

discontinued. With regard to the last charge, however, he admitted that bottles of beer were sent to the cottage, but these were ordered by the men when they were going on shift in the afternoon, and were sent to the cottage before closing time. The men then called for them on the way home from work at midnight. Mr Miller pointed out that no breach of the Act had been committed in any way. This opinion was upheld by the committee. At the same time they advised the licensee to discontinue the practice, which, though not a distinct breach of the law, was at the same time an unwise proceeding.

NEW HOTEL BUILDING.

At a quarterly meeting of the Thames Licensing Committee which was held last Friday, the police report stated that the alterations and additions to the Cornwall Arms Hotel ordered by the committee had not been carried out or even commenced. Mr Clendon on behalf of the owners, explained that the delay in carrying out this work was no fault of the Campbell-Ehrenfried Co., who were the owners, as they had instructed their architect, Mr Currie, to proceed with the work immediately after the last meeting of the committee, in June, and the fault really lay with Mr Currie, who, from press of business, has been unable to carry the work through as quickly as the company would have liked. The plans, however, were now ready. Mr Clendon pointed out that the company were doing far more than they had promised as they were now going to build a new two-storey house of 22 rooms at a cost of £1100, whereas they had only agreed with the committee to spend £500 on improvements. Tenders would be called for the work at once. The committee accepted the plans submitted and ordered the house to be completed in four months from date, with such fire escapes as the inspector should think necessary.

WELLINGTON TRANSFERS.

The quarterly meeting of the Wellington Licensing Committee was held at the Magistrate's Court last week. Present: Messrs John Smith (acting-chairman), R. A. Wright, A. Rand, E. C. Jones, and Geo. Petherick. Consideration of the granting of license to A. McVinnish for the Post Office Hotel was postponed for a month (under circumstances reported in another column). The following transfers were granted: Foresters' Arms, A. E. Brunette to W. Moore; Shepherds' Arms, A. Gillespie to P. W. Corby; Oriental (now Palace), John Henry Pagni to Geo. Edwards. The committee sanctioned the change of name in the last-named case.

WITH HOT WATER.

The acting-chairman (Mr John Smith) of the Wellington Licensing Committee stated at the quarterly meeting last week that the committee considered that the public conveniences at all hotels in the district should be at any rate nearly adequate to requirements. In many cases they were not so. The committee wanted landlords and owners to do the best they could in these matters, and also desired the police to furnish a report at next meeting as to the state of the conveniences at all the hotels. Another matter the committee wished to be made known was that in all hotels the washing of glasses should be with hot water.

THE GUEST HOUSE OF THE COLONY.

In reference to the refusal of the Christchurch Licensing Committee to grant the application for conditional licenses at the Exhibition, Mr Munro (Chairman of the Executive Commissioners) stated to an interviewer that the Committee had failed to realise the fact that the Exhibition was the guest house of the colony for the time being, and, being so, should be governed by the unwritten laws of hospitality, and not be dominated by local and party considerations. As the Committee referred to is entirely a prohibitionist one, Mr Munro has evidently completely failed to grasp the true inwardness of prohibitionists. If he did so he would know that the question of guest house means to them nothing, laws of hospitality written or unwritten are foreign to them, while the subduing of petty, local, or party considerations would be as to take the breath of life from them. He little knows the New Zealand prohibitionist.

...RESULT OF NO-LICENSE.

Inquiries made in Oamaru by the special reporter of the *Dunedin Star* have resulted in the discovery of the fact that if you know how to set about it you can in that town with reasonable security, purchase liquor in any quantity within the gamut that is bounded by "a small

taste" and "a skinful." The reporter says: "Of the existence of regular sly grog-shops in Oamaru—places where liquor is kept in more or less bulk and regularly retailed to 'straight blokes'—it is absurd to pretend ignorance. I was told of one such place by half-a-dozen people in the space of 24 hours; even the details of its peculiar methods seemed to be almost common knowledge. And I saw enough to satisfy myself about it. I was assured on very good authority that one person had disposed of 50 dozen bottles of beer during the first fortnight of prohibition. As a stranger I was inevitably a person to be suspected by the grog-seller, and it was not surprising that I failed to make my way into one of the biggest groggeries of the town. But I made observations all the same; and I think I know the look of 'empties' in a sack."

THE UN-DESTROYED STAMP.

Notwithstanding that offences against the Beer Duties Act are easily preventable, every now and then it is found that carelessness in minor matters lead to expense and trouble. In the local Police Court last Friday, Michael O'Connor was charged that on August 13, at Aratapu, he knowingly withdrew beer from a 36-gallon cask without first destroying the duty stamp. Mr Skelton appeared for the defendant, and explained that O'Connor took all blame but he knew practically nothing about the breach. O'Connor thought that one of his men had neglected to destroy the stamp. Mr Mays said that O'Connor had written explaining the matter, and he took all the blame in connection with the case. The defendant had acted very frankly in the matter. Mr Dyer said it was "more a bit of carelessness than anything else," and fined the defendant £2 and costs.

