

Newspaper references to Lebanese

When were the first Lebanese in Dunedin/Otago?

Who was the first?

Did the fracas in Walker Street lead to the break-up of the community along sectarian lines?

1888

- Assyrian hawker Shamer Hannagh fell off the morning train at Lawrence while jostling with some spielers who were tormenting him. TT 25 Jan
- More detail on this case. Irbran Hannagh (elsewhere given as "Jyrbran Hannagh") "a foreigner, a diminutive fellow, who carried a pack around" was hassled and assaulted by travelling pugilist and a bit of a thug called James Rigby on the train to Lawrence. He told the guard that he was being harassed but to no account. "Accused put his arm around the complainant's neck, and half throttled him. Complainant struggled and kicked defendant, and then received a violent blow upon the face. He rushed to the platform out of the way, but he was so stunned that he fell off and was picked up in a pitiable condition and taken to the hospital." More detailed description. Rigby was fined £10 including costs, witnesses' and complainant's medical expense" of one month with hard labour. He paid up. ES, 1 February.
- Assyrian Emlers Zahalis fined in Dunedin for hawking without a licence. ES 20 March
- Complaint about the "daily increasing hawker nuisance" in Lake County. DT 18 May.
- Dunedin auxiliary of the London Missionary Society had a presentation from an Indian convert, Rev Nundo Lal Doss (a Bengali) at the Moray Place Congregational. "At the close of his address the Rev. Mr Doss mentioned that **some of his countrymen who were in Dunedin selling goods** had told him that they were annoyed by the children here when they said their prayers. As Mahomedans, these hawkers were bound to pray five times a day, and when the hour for prayer arrived, no matter where they might be—on the roadside or anywhere they engaged in devotion. Their genuflexions excited laughter on the part of the children, and he would ask as a kindness to foreigners that it should be remembered that the men were engaged in an act of faith, and he was sure that no one would then molest them." ES, 17 April NHC
- Hindoo hawker Goluf Mollah robbed in Walker Street hotel by a prostitute. ES 25 Oct

1889

- Hindoo hawker Helim Dean assaults James Johnstone in Hanover Street brothel. ODT 22 Jan.
- Dunedin swarming "with a crowd of dark-skinned Syrian pedlars ..." now in the Tuapeka countryside "and doing a fairly successful trade from house-to-house." TT 4 Dec.

1890

- Report of big profits made by Indian and Syrian hawkers "now so numerous in the colonies" with Melbourne report on their high daily earnings. TT 22 Jan.
- 'Hawking Nuisances' headline. Complaint about practice of countryside hawking taking advantage of women at home. No specific Lebanese reference. ME 22 April.

- Mahomedan hawker Ahadabox Mollok charged with indecent assault in Queenstown but case dismissed for lack of evidence. LWM 24 Dec.
- Same case but he is described as a Cingalese [Sri Lankan] hawker. MIC 24 Dec.

1892

- Assault and robbery case among Assyrian hawkers living in Walker Street (in Addis's cottage) after a dispute over gambling at cards. Named: Elias and Joseph Ferrey [Farry], George Joseph, George Addis, Michael Antony, Nicholas Antony, Joseph Bando. ES 18 Jan.
- Alleged Assault and Robbery.—**Elias Ferry and Joseph Ferry** were charged with assaulting **George Joseph** and robbing him of 15s on Saturday, the 10th, at Dunedin.—Mr Solomon appeared for accused, who pleaded not guilty.—Sergeant major Bevin having explained the facts of the case, proceeded to call evidence.—**George Joseph** an Assyrian, **residing in Walker street**, said that on last Saturday evening he was **playing cards in a house in Walker street** with the defendant Elias Ferry. The other defendant was not in the room at the time. Witness won 10s, 4s of which he did not take. He then **went across to the house in which he was living with four or five others**. Subsequently **Elias** came in and said, "How much did you win off me?" Witness replied 'Six shillings, and the 4s I forgave you'. He said, "No, you won 8s ; I want it back. Witness said: "I won't give it" He said, 'I'll take it." He then caught hold of witness, threw him on the ground, and took the 15s out of his trousers pocket. Witness asked him to return the money, but he refused to do so. He denied having taken the money. The other accused then entered the room, and struck witness on the head. Witness then laid an information against both accused. There was a jubilee half-crown in the money taken from witness by the accused, and a jubilee half-crown was found on the latter when he was searched at the police station.—Cross-examined: Witness admitted saying that morning that he wished to withdraw the information, but the police would not let him. The reason was that he heard his brother say that accused must have been drunk when they assaulted witness, and they did not know what they were doing. Witness however now believed they were not drunk.—**George Addis, Nicolas Antoni, and Joseph Bando** also gave evidence, but each emphatically declared that they knew nothing whatever about the alleged assault.—Sergeant-major Bevin said that it was useless calling other witnesses, for they all declared they did not know anything about the affair.—The case was dismissed." ODT, 19 January NHC
- Follow up story referring to nine Assyrians being in the court including a woman. One (George Addis) spoke excellent English and translated for the others. One [George Joseph] is described as unable to be discovered as Syrian from his appearance or his speech "he might have passed for a sunbrowned Englishman". ES 18 Jan.

1893

- Political interest [W P Reeves] in preventing 'cheap foreign labor into the colony' initially in reference to an influx of Austrians (Dalmatians) into the Northland gumfields but also looking to act against Afghan and Assyrian hawkers. Reference to Adelaide government refusing to naturalise Chinese and "now taking the Afghan and

Assyrian hawkers in hand". In NZ hawkers licence issued by local bodies and they will be invited to refrain from issuing them to Afghans and Assyrians. ES 16 May.

- Antony Coorey advertises for a clothing machinist, nr Caledonian Hotel, Walker Street. ES 28 June.
- Report on Sweating Enquiry in Melbourne reference to Assyrians and Indians in the underclothing trade, and Chinese in furniture, sweating European women and children. ES 1 July.
- "An Assyrian hawker, named Joseph Bacos, was arrested yesterday forenoon by Constable Brennan upon a charge of indecent assault upon a seven-year-old girl. The offence is alleged to have been committed at Belleknowes on Saturday afternoon." ODT, 17 July 1893. NHC
- Report of the hearing of Joseph Bacos who had called at a house in Mornington when the children's parents were out. Claimed that he had committed an indecent assault on the girl while showing his goods to the children. He was discharged by the bench who decided children's evidence was insufficient to make a case. ODT, 18 July.
- Death notice for Asker Antony native of Tripoli and husband of Kate Antony at his residence in Walker Street aged 22. ES 7 November.

1894

- Trades and Labour Council in Wellington resolution of alarm at "great influx of Assyrians and Asiatic aliens to this colony and think a heavy poll tax should be imposed on them." ES 19 Jan.
- LtoE on Influx of Aliens by J Thomson. Notes that in Australia licences have been refused for Assyrian hawkers and suggests similar action here. Compares Assyrians unfavourably to the Chinese as "out of the hundreds of Assyrians that are crowding into this country from Australia (for the reason mentioned above) not one is a reproducer. They are all sharpers and fleecers of credulous women ..." ES 22 Jan.
- Report from the Taieri Advocate of 16 Assyrian hawkers journeying south by train from Dunedin to intensively cover the area down to Milton. Waipawa Mail, 8 Feb.
- Labour Conference agitating for action against aliens coming to NZ as labour competition who should be kept away – Chinese, Austrians, Hungarians, Assyrians and Italians – and wanting poll tax increase on Chinese. ES 28 March.
- Editorial on this question and countering the Labour view. Discusses diplomatic ramifications of excluding Syrians under Turkish control and French protection. "We do not know the ground of complaint against them unless it be their brown colour." OW 5 April.
- Funeral cortege for Dr D M Stuart includes Chinese and Assyrians. 17 May.
- Attack on Dunedin Assyrian hawkers for using the Chinese trick of currying favour by making a donation to the Hospital. Doesn't think either group should be allowed in New Zealand which should be monopolised by the Anglo-Saxon race as per Sir George Grey. ChCh Star, 4 June.
- Habeb Bacos collects £20 from Dunedin Assyrians and donates it via Mark Cohen. ES 21 June. [The gesture referenced by the Star]
- Hawkers and Pedlars Bill before parliament. Deputation against it from Wellington wholesale and retail firms. Clause 3 that no licence issuable to a person who had not been resident in the colony for 12 months. Premier states "the measure really

applied to Assyrians and other coloured races, who had been blocked in the other Australian colonies.” ES, 26 July.

