

beer, or beer, or any other refreshment; but the establishment would be closed—the drinking portion of it.

*Mr. Taylor* : Not against the *bonâ fide* traveller?

*Mr. Lodder* : There would be no one to supply him. The other servants would be engaged on other duties.

*Mr. Taylor* : People could get everything they wanted except liquor?

*Mr. Lodder* : They could get the eating part of what they wanted.

*Mr. Mandel* : To close on a half-holiday would encourage people to break the law.

*Mr. Taylor* : Do you do a considerable trade in cigars and cigarettes on the half-holiday that the other shops—including tobacconists—are observing, as has been stated this morning?

*Mr. Mandel* : If it were brought in by Act of Parliament that hotelkeepers could not keep cigars and cigarettes we should not object. They are not profitable.

*Mr. Taylor* : You desire to have the right of the hotelkeepers to sell cigars and cigarettes abolished?

*Mr. Mandel* : Yes, on the half-holiday.

*Mr. Lodder* : That is, when the tobacconists and others are closed. But that is not one of the things that we wish to press before the Committee.

*Mr. Taylor* : But you have no objection to the right of the hotelkeepers to sell cigars and cigarettes on the half-holiday being abolished?

*Mr. Mandel* : No.

*Mr. Taylor* : What do you mean when you say there is no profit on that part of your trade? Do you sell at cost-price?

*Mr. Mandel* : No. But a cigar that costs about 5½d. we sell for 6d.

*Mr. Taylor* : You are willing to forego the right of trading in cigars and cigarettes on the half-holiday in fairness to the other shops?

*Mr. Mandel* : Yes.

*Mr. Kirkbride* : There seems to be some little contradiction in view of what has been brought out by Mr. Taylor. I understood from one of these gentlemen that if a country hotelkeeper was sick, his wife or daughter could not sell liquor before 9 o'clock in the morning. Is that so? I think that was a mistake.

*Mr. Lodder* : I made that statement. The clause in the Bill says "female." "Female" means any woman, I think.

*Mr. Aitken* : Mr. Lodder means that under the existing law a hotelkeeper's wife could serve in the bar before 9 o'clock in the morning, but under the suggested provision in this Bill she could not serve then.

*Mr. Lodder* : That is so.

*Mr. Kirkbride* : Have the hours for the workers in hotels been fixed by the Arbitration Court?

*Mr. Lodder* : They have; and also the pay for the servants.

*Mr. Kirkbride* : All the workers are assistants?

*Mr. Lodder* : Yes.

*Mr. Mandel* : I may say that I have thirty-eight servants, and never have a complaint.

*Mr. Ell* : You are aware, of course, that other shopkeepers in Wellington are working under awards of the Arbitration Court—for instance, the grocers?

*Mr. Lodder* : Yes.

*Mr. Ell* : Perhaps you are aware also that they do not object to the provisions of this Bill for fixing the half-holiday?

*Mr. Lodder* : The grocer, the butcher, the draper, and those engaged in any other business, can close their establishments; the hotelkeepers cannot close theirs. They have to keep open under the terms of the Act; and to carry on your business you must have the servants there to do the work.

*Mr. Ell* : What are the hours that have been fixed?

*Mr. Lodder* : Eleven hours a day; so-many hours a week.

*Mr. Mandel* : But they have two hours off in between.

*Mr. Ell* : Are there eleven actual working-hours?

*Mr. Lodder* : Yes, by the Arbitration Court award; but some of the servants do not actually work eleven hours.

*Mr. Mandel* : It is at the meal-time that they have to work. I have a staff of eight waiters; four of them are off from 3 to 5 o'clock, but at meal-time they are all there.

*The Chairman* : That is all, gentlemen.

*Mr. Lodder* : On behalf of the association I have to thank you very much for the patient hearing you have given us. I hope you will take into favourable consideration what we have said, and treat the matter judiciously.

*The Chairman* : We will consider what you have said most carefully.

FRIDAY, 7TH AUGUST, 1903.

Messrs. JOHN MCFARLANE, ARCHIBALD MILLER, and JOHN WARDELL in attendance. (Nos. 13, 14, and 15.)

*The Chairman* : I understand you desire to give evidence with regard to the Shops and Offices Bill which this Committee is considering?

*Mr. McFarlane* : Yes; we are a deputation appointed by the Dunedin Master Grocers' Association to come to Wellington to state the views of the association with regard to the provisions of the Shops and Offices Bill.

*The Chairman* : Are you president of the association?