

THE LICENSED VICTUALLERS' GAZETTE

At Dunedin last week, in bankruptcy, the discharge of Mr. Chas. Pitches, hotel manager, at Ophir, was suspended for 10 months, and that of John Brennsell, hotelkeeper, Queensbury, was suspended for nine months.

According to report, Mr. H. Davis, Mayor at the prohibition town Ashburton, recently stated that there seemed to be a good deal of drinking going on during Sundays in that place. He judged from the number of persons brought before the Court on Monday mornings on charges of insobriety. He intended to do his utmost to discountenance the habit, and offenders that were brought before him in future for drunkenness on a Monday morning would be severely dealt with.

The Tasmanian Legislative Council has eliminated from the Licensing Bill the clause prohibiting the employment of barmaids.

At Balclutha last week, David Reddic, jun., charged with procuring two bottles of whisky from the Stirling Hotel without giving the name and address in writing of the person for whom the liquor was intended, was fined £3 and costs.

A peculiar case of theft is being investigated in Christchurch. On a recent Monday night, it is stated, the office of the Caversham Hotel was entered, the safe opened, and between £80 and £90 in cheques and gold, and numerous receipts, representing £150, stolen. The licensee (Mr. C. L. Stark) told a reporter that late on Monday night he went to bed, and took particular notice that the door of the office was locked. Presumably, the safe too was locked, though he was not absolutely certain of that. About 6 o'clock next morning a friend of his, to whom he had just given his keys, went downstairs to unlock the bar, and, finding the office door open, closed it. The licensee did not go into the office until after 2 p.m., and then he found that two cigar boxes, in which he kept his money, had been taken out of the safe and lay empty on the floor. The safe door was closed, and he put his key in and turned it, but whether the door was locked or unlocked he did not in his surprise notice. The police are making inquiries, and a number of cheques, worth about £35, have been stopped. All the stolen cheques were cashed at the hotel between August 31 and September 7.

Wu Ting-Fang, the Chinese ambassador, said modestly at a dinner in the United States: "I am aware that the honors heaped upon me are due to my exalted office, not to my humble self. It is my office, it is not I, that gains and merits your consideration. Yet this is a mortifying truth of a kind that all of us—ambassadors or no—are apt to forget. May such a truth never be recalled to our memory with the harsh shock that came to a Rhode Island farmer who won a blue ribbon at a Woonsocket stock show with a fat hog—a 1250 pound hog. 'Get my name right,' he said, excitedly, to the reporters, with their pencils and yellow paper, who crowded round him at awarding time. 'Get my name right, boys. It's Hiram Y. Doolittle, son of the late General Augustus Anderson Doolittle of St. Joseph, who settled in Rhode Island in the year—' 'Oh, never mind all that,' the oldest reporter interrupted. 'Give us the pedigree of the hog.'"

We congratulate Mr. C. T. Gibson the popular host of the Criterion Hotel at Paeroa, on the fact that the fire which broke out in his hotel last Thursday morning was discovered before much damage was done. Some of the boarders noticed that smoke was issuing from a linen room upstairs, and it was found that the room was on fire. The fortunate early discovery enabled the fire to be put out

very quickly, and it is expected that about £15 will cover the damage.

"I was slightly abbreviated," said an offender at Lambeth Police Court when he was charged with drunkenness.

A new Alpine hotel is advertised as the ideal resort for those who want a complete rest cure. All the plates, dishes, cups, and saucers are made of papier-mache, so that guests will be spared the clatter of a restaurant, and as the material is so light guests will suffer the least possible fatigue in lifting the cups to their lips.

Here is Maine's latest snake story, taken from the "Lewiston Journal":—"An old hen with a large family of small chickens was recently given an empty barrel turned down on its side for a coop. One day recently the hen gave the signal of distress used by all good grangers, and the barrel was quickly surrounded by the fighting members of the household. A large snake was found in the barrel, and quickly lynched. Several bunches were noticed on the reptile's body, and he was ripped up the back with a pair of shears, and seven chickens were found gasping for breath. They are all alive yet." And yet Maine is said to be an honest Prohibitionist State!

Mr. T. Storey has purchased Mrs. Meehans interest in Gleeson's Hotel, Hobson Street, and took possession recently.

We hear that Mr. McSweeney, who has been a resident in the Te Aroha district for many years, has purchased the Grand Hotel, Te Aroha.

A fifty pound fine with costs was the fate of a sly-grog seller the other day in the Balclutha Court.

The United Licensed Victuallers' Association of New South Wales have addressed the following letter to Admiral Sperry:—"On behalf of the members of the United Licensed Victuallers' Association of New South Wales I desire to express admiration for the splendid behaviour of the men of the United States navy while visiting our city. The men visiting the hotels in the metropolitan area, by their sober conduct and behaviour have shown a splendid example of temperance under trying though hospitable circumstances, and have come through the ordeal with credit to themselves and honour to the great nation of which they are units. Permit me to wish the members of the fleet continued pleasure on their great voyage, and a welcome home equal to any they have received from the many friends they have visited." Admiral Sperry replied, acknowledging the letter with sincere thanks, and adding that the praise of the association was most gratifying.

Next Saturday, the 26th inst., is the first anniversary of Dominion Day.

The Minister for Public Works states that he is still in expectation that the actual formation work on the Main Trunk Line will be completed in time for the opening of the railway for through traffic on November 1.

