

# The LICENSED VICTUALLERS

## PROHIBITION TACTICS UNMASKED.

The actions of the Prohibition Party during the last week or two have had the effect of opening the eyes of the electors of Auckland to the fact that the Prohibitionists are making a tremendous struggle for political power. Their intention of concentrating their influence on returning Messrs Richardson, French, and Hannan as representatives of the City of Auckland to Parliament, quite regardless of whether they are in any way qualified for such an honour or not, is now disclosed. It is quite apparent that in the eyes of the Prohibitionists the only qualification that a candidate for Parliamentary honours need possess is that he should be willing, quite regardless of the truth, to slander and vilify citizens like our revered Sir John Campbell, who has during a period of over sixty-three years showed his affection for and pride in the city and colony of his adoption.

Leaving the personal element out of the discussion for the time being, we feel compelled to take off our gloves when referring to the misstatements of Messrs George Fowlds and other leaders of the Prohibition Party in our midst. No one knows better than Messrs Fowlds and Coy. how baseless are their wildly and widely disseminated charges that those engaged in the liquor trade have had a hand in preventing people being registered as electors. No one knows better than they that at the last election the names of over 1500 moderates opposed to their Prohibition had been missing from the roll of the City of Auckland Electorate on the day of polling, and that at the present time for every prohibitionist not on the roll there are three moderates. As a matter of fact, only this week two hotelkeepers and the wife of one of them, all of whom voted at the last election, bitterly complained to us that their names are missing from the roll just issued. Numbers of other people, also engaged in the liquor trade have made similar complaints. We feel compelled to stigmatise the methods indulged in by Messrs Fowlds and Coy. as unliberal, un-British, and totally at variance with their loudly proclaimed assertions of the purity of their motives.

The fact the Prohibitionists have made it evident that their cause (unlike temperance by moral suasion) is no longer a moral issue, but a political one, does not excuse them. If anything, the feeling is intensified that to be dominated by narrow-minded fanatics adopting such methods would be unvarious and disastrous to the well-being and freedom of a British community.

For this reason we are pleased to note that the hotelkeepers have resolved to fight the slanderers and the vilifiers of their women folk tooth and nail. We congratulate them on the justice of their cause.

We must commend the action of the Trade in refraining from participating in the election of candidates for Parliament in any electorate throughout this Province, and in their resolve to devote themselves solely to the defence of their interests at the coming Local Option Poll.

It is recognised that Messrs Wesley Spragg, Fowlds, and Company have been very assiduous in trying to obscure the real issue of Prohibition or not, by introducing side issues (insignificant compared with the real issue involved) into the discussion, but such a common political dodge will, we feel sure, only react upon its authors at the ensuing election.

Auckland has been tolerably free from rowdiness and hooliganism until recently, but if the outrageous and intemperate speech of such as Richardson and Co., be permitted to pass unnoticed by those having the moral welfare of the community at heart, we can only anticipate with the admitted proneness of youngsters to be affected by both example and environment—that our sons and daughters when reaching maturity will show the effect of such taint in their characters. We should have no desire to rival or emulate the unenviable reputation for Jarrikinism, and worse, that Sydney has acquired during recent years.

The real issue at the coming Local Option Poll must not be allowed to be obscured. It is in short—"Prohibition with sly-grog selling, increased drunkenness and its attendant evils," or "the present licensed system under Parliamentary control and police supervision resulting in the most temperate community in the world."

We feel bound to add that the hotels of Auckland are on the whole up-to-date buildings, with excellent accommodation and conducted by a class of men that are a credit to the City, one of them being at the present time its Chief Magistrate.

## Trade Topics

It is reported by cable that the French champagne vintage this year has proved a failure.

Messrs William Beehan and John Patterson have retired from the contest for the Auckland City seat.

For the City electorate, the "ticket" as selected by the Liberal and Labour Federation, consists of Messrs J. H. Witheford, A. Kidd and W. J. Napier.

The Hotel Commonwealth, New Plymouth, was destroyed by fire early last Thursday morning.

Mr Alexander Johnston, late of the Grand Hotel, Princes-street, has purchased Mr Duncan Stewart's interest in the Empire Hotel, Victoria-street.

At the December meeting of the Manukau Licensing Committee, application will be made by Henry A. Lloyd to have the license of the Epsom Hotel transferred to Henry James Syms.

The charges brought against Mr Jno. King, the Registrar of Electors for not keeping a roll open for inspection were dismissed last Thursday. The prosecution failed to prove that the office of the Registrar had been gazetted as such.

The son of an hotel-keeper at Pooncarie, New South Wales, Mr Charles Garraway, cycled 200 miles in 24 hours to obtain medicine for a sick relative.

