

110 was very scattered, these wayside houses were planted in every direction. It was not until much later years that after a Local Option Act was passed & the people were given the right to vote on the matter that a great many of these houses were closed. But it was a very conservative attitude that was held in reference to this matter, and altho. a great many of the houses were necessary for accommodation, yet they were merely drinking places, and it was a very common attitude for folks who had worked for considerable periods, would ask for their money & make for the nearest public house, hand over their Cheques to the publican, & tell him to say when it was finished. It was no uncommon thing, and drinking and crawling was very continuous. Besides many of these places had their constant customers, and there were some even in our surrounding district, that were victims of this habit & their homes & families in sad condition. This habit of handing over the Cheques was no uncommon

111 one, & I have heard of as much as forty or fifty pounds to be gone through in less than a week & the poor unfortunate sent on the road again. This method of treatment by the publican was called "Laying down". Some times the matter would be taken before the Magistrate. But very largely public opinion did not seem to be much troubled about it. Hotels were allowed open from six o'clock in the morning until eleven o'clock at night. It was this appalling condition of things, that public opinion began to be educated so as to bring in a change in these conditions. Temperance societies were formed in all directions. The principal of these was the Good Templar Society. There was also formed the New Zealand Alliance for the suppression of the liquor traffic. This has not yet been accomplished, but a great alleviation has taken place, & great restrictions have been placed on the sale of Intoxicants. Public houses or hotels are not allowed now in this year 1939 nor have been since during the period of