FOOD AND ALCOHOL

will cost $8\frac{1}{2}$ d. instead of $7\frac{3}{4}$ d. That is to say, a man would get rather more than three pints of the weak beer at the same price as one pint of the strong beer, whereas at present he gets rather less than $2\frac{1}{4}$ pints of it. Hence he would have a considerable inducement to substitute the weaker beer, especially if he had a genuine thirst which needed to be assuaged. He could not only drink three times the volume of weak beer, but he would, in addition, run no risk of intoxication.

As the prices suggested do not work out to convenient whole numbers, it would, in practice, be necessary to issue the very weak beer at a slightly greater alcoholic strength (say 3 per cent.), so as to bring its price to 3d. a pint, whilst the strong beer could be issued at a slightly smaller or greater strength, so as to bring its cost to 8d. or to 9d. a pint.

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