



Trade Topics

Sensational murder in a Sydney hotel reported last Friday.

In the recent sly-grog case heard before Dr. McArthur in Wellington, he said that, for his part, if any liquor was kept in restaurant premises he would consider it kept there for sale.

Sly-grog convictions, with the methods of obtaining such, are especially interesting to the Trade. In another column a full report, as reported by the "New Zealand Times," of a recent Wellington case will be found.

A charter has been granted to the Town and County Club of Masterton. This will permit alcoholic liquors being sold on the premises.

The old Pier Hotel at the corner of Grey-street and Customhouse Quay, Wellington, is being demolished, and will be replaced by a three-story brick building.

Tobacco was regarded as an offering of peculiar adaptability to the unknown powers in whose hands the Indian conceived his fate for good or ill to be, hence it is observed to figure prominently in ceremonies as incense and as material for sacrifices.

Constable Moore, of Rawene, has been promoted to the rank of sergeant and is to be transferred to Auckland.

The erection of shelter sheds for the protection of tram travelers is being considered by the Tram Company and City Council.

In regard to a new bridge to cross the Cemetery Gully, two proposals will probably be submitted to the rate-payers, one to erect a footbridge on the site of the former bridge at a cost of £2000, the other to erect a traffic bridge in reinforced concrete at a cost of £30,000.

Patrick W. Corley, hotel manager, of Wellington, has been adjudged a bankrupt. The creditors meet in Wellington to-day.

In the Wellington Court recently a middle-aged man, who appeared to answer a charge of forgery, fell back on the time-worn plea of being under the influence of drink when the forgery was perpetrated. Mr. Justice Cooper, however, pointed out that an examination of the cheque sufficiently showed that it was written by a sober man in clear, good handwriting, and the evidence on the depositions showed that the prisoner was not drunk when the cheque was uttered.

Messrs. W. Strange and Co. have secured the contract for furnishing the new Grand Hotel in Willis-street, Wellington.

The police returns for the Canterbury and North Otago districts show that 1537 cases of drunkenness were reported in 1905, as against 1889 during 1904.

A Christchurch tea merchant asserts that there is more tea drunk in that city than in any other centre in the colony.

A young man of Blenheim attempted to kiss the proprietress of a restaurant. She slapped his face, knocked him down, hauled him up, and had him fined 20s.

Among the colonial exhibits at the Liverpool Exhibition New Zealand's is said to be the best.

With the prospect of no-license being enforced at Invercargill, the value of a hotel in the vicinity, but outside the boundary, has exactly doubled within the last two weeks, a price equivalent to that increase having been offered and refused.

A plant for gilding sixpences so as to make them resemble half-sovereigns has been discovered in Perth (West Australia).

The license of one of the principal hotels at Warren (New South Wales) expired in October, but the fact was overlooked both by the licensee and the authorities, and the sale of liquor proceeded as usual. Some days ago the licensee remembered the omission and he immediately closed the bar, and the lawyers are now trying to find a way out of the difficulty.

In a new order lately issued by the Admiralty captains are empowered to overhaul the wine books and stop the supplies of any officer who is found to be consuming too much liquor.

In a police Court case in Adelaide a witness in giving evidence of a conversation with the accused person over the telephone wire, swore that he had often had conversations through the telephone with the accused, and knew his voice. The evidence was then admitted.

A peculiar young man at Waihi was last week charged with having no visible means of support. He informed the Bench that he did not intend working any more. He was sentenced to one month's hard labour.

Painting and papering renovations are being carried on at the Queen's Ferry Hotel, Vulcan Lane.

The beer duty collected in Auckland last month showed an increase of £195 17s over January of 1905. The figures for that year were £1554, and for this year £1749 17s.

The well-known temperance advocate, Sir Wilfrid Lawson, has been returned for the Cockermonth Division of Cornwall at the late elections in England. At the last general election he was defeated.

In the Police Court last week, Mr. Kettle, S.M., asked if proper supervision was kept on the racecourse booths. Sub-Inspector Black replied that very little drunkenness occurred on the racecourse.

The Premier recently announced that during the forthcoming session proposals would be submitted for the remission of taxation on the necessities of life.

"A Good Pull-up for Bishops," "A Pub-house Without Beer."—Two signs in the windows of a "trust" temperance house.

There is a possibility of the tram traffic in Queen-street being stopped, to enable efficient repairs being made to the asphalt near the tram lines.

The election of Licensing Committees throughout the colony will take place on the second Tuesday in March. The same rolls will be used as for the late Parliamentary election and licensing poll, and voters may enrol up to the 17th of this month.

Railway stations in Dunedin, where hot luncheons can be procured, are known by a peculiar sign bearing the suggestive emblem of a crossed knife and fork.

The petition for an inquiry into the Invercargill local option poll has been dismissed. Costs against the petitioners were allowed as follows: Professional fees, 35 guineas; witnesses' expenses and costs of scrutiny, £9 9s; witnesses' expenses to be as per scale.

The baton carried by the police of New York is made of extremely heavy wood, coated with indiarubber, and while it will knock a man down with a single blow it will stun without breaking his head.

In the local Court last week a prohibition order was issued against Henry England.

A WHOLESALE LICENSE.

