

In every hotel in the land, and a careful comparison of the "rogues" in such a gallery with every caller at the bar who sought refreshment. If Mr. Cutten and his brother magistrates would only exercise a little more common sense in their judgments, instead of endeavouring to make the reading of the law more impossible of honest observance, we should not have to comment upon the travesty of justice involved in the conviction of a man for an alleged offence of which the magistrate himself admits he was innocent.

TRADE TOPICS.

It is rumoured that the owners of the Panmure Hotel have sold their property to the owners of the Star and Garter Hotel at the same place. The license of the latter house expired yesterday, and was wiped out under the reduction vote. Be this as it may, we understand that the late licensee of the Star and Garter hotel will take over the Panmure Hotel.

In the days of long ago, (says the Post), when Stratford was a very young centre, strange tales of whisky mills and big speers and saurian monsters used occasionally to float out to places where settlement was older and less strenuous. Legend hath it that strange doings went on in those dark ages in what is now the highly respectable hostelry conducted by Mr. T. Lawless, and that the cellars under this hotel were connected by a secret passage with the Patea river. Today while some important alterations were being made the workmen discovered a pipe leading from the cellar up through the bar into an upstairs chimney, and cunningly boarded over so as to evade detection. Mr. Lawless has no doubt but that that pipe played a very important part at some period in the early history of the hotel, and its uncovering to-day conjures up visions of illicit stills and casks of whisky—wild, fierce, free whisky of the kind that scorns to pay duty, and kills at the longest known range.

A Timaru publican, is to be called to task for permitting gambling on his premises. It is understood that at the time of the offence the publican was away, and knew nothing of the gambling, but the Act makes publicans responsible for what goes on in their houses, whether they are at home or not.

We congratulate our old friend Mr. John Collins of the Gladstone Hotel, Dunedin, on receiving the renewal of his license, and trust that we will see his name over the door of this popular hotel for many years to come.

The hotelkeepers at Masterton are making preparations to remove from their premises, and in three instances the furniture is being offered for sale by public auction. A correspondent of the Wellington Post states that when these handsome and commodious hotel premises are closed, it will give a somewhat dead appearance to the main business street of Masterton, as they are situated in central positions. Present indications are that the Club Hotel is the only one that will continue open as a private hotel.

Mr. Martin Kennedy, managing director for Staples and Co., who own several of the Masterton Hotels, told a Post reporter the other day that the loss to the Trade through the closing of the hotels there would be over £30,000. The Club Hotel, valued at about £15,000, would lose £10,000 by the advent of the new era; the Empire, a new building, costing £12,000, about the same amount; and the Queen's and the Central about £5000 each. The Occidental, Mrs. Sullivan's hotel, would probably be affected to the same extent. Mr. T. G. Macarthy put the loss on the Prince of Wales, an hotel just rebuilt by order of the Licensing Committee, at about £7000.

The total value of the ten hotels in the Dunedin City licensing area the licenses of which will expire on the 30th inst. as the outcome of the reduction vote, is (says the "Otago Daily Times") authoritatively set down at £36,000. The value of the three properties in the Dunedin South district, the licenses of which lapse, is estimated at £6,800. These amounts do not, of course, represent the actual extent of the effect of the reduction vote on the value of the properties concerned, and it would be a difficult matter at the present

time to compute what the value of the properties will be when the licenses have expired.

Mr. E. Moriarty from Paeroa, is going to Frankton, having bought out Mr. J. Holland's interest in the Frankton Hotel. The great Railway centre secures an enterprising citizen in the person of Mr. Moriarty, and one who may be counted upon to assist in the development of that growing town. Mr. Moriarty, as the lessee of the Paeroa Hotel, made a host of friends, who will be glad to hear that he is remaining in the "Trade." He takes possession on the 1st of August next, and from what we know of him, we feel sure no effort will be wanting on his part to merit a continuance of the patronage accorded to the retiring landlord, Mr. Holland.

Visitors and others who require accommodation in Wanganui should not forget the popular McCarthy's Hotel, opposite the Railway station and wharves, where they can always rely upon receiving every attention and comfort at the hands of the licensee Mr. C. J. McCarthy. The house is well equipped in every way and only the best brand of liquors are supplied.

For manufacturing for sale over-proof hop beer, Benjamin Brodie was, at the Masterton Magistrate's Court fined £5, with costs 7s. Mr. G. S. Nixon, of the Customs Department, conducted the prosecution, and Mr. C. A. Pownall appeared for defendant. The official analysis showed that the beer from which sample bottles were taken contained 3.15 per cent. of alcohol by volume, equivalent to 5 1/2 per cent. of proof spirit, whereas the Licensing Act stipulates that beer manufactured by persons not holding a brewer's license must not contain more than 3 per cent. of proof spirit.

