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THE WELLINGTON SUBURBS ELECTION.

WE think it is safe to say that no byeelection that has taken place in the history of this colony has caused more intense interest than the one just decided in the suburbs of Wellington. From a Ministerial, and also from an Opposition, standpoint, it represented a desperate struggle between the Government and those who represent the Opposition in the New Zealand Parliament, in which the Government proved victorious. The duestion, however, of Prohibition versus Moderation was an important factor in the contest, and we rejoice to know that the latter proved victorious by obtaining a substantial majority in its favor. Mr C. Wilson, the successful candidate, is a journalist whose writings have secured for him a high position in have secured for him a high position in the ranks of New Zealand journalists, whilst Mr Atkinson is a rising young lawyer, practising in the City of Wellington. Mr Wilson, by precept and example, has endeavoured to prove that liberty, toleration, and the free-will agency of the New Zealand colonists is the policy best suited to advance the best interest of the policy best suited to advance the policy best su interest of the young and growing colony in which we live. Mr Atkinson, on the other hand, has preached and practically supported the narrow unpracticable doctrine laid down by Sir Robert Stout, Rev. Isitt and Co., and at the election he was supported by all the strength which that effete party could bring to bear in the advocacy of his candidature. We do not say that all other issues were obscured, but it is quite safe to assert that the main issue was a struggle between Mr Wilson as a temperate candidate and Mr Atkinson as a supporter of fanaticism, and we confidently assert that temperance people and every lover of New Zealand liberty will rejoice over the result. We heartily congratulate Mr Wilson on the result of the election, and we trust the effect of his victory will be to stimulate the moderate party in New Zealand, to cause the party to concentrate their energies, and to become convinced that the victory achieved for moderation in the Wellington Suburbs can, by judgment and united action, be repeated in every district in New Zealand, from the North Cape to Stewart Island.

THE HAWKE'S BAY FLOODS

THE press of the colony has recorded full telegraphic reports of the terrible disaster vhich has befallen our nei noours in the Hawke's Bay provincial district, but a personal inspection of the scene of the disaster has satisfied us that it is absolutely impossible to describe the appalling disaster which has befallen our unfortunate fellow colonists in the districts recently inundated outside Napier. We rejoice to know that a noble response has been made to the appeal for monetary and other aid to the suffererers in their dire distress, but it has struck us as being very remarkable that no teetotal or prohibition organisation has so far taken any practical steps to alleviate the great trouble, whilst on the other hand the Mayor of Napier, Mr Swan (who, by the bye, is a brewer), has been working night and day in order to obtain assistance for the poor sufferers, who cannot possibly assist themselves. The Government has also generously assisted, insomuch as Mr Swan has been authorised to "frank" telegrams to all parts of

New Zealand when soliciting aid, and he has also been permitted to cable free to the whole of the Australasian colonies for the same purpose. Perhaps there was no part of Hawke's Bay which suffered to a greater extent than Clive, which is practically a suburb of Napier, and it is heartrending to contemplate that for many hours over three hundred men, women, and children had to leave their homes in Clive and take refuge on the bridge spanning the raging river which flows through that settlement, the terrible situation being all the time ac-centuated by the feeling that at any moment the structure might be swept away, whilst at each end of the bridge ten feet of flood water prevented the slightest possibility of escape. A few

into the employ of Mr T. Douglas, Thames, with whom he remained some three years. Here he found his fate, in the shape of Mrs. Woodward, and after some good business experience took possession of the Provincial Hotel, Grahams town, which he held until the house was closed. Removing to Auckland, he took up the business known as the Glasgow Bakery, Wellington Street, and eventually became the proprietor of the Pacific Hotel, Thames, where he now reigns as a most genial and popular boniface. It will interest many of his old pupils to be reminded that Mr Woodward was for some time an instructor in the Thames Gymnasium, and is at the present day not only a good athlete, but the most popular baritone in the district. His accomplishments are not confined to music and gymnastics, but in racing, boating, and all descriptions of sport he will generally be found on top.

TRADE TOPICS.

John M'Caw, a Blue Spur (Otago) Prohib. lectured at Blue Spur a few nights ago. He announced himself as a staunch believer in Prohibition, but declared that, to be effective, Pro-"Man," said John, "was a free agent, and force should not be applied to make a man abstain from making use of the gifts God had given him. And he did not believe in Prohibition in districts where sly-grog selling would take its place. He thought it only tended to make men become sneaks. He would rather have a public-house where a man could go in in the broad light of day, and have a drink if he wanted it, than see men slinking in at back doors, like curs." The Spectator has hopes of John. He is too level-headed to remain a member of the Pump Party. -Spectator.

