



Mr B. C. Roberts is back in town again. I hope soon to see him fixed up in business.

The two men who burgled the Stortford Lodge Hotel have been committed for trial.

The prohibitionists in Palmerston North have resolved to purchase one hundred portraits of Bishop Julius for the adornment of the town.

It is said that the Rev. Leonard Isitt has been unwell since his notorious charges against the Wellington and Otago footballers.

The Albert Hotel improvements are going on apace. When the "finishing touch" is put on, Lindsay Cooke will be a proud man indeed.

An exchange announces the marriage of a couple named Lavender, and suggests that the husband should present his spouse with a pair of Lavender kids.

Richardson says his summons is as good as £200 to the prohibition cause. All the same, the fact that he has been proceeded against seems to annoy him a good deal.

It has been stated that the Rev. Leonard Isitt will stand against Mr Hogg for the Wairarapa seat. There is, however, some little difficulty in the way, as it is doubtful whether Mr Isitt's absence from the colony permits his candidature.

The Napier licensed victuallers have protested to the local Harbor Board against the new tariff of wharfage charges. As the merchants have also objected, the matter has been referred back to the committee.

Mr Spedding, who was recently fined for a breach of the Factories' Act, says that the Maine lunacy figures are lies. Funny, isn't it? Any statement unpalatable to the prohibitionists is a lie.

The Rev. Leonard Isitt was speaking in a district the other day in which there were two hotels. He said he saw three, and somebody with a tendency to repartee, quickly rejoined that he could not have seen three if he had been sober.

The Rev. F. W. Isitt was an interested spectator at the Thames-Auckland football match. He could find nothing to urge against the conduct of the players, though he may have been anxious to follow his brother's example as the Wellington-Otago mare's nest.

Host "Rocks" Woodward, of the Pacific Hotel, Thames, was in great form on Saturday. The triumph of the boys in blue and black pleased the Thames people tremendously, and there was no happier man in the place than "Pacific" Woodward.

Mr Howard, late of the United Service Hotel, Auckland, is now proprietor of the Royal Hotel, Thames. He was pretty busy on Saturday, extending a hearty welcome to hosts of Auckland friends and looking after the comfort of his numerous guests.

In the Wanganui Weekly Chronicle of August 12, the editor is taken to task for stating that in the Zulu War, 1877-78, rum was forbidden to the troops engaged. The Chronicle's correspondent points out that such was not the case, and once again shows that the prohibitionists will stretch their imagination to a very great degree.

Mr Tommy Taylor says he has never received, directly or indirectly, one penny-piece for his advocacy of prohibition. What about that £200 presentation about a year ago? Did not Saint Tommy retire to the Southern Alps and Lake Wakatipu to restore his tired nature, and did he not enjoy his little holiday very much?

A prohibitionist parson the other day said that if temperance people were willing to pay the same rates at temperance hotels as others willingly did at licensed houses, there would be no complaints about the accommodation. He hit the right nail on the head that time. The teetotalers love getting things "on the cheap."

The Rev. H. Mason is a Taranaki parson, and a declared voter for prohibition at the next election. Yet the other day he suggested the desirability of establishing a refreshment bar at the Taranaki Farmers' Club so that the members could always obtain a good glass of beer. If he is fond of a glass of beer, why cannot he allow the privilege to others?

Mr Tommy Taylor, M.H.R., when he was in the Taranaki province, walked into Mr Walter Symes, M.H.R., when the latter was not present. Mr Symes has been giving the junior member for Christchurch a "doing" in the House of Representatives, and he got much the best of the argument.

The barley growers of New Zealand have a rare opportunity afforded them by the Brewers' Exhibition, to be held in London next October. Any one sample has the chance of winning five cups, several medals, and £100 in cash. Besides, the prize-taking malting barleys are sure to command high prices.

How very quiet Auckland has been during the visit of the Rev. F. W. Isitt. On the Sunday he addressed the crowd at the Wharf, a newly-arrived steamer was blowing off superfluous vigor, too. The steamer got the best of it, and much of what Mr Isitt said might as well have been spoken from the top of Rangitoto. "Isn't that so?"

