



TRADE TOPICS

Mr. J. S. Palmer, who went to Wellington last week to attend a special meeting of the N.Z.L.V.A., has been taking a few days' rest in the Empire City, and is, we are glad to learn, considerably improved in health. He is expected home this morning.

Another abortive prosecution, for an alleged offence that it was impossible to prove had occurred, in spite of repeated adjournments, has to be placed to the credit, or rather discredit, of the Auckland Police authorities. We congratulate Mr. F. Derham of the Victoria Hotel upon the dismissal of the information laid against him. Mr. Cutten's judgment, recorded elsewhere, suggests to the lay mind at least, that the charges of supplying liquor to a man already in a state of intoxication and also with permitting drunkenness on his licensed premises, ought never to have been brought against the defendant. There is a growing impression amongst members of the Trade that certain of their members are singled out for specially vindictive treatment by members of the Police force, who are more concerned in "making a case" than with the real equities of the position. More than one case has come under our knowledge in which the tactics pursued by certain police officers have come perilously akin to persecution, and the growing list of cases in Auckland, in which the police have failed to establish the charges laid against hotel-keepers certainly calls for inquiry and remedial action.

Mr. Joe Molloy of the Caledonian Hotel, has, in view of the opening of the Grafton Bridge, and in consequence of the increasing custom thus attracted to that well known Symonds Street hostelry, undertaken certain alterations and improvements to the hotel that add materially to the comfort and convenience of customers and guests. Mr. Molloy is one of the best known and most popular licensees in the Auckland Province. His house is very conveniently located on the tram route (penny section), within easy access of the railway and wharves, and presents commanding views of the city. Standing as it does on the corner of Symonds Street and Karangahape Road all suburbs are within easy reach of visitors patronising it during their stay in the city. And, as his friends and patrons know, Mr. Molloy is ever solicitous of the welfare and comfort of his guests. Enough said.

Visitors to Wellington generally find great changes taking place, either in the erection of new buildings or additions and alterations to existing ones. Quite a notable change effected in April was that at Barrett's Hotel, Mr. Williams has converted the old bar into three distinct compartments—saloon, lounge, and private bars—and has gone to considerable expense in order to keep this favourite house second to none in its appointments, and, in the quality of the wines and spirits dispensed. The alterations were carried out under the direction of Mr. E. M. Blake, A.R.I.B.A.

It is stated that Mr. Victor Cornaga, formerly of the Queen's Hotel, Symonds Street, who has been out of harness for some time past, contemplates taking over the license of a well known Auckland city hostelry shortly.

Mr. J. T. Gray, of Papakura, is acquiring Mr. J. E. Hunt's interest in the Freeman's Hotel, Freeman's Bay. Mr. Gray's many friends will welcome his return to Auckland.

The Wynyard Arms Hotel has changed hands, its new landlord being Mr. H. A. Lloyd, well-known as a patron of Auckland Sports Club, and by his former connection with the

Club Hotel, Ponsonby, the Epsom Hotel, Epsom, and the Kamo Hotel, Kamo. Mr. Lloyd's patrons may depend upon their comfort being studied in every possible way. The hotel is being renovated throughout, the appointments are good, the cuisine is in good hands, the liquors kept are of the best brands only, and the charges are moderate. Mr. Lloyd has our best wishes for his success.

The Bunnythorpe Hotel, Feilding, was destroyed by fire early on Saturday morning. The licensee, Mr. J. Russell and his family had a narrow escape. Mr. Russell has only been in the hotel some twelve months, and has no insurance on his belongings, but the building and furniture, which belong to the Burton Brewery Co., of Palmerston North, were insured for £700 and £400 respectively in the Phoenix office.

