

A cable from London states that the judges at the Brewers' Exhibition report that colonial wines are generally very satisfactory, showing marked improvement in condition compared with previous exhibits. It is evident that growers and merchants understand that the better classes of wines are most suitable to Britain, and that muscatels are little appreciated here. Sparkling wines have markedly improved, but are still not equal to Continental. The judges regret that more shippers were not represented, especially Victorian and West Australian.

The new Licensing Act has come in for considerable discussion at Waihi. Much speculation is centred around interpretation of the clauses dealing with the storage of liquor, no definite reference being made to the matter of permanent boarders at private hotels and boarding houses (there being scores of them here) having liquor for their own private consumption stored in their own rooms. If a boarder's room is not to be interpreted as his domicile, then it means absolute prohibition to him, and not merely no-license. The question is being actively discussed in Waihi, and regret is expressed that the Act is not clear on the point, as much trouble may ensue, requiring the usual test case to make the law plain and understandable.

There were no less than 57 wool-buyers stopping in one hotel in Napier on Tuesday of last week.

The Hon. Dr. Findlay (Attorney-General) agrees with the view expressed by legal authority in Dunedin that under the provisions of the new Public Holidays Act hotels will have to close on the Monday following Christmas Day.

The usual batch of prosecutions for bringing liquor into a kainga, came forward at the Magistrate's Court at Taumarunui on Monday. One of the accused, a stranger, was greatly surprised on learning that Taumarunui was still, in the eye of the law, a "Maori pah." "I stayed at Mick Burke's," said the man. "Is Mick then a Maori in the eye of the law?" The magistrate gave it up. In one case the liquor seized was ordered to be destroyed. In the case of the stranger his whisky, which was of a special invalid brand, 25 years old, was restored to him on his satisfying the Court that it was to be used only for medicinal purposes.

Mr A. S. Adams, who is an acknowledged expert on the licensing law, clears up one point in regard to the new Act which is now in force. It has been said that hotels on the West Coast and elsewhere which close at eleven o'clock instead of ten can continue to do so until the next poll is taken. "That is not so," said Mr Adams. "The eleven o'clock extension is not a license, which may be dealt with at meetings of licensing committees. It would be illegal for any licensing committee to grant such an extension next year."

At a meeting of the Waikato Licensing Committee, held at Hamilton on Monday, a complaint was received from the police regarding the Star Hotel stables at Kihikihiki. Mr MacDiarmid, on behalf of the licensee, promised that the necessary alterations would be made forthwith. With reference to the publican's booth at the late Waikato Show, the police reported that although the conduct of the booth had been exemplary in other respects, the licensee had not been present on the second day of the show. It was decided that in future, in the case of conditional licenses, the liquor must be sold under the personal supervision of the licensee.

It is a well-known fact that Mr Corley, of 115, Hobson-street, has a wide reputation for good bread and appetising small goods. Established in 1866, the business has a very firm foundation, Mr Corley, by his thoroughness and attention to every detail, having built it up to the standard it now enjoys. Everything turned out by this firm has the hall-mark of excellence and quality, and customers can confidently rely on the utmost satisfaction. We refer our readers to an announcement on page 4 of this issue.

LICENSING COMMITTEES.

AUCKLAND.

The quarterly meeting of the Auckland Licensing Committee was held

WOLFF'S SCHNAPPS

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on Tuesday. Present: Messrs. L. J. Bagnall (who was in the chair in the absence of Mr E. C. Cutten, S.M.), J. M. Mennie, W. Somers, J. J. Holland, and Dr. F. W. King.

The Police report submitted by Sub-Inspector Hendry, adversely criticised the drinking that went on on Saturday night, complaints that too much drink was supplied being preferred against certain hotels, in which the Sub-Inspector said the whole floor space was taken up by bars, and just prior to closing time people procured liquor and drank it in the streets. The Sub-Inspector qualified his report, however, by the statement that he was satisfied the licensees did their best to conduct their houses properly, and Dr. Bamford, who appeared for one of the licensees, said that under the circumstances, he did not propose to address the Court, the complaint having, in effect, been withdrawn. A similar procedure was adopted by other counsel who were appearing for other licensees concerned, and Mr Bagnall, as chairman, accepting the qualified statements, said the Committee wished to impress upon licensees the necessity for using every reasonable precaution in the general conduct of their business. The transfer of the license of the Clarendon Hotel from Norah Lynch to James T. Henshaw, was granted.

