

**COLLAPSE OF THE PROHIBITION RAID IN CHRISTCHURCH.**

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

The Rev. F. Isitt and his little band have at last found out, though perhaps in one instance a trifle too late, that discretion is the better part of valour, for it has been announced that the prohibitionists have withdrawn the remaining information against the Christchurch publicans for alleged Sunday trading—such trading being of their own making—on the ground (for of course they must have a ground even though that ground be cut from under them) that the purpose sought in the proceedings would, if served at all, be as well served by the six remaining cases which had been heard as by the whole twelve. Regarding these six cases already gone into with the witness, although a man of education, severely admonished by the Bench for the flippant and "slangy" manner in which he gave his evidence and another witness, now awaiting his trial at the Supreme Court for perjury in another of the hotel cases brought forward by them, it is not difficult to divine what the decision will be if it has not already been given ere this appears in print. As a terse writer in the Christchurch Press has put it—no more need the fear of the pious prohibitionists on the prowl trouble the mind of the much harassed publican. No longer need the tired, thirsty *bona fide* traveller be turned empty away. With Francisco we may well say "for this relief, much thanks." But what is to become of the noble band of godly youths, the Christian Endeavourers? Their occupation's gone. Perhaps when they retire into private life they will endeavour to be more like Him whose name they profess to reverence. But to the public the result of this scandal must be very unsatisfactory. Mr Isitt with all his bombast and impertinence towards Inspector Broham and the Premier, and for which the former certainly deserves an apology, has acted wisely in not further running the gauntlet. It was stated during the proceedings that the young men engaged in the "endeavour work" of trapping publicans on Sunday evenings after divine service had in each instance conveyed to the Rev. Mr Isitt's parsonage the fruits of their work in the shape of a glass of whisky and laid it at his feet in an Eno's fruit salt bottle to be carefully racked off and duly labelled with particulars from whence it came to be produced afterwards at the Police Court and used as conclusive, or corroborative, evidence of proof of sale. What, however, would have been the outcome of these proceedings after the completion of the cases for the prosecution if it had then been proved by skilled and competent witnesses and on unimpeachable testimony that with, say two exceptions, the whole of these separate samples of spirits produced had been drawn from one and the same bulk? Then if this had been shown it would have been competent to have asked—was it probable that in twelve separate instances three strangers, and by reason of their actions as afterwards described by themselves, could, during prohibited hours, obtain from twelve hotel licensees, each one having so much interest at stake, no less than thirty-six glasses of whisky and decant off a third of this quantity into physic bottles before the eyes and under the very nose of each of these hotelkeepers without attracting attention? The thing is unreasonable to suppose. Had therefore the cases have been proceeded with and such have been shown the result is not difficult to contemplate. Mr Isitt and his endeavours have rushed where angels would fear to tread. They should have thought first that the end does not always justify the means. Having now abused themselves it is pleasing to note that those whom they sought to injure by unlawful means have shown their Christian forbearance and consideration by withdrawing the charges of conspiracy laid against these misguided young men. May they profit by the lesson taught, remembering it is writ, "Though hand join in hand the wicked shall not go unpunished."