NO WOMEN CUSTOMERS.

Last week the attention at the City Licensing Bench was directed to the adjourned application for the transfer of the Grosvenor Hotel, Hobson-street, from Alexander Schulze to Edward Yarde-Buller, the police reported that the house had been conducted indifferently in the past three months, during Buller's conditional occupancy. A number of semi-intoxicated men and women of ill-fame were found on the premises on the occasion of a surprise visit by the police, a few nights ago.

Mr McVeagh appeared for Mr Yarde-Buller.

Sub-Inspector Gordon said the report was made more as a warning to the licensee not to allow these people to frequent the house.

Mr McVeagh explained that Mr Buller only went into the house four months ago. He had been in a couple of country hotels, and they had been conducted to the satisfaction of the police. As Mr Buller was a stranger it was very difficult for him to discriminate between the undesirable. He had decided that the only way to overcome the difficulty in question was to absolutely refuse to supply women at all.

Sub-Inspector Gordon said he believed the house would be conducted better in future.

Mr Aickin said they had had several instances of new men getting into trouble by giving drink to women of ill-fame and thieves.

Mr Casey: Do you think a hotelkeeper is so simple as not to know the difference between that class of women and respectable people?

Sub-Inspector Gordon: Some of these people are very difficult to distinguish. The license was then granted.

A REGRETTABLE DECISION.

Mr G. L. Munro, Chairman of the Exhibition Executive Commissioners, spoke in support of the application made to the Licensing Committee for a conditional license to sell alcoholic liquors at the Exhibition. He said he had attended, to put the matter from the Exhibition authorities' point of view. The Exhibition was clearly a colonial undertaking, and was international in character. Invitations in the name of the colony and under the hand of his Excellency the Governor had been sent to all the nations in the world to participate, and a very great number had decided to send representative delegates. That being so, he thought it would be agreed that it would be inhospitable and almost unkind to place a restriction upon those people as to their mode of living whilst they were practically the guests of the colony. Beyond that, it was desired to extend a reasonable convenience to hard-worked exhibitors and attendants, who would be working very long hours. Then there was the question of the comfort and convenience of the unofficial visitors from all parts of the world and the colony. He thought it was only reasonable that

provision such as they had been accustomed to in their own localities should be made for those people. The foregoing remarks applied to the restaurants only. With regard to the wine licenses, all previous colonial exhibitions had had the concession granted. Very many exhibits were coming forward from South Australia, Victoria, and New South Wales, and prominent amongst them were wines. So far as he could judge, the exhibitors were displaying these wines for the purpose of promoting trade, and they were under the impression that the same privilege would be extended to them as at previous exhibitions. He had a feeling that if that was not granted, they would withdraw their support from the Exhibition altogether, and that would mean a large loss, as the three States mentioned had taken in the aggregate 20,000 feet of space. It was not intended to use the wine kiosk as a wine shop at all; the suggestion was that the control would be practically in the hands of the Exhibition authorities. Each exhibitor would supply the wines he was exhibiting, to be acquired at such prices as would just cover the cost, and after the expense of running the kiosk had been met, any surplus would go to the Exhibition authorities. That was the arrangement made by the exhibitors.

After the luncheon adjournment, the chairman announced the decision of the committee. "With regard to the applications for conditional licenses," he said, "I have only to announce that the elect members have unanimously decided to refuse the licenses."

The committee comprise three prohibitionist clergymen and two prohibitionist lawyers, and were elected at the last licensing poll by a large majority, their "ticket" being ten o'clock closing.

ALTERATIONS COMPLETED.

At the last annual meeting of the City of Auckland Licensing Committee, various alterations were required by the police these alterations having now been completed to their satisfaction, the Committee at the quarterly meeting held last week approved of the following licenses:—City Hotel, Walter Stimpson; Criterion Hotel, Robert John Ware; Fitzroy Hotel, George Taylor; Metropolitan Hotel, Lindsay Cooke; Prince of Wales Hotel, David J. Jackman; Royal Hotel, John Morrison; Thistle Hotel, Patrick Quinlan; United Service Hotel, Ann Maria Coombe; Star Hotel, Albert-street, H. S. Elliott; Suffolk Hotel, F. J. Little; Robert Burns Hotel, A. J. Stephenson; Rising Sun Hotel, John McKean; Newton Hotel, H. H. Dyer.

LOOKING FORWARD.

