

Messrs Jno. Ryan and Sons have just about completed the building of the Wai-mate Hotel, only the finishing touches needing being done by the painters. The building is a most commodious one, and every comfort studied. Downstairs, the bar opens on to three compartments, in two of which are register grates. In the centre of the bar there is a handsome octagon whisky stand, studded with mirrors. The hotel has 36 apartments. Of these 15 are downstairs, there being a billiard room 25ft 6in x 22ft, dining-room 30ft x 21ft, three sitting-rooms, office, store-rooms, lavatories, commercial rooms, etc. All of the downstairs rooms are papered and dadoed with rich linoleums, and present a pleasing appearance. The kitchen is fitted up with one of Luke's large ranges (high pressure), and hot water is available all over the premises. The staircase is a massive spiral one, with continuous railing, and heavy turned rail posts. At the top of the staircase are two immense stained windows. Upstairs there are two sitting-rooms, various small offices, and a special shower bath room for footballers. A heavy balcony, 150ft long, with railing, is constructed all along the front and part of the sides of the building, the floor being covered with one inch thick of asphalt. There are three fire escapes, numerous tanks on stands, windmill, cellar (with walls bricked 14ft thick, and concrete, brick, and asphalt bottom) and many other useful appurtenances too numerous to particularise. The actual time the contractors have been employed on the works is four weeks, although the foundations were put in hand about eight months ago. This comfortable hostelry was designed by Mr J. W. Warren, of Stratford. The joinery was all turned out in the best of style by Symes's Hawera Factory. The painting and paperhanging was in the excellent hands of Messrs R. Higham and Co., whilst Mr F. Jackson, of Otakenu, had charge of the plumbing. Mr Jas. Wallace was the bricklayer.

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