

and shipping. This life appealed to me as I came from seafaring ancestors. It must have been in the blood. I was sometimes sent to Port Levy to weigh in potatoes for the old "Mountain Maid" for Sydney, or to weigh Port Cooper cheese, also for Sydney. Down on the wharves to weigh out whalebone from Hugh Buchanan's station at Paraki; often boarding ships, of which our firm was sometimes the agent, with the ship's papers; mixed up with the merchandise - anything and everything.

In my nineteenth year I was appointed super-cargo on the old brig "Windhover" belonging to the same firm, and sent to Valparaiso, South America, to buy wheat which was then scarce in New Zealand. I bought two cargoes and I remember that I weighed in every bag of these cargoes, and some months afterwards weighed them out this end, one cargo being delivered to Lane's Mill on the Island at Hereford Street, and the other cargo to Wood's Mill at Riccarton.

I then had experience amongst merchandise of every kind and salesmanship. I remember well that we dealt largely in liquore at that time. I am noting this just to refer to the change in what people drink.

Whiskey in the early days was not much known - in fact I do not remember whiskey in the first instance. It was Brandy and Geneva, red-cased J.D.K.Z. This came from Holland, and was the almost universal spirit, and rum. Whiskey was a later innovation.