



A well-known Invercargill boniface is the co-respondent in a somewhat sensational divorce suit. The petitioner claims £1000 damages.

The billiard-room at the Royal Mail Hotel has been renovated, and a new cloth put on the table.

Mr John Walters, licensee of the Epsom Hotel, was last week charged with two breaches of the licensing law. The cases were adjourned for a fortnight.

The licensee of the Marine Parade Hotel, Napier, had a charge of Sunday trading brought against him. Last week the information was dismissed.

The wills of thirty brewers and maltsters were proved during the past twelve months in Great Britain. The total personalty amounted to £2,723,841, or an average of about £90,000.

Mr Fraser Campbell, partner in the firm of Messrs John Hopkins and Co., whisky distillers, Glasgow, is now visiting Australasia in the interests of his firm.

Mr W. P. Stewart, licensee of the Newmarket Hotel, Wanganui, was charged with Sunday trading last week. After voluminous evidence was taken the case was adjourned till a future date.

The Queen's cellars at Windsor and other Palaces have received a great amount of attention from the agents of French wines entrusted with their supply, and the same remark applies to Marlborough House and Sandringham.

The grape crop in the Cognac district has turned out under the average, and the white wines were rapidly taken up for distilling purposes. The quality of the new Cognac is excellent.

While in New Plymouth the Premier was asked to grant a charter to a Working Men's Club. Mr Seddon told the deputation that until the law is amended to provide for the supervision of clubs in the same manner as hotels no further charters would be granted.

Miss Richardson has given up the refreshment rooms at the Mercer Railway Station. During her tenure Miss Richardson favorably impressed the travelling public. Mr Hallett, licensee of the Railway Hotel, Mercer, will henceforward have control of the refreshment rooms.

One of the many resolutions adopted at the Prohibition Convention: "Recognising that the issue of the Local Option poll depends very largely on the women voters, and seeing that women are the chief sufferers by the liquor traffic, the Convention urges that the women should vote solidly for 'no license.'"

The latest dodge of American cigar smokers is—break a wooden match in half, sharpen one end, insert it in the end of the cigar, leaving half an inch protruding. It is claimed that by holding the protruding portion of the match between the teeth no moisture gets on the cigar, and it can be smoked to the stump without loss of flavor.

Several meetings of brewery companies have taken place during the month (says the Australian Wine and Spirit News), and dissatisfied shareholders have given vent to their feelings in many instances, making the directors' seats anything but a "bed of roses;" no signs of dividends, and calls in the near future, is the summary of most of the reports.

Mr Tommy Taylor, M.H.R., was in Hawera during the last week of March preaching prohibition. The meetings were, of course, satisfactory to the teetotallers, though at one the chairman, the Rev. Hanson, declared that prohibition interfered with the liberty of the subject, and at another the state of affairs in Maine was discussed to the advantage of the anti-prohibitionists.

The Hawera S.M., in giving judgment in a supplying liquor to a drunken person case the other day, spoke of the serious drunkenness prevails amongst the Natives of the district. Counsel for the defendant said his client would be glad if the law could be amended so as to prohibit Maories going into hotels at all. The magistrate suggested that the hotelkeepers should sign a petition to that effect, and he would forward it to the Government. Poor Maories!

I would draw attention to an advertisement of Mr E. Helming's, of His Lordship's Hotel, Lichfield Street, Christchurch, until lately in the occupation of Mr J. W. Matthews. This old and favorite hostelry enjoys a reputation for keeping the best brands of liquors, and people must be hard to please who cannot be suited at His Lordship's. The popularity of the hotel is not likely to decrease with the accession of its new and genial proprietor, and Mr Helming is confident that those who give it a trial will repeat their visit.

