



Trade Topics

Mr. David Morrison, late of the Wynyard Arms Hotel, Wellesley-street, has purchased Mr Walter Guise's interest in the Globe Hotel, Papakura.

Mr. Clem A. Cornes, a very well known mining prospector, died suddenly at the Thistle Hotel, where he had been staying, last Friday morning.

A young man who was convicted last week of having liquor in his possession during the currency of a prohibition order was fined £2 and costs.

Last week's "Gazette" declares that whereas raspberry acid is imported into New Zealand, and possesses properties which can be used for similar purposes as table vinegar, there shall be levied on raspberry acid the same duty as is leviable on table vinegar, namely 6d per gallon.

In the Ashburton S.M. Court last Thursday, Mr. Wray, S.M., fined William Porter £20 and costs 23s for keeping liquor for sale in a no-license district, in default of payment of the fine, one month's imprisonment.

In the Christchurch S.M. Court last Friday Mr. Day, S.M., fined W. C. Challis, licensee of the Bower Hotel, Burwood, £10, for allowing drunkenness on his licensed premises. Mr. Challis had ordered a man off the premises, and sent for the police, but he had allowed him to stay. The license was not endorsed.

In the local court last week a charge of procuring liquor for May Davis, a prohibited person, was preferred against Alice Fletcher. Accused pleaded guilty. She informed the magistrate that she had been employed by Mrs Davis as a domestic servant, and had been ordered to get a bottle of stout for her mistress. His Worship said it was a very silly thing to do, and he sympathised with the defendant. He convicted her, and ordered her to come up for sentence when called upon.

A man named Thomas Reynolds, who pleaded that he thought the prohibition order against him had expired, and who had to answer a charge in the local court of being found on licensed premises, was convicted and ordered to come up for sentence when called upon. Sergeant Hendry explained that the order did not expire until November.

Mr. H. O. Wills, a member of the well-known tobacco firm, has given £10,000 towards the £200,000 required for the founding of a University for Bristol. Towards this sum Lord Winterstoke (better known as Sir W. H. Wills) and Mr J. S. Fry have each already promised £10,000.

Mr. W. T. Watts, who a few months back sold out his interest in the Star Hotel, Newton, has purchased Mr. W. J. Brewin's interest in the Edinburgh Castle Hotel, S'monds-street.

Mr. A. L. Higgins, of the Royal Hotel, Raglan, has sold out to Mr. Wm. McCarthy.

A Southern paper reports that a disaster was narrowly averted in Oamaru last week, when a rather sedate citizen, without warning, drew from his pocket what appeared to be a portentous-looking revolver, and levelled it at the head of the person he was talking to, threatening at the same time to blow his brains out. The victim blinked, but discovered, on a second look, that the revolver had a cork in the muzzle of the barrel. The would-be assassin and his victim were then seen to repair to the seclusion of a right-of-way, and there the curtain drops on the tragedy. The revolver was loaded to the muzzle with the best "peat reek."

Mr. S. L. Bygrave of the Waihou Hotel, Waihou, has sold out to Mr. Hugh Magill.

In the local court last week it was suggested to a man who had pleaded guilty to a charge of drunkenness, that a prohibition order be issued against him. The offender objected to this course, remarking that prohibition orders got him into more trouble than beer.

Two thousand pounds of tobacco, grown at Tumut, Victoria, and which has been awarded the prize offered by the British-Australasian Tobacco Company, and purchased by the company at 1s 6d per lb., has realised 4d to 4½d on the London market. In anticipation of a possible increase of duty on imported tobacco to protect locally-grown, heavy clearances are being effected. One company paid £46,000 duty yesterday.

It has been estimated that during the next 12 or 18 months, from £150,000 to £200,000 will be spent in the erection of new buildings in Auckland.

A Dublin man has converted a deserted wine cellar in his native city into an underground market garden. In this retreat, which once sheltered barrels and casks of fiery liquors, now grow sea-kale, rhubarb and mushrooms.

It is expected that Mr. H. S. Elliott will take over the Star Hotel, Albert-street, this week.