- Taieri Advocate reports conversation with an Assyrian hawker that many of the Syrian and Indian hawkers in NZ are employed by firms who arrange for the import of articles and make a handsome profit. The hawkers receive very small wages but are sure of being sent back to their native country when they express a desire to return. CA 28 Aug.
- Lebanese missionary Fr Joseph Dahdah is in Dunedin and will celebrate Mass at St Joseph’s for the Assyrians preaching in Arabic. ODT 8 Sept.
- Long report on the Maronite mission in Dunedin and its background. Two priests sent out by the Patriarch of Antioch with a base in Sydney where a church is being built. Surprise to find out how many Maronites there are in Dunedin and previously just seen as part of the St Joseph’s congregation. Very positive account. Tablet 14 Sept.
- Report from the Taieri Advocate that an English hawker complained of trying to compete with nearly 200 foreign hawkers – mainly Indians and Assyrians – between Oamaru and Invercargill. They cover astonishing distances on foot “their travelling expenses are almost nil, they seldom indulge in any luxury, they do not drink, they generally live together, and they spend very little money.” OW 4 Oct.
- Customs Circular on Syrian merchants deliberately undervaluing their imports to dodge duty with one invoice in English but another one in Arabic. NA 21 Nov.
- Deputation to Joseph Ward as Commissioner of Customs from David Pinkerton MHR on behalf of Masoud Meree an Assyrian hawker fined for attempting to evade customs duties and feeling hard done by through poor interpretation. ES 6 Nov.
- Similar article: “Mr D. Pinkerton, M.H.R., introduced the Syrian hawker Mashoud Meree and his interpreter to the Colonial Treasurer, explaining that Meree, who had been fined £50 and had his goods forfeited for evasion of the custom duties, claimed to have suffered an injustice because of his inability to understand the English language. There had been, Meree asserted, no intention to evade payment of duty, and he also asserted that the interpreter had not made the magistrate properly acquainted with the circumstances of the case. A written statement was handed to the Colonial Treasurer.” Ward promised to look into the matter. “Of course, it was very important that evasion of customs duties should be checked, but, on the other hand, if anything unfair had been done owing to the fact that the defendant was not acquainted with the English language, that ought to be put right.” ODT, 7 November NHC.

1895

- Note on discrimination against Assyrian and Hindoo shopkeepers in Auckland who are excluded as aliens from a trading exemption for sales of fruit, lollies and ice cream on Saturday afternoons. ODT 23 Feb.
- Long stump speech by Premier Seddon on the need to protect the race against the influx of Russians, Jews, Chinese, Assyrians and the outcasts of the slums of London ... ES 15 March.
- Conference of Trades and Labour Councils in Christchurch includes a notice on Chinese and Assyrians. ES 13 April.

- W P Reeves address to the Conference on the Undesirable Immigrants Bill “we did not want the Chinese, Assyrians, nor even the Japanese here. New Zealand was a white man’s country, and a white man’s country it ought always to be.” ES 3 May.
- The *Wakatipu* arrives in Wellington with six Assyrians and their families (fourteen). ES 4 July. This seems to have been widely reported. Passenger list shows a party of 33, being twelve men, nine women, seven boys and five girls. Bouzaid, Barrokeys, Salomans, Spiro, Dark.
- The Wellington Trades Council called attention to the influx of 30 Assyrians on the *Wakatipu* and urged Reeves to press on with his Undesirable Immigrants Bill as quickly as possible. Star 8 July
- Negative publicity about Wellington Lebanese through a dispute between a merchant P Stephens and a hawker Harma Mansur over goods supplied that ended up in court. The magistrate remarked that “these people should have some Court of their own in which to settle their differences.” Next day Mansur and another Assyrian Joe Akel appeared for fighting in John Street. Akel was discharged while Mansur was fined 40s or 7 days imprisonment. EP 30 July
- The Taieri Advocate reports that an Assyrian hawker travelling inland Otago with a wagonette estimated his average takings were £2 per day. On a three month circuit this would amount to £150. “He spends little or nothing beyond food for himself and horse, for he sleeps in the vehicle, and when he has made sufficient he takes his departure from the colony. Consequently we say: Patronise those who live like Christians and spend their money in the colony. The cheapest market is sometimes the dearest.” WS 12 Oct.

1896

- Michael Coory, 42-year-old Assyrian reported missing from Walker Street. Has a glass eye. “He was then in a sickly, despondent state of mind ... and it is feared that he may have committed suicide.” ES 7 Jan. Follow up article that he had turned up unharmed.
- Assyrian hawkers “are becoming a pest and a menace in the outlying parts of the Tuapeka district.” Visit settlers’ homes during the day when the men are away and take advantage of the women to buy their shoddy goods just to be rid of them. Refers to prevalence of atrocious crimes perpetrated by Syrian hawkers in Victoria that prompted the government there to prohibit Syrians hawking goods through country districts. “In almost all the Australian colonies also the laws regulating the admission of all Eastern nondescripts are such as to make things undesirably warm for Assyrians and others of their breed, color, and habits. They have, therefore, hastily taken up their packs and are swarming over to the hospitable shores of New Zealand.” Predicts similar outrages here. “the majority of them are loathsome ruffians”. Also it is unfair to local traders who pay taxes and maintain families to compete against such opposition. “The extirpation of the prowling Assyrian by prohibitory taxation would be a legitimate and laudable undertaking for all local governing bodies.” TT 8 Jan.
- Report from Sydney of the Assyrian hawker nuisance reaching such an acute stage several magistrates have refused to renew their licences. Others decline to grant licences when nothing is known of the applicants. To get uniformity the whole

bench will meet next week to consider applications from hundreds of Assyrians. Wanganui Chronicle. 13 Jan.

- Follow up report from Sydney that there were 193 applications for renewal of which 23 were withdrawn but the rest, including some recently refused by one magistrate, were all granted. Seven of nine new applications were refused because the applicants were not sufficiently known to the police. ODT 15 Jan [no HC]
- LT's Wellington correspondent reports regrets on all sides that last year's Immigration and Hawkers and Pedlars Bills were not passed. An influx of Assyrians driven put of Sydney by the magistrates there refusing licences and Customs has information of large numbers of them heading to New Zealand. "These Assyrians come, like the Chinese, without their womenkind, and are altogether an undesirable class of immigrants". The two Bills will be heard again next session. ES 13 Jan.
- Savage comments on Syrian hawkers in Taranaki having a hard time there. "There were four of them together cringing around here last week ... a dark-skinned and turbaned gentleman with gleaming teeth and aquiline nose" Hawera & Normanby Star, 28 March.
- False pretences case in Dunedin where goods were obtained dishonestly from Michael Coory **from his shop**. ODT 31 March.
- Parliamentary debate on Seddon's Asiatics Restriction Bill. He described surging numbers of Chinese in Wellington as they left the goldfields for trading in the large centres. "Mr Earnshaw looked upon the Assyrian hawkers as a greater curse than Chinese". The bill was altered to define Asiatics as including "members of coloured races of any part of Asia" and passed. WCT 25 June.
- Undesirable Hawkers Prevention Act, 1896. Sets out rules on the required licences to operate as a hawker. No specific racial qualification but cloaked in Clause 10 requiring a licensee to be "a British subject, or has been naturalised in the colony for not less than twelve months on the date [of application] nor unless he has resided in the colony continuously for not less than twelve months next preceding the aforesaid date." But **existing licences to remain in force until forfeited or expiring**. Doesn't apply to commercial travellers permanently employed by wholesale merchants.
- Court case after burglary of Hanna Mansoor's two-roomed house in a right-of-way in Walker Street where he carried on a business as a commission agent (by the son of the woman who rented it to him). **George Adess** acted as interpreter and evidence given by **Hanna Mansoor, Khallil Kathar, Gabral Bittar, and Dibb Ido**. Case discharged.
- "The Undesirable Hawkers' Prevention Bill is, as its name almost implies, directed against the Assyrians." ES 29 July.
- An Assyrian hawker woman Hannah Simon had a narrow escape by jumping from a moving train with all her baskets when it didn't look like stopping at Plimmerton. WH 16 Nov.

1897

- Court case in Oamaru over theft of £7 from an Assyrian hawker **George Michel** while staying at the Royal Hotel. Stolen from his box in his room while he was out. A photo of himself in the box was also taken. OM 5 Jan.

- Court case in Dunedin over a dispute between two groups of Lebanese in Walker Street. **Mary Simon** charged by **Antony Adass** of assaulting his daughter Annie with several cross-summons involved. Simon defended by Alf Hanlon. “the complainant was a young woman named **Annie Adass**, who lived in Walker street. In that neighbourhood a colony of Assyrians lived together, and the parties in the case all belonged to that class. On the night; in question this young girl Adass was in the house, which was occupied by a man called Facooory. The latter was asleep in another room. The defendant came into the room where the young girl was with several other Assyrian women. The defendant asked the girl where Facooory was, and she replied he was asleep in the other room. The woman went in and roused him, and after speaking to him returned to the room where, the young girl was, and a dispute arose between them, with the result that the defendant kicked the young woman in the stomach. Defendant knew she was in delicate health, and so severe was the blow that the young woman was unconscious during the night, while the next day she was compelled to seek medical aid.—**Annie Facooory**, Annie Adass, and **Antonie Nicolas** gave evidence in support of the information, after which the further hearing of the case was adjourned.” ODT 6 March
- Further hearing; Hanlon stated “It was absurd to say that an old woman like defendant should be sent to Gaol ... The Bench were of the opinion that an assault of some kind had been committed but not a very serious one...” dismissed it. Next up Joseph Simon and Joseph Millen were charged with assaulting **Elias Facooory**, an incident connected to the previous one. Elias charged them with same crime. Case dismissed “for it was evident that on one side or the other there was gross perjury.” ES 10 March.
- “Angry Assyrians” A further incident on Walker Street between the Facooorys and the Ferrys [Farrys]. “The commotion arose in the Assyrians’ quarters. The blind alley occupied by these people is on the left-hand side going west, halfway between the Caledonia Hotel and the Rising Sun Hotel. Ordinarily the locality is peaceful enough, but of late certain of the residents seem to have gotten a bee in the bonnet ...” reference to a signboard ‘Mangling done here’ on the corner. Elias Facooory who had his thumb broken in the previous ruction was this time hit in the head with an iron file. “Everybody concerned was shouting and running about at the time” making it hard to work out what happened by enough evidence for **Michael George Ferry** to be arrested for assault. ES 11 March.
- “The colony of Assyrians who live in Walker Street as on the night of the 8th February plunged into all the turmoil of a civil war, with the ultimate result that there was a perfect irruption of these foreigners, laden with cheap jewellery, into the City Police Court ...” Two factions the Simon party and the Adass-cum-Facooory party. “A weather-beaten and aggressive-looking lady named Mary Simon opened the hostilities ... a general melee ensued ... Both parties were largely represented in the court - each bringing their own interpreter, and each distrustful of the other’s interpreter ... if the conflict between the two factions has not produced the spilling of much blood it has at any rate led to the creation of a considerable amount of ill-feeling” OW 11 March.
- “The concluding chapter in the Assyrian row appears to have at last been reached, and the large number of swarthy foreigners who have frequented the precincts; of the court of late will doubtless betake themselves to more congenial haunts.

