

THE LICENSEE VICTUALERS GAZETTE

THE BARE MAJORITY.

AFFIRMED AND REPUDIATED IN ONE DAY.

THE INCONSISTENT ATTITUDE OF THE "NO-LICENSE" PARTY.

The famous licensing "compact" which was agreed to in November last by the executive of the New Zealand Alliance on the one hand and the representatives of the Trade on the other, and which was subsequently repudiated by a representative conference of the No-License party, has now been accepted in principle by the Dominion Convention of the N.Z. Alliance, but no action is authorised to be taken in the matter. Such, (according to Saturday's "Dominion") is the effect of a decision arrived at by the convention while sitting in camera on Friday last. The official report is as follows:—

After two and a half days' debate on the proposal to revive the arrangement regarding licensing legislation, which was made with the Government last November, an amendment condemning the combination of the issues of No-License and Dominion Prohibition was rejected by 76 votes to 60. It was then agreed to treat the decision as affirming the compromise, but to proceed no further with the matter, owing to the closeness of the division.

SPECIAL VOTE ON DOMINION PROHIBITION.

The following motions are also officially reported:—

- (1) That we demand a special vote on Dominion Prohibition, with full provision for giving effect thereto if confirmed.
- (2) That this special vote be taken on the day of the next general election.
- (3) That the question be submitted to the electors on a separate paper of distinctive colour, to be kept and counted separately.
- (4) That we demand the bare majority and all amendments dealing with the local law affirmed last June.
- (5) That the executive, in consultation with the Consultative Committee, be empowered to draft a Bill on the above lines, and submit same to Government and to organise the party throughout the Dominion in support of the Bill.

"CONSISTENT INCONSISTENCY."

Nothing could, perhaps, better illustrate the consistent inconsistency of the "No-License" people than the extraordinary volte face disclosed in connection with their action. They decide that they will demand "the bare majority," although they have affirmed by 76 votes to 60 the wisdom of the compact agreed to by their party leaders last November. In other words the minority rules the majority, even in the counsels of the Prohibitionists, and the majority, while affirming one principle as desirable, agrees to allow the minority to bind them to another principle which, however, "democratic" it may be deemed, is a distinct menace to the liberty of the subject, not merely upon the one question, which it is claimed 1000 people have the right to decide against 999, but upon matters affecting freedom of thought, speech, belief, custom and religion; for—there should be no mistake made on this point—if a bare majority has the right to say to a bare minority what the latter shall eat and drink, they have an equal right to say what the bare minority shall say and do in every other matter, including the social life of the community.

MAJORITY RULE UNJUST.

It would not be a difficult matter to show that majority rule is seldom if

ever just. Every liberty, every reform, every substantial advance made in the condition of society generally, has been won by the persistent work of minorities. Christendom itself affords the most potent and convincing of all illustrations of the truth of such a statement; the records of Liberalism supply us with further instances showing that majority rule has not only proved unjust but actually oppressive in its incidence, and in liberty-loving England itself, the rights of minorities have consequently been jealously safeguarded up to the present, although reactionary influences are now at work that may have the effect of subverting that principle. The rule of the bare majority is the Prohibitionists tell us, a sound democratic principle; they have no fault to find with it. Mr. Wesley Spragg, the Revd. Frank Isitt and his brother the Revd. L. M. Isitt, the Revd. J. Dawson, Mr. T. E. Taylor, M.P., and other gentlemen, all belonging, we believe, to one or the other branches of the Methodist Church, say that the principle is sound and good. "Very well gentlemen," we reply, "the churches to which you belong constitute 10.06 per cent. of the population of this country. The majority is against you; close up your churches, and worship as the majority dictates. Mr. A. S. Adams and other members of the "No-License" party belong to the Baptists, who constitute only 2.00

and Europeans, as a measure of justice the Government is respectfully urged that in order to give effect to this principle, rolls of Maoris residing in each European electorate be prepared, and that the Maoris so enrolled be entitled to vote on the local option issue only at the same time and with the same machinery as is used for the European vote, and to be reckoned together with that vote."

In view of their former attitude of pronounced hostility to any attempt made to establish licenses in the King Country, we may well ask, should the principle of license be affirmed in the King Country, where licensing polls must be introduced if this resolution receives logical effect, whether the "No-License" advocates will not want to again change their front on the question.

TRADE TOPICS

It is stated that Mr. Alex. Johnston, late of the Rob Roy Hotel is likely to take over the Occidental Hotel, at Auckland shortly. A change is also taking place in the management of the Carpenters' Arms Hotel, Grey Street, Mr. Sainty having purchased the present licensee's interest in that well

dressed "Pioneer," Taumaranui will receive prompt attention. A Pioneer passenger coach leaves Taumaranui every evening after the arrival of the Auckland bound train, and on Saturdays at noon, returning every day at 1.30 p.m. Fare one shilling.

