

Trade Topics

Mr. Tom Seddon elected member for Westland by a substantial majority.

A temperance deputation waited on the New South Wales Railway Commissioners recently to protest against the proposal to provide a liquor bar at the new Central Station in Sydney.

Tenders are called for additions to the Manukau Hotel, at Onehunga.

Mr. E. H. Card, recently manager of the Moana Hotel, at Honolulu, is now chief steward of the mail steamer, Ventura.

Mr. Patrick O'Brien, lately hotel-keeping in Auckland, has been adjudged a bankrupt by the Registrar of the Supreme Court.

In the local Police Court last week, Hirma Nixon, who did not appear, was fined £2 and costs, or a month's imprisonment, on each of two informations charging him with having entered the Alexandra Hotel and Captain Cook Hotel while prohibited. Sergeant Hendry stated that when Nixon was prohibited he was warned by the magistrate not to enter hotels, but in spite of this the defendant went straight from the Police Court into an hotel.

The debenture holders of McCracken's Brewery, Melbourne, have unanimously agreed to the amalgamation scheme, details of which appeared in our last issue.

In the local Police Court last week a man was sentenced to a month's imprisonment for using obscene language in a hotel bar.

Mr. Fred. Freeman has purchased Mr. D. Morrison's interest in the Wynyard Arms Hotel.

Mr. John Lynch, jun., hotelkeeper, of Coromandel, filed his petition in bankruptcy last Monday.

During a canvass of Lyttelton prior to last election, in order to ascertain the real strength of the prohibition vote, an old Scot who was asked to vote "No License" confessed to being addicted to his daily "dram." It was pointed out to him that the carrying of "No License" would not preclude him from having a keg of whisky in his own house if he wanted it. "Yes," said Mr. Laurensen, M.H.R., who sought to influence him, "you may have a keg of whisky in your own house, make your wife the landlady, and keep all the profits in your own establishment." "Yer shair of that?" he queried. "Yes, I know no law against it at all," answered the M.H.R. The man pondered for a minute, and his face clouded. Then he said: "Mr. Laurensen, ye maybe ken nae law again it, but ye dinna ken my auld wumman."

"John," the American said to the coloured waiter of a club, that tabooed gambling, "I suppose it would be something utterly new in this club if we were to do such things as play for money with these cards?" The negro scratched his head and finally answered: "Boss, I've been wiv dis club a long time, and I've seen many things!" "Yes, but what have you seen?" "I've seen ebery rule of dis club violated: 'ceptin' one!" "What is the one?" "The rule 'gainst gibbin' tips to de servants!"

HOTELKEEPER'S BANKRUPTCY.

Last Monday John Lynch, jun., hotelkeeper, of Coromandel, who filed a petition in bankruptcy recently, laid a statement of his affairs before the Official Assignee. The total debts are set out at £550 11s 1d, and assets £550, in-

cluding stock in trade £300, property £100, and surplus from securities in the hands of secured creditors £150. The amount owing to secured creditors is £100, the security of which is £250. He says that prior to taking over the Golconda Hotel, Coromandel, in March, 1905, he was acting as manager of the same for his father, Mr. John Lynch, senr. At this time he was free from debt. The agreement between father and son was that the latter was to provide £200 in cash for stock and furniture. He raised the money by loans of £100 from a Dunedin traveller without security, and the balance from Messrs L. D. Nathan and Co. by a bill of sale over the furniture. The cause of bankruptcy was slackness of business in the hotel line, and people leaving the district, and his having to pay the back debts owing by the hotel, amounting to £311, which he undertook to pay, added to which Messrs. L. D. Nathan placed a bailiff in possession for payment of the amount owing under the bill of sale, and Mr. John Lynch, senr., putting in a distress warrant for rent. He has no offer to make his creditors.

BAD MEMORIES.

Two young men, against whom prohibition orders have been issued, had rather a startling experience at Hamilton lately. The Magistrate's Court was sitting there, and just after the dinner adjournment Constable Cavanagh saw them making towards the goods-shed. He followed, and heard a toast which included himself. There was only one glass, and before the second man could get a drink to do honour to the constable, that officer seized the bottle. Shortly afterwards they appeared in Court to answer to the charge. They admitted that the beer had been left for them in the shed, but could not remember who had put it there for them. The magistrate remarked that if they had a friend who would buy beer for them he would also be kind enough to pay a fine of £5 each for them; at any rate, he would give the gentleman an opportunity of doing so.

A DIFFERENCE OF OPINION.

The Waikouaiti Licensing Committee met one day last week to consider the case of the Waianakarua Hotel. At the annual meeting of the committee, to give effect to the decision of electors in favour of reduction, refused the license. Application for a mandamus was made to the Supreme Court, and Mr. Justice Cooper held that accommodation licenses were not effected by the local option vote, and the committee was ordered to hear and determine the application. The committee met, and of its own motion formulated objections, mainly that the premises were not maintained at the required standard. The meeting to-day was to consider these objections.

Mr. F. Calvert, for the proprietor and licensee, after dealing with the legal aspect, said he was instructed that there was not a word of truth in these objections. No member of the committee had visited the house, and it appeared as if some malicious person had misled the members. He would put in testimonials from Dr. Evann, Colonel Medland, and others to show that everything was clean and dry, and there were ample conveniences in good order, and the stabling was excellent. He called evidence to the same effect.

