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manoeuvres be held in abeyance. He wishes commanding Officers to impress on those under their command that this restriction is being removed because they are trusted to behave themselves and not to indulge in excesses, and further, to warn them that should this trust prove to be misplaced, not only will the offenders be severely dealt with, but the restriction will be re-imposed at manoeuvres in future years.

### ATLANTA FACES BIG DEFICIT.

There is a difference of opinion about the cost of prohibition to the people of Georgia (says "Bar and Buffet"), but the law has not been enforced long enough to determine how far the revenues of the State and the different cities and counties will be affected.

An estimate that the deficit caused by the enforcement of prohibition in the revenues of the municipality will be 220,000 dols. (£55,000); from liquor licenses, 134,000 dols. (£33,000), from fines in the police court, 60,000 dols. (£15,000) and 10,000 dols. (£2000) from taxes paid by liquor dealers and manufacturers on their stocks, fixtures and other property. This deficit will have to be made up by other forms of taxation. The property value of saloons, breweries, rectifying establishments and wholesale and retail liquor leaders which was made useless by the enactment of the prohibition law in the City of Atlanta, was about 1,500,000 dols. (£400,000), and that the amount for the entire State will exceed 5,000,000 dols. (£12,500,000). They estimate that 1500 persons in the City of Atlanta were thrown out of employment by closing up the saloons and shutting down the breweries, and that the total number for the State is about 15,000, which is considerably less than the estimates I heard in Augusta.

### NO-LICENSE MOTION LOST.

At Christchurch last week an animated discussion took place at the Christchurch Diocesan Synod on the following motion:—(1) That this Synod deplores the large increase in the number of convictions for drunkenness in the Dominion during the year 1907; (2) that this Synod thankfully recognises that its attendant evils have decreased in no-license districts; (3) that this Synod commend no-license as the only available remedy at the present time for the grave and increasing evils of intemperance." The first clause was dropped and two amendments were moved to the second one, substituting "hears" for "recognises," the other being "that in view of the divergence of apparently authentic statistics and statements in regard to the effect of no-license in New Zealand, this Synod finds itself unable to express any opinion."

The debate at this stage was interrupted by the evening adjournment. The debate on the no-license question was resumed at the Christchurch Diocesan Synod, the following motion, proposed by Archdeacon Averill, was carried:—"That this Synod, while unable, on the evidence at present before it, to express any authoritative or unanimous opinion on the relative merits of license and no-license, welcomes every legitimate effort to decrease the many deplorable evils due to intemperance in the use of alcoholic liquors and commends the whole matter to the earnest and careful consideration of all the churches and people of the diocese."

A motion, by the Rev. Mr Mathias, "That this Synod commends no-license as the only available remedy at the present time for the grave and increasing evils of intemperance," was lost, the voting being as follows: Ayes: Clergy, 12; laity, 18. Noes: Clergy, 27; laity, 10.

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## THE SMUG FARCE OF PROHIBITION.

("Lyttelton Times," 29/9/08.)

In spite of the fairy tales glibly told by travelling Australians, who know little or nothing of the conditions prevailing in New Zealand, and seem to care less, so long as they are able to convey to the unthinking that no-license restrains the drinking habits of the people, it is a fact that not the slightest diminution in the drink bill is effected. The prohibition areas are doing their share, notwithstanding the feverish anxiety of the prohibition faction to disguise the obvious fact. A Government return, furnished to the order of Mr. Arnold, M.P., shows that since no-license was carried in the several districts named, the declared quantities of liquor sent in and consumed were as follows:—

ASHBURTON.—102,987 gallons of beer; 18,131 gallons of spirits.

OAMARU.—29,196 gallons of beer and spirits; 37,766 bottles of beer and spirits; 8 barrels and 18 hogsheads of beer; 564 cases of spirits; 48 cases of beer and porter; 167 flasks of spirits.

INVERCARGILL.—114,672 gallons of beer; 7131 gallons of spirits. (in two years).

These are the quantities that were declared. In all of these districts hundreds of gallons of spirits and thousands of gallons of beer are brought in by residents in small quantities that need not be declared, and vast quantities are smuggled in every day. No-license drives the trade underground, but does not curtail it.

## A MOTHER'S APPEAL.

The following letter, which appeared in the "Ashburton Guardian" of September 19th, 1908, speaks for itself:—

SUNDAY DRINKING.

(To the Editor.)

Sir,—Kindly give me space in your paper, and, with your permission, to answer the remarks of "Silver Pen" regarding Sunday drinking. When Mr. Davis said in the Court that there was a good deal of drinking going on on Sundays, he spoke the truth. Now, sir, I will give you my experience of Sunday drinking. It was my son that was before the Court last Monday; that is the second time that the police have run my boy in on a Sunday. It is six years ago since my boy came into Ashburton from Tinwald, to learn his trade. He was then fourteen years old, and he had never tasted intoxicating drink up to then. He is now twenty years old, and has been up before the Court twice for drunkenness. Once I sent for the police and had a sly grog shop raided on a Sunday, when my boy was there all day; and how many times he has been brought home to me drunk I could not tell you—numberless. And all this takes place in the No-license town of Ashburton. Now, Sir, I will give you my boy's own words about the sly grog shops of Ashburton. When he came home on Monday I asked him if he would tell me where he gets the drink from. He said No; but he said he could get drink at forty places in Ashburton; and my boy is worse on Sundays than any day in the week. The No-license people will say far better twenty or thirty sly grog shops than one licensed bar. Shame on them. They have not been put to the test the same as I have, or they would not talk like that, for the sly grog shops are a curse to Ashburton. No doubt the No-license people think they are doing a grand thing for the young people, and I glory in their efforts, but they would be doing a far better thing if they would advocate "No License, No Liquor." I have been wishing that someone far abler than I am would have taken this matter up. Thanking you kindly, I am,

THE BOY'S MOTHER.

[Mr. Davis is Mayor of Ashburton.]