MORAL SUASION, NOT FORCE.

An American minister of high standing is responsible for the following, which is a true statement of the causes of the failure of Prohibition wherever tried:—

"The prohibitionist has made a brave start toward covering the field of moral law with civil law. The inevitable logic of the movement is to annul the sphere of reason and conscience, and to try to enforce upon all the people the practices I think good for them, and so maintain at all hazards the highest well-being of all the people by police power.

"If America is to prove to the world the capacity of men for self-government, we must learn where to curb our impatient desires to cover the whole field of morals with civil law. This practice is bound to bring all law into contempt.

"If the church and home are to fulfil their mission of creating in man the reason and conscience which alone fit him for self-government, they need speedily to find and occupy the field of the gospel. Their work is to appeal to the reason and conscience of man, and thereby develop him into the image and powers of his Creator."

If our Alliance friends are wise they

will cease to be politicians, and return to their true functions. The pulpit was never intended as a rostrum for political organisations—temperance, freetrade, protection, Labour, Conservative, Liberal, or any other. The churches must suffer at the intrusion of a quasi-political subject into spheres of pure religion. If our "temperance" friends buckle to and make their propaganda an attempt to influence the individual by appealing to his moral side, then they will receive the support of all. It is notable that the Catholic Church adopts this attitude, and has never in Australia allowed its pupils to be used for politico-temperance propaganda.—"Fair Play."

LESSONS FROM GRANT'S LIFE.

A writer in "Grit" has an article entitled "Lessons from the life of General Grant" in which he calls upon the teetotallers to be "as determined as General Grant to be successful." It seems a very curious thing to find a "temperance" man quoting Grant of all men. The great Union soldier was noted for his fondness for good whisky. If therefore our friend "Grit" is urging its readers to adopt some of the sterling qualities of Grant, why should it not also advocate the acquirement of some of those happy qualities which were a factor in the great soldier's success? One of the most famous stories about Lincoln is in connection with Grant's fondness for good liquor. A deputation of persons who nowadays would be described as wowsers waited upon Lincoln and complained that Grant was rather fond of indulgence in whisky. Lincoln enquired anxiously what brand of whisky Grant drank. The deputation didn't know, and inquired whether there was any special reason for knowing the brand. Lincoln said, "If I knew what brand it was I'd get some and send it to the other Generals." Comment would spoil the story.

WHEN IT WAS DANGEROUS.

A five-year-old boy, on hearing grace asked for the first time at breakfast, gravely remarked, "I only say my prayers at night. That is the dangerous time."

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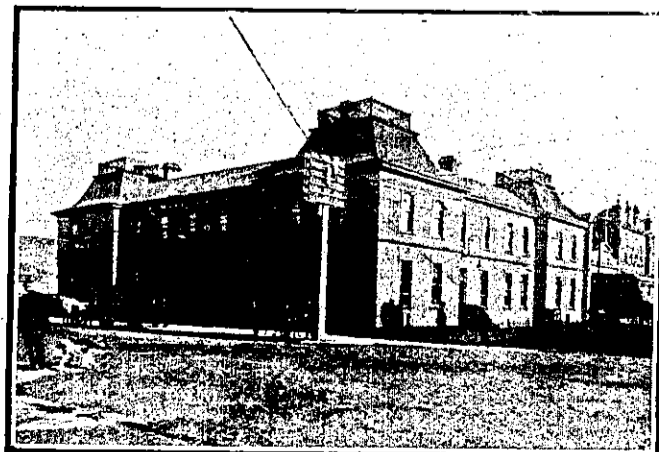
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