Our Taranaki correspondent writes:—Mr T. E. Taylor, the rabid prohibitionist, is now stamping the Taranaki Hawera, and Egmont electorates. He has spoken at nearly all the centres, large and small, both on prohibition and politics. In connection with the latter subject, the Premier seems to be Taylor's *bête noir*. The prohibition leaders fondly hope to carry their point in the Taranaki province at the next election, but if one goes on the returns of last elections I don't see the basis on which they rely. However, it behoves the licensed victuallers to be keenly alive to their interests, and adopt some plan of organisation for the fight which will eventuate next December. "Unity is strength" is a motto that all publicans should recognise at a period like the present, when we have a general election looming in the near future.

Mr T. E. Taylor, M.H.R., will not visit Auckland just yet. In a letter to Mr R. French the great teetotaler says:—"I have been at it now since March 26th. During the next week I have to speak at seven meetings. The meetings have been large and enthusiastic, crowds of converts, both political and prohibitionist. I shall be fairly tired out by the time of my last meeting. I can only go to the limit of physical endurance. If I come now I can only speak twice in Auckland, so think I had better defer the visit until I can cover Marsden, Thames, and Waikato as well as Auckland. Am sorry to disappoint our friends, but it cannot be helped." For which relief many thanks.

A fatal accident happened at Patea racecourse about 10 o'clock on Easter Monday morning. Mr Thomas Keane, proprietor of the Masonic Hotel, Patea, who had purchased the publican's privilege on the course, was riding down to the town for some change, when his mount shied badly at a bundle and threw Mr Keane heavily to the ground, dislocating his neck. The body was conveyed to the Masonic Hotel. Mr Keane was a well-known and respected publican on the Coast, having been licensee at Toko, Eltham, and Hawera. He was well-known also in sporting circles, and had run a few horses in his time. Deceased leaves a widow and family.

Visitors to the Upper Thames district will notice that notwithstanding the fact that mining generally at the present time is very flat, and that most mining townships are extremely quiet, there seems to be steady progress in Karangahake and Waitekauri. The hotel accommodation in each of these places is first-class, and I have often been surprised that commercials and others do not more frequently break the journey at these places. I notice that the Hauraki Hotel, at Waitekauri, has changed hands, and in the new proprietor, Mr M. Coulson, will be found a host who is bound to become most popular with the travelling public.



On Thursday last Mr James Aitken, the licensee of the Empire Hotel, Invercargill, was convicted of Sunday trading. At the request of defendant's counsel, the fine imposed was made £5 ls, so that the defendant may appeal. Mr Aitken wants to prove that he took all reasonable precautions, and had reason to believe that the men supplied with liquor were *bona fide* travellers.

On Friday Mr Edward Darby, the licensee of the Captain Cook Hotel, Newmarket, was charged with refusing to admit a police constable while in the execution of his duty on Sunday, March 12. The police evidence was to the effect that shortly after 10 o'clock on the Sunday night mentioned voices were heard in the billiard-room of the hotel, and that on knocking to gain admission the defendant came to the door, and after being told that the police were outside, went away. Subsequently the police saw three men leave the premises, one of them being a prohibited person. The defendant pleaded guilty through Mr Parr, but said he thought the people calling "police" might be persons trying to obtain a drink. In the end the defendant was fined £5 and costs.

The licensing laws are full of snares and pitfalls to the unwary (says the *Masterton Standard*), but it is remarkable how frequently they "pan out" in favor of those who desire to get round the most stringent provisions. A case in point occurred at Napier the other day, where the licensee of the Marine Parade Hotel was charged with Sunday trading. It was clearly proved that a lodger at the hotel was treating two friends to drinks at the bar, but the question was raised for the defence as to the possibility of convicting in a case where a lodger is entertaining his own guests. The S.M., Mr Turnbull, in giving judgment, said that with regard to a lodger entertaining guests, he held it was quite legal for him to do so, and for the licensee to supply them. In sub-section 5 of section 22 of the Act of 1895 it was provided that liquor supplied to a traveller must be personally consumed on the premises by such traveller and by no other person, but no such provision was made with regard to liquor supplied to a lodger, although the opening portion of the section referred to selling liquor to travellers and lodgers. This might have been an omission in framing the Act, but with that he had nothing to do.

