Castlemaine Brewery.

The business of the Castlemaine Brewery and Wood Brothers and Co., Newcastle, Limited, was founded by Messrs. John and Joseph Wood in 1866, and was incorporated into a limited liability company in 1887, with a capital of £500,000, and so highly were the proprietors held in repute in the commercial world, that the demand for the shares exceeded many times the allotment set apart for the public. The business has continued to expand, and at the present time Wood's Castlemaine ale is a household word not only in Newcastle and district but throughout the whole of New South Wales. From time to time extensive alterations to premises and plant were found necessary to meet the requirements of trade, and recently the brewery was thrown out of commission with a view of effecting still greater improvements. These, which are being carried out under the supervision of their capable brewer, Mr. E. G. Bushell, consist of the erection of cask sheds (now covering the greater portion of their spacious yard), new cellar floors of concrete, metal mash tun, copper boiler, hop back, fermenting tuns, and vessels of various descriptions of modern design, together with an ammonia cooling machine with a service throughout the building. The latter is an important adjunct to the brewery, as in the changeable climate of the north it gives a brewer a better control of his fermentations. During the progress of alterations, which will be completed before the celebration of the Newcastle centenary, operations are carried on in the company's second brewery, purchased by them a few years ago from the Great Northern Brewing Co., and the article turned out therefrom is quite up to the usual standard of excellence.

The picture included in our list of illustrations represents the front of the building only, the spacious cellars, malt floors, and grain storage not being observable. The kiln, cask washing, engine house (with two boilers and two engines), cooperage, and other accessories cannot for want of space be described, but they are perfect in every detail and of very large dimensions.

The cellars and malt floors are the largest in the colony. On the latter the company have this season treated about 18,000 bushels of barley, which, owing to the failure of the crop in the North, had nearly all to be imported. The directors of the company are Messrs. Joseph Wood (chairman), W. K. Lochhead, M. D. McEacharn, and Hon. N. Fitzgerald, with J. E. Cooke (manager), and R. Steele (secretary).