

being reversed, that aggregation of area is going on, and that in many places small farms are becoming big farms and the property of one man instead of two or three. In fact, people in Eketahuna district can point to a number of localities where this has taken, and is now taking, place; and the tendency is even more marked further north, in Pahiatua County, where a net decrease of nearly three hundred has taken place in the population. But we need not labour the point; it is obvious to anyone. How can Masterton hope to progress and recover from the effects of over-booming while the population remains stationary—if it has not actually decreased?

TRADE TOPICS

At the Wellington Police Court on Friday, a young man named Horace Jeyes was fined £100 on two charges of sly grog-selling.

The police have had reason to suspect recently that sly-grog selling is still being carried on at one or two places in Masterton, and raided a house in Park-street. The inmates were naturally surprised at the unexpected attention paid them and did not extend that cordial welcome to their visitors that is the essence of true hospitality. A considerable quantity of liquor was seized, and the case will come before the Magistrate's Court in due course.

Invercargill is shortly to possess an hotel of unusual and imposing proportions. It will be erected upon the site of the old Prince of Wales Hotel, which was recently demolished after an existence of half a century. The new building will possess four storeys, in addition to a cellar, and will have a frontage of 66ft and a depth of 65ft. Brick and ferro-concrete will be used in the construction, and the cost is mentioned as being from £10,000 to £12,000. It will be the largest hotel in Southland.

Te Awamutu is a town which for a long time remained dormant, while other places in the Waikato made more or less rapid progress. During the last two years, however, a wonderful change has been taking place. The main road from the station to the town has been widened, graded, and metalled, whilst in the town itself new shops and dwellings have been built or are in course of erection. In fact the whole district is now progressing rapidly, and in a few years should be an important centre. There are two hotels in the town, both of which appear to be doing good business. Mr Jas. Jackson, the owner of the Te Awamutu Hotel, has moved with the times, and has transformed his hotel into a most comfortable and up-to-date house. The bedrooms are large and airy, the commercial room very spacious and convenient, whilst the dining room is of the best, the menu being equal to that of any other hotel of the same tariff in the Dominion.

"If plaintiff says you were very drunk on the night in question, do you contradict the statement?" queried counsel in cross-examining a witness in the Napier Magistrate's Court. "Well!" said the occupier of the witness-box, "I rode my bike home."

Mr Douglas, late of Feilding, has acquired the Club Hotel, Masterton, and will run it as a first-class temperance hotel.

Mr S. Moses, who, after 28 years of service as a commercial traveller representing Messrs. L. D. Nathan and Co., Limited, is now retiring from the road, and taking an important position in his warehouse, was entertained by his fellow-travellers in the Central Hotel, on Saturday evening. The chair was taken by Mr W. Boak, who, after a few eulogistic words, presented a gold albert and medallion to Mr Moses.

A woman pleaded guilty in the Wellington Police Court a few days ago, to a charge of entering licensed premises during the currency of a prohibition order. Mr H. F. O'Leary, who appeared for the woman, stated

that his client had to go out and seek work to earn her living. The proprietress of the Thistle Inn had offered her employment to do cleaning work. His client had accepted the offer, and had been earning money there for three weeks when "some kind friends" acquainted the police of the facts, and so the woman had one means of livelihood taken from her. The magistrate in imposing a fine, said that the defendant had no right to accept employment in a hotel while she was the subject of a prohibition order. By doing so she was qualifying for Pakatona.

To meet its rapidly increasing requirements, the Grand Hotel, so popular with visiting tourists from all parts of the world, is to be considerably enlarged. The third storey of the present building is to be completed, and another storey added. Other substantial improvements include the enlargement of the dining-room, the installation of an electric passenger lift, and the erection of a handsome porch over the front door. The expenditure is estimated to run into a sum of over £10,000.

"When is a pint of beer not a pint?" is a question which has agitated the Munich courts. The point cropped up during the hearing of a criminal case, in the course of which it was alleged that working men were swindled of huge sums annually, owing to the short measure with which they were served when calling for their "pint." It has now been definitely laid down that the standard measure of a pint or a glass of lager must be all beer and no froth.

In giving evidence in a licensing case at Lower Hutt, in which two men were charged with being on licensed premises on Good Friday, when the same were directed to be closed, Constable McKenzie stated that he tried to gain admission on the day in question, but all the doors were locked. He waited about for some time before a door was opened, and when he got inside everything was cleaned up and in order. This led Dr. McArthur, S.M., to remark:—"I think all hotelkeepers should be bound to keep a door unfastened always, so that the police could at any time enter the premises to ascertain whether the law was being broken or not."

A message from Sydney states that the Full Court has reserved judgment in an important case arising out of the late local option poll. At the 1907 election the Leichhardt electors voted for reduction, and at the last election they reversed their decision and voted for continuance. The point at issue is whether the last vote nullified the previous vote, giving the hotels voted out in 1907 the right to keep open. The case is a test one, altogether 172 hotels being affected, representing property valued at nearly £100,000.

Winchester-Wolseley-King sounds quite British and military! And so it is. The Christchurch-Dunedin express train daily passes one of the most English-looking, charming places in the Dominion—the Winchester township, and in the streets of Winchester stands the Wolseley Hotel, which is owned by Mr E. F. King, a truly popular British landlord. The exterior of the hotel as seen from the road leading to the town from the station, is picturesque. It stands out in relief from the dark foliage and accurately-trimmed hedges, in beautifully worked white brick and plaster of Norman design. Inside everything is in keeping—spotlessly clean; dining-room, sitting-room, commercial-room, bedrooms, all nicely furnished, comfortable and homely. For Mrs King presides over this department of the hostelry, and she is to be complimented on the excellent way in which everything is kept and the perfect working of her staff of servants. The cuisine also is highly commendable. The Wolseley Hotel has acquired a lucrative tourist trade. Winchester is the centre of one of the best trout fishing streams in the Dominion—the Waihi, Haelaemoane, Ophi, Rangata, and Orari rivers, are all within easy reach of it. Anglers from the North Island and abroad have grand sport from these rivers. Then the district generally is so truly English, with its farm lands, and beautifully kept hedges, its rolling downs, and charming scenery as far as the eye can reach. The land is noted for its 40 bushel wheat to the acre. With such a district, it is not surprising that King's Hotel should be in keeping. It is the noted resort for week-enders from Christchurch and Dunedin, and




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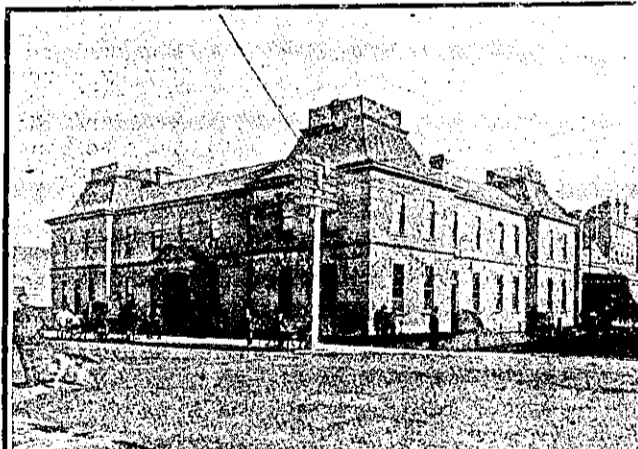
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