

police, and that no persons were in the vicinity of the bar except the licensee and Miss Pearce, who were occupied cleaning up and clearing out the cash register, as was usual after closing time.

The case was dismissed, His Worship upholding the contention of Mr Clendon that it was necessary for the porter to report to the licensee and get his permission before opening the door, seeing that such were his instructions, and they appeared reasonable, as he did not see how the licensee could successfully carry out the provisions of the Act if he allowed the porter to admit anyone he chose at his own discretion, and as the evidence showed the time taken by the porter to report to the licensee and then return and open the door to the police to have been not more than two minutes, he thought no unnecessary delay had taken place.

ALCOHOLIC PATENT MEDICINES.

In Wellington recently, Dr. Mason, Chief Health Officer for New Zealand, gave a lecture exposing the frauds and quacks who rob the public by means of patent medicines. Many of these, said the doctor, are composed of drugs and a large percentage of alcohol, victims of the drink or opium habit sometimes escape, but the confirmed imbibers of patent medicines hardly ever. A well known American physician says that he has come across quite recently four cases where people have drunk a certain patent medicine to intoxication, and this, without their knowing the nature of the mixture. At present, women and children are taught the alcohol habit secretly, and the drug shop is inflicting greater evils upon the populace than all the places openly licensed to retail alcoholic liquor. Not long since a Brisbane firm was prosecuted for selling liquor in the shape of a patent medicine. This precious decoction which was retailed at 4s 10d per bottle by grocers, drapers, and others who were in the habit of selling other patent medicines, was found to contain 42 per cent of proof spirit, and is called Peruna.

AN ALLIANCE INQUIRY.

In Gisborne lately the Revs. F. W. Isitt and Chatterton and Messrs C. Saunders (Napier) and Campbell Thomson (Gisborne) sat as a commission under the auspices of the New Zealand Alliance to conduct an enquiry in connection with the Waiapu licensing election, held last December. The commission sat at the request of Mr David Whyte, late organising agent for the Waiapu No-license League, who had asked that certain rumours in regard to his actions should be fully investigated. After a sitting extending over four hours the commission decided that Mr Whyte was entirely ex-

onerated from any serious allegation, but had committed an error of judgment in not having made the committee aware that he had changed his mind, and thought it inadvisable to proceed with the petition for the upsetting of the poll.

A SLY-GROG WITNESS.

The class of person who acts sometimes as witness in sly-grog selling prosecutions, was revealed at Invercargill last week when a man named Harry Leigh, with several aliases, was charged, before Mr McCarthy, S.M., with obtaining goods and money from three persons by false pretences. He pleaded guilty, and said he would return to England immediately if allowed to go free. He represented to one of his victims that he had a large sum of money in the hands of a firm of solicitors. He was sentenced to six months. He was also charged with supplying a woman, who was prohibited, with liquor at a hotel, four miles from Invercargill, and sentenced to a month, the sentences to be cumulative. He had been previously before the Court for false pretence, and was a witness in a recent sly-grog-selling case.

WHAT THE HON. R. McNAB SAYS.

At the banquet given in honour of the Hon. R. McNab at Gore last week, the licensing question was referred to by that gentleman in the course of his reply to the toast of the chairman, "Our Guest," he said that prophecies were made of the trouble that would eventuate as a result of the difference of views among the members of the Cabinet. No two men could be more opposed on the licensing question than Mr Millar and himself. When the Licensing Bill was brought down in a recent session Mr Millar and himself met together, and arranged a conference upon a working compromise, the result being that the Bill was evolved in an acceptable form, and passed through the House. There was an instance of legislation being effected by two men who were diametrically opposed on the subject, and he had no hesitation in saying that the proposals in that Bill were acceptable to the people of the colony as they were to the House. The result was that the licensing question was put away to a period eight or ten years ahead. That Bill effected an improvement in the licensing laws of the colony, and that improvement was brought about by two men whom the public would say had not one idea in common. When men holding opposite views on a question met together and came down to a working agreement, they could formulate a policy that would command the support of the House and the sympathy of the country, and that was the position that the Ward Administration would take up. He had heard of men who said that Mr McNab and Mr Fowlds would work against Mr Millar on the licensing question. Others said Mr Millar and Mr Fowlds would work against Mr McNab on the land question, others again said that Mr McNab and Mr Millar would combine against Mr Fowlds on the question of taxation, but that was imaginary.