There is nothing very remarkable about it," said the house surgeon to one of the London hospitals to a "Daily Chronicle" representative regarding the story told by Sir E. Durning-Lawrence about a brewer's drayman in whose case it was necessary to keep up his old diet. The drayman was being treated at a certain hospital for a cut, and he "was kept drunk practically all day." The house surgeon went on to say that he had known cases where a patient who had been a heavy drinker, and had had to forego intoxicants whilst under treatment for an accident, had speedily fallen a victim of delirium tremens. "This affliction," he added, "has been the result partly of the accident and partly of the sudden abstention from drink. I am inclined to think that alcohol is used in hospitals rather too sparingly. Of course, that is merely my own view, and I know that a good many medical men do not share it. Still, I can only say that if I were called upon to treat a person who had been a heavy drinker I should certainly not think it wise to deny him altogether the use of intoxicants."

There can, of course, be no question as to the advantage of well-regulated licensed premises over unlicensed drinking shops, (remarks the L.V. Gazette, London), but if further evidence was needed on this point we would refer members of Parliament and others to the statements made by the Chief Constable of Wakefield (Yorkshire) before the Royal Commission on Divorce. He said there were three principal reasons which led to unhappy married life among the working classes and to application for separation orders. The first of these was injudicious marriages—what was called in the North "marriage on the fire system," where young couples were supplied with their home on payment of weekly instalments, mothers-in-law, and working men's clubs, which were responsible for a considerable amount of discontent at home. Working-men clubs, he said, were now so numerous and catered so well for the working men that they were often more comfortable than the men's own homes. For the first six or twelve months of married life a man would come home, spend the time with his wife taking her out for a walk or looking after the garden. Then after a while, he began to spend more time at the club, and it often ended in his going direct to the club from his work and unhappiness resulted. Asked whether he could suggest any remedy, his reply came pat, "I would put working-men's clubs on the same footing as public-houses." And this is really what ought to be done. What is the good of shutting up public-houses at eleven or twelve o'clock at night if unlicensed drinking shops are to be permitted to remain open at all hours? And the publican, be it remembered, is blamed for all the drunkenness that ensues.

In the little town of Essen, Germany, is an hotel—a first class hotel—at which the principal guests who put up

there never have to pay for their accommodation. It is owned by Frau Bertha Krupp, the richest woman in Germany, the owner of the great Krupp Works, at Essen. She runs it at a loss of more than £20,000 a year. This hotel was built by Frau Krupp solely for the entertainment of the representatives of foreign governments who visit Essen to superintend the execution of orders. Ordinary travellers sometimes can find accommodation at the Krupp Hotel, but only when the rooms are not required for Frau Krupp's foreign official guests.

The threat of licensed victuallers in Sussex to boycott Irish whisky has perturbed Irish distillers, who declare that since the introduction of the Budget their trade in England has already been reduced by one-half.

It is understood that the lease of the Waimate Hotel has changed hands, Mr. Twomey having sold out to Mr. O'Brien, late of George town, near Oamaru.

An amusing example of Maori justice, as administered by the "kommittee" appointed to look after the manners and morals of residents of native settlements, was related at the Thames Magistrate's Court (reports the Thames Star). A middle aged man had "married" a girl of 17 years, and in his absence a youthful suitor had appeared on the scene. The latter person was warned off," but he persisted in pressing his presumably unwelcome attentions. An appeal was made to the Maori Committee, with this astounding result: They found that the young man had erred in trespassing, but that the damsel had also committed an error of judgment in asking him to tea. They therefore imposed no fine or punishment upon the youthful pair; but inflicted a fine of £2 10s and costs on the absent husband!

If a man can afford to do so likes to bet his own money on a horse instead of upon stocks and shares and the price of wheat or cotton, says Sydney "Fair Play," he has a perfect right to do so, and no person or class has any right to forbid him to do so. If he feels that a glass of liquor would do him good he has a perfect right if he have the money, to buy a glass of liquor. You cannot stop betting on horses or men by laws, any more than you stop the liquor traffic among a people who consider that, in a free country, if they want a thing they ought to have it; and that the normal man has no right to suffer for the delinquencies of the abnormal.

