

she had made a statement to the constable, which was read over to her, and which, if produced, she could identify. Mr Kettle asked if the statement was in Court, and on receiving a reply in the affirmative, requested Sergeant Hendry to produce it.

Sergeant Hendry: Before doing so will Your Worship say that it will not go into the hands of Mr Landon (defending counsel)?

Mr Kettle: I am saying nothing. I ask you to produce it.

Sergeant Hendry: Well, in that case I must respectfully decline to produce it.

Mr Kettle: Very well then. I shall adjourn the Court.

Sergeant Hendry then said he was quite willing to allow Mr Kettle to peruse the statement, but he objected to the book going into the hands of counsel, as there were other matters in it which were absolutely confidential. A compromise was then effected, the magistrate binding down the leaves of the notebook with elastic bands so as to leave loose only those pages relating to the statement. The statement was then copied by the clerk, and the notebook handed back to the constable. Sergeant Hendry protested that the statement was not evidence, but the magistrate ruled otherwise, and said he would always do so until over-ruled by the Supreme Court. He thought that the matter should be taken to the Supreme Court to have it decided once and for all. Sergeant Hendry's objection was noted in the depositions.

WHERE TEA IS EXPENSIVE.

A good story comes to the West from the King Country about the experience of two detectives in that land of the sly grog-seller. They were after a man who sold cold tea at half a sovereign a bottle and the detectives were sent up to do what they could to discourage him. Unfortunately for them the sly grog-seller knew their vocation, and when one pleaded tearfully for some brandy to ease his great pain the liquor was supplied as a gift and every tender of money was refused. The detective's pain passed off, and a chat on dryness followed. One detective remarked that he had heard there was an excellent brand of cold tea to be bought from their host at half a sovereign a bottle. The host admitted he had such a fluid, but its price was now £1 per bottle. The detective gladly paid over his pound and received in return a bottle containing something that looked like brandy. Then he and his companion rode 63 miles to take out a summons. To make sure of their case they had the bottle opened and tested before the magistrate of whom they were seeking the summons. Its contents were exactly what they had been represented to be by the seller—cold tea—and the summons is still unsigned.

THE LICENSING QUESTION.

A NIGHT AT THE MILDMAY RADICAL CLUB.

"A TRIANGULAR DUEL."

(By Our Special Commissioner.)

(Concluded from last week.)

THE CASE FOR THE CLUBS.

Mr B. T. Hall, who received quite an ovation on rising, said that he did not see that he was in the debate at all, as both the previous speakers had refrained from saying much about clubs. That was a triangular duel, as he expected it would be; but as two of the opponents had placed their guns in position against each other, and had not aimed at him, he felt that he could but leave them to fight the matter out between themselves. The title of the debate was, "The Licensing Question—what should Parliament do?" Well, so far as clubs were concerned, his advice to Parliament was to do nothing. The law passed in 1902 had placed in the hands of the authorities ample power to remove any club from the register that was calculated to be an injury to the State, and therefore nothing else was required or demanded. They had heard that since 1904 over 3,000 licenses had been extinguished, and it had often been stated by public speakers and in the Press that for every license that went out of existence a club was started. Such a statement was absolutely incorrect. As a matter of fact, during the past six years, only 309 new clubs had been added to the register, and these included cricket clubs, dining clubs, and canteens. (A voice: "Book clubs.") No, he did not think they needed registering. If there was any further taxation of clubs then of course the clubs would have to get the money out of their members in some way or other. He might also add that it would be extremely unwise to give the magistrates any further power over clubs.

The chairman then invited questions from the audience, and some puzzlers, as well as some of the most ridiculous, were put forward. "Does Mr Newton think that by abolishing public houses he will put down drunkenness" was one of the questions asked. "He does not," was Mr Newton's reply. "No, no; while I am alive," was the retort of the questioner.

MR ALDERMAN JOHNSON AND THE "LICENSED VICTUALLERS' GAZETTE."

Amongst the questions which were fired off in rapid succession was one having reference to this paper. Mr Johnson was asked whether he agreed with the views of the "Licensed Victuallers' Gazette." In reply he said:—I am in no way responsible for what appears in the "Licensed Victuallers' Gazette." Whatever opinions are expressed in that paper are no doubt the honest views of the gentlemen who write them, but we do not claim that it particularly represents the Trade. I occasionally see the paper, and as far as I know there is no difference between us except this—that newspaper considers that in my public actions with regard to the Trade I do not go far enough, that I am not violent enough against our opponents. Well, that may be. We all have our way of setting about our work, but I do not think we shall help the Trade, nor do I think the other side would advance their cause by vituperating each other. That is the only difference. I have never known the Editor take

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exception otherwise. He simply does not think I treat our opponents severely enough. (Mr Edward Johnson is quite right when he says that the objective of the Central Board is identical with that of the "Licensed Victuallers' Gazette"; the raison d'etre of both is to advance the interests of the Trade. But our readers will observe that he somewhat misrepresents, doubtless unintentionally, our attitude towards himself as chairman of the Central