

## SHOULD THE ELYSIAN GROVE BE LICENSED?

An application was to have been made at the Llanbadarn Brewster Sessions, on Thursday, on behalf of Mr D. M. DAVIES, the local representative of the Lichfield Brewery Company, for a permanent licence for the Elysian Grove, but Mr ARTHUR HUGHES withdrew the application for private reasons, with the promise to renew it next year. There is a strong opposition to the license, and there would have been a fight if the matter had been proceeded with. The question is, of course, a very delicate one, requiring judicial treatment. Our views with regard to the granting and renewal of licences are well known. We hold that strong drinks are legitimate and beneficial, and would grant licences where there is a reasonable demand,

provided there be no clear reason to the contrary. With regard to the Elysian Grove, we doubt whether Mr RODERICK RICHARDES is acting wisely in his own interest in allowing a permanent license to be applied for. The Grove is one of the most beautiful resorts in the whole kingdom, and is an immense acquisition to Aberystwyth. Its chief charm lies in the calm and repose to be found there. But that would soon disappear if there were a public house in the grounds. No doubt the fact that drinks could be obtained at any time of the day proves an attraction to many persons, but it would deter many others from going there, and in course of time the more refined and respectable section of the public would cease to go there at all. Occasional licences have been obtained this season, and can be had again, as Mr BONSALL said, whenever there may be events of public interest, and Mr RICHARDES would do well to consider whether those occasional licenses are not

better for his interests as a landlord, to say nothing about the interests of the town, than a permanent license would be. It may be argued that because a license is granted for Constitution Hill it should also be granted for the Grove. But there is no parallel between the two cases. The licensed part of the Hill only covers about seven acres, but the walk through the Grove is about a mile in length, running the whole distance through the wood. The one place can be under supervision, but the other cannot. Putting one thing with the other, and weighing the questions at issue as carefully as possible, we trust that Mr RICHARDES will not allow the application for a permanent license to be renewed.

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