

THE LICENSEE VICTUALLERS' GAZETTE

THE HOTEL WORKERS' DEMANDS.

SHOULD NOT THE PUBLIC TAKE A HAND?

THE RETALIATIVE POLICY.

We are not surprised at the failure of the Wellington Conciliation Commissioner to bring the parties to the Hotel Workers' dispute to an agreement. It is tolerably certain that, once the public properly understand the meaning of the "irreducible minimum" of the demands made by Mr. E. J. Carey and Mr. Thomas Long on behalf of their respective Unions, they will agree with Mr. Beveridge (whose remarks as reported in "The Dominion" are reproduced elsewhere) that those demands are both "unwarrantable and unjustifiable," and that they would but add to the many burdens shouldered by a long-suffering public were they conceded. At present, we have neither the desire nor the intention to review the demands, the nature of which has been clearly shown in the contrasts dealing with the New Zealand and Sydney awards, and the new claims of the local Unions, which were published in the "Review" of the 13th inst. But there is this to be said on the subject. The public have a special and a direct interest in the matter, because compliance with the Union demands would mean substantially increased cost to the travelling public, and a general raising of board and lodging tariffs, which to the "man in the street," who breakfasts, lunches and dines at hotels or restaurants is a very serious matter, with no corresponding return for the increased outlay. Mr. Carey, in reviewing the situation from his standpoint, put the position very clearly. "The 'Trade,'" he said, "had two alternatives—to raise the tariffs, or to continue to get it out of the women workers and scullery men at 22s 6d a week." That remark clearly shows that Mr. Carey recognises it is the public who are to be made to pay the piper if his claims prevail. And the public have, therefore, just as much right to express an opinion upon the subject as Mr. Carey—more so, in fact, because Mr. Carey proposes to tax them for the benefit of unskilled labour that, in the case of most young men and young women engaged in it, as also of old men and old women, is well enough paid at 22s 6d per week, plus the board and lodging, which Mr. Carey so conveniently omits to mention when speaking of the rate of payment.

TAKING IT OUT OF THE TRADE.

The worst feature of the business is, however, found in the militant attitude adopted by the Labour leaders towards the Trade itself. Handicapped as they are by the Local Option vote, which is used and manipulated by such people as Mr. E. J. Carey almost solely as a means of vindictive retaliation, the hotelkeepers of this country have practically no alternative but to submit to demands made in the "stand and deliver" fashion that is now becoming so common. We had a case in point in connection with the Auckland agreement. That was formulated by Mr. Long and presented to the Auckland L.V. Association within a few days of the Local Option polls of 1908. Discussion upon its details was practically barred; it had to be accepted or rejected instantaneously. But, although, through a technicality, the agreement has no legal force it is still being honourably observed by the Auckland licensees, who were most certainly the victims of a bit of very smart practice, it being well understood that if they re-

jected the terms advanced by Mr. Long on behalf of the Union the workers would be urged to vote the "No License" ticket. Mr. Carey, again, is known to have done all that he could at the 1908 Local Option polls to secure the carrying of "No-license." Valiant champion of the workers' interests as he pretends to be, he is now admittedly prepared to go to the length of urging the workers to further measures of retaliation against the employers, for what he is pleased to term the "unjustifiable attitude" they have taken up in electing to send the dispute between the hotel workers and themselves to the Arbitration Court. "He would," he said, "draw the attention of the Court to the way in which the employers had set about to defeat the ends of the Conciliation Council," and he declared "there would be such a howl throughout the length and breadth of the country that the hotelkeepers would be sorry for the way they had acted." Language of this character can only be regarded as foreshadowing an attempt to set the country against the Trade, because it has elected to stand by its legitimate right of appeal to the Court,

TRADE TOPICS.

