

Commercial Hotel, Whangarei, to Mr. J. E. Faulkner, late of the Hinemoa Boarding House, Rotorua.

We learn that Mr. T. Bennett, the licensee of the Takapau Hotel, has sold out his interest to Mr. Chris. Jensen, formerly of Norsewood and Dannevirke.

It is understood that, with a view to the city of Christchurch not being put to the expense of a Licensing Committee election, it is the intention of the Licensed Victuallers' Association to approach the Christchurch Prohibition League, with a view to the association being given two representatives on the Licensing Committee.

Mr. and Mrs. E. Morse, of the Junction Hotel, Sandon, has disposed of their business to Mr. D. Hammond, of Hunterville.

It is somewhat of a coincidence that a trophy presented by the Licensed Victuallers' Association of Palmerston North in connection with the federation pigeon match should have been won by a bird called "Ale," belonging to the "dry" area of Masterton.

Hotel proprietors in Philadelphia have decided to add 10 per cent. to visitors' bills and stop tipping the waiters and servants.

There is still at Lytchett Minster, Dorset, an old inn called "Peter's Finger," on the signboard of which is a representation of the saint holding up one hand, from which the blood is dripping.

A pleasing ceremony took place at Katikati, when a valedictory social was tendered Mr. and Mrs. A. Brown, of the Talisman Hotel. Mr. Vesey Stewart, in feeling terms, referred to the loss all felt by the intended departure of the guests and presented Mr. Brown, on behalf of his Katikati friends, with a pair of silver-mounted pipes, enclosed in a case, with a suitable inscription on a silver plate. Mrs. N. A. Johnston, on behalf of the ladies of Katikati, presented to Mrs. Brown a silver-mounted mirror bearing an inscription on the back, and in sympathetic terms referred to the deep regret they all felt on the intended departure from Katikati of Mrs. Brown and her husband. Mr. Brown replied most feelingly on behalf of his wife and himself, for the valuable gifts and kind appreciation by the people of Katikati of the manner in which his business had been conducted during his sojourn amongst them.

A Masterton resident alleges that he was supplied by a "dropper" with a bottle of liquid, supposed to be whisky, for which he paid ten shillings, and that he has been ill ever since.

Drunkenness has been steadily decreasing at Port Chalmers during the past four years (says the Dunedin "Star"). The cases of drunkenness dealt with in Court in 1908-09-10-11 were respectively 128, 82, 52, and 28. The total number of criminal offences, including theft, assault, and breaches of the peace, also showed a decrease for 1911, being 33 less than in the previous year. Could this have been improved under No-license? We think not.

At the Waihi Magistrate's Court last week, Thomas Adams, formerly a storekeeper, near Waitekauri, was charged before Mr. F. J. Burgess, S.M., with sly grog-selling. He pleaded not guilty. Sergeant Wohlman said that defendant had, from October 24 to December 8, received six gallons of whisky and 10 gallons of stout and ale, and had not been able to give a satisfactory explanation as to its disposal. He had failed to account for 24 bottles of liquor disposed of in four days, and drunken men had at times been seen in the vicinity of the shanty in which Adams resided. Defendant said that he had procured the liquor for the benefit of his health. In a place like Waitekauri, when a man got in some liquor, his friends helped him to consume it. The magistrate regarded defendant's story as improbable, and convicted and fined him £25, with costs, allowing him three weeks in which to find the money.

When comets are seen the wine crop will be good, is the firm belief of wine growers over all the world.

and according to "The Wine and Spirit Circular," the facts will bear out the superstition this year. Reports from the Rhine, Marne and other great wine districts show that the vintage of 1911 will equal in quantity as well as quality that of the year 1811, which was also a "comet year." The wines of a century ago are now almost priceless, and casks and bottles bearing the year mark 1911 will probably be carefully guarded and stored for the appreciation in value and quality which will be their due by virtue of having been made in a "comet year."

Referring to the departure of Mr. and Mrs. Brown from Katikati, the correspondent of the "Bay of Plenty Times" says: No more eloquent, though silent testimony of the esteem in which they are held by the Katikati people can be given than the fact that when the Representation Commissioners in their first report recommended the area between the Uretara and Rereturakia rivers (upon which the hotel is erected) to be included in the "dry" district of Ohinemuri, a proposal was unanimously signed by every Katikati elector, including the most rigid advocates of the No-license party, and which act on their part redounds to their infinite credit.

At the Paeroa Magistrate's Court last Thursday, Mrs. J. Corbett, licensee of the Pioneer Hotel, at Hikutaia, was fined 5s and 7s costs, on each of two charges of sending liquor into a No-license district without sending a notification to the clerk of the Court. The evidence showed that the notices were sent, but were not sent by the first mail. P. McSheen was charged with keeping liquor for sale at Karangahake, but the case was dismissed, because the police failed to prove that Karangahake was in a No-license district.

The charred remains of a miner named Hopkins were found in the debris of a fire which destroyed a hotel at Granity Creek, 18 miles north of Westport, at three o'clock on Sunday morning. The hotel, a large two-storeyed building of 35 rooms, was occupied by Mr. Martin and owned by Mr. R. T. Watson. The fire spread to an adjoining hall, and this building was gutted. Martin, licensee, who was severely burned in endeavouring to rescue some papers, died in the Westport Hospital on Tuesday. The following are the insurances:—Buildings (Mrs. Watson), £1000 in the State Office, and £500 in the

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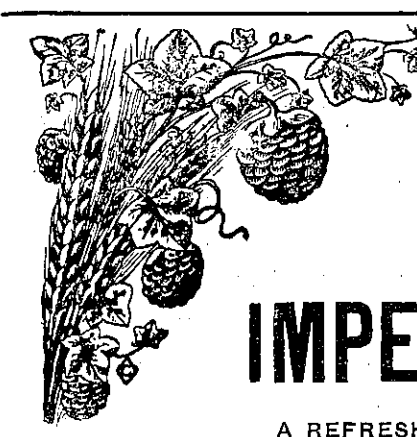
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