

## THE SPRING VALLEY BREWERY AT YOKOHAMA

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The following highly interesting account of the rise and progress of the Spring Valley Brewery, has been communicated to us:-

An instance of the striking success which, in the majority of cases, attends on well-directed, persevering industry, was brought to the notice of the writer in a recent chance visit paid by him to the extensive and complete premises occupied by the Spring Valley Brewery, in the Bluff concession of this port.

As long since as the year 1865, the probability of a local establishment being able to supply the beer-drinking community in Japan with a beverage which might in great part supplant that so largely imported, suggested itself to two speculative foreigners, Messrs. Campbell and Langthorne, the former English, the latter American. Entering into an association these two gentlemen selected as the site of their operations the spot where the present brewery now stands, and which admirably adapted for the purpose they had in view. Here beer was first brewed In Japan thirteen years ago; but, either because in those days the foreign denizens of Yokohama were so rich or so extravagant as to despise any but the produce of the famed distant vats of Burton, Edinburgh, and Dublin, or because the projectors had not sufficient knowledge of their art to make their liquor palatable, or capital enough to work and wait until it created a reputation and a market, they soon abandoned their enterprise; and the buildings they had erected were subsequently pulled down. In 1868, a shrewd man of business and old resident in Yokohama, Mr. Hegt, a

Dutchman having secured the services of a practical German brewer, Mr. Wiegand, who in his home and the United States - especially San Francisco - had had considerable experience in his trade, put up on lot No. 48, Bluff, just above the spot where the German Hospital now stands, the necessary tenements and apparatus for the working of a brewery on a rather restricted scale. So successful was his experiment that the example he set was soon followed by Mr. Copeland - a Norwegian - who commenced the following year to lay out and organise a rival establishment on the slope of the hill leading from the General Hospital to the village of Honmoku, on the ground previously occupied by Campbell and Langthorne. His first brew was in January, 1870. In 1869, too, the Hegt venture requiring larger premises, other and more extensive buildings were erected, by the proprietor, on the Bluff lot 68, not far from his first establishment; and the staff and plant were transferred to the new location. From that time the rival breweries continued in separate operation until June 1876, when the owners coming to an arrangement entered into partnership, and amalgamated the concerns, thus virtually creating for their industry a monopoly which has since continued in force, and which, it is but justice to its holders to state, they have not abused. On the contrary their customers have probably benefited by their collusion, while Messrs. Copeland and Wiegand have been enabled by working together, to devote such outlay of energy and capital to their joint undertaking, as has placed them in a position, apparently, of strength sufficient to set any possible future competition, except of a kind more formidable than is likely arise, at defiance. All the work of producing the "Yokohama beer" now so extensively consumed in the open ports, on board the shipping visiting Yokohama, and even in Shanghai, is now performed at the Spring Valley

Brewery, although the lease of the other promises on lot No. 68, Bluff, opposite the General Hospital, has still couple of years to run. For a short time after the agreement come to by the two partners, the operation of malting was continued in the latter establishment. One evening, however, towards the close of last summer, clouds of smoke commenced to issue from the roofs and windows, and were quickly followed by columns of flame. Through accidental neglect on the part of one of the native workmen, the shaft of a furnace had been allowed to take fire, and the blaze was rapidly communicated to the floor above. Owing to the exertions of a number of Bluff residents, and men of native and foreign fire brigades, the destruction wrought was confined to a part of the building first attacked. At one time, indeed, many of the frail and combustible cottages in the neighbourhood were in great danger of ignition; and the people who were in them at that time have probably not forgotten the dense and acrid smoky volumes which invaded their dwellings, and provoked in many cases violent sternutation, an effect due to the pungency contributed to the invading vapours by the seething malt.