**THE B.N.Z. LOTTERY.**

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

There is a great stir amongst certain Chapel denominations in the South against the proposed Bill to legalize the New Zealand Assets Company to dispose of their assets in land by means of lottery. At a public meeting recently held in Dunedin and attended by no less than two hundred persons, including members of the Ministers' Association, a number of the latter spoke in deprecation of the proposition. The chairman, Professor Salmond, D.D., asserted that the meeting had been summoned for the purpose of voicing public sentiment with regard to a huge gambling lottery which was seriously proposed by the Government. The B.N.Z. and the Government seemed to him for good or for evil, to be in many respects one institution. The Bank had on its hands a large number of intrinsically valuable properties, just now unseizable, and it occurred to it in its wisdom to get a fair value for these properties by lottery. This scheme would, it was argued, entail no great hardship on any and it might be a great gain to some, besides helping the Bank, and thus relieving the country of a very pressing and urgent situation. The temptation was considerable, and the evil appeared small and the gain great. Those present at the meeting were there for the purpose of saying very emphatically "No, we'll not have it." (This gained applause from some of the two hundred present.) After some further remarks he described the whole activity of a gambler as nothing but greed and avarice, while he possessed in him the spirit and the temper of a thief. His desire was to amass property quickly and easily without labour simply to enjoy it, and thus become a sort of social parasite and a slimy creature. Another speaker, the Rev. W. Saunders, put the matter of the proposed lottery in a different light, and asked the two hundred if it was moral to support anything that would encourage the people to go against the law of God which for-

bade them to covet the goods of their neighbour. The spirit of christianity prompted them to give, and the spirit of lottery (whatever that may mean) was to get and get all you can and to get from your neighbour what you would like yourself—gain for yourself, even if you set your brother's heart on fire with envy. (Could the force of bunkum go further.) The reverend speaker admitted that a gentleman had told him that "he had got hold of the wrong end of the stick, as usual." Then another gentleman arose and "coveted" the power of an Anthony that night in order that he might ruffle (not raffle) up their spirits and put a "tongue" in every wound of this long-suffering body politic that would call the very stones to rise in mutiny. Having expressed this most extraordinary wish, he counselled that they should be temperate in their language. After this advice he proceeded to call an art union a white-washed lottery, legalised certainly, but a transparent device to enable impecunious individuals and associations to get rid of things they could not sell. His opinion (and in which he differed from the Minister for Labour) was that the only true standard of legislation was the teaching of Christ (Mr Reeves gets his standard from the Book of Deuteronomy) and he asked any "candid" man or woman present whether this proposed Lottery Bill was based on Christ's teachings. Again he held that if it were not that the Government was deeply involved with the B.N.Z. the Bill would not have been brought forward. If the Premier should put his foot down and say the Bill must go through he hoped he would remember the saying "the evil men do lives after them, the good is oft interred with their bones." Other rev. gentlemen also spoke, and professed an opinion that it was simply a scheme to plunder the unsuspecting public of New Zealand and make use of its gambling instincts to bolster up the B.N.Z. in the first place, and the present Government in the second particular. After these remarks, motions deprecatory to the Bill being passed were carried by the mass meeting. At Gore also, after a cake and apron fair had been held for three days, under the auspices of religious bodies whose church funds were largely augmented by lotteries, the proceedings wound up by a concert in which the following songs were reported as having been sung with great success, "The Three Graces" "You Dirty Boy," "Mother Did It," and "As Others See Us." This was followed by an indignation meeting, protesting against this Lottery Bill being carried through Parliament. Other churches in the South have also lifted up their voices in emphatic protest against the proposed measure, not one word being uttered in extenuation, although it is probable if some such scheme is not adopted the two million guarantee of the country on behalf of the B.N.Z. may prove a liability that will have sooner or later to be met at the expense of the people. On the other hand, should this lottery take place it would only be participated in by persons who have the money to invest, as it must necessarily be a cash transaction. The money would, in a very great measure come from those who would not feel its loss, while the gain to those who should be fortunate enough to draw prizes would be considerable and, no doubt, beneficial. The sin of covetousness can no more be charged against those who may take tickets in the venture should the affair become an accomplished fact, any more than against a church member who takes a ticket in a lottery held for the purpose of raising funds for the church's benefit in the first place and the lucky drawer of the prize ticket in the second place. Far less evil would result from one Bank of New Zealand Estates Company's lottery, if legalised, than from the legal 207 totalisator sweeps held in New Zealand during the past year, and from which the country has gained a revenue of £10,446 in license fees.