The excuses for drunkenness heard in the police courts are sometimes pathetic, and sometimes sublime; anything and everything makes an excuse, from the loss of a dear relative to the advent of twins. One of the best heard for some time was given the other day by a lawyer. "My client," he said, "was suffering from influenza. He tried quinine and whisky for its cure; unfortunately he took too little quinine and too much whisky."

Messrs Jopp Bros. of Ohakune are well abreast of the advancing times in their district, and with their livery and bait stables and coach programme, cater for the travelling public in first class style. Gigs, tandaus and hacks are on hire, and coaches run four times daily between Ohakune and Raetihi. Tourist coach also runs three times per week, to and from Pipiriki. Coaches meet all trains at the Ohakune Railway Station. Special mountain trips can be arranged with hacks and guides.

Germany, according to a cable is imposing the maximum duty on imported champagne and cognac after June 30. France is preparing to make reprisals. Germany states that she does not desire to damage French industry, but that the duties are essential for the purposes of revenue.

Special attention is directed to the Carbine Livery and Bait Stables, at Bruce St., Hunterville, Mr. Thos. James still looks after the routine of these stables and has some splendid saddle horses and buggies for hire. Horses may be left at the stables and will receive care and attention. A night groom is always in attendance and horses are broken to single and double harness.

The commercial and travelling public are specially referred to an advertisement appearing in this issue regarding the Rutland livery stables at Wanganui. Mr. Windleburn, who understands the livery stable business from A to Z looks after the item of excellence in his business, and every horse and vehicle in his establishment is first class. He makes a specialty of gigs and hacks for hire, and guarantees satisfaction. The premises are situated in St. Hill Street, quite close to the station, and cabs meet all trains. Clipping machines are also in evidence, and clipping can be done at the shortest notice.

Drunkenness and the issue of prohibition orders largely increased in Hastings during the past year. The convictions for drunkenness for the year ending May 31, 1909, were 179, while for this year the convictions amounted to 201. Prohibition orders issued last year in Hastings were 47, and this year the number was 53. This was only a natural outcome of the conditions under which the hotelkeepers were carrying on business.

The question of dancing is now occupying the attention of a great number of people and papers. The Rev. Father Sheridan made a protest at Lithgow against a class of dancing which he considered indecent. Discussing the matter, the Rev. F. R. Swyny, a Lithgow Methodist minister, said:—"Temperance people were at war with decent drinking—and there was such a thing as decent drinking. The essential of decent drinking, as of decent dancing, was self-control. Dancing and drinking tended to the intoxication of the senses, but not in the same way. Dancing intoxicated the senses and



Scene from "The Kelly Gang," to be produced at His Majesty's by Messrs. MacMahon and Carroll on Wednesday next.

per cent. of the population. To these gentlemen, we say: "Ninety-eight out of every 100 people in this country decline to join your church; you must give way to them; the majority is against you." And so with the Congregationalists, the Presbyterians, the Roman Catholic, and the Episcopalians—all representing minorities of the population—we say the same thing. What a howl of indignation would arise all over the country, were the majorities against these churches to attempt to enforce their will against them! The age is supposed to be a tolerant one; were all the bigoted zealots who beat the big drums of ecclesiastical bigotry and who preach class hatred and destruction, wiped off the face of the globe, it would be. But fanatics abound in the land, and their manners are as bad as their logic is faulty and their methods tyrannical and unjust.

STILL ILLOGICAL.

Another instance of the illogical attitude adopted by the "No-License" people is furnished in the resolution carried at the Conference in the following terms:—"That the principle of granting local option to the Maoris having been affirmed again and again in large gatherings of both Maoris

known house. Other changes are pending, more than one would-be purchaser of licensee's interests being in the field. Mr. George Tullock, of the Balfour Hotel, Otago, and Mr. T. Weeks, late of the Castlecliff Hotel, Wanganui, are both in Auckland with the intention of settling in the city, if they can meet with suitable properties.

Mr. Jasper Montgomery is we are glad to learn now thoroughly convalescent. The ex-licensee of the Commercial Hotel at Hamilton, and of the Esplanade Hotel at Devonport, is one of the most genial spirits in the Trade, and has been heartily congratulated by his many friends on his recovery, now that he is about again. We understand he is hoping to be in harness shortly.

The Pioneer Livery and Bait Stables are the oldest established stables in the Taumaranui district, and are situated quite close to the station and next to "Meredith" House. Buggies, sulkies and horses, all in first-class condition are always on hire, and every satisfaction is guaranteed. Expresses meet all trains and every attention is paid to commercials and the travelling public. Telegrams ad-