The question of what it is worth to be a nominal wholesale beer bottler was before Mr. C. C. Kettle, S.M., at the Magistrate's Court last Friday. Joseph Erhman claimed £22 10s from Francis E. R. T. Peacock for money alleged to have been lent.

Mr. E. C. Blomfield appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. R. McVeagh defended.

The plaintiff, on oath, stated that he applied for a wholesale beer bottling license in June, 1904, in the defendant's name, for a business to be run by the plaintiff. The license was granted, and witness carried on the bottling business. Peacock was not a partner. Peacock came to him later, and asked him to lend him £25, but witness said he could not do so. Defendant said he was going to get married, and wanted the money for his furniture. Peacock then threatened to cancel the license, and in the circumstances witness could not do other than let him have the money, and paid him £22 10s in two cheques. Peacock only borrowed the money for two or three months. Peacock again threatened to cancel the license unless he got £100 to his credit. Witness then sold the business for that reason. He lost about £400 over the transaction.

There was no one present when the money was paid.

The defendant, in evidence, said he was a commercial traveler. The wholesale license was in his name. He had gone into it at first, as a man named Morrison intended being a partner. As soon as Morrison was out of it, witness was anxious to get out of it. Owing to strong appeals by the plaintiff, witness agreed to accept £22 10s, and not surrender the license until the business was sold. He (witness) was not in need of money, and had plenty at the time.

Captain Peacock, father of the defendant, said he was book-keeper in the firm in question. He remembered the conversation that his son had with Erhman. The latter explained to witness that he had agreed to pay his son £22 10s, not to surrender the license.

John Morrison, licensee of the Royal Hotel, was then called. He remembered a conversation with Erhman. He said that Peacock had wanted £25 from him to hold the license, and asked witness to use his influence with Peacock to take less. Erhman afterwards told witness that he had had to give £22 10s.

The magistrate reserved his decision.

AT HAWERA.

According to the police records the cases brought before the Court at Hawera during 1905, under the Licensing Act and its various amendments numbered 86. The only case of open premises for the sale of liquor during prohibited hours was dismissed, as was the single case of exposing liquor during prohibited hours. One case of permitting drunkenness and two of selling liquor to intoxicated persons were dismissed, also one of being on licensed premises during prohibited hours. Four charges of selling liquor to Maori women were dismissed, and in two cases fines were inflicted. There were 25 cases (one female) of drunkenness, eight being fined. Of the 32 charges (four females) of excessive drinking, eight were dismissed, and 21 (including three females) were convicted.

SLY-GROG IN DUNEDIN.

In Dunedin last Friday, the keeper of a fish and fruit shop in King-street, named Fanny E. Robertson, was charged with having unlawfully sold acoholic liquor on December 30th and 31st. The offences having been proved, defendant was fined £35 and costs £3 10s for the first case, and £3 10s costs on the second charge.

WITHOUT DOUBT.

In the Ashburton Magistrate's Court last Friday, it was decided that a ten-gallon keg, coming from a brewery full, would undoubtedly contain beer. By the provisions of the Licensing Act every package containing alcoholic liquor that is sent into prohibited areas must have on it a written statement describing its contents. For omitting to follow this direction the Timaru Brewery Company had a case made out against them. The magistrate in dismissing the case defined a package as something containing liquor, the actual appearance of which did not give any indication of its contents. Such doubt could not be raised in regard to a ten-gallon keg of beer, which, in his opinion, was not a package within the provisions of the Act.

JARS FOR NEW ZEALAND.

The well-known fact that prohibition does not prohibit was again to the fore, when Mr. C. H. Champion, speaking at a luncheon at the Licensed Victuallers' Association's sports at Balarat, maintained that prohibition does not prohibit, but it did drive a hotelkeeper out of his business and set up in his place numerous unlicensed vendors. One of the leading brewers in England had told him that his firm were just executing one of the largest orders they ever had for two-gallon jars for the brewers of New Zealand, so that they might supply people in prohibition districts with beer.

HOTEL RISKS.

The question of further hotel accommodation is agitating the people of Timaru, and at a meeting of 25 business people recently a resolution was passed affirming the desirability of forming a company to erect a large marine hotel, and a provisional directorate was appointed to obtain offers of sites, and collect information as to cost of building, etc., and report in a fortnight. One after another spoke of the insufficiency of existing accommodation, and the Mayor, who presided, said owners of hotels could not, and would not, be expected to enlarge their premises with such a risk before them of losing their licenses in three years. Most of the speakers advocated erecting an up-to-date building of 60 to 100 bedrooms, but a suggestion to erect one of 50, to be added to if necessary, found favour. It was pointed out that it was desirable to have the building ready, if gone on with, before the Christchurch Exhibition opens.

HOUSING EXHIBITION VISITORS.

Referring to the problem of what is to be done with them when they arrive, the "New Zealand Times" says that Superintendent E. Smith, of the Christchurch Fire Brigade, estimates that the hotels of that city could accommodate, at a pinch, 4000 people. Boardinghouses could "put up" 4500 more, while some 2000 visitors will no doubt stay with private friends. If the accommodation enumerated above did not come up to demands, the Drilled might be secured, and here from 700 to 1000 could be provided with beds for the night, and, as a last resource, the Exhibition authorities might erect frame buildings, with canvas coverings. Mr. Smith is of the opinion that the authorities should issue a handbook giving the names of all hotels and places where accommo-