Yesterday when the case against Michael George Ferry, who was charged with assaulting Elias Facoor, was called upon counsel engaged in the case stated that an amicable settlement had been arrived at, and under the circumstances proposed that the proceedings should be dropped. The bench adopted the suggestion with cheerful alacrity and struck out the case.” ODT, 20 March.

- Letter to the editor, complaining about Syrians: “... the lower part of this [Walker] street which is to a great extent inhabited by filthy and repulsive foreigners, most of whom are crowded into dilapidated and tumble-down shanties, which are a disgrace to all who are responsible for such a state of things. These foreigners congregate in large numbers on the footpaths both by day and night to such an extent that frequently myself and others of my sex are under the necessity of leaving the footpath in order to get past and also to avoid the disagreeable stenches which abound in this vicinity ...” Matron. ES 23 March.
- Two more Letters, one adding to Matron’s attack “On one side of this street the Chinese litter the footpath and gutter with vegetable refuse, while opposite the Assyrian throws all his rubbish into the street, besides emptying filthy water into the gutter, the stench from which during the past warm weather has been something abominable” but the other in defence of the Syrians from Fair Play: “The Assyrians are anything but filthy, as a visit to their little cottages will show. There it will be seen that, although the outside may need a coat of paint, everything within is neat and clean, and no stenches arise from the Assyrian quarters. If “Matron” lived in Walker street when the Devil’s Half-acre was brimful of iniquity and night brawls, let me ask her if she preferred that to a few Assyrians standing on the footpath when their day’s work is done ? How absurd for this timid matron to say she has to leave the footpath to pass a few foreigners, not because they have ever interfered with her or her friends, but because they are repulsive on account of their skin being dark.” Goes on to say it is the European women prostitutes that need to be suppressed in the area not the Assyrians. ES 25 March.
- There followed a petition from A Beck and 58 other residents to the Council complaining about ‘nuisances’ arising from the Chinese and Assyrian premises in Walker Street. This led to inspection by the Inspector of Nuisances: “... 161 shops and dwellings were inspected, of which 154 are habitable, though many of the old wooden houses require more or less repair and painting. In the opinion of the inspector seven are hardly fit for habitation. **The houses occupied by the Assyrians— seven in number—are reported to be exceptionally clean and tidy.**” ODT 21 April and ES 21 April.
- Raids in Auckland and Wellington on Assyrian importers by Customs officials over false accounting of values to void import duties. In Auckland it was Hannah in Queen Street and in Wellington seven different premises were raided and some of the merchants taken into custody. A comment on the Wellington Assyrians “whose numbers have been largely augmented lately.” LT 29 May.
- Letter to Editor in response to the raids lamenting New Zealanders who buy goods off Asiatics whether Chinese or Assyrians instead of white men. By “encouraging aliens ... they will find them as great a curse in New Zealand as they have been and still are in Australia.” LT, 31 May.
- Counter letter from someone calling for fair treatment by the brotherhood of man: “Let us extend the hand of fellowship to all irrespective of colour, and if these

Assyrians and Chinese abide by our tariff and other laws, show them that Britishers an 'live and let live' ...There is room in New Zealand for thousands of these people, who have come here to escape the poverty and wretchedness of the densely crowded centres of the East, and who hope to make a living amongst us ..."LT 3 June.

- Report from Wellington that there was supposed to be a Dunedin raid on Assyrian merchants to coincide with those in Auckland and Wellington but it fell through due to a misunderstanding on the part of the collector of customs. OW 10 June.
- Report on difficulties in prosecuting the merchants so only those against Michael David to be pursued from the original charges. New ones to be laid against three others. HBH, 10 July.
- Case against Michel David, "also known as **Michael Raphael Farry**" who faces £100 penalty for evading customs and false declarations. Letter-book seized and translated, letters to Azzizi Brothers, Paris and others. DT 14 July.
- Further report on the case. H A Bacos used as interpreter of the Farry books. Two copies existed – one in French and one in Arabic. One example was goods sent from Melbourne by the firm of **Latoof and Callil**; hairpins, camphor, needle cases, full-weight knives, underclothing, coloured handkerchiefs, boys' collars. Another letter quoted from David to his agent in Paris and asking him to undervalue items and send a draft "to my cousins, Latoof & Callil". Jury found against David on two counts of £100 each. NZT, 15 July.
- More on the other Customs cases against: **F Khouri, Massad Goer, George Bouzaid, Michael David, and George Zaloun**. F Khouri had made an arrangement with his agent Bourciet et Cie in Paris re undervalued invoices (in English/Arabic). EP 16 July.
- "The influx of Assyrians into this colony only really began when the Australian authorities insisted upon charging them very heavy licensing fees. As ill-luck would have it, about that time our legislators in their wisdom rejected the Undesirable Immigrants Bill ... and there was no bar to the entry of the Assyrian horde." Agrees that it is unfair to heavily charge foreign traders "and would not suggest its application to any other than the undesirable races. With Europeans and Americans it is an entirely different matter. They, almost without exception, are desirable colonists but your Assyrians and Chinese can never be so classed." NZT, 19 July.
- Report of a woman confronting a Syrian hawker with a revolver near Feilding. "It does not follow that because one or two of these persons should have made themselves the cause of fear in the minds of defenceless women living in houses on their farms in isolated portions, that the whole of them are objectionable ..." FS, 23 July.
- Fresh charges laid against the Assyrian merchants in Wellington who struck a deal with Customs to pay an agreed sum. OW 29 July.
- Spirited letter to the paper from Joseph Akel in defence of his Assyrian peers: "... you call on the Municipal authorities to beware of the influx of Assyrians, and that you think the wisest plan is to insist upon charging them heavy license fees, as the Australian authorities did. Sir, the Municipal authorities here know that their license fees are heavier than the Australians'. A hawker's license in Sydney is £1 per annum. He can hawk with it through the whole colony of New South Wales ; the same in Melbourne and there are only 2s 6d licenses in Adelaide but in New Zealand a hawker's fee is £1 to every borough or corporation town. The wisdom of the legislators rejected the Undesirable Immigrants Bill of the Hon W. P. Reeves, which

you thought was unlucky. They understood the true English policy, 'Wisdom, power and humanity,' and they worked according to the three mentioned moralities, but you, sir, and the hon. gentleman have worked in your Asiatic policy the "power" only and neglected the other moralities. Use the wisdom and you find out that the Assyrians are equal to the Europeans in manners, ways and religion, and not to the Chinese. History tells us that the present Assyrians are the descendants of a great nation which was civilised when Britain was in a savage state. They, the Phoenicians, also helped to bring Britain to the light. ... When Assyrian peasants come to your country they do not go against labourers nor capitalists. They ask for protection and humanity should protect them. No one of them when convicted calls for a Turkish Consul. They abide by your laws; if bad they should be punished, if good justify them. There are only very few in the colony of New Zealand; **they number 120, mostly naturalised.** [The 1896 census was the first to categorise Syrians separately – as "Syrians and others" in its Asia sub-category -and gives a figure of 240, of whom 38 were 'British subjects'. In 1936 a retrospective tabulation gave as the number of 195 Syrians in NZ in 1896, 153 male and 42 female. This is quite close to Akel's figure which presumably was just referencing the men] Surely that number is not "swarming the country." They always carry their own troubles, pay their way and work hard for what they earn. They are not jealous of your nation, as the Europeans and Americans are, nor working against your policy. For all that, you like the Europeans and Americans, and dislike a friendly country such as ours. There is some fear of the Chinese with their large population swarming the colonies, but not of the Assyrians with their trifling population. We are called by the Bill you mentioned "undesirable." We are coloured, but not blacks, nor Mongolian colour. We are dark complexioned, the colour which the greatest men of the world possessed, as for example, Lockman Solomon, Alexander the Great, Julius Caesar, Napoleon, Lord Beaconsfield, and even the two great Northern monarchs, Peter the Great and King Richard. That ill-feeling, sir, might leave a black mark in the English policy, for everyone who comes to the shade of the great flag should be protected. The reporters should not have made such a fuss in the last Assyrian raid, which was done illegally, as calling us names, and they made the £4000 imports £40,000, and thought it was fine fun. And now the whole case is merely trifle and both sides are sorry it happened. Hoping, sir, these few lines will not offend you, but will give you a better opinion of the Assyrians, excuse me addressing you in a simple manner, as I am not in the habit of writing in the English language.—I am, etc JOSEFK AKEL, Assyrian." NZ Mail, 29 July.

