

At the Licensing Court, sitting at Dargaville, Constable Thompson drew the attention of the Court to the irregularity of procedure that had occurred in regard to matters to be dealt with by that Court, inasmuch as that certain applications had been lodged in Auckland instead of the court at Dargaville and at his suggestion, it was decided that all applications affecting matters in the jurisdiction of the Kaipara Licensing Court be made in the local court.

At a meeting of the Palmerston North Licensing Committee on Monday, the transfer of the Grand Hotel from D. Thompson to G. Trevor was granted; also temporary transfers of the Central Hotel from D. Moynihan to P. E. Wakeman; the Longburn Hotel from C. Morgan to W. Gran; the Royal Hotel from G. H. Foster to A. H. Rogers; and the Occidental Hotel from W. Gran to W. Hunter. Sub-Inspector O'Donovan reported that there were no complaints against any of the hotels.

Freeholds in the city of Wellington appear to still maintain their values, and inspire the confidence of investors, especially when the properties are centrally situated, and in good positions. Messrs Dwan Brothers, Willis Street, Wellington, report the sale of the freehold of the Post Office Hotel, Grey Street, which was owned in the joint partnership by Messrs. Dwan Brothers and Mr. David Sullivan, to Mr. Alexander M'Vinish, the present tenant. The price paid is said to be in the neighbourhood of £25,000.

At the quarterly meeting of the Gisborne Licensing Committee, Sergeant Hutton, officer in charge of the Gisborne police district, reported: "I respectfully report that during the past quarter the hotels in this sub-district have been well conducted and no complaints have been made. I have inspected each of the hotels separately and found them clean and tidy, both within and without, and the up-keep all that could be desired. There has been a considerable decrease in drunkenness this quarter when compared with the corresponding period of last year." "A very satisfactory state of affairs!" remarked the chairman (Mr. W. A. Barton) S.M. The following transfers were granted: George Brown Oman, Wairoa Hotel, to John Dickson (Mr. F. W. Nolan); Andrew Tuony, Royal Oak Hotel, to Arthur Frederick Saunders (Mr. F. W. Nolan).

"All admit that an excess of alcohol does harm; so likewise does an excess of meat, sugar, or even water. The danger here lies in the abuse and not in the proper use of the articles in question, and it is irrational to claim that their use must on this account be abandoned."—Dr. Thomas Dutton.

Steady progress is being made with the reconstitution of Victorian vineyards with phylloxera-resisting stock. The scheme was started over seven years ago, and since then it has been applied to large areas under vines throughout the State. In the past inability to secure a sufficient supply of wood from American resistant vines has been the chief obstacle in the way of this reform, but the plantation of mother vines at the Rutherglen State Viticultural Station has recently been extended, with the object of overcoming this difficulty. It is expected that within two years sufficient cuttings will be provided to graft a million vines annually. Moreover, the irrigated State nursery, established recently at Wahgunyah, now contains over 300,000 grafted vines and rootlings. It is announced that this autumn the supply for planting out will be larger than it has ever been in the past. Considerable success has been obtained with a new method of budding European vines on the young wood of American stocks, and it is hoped that this will provide an additional facility for dealing with the vast number of vines needed each year for the work of reconstitution.—"Wine and Spirit News."

Thus the late Marquis of Salisbury—"You wish to prevent a certain number of people from getting drunk. Therefore you ask us to prevent four, five or six times as many, who are sober consumers, from having an opportunity of the free indulgence to which they have a right. Why are we to punish the innocent in place of the guilty? The rich who possess, or can possess, wine cellars, are free from the attacks of the prohibi-

tionists reformers. It is the poor, the working people, that the law inconveniences. This kind of legislation is absolutely of a class character."

The N.S.W. United Licensed Victuallers' Association in its annual report says inter alia:—"Our organisation campaign has been continuous throughout the year. We have to-day 129 branches and sub-branches established throughout the State, and in addition many correspondents in outlying places. Our members are taking a keen interest in our work, and rendering valuable assistance. We are making every effort to educate the voting public upon the liquor question, large quantities of literature being circulated, so that the next time they record their votes at the Local Option Poll they will have a knowledge of the question and how it affects the people. The Trade is buckling on its armour and none too soon. Our opponents, the No License Party, have commenced a vigorous campaign throughout the State which is worthy of emulation by the units of our side, and a strong reason why every liquor trader should join our forces without delay. It is purely a question of organisation against organisation, and the most complete organisation on the day will achieve success. Within the next three months we will have completed our second circuit of the State on the formation of branches, after which the country is to be retraversed and a livening up system introduced.

