

withdrew from the contest, leaving Messrs. E. G. Proudfoot, Donald McKinnon, W. C. Motion, J. Routly and John Schlaepfer as the new committee.

An item of interest to those who are in the habit of persisting that commercial prosperity follows prohibition is shown in the news that the Ashburton Borough Council called for tenders in New Zealand and Australia for a loan of £15,000 for water supply at 4½ per cent. Only two tenders, totalling £2000, were received—one for £500 at £95 2s 6d. and the other for £1500 at £91 10s. The Council decided to return both tenders, and also resolved to return all tenders for pipes and machinery. There is no record of any borough in the Dominion having ever received such a want of confidence reply to loan tenders as this.

The recently-sent-Home High Commissioner, Mr. Hall-Jones, makes a few silly remarks about no-license to the London correspondent of the "Herald," mainly to the effect that the withdrawing of licenses is followed by the success of private or unlicensed hotels. What rot. Take the houses closed near Auckland up to now, and see the silliness of such an opinion. He adds that he was in the town of Gore 12 months after no-license, and found that the hotels had been enlarged to meet the increased business after the sale of drink had been stopped. He must have been referring to the lockers in the hotels. Let him come to Ohinemuri and see what hotels will be enlarged during the next twelve months, or to Eden. He will be able to see all the enlargements with both eyes well shut, as they have evidently been during previous visits to no-license districts.

THE LATE MR. JOHN CARD.

Mr. John Card, licensee for the past fifteen years of the Empire Hotel, Featherston, died on February 13, at the age of 75 years. Deceased was one of the old band of pioneers now rapidly passing away. He arrived in Adelaide in 1849 at the age of thirteen years, and worked at the copper mines until the gold discovery in Victoria in 1851. For ten years he followed the gold rushes of Australia, when, on the discovery of gold at Gabriel's Gully, Otago, in 1861, he crossed to New Zealand. In 1864 he overlanded from Otago to the West Coast, arriving on the Greenstone in July of that year. He was the first white man on the New River where for many years he was storekeeping and acting as gold-buyer for the Bank of New Zealand. From 1870 to 1879 he was licensee of the Pioneer Hotel, Marsden, one of the busiest goldfields in Westland in those days. With the hotel he carried on a large storekeeping, butchering, and coaching business. In 1879 he removed to Grey-mouth, where he carried on the old Cosmopolitan Hotel and livery stables until 1890, when he removed to the North Island, and took the Star and Garter Hotel in Cuba Street, Wellington. In 1894 he purchased the freehold of the Empire Hotel over the management of which he presided till his death. He was a keen sportsman, and took a practical interest in all matters of local importance. A few years ago the Featherston Town Board carried a poll for a high-pressure water supply, but was unable to raise the loan under four years. To save the situation and give the town the immediate benefit of the water, Mr. Card guaranteed the whole loan (£4000), and thus enabled the Board to immediately carry out the work. A widow and grown-up family of three sons (one of whom is Mr. J. W. Card, the well-known solicitor) and two daughters survive him, as does also his elder brother William, who was with him right through his career on the goldfields.

MR. HARRY THOMPSON, OF COKER'S.

Harry Thompson, the genial host of Coker's Hotel, Christchurch, is generally known throughout New Zealand as an ex-crack cyclist. He probably holds more records than any man in the Dominion. Take him as a horse-man—the big jumps don't frighten him much. There are few better four-in-hand drivers in the Dominion than Harry Thompson, and if there happens to be a diversity of opinion in this respect he will not have far to go to find a backer or two. As clerk of the course to the C.J.C. he is always well mounted, and keeps his end of the game up all the time. He also manages to be an efficient starter for five or six racing clubs, and up to the present date his work has not been questioned. Harry is Trumpet-Major of the

C.Y.C., and has served in that corps for twenty-six years. He now proposes to devote his energies to making a success of Coker's Hotel, and if he can put half as much energy into that enterprise as he has expended in volunteering and sport, the hotel should be a success.

DISPUTED ALTERATIONS.

In the Wellington Magistrate's Court recently, his Worship (Mr. W. G. Riddell, S.M.) read the reserved judgment of Dr. A. McArthur, S.M., in the case of Alexander Nicol (Mr. Toogood) v. Matthew Moynihan (Mr. McGrath).

