

fault of their own. They had to thank the Trade societies for various important amendments in their interests which were introduced into that Bill in its passage through the House of Commons. He referred, for example, to the fact that compensation was to be given to the licensed victualler for his trade fixtures, and that regard was to be paid to the fact that he had been in occupation for a considerable time and had conducted his house in a respectable manner. The licensed victualler would also be enabled to deduct from his rent a proportionate part of the compensation levy calculated upon the unexpired term of the lease under which he held. These were very important amendments in their interests, which they owed to the Trade societies in full operation, because the Act might be worked unfairly towards the licensed victualler. It was the duty of the Trade societies to safeguard the interests of the licensed victualler, and to see that the Act was worked fairly in his interest and in that of the inhabitants of the kingdom. The rules which would have to be promulgated for carrying out and working the Act would require the devoted attention of the Trade societies. The report of the licensing justices on which Quarter Sessions were to act with reference to the taking away of licenses should not be a secret, but a public document, and communicated to the party whose interests were affected. They also expected that the rules would provide that no person with a bias against the Trade should be allowed to sit on the Quarter Sessions committee. After speaking of the utter inapplicability of a time-limit to the measure, the chairman proposed "Success to the Association," remarking that it was to the influence of this society that the personal character of the holders in Westminster and Chelsea was maintained at its highest.

A deputation of representatives of churches and temperance organisations waited on the Queensland Premier recently for the purpose of presenting several requests in regard to the control of the liquor traffic; the Home Secretary was also present. Mr John Cameron, M.L.A., in introducing the deputation, stated that its objects were as follows:—

- (1) To ask for the strict enforcement of the Sunday closing clauses of the Licensing Act.
- (2) To ask for an amendment of the

Licensing Act, to provide for the incorporation of the 25th section of the Imperial Act, dealing with Sunday trading, which section throws the onus of proof on the persons found on the licensed premises, to prove that they are not there for the purpose of purchasing liquors.

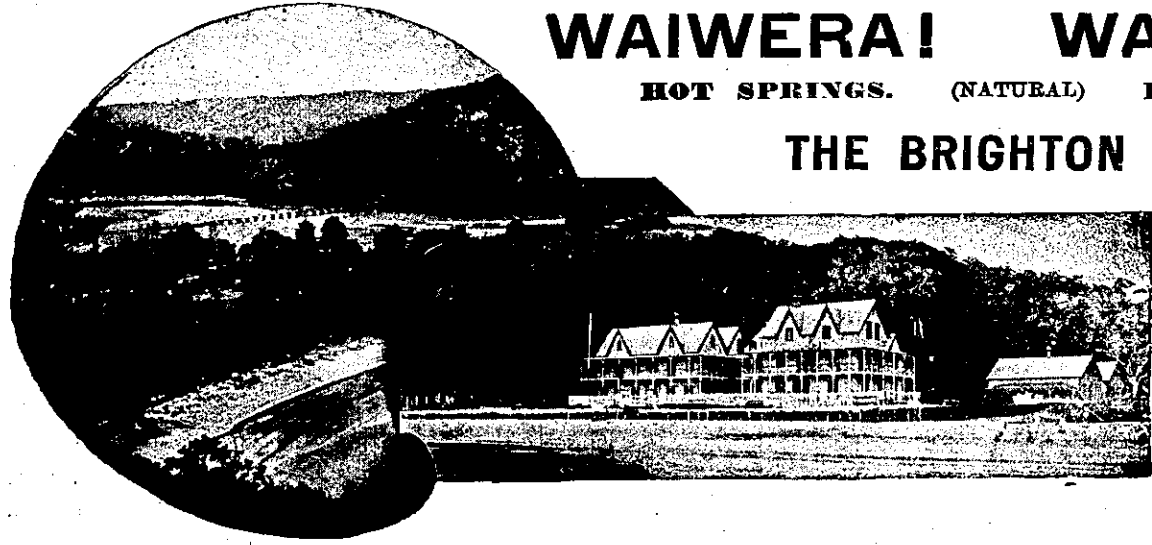
(3) To protest against adulteration of liquors.