TROUT AT HOTELS.

For some time past the council of the Auckland Acclimatisation Society have had under consideration whether steps should be taken to prosecute a resident of Rotorua who it is alleged had sent a quantity of trout to two hotels and a butchering firm in Auckland last season, thereby committing a breach of the law. The society had obtained the opinion of its local solicitors on the question, and at a meeting last week the opinion of Mr C. Skerrett, of Wellington, was read. Mr Skerrett said although it was tolerably plain that the resident had either bought fish as agent for the consignees, or had sold the fish to the consignees; still, as the buying and selling were separate and distinct functions, the evidence to support the information must establish one or the other offence. But it must not leave it in doubt which offence had been committed. The only possibility of succeeding under the information was by procuring evidence of sale, by giving them as far as possible an indemnity against proceedings under the regulations.

The President (Mr F. Earl) said the society's ranger had just brought the question before them. The ranger had found that a resident of Rotorua had sent to Auckland a very large quantity of trout, and on examining the consignee's notes he had found that 6½cwt of trout had been sent to two Auckland hotels and a butchering firm last season. The society's solicitors were in doubt as to whether a conviction could be secured. Unfortunately, they now had the opinion that the evidence was not sufficient to succeed in a prosecution.

Mr C. E. Whitney said such transac-

tions were not only carried on in Auckland hotels, but all over the colony. "If you are known to have anything to do with the society you cannot have trout at the hotel for dinner, but if you are not you can," declared Mr Whitney.

The President said that was so. The strong point was the large quantity sent to the Auckland hotels, and the regularity of the consignments. They were practically two a week.

In reply to a question, the President said he did not think there was much likelihood of their obtaining the necessary evidence for a prosecution. The question was not pursued further.

IMPORTANT HOTEL SALES.

Messrs Dwan Bros., hotel-brokers and land and estate agents, Willis-street, Wellington, report having made the following sales of hotel properties:—Mr J. H. Pagni's interest in the Oriental Hotel, Willis-street, Wellington, to Mr George Edwards, late of Blenheim; Mr Joseph Cody's interest in the Commonwealth Hotel, New Plymouth, to Mr Thomas Nicholas, late of Hastie's Hotel, Feilding; Mrs Caldwell's interest in the Pahautanui Hotel to Mr Matthew Moynihan, late of Dilmanstown Hotel, West Coast; Mr F. P. Ross's interest in the Ship Hotel, Port Nelson, to Mr William Fitzgerald, lately manager of the Stoke Industrial School; Mr R. J. Paul's interest in the Globe Hotel, Renwicktown, to Mrs Kimpton, late of Wellington; Mr Gleeson's interest in the Albion Hotel, Napier, to Mrs Caldwell, late of the Pahautanui Hotel; Mr J. H. Fairbairn's interest in the Railway Hotel, Johnsonville, to Mr J. J. Ahlers, contractor, Feilding district; Mr W. Hales's Hotel, Herbertville, to Mr Thomas Proctor, late steward of the Working Men's Club, Petone; also the interest of Mrs Fuller in the lease of the Black Horse Hotel, Lincoln-road, Christchurch, to a local buyer.

A HUNDRED TONS OF FOOD A MONTH.

Probably not one passenger in a hundred gives a thought to the magnitude of the catering done by the firms who keep the pantries and storerooms of ocean steamers stocked with foodstuffs. And yet the question of meals is always a vital one to travellers, and the quantity and quality of the food that is supplied while one is crossing the Atlantic interests ascetics as well as gourmets.

Recent inquiries brought to light the fact that the largest steamship afloat uses 100 tons of food every month. This enormous quantity is none too much for hungry passengers and for the crew, who alone number over 500 individuals. The ocean steamships contract with the caterers for a year's supplies, stipulating that the provision must be of the best quality procurable.

One of these caterers is of a statistical turn of mind, and has figured out that if it were incumbent upon him to fill the storerooms of a modern liner with foodstuffs sufficient for a whole year's voyages, it would require a procession of carts drawn by no less than 1000 horses to convey them to the ship, and that this procession would be about four miles long.

