ONE LAW FOR THE PUBLIC, AND ANOTHER FOR THE PUBLICAN.

(London "L.V. Gazette.")

An eminent judicial humorist has dissipated once for all the fallacy that we have one law for the rich and another for the poor, and the assertion could, we doubt not, be as easily refuted that there exists separate laws for the public and publican. But if we needed an example of law dispensing to prove that the practice of the justices differentiates between the two classes, we could not find a better one than the recent Ram Ion shooting affair, which has ended in the acquittal of the defendants.

The facts of the case may be briefly recapitulated here for future reference. September last the Ram Inn, which is situated at North Tedworth, Salisbury Plain, and supplies the alcoholic requirements of some 3000 workmen, who are employed upon the construction of the new military barracks in the vicinity, was the scene of a disturbance caused by a quarrel among the customers. As the manager and his barman were unable to restore order among their undesirable visitors they cleared the house and barred the door against them. They acted, thus far, for the protection of their property, or, rather, the property of their employers.

But the mob resented this interference with their liberties, and made an assault upon the house. If the attack had succeeded the ruffians would doubtless have made short work of the stock and its guardians. The two men were opposed to an infuriated crowd, and their lives were in immediate danger. They endeavoured to frighten their assailants by firing over the heads of the mob, and if they had directed their fire against the besiegers themselves they would have been acting in strict accordance with the

But they did not resort to this extreme, and it was by a sheer accident, caused by one of the bricks with which they were being bombarded striking a gun, that the shot was fired which mortally wounded one of the attacking party. The manager and his assistant were, on the automatic finding of the coroner's jury, charged with manslaughter, and on the prima facie evidence that was given in the magistrate's court they should have been discharged forthwith. We maintain that if they had been two private members of the community that is what would have happened,

Three months prior to this occurrence a similar disturbance at Scathwaite, North Lancashire, attended by the same fatal consequences, was dismissed at this stage of the proceedings. It was shown in this latter case that the rioters, having wrecked the bar and helped themselves to the alcoholic stores, varied the programme by paying a devastating visit to the church and vicarage before proceeding to finish their labours at the hotel. But on their return they found the publican prepared to resist further spoliation, and one man was shot dead before the wreckers dispersed.

The magistrate before whom the licensed victualler was charged declared that the man was fully justified by law in using firearms as a last resource in the protection of life and property. That is the law, and that is the only reasonable application of it. But the magistrate in the Tedworth affair did not act in accordance with this practice, and sent the case for trial. Six weeks later, at the Salisbury Assizes the men were again tried for man laughter and acquitted.

There could have been no other ver-dict. The facts were plain; the evidence was conclusive; the law on the point is undisputed. If the men had been acting in defence of a private house, or a church, or a sanitary laundry, or any other description of property, they would have been discharged by the magistrate in the first place; but because they were in charge of licensed premises they were placed upon a different footing by the dispenser of justice, and were committed for trial.

It may be argued that as the ultimate result was an acquittal, which restored the men to freedom and exonerated them from blame, the law has not been ab-used; but a glance at the material con-ditions disposes of this line of justification. For several weeks they rested under the stigma of manslaughter, they were put to the trouble of surrendering themselves at the Assizes, and the pense of employing counsel to defend them in a trial which should never have taken place.

The law as it stands had justified them, and the magistracy was empowered to deal with the question and relieve them without delay of the stain which the charge itself puts upon them. The law goes even further than to hold them guiltless for their act: it grants them a license to trade with the stipulation that they shall suppress such a disorder as the they were endeavouring to the best of their ability to cope with, when the

excesses of the rioters brought about the fatal accident.

If the manager of the Ram Inn and his assistant had done less than the evidence showed them to have done they would have been responsible to the law for gross negligence in the execution of their public duties, and because they did not do less they were put to the greatest trouble and humiliation possible in justifying their course of conduct. Such a hardship is one which will entitle the men to the sympathy of all right-thinking people, and illustrates a method of preferential law dispensing which cannot be too strongly deprecated.

