

tionists, will discuss the question "Would No-license, as provided for by the New Zealanders, be justifiable and in the best interests of the community?" Mr J. C. Macky will preside. The conditions of debate which have been arranged are as follows—Mr Davis to be allowed thirty minutes to open the debate; Mr Ward to be allowed thirty minutes to follow; Mr Davis to be allowed twenty minutes for reply; Mr Ward to be allowed ten minutes to close; the chairman to strike a two minutes before time expires in the case; chairman to allow time off for interruptions or points of order. For admission on the charge will be one shilling to the dress circle and orchestral stalls, and one shilling to other parts of the house. After all expenses connected with the hire of the Opera House, etc., have been paid, any surplus will be presented to the Auckland Hospital.

**A LUCKY ESCAPE.**

Mr Jim Baxter, country representative for Messrs Hancock and Co., Ltd., had a very narrow escape from what might have been a very serious, if not a fatal accident, last Saturday afternoon. He was riding up the Tokatea range, at Coromandel, when his horse stumbled and fell over the embankment. Fortunately, Mr Baxter escaped with only a severe shaking, but the animal was very badly cut about the hindquarters. The lucky traveller shortly after his adventure procured a fresh horse and continued on his journey.

**NO WILFUL INTENT.**

At the Pukekohe S.M. Court, one day last week, Mr James Dixon Ward, the well-known anti-prohibition lecturer, made his bow to Mr H. W. Northcroft, S.M. Mr Ward was charged with having committed a breach of the Electoral Act by making a claim for enrolment before he had been twelve months in the colony. In the evidence it was stated that on July 6 Mr Ward had signed an enrolment form, and was placed upon the Franklin roll, and afterwards transferred to Auckland. He then discovered he was not qualified, and wrote to the Registrars at Auckland and Franklin explaining his error, and asking to have his name removed. Up to the time of the receipt of these letters the Registrars were not aware that he was not qualified. He was now qualified to enrol. Mr Northcroft held that there was no wilful intent, and the case was dismissed.

**MORE WOOL PULLING.**

In St. George's Hall, one night last week, Mr Geo. Fowlds, in answer to a question, said that no prohibitionist wanted to shut up hotels, but merely to stop the sale of liquor, the inference being that the hotels can keep open, but can do so without the aid of the sale of liquors. Now, Mr. George Fowlds is largely credited by a number of people as being a man who knows to a considerable extent what he is talking about, and the writer takes it that he has now joined the sixteen-pints-in-your-own-house party, who are by much pulling of wool trying to obscure the vision of the free and independent. Being somewhat of a traveller, the member for Grey Lynn knows full well that up-to-date hotels (as insisted upon by licensing committees) cannot be conducted in anything like comfortable style on the profit that is made from feeding and housing even a teetotal M.H.R. If as he wishes us to infer, it can be done, how is it then, that the majority of teetotalers choose a licensed house as their temporary quarters when away from home. Mr Fowlds also knows full well that the stopping of the sale of liquor and the closing of hotels are one and the same thing. The latter would follow the enforcement of the former so closely as to be indistinguishable, except, of course, to those who allow themselves to be blinded by such nonsense, or those who are wilfully blind. As for not wanting to close the hotels, it is the opinion of the majority of people that the prohibitionists who have got prohibition had would not only close up the hotels, but everything else that did not bear the brand of their approval.

**A FOOLISH BAIT.**

The attempts that are being made by the prohibition party, under the guise of the No-License League, to fool the working man voter, are most laughable. To the man who takes and enjoys his pint of beer, the bait of two gallons in his own house tickles him, but does not hook him. He knows, that is, the working man knows, that there is no intention on the part of the prohibition party that he should be left to the enjoyment of his keg in his own house. He also knows that the ways and means of getting that keg into his own house would be made exceedingly difficult for him, and that it would only be a question of time, and a very short time, too, if the "probe" party had their way, when he would wake up to the fact that the source of

supply of that proposed adjunct to his household requisites would be so far away as to be beyond the reach of his means. To his better off fellow men the source of supply being further removed would mean a little more expense, but would not prohibit them from indulging in their glass of liquor. To the working man it would mean absolute prohibition so that let the pill be wrapped up as it may, there it stands; no-license simply means prohibition for the poorer classes. Another point that appeals more strongly to many working men, and that is, that however free he may feel he is to indulge in a glass of beer when he feels so inclined, he is not free to take it into his own house and thereby place liquor within the reach of those who are too young to understand the nobleness of that word moderation. If the no-license party hope to gain their ends by the keg inducement, then it does not say much for their powers of discernment, and they have started a herring across the path that will prove their undoing.

