

**A CREDITABLE VERDICT.**

The day before the local option poll was taken formal business had to be transacted at the quarterly sitting of the Auckland Licensing Committee, which was held in the Magistrate's Court, the members present being Messrs R. W. Dyer, S.M. (president), A. Rosser, Graves Aickin, and P. E. Cheal.

The following transfers were granted: Ponsoby Club Hotel from Francis George Raynes to Edward Quinn (represented by Mr Baxter); Central Hotel from John William Speers to Charles Kalnan (Mr McVeagh); and Freeman's Hotel from Patrick Joseph Simons to William Derham (Mr McVeagh).

The police reported that during the quarter the licensees of the Britomart and British Hotels had been convicted of permitting drunkenness. The committee decided to take no action in regard to the licenses of these hotels. A favourable report was received in regard to the Criterion Hotel, which the police had been requested to keep under observation.

Mr Rosser remarked that there were 58 hotels in the district, and very little fault to find. He had just returned from a trip to the South, and considered that the Auckland hotels compared very favourably with those elsewhere.

Mr Aickin: The hotels are a credit to the city and the police.

Mr Dyer: Considering the population of the city and the number of hotels taking them on the whole they are very well conducted.

Mr Cheal: In a seaport town at that. The president concluded the discussion by remarking that there must be infringements of the Act sometimes, but the police deserved credit for being very much on the alert.

**IN GREY LYNN.**

There is possibly no other electorate in the colony that would show up the senseless folly of prohibition better than that of Grey Lynn. Now that a no-license vote has decreed that Grey Lynn shall go dry, we will have during the next three years every opportunity of studying the question from very many aspects at our very doors. Beyond the closing of one very old licensed house, and one which has been in the occupancy of one family for about twenty years, the desire for the removal of the public bar has achieved little or nothing, as there are two other hotels but a short distance away from the one that has

been voted out. The residents in the immediate neighbourhood of the latter will suffer no inconvenience of procuring supplies beyond that of having to walk a few yards further to satisfy their requirements. The people who will really feel the pinch and inconvenience of prohibition are those who are living in the more remote parts of the electorate. No doubt a number of these inhabitants have in the past been in the habit of procuring their supplies in a perfectly free manner as required. Now that they will be faced with many legal restrictions, which will have to be complied with or a course of enforced prohibition will have to be digested. From the evidence of figures in some of the Southern electorates, it will only require three years of prohibition in Grey Lynn to cause a majority of its inhabitants to eagerly await the next licensing poll, so that they may effect a restoration of licenses. Not that many of them require the re-opening of the hotel about to be closed, as it is many miles distant from some parts of the

electorate, but simply to place themselves once more in a licensed district with its privileges and freedom.

**HOTEL BURNED DOWN.**

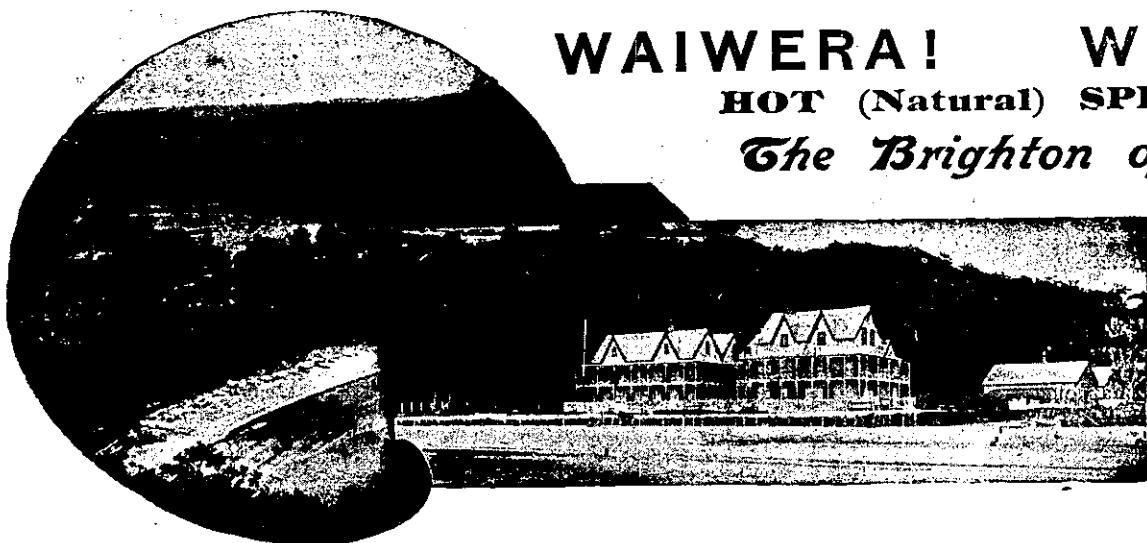
Very general regret was expressed in Auckland last week when it became known that Mr W. J. Smith's fine hotel at Helensville had been burned down. Few if any travellers and residents have not experienced the comfort and hospitality of the Terminus Hotel, dispensed by Mr and Mrs Smith. They have the entire sympathy of a host of customers and friends in what must be to them a very great misfortune. Coming at this season of the year their ill-luck is doubly keen.