Mr George Waite has taken over the Golden Cross Hotel at Golden Cross from Mr. Robert Gibb, who has purchased Mr. C. M. McFarlane's interest in the Tokatea Hotel at Coromandel.

Constable F. Wild, of Te Aroha, who is retiring after having been 17 years in charge of that district, is to be publicly entertained at a social on the fourth of next month, when he will be presented with a purse of sovereigns.

Mrs. McKay, of the Junction Hotel, Thames, has retired from business. Mr. J. B. Hooper has purchased the hotel and furniture.

Painting and papering operations at the Waitemata Hotel, Queen-street, are being carried out.

In Wellington last week, Guy Cockburn and James Gauld pleaded guilty at the Magistrate's Court to being found on licensed premises, the Clyde Quay Hotel, on Sunday, 29th ulto. Sub-Inspector O'Donovan said that the men were found in the passage adjoining the bar. The licensee was upstairs and ignorant of their presence. Cockburn, against whom there were previous convictions, was fined 40s, in default 14 days' imprisonment, and Gauld, about whom nothing was known, was fined 20s, or seven days'.

In the forty years between 1792 and 1832, there were outstanding notes of the Bank of England, presumed to have been lost or destroyed, amounting to ...£1,330,000 odd, every shilling of which was clear profit to the bank.

Attention is drawn to the list of hotels advertised for sale by Messrs. Macdonald, Wilson and Co., of 84, Lambton-quay, Wellington. The list is a very lengthy one, and the amount of cash required is varied enough to suit all classes of purchasers.

In the local police court last Friday William Stewart was charged that on July 16 he used threatening behaviour in the bar of the Globe Hotel. Sub-Inspector Gordon said the accused had gone into the hotel under the influence of liquor and was refused drink by the licensee. He then became very abusive. Accused said he remembered nothing about it. His Worship said the action of the licensee was to be commended. Accused was fined £1 and 14s costs, or, in default, 14 days' imprisonment.

A prohibition order has been issued from the local court against Roger Lup-ton.

Last Saturday Mr. Kettle, S.M., fined the barman, at the Prince of Wales Hotel £2 and costs for serving an intoxicated person, the information against the licensee for permitting drunkenness being withdrawn.

Mr. Rudolph Tudor, who was manager of the Empire Hotel, Ltd., at Wellington, has returned to Australia from America, and is now manager of Lennon's Hotel, Brisbane.

Mr. George Edwards, late of Blenheim, has taken over the Oriental Hotel, Wellington, which in future will be known as "Palace Hotel."

Mr. Joseph Robinson of the Park Hotel, Wellesley-street, is adding a new private entrance to his hotel. The addition is being built in brick, and being handsomely finished makes a pleasing addition to the appearance of the hotel.

One day last week a small fire broke out in one of the rooms in Mr. James Montgomery's Post Office Hotel at Neavesville. Fortunately it was discovered and extinguished before much damage was done. The principal damage to the contents of the room being caused by the water used to put the fire out. A defect in the chimney is supposed to have caused the outbreak.

THE PRINCE OF WALES CASE.

In regard to the charges against Mr. Jackman, which were heard some little time back, and regarding which judgment was reserved, Mr Kettle, S.M., gave his decision last Saturday morning. David Joseph Jackman, the licensee, was summoned for supplying liquor to a drunken person, and permitting drunkenness upon his licensed premises, while Alfred Pyman, the barman, was summoned for supplying liquor to a drunken person. Mr. Fallon represented the Crown solicitor, and Mr. J. R. Reed appeared for the defendants.

His Worship stated that a plumber named Morrison secured drink in the hotel on the evening of July 14. Evidence was given showing that Morrison, when he sold some tools between 2 and 3 o'clock in the afternoon, was drunk, Pyman admitted that about 6 o'clock he served Morrison, and there was no doubt that the police were right in saying that Morrison was drunk when they found him in the bar at 7.45. The barman was busy, and it was quite possible that he was honest in saying that he had noticed Morrison's condition. However, the legal position was that knowledge was not necessary in a case of this kind. The evidence would not justify him in saying that the licensee knew the man to be drunk. The hotel, he understood, was one which had been troublesome to control, and Jackman, who recently took it over, was doing his utmost to clean its reputation. The magistrate said he felt that in some houses, which were more places for drinking than for accommodation, it was very difficult for licensees to conduct them without in some way infringing the provisions of the licensing laws. Where there was great danger there should be an equivalent amount of care, but he thought under the circumstances that the justice of the case would be met by fining the barman Pyman £2 with costs, and suggesting that the information against the licensee be withdrawn.

