

visits to various hotels, and had found in them 713 women, having with them 24 children. On no occasion had any of these women been found under the influence of liquor.

ON THE BORDER LINE.

Last week several telegraphic messages passed between the Prime Minister and Mr T. E. Taylor, M.P., in regard to the proposal to erect a brewery in the Selwyn electorate, near the boundary of the Ashburton no-license district.

Mr Taylor sent the following telegram to Sir Joseph:—"Representative liquor men assert that a brewery will be started in the Selwyn electorate, on the border of Ashburton town. I trust that the Customs authorities will be forbidden to issue a license, as such an act would outrage public opinion, and defy the clear intention of the law. I shall be glad of your assurance that the Government will prevent the license."

Sir Joseph replied:—"In reply to your telegram, I agree with the view you express, and if a license can be legally refused it will be refused. If we are compelled, however, to issue one, of course we must obey the law. I am getting the considered opinion of the Crown law officers on the matter." Later on Sir Joseph sent another message as follows:—"In further reference to your representations regarding the proposed erection of a brewery on the borders of Ashburton, I am advised that under the law the Government cannot prevent this, but I am publicly intimating that I consider it is practically a defiance of the will of the people, as expressed recently at the polls, and that if the course is pursued I will ask Parliament to legislate to deal with it, and prevent what I regard as technically a breach of the law and certainly what is contrary to the election of the majority of the people."

Mr T. E. Taylor sent the following message of thanks:—"Many thanks for your telegram regarding the proposed brewery on the boundary of the Ashburton electorate. Every fair-minded elector will appreciate your attitude, and approve of your decision to introduce legislation to prevent the liquor interests from insolently defying public opinion. In the meanwhile, I understand the Government has power to disapprove of the proposed site. If that is so, I hope the promoters of the brewery will be forced to build on the Christchurch edge of the Selwyn electorate, and thus free Ashburton from the designed insult."

THE MASTERTON POLL.

It was reported from Masterton last Saturday that the recount of the licensing poll gives a majority for no-license of 312-5th. The grounds of the petition against the validity of the poll are that Masterton was a new district, and no Gazette notice was published, as required; that persons voted who were not adults, and had not been in the Dominion twelve months; that the population had increased 25 per cent., and voters should have had a proposal to increase licenses placed before them; that absentee votes were recorded, and there is no power to issue such permits; that many irregularities occurred, particularly by the exhibition of placards and by fresh voting papers being issued to voters who had spoiled their copies; that one booth was not opened for half an hour after the proper time. It is also alleged that persons under age voted, and that some voted who were on the roll for other electorates. No date is yet fixed for the hearing.

THE IDEAL PUBLICHOUSE.

Here is a picture of the ideal publichouse. It is drawn by Mr. F. E. Smith, K.C., M.P., and Mr. E. E. Williams, in a little book, called "The

Philosophy of the Licensing Bill." "The ideal publichouse would be a commodious building into which any passer-by might enter and call for any reasonable kind of refreshment—food or drink, the latter alcoholic or non-alcoholic. He should be able to consume these refreshments comfortably seated in a room well lit, warmed, and ventilated. He should be able, not only to smoke, but if he chose, to obtain the materials for smoking also on the premises. The place should be so reputable, that, whatever his social position, he could enter it openly, and even take his wife and children with him, and find suitable refreshment there for them. If he were alone he should be able to call for, or purchase in the house, newspapers and magazines. If he had any business to transact there should be a telephone on the premises for his use. If he had one or more friends, and the party desired amusement other than conversation, they should be able to call for cards, chess, or dominoes, or quoits and bowls in the country. Or, if they desired more passive amusement, there should be music to listen to. The humblest inn could provide an hour or two a day of piano-playing; the richer—the large houses in wealthy towns—could furnish a small orchestra and a vocalist or two. And there is no reason why dancing should not be permitted under due guarantees of respectability. This is the ideal publichouse. Such a house as this would add to the innocent enjoyment of the people, and would be an incentive to temperance and good order. No one would misbehave himself in such surroundings by drinking to excess, or by any other form of disorder: public opinion would make such conduct impossible. Upon young people of the working and lower middle classes such a house would exercise a positive influence for good. It would improve their manners, and might improve their morals. They would be better in such a house than in prowling streets and lanes at night, and they would avoid that boredom which is the fruitful parent of all kinds of mischief. That is the ideal publichouse. No one who knows, French or Spanish cafes or German beerhouses would say that it is an ideal impossible of realisation. Plenty of Englishmen, and their women-folk, who would not, or could not, enter an English publichouse to-day, frequent these Continental cafes when they go abroad, enjoy them, admire, get no harm from them, but only innocent pleasure. Yet in them are to be found the very features we have just enumerated as composing the ideal publichouse. If those features are practicable on the Continent they are practicable in England. It is not a question of climate, and it is not to any special extent a question of race."

FASHIONS IN BEER.