GOING TO ARBITRATION.

HOTEL AND RESTAURANT EMPLOYEES' CLAIMS.

AN IMPASSE AT THE CONCILIATION COUNCIL.

As stated in these columns last week, the claims advanced by the Hotel workers in respect of a new award, are to go before the Arbitration Court. The adjourned meeting of the Conciliation Council was held on Wednesday (yesterday week). Mr. P. Hally, (Conciliation Commissioner), presiding, the assessors being, Messrs. McParland, Dwyer, and Beveridge, for the employers, and Messrs. E. J. Carey, E. Marks, and T. Helyer, for the employees. Mr. T. Long, of Auckland, was also present on behalf of the workers.

The commissioner referred to the fact that at the last meeting a number of points were agreed upon, though the main questions of hours, wages, and preference were still unsettled. The employers' representatives had asked for an opportunity of conferring with the "trade" on these points. He, therefore, asked Mr. Beveridge to state the result of the conference.

THE "TRADE" GIVES REASONS.

Mr. Beveridge said that when the issues were placed before the executive of the Licensed Victuallers' Association and other members of the "trade," it was at once apparent that not one-third of them would agree to the union's demands as to wages, hours, and preference to unionists. The whole matter was discussed at considerable length, and very thoroughly gone into, and he had to state that the "trade" could not see its way to accept any of the demands set forth. Mr. Beveridge then read a printed statement, as follows:—

"The conditions of the 'trade' have not in any way altered since the 1907 award was made; or, if they have altered, it has been to the detriment of the 'trade.' The falling-off in returns during the past twelve months has been seriously felt. The outlook for the future presents no better prospects.

"When the 1907 award was made trade was exceedingly prosperous.

"The present condition and future outlook of the trade do not in any way warrant any increase in wages, reduction in hours of work, or further restrictions in working conditions.

"The 1907 award conferred material benefits upon the workers, both with regard to substantial increases in wages and reductions in working hours. These conditions, coupled with the present state of trade, have placed such heavy burdens upon employers as to warrant them in asking for substantial relief.

"No agreement or award will be satisfactory to the employers unless provision is made for the working of overtime over and above the hours specified in Clause 4 of the present award, and to give the court power

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 - 6 Years' Lease; rent, £7; trade, £60. Price, £3400. 23
 - 5 Years' Lease; rent, £2 10s; trade, £35. Price, £700. 43
 - 4 1/2 Years' Lease; rent, £18; trade, £150. Price, £3500. 19
 - 8 1/2 Years' Lease; rent, £10; trade, £150. Price, £5200. 52
 - 3 1/2 Years' Lease; rent, £2 10s; trade, £45. Price, £1050. 31
 - 3 1/2 Years' Lease; rent, £12 10s; trade, £160. Price, £4000. 18
 - 3 Years' Lease; rent, £5; trade, £50. Price, £2000. 15
 - 3 1/2 Years' Lease; rent, £8; trade, £25. Price, £1000. 32
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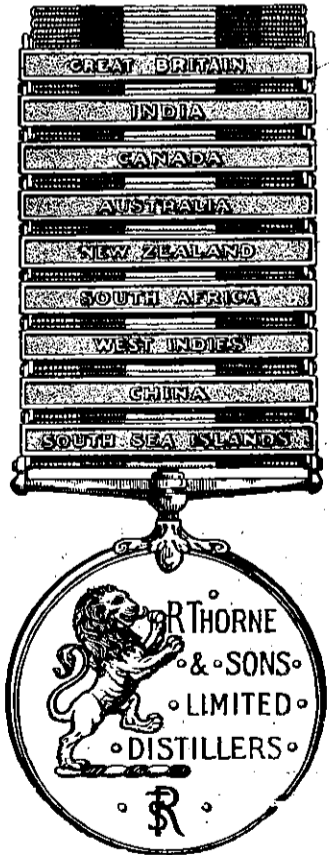
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