

WOLFF'S SCHNAPPS

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to review the award in the event of legislation being passed which affects the conditions of work.

"That as the union is pledged by its objects to strive for a six-day week of 48 hours for all male workers, and a six-day week of 42 hours for all female workers in the trade, and as such would mean the ruin of every employer engaged in the business, and any agreement arrived at could only be of a temporary character, the employers cannot see their way to assist in bringing about such an undesirable state of affairs."

AN ULTIMATUM.

Proceeding, Mr. Beveridge said that if, as they had been given to understand, the workers' demands were the irreducible minimum, it was useless, in the opinion of those he represented, to discuss the issue any further. The "trade" as a whole felt that the demands were unwarrantable and unjustifiable. Consequently, the matter must go before the Arbitration Court. The employees had implicit confidence in that tribunal.

The Commissioner: That is your ultimatum?

Mr. Beveridge: That is our ultimatum.

"SURPRISED."

The Commissioner asked Mr. Lang what he had to say about it.

Mr. Lang said he was surprised that the employers would not grant the workers' demands. He had expected, when the Council last adjourned, that an honest attempt would be made to settle the dispute. The reference to a "temporary" agreement was mere by-play. It was the duty of the Conciliation Council as such to arrive at a settlement of the dispute, and the attitude taken up by the representatives of the employers was not in accordance with the clearly expressed intention of the Conciliation and Industrial Act. They were making no attempt at conciliation; they merely declined to discuss the matter any further, and said: "We are going to the Court." The consequence would be, if the matter went to the Court, a repetition of the old-time bitterness. A genuine effort to settle the dispute ought to have been made. It was useless for workers and employers to be always bickering.

THE LOCAL OPTION POLLS.

Seeing that the "trade" relied upon the workers at the local option poll, this was an unjustifiable attitude for the employers to take up. He would draw the attention of the Court to the way in which the employers had set about to defeat the ends of the Conciliation Council. There would be such a howl throughout the length and breadth of the country that the hotel-keepers would be sorry for the way they had acted.

Mr. Beveridge: These are threats. You mean that you will remember this at the polls. If that is what you mean, then the sooner we know where we are the better. You are asking the hotel employees to vote against their own living. How can you ask us to be conciliatory? We have given you our reasons why we are asking for the maintenance of the pre-

sent award. Since that award was made we have had a very bad time, and even now, the outlook is not too bright. But on top of that you asked 100 per cent. increase in wages and shorter hours. These demands were certainly modified afterwards, but you are still asking for a very large increase of pay and shorter hours. If the conditions were fair when the award was made and trade was prospering, they should be fair enough to-day while times are bad.

STATEMENT BY THE COMMISSIONER.

The Commissioner: There were a number of points you did agree upon? Mr. Beveridge: Yes, but a large number of the employers would not sign it.

The Commissioner said the employers' assessors came to the council, giving it to be understood that they represented the "trade," and they undertook to see whether some agreement could not be come to as to hours, wages, and preference, but now they wanted the old award. He did not believe that was the opinion of the "trade."

Mr. Beveridge: I'm sure it is. The Commissioner said he did not think so. It had been suggested to him that influence had been brought to bear upon the "trade."

The Commissioner said he would give them. In regard to the dispute he could only refer it to the Court, and he believed the Court would refer it back to him again.

UNIONS WILL "PUT UP A FIGHT."

Mr. Carey expressed regret that no settlement had been reached. He believed the Commissioner, in reporting the case to the Court, would state that the union, or federations of unions, had done all that was possible to get the matter settled by conciliation. The "trade" depended to a great extent upon the workers, and no doubt the workers would give consideration to it. Supposing that the "trade" was in such a languishing condition, were the workers to suffer for that? The "trade" had two alternatives—to raise the tariffs, or to continue to get it out of the women workers and scullerymen at 22s 6d a week. "We are going to put up a fight," he added, "and if the 'trade' beat us, it will be to their credit."

The proceedings then terminated.

HOTEL SALES.

Messrs. Dwan Bros., Willis Street, Wellington, report having sold Mr. Owen Newport's interest in the Masonic Hotel, Blenheim, to Detective Williams, late of the Wellington force; Mr. J. Sullivan's interest in the lease of the Princess Theatre Hotel, Tory Street, Wellington, to Mr. Otto Weine, of Kilbirnie; Mr. Frank Rhodes's interest in the lease of the Levin Hotel Levin, to Mr. John Berryman, late of the Provincial Hotel, Napier; Mr. Thos. Sowman's interest in the lease of the Albion Hotel, Shannon, to Mr. Thos. Callaghan, late of the Porangau Hotel, Hawke's Bay; the lease of the Egmont Hotel, Midhurst, Taranaki, on account of Mr. Hooper,

to Mr. R. J. Paul, of Picton; the lease and furniture of Globe Hotel, Renwicktown, Blenheim, on account of Mr. D. Doyle, to Mr. Peter Creedon, well known in this city; Mr. Robert Buckeridge's interest in the Shepherd's Arms Hotel, Tinakori-road, Wellington, to Mr. Austin G. Kimpton, late of the Post Office Hotel, Picton; the freehold of the Post Office Hotel, Grey Street, Wellington, to the present tenant, Mr. M'Vinish; Mr. Frank Dakin's interest in the Royal Tiger Hotel, Taranaki Street, Wellington, to Mrs. Margaret M'Intosh, late chef at the Hotel Bristol, Wellington; the lease of the Railway Hotel, Waitotara, on account of Mr. J. O'Neill, to Mr. Thos. Mills, late of Masterton; also the freehold and buildings of the Empire Hotel, Blenheim; to Mr. James Gleeson, of Blenheim.

TWO BULLS.

T. P. O'Connor, the witty Irish Parliamentarian, says:—

"The bull isn't confined to Ireland. It was an Englishman, you know, an English judge, who, being told by a tramp that he was unmarried, replied, 'Well, that's a good thing for your wife.'"

"And it was a French soldier who, sleeping in his tent with a stone jar for a pillow, replied, on being asked if the jar wasn't hard, 'Oh, no; I've stuffed it, you see, with hay.'"

A TIP.

"Pa, what's a tip?"

"A tip, my son, is a small sum of money which you give a man because he won't like not being paid for something you didn't ask him to do."

"KEEP OFF THE GRASS."

A teacher in a big elementary school had given a lesson in an infants' class on the ten commandments. In order to test their memories she asked, "Can any little child give me a commandment with only four words in it?" A hand was raised immediately. "Well?" said the teacher. "Keep off the grass," was the reply.

Oh! See that poor man with a corn,
And note how he hobbles, forlorn;
PROGANDRA will ease him,
So please do not tease him,
He'll be like a new baby born.
BARRACLOUGH'S PROGANDRA
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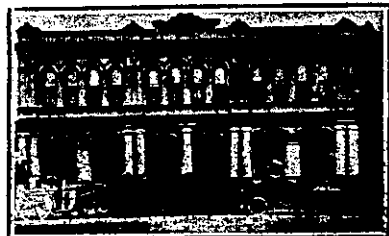
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