STATE OF TRADE IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

A subscriber to the "A.B. Journal," in Kalgoorlie (W.A.), in a recent letter, takes a gloomy view of the condition of general trade and commerce in the Western State. Writing from Perth, he says: -"I have had considerable opportunity to ascertain the true conditions of things in Perth, as I have for months made a house-to-house inspection of properties, and come in close contact with all classes of people, and I can truly say that beside a certain amount of comfort, there is a great deal of real hardship and distress, and many families are absolutely destitute. I hade seen homes with nothing but a few packing cases for furniture. Peculiarly, women from the east nearly always express disgust with conditions of life here, though I myself can-not see much difference; but, then, women are more sharpwitted than mere man, and see things that we don't. Per sonally, I have met the greatest kindness, and made personal friends I highly value; but an observer cannot close his eyes to the fact that there is a great deal of shallowness and glossed-over poverty, which the casual traveller never sees. There are hundreds who are living on one meal a day, and scores entirely on hotel counter lunches." An optimistic view, truly, of the one-time Golden West!

Celegraphic Address: Telephone No. 355.
"Upper Symond Street."

DANIEL ARKELL,

Gladstone Brewery, NEWTON BOAD AND GLADSTONE STREET, AUCKLAND.

XXXX Strong old Ale ... 1/9 K Bitter Ale XXX Mild Ale Extra Stout (Specially suited for Invalids) 1/9 Draught Ale and Stout, in bottles, Quarts 5/6 Dunedin Ale and Stout, Quarts 9/-4/0 Arkell's own brew, Ale and Stout, Quarts 8/-

Grushed Mait, 7/- per bushel.

Pure Island Lime Julee, 6/6 per dos.

Felson Hops, packed in 11b. and \$-1b. packets, at Market Friese.

All Cacks charged for until returned—8 gallon cacks 44, 3 gallons 4/-, 5 gallons 5/-, 10 gallons 7/6, and 16 gallons 9/- each.

HOTELS-AUCKLAND PROVINCE.

MACKAYTOWN Situate on the Road between Paeroa and Karangahake.

MR W. WOODWARD, late of the Pacific Hotel, Thames, desires to inform the public of Thames and Ohinemuri Districts that he has taken over the proprietorship of the above well-known and popular lostelry. The Dining-room will be under the c. ntrol of Mra Woodward, which is a sufficient guarantee of its efficiency. Don't forget to give "Rock" a call when passing.

B O R A HCTEL VICTORIA STREET, AUCKLAND.

MR SAMUEL SARAH

Every Convenience for Boarders. First-class Billiard Room.

Wines and Spirits of the Best Brands only kep!

S. SARAH, Proprietor.

R O Y A L MAIL HOTEL, COROMANIEL.

THOMAS CARROLL PROPRIETOR. ... First-class Accommodation for Tourists and Travellers

Wines, Spirits, and Ales of the Best. Hot and Cold Baths Every Comfort and Convenience.

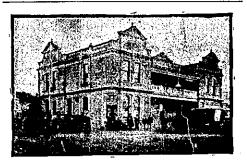
 $\mathbf{S}^{\overline{ extsf{TAB}}}$ GARTER AND HOTEL. COROMANDEL.

MRS F. MOUNTFORT ... PROPRIETEESS. Sample_Rooms Free to Commercial Travellers. Night Porter in attendance All Communications promptly attended to Hot and Cold Baths,



HOTEL RANGAHAKE I Main-Street, Karangahake

MR A. MONTGOMFRY has much pleasure in informing the General Public that he has now bought the Freehold of the above well-known Hotel. The Hotel has been fitt d up with Acetelyne Gas, and is lit from top to basement. Speight's Dunedin and Campbell-Ehrienfried's ales on tap. The hotel being in the centre of the township, is a favourite resort of the travelling public. Only wises and I quors of exceptional quality stucked. The Dining-room is spacious, and capatle of accommodating 90 people. Associated with the Hotel is Central Hall, "Garangahake, which is the largest in the town, and is light up by Acetelyne Gas.



