

the towns en route, and too much publicity cannot be given to the excellent accommodation one can get when he reaches Winchester. There is first-class shooting in the district—hares, rabbits, and ducks in abundance.

The Takitimu Maori Council has decided to recommend to His Excellency the Governor that the Takitimu Maori Council district should be brought under the provisions of section 46 of the Licensing Amendment Act, 1910, with a view to the taking of a referendum amongst the Maori people of the district (which embraces Gisborne and the neighbourhood), to decide whether liquor should be sold to the natives therein.

The age limit question was responsible for W. G. Abbott, licensee of the Commercial Hotel, Te Awamutu, and James Jackson, licensee of the Te Awamutu Hotel, being charged by Constable Lander with supplying beer to Eric Jack, a person under the age of 21 years. Mr Cox defended, and after hearing evidence, the magistrate dismissed both informations. Jack admitted misrepresenting his age to the licensee when challenged.

The Carterton "News," discussing a licensing case heard in Masterton, says: The present case is an eye-opener. It gives Masterton residents who choose to have their customary glass of ale or wine at their dinner, or by way of "nightcap," to understand that they are on the police's little list. The sergeant knows their "tricks and their manners," and no doubt keeps a strict record of the average number of glasses per diem consumed by the family. This close supervision is no doubt necessary in effectively carrying out the law, but it has an unpleasant savour of the Paul Pry Order, which is somewhat offensive to those who are neither sly-grog sellers nor "droppers."

One side of a story always holds good until the other is told. The No-License people are jubilant (or pretend to be so, which is much the same thing) over the alleged discomfiture of Mr William Thompson by Mr T. E. Taylor, M.P., in connection with the latter's challenge anent Maine. Mr Taylor alleges that he has disproved Mr Thompson's statements. Here is what Mr Thompson has to say upon the subject:—"My challenge to Mr Taylor holds good. I am prepared to come to Greymouth, if he will do the same. I engage to prove on the public platform, the Mayor in the chair, and two accountants to check the figures for drunkenness under prohibition in Maine, that I was absolutely correct in every detail. If I was proved wrong, never again would I say one word against prohibition. Mr Taylor has the chance of his life. Will he accept? A victory for him would establish his case in the Dominion, and effectually and finally close the mouth of every ant-prohibitionist in New Zealand; a defeat would damn his cause and show the unfair methods to which he and his party have stooped. The counter challenge, so called, is only the veriest trifling with the subject, and a deliberate attempt to draw a red herring across the scent."

An interesting licensing case was heard in the Magistrate's Court, Masterton, when Samuel Keedwell, manager of the Greytown branch of the W.F.C.A., was charged with failing to furnish the Clerk of the Court with the sufficient address of two persons to whom liquor was supplied. Evidence for the prosecution was given to the effect that in one case the liquor had been returned as addressed to "A. Hayes, Masterton." As a result of the insufficient address the police were unable to trace the person to whom the liquor was supplied for some days. His Worship entered a conviction on the first charge, but imposed no penalty. In regard to the second offence a fine of 20s, and 9s costs was imposed.

The unusual sight of the hat being taken round in the Christchurch Police Court was witnessed the other

morning. A man who had been fined ten shillings for being drunk while in charge of a horse and cart, and the same amount for breaking a prohibition order, asked for time to pay, remarking to the Magistrate (Mr T. A. B. Bailey), "I always pay." He also urged, as an argument in favor of granting him time, that he had fourteen children, ten of them being still young. The Magistrate allowed him fourteen days to find the £1, but the man thought this was not enough time. Chief-Detective Bishop suggested that a collection should be taken up on the spot for the man's benefit, a suggestion that Mr Alpers acted on. The amount received was 14s. Mr Alpers then asked his Worship to reduce the fine to the amount, this being 1s for each child, which would be an encouragement to the birth-rate. The Magistrate altered the fines to 15s, and the required 15s was then subscribed.

Within the next two weeks every barmaid who desires to continue in the calling will have to apply for registration under the Licensing Act of last session. The last date for receiving applications is June 1, and any barmaid who has not by that day communicated her request for a certificate will be compelled to seek other means of gaining a livelihood.

Lest teetotalers should be too much elated and the liquor dealers too depressed by the Kaiser's temperance campaign, the semi-official newspapers have been directed to announce that the emperor demands teetotalism as little as he approves alcoholism. He realises, they say, the good effects on sailors of a good drink of hot grog in cold stormy weather and he does not aim at its prohibition in the navy and army. He objects to excessive drinking, especially of compulsory drinking, but has no idea of combatting excessive indulgence by excessive abstinence.

