

THE LICENSED VINTNERS' GAZETTE

A list of the next quarterly meetings of licensing committees in the Auckland Provincial district is published in another column.

Messrs Macdonald, Wilson and Co., of 84 Lambton Quay, Wellington, have a very extensive list of hotels in their hands. A glance at their advertisement appearing in this issue will prove of interest to intending proprietors, for houses at all prices are quoted, and the firm is a well known and reliable one.

The accommodation for the travelling public at Hamilton is very often taxed to the uttermost, even with four hotels and several boardinghouses. One of the best of the latter is "Westcourt," which is centrally situated, being only two minutes walk from the Railway Station. The house is well conducted, the cuisine excellent, and the new proprietor, Mr McVicar, looks well after the requirements of his patrons.

A cabman, fined at Willesden, England, for being drunk, said he passed the doctor's test of buttoning and unbuttoning his coat, and then his shirt, but "wobled" when told to walk backward.

We regret to learn that Mr J. J. Graham, proprietor of the Pukekohe Hotel, had to come to Onehunga last Saturday afternoon for medical attendance, as he had contracted blood-poisoning.

A curious coincidence happened in the Magistrate's Court last Tuesday, says the Wellington "Post," when three solicitors were engaged in cases against their namesakes. Mr Blair appeared for plaintiff against a defendant named Blair, Mr Peacock appeared against Peacock, and Mr Webb appeared against Webb.

Last week in giving evidence in a case in the Police Court, a constable, with great solemnity, informed the Court, to the amusement of everyone, that he was standing at the corner of Karangahape-road on Saturday evening waiting for a tram car in plain clothes.

A wash-house attached to the White Swan Hotel, at Motueka, was last week burned to the ground.

While in Rotorua (writes a correspondent) I witnessed the poi, haka, and canoe dances at Whakarewarewa, and having seen dozens of pois and hakas before, I think they compare most favourably with them. The canoe dance is new to me, and I think is a conception of Bella Papakura's, one of the guides there, and sister to that popular guide Maggie Papakura. I spoke to several tourists, some of whom had their wives and daughters with them, and they thoroughly enjoyed them and said if they thought there was anything obscene about them they would not have stayed.

The people of the Bay of Plenty are very satisfied with, and appreciate the new mail coach route, Rotorua to Opotiki, via Te Teko and Whakatane, as it is much quicker, and passes through some of the most beautiful lake and mountain scenery I have seen. The recent floods have played havoc with the roads and bridges on the roads from Whakatane to Oporiau and Tauratua, and Whakatane to Opotiki. The maize crops in the Bay of Plenty are looking grand, and if they escape the frosts should give excellent returns. Opotiki is quite lively since the advent of the new settlers in the back country. New buildings are going up fast in the town. Amongst the improvements to other buildings since my last visit are those to the Masonic Hotel and Mr H. Larmer's billiard and hairdressing saloon. The former has had big extensions, and is now up to date with acetylene gas, hot and cold water, etc., and is most ably conducted by Mr Geo. Mann.

Mr H. Larmer has found it necessary, in order to meet with the requirements of his numerous patrons to extend his saloon and has put another new billiard table in, and has now a most comfortable and up-to-date show. The town is quite lively just now, with visiting horsemen with their charges, getting ready for the coming race meeting.

Mr S. L. Bygrane, who was for some years in the hotel at Waihou, has purchased Mr Jas. Sinclair's interest in the Masonic Hotel, Cambridge.

Mr C. F. Wigley, who lately sold out of the Talisman Hotel at Katikati, was the other evening entertained at a complimentary social tendered by the residents of the district. During the evening the guest was the recipient of an illuminated address in recognition of services rendered to the district generally.

In the local court las. Monday, William Smith, for whom Mr J. R. Reed appeared, pleaded not guilty to leaving his vehicle unattended in Wakefield-street, and to being found on the licensed premises of the Fitzroy Hotel during closed hours. Constable Robertson said that on the night of the 10th inst. he saw the defendant's horse and vehicle outside the Fitzroy Hotel. Witness examined the wheels and found that neither of them were chained. He then went into the hotel and asked who was the driver of the horse and vehicle. Defendant said he was, and remarked that he had been out for a drive with a relative of the licensee. Smith on oath said that he tied the wheel of the vehicle with a piece of rope. He admitted being on the premises. Mr Kettle said the evidence of the con-

COOKS AND WAITERS.

Wellington is not the only place in which the cooks and waiters employed in public eating-houses claim improved conditions of labour. A few days ago a meeting of such employees, of both sexes was held at Adelaide, when some distressing stories were told of conditions in this line of labour in the South Australian capital. One was about a pantryman, waiter and sculleryman combined. He had been employed for six months on and off. The hours worked per week totalled eighty to ninety. He worked six and seven days alternate weeks and received 15s per week. One speaker said he was a waiter at a swell restaurant, and worked eighty to ninety hours a week. He had seen waitresses so dead tired that they dropped down on chairs in the pantry. He knew a woman who had to work 102 hours a week for 15s per week. He had been asked to take the place of a woman who had received 14s per week. "I will give you 1s more," said the employer, but he had told him "No thanks." "Now, brothers and sisters," he concluded, "don't hesitate to speak for fear of losing your billet. You'll get another." It was resolved—"That a union be formed to protect ourselves and prevent these men making

Waikato, Wednesday, March 6, Court House, Hamilton.