MR W. WOODWARD, PROPRIETOR OF THE PACIFIC HOTEL, THAMES.

chains from the bridge, however, the Farndon Hotel is situated, close to the railway station, and the large-hearted proprietor of the hostelry assisted to organise a boating party, and in the course of a few hours the whole of the people were removed to the upstairs portion of the hotel, and the utmost effort was made to secure comfort for the sufferers. shall more fully refer to this matter in our next issue; in the meantime we would say to Stout, Isitt, and Co., consider the action of this publican, and to each member of the company we would say "Go thou and do likewise."

THE L.V. PORTRAIT GALLERY.

Mr William Woodward was born in Hamilton, Waikato, in 1865, and when ten years of age, besides keeping up his school attendance, commenced to learn the trade of baker and confectioner with his father, who was then in business in Queen Street, Auckland. Losing his parents at an early age, he went into the service of Mr D. Grubb, Karangahake Road, Newton, where he remained about five years, completing his educa-tion in the business he had chosen. Desiring a change from the dull routine of a baker's life, he went to the Thames, and for some considerable time was employed coaching between that town and Paeroa. Being a general favourite he made a little money, and started "tributing" at the Prince Imperial mine. After about twelve months of this he returned to his old trade, and went

Overproof gooseberry wine appears to be a favourite tipple with Timaru "Prohibs," judging by the recent case in which a vendor of this seductive "refreshment" was fined ten bob for selling alcoholic "gooseberry." The wives of the prohibited it was who gave the show away. They complained to the police that their hubbies went to defendant's house sober and returned — you know: "Have anozzerwizzmeolefler." Really its about time somebody invented a new "temperance" drink.—Spectator.

So far as I have found, states a writer in the S.A.L.V. Gazette, there is only one risk a fellow runs when he drinks a rum and milk, a whisky and milk, or a brandy and milk. The risky busi ness is not in drinking the whisky, the rum, or the brandy—the risk lies in the milk. People had better beware of milk. It is not often pure of late, especially now that rinderpest is rampant. I met with a man the other day who told me he vas stricken with a peculiar and annoying illness after having drunk some milk on the course of a journey to Johannesburg. He says he'll stick to "B. & S." for a while. I can scarcely blame him.

Thus the Spectator :- Rev. F. W. Isitt, speaking at a recent Pump gathering at Wellington, said "It was intended to sow the colony kneed deep in literature instructing voters how to vote at the next local option poll." That so? But most voters know how to vote without "literature" to them. They proved this at the last local option poll. By the way, the Spectator would suggest that the blank sides of the "literature" should be utilised. Pity to waste good space. Why not print that parody on the "Lord's Prayer (from the Prohibitionist) on the backs of the hand bills - beg pardon, we mean "literature."

Sterrong derrink again! According to the Edinburgh correspondent of the Otago Daily Times, a quart whiskey-bottle has been found in the stomach of a huge cod-fish landed at Bukie. It is with pain that the Spectator chronicles this item, and reflects that if that cod had only kept away from the drink he might have evaded cap-

"Forty million gallons of whiskey in bond in Scotland!" exclaimed a red-nosed man as he laid his Star on his knee in the Ocean-Beach (Dunedin) tram, and cast his eyes roofwards with an ecstatic expression of countenance. "For ty millions of gallons! — whew!" "Yes," commented a pious-looking party, wearing his hair mented a pious-looking party, wearing his hair a la Tennyson Smith, and a very large piece of blue-ribbon on his breast, "Yes, you may well feel astonished, yea, and dismay, my friend, at those figures. You may well deplore the fact that the Arch Enemy is so busy in Scotland." "What are you giving us?" asked the red-nosed party, "I was just thinking what a glorious drunk you could have with forty million gallons!" of whiskey that was all. For ty million gallons!" of whiskey, that was all. For-ty million gallons!" The long haired party groaned andibly and resumed the reading of his Star.

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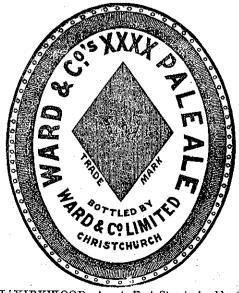
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