A change has come over the consumer of beer in the Old Country. The popularity of the strong ale is on the wane, if it has not already gone. The beer-drinker now demands that his beverage shall quench his thirst without affecting his head. He also insists that his drink shall be pleasing to the eye as well as to the palate, and the old deep brown ale is being superseded by a pale, straw-coloured, sparkling article of somewhat lighter gravity, and of an appearance very much akin to champagne. The change has not come at once. For years the public taste has leaned towards the less-intoxicating form of beer, and at the moment there is every sign that pale, bitter ales, which were never more popular, will increase rather than diminish in favour. The trade have appreciated the altered conditions of things, and they have met the wishes of consumers by preparing an article which, while possessing excellent dietetic value, is shorn of the disadvantages of a

"heady" beer. Brewers view the changed tastes of the public as evidence of the spread of education. Well-ordered members of the community wish to be able to do their everyday work after a midday glass of ale, and, if possible, to perform their tasks the better because they have taken it. Working men, who consume about three-fourths of the beer brewed in England, are not behind their more fortunate fellows in their tastes, and when all sides are practically agreed upon the character of the beverage they desire, the brewer would be a bad business man to ignore their wishes. Experts at the Brewers' Exhibition in London, one of them a judge in the largest competition for various classes of beers ever held by the trade, recently gave their reasons for the improvement in the public taste. There is no doubt that the beer of the present day is a far purer article than it has ever been. The brewers who are making headway—despite the "wave of temperance" which we are told is sweeping over the country, and notwithstanding the depressing effects of poor trade—are those who make a point of getting the best of materials and of using them in the production of beer by the most scientific methods. The brewer, in fact, has done much in forming the public taste for the pale, sparkling, palatable ale by the improvement of his technical knowledge. The "rule of thumb" brewer has had his day. Science, based largely upon experience, has replaced the man who had no knowledge of his trade save that which experience gave him. Nowadays the expert, instead of learning all the technicalities of the trade in the brewery, has to pass through one or other of the brewing schools in the country. In great educational centres the value of the industry is recognised, and schools of brewing, such as that in Birmingham University, have imparted scientific training to their pupils, which has been of incalculable advantage in improving the standard of beer.

THE MAORI ELECTION.

The Christchurch correspondent to the New Zealand Times, in reference to the recent Maori Election stated that the point raised in Gisborne in regard to the election of a Maori member of the House of Representatives had not occurred to Mr. H. W. Bishop, S.M. and Returning Officer for the Southern Maori district, until it was brought under his notice by a reporter last evening in regard to the telegram from Gisborne, stating that the hotels in that town were closed from noon to 7 p.m. on election day. The reason given was that a Maori election is held to come within the meaning of the words "any election," in section 115 of the Electoral Act, which provides for the closing of hotels on election day.

In the strictest sense of the words, they do effect Maori elections, which are placed on the same footing as ordinary elections, but Mr. Bishop points out that the reading of the Act accepted in Gisborne is obviously impracticable, as the Southern Maori

NEW PROVINCIAL HOTEL, UPPER HUTT.

CONTAINING OVER FIFTY ROOMS. Replete with Every Modern Convenience. FIRST-CLASS ACCOMMODATION FOR TOURISTS, TRAVELLERS, &c. Trout-Fishing Streams Within Short Distance of Hotel.

FIRST-CLASS LOOSE BOXES ATTACHED TO THE PREMISES. CHAS. H. WILLIAMS, Proprietor.



MEREDITH HOUSE, TAUMARANUI, N.Z. (Junction Wanganui River and Main Trunk Line). First-class Accommodation. Excellent Cuisine. Cook's Coupons Accepted. Telegraphic address: "Mathias," Taumaranui. Every attention given to Telegrams.

KERR AND MATHIAS, Proprietresses.

UNDER THE PATRONAGE OF HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR.

NOTICE TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC.

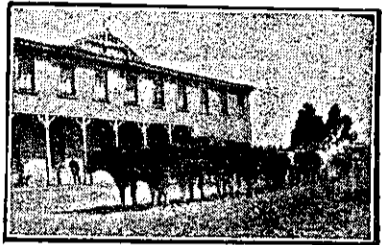
THE CENTRAL HOTEL, DARGAVILLE

(Close to Wharf and Railway Station).

Is now under the Management of MR. H. H. DYER. And the Travelling Public will find it one of the most Convenient Houses in the District.

At ACCOMMODATION. BEST BRANDS OF WINES AND SPIRITS.

Telegrams Promptly Attended To.



TAVISTOCK HOTEL, WAIPUKURAU, HAWKE'S BAY.

The above Hotel has just been rebuilt and refurnished throughout, and is now replete with every convenience. Waipukurau is the noted health resort of the province. Good fishing and shooting. Excellent Accommodation for the Travelling Public.

DONALD McLEOD, Proprietor. (Late Whangarei and Feilding.)



NATIONAL HOTEL, CAMBRIDGE.

The Best Appointed and Most Charmingly Situated Hotel in the District. Excellent Cuisine. First-class Billiard Table. Good Stable. First-class Sample Rooms.

J. WATTERS, Proprietor.



WHEN VISITING TE KUITI

Please Remember that the TE KUITI TEMPERANCE HOTEL, H. E. KERR, Proprietor (Late J. T. Hetet)

Possesses three recommendations—First-class Table, Comfortable and Spacious Bedrooms, Good Sitting Rooms Attention and Civility gratis.



MASONIC HOTEL, CAMBRIDGE.

E. W. SMITH (Late of Oxford Hotel, Trau). Only Best Brands of Ales and Spirits kept. Excellent Table. Every Convenience for Tourists, Travellers and Families. Hot and Cold Baths. Terms Moderate.



RAILWAY TEMPERANCE HOTEL, TE KUITI.

F. H. SIMS, Proprietor. Owing to the great increase of business, F.H.S. has been compelled to erect 12 additional rooms, including Large Commercial Room. Every Comfort and Attention. Travellers by the Early Train specially catered for.

THE NEW CALEDONIAN HOTEL, Hastings Street, NAPIER.

Write or Wire for Rooms.

Everything New and of the Best.

Promenade Roof.

Terms from 6/- per Day. A. C. BARNES, Proprietor.