- Customs File on the Assyrian cases against Hannah in Auckland. Details of the agreement reached for Hannah to pay £450. Costs paid to Bouzaid for trips, hotel, railway fares and cab hire.
- Letter in Canterbury complaining about licences required for businesses to sell their goods in every locality. "the gross injustice of white people, colonial born, and paying rates and taxes, who are industrious and sober, being under such a gross piece of despotism. The Government meant these restrictions to apply to Assyrians and Asiatics but not to British subjects." LT 2 Sept.
- Case in Auckland of an Assyrian hawker **Charles Zaney** being charged for not shutting his shop for weekly half holiday. "he did not know that hawkers were not allowed to

sell goods on their half holiday. ... This is the first case brought against a hawker here for the infringement of the half-holiday regulations." AS 28 Sept.

- Advertisement for A Coory's shop in the Arcade. "The only shop for getting your Xmas presents cheap". ODT 22 Dec.

1898

- Advertisement from M Coory Walker Street wanting to sell his grocery business "owner leaving for Melbourne." ES 9 May.
- Discussion of the new Undesirable Immigrants bill and impact on foreigners coming to New Zealand. "There is no direct exclusion of Asiatics beyond the necessity of their being able to make written application for admission to New Zealand in some European language. This may exclude the lower class of Assyrians and Hindoos, but will certainly not affect the Japanese." ES 5 Oct.
- Letter complaining about Assyrians and gambling. Claims that they soak up all the spare cash when they come into a town. "the Assyrian with his dice box and dice is responsible for much of the gambling to be found amongst the rising generation." OW, 10 Nov.
- Education Board meeting chairman references Lebanese children in Dunedin not attending school: "there were a very considerable number of children of party an alien race in Dunedin – the people from the shores of the Levant, or Assyrians – who did not attend school, but who should be made to attend, not only in their own interests, but in the interest as well of the community. There must be, he thought, about a score of these children ..." OW 22 December.

1899

- Elias Facory, Assyrian hawker, charged with holding an illegal raffle at Mossburn for a silver-mounted pipe, Waterbury watch and a silk handkerchief. Convicted but let off lightly as a first offence. "His Worship cautioned defendant to discontinue these practices, and to warn his fellow countrymen to do so also." ME, 17 January.
- Parliamentary debate on the Immigration restriction bill. Scobie Mackenzie "contended that there was not the slightest danger of New Zealand being overrun by Asiatics, therefore special legislation for their exclusion was not necessary. The bill excluded our own race from entering the colony unless they passed the education test. No reason had been shown for its introduction unless it was for electioneering purposes. Mr SEDDON explained that the bill was not aimed at our own race, but at Asiatics and Assyrian. The latter, being refused admission to the other colonies, were flocking to New Zealand ..." Mackenzie described it as "mean and paltry and utterly unwarranted." ODT 11 Oct.

1900

- Letter to the editor complaining about Assyrian hawkers and describing a woman hawking in Oamaru's country district who made a big fuss when she mistook a customer for another woman who owed her money. NOT, 9 February.
- Visit of Assyrian priest Fr Zainey to Auckland "where he has a brother in business". Celebrated Mass at St Patrick's according to the eastern rite for "a large number of his countrymen". Two Assyrian sang the accompanying sacred music. Tablet, 22 November.

- Breach of the peace in Elson's Alley; Mrs Antonio, Mary Antonio, Mrs Lettoff, Mrs Nicholas. Elson's Alley described as being about 4 or 5 feet wide. Discussing on whether it was classed as 'public place' in terms of the charge. Ruled to be so. Bessie Slattery witness: "She saw Mrs Antonio hit Mrs Nicholas and grab her hair, and then the former's two daughters joined in and struck the latter." Rose Howley, an Assyrian child, was in Elson's Alley at the time. "She saw them go into Mrs Koori's hose where they began to talk in their own language. Then they all hit Mrs Nicholas. Mrs Nicholas came out of Mrs Koori's house, and was followed by the other women, who thereupon set upon her." Mr Irwin stated that "the woman Nicholas had come down the alley and started an altercation, which culminated in Mrs Nichola striking one of his clients. They had nothing in retaliation." The Magistrate however accepted the prosecutor's case clearing Mrs Nicholas. Defence evidence for the others: "Kate Antonio said that Mrs Nicholas came into Mrs Khouri's house and used terrible language, such as 'no man in this country could use'. Then she jumped at one of her daughters, Mrs Lettoff, and they followed her out into the right-of-way. She never touched Mrs Nicholas at all in the right-of-way. It was merely 'talking by the tongue'. Bessie Slatten did not come into the alley till half an hour after the row; nor was Rose Howley there. The only person who saw the row was Mrs Koori, who remained in the kitchen. Annie Lettoff said she met Mrs Nicholas in the street, and asked her why she was 'talking bad' about her. Then she met her again in Mrs Koori's house, where Mrs Nicholas had bit her before her mother came in, and then Mrs Nicholas bit her mother on the hand. Mary Antonio said that when she came on the scene Mrs Nicholas was jumping at her sister. Then her mother came, and Mrs Nicholas 'bit her like a dog, which had never seen meat for ten years'. Her mother had put her hand on Mrs Nicholas's mouth to stop her 'talking bad on Sunday'. They 'didn't live to fight on Sundays'." George Elson and Melhen Letoff gave evidence in support of the previous witnesses. Magistrate found in favour of Mrs Nicholas as "the only independent witnesses were those for the prosecution". ES, 22 November.
- Breach of the peace on Walker Street by four Assyrian women: Mrs Antony, Mrs Nicholas, Mary Ann Antony and Mrs Letoof in Elson's right-of-way. Lots of people there and a disgraceful spectacle on a Sunday afternoon. The women hit one another, jumped at one another and indulged in mutual hairpulling and made use of noisy language. Mrs Nicholas the victim and charge dismissed against her but proven against the other show were fined. One had given evidence that Ms Nicholas "bit her like a dog that hadn't seen meat for ten years, while another assured the bench that she endeavoured to stop the altercation on the ground that they did not live to fight on Sundays." ODT, 23 November.
- Fracas in Walker Street on Christmas Eve saw 20 year-old Joseph Hannah, an Assyrian, being taken to hospital with scalp wounds and bruises on the shoulder. ES, 26 December.

1901

- "Joseph Hanna and Joseph George, were charged with, on the, 24th December, behaviour in Elson's alley, off Walker street, whereby a breach of the peace was occasioned—Mr Hanlon appeared for Hanna and Mr Solomon for George.—Mr Hanlon explained that the parties concerned in this case were Assyrians. They all lived in Walker street; and had something in the shape of a faction fight on the date

in question. There were charges against three or four others who were engaged in the scuffle, but the parties had now settled all their difficulties, and had agreed that one belonging to each faction should plead guilty. The two defendants before the Court, therefore, admitted the charges.—His Worship said that counsel having assured him that there was not likely to be a repetition of such conduct he would inflict a small penalty. Each defendant would be fined 10s and costs.— The charges against the others were withdrawn.” ES, 11 January. [Matching piece in next day’s ODT]

- “MORE TROUBLE AMONG THE ASIATICS.
A MAN SERIOUSLY INJURED. The Asiatics resident in Walker street are evidently anything but a happy family. Outbreaks among them have, been frequent of late, and it was understood that their squabbles had at last come to a termination. Such, however, does not seem to be the case, for on Saturday evening, about half-past 9 o'clock, a serious fracas occurred, in which one man, named Hanna Mansoor, was badly cut about the head. He was standing at the corner of Elson's right-of-way, when another Asiatic named Joseph Hanna came up the right-of-way and attacked him with some weapon, inflicting two semicircular cuts on the head, one at the back of the head and the other on the right temple. From the nature of the injuries it looks as if the flat of a tomahawk had been used, and that the semicircular part at the top, where the handle comes through, had struck the man. Mansoor was taken down to the police station, where his wounds, which are not dangerous, were dressed by Dr Gordon Macdonald. He then went to his home. Hanna was arrested immediately afterwards by the police and lodged in the lock-up. and will be charged this morning at the Police Court with assaulting Mansoor and causing him actual bodily harm. The offence is an indictable one. As far as can be ascertained the cause of the trouble is in respect of the payment of some costs in a case heard in the Police Court recently.” ODT 21 January.
- “The quarrels that have been going on intermittently amongst certain Asiatics residing in and about Walker street reached a somewhat acute stage on Saturday evening, about 9.30, sides being taken and a row resulting, in the course of which a middle aged man named Hanna Mansoor was cut about the head. It is alleged that the injuries were, inflicted by Joseph Hanna, and that he used a tomahawk, striking Mansoor with the flat of the weapon or the head of it not the edge. The injured man was taken to the police station, where Dr Gordon Macdonald dressed the wounds and then sent him home, the wounds not being of a dangerous character. Joseph Hanna, arrested by the police shortly after the occurrence, was brought before Mr Graham, S.M.. this morning, charged with an assault causing actual bodily harm. Mr Hanlon, appearing for the accused, applied for a remand until Friday. His Worship said there was a big charge sheet, and the case could hardly be reached before he had to leave. The remand would be granted. Mr Hanlon then applied for bail to be fixed. Sub-inspector Kiely said it was a serious case, and considering the nature of the assault he had to ask that the bail be substantial. Mr Hanlon urged that the bail should be within the reach of accused. Evidently no serious injury had been done, since Mansoor was able to appear in court. The magistrate said that he would take two sureties of £50 each, and accused's recognisance for £100.” ES, 21 January.
- Assault case between Sam Joseph and John Lahood and Joseph Hanna in Walker Street. On 15 January [is this the right date?] Sam Joseph passed John Lahood

