

A prohibition order has been issued at the Papakura S.M. Court against John James Brooks.

At Masterton, Michael Fahey was charged with drunkenness and entering licensed premises whilst a prohibition order was in force against him. A fine of 40s, with the alternative of fourteen days' imprisonment, was imposed.

Mr Edwin Miller, who was formerly State coachman to Queen Victoria, was awarded £6140 compensation recently in respect of the Crooked Billet Public-house, Portugal-street, acquired by the London County Council for the Strand improvement. He claimed £10,147.

It is a favourite jibe of the prohibitionist that the Trade is sordid. If anything can be more "sordid" than the following matrimonial advertisement in the Rangitikei "Advocate," we should like to be informed of it:—"A young man who has just started dairying, wishes to meet a widow, with four to six children, with a view to above. Age no great consideration, but children must be able to milk."

The following notice respecting the new Tasmanian Licensing Act has been issued to the police in that State:—"The Ministerial head of the department, the Hon. the Attorney-General, directs it to be conveyed to the officers and men of the police force, that it is his desire that the provisions of the above-mentioned Act shall be strictly enforced. All holders of Licenses under the Act must be at once warned that the law relating to closing on Sundays, and at 11.30 p.m. on week days, must be rigidly observed, and that proceedings will be taken, without discrimination, to punish every person who commits any breach of the Act."

A ready wit and healthy thirst often go together, the second being in a sense foster-parent to the first. "Woomera," in the "Australasian," relates that two city merchants had stepped down to the hotel on Christmas Eve to wish each other good luck over a small bottle of Goulet. There was a knock at the door, and he who acted as host called out, "Come in." His own storeman appeared with a message. "Oh, is that you, Christie? Come in? Now, what will you take to drink?" Christie took the quickest glance possible at the empty champagne bottle, and with a smile almost equally fleeting, said, "Thank you, sir, I'm not particular. Just whatever you may happen to be taking yourself."

Long before Turks indulged in the luxury of tobacco smoking they were accustomed to mine meerschaum, which they fashioned into various articles either for use or ornament. Some of the mines are reputed to have been opened ten centuries, and some of them even twenty centuries ago. There are four principal districts in Turkey where the meerschaum deposits are worked, and some nine thousand miners, chiefly Kurds or Persians, find employment in this industry. The deposits are worked in a very primitive fashion.

The following story, illustrating the astuteness of a brewer at Wiesbaden, is now going the rounds:—"A short time ago he began to extend his premises, but although he put many hands on the work the foundation did not seem to make much progress. All at once, however, everything changed. From early morning until late at night the workmen were occupied in digging. Nothing could damp their ardour, neither rain nor storm. The cause of such devotion to work was afterwards explained by the brewer. He had during the night put an old vase into the ground at a place where it would be found by the workmen. Inside was a parchment with the following inscription:—"Here lyeth deep down great treasure which belongs to the finder. Remember the poor." The now disgusted diggers will be more likely to remember the brewer."



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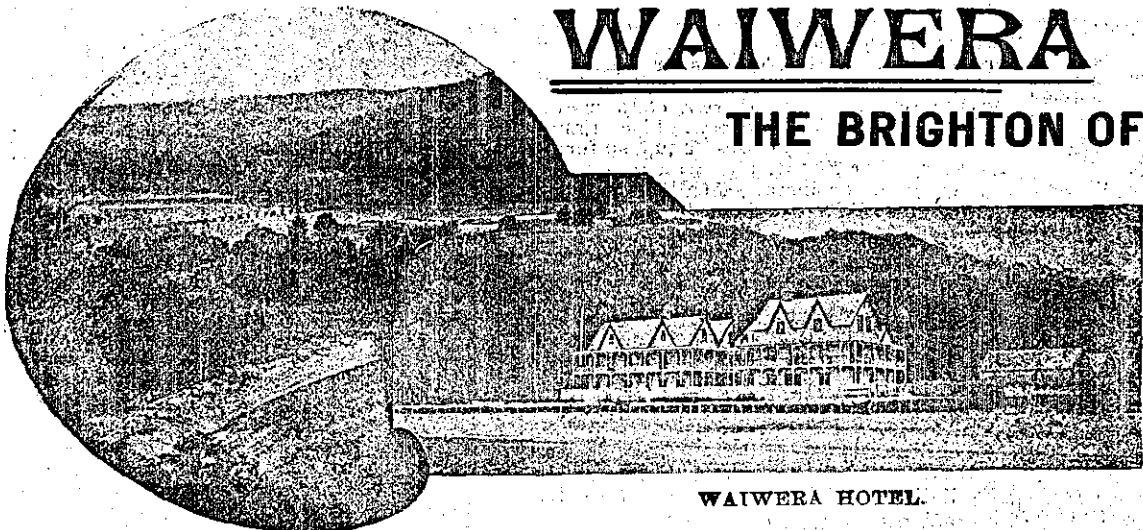
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