

Speaking at the presentation to Mr G. B. Mackay, licensee of the Grand Hotel, Hastings, last week, Mr A. L. D. Fraser remarked that in the past licensees and the great mass of the people had had no voice in the moulding of licensing legislation, which was the result of the views of the two extreme parties, both conserving what they considered to be their mission in life. He pointed out that while the moderates were people of temperance instincts, the natural enemy of the licensee was the extreme temperance party. Their extreme ideas—their guns of aggression—were spiked by the conduct of hotel-keepers, but as long as licensees were clean-living citizens, and rigidly obeyed the law, they need have no fear of interference or injury from the broad-minded majority section of the community.

Messrs H. A. Jarden and Co., stock and insurance agents and hotel brokers, report the successful transfer of several businesses during the past month. There are still a number of good houses on their lists, which should change hands shortly.

Mania with its fishing and shooting facilities offers a very pleasant retreat to tourists, who would do well to put up at the Waimate Hotel. Mr John Russell has recently taken over this house, and with his wide experience, practical knowledge, and general popularity the hotel should prove an additional attraction to travellers to that district.

At Invercargill James McWatt, a second-hand dealer, was sentenced to three months' imprisonment for keeping liquor for sale. He had been previously fined £25 for a similar offence.

A pleasing function took place at the Grand Hotel, Hastings, in the shape of a farewell to Mr and Mrs G. B. Mackay, who have disposed of their interest. Mr A. L. D. Fraser referred to their qualities as citizens and to their unlimited hospitality, and on behalf of their friends presented them with a solid silver coffee service, entree dish, kettle, and fruit dish, accompanied by the sincerest of wishes for many years of happiness, health, and prosperity.

A disastrous fire at Makotuku on Sunday resulted in the destruction of the Beaconsfield Hotel, of which Mr Davies was licensee. The public library, saleyards, and a shop were also demolished.

The licensee of the Langholm Hotel, Mangaweka, who inadvertently committed a breach of the Licensing Act on the day of the Licensing Election, by opening his hotel before 7 o'clock, was fined a nominal penalty of 20s, with 7s costs. The magistrate, Mr Thomson, felt convinced the licensee had not deliberately broken the law, and was satisfied with his solicitor's explanation.

A case with unusually disagreeable features was heard at Dunedin last Friday, when Margaret Parker was charged with sly grog-selling on April 14. The evidence for the police was to the effect that a man named Hollander had three drinks of whisky on the premises, while Mrs Parker drank a glass of beer, Hollander paying 2s for the liquor. Hollander had made arrangements with the police earlier in the day to visit the premises. In his evidence Hollander said the defendant had spread a slander about himself, his wife, and family, and he wished to get even with her. After counsel for the defence (Mr Hanlon) had addressed the Court, the magistrate (Mr Bartholomew) said he almost regretted that he was unable to express his opinion about some phases of the case, but he could not do so, as the matter had to go before a jury. The defendant reserved her defence, and was committed for trial, bail being allowed in her own recognisance of £100.

Alderman Sir Thomas Boor Crosby, M.D., has been chosen as the next Lord Mayor of London. Although 81 years of age, he is full of vigour. When asked in an interview whether he attributed his health and vigour to total abstinence and non-

smoking, he replied, "Certainly not." He thoroughly enjoyed his cigar and glass of wine. The duties of the Lord Mayor are very strenuous. But people do not soon grow old in England

Mr J. P. Keogh, who has been the licensee of the Towai Hotel (Bay of Islands) for a number of years, was given a farewell and a presentation by the residents on Monday, prior to his departure from the district. Mr Evett, of Papakura, succeeds Mr Keogh.

An interesting personality died at Moberley (Eng.), recently, in the person of Mrs Nancy Eden one of the best known licensees in Cheshire, at the age of 60. Her management of the Bull's Head was on very strict lines. Indeed, unparliamentary language, says a correspondent, was unpardonable in the Bull's Head, and offenders had to go elsewhere for their liquid refreshment. She admonished men drinking to excess, and sent them home. If a prospective customer pulled the bell hastily, Mrs Eden judged that to be a sign of inebriety, and she refused to serve him. The police spoke of her as an ideal licensee, and scarcely ever did they think it necessary to pay surprise visits. She was, in fact, her own policeman; she did her duty in a truly conscientious and remarkably successful manner. She would allow thirsty travellers to quench their thirst, but for the lingerer she had no partiality.

The new Vanderbilt Hotel in New York City presents some interesting innovations. No wood whatever has been used in its construction, and it is perfectly fireproof. The bedroom floors are all concrete; even the baseboards are marble. The doors and window-sashes are made of steel. No wall-papers have been used in the decorations, the rooms being all painted and panelled. The hot and cold water pipes are all brass, thereby insuring clean water in bathrooms. Of its 600 rooms, every one has a bath and wardrobe, and each is supplied with a telephone. A complete valet, maid, and water service is maintained on each floor. The decorations and furnishings of the hotel are simple and carried out in early English style.

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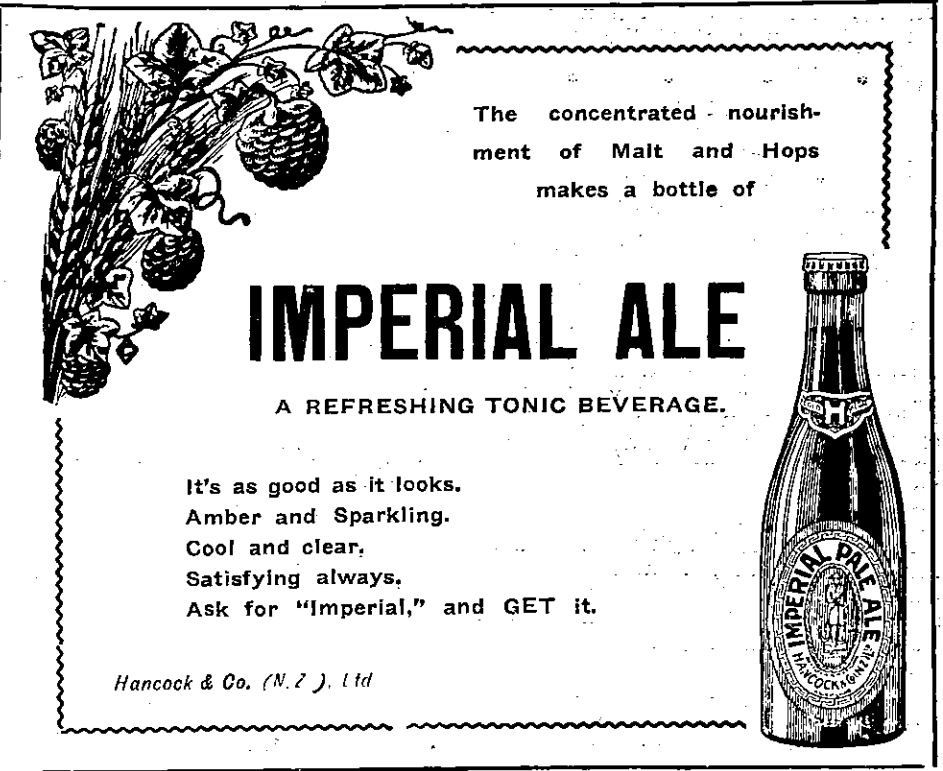
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