### A LICENSING CASE.

Before Mr H. W. Brabant, S.M., on the 28th ult., Duncan Stewart, licensee of the Empire Hotel, Victoria-street, was charged with allowing liquor to be consumed on his premises on Sunday evening, October 12. Sergeant Drake gave evidence for the prosecution, and Mr F. E. Baume appeared for the defence, which was that the men who had received liquor had been provided with it at the expense of a boarder, who knew one of the men very well, and told the licensee to charge it to him. This was supported by the evidence of the licensee, the boarder mentioned, and the two men who had received the liquor. His Worship announced that he would take time to consider his decision.

### ALLEGED SLY-GROG SELLING.

A striking example of prohibition is reported from Dunedin. It appears that two informations for alleged sly-grog selling have been laid against two occupants of premises at Balclutha, which were formerly used as hotels. This is said to be the outcome of a visit paid by a man and his wife engaged by the police, the couple having stayed at one place for a month. It is surprising that in the face of such evidence we have people who refuse to see the amount of deceit that follows in the wake of prohibition, and that the turning of men, and even women into spies, and sneaks is preferable to having licensed houses.

### REFUSING TO QUIT.

Last Saturday, in the local Police Court, a man named John Murphy pleaded guilty to a charge of refusing to quit the Royal George Hotel, at Newmarket. Constable Mackle, who was called in to remove the defendant, was assaulted by him. His Worship convicted and discharged the accused for drunkenness, fined him £1 for refusing to quit, with seven days

in default, and fined him 40s, or fourteen days' in default for assaulting the constable.

### THE CHARGE AGAINST WM. RICHARDSON

The hearing of the defence in this case, which had been adjourned, was concluded last Friday. Mr Martin, who appeared for defendant, endeavoured to show that although disturbance had occurred, it had not been caused purposely or illegally by the defendant. Several witnesses were called, among others Mr George Fowlds, M.H.R., who evidently approved of defendant's conduct, and attributed the blame of the disorder to the action of the chairman in declining questions to be asked. Richardson gave evidence, in the course of which, and in cross-examination, he admitted that he had got into trouble in Sydney for disturbing a meeting. He was employed here in Auckland by the Temperance Crusade to lecture at a salary of £3 a week during election time, but he got this provided the public subscribed towards the funds. Other evidence having been given, His Worship, Mr H. W. Brabant, S.M., said that the main questions appeared to be whether the chairman had any right to prevent questions being asked, or prevent the public from ascending the platform to move motions. There had been a good deal of contradictory evidence, and no doubt a good deal of disorder at the meeting. All he could do was to interpret the Act on the question. He would, therefore, reserve his decision.

### THE SEARL BANKRUPTCY.

At Wellington last week, the adjourned meeting of creditors in the bankrupt estate of Edward J. Searl, hotel-keeper, was held. In reply to the Assignee, Mr Searl said he had made no arrangements during the week by which he could hope to carry out the proposed composition. Mr Tripe, speaking for the secured creditors, addressing Mr Searl said, the position is now that you cannot sell the hotel lease; we must, but we promise that the hotel lease and furniture will be sold to the best possible advantage. He understood that Mr Searl was quite prepared to go. Mr Searl replied that such was the case; he was quite pleased to go. He had the secured creditors against him, and he wished them good luck. Later on in a conversational discussion, satisfaction was expressed that everything possible had been done in the matter. Mr Searl declined to accept any allowance which the creditors or assignee might make. He denied the statement that any money of his wife's was being held by an outside party. It was resolved, "That Mr Searl be recommended for immediate discharge." The meeting then adjourned sine die.

### DRINK AND CRIME.

Mr J. F. Deegan says that the time-honoured theory of the liquor abolitionist is that drink is responsible for all, or nearly all, the crime in the world. By "drink" he presumed was meant drunkenness, for even the most reckless teetotaler would hardly assert that moderate drinkers were necessarily criminals. There was no logical relation between drink and crime. Sometimes a wretched drunkard in his delirium would commit an act of violence, but the most dangerous criminals were either teetotalers, or they were abstemious. A drunkard was not necessarily, and a criminal was seldom, a drunkard, any more than a teetotaler was necessarily honest or virtuous. Of the two classes, the teetotaler was infinitely the more dangerous. His criminal instincts worked methodically, deliberately and cunningly. The careless, free-drinking, loose-tongued rascal, if he committed a theft, or forged a cheque was pounced on forthwith, but the sober criminal frequently escaped. It would be a good thing for society if the only criminals were drunkards; there would be less serious crime, and it would be more easily discovered and dealt with. Mr Deegan, at the meeting where he delivered the above, proceeded to give instances of notorious criminals who were teetotalers, or practically such.