**THE DUNEDIN POLICE COURT.**

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

Of all courts of justice in the colony that require remodelling in its interior structure or arrangements the Dunedin Police Court appears to me one of the most prominent. In the first place the door or principal entrance opens direct from the street and is conspicuously marked as "Criminal Court," "Public," a direct invitation for an idler while the court sits, to escape from the driving snow, hail, rain, or sleet that continually encounters him at this inclement season of the year. On entering he finds comfortable graduated raised seats provided for him in a comparatively warm room and from which, even if the front row contains ladies wearing the most ultra-sized hats, he can get a good view of the stage, or more properly speaking the bench, unless fashion imposes on these ladies to have mounted on the summit of their hats any large sized birds such as of the turkey species. Facing the "gallery" provided for use of the public, and to the right of the "seat of justice" is a comfortable looking square pew such as one sees in a Congregational chapel. This is the prisoners' dock approached by a "gate" or door from the portion assigned to counsel, officers of police, prosecutors, etc. To the left of the "blindfolded lady holding the scales" is a corner, or niche devoted to the Press. In Elysium, the sheep are placed on the right hand and the goats on the left. In the Dunedin Police Court the reporters represent the goats and the prisoners the sheep. Amongst the latter are often found what Sir Pertinax Pontifex described in the play as "damned black sheep." In the prisoners' "pew" the sexes are mingled, whatever else the arrangements may be in the prison. The morning I was a spectator, two women and one man occupied the "pew." One old lady was charged with being drunk and disorderly. She pleaded guilty and also to be let off lightly, notwithstanding having similarly offended before. Finding by the property sheet that the police held money of hers in hand, the Bench considerably fined her five shillings leaving her sufficient funds to get home again in the country or to start on another "drunk." The old dame gathered up her tippet,

minutely inspected it inside and out, walked out of the "pew" and left the court if not "without a stain upon her character" yet with the proud consciousness that in her outer garment she was not taking with her any other occupants of the police cells of the previous night. Then a young man stood up and pleaded guilty to a charge of stealing five pairs of trousers from a shop door. His excuse was that he had been drinking heavily of "half and half," and the consequence was he had become a semi-dyspeptic-manic combined. The policeman who took him, however, said that when detected he took to his heels and ran like "mad" which showed that he had all his senses about him. Then a string of previous convictions were handed up and the Bench gave him a month for each pair of trousers purloined and a month extra for giving such a lame excuse. The second woman was not "paraded." She had evidently been sentenced before, and sat there in the square pew "doing her time" and perfectly resigned to her fate. Then after a while two young men were charged with assaulting another man in broad moonlight and stealing from him a watch. The prosecutor admitted he had three watches in pawn besides the one taken, also that he had acted as an informer in some sly-grog cases recently. Corroborative evidence produced unfortunately proved very conflicting and the case was dismissed, which caused the audience in the "gallery" to applaud, whereupon a young man amongst the "gods" was arrested and at once charged with gross contempt of court. The presiding Justice considered the offence a very serious one and a crime than could not be tolerated as it was a disgrace to the court, so that a fine of five shillings would be inflicted. The poor "plauditor" expressed his sorrow and urged that he was an unmarried man and one of the unemployed as well, and also a recipient of the Relief Committee's fund. This touching appeal reached the heart of the counsel engaged for the two previous defendants, who said that as the young man was without money and apparently honest he would pay the fine for him. At this announcement another and more tremendous outburst of applause took place which in a play would have been sufficient inducement to have the curtain raised, but in this instance it only raised the magistrates' and the policemen's ire, and another culprit was dragged out of the gallery and charged with the aggravated offence. This fairly upset my risibility, and fearing that I might also be pounced upon and cast into a dungeon I withdrew, and can only suppose that the "play" went on and more victims made, and so on *ad infinitum*.