The "Auckland Star's" correspondent in Christchurch telegraphing one day last week said that in view of the possibility of a dissolution over the land question the "Times" urges the Government to introduce a bill providing that in the event of a dissolution of Parliament before the expiration of its three years, a licensing poll shall be taken after the expiry of three years from date of the previous poll. Licensing polls could be taken thereafter every three years without respect to the date of the general elections. Apart from the fact that amendment of the Act is needed to obviate the difficulty arising from a dissolution "divorce of the Parliamentary and licensing polls would be attended, the "Times" thinks, with good results. It would rid the Parliamentary election of a rather undesirable element of excitement and bitterness, and convert the licensing poll into a straight out test of active public opinion on the continuance of licenses.

A BLOW TO THE EXHIBITION.

The Christchurch Licensing Committee has refused to grant the application for conditional licenses at the New Zealand Exhibition. The committee comprise three prohibitionist clergymen and two prohibitionist lawyers, and were elected at the last licensing poll by a large majority, their "ticket" being ten o'clock closing.

Mr Munro (chairman of the Executive Commissioners), when interviewed this evening in regard to the decision of the Licensing Committee not to grant conditional licenses for the Exhibition, said that it would be a great blow to the Exhibition. The financial effect would be very serious indeed, but the charge of inhospitality and want of consideration to guests, visitors, exhibitors, and attendants was a much greater and more serious matter in his opinion. The Licensing Committee failed to realise the fact that the Exhibition was the guest house of the colony for the time being, and, being so, should be governed by the unwritten laws of hospitality, and not be dominated by local and party considerations.

PARNELL LICENSING COMMITTEE.

The quarterly meeting of the Parnell Licensing Committee was held in the Borough Council Chambers last week, Mr H. W. Gavin presiding in the absence of the chairman (Mr R. W. Dyer, S.M.).

Transfers: The following transfers were granted:—Ellerslie Hotel (Andrew J. J. Myer to E. Parris); Panmure Hotel, Panmure (George Hyde to Ronald Cameron).

Newmarket Hotel: The police report concerning the Newmarket Hotel, which had been under observation for some time, was favourable until Sunday, September 2nd, on which date the police entered the house and found two men at the bar with drink in front of them. As this was going to form the subject of a Magisterial inquiry, Sub-Inspector Gordon suggested that the licensee's application for renewal be deferred until after that inquiry. This course was agreed to by the licensee's counsel Mr McVeagh, and decided upon by the committee.

HOTEL FIRE ESCAPES.

The matter of fire escapes on hotel buildings was referred to at the meeting of the City Licensing Committee last week. At the annual meeting held in June it was suggested that the fire escapes at the Royal Hotel might be improved. Mr McLean, who appeared for the licensee to-day, stated that the owners were prepared to adopt any practical suggestion that was made, but the escapes seemed sufficient, and no way of improvement had been suggested. The chairman (Mr P. E. Cheal) and Mr Graves Aickin, members of the committee, stated that they had visited the hotel, and considered that nothing further was possible. The stairs and ceilings were fireproof, and the hotel was one of the safest in Auckland. An escape at the rear was unnecessary, in view of the facility with which the stairways could be reached. The committee decided that nothing further was necessary. In connection with the fatality caused by the bending of a rail at the Newton Hotel, the chairman remarked that pot-plants were sometimes placed on the fire escapes. This might be a source of danger, since anyone escaping from a fire might trip on these and fall over the guard-rail. He believed that it was in stepping over a pot-plant that the son of the licensee of the Newton Hotel stepped on the lower guard-rail, which was not rivetted, and which bent and precipitated him to the roadway.

CITY TRANSFERS.

At the quarterly meeting of the City Licensing Committee which was held last week, the following transfers were granted:—Ponsonby Club Hotel, Edward Quinn to Henry Arthur Lloyd; Wynyard Arms Hotel, David Morrison to Frederick Freeman; Edinburgh Castle Hotel, William James Brewin to William Thomas Watts; Britomar Hotel, William John Baker to Joseph D. Fischer; Aurora Hotel, Samuel Sarah to Samuel Kahn; Star Hotel, Albert-street, Isadore J. Rothschild to Horace S. Elliott; Carpenters' Arms Hotel, David Walker to George Hyde.

WHY THE DELAY?

The City Licensing Bench had before them last week the case of the Fitzroy Hotel, in Wakefield-street, George Taylor licensee, the police reported that the house was very badly conducted. Sunday trading was strongly suspected. Several drunken persons had been recently found on the premises. The private entrance now complies with the Act. A

AS GOOD FOR
WOMEN AS
FOR MEN.

Wolfe's
Schnapps

Those who sometimes require a stimulant should take it in the moderate doses prescribed.....