### THE EDEN ELECTORATE.

Speaking at Mount Eden one evening last week, Mr John Bolland, M.H.R., said that it had been stated by his opponent that he was a brewers' candidate, and that he was being run by the brewers. He could say without hesitation that such statement was an absolute falsehood. He was pleased to get the votes of brewers, or of prohibitionists, but he was not a brewers' man, and never had been a brewers' man. He was a prohibitionist this far, that he believed in the three-fifths majority at the local option poll. He was not accusing his opponent of deliberate falsehood, but on this question he had evidently been misinformed. Mr Bolland's statement was greeted with frequent applause.

### AN EXTRAORDINARY CALCULATION.

There is an old saying that figures cannot lie, but after reading the following I think that the reader will conclude that if figures cannot lie, then liars can figure. Speaking on the Prohibition question re-

cently in Dunedin to an audience of some 1750 people, Mr J. F. Deegan, formerly a member of the Victorian Legislative Assembly, gave a lengthy and most able address, in the course of which he referred to the example of reckless argument resorted to by Prohibitionists in the extraordinary advertising sheet which had lately been distributed in New Zealand, in which it was affirmed that during the last dress, in the course of which he referred about 120,000 people per annum in England and Wales. Statistics supplied by the Registrar-General's Department in Wellington to a gentleman in Dunedin showed that the actual number of deaths attributed to intemperance in England and Wales in 1900 was 3638. The figures 3638 were transformed by the teetotal magnifying glass into 120,000. As a matter of fact, the proportion of deaths caused by intemperance was very small. For example, take New Zealand. According to the New Zealand Official Year Book, the number of deaths attributable to intemperance in the colony in 1901 was 43, out of a total of 7634—about six deaths in 1000.

### MY LADY NICOTINE.

It is stated that Mr Akers Douglas, who was minister in attendance when the King was at Balmoral recently, found a marked difference from the condition of affairs under the late reign. Queen Victoria had an ineradicable objection to smoking. No smoking-room was included in the original structure of the castle, and indulgence in the weed was of course forbidden in any of the ordinary rooms or passages. The only recourse was a stroll outside, not in any circumstances the best condition for enjoying a good cigar, and, in the sort of weather common in the neighbourhood of Braemar in the late autumn, frequently impossible. Mr Chamberlain's plight in these circumstances is one over which no fellow-smoker possessing a heart likes to dwell. An ex-Cabinet Minister has declared that there were in his time two ways of enjoying an after-dinner smoke at Balmoral. Both were available only when the Minister's bedroom door was locked. He had then choice of smoking up the chimney, or of furtively opening the window and smoking outside. Weired stories are current of embarrassing interruption of these pursuits. Two of the earliest operations carried out at Balmoral on the accession of Edward VII. were the fitting up of a smoking-room, and the removal of all relics of the late John Brown.

### THE DRINK PLEA.

A correspondent of the "Westminster Gazette" writes as follows:—"Owing to the mistaken line taken by most judges, drunkenness is constantly pleaded in lieu of a defence, in the hope of exciting sympathy and procuring a lighter sentence; whereas, in cases of serious crime, drunkenness should be regarded as an aggravation, not an extenuation of the offence. To place matters in juster position, in all cases when a man is charged with drunkenness on licensed premises he should be punished more heavily than the publican, as being the principal offender. At present the drunkard escapes with a small fine, while the holder of the license is perhaps ruined, owing to the endorsement of his license; or, if he has refused to serve the man, his premises have been smashed up. Let us by all means punish the publican as at present, but let us also punish adequately the drunkard. Also, let us not attribute to drunkenness more than its due share of crime; let us not also attribute to the crimes which proceed from the human passions. Did all crime proceed from drink, how account for Ireland's freedom from crimes of violence, compared with Italy, a sober country? Drink is more often the result of crime than the of it; in the same way, embezzlement and extravagance are the cause of betting, not the reverse."

### A REMARKABLE BIRD.

"The London 'L.V. Gazette' relates that the Brixton jackdaw, which has become almost as famous as his predecessor of Rheims, was found dead recently in the bar of the Angell Arms, Loughborough Road, Brixton, which was his home. The bird had a most extraordinary habit of travelling all over London on omnibuses, trams, and cabs, generally seating himself by the driver and chattering throughout the journey most volubly. It always used to fly back home to Brixton, where, at the hostelry of its owner, Mr T. Beck, it created rare amusement amongst customers by its various tricks and exceedingly cunning ways. Its favorite expressions were "Jack's the lad!" and "That's good!" and when it was annoyed it used to shriek "Albert!" loudly. It had its favourites and antipathies amongst the frequenters of the house, and frequently assailed the latter in an unexpected and occasionally painful manner. The death of the bird is attributed to a bad moult."