In the direction of the fishing village of Honmoku, the last of the Bluff lots bear the numbers 121, 122, 123, and 124. They comprise the considerable area of 3,000 tsabo, fenced in, and containing the advantaged of a large pond situated above, and a moderate sized hill at the back of the premises. The former is in great part artificial. It is of circular shape, from six to ten feet in depth, has the centre a island garden, a boat on its bosom, and abundance of fish in its waters. If in the winter frosts it could only be induced to freeze, this little lake would be the delight and glory of the skaters of the settlement, who at present are restricted in the exercise of their evolutions to a small rice field in the vicinity of the rifle range, flooded, when the thermometer marks a lower point than 82°F., nightly by the proprietor, and affording a surface not so smooth as, and hardly larger than, an ordinary English billiard table. This exaggeration, by the way, does not extend so far in one direction as Mark Twain's does in another, when he says that a game at billiards on an English board is like playing marbles on a ten acre lot. No particular beauty is claimed for the pond at present. It might be compared to a big round pie dish with an inverted tea-cup in the middle, and surrounding ground is as yet uncultivated; but a large reservoir is useful in collecting and keeping always ready a valuable motive power, which, when

required, can be employed, for working the malt-crushing mills and other machinery. One morning a few months ago, numbers of the fish were found dead or dying on the surface of the water, which had been poisoned by some miscreant during the night. Some finny philosophers preserved their lives by the exercise of laudable ingenuity. They were observed, in panting and perspiring\* numbers, as near as they could get to the spots in the bank whence rills of fresh water were trickling into their domain; and they kept their positions, consistently imbibing the freshly filtered fluid, until the bulk of the contents of the pond was purified or renewed, when they returned to their subaqueous habitations.

Part of the land between the pool and the brewery, and close to that part of the latter where on the first floor is Mr. Copeland's private residence, is a garden not yet fully laid out. On its upper fringe we were shown some Californian apple trees, introduced by the proprietors with a view to their acclimatisation, and future propagation. It is to be regretted that, in spite of the care bestowed upon them, these trees, though they look fairly healthy, are unproductive, the climate of Yokohama having proved unsuitable for their culture.

Recently completed, running between the hill and the pond, and passing under, from one end to the other, the brewery premises, is a large covered stone-built drain of oval form, 6ft. deep, by 4ft. wide at the centre. This work was undertaken and carried through by a contractor for the local Government, and has been moat thoroughly performed. It is intended to carry of the surplus drainage, which, coming in large quantities from the upper levels of the Bluff, was a source of frequent peril and constant anxiety to the native and foreign residents of the gorge it permeated and the village below. It was finished just in time to be specially serviceable during the recent heavy rains, the flow caused by which, at the highest, did not half fill it. Mr. Copeland estimates that its presence saved his firm alone a damage which could hardly have been covered by \$2,000, whereas, in spite of the unprecedented downpour, they have not sustained loss to the value of a dollar. A melancholy and fatal accident occurred during the progress of the work last June. Two men were shovelling in the cutting below the hill, a portion of which they were actually undermining without taking the precaution to support the overhanging mass. A huge portion

of this, loosened above by rain and below by the labourers, suddenly detached itself and fell. One man was warned by the noise of a few precursory fragments rolling down, and hastened to scramble from the hole. Before he could get quite of the peril, however, he was caught by the gravelly avalanche, which buried him to the neck. His head was left exposed; and so he was able to breathe and visible to other workmen, who quickly extricated and sent him to hospital. He lay bedridden for some time badly bruised and shaken, but subsequently recovered. The body of his unhappy comrade was not found for more than half-an-hour after this accident. It was at last dug out from under six feet of superincumbent earth which had jammed it against the root of a tree, and evidently inflicted an almost instantaneous and painless death by suffocation.