He says that the supply of meat for a twelvemonth would comprise 180 tons of beef, 3400 sheep, representing 90 tons of mutton, 120 tons of lamb, and 10,000 pounds each of pork and veal. This would mean an allowance of nearly 20 tons of meat for each voyage, assuming that the ship crossed the Atlantic 20 times (single voyage) during the year.

In addition to this, chickens, ducks, and other poultry and game to the number of 60,000 are used, and 45 tons of fish, fresh and dried, including lobsters and sardines, are needed to satisfy the appetites of the passengers. The morning rasher of bacon or ham condemns 600 innocent pigs to their last squeal, and represents an addition of 25 tons or over to the ship's refrigerator.

The manner in which this caterer added up figures proving the consumption of vegetables was too much for the overtaxed imagination of the reporter, but one fact was noted down, namely, that 600 tons of potatoes are eaten during the year by the ship's patrons.

A supply of flour for this same steamer makes 280 tons of bread, and the quantity of butter used to spread on the staff of life should make the average traveller ashamed to look a cow in the face. Eggs to the number of 300,000, turning the scale at the approximate weight of 13 tons, are also supplied, and 10,000 gallons of milk represent a light estimate of the quantities of lacteal fluid consumed.

The caterer produced bills and papers to prove that he was not exaggerating, and pointed out one document showing that 25 tons of coffee were used in a year on one liner.

He explained that the items mentioned represent only a few of the foodstuffs which he supplies, and he figured out on paper that the tea consumed during the year's voyage would fill a swimming-bath six feet deep and fifty feet long.

HE KEPT THE TREACLE.

A fashionably attired young gentleman dropped into the Gaiety Restaurant in London one afternoon, and, after calling for a glass of vermouth, turned to the company, and offered to bet on a variety of subjects, but found no takers. Glancing round contemptuously, he remarked:

"You don't seem to have much sport in you gentlemen, but I'm bound to make a bet on something. I don't care what it is, or how much it is. Anything you like from a shilling's worth of cigars to a hundred pounds. Who's on?"

Sipping a glass of beer in one corner of the bar-room, sat a plain old gentleman, who looked as though he might be a farmer. He put down his glass and said:—

"Well, sr, I am not in the habit of making bets, but as you so particularly wish it, I don't mind having a little one with you. I'll bet you half-a-crown's worth of cigars that I can your a quart of treacle into your hat, and turn it out a solid lump of candy in two minutes."

"Done!" said the masher, taking off his hat, and handing it to the farmer.

It was a Lincoln and Bennett, a splendid article, that might have been new the day before. The old gentleman took the hat, and requested the bar-keeper to send for a quart of treacle—"none of your golden syrup, but the cheap sort; that's the stuff for this experiment," said he, handing over sixpence to the waiter.

The treacle was brought, and the old gentleman, with a grave and mysterious countenance, poured it into the dandy's hat, while the owner took out his watch to note the time. Giving the hat two or three shakes with Bertram-like adroitness, the experimenter placed it on the table, and stared into it, as if watching the process of solidification.

"Time's up," said the dandy.

The old gentleman moved the hat. "Well, it don't seem to be hard yet," said he in a disappointed tone. "I've missed it, somehow or other, this time, so I suppose I've lost the bet. Barkeeper, let the gentleman have the cigars—half-a-crown's worth and here's your money."

"Confound your cigars!" roared the masher, "you've spoiled a new hat, and you must pay for it."

"That wasn't in the bargain," dryly answered the old gentleman, "but I'll tell you what I'll do. I'll let you keep the treacle."

THE BUTCHER'S WARNING.

A young lad presented himself at the shop of a Smithdown-road butcher, and, when the burly proprietor appeared, gave a small order.

"You don't buy so much meat now as you did," remarked the butcher.

"No," responded the lad; "it's because father has become a vegetarian."

"Well, my lad," came the grave retort, "you give your father warning from me, that, as a rule, vegetarians come to a violent end. Take a bullock—'e's a vegetarian. Wot's the result? Why, 'e's cut off sudden, in his very prime."

Hast sorrow thy young days shaded?
Or hast thou a cold in thy head?
Thy tonsils, are they out of order?
Thy nose, is the tip of it red?
If these be thy symptoms, I charge thee,
All nostrums inferior abjure.
There is but one remedy for thee,
And that's Woods' Great Peppermint Cure



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