



IA MERRY CHRISTMAS.

Christmas Time, as this end of the year is generally spoken of, is one full of happy recollections of the past and full of pleasurable anticipations for the future. Accompanied, as it usually is in this country, by pleasant weather, it casts a beneficent influence over nearly everyone. The average man laughs louder and longer, his heart of hearts opens, and he is disposed to feel at peace with all men. We will go so far as to say that we believe that even the most bitter top-liner will laugh at least once during the festive season. And if our worthy King Richard could be approached after his dinner on Christmas Day, there is no doubt he would decree that the next local option poll take place on Boxing Day in the year 2000. Following hard upon the heels of the recent local option poll, this Christmas will be especially pleasurable to the Trade. The worry and hard work of the triennial battle is over, the fight has been fought and won; the recollection of the victory will add to the enjoyment of the good things of Christmas Time. Those who have in six months' time to relinquish their businesses have the sincere sympathy of many, many friends and acquaintances, accompanied by the assurance that at the end of three years those who know them best will leave nothing undone to reinstate their businesses. Even those who are affected by the result of the poll must partake of the feeling of exultation at the general victory of the Trade; and it is hoped that their Christmas will be none the less merry. To our many friends and supporters we wish everything that is good; we cannot say more. To our few enemies and opponents we also wish everything good, with the hope that they will become fewer and fewer as time wears on. To each member of the Trade we wish great success, may you all pick the double, and back first and second in each race, and if you can capture a prohibitionist feed him well, top him off with walnuts, a good glass of port and a fragrant Havanna, and if then he won't listen to common sense, send for the police.

Trade Topics

Mr Moss Davis, of Messrs Hancock and Co., was present at the dinner given to the New Zealand Footballers in London last month.

The curtains in a bedroom of the Thames Hotel accidentally caught alight early last Saturday morning. The fire was fortunately discovered and suppressed before more than a few pounds' damage had been done.

James Smith, a prohibited person, failed in an attempt to get a drink at the Albert Hotel, but on a charge of entering the hotel he was last Saturday fined £2 and costs.

Mr Wm. Morrison, of the Post Office Hotel, Thames, has secured the privileges of the publican's booth at the Thames races.

Very rarely does a Chinaman imbibe well but not wisely, but one who was recently arrested in Wellington confessed to be suffering from an overdose of what he described as "blandy."

There is nothing new under the sun, we are told, but being found on licensed premises on Sunday is an offence which produces some wondrously new excuses. The latest from Wellington was given by an old man who was found in an hotel at 10 a.m. one Sunday—he said he had gone in to try and borrow 5s.

Mr Edwin Jones, licensee of the Kentish Arms Hotel, Waiuku, died in Auckland on the 13th inst. The deceased gentleman had been in ill-health for some considerable time.

A Southern paper says that the rejection of Messrs Taylor and Co. is the most popular result of the elections.

A majority of 149 over the three-fifths required has given Oamaru no-license.

Mr and Mrs William Staples, of Wellington, have left for America and England on a holiday tour.

Reduction was carried at Kaiapoi by two votes.

The Hon. W. Hall-Jones has expressed a view that the ebb in the tide of no-license was not improbably due to some extent to the connection of prominent prohibitionists with the voucher incident.

Reduction was carried in Taieri by 34 votes.

Continuance was carried in Lyttelton by 186 votes.

At a water-drinking contest in Paris the winner drank twelve quarts.

The Palmerston North Licensing Committee have decided that the Provincial Hotel must be re-built.

In London a ship's fireman has been sentenced to 15 years' penal servitude for burglary at a public-house in Woolwich. He blinded the landlord temporarily by squirting a solution of ammonia into his face.

A young man named George Robson was charged at Hamilton last Saturday, with having stolen the sum of £40 from his employer, Mr Joshua Smith, of the Commercial Hotel. The accused, who had been employed as porter at the hotel, was remanded until to-day.

John Frederick Crook, alias Smith, has been sentenced to three years' imprisonment with hard labour on three charges of burglary and theft at the Commercial Hotel and Clarendon Hotel, in Wellington.

It is too bad, really too bad, the way some unkind people try to give the prohibitionists the jumps. One of the late worries being contained in the rumour that was drifting round last week, that there was a chance of licenses being restored in Ashburton.

A sign of the times may be read in the fact that at what is described as a largely attended meeting of no-license supporters, held in Wellington recently, the inevitable collection only gathered in £12 6s 6d.

The prohibition party still continue to yell that they have not received a set back, and that they are satisfied with the results. They may take it that the Trade are also satisfied, very satisfied, with the results of the three years' work of the no-liberty crowd.

An unbeliever who had the temerity to laugh at a statement made at a Wellington meeting by the Rev. F. W. Isitt, to the effect that the dreadful liquor traffic meant death to 2000 fellow colonists in the next three years, brought down the temperate rev. gentleman's wrath, who said that the man that laughed did not deserve a vote. If he had an intelligent mastiff who could understand a vote he would rather give the vote to the dog than to such a man. Of such are the leaders of temperance.