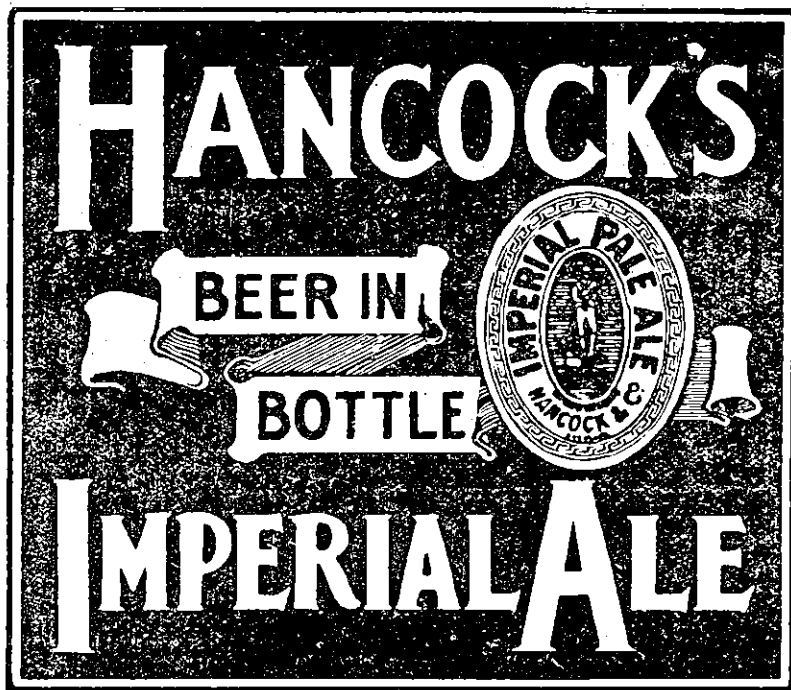
Mr. J. Keogh, of the Towai Hotel, opened his new house last week, and is now in a much better position than formerly to cater for the requirements of the travelling public. The new hostelry is a distinct improvement on the old one and is very comfortably equipped throughout.

There are many first-class hotels in Wellington, but none have a better regulation than the Masonic Hotel, in Cuba-street, which, under the capable supervision of the licensee Mr. Fred. Dobson, is becoming very popular with travellers. The tariff is a moderate one within reach of all and visitors may depend upon receiving courteous conduction and attention with every home comfort while staying there.

Says Sydney "Fair Play":—One wet goods firm alone, of Dunedin, N.Z., estimates that the closing of eight hotels with which it had dealings means a loss to it of over £3,000 per annum. Three thousand pounds less in circulation. A number of employees thrown out to swell the unemployed that already throng the Dominion. Eight, honest tradesmen and their families robbed of their business and the fruits of their enterprise and industry and wowserved legislation.

We understand that Mr. J. W. Hogg, for some time of the Star Hotel, Tauranga, has bought out Mrs. Marshall of the Junction Hotel, Kawakawa.

The license of the Lake Hotel at Takapuna is to be transferred from the old site to the Mon Desir property, the Waitemata Licensing Committee having granted Mr. Thomas Frederick Lipscombe's application in that direction at their sitting on Monday last. The application was opposed by a number of the residents, on the grounds that the premises proposed to be licensed were on the tram route and close to the beach and the Ferry Company's recreation grounds, where sometimes many hundreds of excursionists were gathered! The removal, it was contended, would serve no public interest, and would be likely to seriously disturb the quiet of the neighbourhood, especially on the days when steamer excursions ran from town. Apparently the last consideration with the objectors was the public convenience and the requirements of the travelling public. Even excursionists have a right to be considered, but the "No-license" cranks seem to think otherwise. We are pleased to note that the Licensing Committee granted the application, as the removal of the license from the one site to the other will meet a growing public need.



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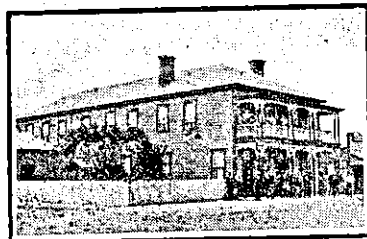
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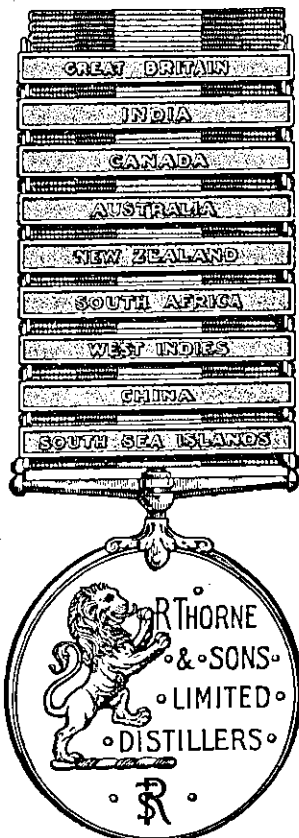
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 - 6 Years' Lease; rent, £7; trade, £60. Price, £3400. 23
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