The fire broke out in an adjacent baker's shop, and spreading to two other shops and the hotel speedily had them all demolished. The total damage was estimated at £3000. The insurances on the buildings and contents will not nearly cover the loss occasioned.

**LICENSING MEETINGS.**

**OHINEMURI.**

The quarterly meeting of the Ohinemuri Licensing Committee was held at noon last Thursday, the members present being: Messrs R. S. Bush, S.M. (chairman), Gavin, Franklin, Stanley and Kitching. A permanent transfer of the license of the Puriri Hotel from Margaret Jane Laycock to John Ganley was granted. John Edwards, licensee of the Criterion Hotel, Paeroa, was granted an extension of leave of absence to January 10 next. The police reports in all cases were favourable, except with regard to the Fraraway Hotel and the Karangahake Hotel, both at Karangahake. Complaints of suspected Sunday trading were made by the police about both hotels, and complaint was also made about delay in admitting the police to the Karangahake Hotel. Mr Moresby, who appeared for the licensees, said that there was no Sunday trading carried on, as the licensees had made up their minds to strictly close their houses



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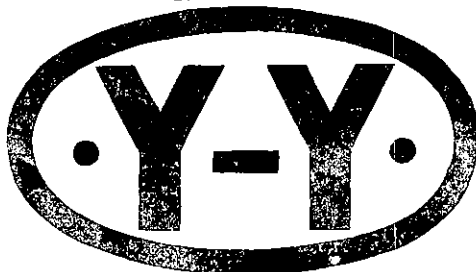
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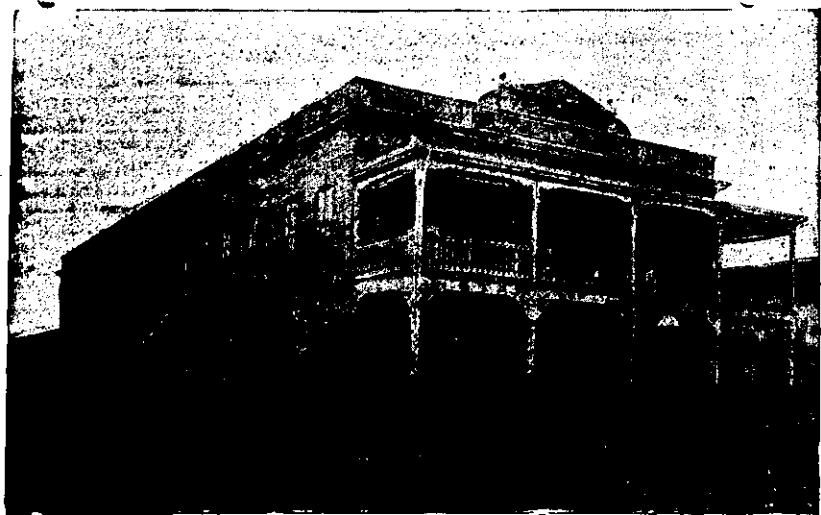
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