

and the numbers and per centage of those committed for drunkenness were as follow:—

| Year. | Committals. | Committals for Drunkenness. | Per cent. |
|-------|-------------|-----------------------------|-----------|
| 1900  | 5247        | 3259                        | 60        |
| 1901  | 5270        | 2851                        | 54        |
| 1902  | 5297        | 3193                        | 60        |
| 1903  | 4708        | 2364                        | 50        |
| 1904  | 5681        | 2642                        | 46.5      |

**A STRIKING CONTRAST.**

In his tenth annual report the Commissioner of the State of New York Department of Excise, reporting upon the Maine law says: "The State of Maine has enjoyed a prohibitive statute since 1851. It would be naturally expected that the records of such a State would reveal that improvement in society which sobriety furnishes equal at least to that of a State which recognises the futility of prohibition and regulates the traffic. The contrary is the case, when we compare the results in prohibitive Maine with the results of a wisely-regulated traffic in this State." Reviewing the State returns from which we have already quoted, the Commissioner says: "The average percentage of the number committed for drunkenness, during the years mentioned, is 48 of the total number of all persons committed for all crimes, which is an average increase of 8 per cent. over the number of commitments in 1891. . . . The increase in population in Maine, as appears by the census of 1900, over the population of 1890, is 33,380, being an increase of 5 per cent. It appears, therefore, that the commitments for drunkenness in that State not only show an average increase during the 14 years mentioned, but this increase is greater than the increase in the population."

**THE RECENT REFERENDUM.**

That Maine was in a bad way goes without saying. The best of her citizens had long since come to realise that it was better to legalise and control the traffic in alcoholic liquors than to continue the unequal and wholly hypocritical attempt to enforce the prohibition ordinance. The illicit traffic carried on in Maine was seen to be exercising a most demoralising effect upon children and young people, and a decided revulsion of feeling swept over the State which found practical expression at the elections of last year, when Colonel Fred. W. Plaisted was elected Governor of Maine, he being the first Democratic Governor elected for over 30 years. At the same election the Democratic party on the same issue captured both Houses of the Legislature, one of the planks in their platform being the resubmission of the Prohibition issue to the people, thus ensuring a Democratic anti-Prohibition Administration for the first time since 1860. The extent of the recoil against Prohibition is shown in the capture of the Legislature. As ex-Governor Cobb put it the day after the election:—"The people wanted a change in the law, a change in the men, and a change in the methods and they made it." The Referendum carried the other day confirms the change made last year, and shows a remarkable revulsion of feeling on the former polls, a two-thirds majority in favour of Prohibition having been transformed into a minority of 26. It has been erroneously stated by No-license advocates here that the question of whether licenses shall or shall not be issued will still have to be referred to the electors of Maine. That is not so. The Legislature stood pledged to give effect to the Referendum, and will straight away pass legislation empowering the authorities to issue licenses. Next week we hope to further review the situation and to give some interesting facts concerning the State of Maine, under the restrictive policy, now happily ended, that for so long dominated its people.

**TRADE TOPICS.**

As the great Restriction party is so fond of vaunting the disinterestedness of its leaders, it may not be out of place to remark that "The Vanguard," the official organ of the New Zealand Alliance, states in its imprint that the paper is "printed and published for the proprietor," etc. The Editors are stated to be "the Isitt Brothers;" the business manager is "Mr. L. M. Isitt" (the gentleman who was returned on the "Independent Liberal" ticket for Christchurch North, in succession to the late Mr. T. E. Taylor), and a full page advertisement in the same paper intimates that "L. M. Isitt" is a general bookseller and stationer in a large way doing business in Christchurch. It is, therefore, tolerably evident that the ex-Methodist parsons have found their advocacy of "No-License" a very remunerative thing. But which of them is the proprietor of "The Vanguard?"

Thus "Civis," of "The Otago Daily Times":—"For incubating a Licensing Bill, Mr. A. S. Adams, the eminent Prohibitionist, has received £369 Government money. It was a lengthy sitting—nine weeks (at five guineas a day)—and the eggs may or may not have been added. These are details. What chiefly plagues the public curiosity is the central fact, its why and wherefore. Mr. Adams himself maintains a sagacious silence. He has signed the due official voucher; the incident is closed. "Mea virtute me involvo." Wrapped in his virtue, serene, imperturbable, he is for letting the heathen rage. The comedy of the situation helps. Out of the eater came forth meat; Prohibition, in the person of Mr. Adams, turns an honest penny, thanks to the drink traffic. Nevertheless there are people in whose unregulated minds the facts are fermented sourly;—witness this scrap of correspondence, uncensored:

"A great deal of talk has been made about the payment to Mr. Adams in respect of the new Licensing Act, but it appears to be only a counter-balancing of history. The first of the Adams—the original one—made a great fall, and it should be gratifying to his descendants to know that a modern Adams has made a great rise, and in each case the rise and fall were bestowed by the governing body of the day."

