

# The LICENSED VICTUALLERS

THE SPORTING REVIEW AND LICENSED VICTUALLERS' GAZETTE has been appointed the OFFICIAL ORGAN of the Trade.

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.

The annual subscription to the SPORTING REVIEW AND LICENSED VICTUALLERS' GAZETTE will be 12s 6d, payable strictly in advance.

## THE COMING ELECTIONS.

We have repeatedly advised the Trade to organise in order to be prepared to meet any emergency which may arise at the coming elections calculated to adversely affect the interest of their business, and we are pleased to learn that some organisation has been effected, and we sincerely hope it will result in united and concerted action. It may be well for the Trade to fully consider the character of the man they propose to support in the respective districts, as in our opinion it will not be conducive to the best interest of the liquor business, either wholesale or retail, to support a candidate whose only qualification for a high and responsible position is a positive pledge to support an absolute anti-prohibition, bare majority party. At the same time this must be a "shibboleth" in his policy and the main plank in his platform. What we mean is that while the foregoing should be a *sine qua non* care should be taken to secure men who can give free and lucid expression to their opinions on other questions, and who cannot, therefore, be open to the charge of being one-idea men. We are pleased to learn that some pamphlets have been issued, containing among other matter the excellent letters written by the Rev. Wm. Beatty, and we are certain that the publication of the rev. gentleman's letters in this form will be conducive of much good, coming, as they do, from a gentleman of high ecclesiastical knowledge, a logician of the first order, and a clergyman who has always practised the true temperance which he has so successfully advocated, both in the pulpit and in the Press of this colony. It is such documents as those indicated that, after thoughtful perusal, leave an impression on the mind as much in contrast with the foamy vapouring of the specific teetotal mountebank as is the froth of second-class gingerbeer to the sparkling chrysal of the finest champagne. It may be too late to employ a lecturer to tour the country, and at this particular juncture it may be impolitic to do so in accordance with the old proverb which declares "imitation to be the sincerest flattery," and it may be unwise at this time—the eve of an election—to send any one in the interest of the Trade on the track of the low-down agitators on the other side; but we do repeat our former statements, *viz.*, that it will pay the Trade at no distant date to employ an honest, capable man to address public meetings all over the colony, advocating principles in contradistinction to those who advocate the destruction of freedom, and who professedly desire to see liberty forced by a ruthless hand from a great British colony. If proof were wanting to show that the employment of such a man is required we need only refer to what took place at a recent date in Wanganui, when Mr W. W. Collins, M.H.R., spoke in reply to the Rev. L. M. Isitt. Mr Isitt had delivered a series of highly inflammatory addresses in Wanganui to crowded meetings. His party was jubilant over the result. The local paper supporting prohibition was absolutely prodigal in its fulsome adulation of the rev. lecturer and his heaven-born oratory. The cold-water party all over the colony declared that Wanganui had been carried by storm, and would surrender at discretion when the election came. Mr Collins

bearded the lion in his den, smote the Philistines hip and thigh with the sword of irresistible logic, and the day after the delivery of his address all but the extreme fanatics forgot that such a man as the Rev. Mr Isitt had flashed, like a meteor of changing brilliancy, over the waters of the beautiful Wanganui river. We again congratulate the Trade on having in some degree organised. We hope they will now work consistently and thoroughly, and that none but men of high character will be employed either as agents, canvassers, or in any other way in the coming election, and no matter what may be said by the prohibitionist we sincerely trust a mandate will be issued, notifying to all engaged that liberty shall be manifested, courtesy exemplified, and an example set to all extremists that they may copy with advantage. We think there is no need to add to the foregoing remarks. That one of the greatest dangers to the trade in the coming election is the carrying of the vote for reduction, and every right-thinking elector must know that a reduction of licensed houses will not lessen drinking. The only effect would be to ruin one man, and in many cases to give another man a large premium.

## TRADE TOPICS.

We sent a telegram to Wellington, asking for the full text of the Premier's amendments to the Alcoholic Liquors Sale Act Amendment Bill. We regret to say that they have not yet reached us. We shall therefore not be able to fulfil our promise to publish them in this week's issue.

M. Auban-Moet, one of the well-known firm of champagne manufacturers, Moet and Chandon, died recently at Epernay at the age of sixty-five.

It is said that a Christchurch tradesman "sacked" one of his employes a few days ago because he dared to say he wouldn't vote for cold water!

Dr. Lunn, proprietor of a magazine called *Travel*, conceived the idea of getting his son to travel round the world with a friend on bikes, so that they might write up a description of their journey. To cheapen the cost, he has sent a circular to hotel-keepers suggesting the propriety of entertaining the pair "free gratis for nothing." Dead heads of that description will not pay the rent or the brewer's bill.

This is how Mr McLachlan speaks of the Prohibitionists in his district:—"I have known some of the biggest liars, most debased men, and contemptible settlers who are prohibitionists, and I scarcely ever met any respectable man in my district who was one of them." Also—"I am surprised that the Premier panders to the prohibitionists, who slander and revile, and would choke him if they could."

At one of the Rev. Isitt's recent pump-speeches at Ashburton (writes *The Spectator*), larrikins on the back-benches kept interrupting the proceedings by shuffling their feet. At last one cold water enthusiast rose and remarked:—"It's only two or three boys at the back of the 'all, and if half-a-dozen men will foller me we'll soon stop it." This heroic person ought to have been a policeman.