**BUSINESS.**

Business is reported as having shown some improvement since the end of last month. As yet the tourist traffic has not increased very much, and is not up to the proportion that it would no doubt be had we had more settled weather. As it is the few fine days we have experienced have had the effect of bringing more people into town, with a consequent improvement in the retail trade. The booth holders at the Ellerslie races were unfortunate in having a wet, boisterous day for the beginning of the season.

**COSTLY ILLEGAL BUSINESS.**

A Lower Queen-street restaurateur named Peter Franchi has for some little time past occupied a good deal of the local Magistrate's Court. Incidentally he has added comfortable sums to the country's revenue, and also to the income of several gentlemen of the law. Starting off he faced a charge of over-working some employees; this resulted in heavy fines. Smarting under this, Peter had a turn on his own, and had several of his late employees before the Court on several charges of theft. These charges were all dismissed, Peter paying costs, and the possibility of more being heard of the matter from the other side. The third and last act up to the time of writing was enacted in the Police Court last Friday, when Peter pleaded not

guilty of having sold liquor without a license. These ex-employees gave evidence for the prosecution, which was that two men who had come into the restaurant for oyster suppers asked for ten bottles of beer, tendering half a sovereign in payment. Franchi sent out and procured draught beer, filling it into bottles with bottled beer labels on. On another occasion a man was charged two shillings for a bottle of stout, which had cost one shilling. After the evidence had been heard, Franchi's counsel decided not to put his client into the witness box to give evidence on oath. The magistrate said he was satisfied on the evidence for the prosecution that liquor had been sold by Franchi without a license. On the first charge he fined defendant £10 and costs £1 8s, and on the second he was fined £25, and costs 7s. The revenue cock has crowed thrice, it is now up to Peter.

**SOUTHERN CHANGES.**

Messrs Dwan Bros., hotel brokers of Wellington, have recently effected the following changes in hotel properties. Mr Sidney Diamond's interest in the freehold of the Occidental Hotel, Lambton Quay, to a Wellington resident. Mr P. Burke's interest in His Lordship's Larder Hotel, Lichfield-street, Christchurch, to Mr Lahman, formerly of Wellington, the lease and goodwill of the new Railway Hotel, Palmerston North, which has recently been re-built and newly furnished, to Mr John Hurley, a well-known farmer of Palmerston North; and Mr J. Crechman's interest in the Grovetown Hotel, Blenheim, to Mrs Strouts, formerly of Christchurch.

**TEMPERATE NEW ZEALAND.**

The New Zealand "Times" recently published an account of an interview with Mr James S. McConechie, representative for the Manchester Ship Canal, who has been long enough and has travelled sufficiently in the colony to gain many impressions. After saying many nice things of the colony and its people, Mr McConechie goes on to remark how particularly he is struck with the temperate nature of the people of New Zealand, and adds, "I don't think I've ever been anywhere where I've seen so little drinking. I've been living in hotels ever since I've been in the colony, and I really don't believe I've seen half-a-dozen 'Whiskies and sodas' drunk. There may be drinking, but I have not seen it, and the impression I have gained is that the people as a whole must be very temperate."


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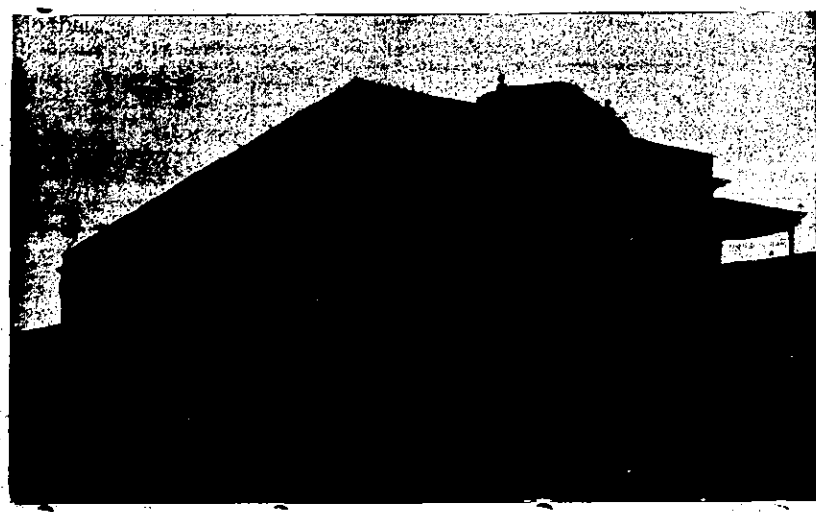
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