

**A SUGGESTION.**

Speaking at Wanganui recently, Mr. J. W. Palmer (president of the Licensed Victuallers' Association) observed that the difficulties hotelkeepers had to contend with "are so numerous that I scarcely know where to begin with them. One is in regard to prohibited persons. There are at the present time some 63 orders current, out of which I know about 10 persons. That being so, how is it possible for me to recognise the remainder unless I am assisted by some means? The law can, and should, come to my assistance, and fill this breach by making it compulsory for the person prohibited to wear some kind of a distinguishing badge in a prominent place."

**A CONVICTION.**

In the Feilding Magistrate's Court one day last week before Mr. A. D. Thompson, the licensee of the Denbigh Hotel (Mr W. T. Hook) appeared to answer a charge of having permitted drunkenness on his licensed premises. The defence was that the man received no drink in the hotel, but came there from another hotel. The Bench, however, ruled that the fact of being found drunk on the premises was sufficient to convict, and Mr. Hook was fined £2 and costs, £2-18s. 6d.

**AMERICAN HOTELS.**

Mr. R. C. Long, St. Petersburg correspondent of the "New York American," says that the American hotel system is far inferior to that of advanced European countries. It looks well at first. The hotels are well built, well furnished—in a tasteless way—and far ahead of those of Europe in labour-saving devices. Unfortunately the personnel is even more advanced in labour-saving devices; and for laziness, loutishness and general unlicked shiftlessness nothing sinks deeper than the free-horn American who condescends to pretend to be a hotel servant. He is unreliable and insolent, and the civiller you are to him the bigger fool he thinks you, and the ruder he behaves. The charges of American hotels are much higher than those of Europe. The summer hotel, with its unchanging menu, its grinning black bell-boys, and its boarding-house limitations upon guests getting what they want, even if they are willing to pay liberally, is a barbarism that would not be tolerated in Europe. It is a barbarism and a thriftless waste of time to expect

guests to sit idly on a high throne while their shoes are being blacked. In cookery, service and real comfort the best European hotels are better than those of America.

**IN ADELAIDE.**

The news that in Adelaide and suburban districts reduction has been carried in five out of six of these at the recent local option poll will not occasion much surprise. It was a foregone conclusion that some houses would have to go, this end no doubt being attained with the aid of many in the trade, who could plainly see that Adelaide and its suburbs were over-stocked with hotels. It is strange, however, that Adelaide, with its 126 hotels to a population of 45,000 persons, has voted continuance. The number of hotels to each of the five suburban districts that have voted reduction are not to hand, but if they are supplied with hotels in the same ratio as the city, then the reduction vote comes as no surprise. And it must be remembered that the hotels in that town are not nearly such fine buildings as those

of like business in our leading New Zealand towns. The Act giving notice that a referendum would be taken this year was passed 15 years ago; the issues to be, whether the number of licenses be reduced by one-third or by one-sixth, or to remain as at present. Which of the two former issues have been carried has not as yet become known to us in New Zealand. If the Act mentioned as having been passed so long ago, it was decided that should reduction be carried no compensation would be paid for loss of license, the lengthy notice given being considered in lieu of compensation.

**CHRISTMAS CHEER.**

Paris consumed a fabulous quantity of food on Christmas Eve. Nearly 100,000 dozen oysters were taken to the Central Markets on December 23rd, and over 57,000 dozen the next morning. There were not many left of the total of nearly 1,900,000 by Christmas morning. On the 23rd and 24th, 15,000 turkeys were sold, but some of them went to London. Parisians also ate some 7000 geese. During

the three days preceding Christmas, the Central Markets sold 116,743lb. of game and 1,029,323lb. of poultry. Last year, however, the Parisian Christmas appetite was heartier still. Then 990 more pounds of game were eaten, and 215,780 more pounds of poultry. Eggs, on the other hand, have kept up to a fair average, 300,000 having been consumed. But there was a falling-off in black sausage, and some of the 120 odd miles of it prepared for Reveillon remained in the market after Christmas. Only a trifling quantity of 105,457lb. of what is called pigs' pudding, but is supposed to be frequently horse, was eaten on the 24th, whereas last year Paris managed to put away 156,673lb. of the same delicacy.

**60,000 BOTTLES OF WINE AT A PARIS FEAST.**

A monster banquet was held on November 5th in the Machinery Hall of the Champ de Mars, Paris, near the Eiffel Tower, when no fewer than 50,000 delegates of mutual aid societies sat down to



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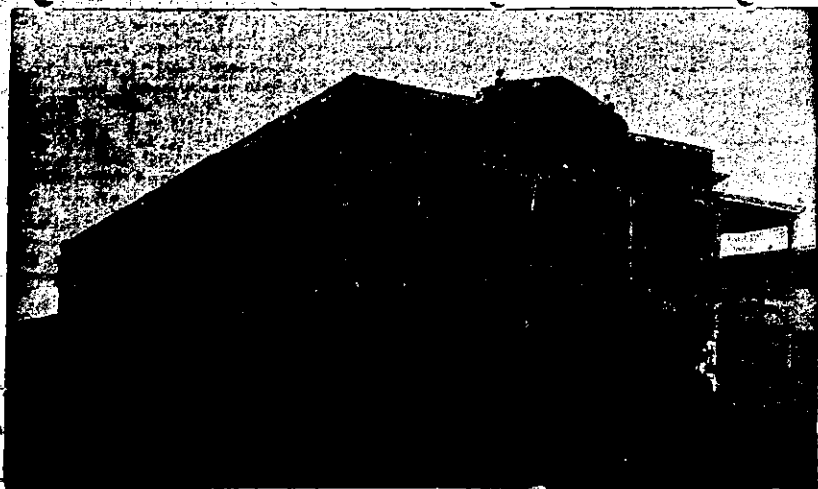
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