At a recent fire at Stratford a local hotelkeeper was very busy removing goods from the burning store. At one time he was making good progress with a case when someone called his attention to the fact that he was carrying dynamite. He slowed down, and the care and solicitude bestowed upon that box for the remainder of the journey was touching in the extreme—to the onlookers.

Prohibitionists are funny people. I have heard stories of all sorts concerning men who are now ranting about the evils of drink. One is of a soft goods tally-man, who used to travel the country selling to the Maoris. To ensure a good deal he used to carry a bottle of whisky. A drop or two to a demurring customer generally clinched the bargain.

The protection of Irish whisky has brought into existence in England an association called "The Irish Whisky Protection Association." This society will endeavor to prevent the selling of any spirits as of Irish production which have not been distilled in Ireland. It will also contain all Bills of Parliament affecting the Trade, and will take action when necessary.

An English trade paper says that the sales of rum continue on a very considerable scale, the export trade being particularly active. Prices for both Jamaica and Demerara descriptions mark an advance, with every indication of still higher quotations in the near future. Bonded stocks held in London have reached a remarkably low ebb, being at the beginning of this month no less than 4,976 puncheons below the corresponding period of last year.

I told a story last week of a colonial hotel-keeper's widow. Here is another, but this occurred in another colony. A young widow put up a handsome memorial to her late husband, and had the following inscribed upon it—"My grief is so great I cannot bear it." In a short space of time she consoled herself with Number Two, and feeling somewhat embarrassed about the inscription on Number One's tombstone, got out of the difficulty by adding just one word, and it was this, "alone!"

Dr. Monokton writes as follows to the Feilding Star:—Sir, it has been discovered alcohol is an antidote to the injurious effects of carbolic acid. Pour some corrosive liquid carbolic into your hand, and if it is afterwards dipped in alcohol the caustic effects are neutralised. If a person drinks some by mistake, a dose of alcohol to follow will prevent fatal results or even serious injury. This cannot be too widely made known. Perhaps the prohibitionists will not like the doctor's discovery.

The Dunedin Star says that during last week's frost not a bottle of beer or "soft stuff" could be got to run in any of the hotels about Alexandra, Cromwell, Clyde, and Blacks. The bottles that did not burst had their corks driven up by the expanding of the liquid contents, in some cases as much as an inch; and a traveller relates that when he got up in the morning he found the water-bottle on his dressing table showing a tongue of ice through the neck, the tumbler on top being lifted a couple of inches, while an Aurora stove on the bar counter, after being alight all day, was surrounded by a crust of ice from the condensed steam.



Recently a purchaser went into an hotel at Stratford, England, known as "The Three Rabbits," and called for three-star Martell Brandy. It happened that a bottle labelled "Martell" had just been emptied. The barmaid took the empty bottle to the proprietor, and under his directions the barmaid filled the bottle up with ordinary British brandy, and then served it to the customers. The gentlemen noticed the difference in flavor, and purchased a quantity of the brandy and forwarded it to Messrs Martell and Co., with details of the circumstances under which it was bought. The latter firm immediately took steps to prosecute, with the result that the proprietor of "Three Rabbits" was fined £20 and £7 16s 6d costs.

Argument was concluded the other day before Mr Justice A. H. Simpson, Chief Judge in Equity, Sydney, in the motion for an interim injunction brought by the Australian Brewery and Wine and Spirit Company (Limited) v. Ida Foster, licensee of the Stanmore Hotel, Stanmore Road. It was set up in this case that the respondent in January last entered into an agreement with the applicants, the terms constituting what is known as a "tied house." In March the respondent declined to give the applicants orders for beer, alleging that the quality of the liquor previously supplied was bad. The company denied that they supplied bad beer, and asked for an injunction restraining respondent from buying liquor elsewhere. His Honor granted the injunction as prayed, the applicants undertaking to raise no objection to the respondent giving evidence at the hearing as to the quality of the beer supplied after this date, on the ground that it was supplied after the statement of claim had been filed. The applicants also undertook to speed the hearing, and liberty was given the respondent to move to dissolve the injunction if the beer supplied was bad.

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