

Licensed Victuallers.

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It offers special facilities for advertising, "transfers," and other official announcements, embracing as it does the extensive circulation of an already popular New Zealand and Australian sporting journal.

Cheques, drafts, etc., and all business communications to be addressed to ARTHUR OLEARY AND Co., Vulcan Lane, Auckland. Literary communications to the EDITOR.

The EDITOR will always be pleased to receive contributed items, paragraphs, sketches, or any brief article of interest to the trade.

Communications intended for publication should be written in ink, and only on one side of the paper. Anonymous letters will be consigned to the waste-paper basket.

Unsuitable contributions will not be returned unless a special request to that effect and stamps to cover the cost of postage be sent with them.

The annual subscription to THE SPORTING REVIEW AND LICENSED VICTUALLERS' GAZETTE will be 12/6 payable strictly in advance.

TRADE TRIUMPHS IN 1895.

WE have before us a lengthy and exhaustive retrospect of the triumphs of the trade in Great Britain during the year 1895, which proves conclusively that the Central Board and the defenders of the trade, by perfect organisation and unity of action, secured the great victory (now historical) against the "Veto Bill" of the Salisbury Government. It has been said that the victory indicated was in no small degree due to the vacillating and inconsistent conduct of Sir William Harcourt, who previous to the introduction of the Veto Bill had made a great speech at Oxford, wherein he is reported to have poured the utmost contumely upon the principles underlying the Veto Bill, and likewise the Permissive Bill. This statement was naturally the source of great political capital for the supporters of the trade, and directly it was found that fanatical intrigue had secured for the Bill third place amongst the first-class measures of the Government, *The Licensing World*, within a few hours of its introduction, published the tenor of Sir William Harcourt's Oxford speech, and apparently "scattered" thousands of copies of the paper broadcast for public information. The Central Board also published a thirty-page pamphlet on the same and kindred subjects, and as this publication was followed by the circulation of other literature bearing on the interests of the trade, there is no doubt that "the wind was," as the *Retrospect* states, "taken out of Sir William Harcourt's sails." Then we are further informed that this great effort to educate the public by the dissemination of trade literature was at once followed by a gigantic meeting of retailers, held in the Alhambra, at which eloquent addresses were delivered by speakers specially selected for the purpose. The effect of this meeting, according to the reporter, was to simply paralyse Sir William Harcourt's arm, and jointly with previous actions, undoubtedly had a national effect on the fate of the Veto Bill. Not only had the Central Council and its friends during 1895 to fight the ministerial party in parliament against the Veto Bill, but it also had to fight bigotry and tyranny, as manifested by a majority of members of the London County Council, who were interfering with vested interests, and practically advising a policy of spoliation, if not open robbery. Here again the united action of the Central Board, through the aid of judicious literature, and assisted by the united action of the trade, secured a decisive victory, which has proved a salutary lesson to the London county councillors who showed an unrighteous determination to "rob a poor man of his beer." The two great victories achieved over the Local Veto Bill, and the election in the London County Council, were still hot in the mouth of the Central Councillors and members of the trade generally, when by a side issue a dissolution of the English Parliament took place, and the consequent General Election was sprung upon the public as a surprise. Though, to use Mr Balfour's phrase, the Salisbury-Harcourt Government had been "wobbling like an unskilful cyclist" on the liquor question for a long time, no one expected the defeat of the Government at the time it took place. Consequently, to the ordinary mind it may be considered that the Central Council and the trade generally would be unprepared to meet the gigantic

struggle they would inevitably have to engage in. This view of the question, however, serves to bring out in greater prominence the perfect organisation of the able men who had, as it were, a moment previously achieved the two greatest victories ever obtained by the liquor party. But the result proved that their lines were still unbroken; that the general was equal to the occasion; that every officer knew his work and faithfully accomplished his task; and as a final ending, the expression of the great Nelson could have been appropriately varied to declare that "this day every man has faithfully and efficiently done his duty." Of course some bitterness was imported into this great contest, but, so far as we can gather, most of this originated with the fanatical party, who were not satisfied with the Veto Bill, and wished to go much further in the direction of national prohibition than the Bill itself provided for. We shall conclude this part of our article by quoting one paragraph of the concluding portion of the *Retrospect*, which states—"The great moral lesson which these facts ought to impress on all licensed traders may be summed up in a few words. The trade stood to lose one hundred millions, and the majority of traders ran the risk of being reduced to poverty. That danger has passed away for ever, we believe, so far as the veto is concerned. Instead of this loss, we have actually gained many millions in solid cash by the appreciation of trade property consequent upon our victory at the polls." We have gone somewhat into details on this matter, for the purpose of pointing out to the trade in New Zealand what was done by perfect organisation in the Old World, and how the victory was obtained. It is true that in this colony we have not the hundred millions at stake in the trade, but in accordance with the number of persons engaged in it, we believe the amount at issue is proportionately greater here than in England. Hence, there is no difference in nature and little, if any, in degree. In our next issue we shall point out as forcibly as possible the necessity there is for the trade in this colony to copy the example thus set them. We shall endeavour to assign strong reasons why this should be done, and may venture to offer suggestions as to how it can be best accomplished.