The hill on the property is not valued so much for the view to be obtained from its summit, though that is excellent, nor for the timber on its sides, though there is plenty of that, but for the quality of the water it supplies, and the cellarage it affords. The water being singularly pure, is collected in a deep and wide reservoir constructed in the bank, whence it is taken off as required for brewing purposes. The cellars are vaulted passages, cut through the clay formation of the bed of the hill, and extending for several hundred feet inward. Here, in a temperature always nearly equable, and in the greatest heats of summer thirty degrees lower than the outside air, are stowed rows after rows of hogsheads and kilderkins, full of ale and beer. Other vaults contain replete bottles innumerable, in such cohorts indeed that the question suggests itself, where is the market for these imprisoned seas of liquid? The answer is that large quantities from this establishment are consumed daily in the hotels, and the public and private houses of Yokohama. Considerable supplies are sent to Tokio; and the thirst of dwellers in Nagasaki, Hiogo, Hakodate and places less accessible, is to be assuaged by some of the fluids we are now surveying. Shanghai and even Hong-kong contribute to the business of a firm which, sparing no expense to perfect their apparatus and appliances, and steadily striving to supply their customers with a genuine beverage, have acquired and are adding to their reputation. The ships which visit the port - men-of-war especially - give them large orders. Their transactions are extensive enough to provide ample employment for their two selves, one experienced European manager, Mr. Eyton to wit, who formerly was in responsible

charge of Mr. Hegt's business, one foreman, and a staff of the average number of thirty Japanese.

This is not the place, even were space available, to enter into a minute detailed description of the various processes of brewing and the implements and utensils used. Suffice it hereafter to say that, the firm whose premises we have visited have all that is necessary, and halt at no improvement. Their subterranean vaults and patent cooling vats, enable to brew all through even the hottest summer months. During that period, however, they confine themselves to the production of the "lager" beer which finds a ready local sale and needs no keeping. In the winter they work steadily, and accumulate their year's stock of "English" ale. "Bock" and "Bavarian" beer, demanded by the better class of customers in their neighbourhood and elsewhere. A distillery, for which the greater part of the apparatus is already on the spot, will shortly be added to the brewery.

We were politely taken round all the buildings from the fowl house, and roomy stables, the tin-lined, rat-proof store rooms for malt and hops, to the comfortable private dwellings of the proprietors, and noticed everywhere the pleasing results of good order and industry. An observation made in the coopers' shed, and which may serve to indicate the way the wind blows, is worth recording. In the course of giving some information about the casks used, and the repairs and treatment they required, Mr. Wiegand stated that they are all imported now from San Francisco, whence also the wood needed to mend them is brought. No timber, he added, a proposition the truth of which we have verified by subsequent inquiry, can be found in Japan suitable for the manufacture of beer barrels. But the master paid a most cordial tribute of commendation to the native coopers in his employ, who, he remarked, when they had once learned their trade, its new phase, were quite equal, if not superior, to their fellows in Europe and America. And, to give additional emphasis to this assertion, he spoke of the future probability of his importing, instead of the casks themselves, the rough material for making them on the spot. Meanwhile we can testify that kegs shown us, made out of foreign timber by the brewery workmen, for strength and finish leave nothing to be desired.

Attached to the brewery is a *genuine Bier-Garten*, which lies at the foot of the property. The beer for the

consumption of visitors is stored in a vault in the hill, at the rear of the tavern, and in this cave, as well as in the cellars of the brewery, the temperature is in summer heat thirty degrees below ruling outside. The garden is furnished with small pavilions, and hither in the hot afternoons and the cool evenings that follow them, repair parties of such sensible sailors of all nations on leave, as prefer the fresh country air, the bright sky, and pleasant breeze, with a song and a glass or more of generous, newly drawn, clean, cold malt liquor, to the stifling atmosphere of the Homura dens, and the obscenity and poison retailed therein. Until recently this little beer garden used to be let by the proprietors to some foreigners or other. Lately they have found it more to their own benefit and that of visitors to keep this concern,

like the rest of premises, under their own nominal control, subject to which, accordingly, with the aid of a responsible and trustworthy Japanese manager, it is now conducted.

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\*There is good authority for supposing that members of the piscine race are capable of transpiration, from the effects of great exertion, emotion, or sea-sickness:-

The sun's perpendicular heat  
Illuminates the depth of the sea;  
The fishes, beginning to sweat,  
Cry, hang it, how hot we shall be!