The plaintiff is the owner of the Pahautanui Hotel, which he acquired from one George P. Payne, subject to a lease to one Martha Caldwell. The defendant is the licensee of the hotel. The plaintiff claimed to recover from the defendant the sum of £75 12s 9d, the action being a dispute between the landlord and tenant as to which of the two should pay for alterations and repairs, required by the Licensing Committee to be done to licensed premises on the report and recommendation of the Health Department. The landlord held that the tenant was responsible under the terms of the lease, while the tenant contended that, as many of the alterations were entirely new things, the landlord was responsible. As the tenant did not carry out the requisitions of the Licensing Committee, the landlord, to save the license from forfeiture, did so, and now sued the tenant for the amount he had expended in complying with the requisitions.


The plaintiff called the Clerk of the Licensing Committee, the District Health Officer, and an inspector of the Health Department. He then closed his case, and the defendant's counsel asked for a non-suit on the ground that the plaintiff claimed to recover under covenant in a lease. The lease was originally from one Payne to a Mrs. Caldwell. The plaintiff purchased the freehold from Payne, this being proved by their production of a certificate of title in the plaintiff's name. It was alleged by the plaintiff that Caldwell assigned the lease to the defendant, and that the defendant was liable to the plaintiff under covenants in the lease between Payne and Caldwell. No proof was given of the assignment except the original lease produced, with a note on it signed by the District Land Registrar, stating that the transfer to the defendant was registered.

Counsel for the defendant contended that there was no proof that the defendant was liable to perform the covenants in the original lease, and that either the original assignment to the defendant, if there was one, should have been produced, or a certified copy by the District Land Registrar, sealed with his seal, should have been produced.

Owing to the want of a certified copy the Court had no means of ascertaining whether the assignment from Caldwell to the defendant was either signed or attested. Both the execu-

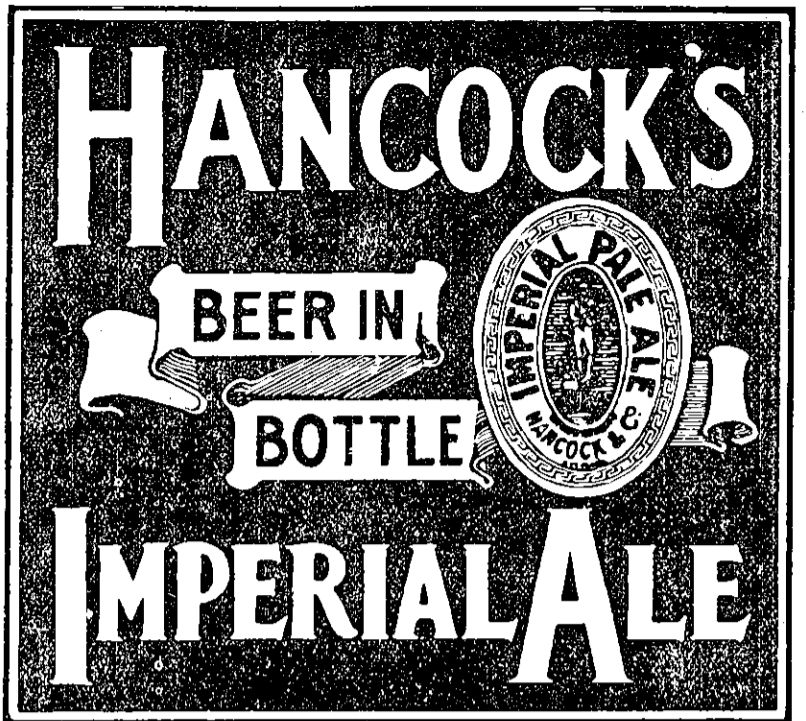
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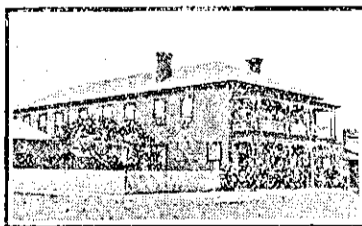
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