Mr T. Hutchison, S.M., gave his reserved decision in the cases of the Police v. Thomas Tansey, at Oamaru last week. Defendant was charged on two informations with having sold certain liquor to be sent into the no-license district of Oamaru without furnishing to the Clerk of the Court the necessary information required under the Act. Mr Ongley, who appeared for defendant, had previously stated that according to his Worship's decision in similar cases a plea of guilty must be entered. At the same time he had pointed out certain extenuating circumstances and asked the magistrate not to impose a conviction in view of the fact that such would constitute a breach of Mr Tansey's license, and therefore be an unduly heavy penalty. The Magistrate stated that after consideration he had come to the conclusion that the cases were such as would be punishable only by a normal penalty, therefore he would accede to Mr Ongley's request and dismiss the informations under section 92 of the Justices of the Peace Act.

That popular rendezvous at Ashburton, the Somerset Hotel, has changed hands and is now under new management. Mrs Wm. Young, the proprietress, has had many years of catering for the public, and patrons can rely upon cleanliness in every department, well-cooked meals, and all the comforts of a home whilst at Ashburton. The tariff is most reasonable.

HIS TURN FOR LUXURY.

It was one of those palpably cold-ham-and-pickle inns; but the motor wouldn't go, so Jones and Jenkins had to make the best of a bad smash and put up there.

"Accommodation, gentlemen? Certainly, gentlemen!" oozed the oleaginous landlady. "Beautiful large feather bed—plenty of room for the two of you, and big enough for three. This way, gentlemen."

They went, they saw, they grunt-

ed. It certainly wasn't much of a feather bed, but they agreed to take it, and, being fatigued, retired early.

In a few minutes Jones was sound asleep; but, try as he might, Jenkins could not "drop off." At two in the morning Jones was awakened by a violent nudge in the solar plexus.

"What's the matter?" he growled. "Get up!" was the reply; "it's half-time."

"Half-time? What are you talking about? This isn't a cup-tie!"

"No; but it's my turn to sleep on that feather!"

A NEW IDEA.

The Manager: I've got a new idea for a melodrama that ought to make a hit.

The Writer: What is it?

The Manager: The idea is to introduce a cyclone into the first act that will kill all the actors.

WHERE IGNORANCE IS BLISS.

A great general was taking his regiment into action. He sent forward a detail of men to make gaps in a rail fence to avoid the heavy loss sure to result if the whole body of men paused to tear it down. The coolest and finest man in the detail was a young soldier who had never been under fire before. When he began pulling down the fence he fancied he had disturbed a nest of hornets, as he thought he heard them singing fiercely about his ears. But the lad was not going to run from hornets when there was more serious business ahead. Ignoring the angry insects, he opened the fence and rejoined the regiment without being sung. In a day or two he was surprised to hear that he was to be promoted.

"But," he said, modestly, "I don't think I deserve promotion over the others."

"My boy," replied the general, "I saw you pull down that fence. You were the coolest man under fire I ever saw!"

The man gasped, stared, and turned pale.

"What!" he exclaimed, regardless of grammar. "Was them wasps bullets?"

WHAT IS FAME?

Not very long ago an American schoolboy asked Mr. Le Gallienne, the well-known writer, for his autograph. "Certainly," said the poet, beaming with pleasure.

Next day the boy presented himself again.

"Will you give your autograph, sir?" he asked.

"But I gave you my autograph yesterday," Mr. Le Gallienne exclaimed.

And the youth kindly explained: "Yes, I know you did; but I swapped that and a dollar for the autograph of Jim Jeffries!"

ORDERED AND ANSWERED.

"Try our patent razors! Best value in the world! 2s 6d post free, from Scrapem, Steele, and Co., Sheffield." Thus ran the ad. in the "Weekly Shrieker." Mr S. Ponger's eyes glistened. A Scrapem and Steele patent razor he must have, though the finding of the 2s 6d was a practical impossibility; so he wrote as follows:—

"Gentlemen,—I have pleasure in enclosing P.O. for 2s 6d. Please send me one of your patent razors by return. P.S.—As I don't possess 2s 6d at the moment, I cannot send it. However, I have no doubt you will send the razor. In a large concern like yours one P.O. more or less will not matter."

Messrs. S., S., and Co. replied as follows:—

"Dear sir,—We beg to forward you the razor, and thank you for your esteemed patronage. P.S.—Our packer has carelessly forgotten to enclose the razor. To one with a cheek such as yours, however, one razor more or less will not matter."

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