After retirement, Major Keddell, S.M., said on the former occasion he had to give a decision with which he did not agree, and did not make any remark. He was in the same position now. The members of the committee now said they had another objection, namely, that the premises were within five miles of a licensed house at Hamden.

Mr. Calvert said the position was untenable, and pointed out that the previous committee, of which three of the present committee were members, had no objection to make.

After retirement, Mr. Calvert said he did not desire an adjournment if the committee decided against the legal authorities submitted.

The Chairman said he was not concerned with the committee's decision. He had advised them in terms of counsel's remarks, but the committee refused the application on the ground of the last objection, and want of repairs.

Mr. Calvert said he would apply to the Supreme Court for a mandamus, and asked for an order that the licensee be allowed to keep open for another month.

The Chairman said he would not advise the committee to do that.

QUITE MISUNDERSTOOD.

From Wellington it was reported last week that the action of the Rev. W. J. Elliott, president of the Westland branch of the New Zealand Alliance, in connection with the election, has caused some little criticism. It appears that it was stated at Mr. Seddon's committee meeting on Monday night that Mr. Elliott had telegraphed to Mrs Seddon advising her that her son should withdraw, and that Mrs Seddon had replied that the advice was unnecessary, as a Seddon knew his duty. On Wednesday a letter from Mr Elliott appeared in the West Coast "Times," in which the writer stated that he was first approached by Mrs Seddon, who, on the eve of her son's meeting at Hokitika, telegraphed to him: "Will be grateful for continuance to son of support so generously extended in the past to his dear father." Mr Elliott replied next day, "Afraid cannot. Conscientiously think the whole thing ill-advised. Would, as friend, even now urge withdraw." To this Mrs Seddon replied: "Thanks. Need no advice. A Seddon knows his duty. Prefer to prove my friends next Friday. Sorry I misunderstood you." Mr Elliott concludes, "Now, time and again during my sojourn in Wellington I defended the late Premier on various bodies, and thereby incurred the odium of other friends, and all I have to say now is that if the people only value my friendship for what they can get out of me it is hardly good enough."

When interviewed by a reporter and asked if the Alliance took any part in political contests, the Rev. F. W. Isitt, secretary to the Alliance, said that the institution took no part except in the case of men who held very prominent positions in their ranks. In the case of Westland the Alliance held aloof, and it would distress the executive if the Rev. Mr. Elliott, as president of the West Coast branch, should have written a letter taking up a strong antagonistic position, and in so doing should sign himself as president of the West Coast branch. As a matter of fact, the opinion could only be the private view of Mr Elliott, Wesleyan minister, who happened to hold the position of president of the West Coast branch of the Alliance.

DUNEDIN HOTELS.

In Dunedin last week, at a meeting of the Otago and Southland Licensed Victuallers' Association, the Rev. W. Thomson (association agent) stated that the Dunedin hotelkeepers were very careful in the manner of conducting their houses but there were two or three who remained in deliberate ignorance of the aims and working of the association, and these gave all the trouble. He mentioned one instance where he saw two women enter a hotel in less than 20 minutes, at a side door, and when he went in he saw them drinking liquor. He strongly objected to the practice. The Licensing Committee also strongly objected to women drinking at the bar. It was agreed, after a long discussion, that the president should wait upon the Inspector of Police, and state the attitude of the association to anyone who broke or connived at any breach of the licensing laws. Not only had the association forbidden anything of the kind, but it desired to see such law-breakers severely punished.


RINGING THE CHANGES.

A system of theft known as ringing the changes was an offence for which a middle-aged man named Thos. Wilson, alias Chatterley, was brought before Dr. A. McArthur, S.M., at Wellington recently. The trick was practised on a barmaid at the New Zealander Hotel. Accused, it seems, tendered her half a sovereign for a drink, and in return received 9s 6d change. He asked her for the half sovereign again, got it, and then handed over 19s 6d, and asked her for a pound, which he got. The barmaid subsequently discovered her mistake, and told the licensee of the hotel. The accused returned to the hotel later in the day, was accused of the theft, and told to return the 10s. He did so, and was afterwards given into custody. The police alleged that accused had a long list of sentences, which dated since 1893 at Dunedin, and the magistrate added another of three months' imprisonment to the list.

THE MAKING OF A MILLIONAIRE.

A remarkable instance of the rapid accumulation of wealth, which astonishes even the blase habitués of Wall-street, New York, has been revealed by the formation of a syndicate to finance the Chicago firm of Sears, Roebuck, and Company, which is to be constituted a limited company with a capital of £8,000,000. Mr. Richard T. Sears, the founder of the firm, was a telegraphist in the employment of the Northern Pacific Railroad fifteen years ago. He began selling watches and firearms to his fellow-employees, and finally he opened a store in Chicago for the sale of goods, which were despatched to the purchasers by mail. The firm to-day employs 8000 persons. It does a cash business to the value of £8,000,000 monthly, and makes an estimated profit of £600,000 annually. The plant occupies a great tract of land on the outskirts of Chicago, and the firm has its own police force, schools and hospitals. Mr. Sears is not yet forty-five years of age.

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