At the Hawera Magistrate's Court on March 29 Mr F. S. Cooper, licensee of the Empire Hotel, was charged with supplying liquor to two Maoris while in a state of intoxication on February 10. The police conducted their own case. Mr Cooper was defended by Mr Welsh, and the native evidence was interpreted by Mr Stowell. The charge arose out of a sly-grog selling case which was heard last month. In that case Rangiahu (a witness for the prosecution), when confronted with a written statement he had made to Constable Whitehouse, said he was so drunk at the time that he remembered nothing about it. Subsequently he was charged with perjury, the basis being his statement as to the signed testimony. The District Court acquitted him, and the present proceedings were the outcome. The police relied upon the evidence of natives named Rangiahu, Te Whare, Ngawhina, Tamaiti, Te Rama, and Ngapara. Their evidence went to show that Rangiahu had after excessive drinking the previous two days, started his libations at the Empire on the morning of the 10th before breakfast, returned and drank again later on and from thence visited in turn the Hawera, Royal, Hawera, and Shamrock, and finished up again at the Empire Hotel, having had one or more drinks at each house. Te Whare was his companion as far as the second visit to the Hawera Hotel, when, he said, he departed into

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Please Mention SPORTING REVIEW When Writing.

"shadowland," and he could remember no more, although he thought he finished up at the Empire. At the Shamrock a horse deal was effected and a receipt signed by Rangiahu. Rangiahu said he was the worse for liquor after he left the Shamrock, but was unsteady a considerable time before. The defence was a complete denial of the charge. The principal witnesses called were Constable Whitehouse, who swore that at seven o'clock on the evening in question Rangiahu was as far as he could see perfectly sober; and defendant, who said that the Maori evidence as to their visiting his house several times and getting drunk thereby was a tissue of falsehoods. He did not, he said, supply drunken natives with liquor that day or any other day, and had refused them hundreds of times. In fact he did not remember Rangiahu being on the premises at all that day. Further, he made a practice of never selling gallons or half-gallons to the natives. Mr Welsh also called E. J. Oliver (the barman), R. J. Stewart (who was in the house nearly all day), Chas. M. Matthews, H. Priestley (who had his meals at the Empire, and was there a good time that day), G. McBride, and L. O. Hooker (who was working in the bar the whole day). None of them saw any drunken Maoris about. The last-mentioned and the police gave evidence that the Empire Hotel was well conducted generally, and the law observed as far as they knew. Mr Welsh made pointed reference to the fact that a signature by Rangiahu signed in Court was manifestly more "drunken" than that on the produced receipt given in the horse transaction. His Worship, in giving judgment, said the Court should require convincing proof before a Magistrate was justified in convicting. The onus of proof in such cases as these rested on the prosecution. They should recollect also that hotelkeepers labored under a disadvantage in refuting the charge against them after such a lapse of time. He also thought the fact should be remembered that very often people in an intoxicated condition from other hotels, staggered into an hotel, and anyone passing by considered the man had been supplied with drink at the last hotel. But it was not fair to draw such an inference. In the case in question the evidence for the police was all by natives. That in itself was no reflection—Maori evidence was just as reliable in many cases as that of Europeans—but the circumstances in this instance were peculiar, by reason of the fact that Rangiahu had been tried for perjury (giving false evidence that he was too drunk to remember making a statement). Rangiahu's story that he had forgotten was highly improbable, and he felt confident he

stated what was not true. It was probable, too, that his native friends had colored their evidence so as to help him in his perjury case and had stuck to it. His Worship made an exception of Ngawhina, whose evidence he considered reliable. Therefore he would have to view the evidence with a certain amount of suspicion. Further it was well known it was harder to tell a drunken Maori than a European. Having regard to the special circumstances of the case he did not consider he would be justified in recording a conviction and the case would be dismissed. A second information for permitting drunkenness was withdrawn, as were also charges against A. J. Jury, J. J. Connell, and Reuben Ogden for selling liquor to intoxicated persons.

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