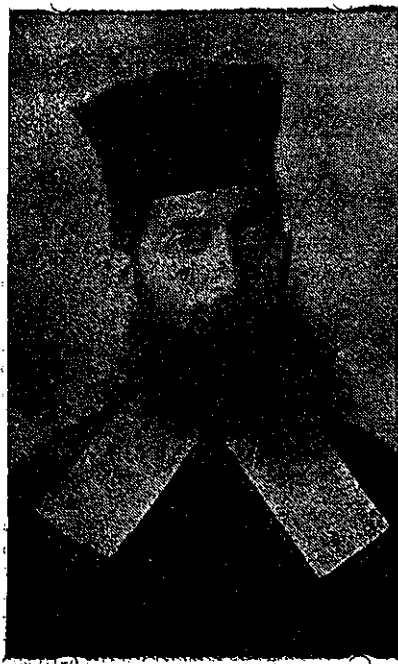


How will the Licensing Committees go?

PORTRAITS AND BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES OF THE WELLINGTON COMMITTEE.

Everybody is beginning to ask either themselves or their friends, "How will the Licensing Committees go?" We cannot, of course, answer the question, but we do sincerely hope that, the heat and turmoil of the elections over, the members of the various Licensing Committees have honestly thought out the question at issue apart from the spirit of partisanship. Let us hope that many of the members, after calm deliberation, have decided to come down from the altitude of fanaticism to the plane of common-sense, and, on the other hand, that many of the committeemen will not be content with a continuance of the old order of things. Public opinion, as interpreted through the ballot box, is in favour of a stricter enforcement of the Licensing Law. The Licensing Law has never been properly administered, and the people have only themselves to blame for electing representatives who, to put it plainly, did not do their duty. It now remains for the new committeemen to insist upon the aunctual closing of all licensed houses, the sale of good liquors, and the proper conduct of the trade generally. The Wellington people have shown excellent judgment in the election of their committee. We have every confidence in the integrity of these men, and we believe their decision, whatever way it may go, will be given after mature consideration for the general good. That the Wellington public may see what manner of men they have placed in power, we append a short biographical sketch of each member of the committee:—

REV. H. VAN STAVEREN



is. He has an attentive ear for the applicant genuinely in distress, but the loafer and drone he abhors. His work in the cause of philanthropy constitutes an example that many of our ministers and clergymen might profit by. Mr. Van Staveren's election at the head of the poll was a sympathetic tribute by the people to the worth of a good man.

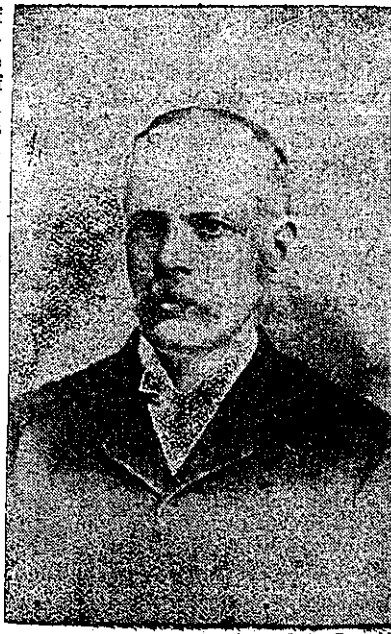
has very aptly been designated "our City Almoner." A very interesting interview with the Rev. Mr. Van Staveren appeared recently in FAIR PLAY, so that it is unnecessary to republish the details then given. Briefly, we may state that the rabbi of the Jewish Synagogue is a native of Friesland, was educated in Germany, France, and England, at twenty he received the regular diploma of a rabbi, and in 1877 was appointed to the charge of the Wellington Synagogue. There is no more popular man in Wellington. And no wonder. His life is a long errand of charity. But there is no namby-pamby sentiment about Mr. Van Staveren, humanatarian as he

E. W. MILLS



is a "City Father" in the true sense. He has been closely identified with the commercial life of Wellington for close on half a century, and during that time he has also been prominent in all industrial and social matters. It is superfluous to go further into details, as Mr. Mills was the subject of a biographical sketch in a recent issue of FAIR PLAY. Mr. Mills' counsels, born of long experience, will no doubt receive the careful attention of his colleagues.

J. B. HARCOURT,



the well-known stock and station agent, auctioneer, &c., is one of the foremost commercial men in the Empire City. He was a boy of eleven years when in 1856 his parents left Leamington, Warwickshire, for Melbourne. Mr Harcourt, sen. held several important official positions; he was Superintendent of Lunatic Asylums for the colony of Victoria, Inspector of Industrial Schools, and Superintendent of the Immigrant Aid Society's Home, from which appointments he drew salaries amounting in all to £2400 a year. Young Harcourt was intended for the medical profession, but in 1861 without the knowledge of his father, he applied for and obtained employment in the office of Sargood, King & Sargood. Five years later he took over the management of the soft goods department of A. P. Stuart & Co's business in Wellington; in 1874 was admitted into partnership; and in 1879 he bought the business, which was continued under the style of Harcourt & Co., with branch warehouses at Auckland, Christchurch, Napier, and Wanganui. In the face of bad trade and heavy losses, Mr. Harcourt retired from the business. At the invitation of the late Sir Harry Atkinson he accepted the position of Commissioner of the Melbourne Exhibition, and having acquired valuable experience by travel in the Australian colonies, he returned to Wellington and started his present business, which now occupies a foremost place in that line in the colony. Mr. Harcourt has done much to advance the interests and trade of this city. He was president of the Chamber of Commerce; was one of the promoters of