

Liquor Booth at Football Match

Reconsideration Requested at Masterton

A resolution requesting the Masterton Licensing Trust to reconsider its recent decision to grant a permit for the sale of liquor at a Rugby match, revoke the precedent established and make public its discussion of the matter, was carried unanimously at a public meeting, in Masterton, on July 5th. The meeting was convened by the Masterton Ministers' Association following on its recent protest against the Trust granting an application by the Wairarapa Rugby Union for a temporary licence.

There were about 200 people present and a general discussion of the Trust's action took place in a quiet and orderly way. The Rev. Dr. W. G. Slade presided. The principal speaker for the Masterton Ministers' Association was the Rev. K. A. Hadfield and after Mr. Hadfield and other speakers had been heard, the Chairman of the Masterton Licensing Trust, Mr. J. A. Betts assured the meeting that the Trust naturally bowed to public opinion, and that the opinion expressed would be analysed by the Trust.

The main points made by Mr. Hadfield were: The issue of a temporary licence in the way it had been done, was glaringly irresponsible; it was disastrous reasoning that, because a thing was done, it should therefore be made legal; the statement issued on behalf of the Trust in reply to the Ministers' Association protest was misleading and had been an attempt to bluff the public, in that it implied that the police had approved of the permit being granted; the police in any case had no control over the Trust, nor had the Department of Justice. Mr. Hadfield contended that there should be some control over the Trust, which was a law unto itself, was its own judge and was its own victim. There should be some form of Citizens' Committee to express the view of the public.

The following is the full text of the motion moved by the Rev. G. D. Falloon and seconded by Mrs. H. Speight, on behalf of the W.C.T.U.: "That in view of the opinion expressed at this public meeting and of the far-reaching public consequences following upon the granting of a permit to sell liquor at Rugby Football matches, the Masterton Licensing Trust be requested to revoke the precedent established and make public its discussion of the matter."

The meeting was addressed by Mr. G. W. Morice, Major Angus of the Salvation Army, Rev. G. D. Falloon, Messrs. G. Masters and N. Grylis. All spoke on similar lines, namely, that the Trust had made a mistake in granting a licence for a sports ground.

For the Licensing Trust, Mr. Betts said the Trust had not been irresponsible in its action. He accepted full responsibility for the experiment that had been made. All the Trustees stood behind the decisions they took. The Trust respected the views of the minority.

After an informal discussion on the problem of liquor being taken in bottles and consumed on sports grounds, the meeting closed with a vote of thanks to the chairman, Dr. Slade.

—The Wairarapa "Times-Age" 6/7/51.

The Governor of Bombay Speaks

Abstinence from alcohol and drugs is a measure of social reform which is calculated to promote the moral and material welfare of the people of Bombay and ultimately of India as a whole, says Raja Maharaj Singh, Governor of Bombay, in a message commending the introduction of total prohibition in the State.

Stating that a period of crucial importance has been reached in the history of Bombay, the Governor adds that there lies ahead the achievement of an ideal, the results of which must inevitably have wide reactions, not only in India but in other countries of the world.

"Let us work, therefore, with redoubled vigour and determination, fortified by the spirit of Mahatma Gandhi, the architect of our nation, to whom prohibition was an article of faith.

"This is not a step which our Government has taken without the most careful consideration. Let me express here my agreement with the policy of the Ministers, and my own conviction, that abstinence from alcohol and drugs is a measure which is calculated to promote the moral and material welfare of the people of the State of Bombay, and ultimately of our country as a whole. The importance of the occasion from an all-India point of view is apparent from the fact that the President of India has come all the way from New Delhi to launch this great experiment and to give it his blessings.

"Prohibition, like education and public health, is a necessary social reform, the more so as it preserves, and indeed improves, one's physical and mental equipment, and enables one to derive greater benefit from the various measures which the modern State undertakes for the betterment of living conditions.

"I am alive to the arguments, which have been advanced from time to time against prohibition, including the precedent of the United States of America, and do not doubt or under-rate the sincerity of our critics. Nor am I unmindful of the difficulties in our way.

"It must, however, be borne in mind that the failure of prohibition in the West was primarily due to the absence of wide-spread support from the people, and possibly to climatic conditions. But here in India we have religions which regard Drink as sinful, and the people themselves are in favour of prohibition. **Our womenfolk are among our strongest supporters**, and I have no doubt that a census taken among the wives of the labouring classes would disclose a large majority in favour of prohibition."

—Courtesy "The Patriot and Rechabite."

TODAY

"We will do so much in the years to come,
But what have we done today?
We will give our gold in a princely sum,
But what did we give today?
We will lift the heart and dry the tear,
We will plant a hope in the place of fear,
We will speak with words of love and cheer;
But **what did we do today?**"