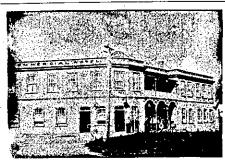
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MCK EANE

Having taken possession of the above oldestablished Hotel, invites a continuance of that support so liberally accorded his predecessor.

Wines and Spirits of the Best.



COMMERCIAL HOTEL, WHANGAREL

Having taken over the above Hotel, has increased the accommodation and renovated the Premises throughout. Customers can 1 ely on Every Comfort and Attention.

THE BEST BRANDS OF WINES AND SPIRITS KEPT IN STOCK.

Ample Sample Rooms for Commercial Travellers.

Good Billiard Table
Stable Accommodation Superior to anything North of Auckland.



THISTLE

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Mr A. ROBER TSON has now taken over the Management of the above Hotel, which has been thoroughly enovated throughout.

A few doors above the City Ha'l.

A. ROBERTSON Proprietor



TRITERION HOTEL, OTABUHU.

G. CLARK desires to intimate that he has taken over the above Long-1 stablished House, which has been rebuilt on the latest and most approved plana, so set to combine with the attractions of a First-Class Ho el all the advantages of a private home. His aim will be to maintain the Historic Popularity of the Hotel.

HUNTLY HOTEL, Huntly

L. B. HARRIS, Proprietor.

This Hotel is now one of the largest in the Waskato.
All trains stop at Huntly, and the Hotel is a few yards
from the Station.
First-class Accommodation and excellent table.

U E E N'8 H O T E (Corner of Symond Street and Khyber Pass.)

43

Mr VICTOR CORNAGA begs to announce to his friends and the public generally that h has taken over this old-established and popula Hotel. The Hotel is being renovated and refurnished throughout, and will be found replet with all modern and up-to-date convenie con-

> VICTOR CORNAGA, QUEEN'S HOTEL, Symond Street and Khyber Pass.

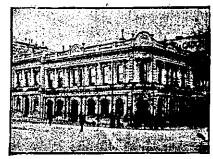


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THIS FINE MODERN HOTEL IS NOW OPEN Breeted and Furnished in the Latest Style. And strust on an ideal site, commanding a full view of the harbout the Proprietor trusts to receive patronage of those whrequire UP-TO-DATE ACCOMMODATION HEALTHY SITUATION, EASY ACCESS TO TOWN AND MODERATE TARIFF.

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CORNER QUEEN AND WELLESLEY-STREETS MRS 8. COOMBES PROPRIETRESS.

Mrs Coombes, late of the British Hotel, having taker over the above well-known and popular Hotel, trust she may receive a fair share of public patronage. BEST BRANDS OF LIQUORS KEPT.



MALISMAN HOTEL, KATIKATI

C. F. WIGLEY (late Steward on the s.s. Taniwha), PROPRIETOR.

Good Shooting, Fishing and Boating, Therma Springs, Hot Natural and Swimming Baths within twenty minutes' drive of the Hotel, and an Ostrice Farm within two minutes' walk of the Hotel.

Excellent Culane, This increating Pleasure Resort is about two hours rive from Waihi, and three and a half from Tamanga Livery and Bait Stables in conjunction with the hotel



SETILERS' HOTEL, WHANGARE

The above Hotel is within two minutes walk of the Railway Station and Town Wharf. First-class Accommodation. Baths and Every Convenience. Ber Brands of Wines and Spirits. Encoding Beer of Draught. Charges Moderate. Good Stabling and Praddocking for Horses. Sample Room and First-Classifiliard Table.

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The Best Wines, Spirits, Beers, and Cigars. All the Comforts of a Home, and a Good Table Kept. Charges Rearonable, and Civility the Rule of House. Commodius Stables. Good Raddocks. Billiards.