**HERE AND THERE.**

"Mr P. T. Spillane who was formerly well-known as a hotelkeeper in Wellington, and who was lately mine host of the Martinborough Hotel in this district, has secured the Provincial Hotel in Napier, where we have no doubt his many excellent qualities will secure him a large circle of patronage. His hotels have always been conducted in a first-class manner, and under his regime the Provincial will take a high place amongst the hotels of Napier. He carries with him from this district the best wishes of many warm friends." I publish the above from the *Wairarapa Standard*, and would supplement the remarks of a contemporary by adding that Mr Spillane has already made himself popular in Napier. He has renovated the Provincial Hotel and placed it on a par with some of the best known hotels in Napier.

Napier, although generally spoken of as a pretty little place, could better be described, if one takes into consideration its area and population, as a pretty big place. Pretty it undoubtedly is, with beautiful marine parade, picturesque heights, and long straight streets. There is one avenue, only too brief in extent, near the railway station, bordered on either side with beautiful trees that rise to a great height, the effect reminding one of one of the boulevards or drives in the Old Country. As we have mentioned before, although there are some eighteen public houses in the City proper, I have never seen in any town in the Colony hotels so unanimously well conducted. A drunken man even during race times is rarely seen on the public streets, and I have had an opportunity of judging, as there has been a plethora of race meetings in the Hawke's Bay district lately. Everybody seems to know everybody else and attends to his respective business or pleasure without interfering with other people's privileges. Although there is no atmosphere of futile speculation, there is an air of solidity and unostentatious wealth about the place that argues well for the district. The winter season is perhaps the dulllest time during the year, and a revival of trade invariably sets in towards spring.

**FOOTBALL! FOOTBALL!**

SATURDAY, JULY 27TH

AT POTTER'S PADDOCK.

PRACTICE MATCH, "A" TEAM v. "B" TEAM.

Kick-off at 3 o'clock sharp.

ADMISSION TO GROUND 6d, GRAND STAND 6d. EXTRA. LADIES FREE.

Return fare by Tram (including Admission to Ground), 1s.

G. H. DIXON, Sec. A.R.U.



**STALLIONS FOR THE SEASON**

1895.

The undermentioned

THOROUGHBRED STALLIONS

Will

STAND AT WELLINGTON PARK

**CASTOR (imp.)** by Zealot, son of the famous sire Hermit, winner of the Derby, 1867, out of Lady Yardley, by the great Sterling (sire of Isometry—said to be the greatest racehorse of his day). Castor was a great performer at all weights and distances, winning 22 races out of 28, starts. His descendants have only started their turf career; yet their work was so good last season that he stands eighth in the winning sires' list, his 7 descendants having placed 1777 sows to his credit. Castor's first gets have all shown ability on the turf. His four-year-old son, Three Star, has the following record for his two-year-old, running:—A.R.C. Summer: won Great Northern Foal Stakes, 6 furlongs, 8.10, in 1.18; Nixie, 8.5, second, Doris, 8.5, third; second in Midsummer Handicap, 5 furlongs, 9.0, won by Nixie, 8.7. A.R.C. Autumn: won Northern Champagne Stakes, 6 furlongs, 9.3, Grenadier, 8.10, second, Anniversary, 8.8, third. The Castor—Veneration filly Ivy won the Wanganui J.C.'s Nursery Handicap, 5 furlongs, with 6.10, in 1.4, and at the Auckland Racing Club's Autumn Meeting she won the Onslow Stakes, 6 furlongs, with 7.4, in 1.19. Since her arrival in America she has started eight times, won three times, finished second three times, and third once. His colt out of Bangle, Casket, finished second in the Marshall Memorial Stakes of 6 furlongs, at the D.J.C. Autumn Meeting, won by Forbury, and also ran a second with 8.10 in the Champagne Stakes, won by Bluefire, S.S. Last season Castor's son showed improvement, his work placing him fourth in the list of winning horses, with 1157 sows against his name. Castor's Necklace filly, Collarette, ran second to Patroness at level weights in the A.J.C. Two-year-old Maiden Stakes, and on the third day of the meeting she beat Patroness and similar company to that which met her the first day, winning the 6 furlong Nursery Handicap in 1.16½. Castor's list is full.

