

Masterton was "dry" for thirty-eight years. A bar is operating now at the races. The Prime Minister, Mr. Fraser, called a meeting of Public Bodies to discuss the system to be brought in, and a Poll of the electors will be taken on May 28th. (See article below).

Note Mt. Roskill, Prohibition 30%; No-License 60%. Eden, Prohibition 33%; No-License 58%. Wellington East, Prohibition 23%; No-License 52%.

Do these figures reveal a form of selfishness? It would seem that the attitude in these electorates is "We don't want it to be sold in our district, but we do want to be able to get it somewhere else. Never mind other communities.

Why Do We Not Want State Control?

We feel that the Government would use all means to make the Traffic pay, after buying it, and that higher sales would be assiduously sought. Alcohol would be just as deadly in its effects sold by the Government as by anyone else. As a beverage, alcohol is a great evil with which we should make no compromise. The irony of it is that the State Control issue was put on the ballot paper at the instigation of the Trade, and now it threatens to defeat Continuance. We may yet see the Liquor Trade hoist with its own petard.

"TRUST CONTROL"

(N.Z. "Herald," May 9th)

CHOICE FOR ELECTORS

(From Our Political Correspondent)

WELLINGTON, Thursday.

The statement that if the liquor trust proposal is not carried in Masterton, legislation will be submitted to Parliament during the coming session authorising the appropriate licensing committees to issue an adequate number of licenses for the area is made by the Minister of Justice, Mr. Mason, in a pamphlet issued today which deals with the polls in Masterton on May 28. The Minister adds that all such licenses will be issued to private individuals or companies as is now done in other licensed districts.

In the pamphlet the Minister explains the reason for the poll being taken. It is the intention of the Government to submit to Parliament this session legislation to give effect to the decision of the electors in carrying restoration and to give effect to that decision as far as practicable in the manner desired by the electors of the district. "Following the setting up of the Invercargill Licensing Trust there has been much public interest in trust control," states the Minister. "The Royal Commission on licensing recommended that legislative provision should be made for the electors of a no-license district to decide, upon a vote for restoration, whether they desire the new licenses to be issued in the district to be acquired and controlled by a local trust, and that the majority necessary to carry trust control should be a bare majority.

"After discussing the matter with local body representatives in the district I came to the conclusion that the taking of a poll on the question of trust control was generally desired in the Masterton dis-

trict. The proposal is being put in the simplest form, each elector being asked to vote either for or against trust control. The poll is for the guidance of Parliament. If in any area the proposal trust control is desired by the electors, then the legislation to be submitted to Parliament will provide that all licenses in that area will be issued to a local trust. In respect of any area which does not desire trust control, the legislation will provide for the grant of an adequate number of licenses to private licensees."

SPECIAL REPORTS

WOMEN'S DAY OF PRAYER, MARLBOROUGH DISTRICT

The April Day of Prayer was not so well attended as usual, but was very helpful. Helpful and beautiful thoughts were expressed by those who led the various sessions, the first of whom was Mrs. Leslie, her subject being "Daily Bread." Following on was Mrs. P. Stephens, who spoke on "The Great Helper." Mrs. A. M. Hale opened the afternoon session, speaking on the theme of "Sacrifice," and Mrs. W. B. Wilson led the closing session. Mrs. Girling thanked all who had taken part, and the sense of spiritual blessing was shared by all present. Mrs. W. D. Pike was the organist.

"LONG SERVICE" BADGE PRESENTATION, FEILDING UNION

A special feature at the May meeting of the Feilding Union was the presentation of a beautiful shoulder spray, and a "Long Service Badge" to Mrs. Spence for over thirty years' very faithful service. Mrs. Spence was the first treasurer of the Dannevirke Union. For sixteen years, she was president of the Manawatu District. She has also done very wonderful work for the Feilding Band of Hope.

"COMING OF AGE"—NORTH BRIGHTON 21st ANNIVERSARY

North Brighton Union celebrated its 21st birthday on April 22nd. The Baptist Hall looked festive decorated with bowls of chrysanthemums and foliage. Mrs. Noonan presided and welcomed the many representatives of other Unions present. A special welcome was extended to Mrs. Graham, the first president, who then presented a "Twenty Years" Service Badge to Mrs. Goldman, and wished her old Union many years of happy service. A beautiful cake, decorated by Mrs. Compton, held pride of place. Each visitor gave a greeting, and then cut a slice of cake. The Summer Women's Institute contributed two plays which were much appreciated. Songs were sung by Mrs. Goldman, and Miss Pauline Daniels, and Mrs. Middleton contributed a recitation. A delicious afternoon tea was served.

SOCIAL AFTERNOON—NEW LICENSING BOARD MEMBERS ENTERTAINED

The May meeting of the Takapuna Union took the form of a Social Afternoon to entertain the new members of the Licensing Board with their wives and several friends. The Hall was quite full and Mr. Mackenzie opened the meeting with prayer, after which Mrs. Morgan-Richards welcomed all the visitors.

Some choice musical items, songs and recitations followed. Then came a delectable afternoon tea, after which all the new members were introduced, and each one spoke in turn, telling us much of great interest about the management of various hotels, and stressing the point that there will be great changes for the better in the near future. Everyone was very pleased to see Mrs. Kasper, among other well-known District Executive members, looking very much better.

Mrs. Petchell gave a wonderfully enthusiastic, short address, as did Mrs. Mountjoy. So we feel we are "getting somewhere" at last.

HASTINGS UNION

The Hastings Union has had a busy time, fresh interest, new members, and another avenue of service. The attendance at the monthly meetings is very good, Mrs. A. M. Smith doing fine work as president.

Mrs. Pitt gave a "day by day" report on the Convention in Auckland, which was listened to with great interest. The Remits, and the talk on the Findings of the Royal Commission were held over for the next meeting.

From the annual meeting of the Hastings Branch of the N.Z. Alliance, a strong committee, including the ministers of the different churches and four members of the W.C.T.U., was formed to start the Band of Hope, with Mrs. Grainger as secretary.

The opening evening is to be May 3rd. No effort has been spared to make it a success. Notices have been handed to Sunday School children telling them of the evening, when a film is to be screened, an experiment shown, and a talk by Major Miller, of the Salvation Army, with singing make up the programme.

It is with joy and thankfulness that I report on Miss McLay's visit to Hastings. Her untiring efforts to help our Union and the Temperance cause have been so successful that all Unions would do well to have a visit from her.

Visiting homes has given seven new members, with ten others to be visited. Miss McLay visited and gave addresses at the following places:—Presbyterian and Methodist Sunday Schools, Baptist Young Worshippers, Seventh Day Adventist Sunday School, combined Bible Class Rally at St. Andrew's, Jona College, Crusaders' Group at the Hastings High School, and to the women on the staff of Wattie's Canneries.

Through the Convention report and Miss McLay's visit, the Hastings Union will go forward.