Mr. Fallon agreed to the course suggested by his Worship.

JUDGMENT FOR DEFENDANT.

The hearing of the claim of John Frederick Hawkey of £10 against the Northern Brewery Co. as damages in respect of an accident in which his infant son was injured through a cart driven by John Hendry passing over his foot, was concluded at the S.M. Court last Thursday, the case having been adjourned from last week for legal argument. Mr. A. E. Skelton appeared for plaintiff and Dr. Bamford, instructed by Messrs. Earl and Kent, for defendants. The claim was based on the ground that Hendry

did not keep a sufficient lookout, and had acted negligently in not pulling up when warned by Mrs. Lawson.

Dr. Bamford argued that it was not incumbent upon Hendry to pull up immediately Mrs. Lawson called out, and that no negligence was disclosed by his failure to stop. His evidence showed that at first he did not know who Mrs. Lawson was calling out to.

Mr. Kettle said that the question was whether Hendry was guilty of negligence in not seeing the child.

Dr. Bamford said it would have been Hendry's duty to take precaution if he had seen the child, but he had not seen it.

Mr. Skelton said that it was the duty of Hendry to look where he was going. From the time of Mrs. Lawson's warning it had time to run out from the footpath on to the road, and, as it was only 14 months old this would take some time. The evidence showed that the child was on the road as the cart approached. It was Hendry's duty to keep a lookout, and he should have made close observation when driving along a business thoroughfare in a residential quarter. He was bound to look out for children under the circumstances.

Dr. Bamford pointed out that the horse was going at a walking pace.

The question of contributing negligence on the part of the mother being raised, Mr. Kettle said that he was not prepared to say that the mother was negligent.

In giving judgment His Worship said that there was no evidence to show that the child was playing on the footpath before the accident. He had visited the scene, and was convinced that the child ran out of a gate as the cart was passing. Hendry was a careful driver, and he (Mr. Kettle) was of the opinion that plaintiff had not established his claim. Judgment was accordingly entered for defendants.

BREACH OF THE LICENSING ACT.

At the Magistrate's Court, Oamaru, last Thursday, before Mayor Keddell, S.M., George Williams was fined £5 and costs for a breach of section 5, subsection A, of the Licensing Act, 1904, this being the first case under the Licensing Act since the closing of the hotels. For the information of our readers we find on referring to the Licensing Acts Amendment, 1904, that the subsection referred to above reads: "Every person who gives any order (whether verbal or in writing) for any liquor intended to be sent or taken into the district (no-license) shall notify the person to whom the order is given that the liquor is intended to be so sent or taken, and shall give to such last-mentioned person a statement in writing of his name and address, and (where the order is given on account of any other person) the name and address of such other person."

NOT A BANKER.

An interesting point cropped up in the Waihi Magistrate's Court last Friday. Counsel, in claiming expenses on behalf of a witness, argued that a bank manager in the ordinary acceptance of the term was a banker, and therefore was entitled to come under the heading of "banker" in the matter of the amount of expenses allowed. Mr. Bush contended that a banker was a person who owned and conducted a bank, and, as bankers only were mentioned in the Act, bank managers could not come under that heading. A bank manager, he argued, was not a banker. Counsel: "According to that, then, there are no bankers in New Zealand, as all banking institutions are controlled by companies. If a bank manager is not a banker, what is he?" Counsel went on: "Is position not that of a profession?" "No," said Mr. Bush. "Then, is a bank manager an accountant?" It was agreed on all hands that he might be and might not be. However, neither counsel nor Mr. Bush committed himself on this point. The matter was finally solved by allowing expenses under the heading of "banker" on the lowest scale.