walking down Walker Street. When he was walking back up again Lahood was standing in a doorway nr Elson's [alley] and without provocation attacked him with a stick. Joseph attempted to hold him to stop further attack when Hanna on the other side of the right-of-way came down and held complainant while Lahood continued his battery. Alf Hanlon for the defence claimed that when the two men had met Joseph said to Lahood "How would you like that brick on your head?' no doubt referring to the row on Christmas Eve, when Lahood got hurt with a stone. Lahood said in reply; 'You were not man enough to hit me with your fist'. Joseph said: 'I'll hit you now', and straightaway went for his client, struck him, and picked up a dirt bucket, and was about to strike him when Lahood seized a bit of wood. They had 'a bit of trouble' in which Joseph got hurt." Cases dismissed against Hanna and Lahood. ES, 29 January.

- The Assyrian Troubles.—Joseph Hanna was charged by the police with "assaulting Hanna Mansoor on the Saturday 19th inst., causing him actual bodily harm. Mr Sim appeared for the prosecution and Alf Hanlon for the defence.—Hanna Mansoor, shopkeeper, living in Meenan's right-of-way, off Walker street, stated that the accused lived in the right-of-way known as Elson's, on the opposite side of Walker street. On the night of the 19th. inst. he came out of his house after nine o'clock and went down towards Walker street. He saw Mrs Lahood, her husband, and another man standing at the corner of Elson's right-of-way. As he passed Mrs Lahood she caught him by the shirt, saying : " I'll kill you to-night; I'll take your soul." He got away from her, and then his wife came up from Elson's right-of-way, when Mrs Lahood attacked her. He tried to get his wife away. The accused came up from the right-of-way also, with his hand under his coat-tails. Just as he turned away with his wife he received a blow, upon the head from behind. He turned round to see who was hitting him, and saw the accused just behind him. He received another blow with a weapon of some sort. He could not see what the instrument was, as he felt giddy after the first blow. There were some English people about at the time ; but he was sure that it was Hanna who dealt the blows. He nearly fell from the effect of the blows, and after a moment he said : 'All you witness I go for the police.' The shirt produced was his, and the blood which bespattered it came from the wounds on his head. He went for the police, and when the constable came up to Hanna's house the latter said : 'He make mistake ; I not leave the house all night.' To Mr Hanlon; This was the whole truth, and he had left out nothing. He had taken an interest in the Joseph-Lahood case. He was not anxious to see Hanna convicted if he did not commit the offence. He had a conversation with one of the witnesses concerning the case of yesterday, and that witness had said he would tell the truth. He was not the head spirit of the disturbances amongst the Assyrian people, though he had been mixed up in them. Mrs Lahood might have tried to scratch his face for him, but she did not succeed. He did not apply to Mrs Lahood a term most terrible when used to an Assyrian woman. Mrs Lahood was a woman who was always speaking and fighting.—Dr Gordon Macdonald said in the course of his evidence that when called to the police station he examined complainant, who had a wound on his head. The wound had been caused by a semi-circular instrument of a hard character, and might have been caused by the tomahawk produced, held flat. The wound did not exactly correspond in size with the tomahawk. Considerable violence would be necessary to cause the wound.— Sissie Kelly, fourteen years of age, living with her

parents in Walker street, said she had known accused for about two years. On the 19th inst. witness heard loud swearing in Walker street, and, going out, saw Mrs John Lahood catch Hanna Mansoor by the throat and heard her say : 'I want to kill you to-night.' Mansoor replied: 'Leave me alone ; you are a woman; I would not put my finger on you.' Mrs Mansoor then came up Elson's right-of-way.

Mrs Lahood caught hold of Mrs Mansoor's hair and Mansoor went over to separate them and take his wife home. While he was trying to separate them Mrs Mansoor said: "Let her alone; let her hit me.' Then Joseph Hanna came from Elson's right-of-way with a 'big 'tommyhawk,' which he held behind his back. He went up to Mansoor and struck him on the left side of the head with the 'tommyhawk.' As Mansoor turned to see who had struck him he was struck by Joseph Hanna on the right side, also with the tomahawk. She was sure it was Joseph Hanna who struck the blows, and she was sure it was a tomahawk, and she was not frightened to say so. Witness was only three or four yards away at the time.—To Mr Hanlon : She had only passed a few words about the affair with Constable Hill, and with no one else, except that after the row she was told to tell the truth. The instrument used was thick and black, and she was sure it was a 'tommyhawk.' It was an instrument like the tomahawk produced. She would contradict everybody who stated that sticks were used during the affray.—The case was adjourned till to-day." ES, 30 January.

- Further hearing of the Hanna assault case. Evidence from Thomas Ah Tie on identification but suggestion that he had been influence by the Mansours to give evidence. "Mansoor said to him that if he could find an Englishman who would say he saw it (the assault) he would give him (witness) 5s". Michael Howly was called and testified to seeing the accused strike the complainant, as did Robert Wood. Sadie Litof gave evidence, in the course of which she did not see what it was that Hanna struck Mansoor with. ODT, 1 February.
- "This afternoon evidence for the prosecution was given by Zarreefah George (wife of Michael George), Annie Howley, and Acting-detective Wm. Hill.— The usual questions having been put to accused, Mr Hanlon said that his client reserved his defence.—Accused was therefore committed for trial at the next criminal sittings of the Supreme Court. Bail was fixed in two sureties of £50 each, and accused in one of £100." ODT 1 February.
- "Joseph Hanna was charged that, on or about , the 19th January, 1901. at Dunedin, with intent to do grievous bodily harm to Hanna Mansoor, he did actual bodily harm to him. On a second count he was charged with assaulting Hanna Mansoor. Accused, who was defended by Mr Hanlon, pleaded Not guilty. All witnesses were ordered out of court. The Crown Prosecutor said the parties in this case belonged to two rival factions of Syrians. There was a small colony of them in Meenan's right-of-way, off Walker street. They were strangers in a strange land, but instead of living in peace and amity they were divided into two factions. It was not 'necessary to know , what caused the cleavage, but, at any rate, they lived in a state of more or less continual , friction. Briefly, the facts were that a man named Hanna, Mansoor, a shopkeeper, on the night in question, was attacked by Mrs Lahood. She got hold of him by the shirt, and said 'I will- kill you tonight, I will take your soul.' He got away from her, and she then attacked his wife. He tried to pull the woman away from his wife, and at that moment the accused came out of Elson's right-of-way with his hand behind his back, and hit Mansoor twice on the head with the flat of a tomahawk, inflicting injuries

that were afterwards dressed by a doctor. Evidence was given by Hanna Mansoor, after which the further hearing of the case was adjourned until the following day.” ODT, 1 March.

- “The hearing of this case was resumed, further evidence being given for the prosecution by Maza Mansoor, Tom Ah Tie, Annie Letoff, Dr Gordon Macdonald, Annie Howley, Larrie Fah George, Cissie Kelly, Michael Howley, Robert Wood, and Constable Hill. For the defence Mr Findlay submitted that there was a general fight, and in that fight prosecutor was struck by somebody. It was absurd to say that a man who had received two blows such as it was said the prosecutor had received would be so slightly hurt as he was. On the evidence of the prosecutor and his witnesses, the accused was entitled to an acquittal. It had also to be remembered that there was no evidence of motive. Evidence was given by the accused. He said that, hearing a noise on the evening of the 19th January, he went out on to the street, where there was a crowd of people. Mansoor was there, and said to witness, ‘You did not get enough on Christmas Eve. I want to kill you to-night altogether.’ He had a stick in his hand. Witness had no weapon at all. Mansoor hit witness on the back with the stick. Other Syrians came out of their houses with sticks, and joined in the row. Mansoor and his cousins said, ‘Let me get through to Hanna. I want to kill him’ By the Crown Prosecutor: It was not a fact that witness assaulted one Joseph Sapho at Invercargill. Witness was not accused of the act and never heard of the affair. In January last witness was fined 10s and costs for a breach of the peace in Dunedin, Witness did not strike Mansoor, and did not see him struck. Further evidence for the defence was given by Tobias Isaacs, John Lahoud, Halla Isaacs, Mary Lahoud and Christina Isaacs. Counsel addressed the jury, and his Honor summed up. The jury retired at 2.55 p.m., and returned at 3.10 p.m. with a verdict of ‘Guilty of a common assault.’ Accused, in answer to tie registrar, said his age was 21 years. His Honor: What is known of him, Mr Fraser? The Crown Prosecutor: All that is known of him is that he was convicted on the 11th January last of a breach of the peace, and fined 10s and costs. It was a quarrel that arose out of a dispute among the Syrians. His Honor said he could not admit the accused to probation. If it had not been that he had gone into the witness-box and told lies, and brought a parcel of other persons to back him up, he would have been fined £5. As it was he would have to go to gaol for a month. The sentence of the court was that he would be sent to gaol for the term of one month and kept to hard labour. The court rose at 3.12 p.m. ODT, 2 March.
- The case tried in the Supreme Court. “The jury retired at three o'clock, and after deliberating for ten minutes returned a verdict of guilty of common assault. Accused gave his age as twenty-one. His Honor said that he could not admit accused to probation, because he had told so many lies, and had induced others to do so for him. He would have fined him £5 had he told the truth, but as he had not he would inflict a sentence of one month's imprisonment. This concluded the business.” ES, 1 March.
- Joseph Hanna released from gaol in Dunedin in March 1901. Details in Police Gazette: Born in Syria in 1881, a hawker, 5 feet 5.5 inches tall, sallow complexion, black hair, brown eyes, a large flat nose. Distinguishing marks ‘JOSEPH HANNA & c on right arm and a scar near the right eye. Photographed at Dunedin 16/3/01 [mug shot]. NZPG, 10 April.

