1888 to 12,000 dozen in 1892, and 18,000 dozen in 1895.

One explanation of the increased consumption of Scotch and Irish whisky of the better grades is furnished by the fact that it has become quite a fad in the leading clubs and in many private houses throughout the United States to drink Scotch or Irish whisky with soda, a form of beverage for which American whisky, either rye or bourbon, is not apparently well suited. American whisky seems best when taken straight or in the form of mixed drinks, and whisky and soda is not a popular combination among American drinkers, though brandy and soda has been tenaciously popular, and has shown no signs of losing the favor of any of those who regard it as a good combination. The American tariff on foreign spirits was subjected to many radical alterations by the Wilson bill. Under the McKinley tariff act, brandy "and all other spirits manufactured or distilled from grain or other material" paid a tax of two dollars and fifty cents a proof gallon on importation. The Wilson bill reduced this to one dollar and eighty cents, but it made no change in the schedule of charges on champagne or still wine. On artificial mineral waters, used quite extensively with imported whisky or brandy, it raised the rate from 16 cents a gallon to an ad valorem duty of 20 per cent. Ale, porter and beer, in bottles or jugs, taxed 40 cents a gallon under the McKinley bill, are let in at 30 cents under the Wilson bill.

England's exports of spirits constitute quite an important element of her commerce. In the year 1895 the total amount of such exportations from England, chiefly in the form of Scotch and Irish whisky, was 4,124,148 gallons, of which the United States took only a small fraction, the great bulk of the exports going to the British colonies. The English customs tariff is not favorable to the importation of spirituous liquor of foreign manufacture. The custom house tax on each proof gallon, in its equivalent of American money, is two dollars and seventy cents, and this is practically prohibitory. The English duty on wine is about 50 cents a gallon and on champagne 40. The importations of genuine Holland gin into the United States have been declining of late years, though the reduction made by the Wilson bill has resulted in an increase recently.

"Horning" Professors.

Many college men will be interested in knowing just what the practice of "horning" professors is, there having been several references in the newspapers lately to trouble at Dartmouth over this custom. President Tucker, of Dartmouth, gives what may be considered an official definition of this form of disorder. It is an expression of dissatisfaction among students with a professor, and consists of a "noisy and insulting demonstration against the instructor at his office or at his residence." Sometimes it is "attended with damage to property, but not with violence to person."—N. Y. Tribune.

"Billy" Porter's Fad.

William H. Porter, otherwise known as "Billy" Porter, a young millionaire who lives in Brooklyn, has developed a fad that promises to make him famous. Every night, rain or shine, snow or hail, in freeze or thaw, Mr. Porter turns out on a bicycle to every fire. In order that he may be promptly on the scene Mr. Porter has had a fire alarm rigged in his bedroom, and he claims he beats the engine every time.

Learn to Box.

Lord Wolsey, addressing the Brigade of Guards, strongly recommended every soldier to learn how to box. There was nothing, he said, that required more pluck, and nothing so likely to bring out the fine qualities of an athlete.

An Australian Meteor.

A meteor which fell in Australia recently had a large mass of pure copper imbedded in one side.

BURIED WITH POMP.

A Queer Incident of the Cuban Revolution of Thirty Years Ago.

What is a historical fact in Cuba and what appears to be a second edition of "Who Killed Cook Robin?" is an interesting story related by Col. Figueredo, a noted Cuban leader, says the Pittsburgh Dispatch.

It appears that years ago a Spaniard with an idea of rendering a valuable service to the city of Havana brought from Spain a large number of sparrows similar to the English variety, and which were thought to be useful as a city bird in forming an army of diminutive city scavengers. Imagine his surprise and anger when upon arriving at the city he was charged an excessive duty on the little birds. In a fit of passion he liberated all the birds and became involved in trouble for trying to evade the custom dues.

The sparrows invaded the city, where they multiplied in a surprising manner. They proceeded to wage war upon a small city bird, which they drove entirely from the city limits. For this act the Cubans called them the Spanish bird, and in time began calling the Spaniards "gorrion," which means sparrow. On this trifling subject a very bitter feeling obtained a foundation. It was carried so far that the Spaniards recognized the sparrow as the emblematic bird, much as we Americans look upon the eagle, and they zealously guarded the welfare of the midget.

After the outbreak of the revolution in 1895 the bitterness in this line as well as others became intensified. One day a sentinel on guard at the palace in Havana found the body of a dead sparrow, which had fallen from one of the trees in the park. With the greatest care and reverence he took the little body before a council of volunteers then being held. The volunteers deliberated over the death of the bird, and on the impulse of the moment they passed resolutions of respect for the deceased sparrow, and made an assessment among the members of the volunteers whereby they raised \$60,000, the idea being to give the little Spanish sparrow a most imposing funeral. A skillful silversmith was summoned before a committee, and ordered to make a beautiful casket of silver, to be elaborately trimmed with gold, for the bird. The handsomest hall in the city was obtained, and the drapers put to work to prepare it for the reception of the sparrow, which was to lie in state. In the center of this hall a richly decorated catafalque was erected, and on this the little casket containing the remains of the sparrow was placed.

All the city and military officers visited the hall and paid homage to the bird. The volunteers appointed a strongly armed body to guard the remains. A bishop was forced to officiate at the ceremonies. While the body was lying in state the occupants of the houses on the streets on which the funeral procession was to march were ordered to have their houses draped.

When the day of the funeral arrived the volunteers were out in full force, and the procession was one of the most imposing. During the march several persons lost their lives. One was observed on the sidewalk laughing and presumably ridiculing the demonstration, and one of the volunteers shot him down in his tracks. A house was passed that had not been draped for the occasion, and one of the inmates, being seen by the volunteers, was also shot. After a lengthy march the casket was returned to the starting point.

About this time an unfortunate cat, presumably of Cuban inclination—as a Spanish cat would never have been guilty of such an act—was discovered on a housetop eating one of these sparrows. The amazed feline was seized, tried, and after a speedy court-martial was brought out into the public square, and four skilled marksmen were selected as executioners.

Potato Croquettes.

Boil and mash very thoroughly four or five large potatoes, adding salt, pepper, and milk or cream. Whip them up with a fork, and add the white of one egg beaten to a froth. Form them into oblong rolls with the hands, and dip them into the yolk of the egg, and then into rolled cracker. Fry a nice brown in deep, hot lard.—Ladies' World.

Good Reason Why.

Teacher—What was that you threw then, Master Snow?
Pupil—Spitball, mum.
Teacher—Paper ball, I think you mean. It is very naughty to throw missiles in the schoolroom. Girls never throw paper balls.
Pupil—What's the use? They couldn't hit anybody if they did.—Boston Transcript.

—Sorrow is Mount Sinai, if one will but go up and talk with God face.—Beecher.

—The chameleon is almost the only reptile provided with an eyelid.



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Sugar 25c	Bacon 25c	Lard 25c
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