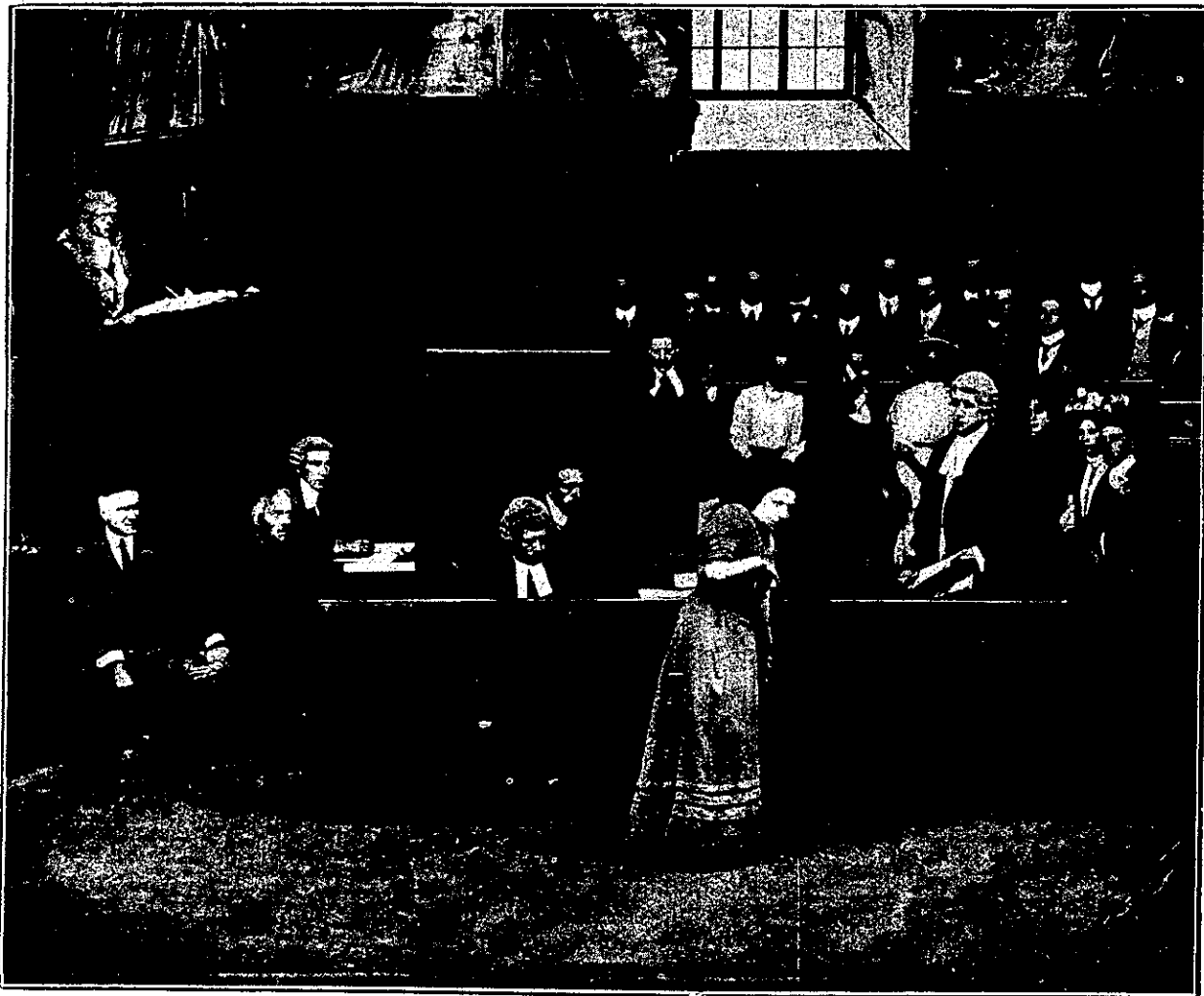
An important meeting of the Executive of the New Zealand Licensed Victuallers' Association is to be held in Auckland on April 13th.

A London cable message states that the House of Lords has decided that the goodwill of the Chartreuse liqueur factory has not passed to the French judicial liquidator, and, therefore, the monks are entitled to the English trademarks. The French Government's liqueur must be marked distinctively.

Having practically extinguished the walking "beer shops" which have been doing business on Sundays, the Wellington police are now turning special attention to alleged Sunday trading in hotels proper.

A novel sight was witnessed in front of an hotel in Gisborne the other day, when a horse was seen drinking from a bottle of ale held in his mouth. The

been confined for the past week. Mr. Williams, who was a native of Birmingham, was born in 1847. He learned the electro-plating trade at Home, being apprenticed to the firm of Perkins, the well-known lock-makers, of Birmingham. He came out to New Zealand in the ship Pleiades in 1867, and took up farming pursuits in the Wellington district. Subsequently he started in business in Wellington as a tobacconist, but after a few years saw an opening for an electro-plating and engraving business, in which he was a specialist, and for many years successfully pursued his trade in Upper Willis Street. Some three years ago he took the lease of the Upper Hutt Hotel, which he relinquished to take over Barrett's Hotel about six months ago. He resided for many years in Karori, and was for some time a member of the Karori Borough Council. He leaves a widow and two sons, Messrs. Walter George Williams and Francis Herman Williams, who reside in Wellington. Mr. Williams was well known in Masonic circles.



THE COURT SCENE IN "MARRIED TO THE WRONG MAN" TO BE PRODUCED AT HIS MAJESTY'S, AUCKLAND, ON EASTER SATURDAY.

against what it considers to be the excessive and unwarrantable claims Mr. Carey advances. With the cunning of a bush lawyer, moreover, Mr. Carey proposed that the agreement he submitted should continue in force for twelve months only, so that on the eve of another Local Option poll further pressure could be brought to bear upon licensed hotelkeepers. It seems to us that both in the cry he has raised against the hotelkeepers, and in the "howl" he proposes to raise through the country Mr. Carey does the cause of Labour no good, and much real harm, alienating the sympathy of moderate men, and incidentally stirring up strife in quarters where only harmonious relationships have hitherto prevailed. But like all paid agitators Mr. Carey agitates without any regard to the rights and comforts of others, and while calling for "justice" for one class of workers, loses sight of the injustice his claims would inflict on others.

horse was evidently quite used to the beverage, for he was not by any means as perturbed over the operation as the crowd that quickly gathered.

At the quarterly meeting of the Rangitikei Licensing Committee held in Hunterville, the application of Mrs. Shields to carry on the business of the Ohingaiti Hotel until the annual meeting in June was granted. An extension of time to manage the Gretna Hotel, Taihape, was granted to Mrs Gibbons.

The late Mr. Charles Henry Williams, whose death was recorded by the Wellington papers last week, was lessee of Barrett's Hotel, and well known as a resident of Karori and Wellington of many years standing. Mr. Williams had been ill for some eight weeks past, and succumbed in the private hospital to which he had

A case of considerable interest to hotel licensees and the public generally was ventilated at the Dargaville Police Court last week. George Burdett, licensee of the Tangiteroria, hotel, was charged with having on 22nd December last at Tangiteroria, refused to supply accommodation, to wit, a meal to one Donald Laing, a traveller; also with having refused to provide accommodation, to wit, a horse feed to Donald Laing, a traveller. After hearing the evidence the Magistrate dismissed the case.

At the Magistrate's Court, Masterton, before Mr. C. C. Graham, S.M., John A. Leahy was fined £5 and costs for having given an order on account of another person for liquor intended to be taken into the no-license district of Masterton, and having failed to give a statement in writing of the name and address of such other person.