At Ashburton last Thursday a carrier was fined £50 for keeping liquor for sale in a prohibited district.

A tenderfoot once visited Tin Can and watched with interest the poker play. From saloon to saloon he passed. Everything was wide open, and very gay and lively. But as he looked on at a poker game that had no limit, the tenderfoot suddenly frowned. He had seen the dealer slip himself four aces from the bottom of the pack. "Gracious powers," whispered the tenderfoot, excitedly clutch-

ing the sleeve of the man next to him, "did you notice that?" "Notice what?" asked the other, "Why, that scoundrel in the red shirt just dealt himself four aces." The other looked at the tenderfoot calmly. "Well, wasn't it his deal?" he said.

It was the first vaudeville performance the old coloured lady had ever seen, and she was particularly excited over the marvellous feats of the magician. But when he covered a newspaper with a heavy flannel cloth and read the print through it, she grew a little nervous. He then doubled the cloth and again read the letters accurately.

This was more than she could stand, and rising in her seat, she said:

"I'm goin' home. This ain't no place for a lady in a thin calico dress!"

Mr J. Bathurst's Commercial Hotel at Te Awamutu had a narrow escape from being destroyed by fire early last Friday morning. It appears that a young girl staying at the hotel went to sleep with the candle alight, and before she awakened the whole room was in flames, the window curtains having caught fire. Instead of giving the alarm, she endeavoured to put the fire out herself. Others staying in the hotel hearing the noise proceeded to the room, and were successful in extinguishing the outbreak, which by this time had a fairly good hold. The damage done was comparatively small.

A peculiar explanation of the disappearance of some cash assets is alleged to have been given at a private meeting of creditors held not a hundred miles from Christchurch. The gentleman, who was meeting his creditors, stated that having decided to change his bank he had drawn out the amount standing to his credit, but arrived too late at the bank to which he had decided to transfer his account. He took the money, about £250, home, and, considering the grate would be the safest place for it, he consequently deposited the notes there. In the morning his wife arose, and not knowing that the grate had been selected as a safe deposit, she lit the fire, and the £250 went up the chimney.

A FIFTY-POUND FINE.

In the Magistrate's Court at Ashburton last Thursday, William Porter, a carrier, charged with keeping liquor for sale, pleaded not guilty. The evidence showed that defendant had ordered and received large quantities of liquor in fictitious names. Defendant alleged that the liquor was obtained for others in his capacity as a carrier, and not for sale by himself. The magistrate held that it rested with the defendant to show who had received the liquor, and as he had failed to do so, it was to be assumed that he had been guilty of keeping liquor for sale. He convicted accused and fined him £50 and costs. This is understood to be the first case heard in the Dominion in which a carrier has been called upon to show what became of goods received by him for delivery.

ONLY ONE FULL BOTTLE.

Despite the fact that such a small stock of liquor was found on the premises, it did not prevent a heavy fine when, the other day, at Balclutha, before Mr Kenrick, S.M., George Fisher, of the Farmers' Arms Hotel, Balclutha, was charged with unlawfully keeping liquor for sale on certain days between July 8th and August 8th, and with selling liquor on August 3rd.

Evidence was given that defendant purchased thirty-eight bottles of whisky within a month, and that at the time of the raid only one full bottle was found.

The defence was that seventeen bottles had been overlooked on the occasion of a previous raid.

Defendant was convicted. It was then found there was no minute of the previous conviction, and no entry of it in the record book, so the case was dealt with as a first conviction. Defendant was fined £50 and costs. In no-license districts a second conviction carries imprisonment.

RECENT HOTEL SALES.

Messrs Dwan Bros., hotel brokers, Willis-street Wellington, report having made the following hotel sales:—Mr W. E. Grantham's interest in the lease, goodwill, and furniture of the Starborough Hotel, Seddon, Blenheim, to Mr William Butler, late of the Martinborough Hotel, Wairarapa. The lease, goodwill, and furniture of the Te Nui Hotel, Te Nui, on behalf of Mr W. S. Barr to Mr William C. Page, builder of this city. The valuation of the furniture, stock, etc., of the Cricketers' Arms Hotel, Vivian-street, Wellington, on behalf of Mr Alex. Smith to Mr D. Taylor of this city who is already in possession. The lease, furniture, and goodwill of the Palace Hotel, Willis-street, Wellington to Mr Aitken, late of Hunterville. The lease of the Tavistock Hotel for Mr R. Coneys to Mr D. McLeod, late of Whangarei. Also the lease, goodwill, and furniture of the Masonic Hotel, Waitara, to Mrs Cusack late of Port Chalmers on behalf of Mr J. W. McDuff.

HOTEL THIEVES.

The position of a burglary insurance company in connection with hotel thieves is an interesting one. The House of Lords had recently to state the law on the subject. The case was one of Whitehouse v. Pickett, and was one in which a jeweller's traveller was robbed at an Edinburgh hotel of a bag containing goods to the value of some £1800, and the insurance company (the National Burglary Insurance Corporation, now the National General Insurance Company), after paying the claim made upon it for the full amount of loss, put the law in motion, by means of an action against the proprietors of the hotel, in the name of their assured, to recover the amount they had paid. Innkeepers are liable in law, beyond the statutory £30, for loss of a guest's property under certain circumstances, as, for instance, when the property is specially deposited with them for safe custody, or the property is lost or stolen through