ENGLISH "PURE BEER BILL."

The following reasons are excellently given in a circular, issued by the Country Brewers' Association (England), why the "Pure Beer Bill" should be opposed, from which we give these extracts:—

"The Bill, if it becomes law, unless accompanied by a protective duty, must tend to increase the use of foreign barley, rather than the produce of the constituents of the members who support the Bill.

"If these proposals were given effect to, the whole system of taxation would have to be revised at great cost to the country. Espionage in the brewery would be re-introduced in the worst form, and one more injurious to the manufacturer than ever existed before.

"It was urged in the memorial issued by the National Agricultural Union that such a measure might probably benefit 'both the public health and the cause of temperance.' Brewers in this country are frequently told that 'in the cause of public health and of temperance' they should imitate the high quality of foreign lager beers. These beers are often made from a large proportion of material other than barley malt, especially rice. Does Mr Quilter's Bill exact any declaration of that fact from the foreigner?"

"Foreign beers, as sent into this country, are brewed from materials other than barley malt. The Pilsener and other lager beers noted for their purity are brewed from rice, maize, and other grain products. These beers would come into this country comparatively unfettered, and the English brewers would be unable to compete against them, inasmuch as pale and light beers, for which there is a growing public taste, cannot be produced from dark-coloured British barley without the addition of foreign barley or other adjuncts.

"Again, the essential ingredients of good uniform beer are maltose and dextrin. The variation in English barleys, due to want of sun and heavy manuring, will not allow of this ratio being maintained in successive brewings. This deficiency is supplied by the use of brewing sugars, so that the continued employment of English barleys is rendered practicable.

"If both sugar and corn meals were prohibited, the farmer would not be a penny the richer. The amount would be made up by the use of foreign barleys, which are better ripened, grown on lighter soils, and contain more sugar when malted.

"The price of English barleys is governed by the price of foreign barleys, and the only way to benefit the English farmer in this direction is to put a protective duty on foreign barley, which one is given to understand, is not the policy of the Government or of the Agricultural Union.

"On the question of purity of beer there is considerable misconception—e.g., the addition of sugar is supposed to render beer impure. Even if it were the case, and of this there is no proof, gingerbeer and many other testotal beverages must be ranked as detrimental to the public health. Furthermore, special emphasis should be placed upon this practical point, that without the use of some preparation of sugar, much of the home-grown barley would often be useless for malt for brewing purposes."

A MUNICIPAL PUBLIC-HOUSE.

The result of an experiment which has been watched with considerable interest at Home, has just been made known. The Corporation of Birmingham are following the example of other large cities in England, and are getting in a water supply from the Welsh hills. An enormous reservoir is being constructed by the damming up of two rivers meeting in the valley of the Elan, and at the village of the same name Mr Lees, the secretary of the Water Department, acting under instructions from the Corporation, opened, some eighteen months ago, a public-house to supply the wants of several hundred workmen and their families. The rules of management of this inn are very strict. It is open daily between the hours of 12 and 2 p.m., and from 5.30 to 9 p.m. On Sundays it remains closed all day, but on Saturday it is open from 1 p.m. to 9 p.m. There are stringent regulations as to the admission of women and youths to the public-house, and no one may be supplied with more than a quart of liquor at midday, while two quarts is the limit of any one person's consumption on the premises at night. Only village inhabitants are allowed to freely enter the public-house, but strangers may do so with a written order. It is claimed that the municipal public house was started at a great disadvantage, there being an ordinary establishment conducted on the usual lines a few hundred yards off. A qualified publichouse manager was appointed to conduct the business on behalf of the Corporation, and he was made to understand that he would be thought no more highly of if his sales were high than if they were low, whereas, should there be any drunkenness or disturbance, he would be held responsible for it. There has, however, we are assured, been no difficulty at all of this description. "The trade of the other publichouse has fallen off very considerably since the establishment of the municipal public-house. The profits are devoted to the maintenance of a reading and recreation room, which is distinct from the public-house, and this has been proved to minimise the drinking—one of the principal objects of the experiment." This publichouse, we are told, is being conducted on lines similar to those advocated by the Bishop of Chester, and is the only one of its kind. In concluding his report on the result of the experiment, Mr Lees says:—"Individually I am a total abstainer, but I am perfectly certain that we are serving the interests of temperance far better in providing wholesome liquor, under proper regulations, than we should be did we attempt to prohibit the traffic altogether or leave it to be conducted in the usual way."

TRADE TOPICS.

The trade of Glasgow have presented 200 guineas, to be expended in cups for competition by the local agricultural society.

