

60. What price is Juno sold at at the present time supposing you were selling a stick?—Ninepence.

61. Do you know anything about the weights being altered?—I received a circular some time ago from the local distributing agent that after the date of the circular the number of plugs of Juno would be larger than they had been—in other words, that a plug would be lighter.

62. How long has Juno been on the market?—A great many years.

63. And the assumed weights hitherto have been what?—I gathered from their circular that from the date of the circular the plugs of Juno would be put up lighter than they had been, and would run more to the pound.

64. In the assumed weights in the past how many went to the pound?—From seven to seven and a half: nominally seven.

65. What now is the assumed weight?—We are still selling the same tobacco at 9d. per plug.

66. It is the count-out to the pound: did the circular say anything about seven and a half or seven?—I do not know as to that. I did not bring the circular with me.

67. You have already admitted that Juno has been reduced in weight?—Yes, each plug.

68. Who then makes the profit in the reduced weight?—The retailer.

69. Consequently it is better for the retailer and worse for the consumer?—Quite so.

70. *The Chairman.*] Have you any idea of the extent of the tobacco trade which the American trust controls here?—I have no means of knowing exactly, but I should say it was roughly from 80 per cent. to 90 per cent. of the trade in the colony. I have not worked it out.

71. Do you buy pipes from the trust as well?—No.

72. *Mr. Witherford.*] Who is the tobacconist you refer to as being intimidated in regard to the sale of tobacco? You said you only knew of one who had been dictated to?—What I said was that one wholesale merchant in Wellington had been told that he must either drop selling one line—that is, give up the agency for an outside line—or give up the agency for the American company's goods. That was actually done.

73. *Mr. Hardy.*] It was a distributing firm?—It was one of the American company's distributing agents.

74. And they were told they must either cease selling the other tobacco or give up the agency?—They were given an alternative. They were either to stop stocking a certain line of cigarettes or give up the agency for the American Tobacco Company.

EXHIBITS.

A.

[Handed in by AUSTIN WALSH, first witness.]

IMPORTATION OF TOBACCO.

RETURN showing the Quantities and Values of Tobacco, Cigars, Cigarettes, and Snuff imported into the Colony of New Zealand during the Year ended the 31st March, 1904; also the Quantity of each cleared for Home Consumption during the same Period.

Whence.	Tobacco : Raw.		Tobacco : Manufactured.		Cigars.		Cigarettes.*		Snuff.	
	lb.	£	lb.	£	lb.	£	lb.	£	lb.	£
United Kingdom ..	..	..	241,051	28,531	10,337	5,202	44,382	13,138	1,220	124
Victoria ..	7,038	357	281,492	23,115	3,624	1,528	80	31	..	..
New South Wales ..	..	..	10,549	979	32,086	8,559	7,996	2,454	..	..
Fiji ..	6,451	289	..	..	59	19	..	..	..	..
Hongkong ..	..	..	85	5	759	221	..	..	..	..
Bengal ..	..	..	..	..	575	218	..	..	..	..
Bombay ..	..	..	..	..	196	49	..	..	..	..
Madras ..	..	..	..	..	337	44	..	..	..	..
Ceylon ..	..	..	..	..	44	23	..	..	..	..
British Columbia ..	..	..	..	..	64	21	5	10	..	..
Malta ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	229	71	..	..
France ..	..	..	..	..	915	233	..	..	..	..
Austria ..	..	..	..	..	120	34	..	..	..	..
Switzerland ..	..	..	136	43	4,893	1,454	..	..	..	..
Germany ..	764	108	169	12	12,384	4,146	1,377	34	..	..
Belgium ..	..	..	..	..	818	200	..	..	..	..
Holland ..	..	..	..	..	82	30	..	..	..	..
Tripoli ..	..	..	9	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
Turkey ..	..	..	62	15	..	..	258	120	..	..
United States of America—	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
East Coast ..	39,204	1,762	1,603,257	124,310	6,285	3,853	188,088	45,851	..	..
West Coast ..	..	..	2	1	158	80	..	..	..	..
Egypt ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	562	414	..	..
West Indies ..	..	..	..	..	1,903	1,468	..	..	..	..
Argentina ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12	3	..	..
Philippines ..	..	..	..	..	4,831	1,102	..	..	..	..
Friendly Islands ..	..	..	6	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total importations ..	53,457	2,516	2,136,818	177,013	80,470	28,484	242,939	62,126	1,220	124
Quantity cleared ..	36,568	..	1,885,764	..	76,022	..	†94,199	..	1,387	..

* Cigarettes, overweight: Importations included in "Cigarettes"; quantity cleared, 13,646 oz. † Thousands.

W. T. GLASGOW,

Secretary and Inspector.

Department of Trade and Customs, Wellington, 26th July, 1904.