Many long speeches were made by members of the deputation, traversing the same old ground. In reply, the Premier said "he thought that the deputation had made out their case fully and clearly." One thing which had struck him was "the knowledge which the members of the deputation appeared to possess of the methods of publicans who broke the law; he had obtained information which showed him how he could get a drink on Sunday if he wanted one." Mr Ewan, in his remarks, had said "that breaches of the law were more flagrant than they had ever been before." It was his duty, as head of the Government, to controvert that statement, which was not correct.

Mr Ewan had expressed a fear that something was impending—something that he assumed was hostile to the views of the deputation. That, perhaps, was due to the fact that numbers of petitions had been received by Parliament in favour of opening hotels on Sundays. He could say "that there was not the least prospect of any measure dealing with the liquor traffic generally being dealt with by Parliament this session." With regard to the adulteration of liquor, he was glad that they supported the Government in one thing; prosecutions had been going on for the adulteration of liquors. The Government would continue to enforce the law to the best of its ability, and in the direction asked.— ("A.B. Journal.")

There are unscrupulous publicans as there are unscrupulous tradesmen of every kind (says the London "L.V. Gazette"), and it is undoubtedly of advantage to the licensed victualling interest as a whole that when discovered in defrauding

the public they should be brought to book. Such well-known whisky firms as John Jameson and Sons and Buchanan and Co., Limited, are constantly making applications to the Courts for injunctions against retail traders for selling whisky which is not of their manufacture, two cases having occurred within the last few days. One of these—that relating to the sale of "spurious Jameson," at Mullingar—was a very bad case. It was stated in Court that the whole shop was "covered with dummy bottles bearing genuine labels." Of course there was the usual excuse—the establishment was under the control of a manager, who acted contrary to orders. The Master of the Rolls described this as one of the worst and most impudent cases of fraud he had ever heard of, and granted an injunction with costs and an inquiry as to damages. Buchanan and Co. also succeeded in obtaining an injunction against a Welsh tradesman for selling as "Black and White" whisky which never came out of the Black Swan distillery.



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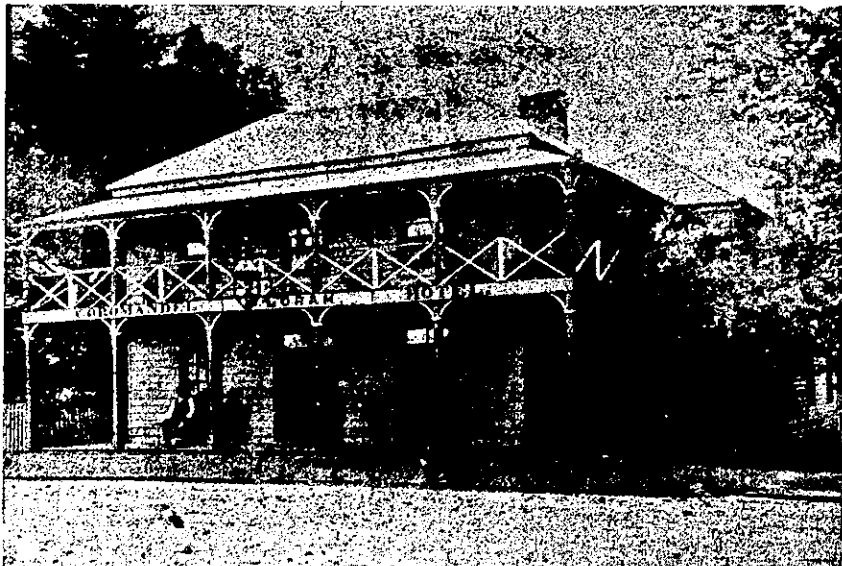
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