

tion next time.—In the case of Cross Inn, Ffair Rhos, the Chief Constable objected to the renewal of the licence and Mr A. J. Hughes, Aberystwyth, appeared for the Lichfield Brewery, owners, and Mr Albert Edward Evans, licensee, in support of the application for renewal.—P.S. James Lewis stated that the Cross Inn was licensed for six days. After describing the house, which was situated a mile and a quarter from Pontrhydfendigaid on the main road to Pontrhydygroes, witness said he had known the house for about twenty years. The trade was small compared with what it used to be. The ratable value was £4. The Black Lion, Pontrhydfendigaid, was the nearest house. There were three public houses in the parish (Gwnnws Upper). The population of the parish had decreased by 144 in twenty years. There was no need for three houses in the parish, and in his opinion the Cross Inn was not required at all. Some time ago plans of alterations to the house were submitted to the Bench and approved. He visited the house ten days ago, and the improvements agreed to by the Bench had not been carried out.—Cross-examined by Mr Hughes: The alterations were to be com-

pleted by June 30th next. There was no complaint as to the conduct of the house.—Mr Hughes: Have any facts arisen since the house was referred for compensation last year?—Witness; No, unless there are more funds in the exchequer. (Laughter.) He was under the impression that the licence was renewed by the Compensation Authority as there was not sufficient money in the fund. Cross Inn was an old and respectable house. When the mines were working the trade was larger. He had not ascertained the feelings of the locality regarding the licence.—P.C. Thomas Jones, Pontrhydfendigaid, said he had often visited the house. The trade done was small. The house was not required to meet the needs of the locality. The house was managed by the landlady, whose husband worked in the colliery.—By Mr Hughes: He did not suggest she was incapable.—Addressing the Bench, Mr Hughes said he was in a difficult position as the case was fully thrashed out last year, and the Bench thought it was their duty to refer the licence for compensation. Since the Compensation Authority renewed the licence, not a single objection was made to the house by those who knew it best,

to the house by those who knew it best, and nothing had occurred to show why the house should again be referred. He assumed that the Bench had an open mind and would deal with the case on the evidence, not from what they might have heard. It was a remarkable fact that nothing had transpired since the refusal by the Compensation Authority, who had not recognised the action of the Bench, and there was no objection by the police except as directed by the Bench. There was not a single objection by those who knew the place best, not even a petition from the district. His position was made difficult if the Bench had made up their

minds to do away with the licence when there was a sufficient amount in the compensation fund. The house was well conducted and a means of support to the licensee and his family; employing them in a respectable house without a shadow of complaint. The annual trade consisted of thirty-one barrels of ale, 105 dozen bottles, and twenty gallons of spirits. There was an increase in the sale of draught a.e. The house was convenient to a large section of people who were entitled to accommodation, and a good character was given to it by the police. It was a laudable desire to select houses which were not required; but he could mention several houses close to each other and he did not see why a convenient and respectable house should be selected. Was that an English and dignified way of dealing with the temperance question? He was informed by the Chief Constable that the compensation fund now amounted to between £400 and £500, which would be increased to £1,100. He made a strong appeal to the Bench not to harass the licensee and incur expense until there was a sufficient sum in the compensation to deal with all the cases.—The Bench decided to renew the licence.