Mr Patterson, on a visit to New Zealand from America, and described as "a Yankee-Scotchman"—what a fearsome combination!—lectured at Wanganui the other night on prohibition—of which he is an ardent supporter. Many Kansas publicans, Mr Patterson told his audience, "turned their licensed houses into temperance hotels when Prohibition was enforced by law in Kansas." Quite so. We (*Spectator*) know a little about "temperance hotels" in this colony. Some of them might be more fittingly described as intemperance hotels.

Boksburg, a town in South Africa, cannot boast of a barmaid, and the Transvaal *Licensed Victuallers' Gazette* calls it "poor Boksburg," adding, "Who would live in such a detestable place, and who can wonder that the spot is without a white woman, and the only Sheenie left is a Peruvian with no taste for the beautiful."

They are suffering from the same prohibition craze in the Transvaal as we are here, and the South African *Licensed Victuallers' Gazette* remarks:—"All this tends to injure Johannesburg in the speculating world, for with this bogey of prohibition, capital is kept out of the country which should have been here. Your prohibitionist prohibits everything save his own self-aggrandizement. . . . Johannesburg is going on very well as she is; indeed, business all round is as good as ever it was, and it would be a thousand pities if all this prosperity were to be cut short just to please a millionaire or two, and a few howling street-corner ranters."

It is proposed to erect an hotel with 1000 rooms at Boston, U.S.A.

An American paper states:—There are nearly 90,000 barmaids in England. More than 1,000 in London are daughters of gentlemen; 400 have fathers, brothers, or uncles in the church; 200 are daughters of army officers; 200 daughters of physicians and surgeons, 100 daughters of navy officers.

It is not generally known (writes *The Caterer*) that the great arts critic, Mr Ruskin, on his mother's side, is descended from an innkeeper. The house kept by his grandmother—the Old King's Head, at Croydon—is shortly to be pulled down. This is what Mr Ruskin writes about the place in the pages of *Praeterita*:—"Of my father's ancestor's I know nothing, nor of my mother's more than that my maternal grandmother was the landlady of the Old King's Head, in Market Street, Croydon; and I wish she were alive again, and I could paint her Simone Memmi's head for a sign." And he adds, further on, respecting another house: "My aunt had remained in Croydon, and married a baker. My aunt lived in the little house, still standing—or which was so four months ago (preface to *Praeterita*, dated May 10, 1885)—the fashionable in Market Street, having actually two windows over the shop, in the second storey."

A curious and novel claim to unco' guidness has been thrust upon old Scotland. It seems that a letter addressed to a temperance hotel in a noted Border pleasure resort by one of those mysterious dispensations of the Post Office found its way to Crete, whence it has been returned with this curious superscription—"Temperance hotels unknown in Crete. Try Scotland."

France, it is alleged, consumes more alcohol per head of the population than any other country. At the recent Basle conference on alcoholism a speaker, bringing all national drinks to a common standard, according to the amount of alcohol they contain, showed as a result that each Frenchman consumes 13 quarts of alcohol per year, against 10 quarts by the average Swiss, Belgian, and Italian, 9 quarts of the German and Englishman, 4 quarts of the Swede, 3 of the Norwegian, and 2 of the Canadian. This is a very curious result, but it would be more interesting, as regards this country, if it were known whether the speaker referred to the Englishman alone or to the inhabitants of the United Kingdom. Our idea is that the average Scotchman or Irishman imbibes quite as much alcohol per annum as any Frenchman—*The Caterer*.

Who can say there is nothing in a name. At a recent sitting of the Devonport Licensing Sessions (Eng.) the temperance party was represented by Messrs. Ginn and Porter, whilst a Mr Beer acted as assistant magistrates' clerk. A Mr Sturgeon, of the Fisherman's Arms, was among the applicants for a renewal.

New York's favourite summer resort, the Manhattan Beach Hotel, is a place to see. It is of a rather fantastic order of architecture, but possesses broad piazzas and big rooms where 2,300 people can be dined at once. It is said that over a million meals are served here during the year.

At a meeting held at the Metropolitan Hotel New York, which was attended by Douglas H. Snyder, James H. Breslin, of the Gilsey House Matt. J. Ward, the hotel-broker, and John H. Fife, of the Metropolitan Hotel, one of the largest hotel leases ever made in the United States and calling for a huge rental, covering a period of twenty-one years, was signed, with Douglas H. Snyder as sole proprietor, and James H. Breslin as manager of the hotel, which will be known as the Herald Square Hotel, and will be erected on the corner of Thirty-sixth Street and Broadway. It will cost 3,500,000 dollars, will be fifteen stories high, constructed of brick and limestone, and will have a frontage of 160 feet in Thirty-sixth Street, and a depth of 197ft. The hotel, when completed, will have 600 rooms, each with a bath, and will have no stores on the ground floor. It is to be completed by August 4th, 1897, and if not completed by that date the contractors are liable to a forfeit of 500 dollars a day for each day over. It will be ready to be occupied on September 1st, 1897.



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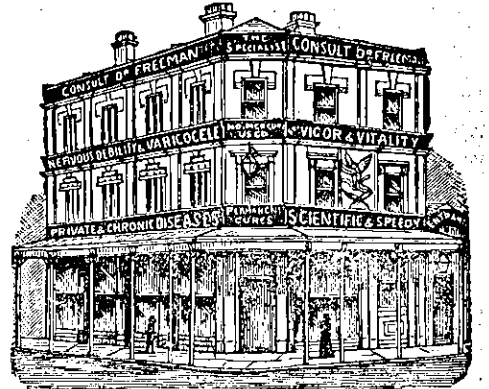
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