Ohinemuri, Wednesday, March 6, Court House, Paeroa.

Bay of Plenty, Wednesday, March 6, Court House, Tauranga.

165,451 MEALS SERVED IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

The report of the Select Committee appointed to control the arrangements for the kitchen and refreshment-rooms of the House of Commons recently issued, shows that from February 13 till November 24, 1906, 126 breakfasts, 35,829 luncheons, 47,968 dinners, 795 suppers, 75,218 teas, 5515 meals at bars were served to members in the House, making a grand total of 165,451 meals served. The sale of cigars realised £1096, and spirits, wines, etc., £6249, whilst £4825 went in wages. The total receipts were £21,122.

THE COLONY'S POPULATION.

A leaflet has been issued by the Registrar-General showing the movement of the population for the years 1902 to 1906. In 1902 the population of New Zealand was 807,929, an increase of the previous year's figures of 20,272. In 1903 the total population of the colony had risen to 832,505, in 1904 to 857,539, in 1905 to 882,462, and in 1906 to 908,718. The excess of births over deaths last year was 15,913, and the net gain in population for the twelve months was 28,761. In the year 1902 the net increase from abroad, after deducting the number of persons who left New Zealand, was 7992, and in 1903 it was 11,275. In 1904 the excess of arrivals over departures fell a little, being 10,355 persons, and in 1905 fell still further to 9302; but the year 1906 shows the largest increase of all, the arrivals being 12,848 in excess of the departure.

In five years New Zealand has gained according to the returns 51,772 persons from abroad, mostly from Australia and the Home Country, after deducting those who departed outwards. The natural increase of births over deaths is considerable on account of the low death rate, and shows a steady rise over each of the five years dealt with in the table. The total excess of births is 71,794 for the quinquennium under observation.

HOW THE TRADE FARED IN ENGLAND LAST YEAR.

Figures are generally dry reading, but the following report from the "Licensed Victuallers' Gazette" should prove otherwise:—

Brewers and distillers have both had a better year. The improvement has not been so great as might have been expected, in view of the enormous increase in our oversea trade, but they have done distinctly better than in 1905. The total exports of beer and ale have amounted to 544,431 barrels, valued at £1,817,420, against 520,990 in 1905, of the value of £1,722,210, and but for the falling off in our trade with British South Africa and Ceylon the figures would be more satisfactory than they are. India has not only maintained her position as England's best customer, but has increased her imports, having taken last year 133,674 barrels, of the value of £320,355, as against 127,382 barrels, valued at £316,035 in 1905. Australia comes next with 62,771 barrels, as compared with 55,486, and the United States third with 56,955, as against 50,900. These are satisfactory increases, but the greatest activity has been shown in the trade with Egypt, which has jumped during the past year from 15,674 barrels to 25,214. New Zealand took 7,523 barrels, as against 6,045, and the Straits Settlements 10,887, as compared with 12,194. The West Indian demand has been steadily maintained, the shipments reaching 16,526 barrels, as against 16,646, while "Other Countries" figure for 219,619, as compared with 219,639.

The distillers of the United Kingdom have put £130,000 more in their pockets than they did in the previous year. Altogether the sum total value of the 7,314,648 gallons exported amounted to £2,985,734, which compares with £2,853,738 received for 7,191,237 gals. shipped in 1905. Australia continues to be far and away our best customer, having taken in 1906 no less a quantity than 1,828,527 gallons, valued at £292,513, as compared with



THE FLYING HERBERTS, WITH WIRTH'S CIRCUS.

stable was more reliable than that of the defendant. He would convict on the first charge, and inflict a fine of 10s and costs. The other charge was dismissed.

Cable news from London informs us that it has been discovered that smuggling whisky on an extensive scale has been carried on by a firm in Ireland whose name has not been disclosed. The system by which the fraud was committed was the conveying of the whisky by underground pipes from the distillery to a "duty-paid" warehouse. The Revenue Department imposed a penalty of £65,000, but there is an agitation afoot to secure the prosecution of the firm.

A: Wairoa, Hawke's Bay, last Thursday, E. A. Grenside, licensee of the Mohaka Hotel, was fined £10 and costs for supplying Maori women with intoxicating liquors. J. S. Cooper, licensee of the Hot Springs Hotel, at Morere, charged with supplying a cask of beer to a native, was acquitted, on the grounds that the beer was supplied to a half-caste.

themselves rich while we are putting the money into their pockets."

QUARTERLY LICENSING MEETING, MARCH, 1907.

Waitemata, Friday, March 1, Borough Council Chambers, Devonport.

Thames, Friday, March 1, Court House, Thames.

Bay of Islands, Friday, March 1, Court House, Kawakawa.

Eden, Friday, March 1, Epsom Hall, Epsom.

Kaipara, Friday, March 1, Court House, Dargaville.

Manukau, Friday, March 1, Court House, Onehunga.

Marsden, Tuesday, March 5, Court House, Whangarei.

City of Auckland, Tuesday, March 5, S.M. Court, High Street.

Franklin, Tuesday, March 5, Court House, Mercer.

Parnell, Wednesday, March 6, Borough Council Chambers, Parnell.