The goodwill and furniture of the Royal Hotel, Thames, is for sale.

Mr William Cottier, who was for many years hotel keeping in New Plymouth, as owner of the Criterion Hotel, died at that place on the 13th inst., at the age of 65.

Sincere regret is expressed at the tragic death of Mr Joseph Schollum, of Puhoi, last week. The deceased gentleman came of the family of that name well known in the Trade as hotelkeepers at Puhoi and the Wade, and was a brother of Mr Wenzl Schollum, hotel broker of this city.

The threatened libel action (ensuing out of a recent licensing controversy at Napier) in which Ian Simson was suing Saunders for £510, has been settled by defendant publicly apologising and donating a cheque to the hospital.

After the elections a rumour gained currency that the no-license party were going to demand a recount in Palmerston North, on the ground of irregularities. Inquiries have established the fact that such is not the case.

It is now definitely decided that no-license has been carried at Invercargill by eight and three-fifths votes. The total number of valid votes was 6489, and those for no-license number 3902.

The Rev. Father Hays leaves the colony next month.

How Invercargill will take to prohibition will be an interesting study. It is the first town of any importance in New Zealand that has come under prohibitory law.

THE PITY OF IT.

The appeals made through the daily press reminding the charitably disposed of their fellow men and women who by force of poverty do not look forward to a festive season, bring to mind the thousands of pounds that have just been spent in fighting the local option poll. On the one hand we have a portion of the community forced into the spending of thousands of pounds to defend their businesses from annihilation, on the other we have a party of extremists who in the bulk are people of one idea also spending thousands of pounds in an endeavour to annihilate a legalised industry. Do the results justify all this expenditure on their part and the forced expenditure on the other. The answer is emphatically negative. Then the reflection must come, how much real good, how much real practical help could have been accomplished with those tens of thousands of pounds. To innumerable people this money would have been a veritable blessing at this season of the year. Yet there we have it, all gone, and for what?—all gone, that might have done so much. To all who can see clearly instead of seeing blindly the reflection must come, "the pity of it."

SLY-GROG CASES.

The adjourned cases of sly-grog selling at Ashburton were continued last week, before Mr Wray, S.M. Richard Nealon, against whom there were six informations with selling liquor in a no-license district, had a conviction entered on the first and second informations, the prosecution withdrawing the other charges. After commenting on the amount of false swearing which was always associated with sly-grog cases, the magistrate said, owing to the difficulty in detecting such offences, a substantial penalty must be inflicted. As the accused had been once previously convicted for a similar offence, he had no option but to send him to gaol, and would sentence accused

to two months' on each conviction, the sentences to run concurrently. Accused's counsel said he intended to appeal, and bail was allowed in one surety of £100.

THE CHRISTCHURCH RECORD.

The official count of the Christchurch licensing poll was completed last Friday. The number of valid votes were 19,743, informal 369—Continuance 10,641, reduction 7376, and no-license 8787. This from the nursery and home of the aggressive prohibition movement, which has spread nearly all over New Zealand. 3059 more votes would have been required to carry no-license, and 2502 more to carry reduction. Continuance was carried by 769 votes.

AUCKLAND.

The official counting of the Auckland City votes in connection with the local option poll was concluded last Friday at noon. The figures showing that no proposal is carried. The total number of voters was 16,548. For continuance 7930 votes were recorded; for reduction, 7480; and for no-license, 8202. The number of informal votes that were disclosed amounted to 379.

MARSDEN.

In connection with the local option poll for this electorate, it is stated that the returning officer has added the 78 informal votes to the total number of valid votes recorded (5146). In the instance of Manukau a decision from Wellington decided that the informal votes were not to be added to the number of valid votes. In the Marsden district the addition of these votes has made no difference to the result, but if a similar course had been allowed in the Manukau a very different result for that place would have had to have been recorded.

WAIKATO.

A rumour was industriously circulated round town last week that reduction had been carried in the Waikato by three votes. The amended returns were published last Friday, and show the voting to have resulted: For continuance 2991, reduction 3016, and no-license 3652, informal votes 191; total voters 6704. Reduction was, therefore, 336 votes short, a difference from the rumoured number that is most reassuring. It is reported that the Alliance members of the Waikato are already organising to contest the local option poll three years hence, and have started a "bob in" fund, everyone allowed to shout. Promises have been made of 1000 shillings monthly during the three years. The shillings will follow the promises later on.

THE WEST COAST.

There is an indication that the hotels on the West Coast will in all probability be very much improved. The Grey River "Argus" says that it is rumoured that a syndicate in Wellington has secured an option over certain hotels on the Coast, and intends to erect large and com-

You Get Nothing But
Lasting Good

From Its Use.

Wolfe's Schnapps

A Tonic as well as a Beverage.