And yet again:—"On so weary and dreary a subject as Prohibition has come to be, it is only the scrappy correspondent who can hope for a place in this column. I have one this week who sends me a quotation from the Book of Ecclesiasticus, chapter xxxi, verses 27-31. The writers of the New Testament were influenced by the Book of Ecclesiasticus, he says, and from it the German Protestants took their Te Deum—'Nun danket alle Gott,' 'Now thank we all our God.' He suggests the verses quoted as an apt motto for Dr. Salmond's 'Prohibition a Blunder.'

27. Wine is as good as life to a man if it be drunk moderately; what life is there to a man that is without wine? for it was made to make men glad.

28. Wine measurably drunk and in season bringeth gladness of the heart, and cheerfulness of the mind.

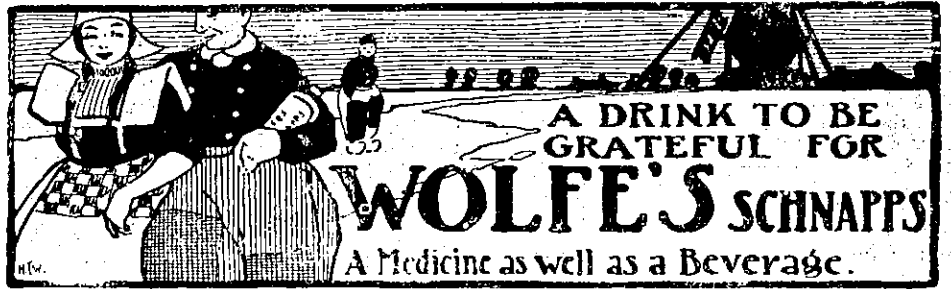
29. But wine drunken with excess maketh bitterness of the mind, with brawling and quarrelling.

30. Drunkenness increaseth the rage of a fool till he offend; it diminisheth strength and maketh wounds.

31. Rebuke not thy neighbour at the wine, and despise him not in his mirth; give him no spiteful words, and press not upon him with urging him to drink.

Of a refreshing sanity, this,—the true via media. To stray from it, right or left, is to plunge into the bog."

Since "Eden" went dry, the Avondale Jockey Club's meetings have been somewhat lacking in hospitality. The reason is not far to seek. The man with a flask—and his name is legion—finds himself surrounded with a halo of reflected glory. When he invites his friends to have "a wee drappie" and they adjourn to the refreshment booth he is called upon to pay even more dearly for his hospitality than of yore. He asks for "a bottle of soda and three glasses." The young lady behind the bar promptly demands "eighteenpence!" "What for?" he inquires. "The bottle of soda water and the three glasses"



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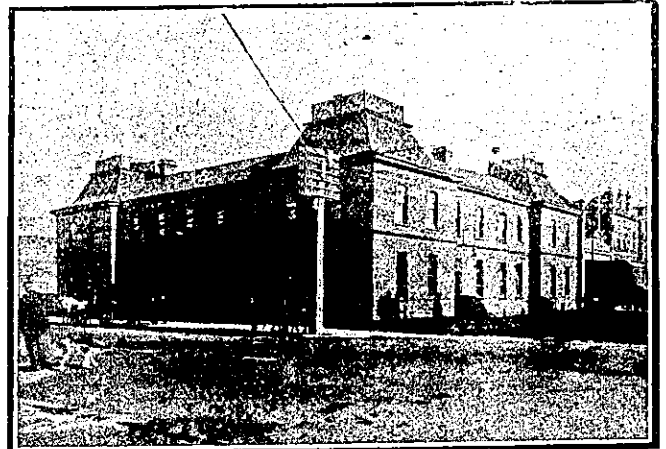
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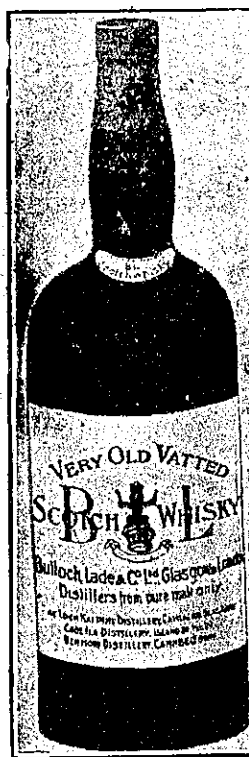


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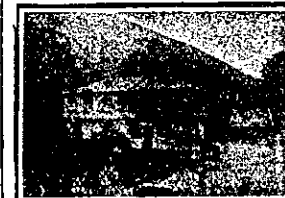
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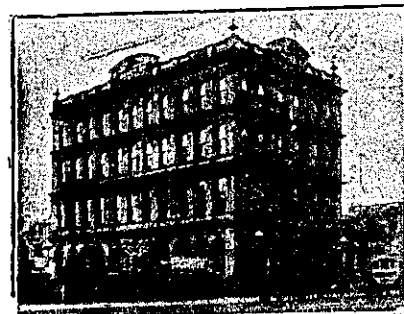
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