1903

- Advertisement for “Girl to work sewing machine” at “A Adess and Son, 32 Walker Street.”
- Advertisement for a lost mare with reward, “George Adess and Son, Walker Street”. ES 13 Feb.
- Corrected advertisement for the lost mare “A Adess and Son, Walker Street.” ES 14 Feb.

1907

- Negative press account of Walker Street Chinese and Syrian buildings at Trades and Labour Conference countered by Dunedin MHR J F Arnold who defended the Syrian houses as neat and clean after going to have a look at them: “... With the exception of one house,” said Mr Arnold to a member of our staff this morning, “the whole of the European, and Syrian residences were occupied by a respectable class of people, a considerable number of whom are old age pensioners. It is true that several of the houses consist of only one room, and that they are fairly congested, but they are occupied by one person only, and appear to be clean and well-kept inside. ” To my mind some better arrangement might be made by either the Government or the municipality, but I think the Conference would have been better advised had they considered the cause and removed the difficulty under which the poor class are suffering rather than have cast reflections upon these people by making exaggerated statements.” ES 10 April.
- Very good description follows of a reporter’s follow-up visit with Mr Arnold to the Lebanese houses in Walker Street: “... a call was made on Mr G. G. Adess, a member of the Syrian community, ' who took the party round. It may be said right away that the inspection was a revelation in cleanliness, but it also revealed something more. It threw a sidelight on the question: Why are the Syrians here? The number of religious pictures on the walls of the rooms brought back the echoes of the missionary books and the tales of deadly strife always recurring in the Lebanon mountains between the Maronites and the Druses. The Maronites are a branch of the Christian Church and the Druses a half-heathen sect, addicted to most disgusting modes of life and unspeakable forms of intermarriage. It was therefore with some little trepidation that the reporter put the question to Mr Adess: "Are you- Maronites or Druses?" for to imply one as against the other was to convey a deadly insult. "I am Greek Church," replied Mr Adess, "but most of the Syrians here are Maronites." ... it presently appeared that the majority of the little Syrian colony in Walker street come from the seaward side of the Lebanon ranges, and mostly from the quaint little town of Tripoli... In one of the bedrooms, where the holy ikons were—it was Mr Coory's dwelling —the party stopped and took closer stock of the pictures. One was a photograph showing a party at Rome when the Maronite Patriarch paid a visit to Pope Pius X to convey felicitations on his elevation to the Popedom. In the next room was a Syrian drawing of a city—a city of minarets and white houses and pleasant streams. This, Mr Coory explained, was Damascus, dating from the times of Abraham, and almost as primitively picturesque now as it was then, and there, too, were its famous streams— Pharpar and Abana, "rivers of Damascus." " Wouldn't you rather live there than here?" asked the reporter. "Of course we would," explained Mr Adess and Mr Coory, both speaking simultaneously, but life is unbearable under

Turkish rule." Then they went on to refer to the massacre of 1860, when the pacha let loose the Turkish garrison on the Christian inhabitants. Stories were still told as to how their men, and more especially their women, fared, in the stress of a butchery of which the details were past description. The Maronites on the coast of the Levant still dwelt over the same volcano since, with certain waves of popular feeling, they could never tell what would be incited by some mad moollah and ordered by some semi-irresponsible pacha. And apart from this greater danger there was the universal corruption which made it always possible for the rich man to bribe the cadí or judge, and place his heel for ever on the poor man's neck. Mr Arnold broke in here: "You mean," he said, "that if you had Syria under New Zealand legislation you could ask for nothing better." "Exactly so," was the ready reply. In a way it was a curious thought—the ancient city of Damascus under our up-to-date laws and its concomitant innumerable company of inspectors of every kind. As the party passed from one dwelling to another the pervading piety of these poor expatriated people was everywhere in evidence. One woman, in one of the meaner houses, had neither ikons nor holy pictures, but in front of a photographic reproduction of Holman Hunt's picture—'The Light of the World'—she was burning a little light floating in water. As to cleanliness anyone who goes to the Syrian quarters looking for an insanitary state of things has made a mistake in his mission. To describe each dwelling in detail would be to furnish a long array of clean cups and glassware in the living rooms, and duchesse chests, pier glasses, yellow satin lace-trimmed curtains, real Turkey carpets, brass-appointed bedsteads, and clean linen in the bedrooms. These latter, in general, were better appointed and cleaner than are the bedrooms in many hotels. The Syrians themselves frankly admit that many of the houses are old, and they mentioned that the European landlords are not always willing to effect repairs, but they do the best they can under the circumstances. In some houses, **where they have acquired proprietary rights**, they have effected considerable improvement in the asphaltting and brickwork of the back yards. It is not too much to say that there are hundreds of artisans' dwellings in Dunedin not half so well appointed and not nearly so clean. The prejudice with which these people are often regarded pains them, and they seem to think that if the people of New Zealand understood the melancholy state of things in their own country, which drives they all over the world, there would at least be a more tolerant and sympathetic spirit. They are industrious and law-abiding, and some of them are naturalised British subjects. It is a pathetic little colony from first to last..." ES 10 April.

- In August the old Rising Sun Hotel (refused a licence in 1903) was part of a set of investment properties for sale from the estate of George Elson in Walker Street. The newspaper description included: "Section 18, Block V, Walker street; freehold quarter-acre, together with brick building formerly known as "The Rising Sun Hotel," and other brick and wood dwellings—in all 16 tenements, Bringing in £166 14s per annum. This is a capital investment." No HC. It was evidently purchased by H Mansoor, Michael George and D Joseph. There were advertisements in August 1922 for the building's removal from the site. Back in 1894 it had been described at the Licencing Court as "the house was a brick and stone building, with thirteen rooms, nine of which were bedrooms, for the use of the public. The house did a fair trade, and averaged five boarders all through the year".

1908

- A small fire at the former Rising Sun Hotel in Walker Street a few days before [caused by one of the children living there setting fire to bedclothes with matches]. Clarification here that it was the property “not of Mr Coory, but of three Syrians – H Mansoor, M George, and D Joseph.” ODT 22 Jan.

1909

- G G Adess writes to the St Kilda Borough Council requesting the formation of Gourlay Street. ODT, 8 April. NHC.
- Civil dispute over unpaid goods between Anthony Coory and Antonie and Jacob Idour (trading as Idour and Son) who had had business dealings for a long time. Antony Coory gave evidence and occasionally needed assistance of an interpreter. ES 13 July.
- Longer description of the proceedings. Antony Coory, a Syrian merchant whose place of business was in Walker Street against the hawkers Antonie and Jacob Idour. Lengthy proceedings involving explanation of a complicated system of book-keeping in Arabic. Evidence given by George Adess and the Idours. ODT 14 July.
- Judge found for the defendants, father and son, who he considered had been in partnership since January 1907. Another case Hannah Mansoor against Antonio and Jacob Idour adjourned. ODT, 21 July.