**CUIRASSIER** by Musket (imp.)—Frailty, by Goldsborough—Flora Melvor, by New Warrior (imp.)—To, by Sir Hercules. Cuirassier is full brother to that successful sire Trenton, who in his first season in Australia has sired Ronda (second in Melbourne Cup), Delaware, Etra—Weenie (winner of the Marlborough Plate and V.R.C. Oaks), Gaillardia, Lady Trenton, Light Artillery (one of the best two-year-olds of his season)—all good winners. Cuirassier himself ran second to Manton in the Hawkes Bay Guineas (beaten a head), and won the Great Northern Derby (beating Manton, Raglan, Hilda, etc., in the fast time of 2min 40sec), the Great Northern St. Leger, Railway Stakes Handicap, and Trial Stakes. Terms:—25 guineas for single mare; 20 guineas two or more the property of the same owner.

**ST. LEGER (imp.)**, by Doncaster (Derby winner) out of Atlantis, by Thormanby (Derby winner)—Hurricane (One Thousand winner), by Wild Dayrell (Derby winner). St. Leger was second on the list as winner-producing sire for 1891-92, and was at the top of the tree for season 1892-93, with 14 winners of £5,250 7s 6d. He was second for season 1893-94, and last season stood at the top of the tree with 19 winners of £4,559 16s 6d. In view of the fact that his greatest son, St. Hippo, was not racing last season, and that he only had one two-year-old on the track, this record is a most meritorious one. Three of his descendants (Impulse, St. Clements, and Waiuku) alone took £2,490 9s. St. Leger is sire of St. Hippo, winner of the Hawke's Bay Guineas and Spring Handicap, New Zealand Cup in fastest time on record, Auckland Cup, Auckland Plate, and Great Northern Derby, and sire of other big winners, such as Clanranald, Hippomenes, St. Andrew, St. Clements, Impulse, Waiuku, Doris, Regal, Retaliation, St. Anthony, Marquis of Tewkesbury, Town Moor, St. Kilda, St. Patrick, Ben Godfrey. Terms: 30 guineas for single mares; 25 guineas two or more mares belonging to the same owner.

**HOTCHKISS** by Musket (imp.)—Petroleuse (imp.), by Oxford—Hartshorn, by Mountain Deer. This son of Musket produced Forma, the champion two-year-old of the North during last season, and True Blue, whose achievements in Australia stamp him as a racer from whom much may be expected. At the A.R.C. First Spring Meeting 1894-95 Forma won the September Stakes, 4 furlongs (winning in a canter) in 57sec, and at the Second Spring Meeting the Welcome Stakes, 5 furlongs, in 1.5½. At the A.R.C. Summer Meeting she won the Sylvia Handicap, 6 furlongs, in 1.18, carrying 8.7. At the A.R.C. Autumn Meeting she won the Champagne Stakes, 6 furlongs, carrying 8.8, in 1.19, and the Ellerslie Handicap, carrying 9.3, in 1.18. In these races Forma "walked home." True Blue's two-year-old running shows he won Sydney Tattersall's Juvenile Stakes, 5 furlongs, in 1.2½ (carrying 7.7), and the A.J.C. First Nursery Handicap, 5 furlongs, in 1.7 (carrying 8.5). He finished third in the Bathurst T.C. Sovereign Stakes, 1 mile (carrying 7.5) to Alice Hawthorne (6.7) and Mormon (7.2), time 1.48½; and in the Second Sovereign Stakes, at the same meeting, he finished second. Hotchkiss's half-sister Leonessa is dam of Westmere, who was well up in the list of winning two-year-olds. Terms: 20 guineas a mare; 15 guineas two or more.

Grazing at 2s 6d per week. Every care taken, but no responsibility incurred.

Further particulars may be obtained from

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And at the Stud Office, Durham Street, Auckland.

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