Mrs Cranmer, licensee of the Criterion Hotel at Bulls, Rangitikei district, has been fined £1 for allowing a game of billiards to be played in the hotel after hours.

Mr R. Crabb, the New Zealand lecturer for the Grand Lodge, I.O.G.T., has resigned his appointment, which has been offered to and accepted by Mr Thomas Walker, of Sydney.

Mr Crossey, licensee of the Terminus Hotel, Wellington, has issued a writ for libel, claiming £500 damages against Mr Crabb, temperance lecturer, for alleged slanderous statements in an address on Sunday, 3rd inst.

At a political meeting, held in a Scottish town recently, a Scotch shoemaker, with a local reputation for humour, asked one of the candidates for parliamentary honours the following poser:—"Is Maister Wulson in favour of spending thirty-six millions on the army and navy and only twelve millions on education; that is to say twelve millions for pitting' brains in and thirty-six millions for blawin' brains out?"

Perhaps one of the best-known hotels on the Wellington-Taranaki Coast is Mrs Hastie's Feilding Hotel. So familiar has the proprietress name become among the large number of people who have put up at the hotel, not to mention the hundreds of commercial travellers, that it is more frequently called Hastie's Hotel than the Feilding Hotel. Mrs Hastie has resided in Feilding for many years now, and, having conducted her house in first-class style, she has become deservedly popular. The Feilding Club have rooms at the hotel, and everything is kept up to date. The stabling accommodation attached to the hotel is always acknowledged as being about the best in the district.

Miss McCallum has held the license of the Railway Hotel, at Hawera, for the last few years, and during that time she has altered all the interior downstairs portion of the house, so as to give greater comfort to her many patrons. The outside of the house also shows improvement, and old residents in the Egmont district would hardly know the house. As Miss McCallum's house adjoins the Hawera Railway Station, one can understand its convenience for travellers, especially by early trains.

The Hon. Mr Hall-Jones, speaking on the prohibition question, said he was a prohibitionist, but confessed to his not being a total abstainer from alcoholic liquor. He made that statement, as he did not want to sail under false colours. Says the *North Otago Times*, prohibitionists generally will not tolerate liquor at all; and we have to admit that the prohibition of Mr Hall-Jones and kindred prohibitionists is a very accommodating creed. When a man can profess prohibition and take a "nip" there is no inconvenience about the acceptance of this doctrine by the veriest toper.

Mr George E. Rhodes is the new landlord of the United Service Hotel, adjoining the Opera House. We are glad to welcome Mr Rhodes amongst the licensed victuallers, and we are also pleased to see he has selected such a first-class hotel, and feel sure that this well-known hostelry will lose none of its popularity while in his name. The "hot counter luncheon" from 11 a.m. to 12 noon, is quite a speciality, and the appetising little things that are daintily spread out, take away all one's appetite for lunch at 12 p.m. or 1 p.m. The "Cafe lunch" is on from 12 p.m. to 2 p.m., and is a great spread for the money. Families and visitors to the house will receive every attention, and will feel just the same as if they were at home. When there is any performance on at the Opera House adjoining, an electric bell will ring in the hotel two minutes before the rise of the curtain at the interval, so that those who have to leave the Opera House at the interval, to "see a man about a dog," will find this arrangement very handy.

Nottingham (England) magistrates recently had Charles Marshall, landlord of the Jolly Anglers' Inn, Plumtree Street, before them for permitting gaming on the 28th February, and also for keeping his house open during prohibited hours on the same date. Five other men were also summoned for being on the premises during prohibited hours. On the morning of the 28th February, at a quarter to one, the attention of a policeman was attracted to the premises, and looking through a window he saw several persons in a room playing cards. He saw money pass, and heard calls for drinks. The men were playing "banker." There was money and a card-board and glasses on the table. The proprietor said that they had all been shooting, and he had invited his friends to supper. The defendant said he had carried on business as a licensed victualler in Nottingham for a period of sixteen years to the satisfaction of his landlady, and he believed, to the satisfaction of the police. These men were really his private friends, and their evidence supported this statement. After retirement, Ald. Pullman said the magistrates had given the case very careful consideration, and they had come to the conclusion that the party was a private party, at the invitation of the landlord, and there was nothing against the defendants, who were charged with being on the premises. But they felt that the landlord had permitted card playing for money, and on that charge a fine of £5 would be imposed on Marshall, but the license would not be endorsed. The other defendants would be discharged. The decision of the Bench was received in court with some applause, which was promptly suppressed.

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BRIDGE HOTEL, WAITARA

SAMUEL FAIRWEATHER - Proprietor
(Late Royal Hotel, Raglan).

This house, situated near the wharf and river, has undergone thorough repair, and is now the most comfortable house in the district. The table and bedrooms, under the personal supervision of Mrs Fairweather, are a guarantee that nothing will be wanting there. One of Alcock's best billiard tables. Good paddocks and stables. Being a free house, the proprietor is enabled to supply the best brands of wines, ales, and spirits.

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