1910

- RGO death of Antony Adess 1 June 1910, aged 75. Buried Northern Cemetery.
- Dibb Idour, Syrian, of 7 Mafeking Terrace Glasgow Street, convicted of false pretences and theft over fraudulent cheap cigar sale offer. Previous dishonesty convictions in 1894 (Invercargill), 1897 (Wellington), 1901 (Dunedin for breach of the peace) and 1905 (Dunedin) and threatened with indefinite term of imprisonment if committed another offence while being sentenced to 12 months hard labour. ODT 1 June.
- Recall of Fr Dahdah the Maronite missionary in New Zealand to Lebanon. Tablet, 9 June.
- “There is about to be erected in Regent street, South Dunedin, the first place of worship for adherents of the Orthodox Greek Church in New Zealand. The members .of the Orthodox Greek Church in Dunedin are but a small community of Syrians, representing 14 or 15 families. The necessary site has been acquired, and the erection of the building, which will be a wooden one, will shortly be put in hand. It is to, be completed by December 15. The cost of the site and building will be about £400, and of this amount £200 has already been subscribed. The foundation of the Orthodox Greek Church dates back to the very early ages... the adherents of the church are now to be found in practically all parts of the world. In both Melbourne and Sydney there is an Orthodox Greek Church, each of which has been established by the Greek communities, and each has a congregation of about 400 persons. In New Zealand there are about 100 families who are adherents, these including Greeks, Syrians, Russians, and Bulgarians. The service of the Greek Church is very much akin to that of the High Church of England.” The church in South Dunedin will be dedicated on Christmas Day according to the Greek calendar which will be 7 January this year. Anglican Primate Nevill to be present. “There is in Dunedin just

now a priest of the Orthodox Greek Church in the person of the Rev Nicholas Manowitch, who is shortly to leave on a visit to Australia, but who will, on returning, take up the position of minister to the local church in a practically permanent sense. ODT, 17 September. No HC

- [Scattered Seeds: Amelia Idour and her brother-in-law Jack took the lead in establishing the St Michael's Orthodox Church (Kaneese). She wrote to the Bishop of Tripoli and the Patriarch of Antioch to get permission to build a church. He led the fund-raising committee which raised the necessary funds in just over six months.

1911

- Account of the church consecration. "the congregation will number about sixty, including children. Services will be held twice every Sunday." ES, 14 Jan. NHC.
- Consecration of the new Orthodox Greek Church in Regent Street [now Fingall Street]. "This is the first Greek church to be built for Syrians in Australasia, though there is also a Greek church in Melbourne and one in Sydney." Celebrated by Fr Manowitch, a Russian, supported by Anglican clergy including the Primate Bishop Nevill, Dean Fitchett and others (Including Rev Parata). Afternoon tea at Mr Idour's afterwards. OW, 18 January.
- Nice photograph of the new church. And another of the clergy present but with an unidentified trio of local Lebanese at the side. OW 25 January, p46. No HC.
- Advertisement for special service at Assyrian Greek Church in Regent Street to mark St George's Day (Greek calendar). Rev Canon King will be present. ES, 5 May. NHC
- Rev Manovitch appeals to Dunedin Presbytery for financial support for his work: "There were sixteen families of Assyrians in Dunedin associated with his work. They mostly lived in South Dunedin, where a small church had been established. The Assyrians in Walker street were not adherents of the Greek Church, but were Roman Catholics. So far as could be understood from the speaker's remarks, he receives some £50 a year, which is insufficient to carry on his work here." ES, 7 June NHC
- Syrians donate money for a women's ward at the Hospital: "The Syrians' contribution of £23 10s 6d was made up as follows -Contributed by the Syrians of Dunedin (per Mr H. Mansoor and Mr G. Adess) ; H. Mansoor, £2 2c-; Rev. Manawitch, £1 1s: Mrs Kelly. £1 : M. Leltoof, £1 ; T. Isaacs, £1 : M. George. £1: Joseph Lahood, £1 ; Mrs H A Bacos. £1; Mrs A. Amouri, £1 ; N. Barbara, £1; T. Ellis, £1: .1. Hanna, 10s.-: George John, 10s: P. Hanna, 10s; M. Lahood, 10s; Joseph Simon, 10s; J. M Farry, 10s; Moses Reid. 10s ; J. Bundo, 10s; S. Joseph, 10s; F. Arab, 10s; Mrs Jane Peter. 10s; Mrs D. Joseph, 10s; J. Facoorey. 10.-; G. Ekel, 10s; Mrs M. Easy, 10s; Mrs N. Facoorey, 10.s; Mrs N Antoney, 10s: Jacob Habib, 5s; Mrs Joseph Habib, 5s; Mrs K. Amouni, 5s; Mrs R. P. Mansoor. 5s; Mrs S. Antoney, 5s; Mrs P.. Hawish, 5s: A Friend. 5s; Mrs A. Hawley, 5s: Mis M- Marteen, 5s ; Mrs G. Dunn, 2s 6d." ES, 7 June. NHC

1913

- Advertisement for a crack medicine gives an address at "Coory's lane, 117 Walker Street". 24 December.

1914

- Report of a fire at 74 Bay View Road in a four-bedroom house owned and occupied by a Syrian hawker George Boutary. ES, 26 April.
- Court case against Jacob Facoor, a Syrian hawker, who was charged with failing to provide for his mother under the Destitute Persons' Act. The mother had two children dependant on her, a girl of 14 "not mentally strong" and a boy of 14 and was an invalid herself. The Defendant said he did not work in the winter, as it was too cold to go out hawking in that season. This didn't go down with the Magistrate who told him he'd have to get work. ODT 27 June.
- "GREEK CHURCH BAZAAR. There was a large attendance at the bazaar in the South Dunedin Town Hall last night, in aid of the Orthodox Greek Church, when again the stallholders did a lot of business. The bazaar will be open again this afternoon and evening." ODT, 11 September.
- A Syrian community deputation subscribes £45 to the Otago Patriotic Fund and state don behalf of the Syrian community that "they regarded themselves as members of the British Empire, in which they enjoyed their present liberties, and expressed the hope that the European war might end in a glorious victory for the Empire." Names on the subscription list: "G. G. Adess £5, H. Mansoor £2 2s, A. Farah £2 2s, George Facoor £2, George Barbara £2, H. A. Bacos £1 2s, D. Joseph £1 2s, J. Hanna £1 2s, P. Faris £1 1s, C. Kally £1 1s, A. Coory £1 1s, F. Farry £1 1s, J. Lahood £1 1s, H. Coory £1 1s, J. Coory £1 1s, F. Arab £1 1s, A. Joseph £1 1s, M. Micael £1 1s, J. Millan £1 1s, T. Isaacs £1 1s, M. George £1 1s. G. John £1 1s, M. Lahood £1 1s, J. Somon £1 1s, Joe Ried £1 1s. L. Mansoor £1 1s, J. Peter £1 1s, A. Amouri £1 1s, G. Simon £1, M. Reid £1, Mrs C. Antoney £1, N. Antoney £1, A. Amouri £1, Annie Facorey 10s, J. Rando 10s, Selena Antoney 10s, Mrs J. Howley 10s, A. Howley 10s."

1915

- LTE from two Syrians in response to comments by Cr Carroll about Syrians fighting for Turkey. One signed "AC" and the other by "George Johns, Walker Street" who wrote, "We correspond continually with our relatives in Syria, and did so even up to two months back, and got the correct news. Not one Syrian in Mount Lebanon is fighting for Turkey. The Syrians were granted Home Rule in Mount Lebanon by the Powers, who forced Turkey to assent in the year 1860, after the massacre of the Christians by the Turks. The Syrians are therefore not compelled to fight for Turkey. If they do fight, it will be against Turkey." ODT, 23 March. [George Johns was already advertising as a qualified optician and touring Otago to give clinics in regional centres]
- "A particularly aggressive female hawker (Assyrian), who has acquired a vocabulary as extensive as it is profane since her own vernacular ceased to be a serviceable medium for the conduct of her business, is at present in the district. Numerous complaints have been heard in the Helensbrook neighbourhood of the decidedly obnoxious methods of inducing sales, and the tactics adopted when business does not eventuate is sufficient to warrant the interference of the police." Bruce Herald, 23 September. NHC

1916

- Attack on Syrians on New Year's Eve by circus hands. Began with the circus hands abusing Syrian women out in the street awaiting New Year celebrations. When

challenged by Antoni Josephs they attacked him and a melee developed in which Antoni, John Peters, and Antoni Callis were assaulted. There were 35 men involved in the attack, Ruby Josephs gave evidence of their attacking her husband Antoni. Then her father John Peters came on the scene and he was attacked too. So was Callis during an engagement that lasted about 15 minutes. The circus attackers sentenced to three months imprisonment with hard labour. ES, 3 January.

- BATTLE IN WALKER STREET. This account has the circus mob deliberately coming to Walker Street to attack the Syrians. But outnumbered they had retreated and gotten reinforcements from the circus. General melee involving sticks and stones and bricks. One circus accused admitted “going back to the circus to get some of the other men, but this was because the Syrians had called the circus chaps a lot of names and thrown crackers and Chinese bombs at them.” ODT, 4 January.
- Section 19, Block V, quarter-acre section Walker street, leased to Farry and Coory. ODT, 15 July. [One section west of the Rising Sun Hotel].