Prince Max Egon Furstenberg, the Kaiser's intimate friend, and Prince Christian Hohenlohe, two of the richest magnates of royal rank in Europe, have gone into business as hotel proprietors. They are the owners of the Esplanade Hotel in Berlin and the Esplanade Hotel at Hamburg, two new magnificent establishments. It is noteworthy that the members of the German aristocracy patronise both these hotels to an unusual degree, evidently animated by the feeling that they must give their support to their fellow noblemen. Both the new hotel proprietors belong to mediatised royal families, which, although they have lost their dominions, hold for all time equal rank with all reigning families.

In the course of a sermon preached at Bangor Cathedral on St. David's Day, the Rev. W. E. Jones, of Llanllyfni, deplored the celebration of the memory of the patron saint of Wales by means of banquets and the drinking of wine. It was, he said, quite contrary to the character of St. David. If the rev. gentleman had exercised a little thought he would not have made so unscholarly a remark. In St. David's day there was neither tea nor coffee, and the common drink of the people was megethlin or mead. Conditions in St. David's day were

very different from what they are now. Mr. Jones should take a course of reading in the "Ingoldsby Legends."—London "Licensing World."

Tammas (to M'Tavish, whom he has just pulled out of the water): "Man, Donal! Ye sud be lookin' happy. Are ye no thankfu' yer life's saved?" M'Tavish (sourly): "I dinna see nae cause to be thankfu'. The glass o' whusky I had afore I fell into the watter has been fair drooned!"

"We find the greatest number of the best men and women doing the best work that can be done in the world, taking some form of alcohol with, as we believe, benefit to themselves and their capacity for work. . . . I know of no evidence to prove that a moderate consumption of alcoholic liquid taken with other food, is injurious to the best health of the textures of the human body, or incapacitates it for its highest functions. . . . Alcohol is a good gift to man—a good servant, a bad master; like many other things, it may be used with impunity and with benefit, and abused at our peril. I conceive of man in his highest civilisation and development as a finer being than one who must, in order to live a godly life, deny himself the legitimate use of God's gifts. To keep the moral laws it is not necessary or even desirable, in my view, to deny any lawful appetite, but rather to exercise such control as is enjoined by those laws, and I cannot doubt that a legitimate employment of alcohol is both allowable and beneficial."—Sir Dyce Duckworth, M.D. in a paper read at Hague Anti-Alcohol Congress.

The quantity of wine imported into the old country in February from the various wine growing countries in the world totalled 901,855 gallons of the value of £261,259, which compares with 962,473 gallons of the value of £258,083 in the corresponding month of last year. The increased value is sufficiently explained by the large shipments of champagne. From France was received 250,305 gallons of wine valued at £182,521 as against 265,639 of the value of £113,193. Portugal was the next biggest shipper with 224,236 gallons valued at £62,690. The imports of Spanish red increased from 131,444 gallons to 203,333, while those of Spanish white declined from 87,538 to 83,016. The trade with Germany was well maintained at 58,305 gallons. Italian wine represented 17,050 gallons as against 19,461 and the Netherlands also sent less—1,899 as against 1,470. The shipments from Madeira increased from 2,128 to 3,524 gallons, while "Other Countries" sent only 5,021 as against 19,397. The Colonial wine trade was not maintained, the imports from Australia having fallen from 67,247 to 44,436 gallons and from British South Africa from 300 to 38 gallons.

THE VICTORIA HOTEL CASE.

ANOTHER INFORMATION DISMISSED.

Reserved judgment was given in the case of the Police v. Derham, at the Auckland Police Court on Friday, by Mr. Cutten, S.M. The defendant, for whom Mr. F. Earl appeared, was the licensee of the Victoria Hotel, and had been charged with supplying liquor to a man already in a state of intoxication, and also with permitting drunkenness on his premises. Mr. Cutten said the evidence showed that even if the man was in the bar there was nothing to justify him in assuming that the man was a noticeable object. He did not think that it was proved that the man was drunk when he was served with liquor, and the first charge would be dismissed. The charge of permitting drunkenness required proof of knowledge, and the evidence did not support this. This charge would also be dismissed.

For Children's Hacking Cough at night, Woods' Great Peppermint Cure, 1s 6d, 2s 6d.