

two Prohibitionists, men of good standing in their district, and who spoke most highly of him as a police officer, and of his character generally. The charge against him can fitly be described as vexatious.

Charge No. 10.—“I hereby charge Sergeant O’Grady with having acted in an improper manner towards Mrs. Mary Simpson, in that he has on various occasions suggested that he should have sexual intercourse with her, and that on one occasion he brought two men to her house in Reid Street, Oamaru, and asked her to have improper relations with them, telling her that they had plenty of money, and she was to make them pay well for it, and that the Sergeant on these various occasions was under the influence of liquor.—T. E. TAYLOR.”

Finding.—A charge somewhat similar in terms to the above (No. 10) was lodged with us on behalf of Mrs. Mary Simpson. It was in Mr. T. E. Taylor’s handwriting, and varied from the above in that it alleged that Sergeant O’Grady asked her that the “two men” should be allowed to enter her house for immoral purposes. Mrs. Simpson’s charge was withdrawn by her, whereupon Mr. Taylor lodged the above charge himself. Mrs. Simpson was too ill to attend before the Commission, and at Mr. Taylor’s request we attended at her house with Press reporter and our own reporter; but owing to Mrs. Simpson being so very ill and so much distressed at our coming to her house, we could not take her evidence. No other evidence was tendered. Letters bearing upon this matter appear in the Appendix.

Charge No. 11.—That Constable Patrick McGill is of intemperate habits, and on the 9th and 10th of April, 1898, was in a state of drunkenness on the public streets. Also, that in connection with the collection of the dog-tax in Sydenham he has displayed gross carelessness in registering dogs in Sydenham which ought to have been registered in Springston district. In the case of an intended visit of inspection *re* kerosene licenses, he informed the person concerned—viz., one Bowden, of the intended visit.

Finding.—The records show that Constable Patrick McGill, about the 7th day of March, 1890, was compelled to resign in consequence of drunkenness, and that about the 5th June, 1890, he was reinstated. Since that time, according to the evidence before us (and some of which was given by many well-known leading men, both in business and out of business in Christchurch, and who have had frequent, and, indeed, almost daily and nightly opportunities of observing Constable McGill), it appears that his conduct as regards temperance has been satisfactory. The charge that he “is of intemperate habits” is quite disproved. The specific charges of his drunkenness on the 9th and 16th of April, 1898, were not proved. The charges against Constable McGill in connection with the collection of the dog-tax and inspection *re* kerosene licenses we did not investigate, as these duties were not in his capacity as a police officer.

Charge No. 12.—That Inspector Emerson has neglected to enforce the Gaming and Lotteries Act, and on occasions shown open sympathy with those accused—as in the prosecution of Robinson and others.

Finding.—We are of opinion that such neglect has not been proved; but we are of opinion that his conduct during the hearing of a prosecution of two spiellers at Napier was indiscreet and improper.

Complaints by Various Persons, and Findings thereon.

Charge by Mr. James Brown against Sergeant Hannan, of Stafford, of acting dishonourably in reference to the purchase of certain property of Miss Conway, at Stafford Town, West Coast.

Finding.—We find this charge, so far as it relates to Miss Conway’s property, fully proved, and are of opinion that the circumstances show that Sergeant Hannan should no longer be retained in the Police Force of the colony. Miss Conway, of Stafford, by the death of her mother, became under her will entitled to a certain hotel, land, billiard-table, and other property. Sergeant Hannan was Clerk of the Court and agent for Public Trustee at Stafford at the time of Miss Conway’s mother’s death, and was on friendly terms with the family. His wife was at Mrs. Conway’s death-bed. He led Miss Conway to believe he was her friend, and represented to her that he knew some one who would buy the hotel property, but that he could not get more for her than £135 for the whole property. He represented, further, to her that one Henne, a rival hotelkeeper at Stafford, would not buy her property from her,