1917

- Appeal against conscription of Richard Isaacs Coory who was a rough stuff preparer at Ross and Glendining’s boot factory and could not be spared as his role essential to the work of 15 other men. R& G successful in their appeal for him. ES, 10 Jan.
- Creditors’ meeting for bankrupt Jacob Facooory of Oamaru. Owed money to Adess and Son and Coory as well as other non-Syrians. Assets were a horse tap, furniture and a house. NOT, 5 April.
- Military ballot call-up for Coory, Hallim Isaac, Labourer, 40 Hope Street, Dunedin. ES, 6 June. No service record.
- Report of Otago Military Service Board discussing whether Syrians should be exempt from military service when considering the appeal by Richard Isaac Coory. This was a personal appeal following the earlier one from his employers and he was represented by Alf Hanlon. Mr Hanlon said the appellant “rightly or wrongly considered that the fact of Syrians fighting for the Allies on becoming known in Turkey, would lead to a massacre of Syrians in Lebanon, where relatives of the appellant now resided .. [and] there was a serious risk of such a massacre taking place if Syrians from the dominion were sent to the firing line”. Hanlon represented that the Syrians were very earnest about this fear and should be respected. Captain Free maintained that the Syrians “were only technically Turkish subjects”. Being of Syrian parentage he would probably be placed on army service work instead of at the firing line. The appeal was dismissed but recommended consideration of his being Syrian and “as a question of policy it might not be wise to send a member of that race abroad.” ODT, 30 August.
- Military ballot, Coory, Neave Isaac, hawker, 40 Hope Street. OW, 5 Sept.
- Military ballot: Neave Isaacs is identical with Neave Isaacs Coory “who was drawn in the tenth ballot” [36 Hope St]. Richard Isaacs is identical with Richard Isaacs Coory “who was drawn in the third ballot and went into camp.” ES, 7 November.
- Service record for Neave Isaacs, 35th Reinforcements. Found medically unfit in Dec 1917 due to old bone disease damage in his right forearm.
- Land Transfer Act notice of land at Section 19, Block V, Dunedin being brought under the Act. For Sheriffe Coory and Joseph Simon Farry. Land occupied by the applicants. ODT, 19 Nov.

1918

- Regent Street in South Dunedin becomes Fingall Street.
- Military ballot, Farry, Fred Mansour Faker, traveller, 10 Carroll Street. ODT, 19 June. No service record located.
- Elizabeth Coory pleaded guilty to failing to register under Registration of Aliens Act 1917, having assumed her husband's registration sufficed for both of them. ODT, 4 July.
- Military ballot, Farry, Antony Milne, printer, 2 Walker Street. ODT, 9 Sept. No service record located.
- Accident for Fred Farry "a well known hawker" at Dunstan Creek when his van capsized. He survived but his valuable load was much damaged. ODT, 26 Oct.

1919

- Syrian deputation to the RSA in Dunedin to make a donation towards the returned soldiers' fund of £25. H Mansoor and F Farry handed it over. Expressed gratitude for the Allies freeing their country from the Turkish yoke. Explained that the donation would have been larger but they had to send money to help people in their own country. ODT, 13 Aug.

1920

- Three Lebanese juvenile offenders before the court for breaking and entering and theft. Joseph Coory 19, and two others. ES, 17 March.
- Sentencing of the Lebanese boys: Michael Patrick Coory, John Coory, Joseph Coory. ES 7 May.

1922

- Fire in Carroll Street Syrian quarter, "in a terrace of three two-storied wooden houses in Carroll street, just above Hope street, in what is known as the Syrian quarter." House occupied by a Syrian George Johns damaged. Another account specified that the terrace was also owned by George Johns. OW 31 Oct. NHC

1925

- Joseph Farry and Albert George, Syrian hawkers, in trouble for throwing fireworks in a crowded street. Fined. ES, 23 January.
- Tobias Isaac Coory, a travelling draper, died of a heart attack while parked up with his caravan at Slope Point. His son was with him. ST, 4 April.
- Estate sale notice for late Tobia Isaac Coory. Owned valuable shop property at 835-839 King Street a solidly-built double-storey brick building and corner freehold section (2 shops and dwellings and 1 lock-up shop), and a freehold and 4-bedroom brick cottage at No 6 Arney Street, South Dunedin. ES, 17 October.
- S Coory and J Farry claiming for unpaid rent from a difficult tenant at 115 Carroll Street. ES, 18 August.
- Jacob Coory, an Assyrian wharf labourer and Joseph Mansoor prosecuted for maintenance. Coory was not only keeping a family of nine of his own but also his married daughter (Mrs Mansoor). Mansoor had made no effort to keep his own family and had been living up in Opunake. ODT, 1 November. A follow up report in

ES 5 December, had Coory state that he had eleven children five of whom were over 14, and 19 living in his house.

1928

- Saba Farry prosecuted for being an unlicensed driver of a motor van. ODT, 2 June.
- Mrs Coory selling city freehold property with substantial 10-room dwelling on it at 110 Stafford Street. ES, 26 Sept.
- S and J Farry advertise for experienced machinists for their soft goods manufacturing business. ES, 13 Oct.
- John Coory and Thomas David alias Davis, two Syrians, 4 years imprisonment for breaking and entering and theft. Added to sentences recently impose in Dunedin. Judge considered them to be professional criminals and no doubt members of a gang. ODT, 21 November.

1929

- Flood relief fund contributions from the Syrian community. "Cedar of Lebanon Society", H Mansoor, Farry Bros, J Reid, D Joseph, M Lahood, E Coory, J Joseph, F Farry, F Arab, A Joseph, J Isaac, N Isaac, L Mansoor, A Milne, M Lettoof, J Lahood, M George, J S Farry, Mrs M Reid. ODT, 5 April.
- Civil action between Antony Coory

1931

- Wedding at St Joseph's by two Syrian couples, Miss Reid of Dunedin to Mr Moran of Wellington and then Mr Farry of Dunedin to Mrs Lahood. Many guests from the north for the first wedding stayed on for the second. The celebrations according to Syrian custom lasted three days and commenced with a wedding breakfast for upwards of 400 guests at the Early Settlers Hall.

[Non-systematic survey from here: St Michael's references]

1937

- Easter celebration at Orthodox Church in Fingall Street led by Archimandrite Antonius Mobayed and attended by members of the Russian ballet. He was the guest of Mr and Mrs G Barbara while in Dunedin. ES 30 April, with photo on 3 May. No HC.

1938

- Another visit by Rev Mobayed to celebrate Christmas. About 11 families in Dunedin requested the visit, the first time in the 37 years since the church [actually 27 years] – the only Syrian Orthodox church in New Zealand – was established, that they will celebrate Christmas with an ordained Syrian minister. He will then stay on to celebrate a wedding, the first celebrated with Syrian rites in 21 years [that would be 1917]. Normally the church is ministered to by local Anglicans, first the late Canon Nevill and then the Rev Bryan King. ES, 21 Dec.

1939

- Wedding held at St Michael's church in Fingall Street, South Dunedin. "First Syrian marriage to be celebrated in Dunedin in 21 years". Between Miss Mary Barbara, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs G Barbara of Musselburgh, and Anthony Idour, eldest son of Mrs D Idour and the late Mr Idour of Dunedin. Celebrated in Greek, Syrian and English by the Rev Archimandrite Antonius Mobayed from the Syrian Orthodox church in Melbourne. ODT 30 January.

SYDNEY LEBANESE

MELBOURNE LEBANESE

- "Shops on the east side of Exhibition st., Melbourne, between Lonsdale and Little Lonsdale sts., bear the following names: Solomon Keamy, J. Perlstein, Mrs. Haddad, Gunga Brahamann, S. Matar, Marm Deen, Mrs. M. Khan, Fatta Deen, Jeelami Shaw, **Latoof and Callil**, and Sung Hing Kee and co. There are three other buildings in the block. An aptly-named "Cosmopolitan" laundry occupies the central position, while at each end are hotels, wherein M. A. Bruce and J. Calvin maintain the supremacy of the Britisher." The Bulletin, 16 November 1901 p 11. The address was 266 Exhibition Street.
- "In Melbourne, Victoria, most Lebanese families lived in the 'Khara,' an inner city area bounded by Lonsdale Street, La Trobe Street and the Exhibition Gardens. On Sunday afternoons Lebanese families gathered in the Exhibition Gardens: the children played together while the adults reminisced about 'the old country', read Arabic and Australian newspapers, discussed business and, in general, sought collectively to understand the 'Inglees' (English) and their ways."

Peter Callil Fakhry and Family: Latoof and Callil Pty Ltd

When Peter Callil Fakhry left Bcharre, Lebanon, in 1881, he thought he was going to Al Na-Yurk (New York). His arrival in Melbourne was the earliest recorded of the first wave of Lebanese (then known as 'Syrian') migration.

In 1884 Peter opened 'Latoof and Callil,' a small warehouse in Exhibition Street, where he supplied goods to Syrian and other hawkers who serviced the country areas of Victoria, South Australia and southern New South Wales.

Four years later Peter visited Lebanon and returned with his bride, Anna Yazbek. Over the years their six sons and two daughters entered the business. By the late 1930s Latoof and Callil expanded its warehousing and manufacturing operations and built a modern plant in Brunswick.

During World War Two, Latoof and Callil made uniforms and other items for the Australian war effort. The family donated the profits generated to wartime charities, including the provision of field ambulances to military hospitals.

After the war the company established eight additional factories, and employed 1500 staff. Australia's tariff barriers were lifted in the 1970s, and in 1981, Latoof and Callil was voluntarily placed in the hands of receivers. All creditors were paid in full by the following year.

Latoof and Callil traded for 99 years. The company become the largest clothing manufacturer and fabric importer in the southern hemisphere. It was the first business established by Australian-Lebanese in Victoria and, over the years, it offered employment to many thousands of Victorians.

<https://www.alhsv.org.au/family-business-and-community-australian-lebanese-in-victoria/>