

The White Ribbon

FOR GOD AND HOME AND HUMANITY

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THE BRITISH SUFFRAGETTE MOVEMENT.

(By Wm. Ensom.)

The visitor to England, whatever his or her opinion may be on the question of votes for women, cannot but be deeply impressed with the extent and enormous significance of the woman's suffrage movement.

From the point of view of the social reformer or the politician of any shade of colour, from Tory to Socialist, the influence of this new factor, which has come into our public life, and which is spreading so rapidly, is of the greatest importance.

Various causes have operated to obscure the question and its great significance from those outside its direct influences, and especially from those who are at a distance from the Empire's centre. The Home Rule struggle and the conflict between the Government and the House of Lords has bulked so largely as great and vital constitutional questions, that they have overshadowed this great British woman question, this matter of the rapid and startling change in the attitude of women towards the social and political life and interests of the country.

To those who have not paid any special attention to the votes for women agitation, the significance of it would not be understood, and it is quite apparent that the great bulk of our fellow-citizens outside the British Isles have no conception of the extent and strength of the organisations, nor the business energy, enthusiasm, and splendid organising ability that have been enlisted in the suffrage crusade. Very generally a totally erroneous

opinion has been and is held as to the spirit and aims of the women, but this is passing away, and largely through the ability, strength, and persistence of the women themselves, the public generally are getting to know and appreciate the very great significance of the movement and the change that it is bound to bring about in our national life.

It is not my intention here to discuss the question as to why the British Government refuse to give the vote, neither do I propose to give an opinion as to how long it will be before it is granted, or whether the present Government will give it, but I am quite convinced—as are all whom I have met who have knowledge of the strength and extent of the women's organisations—that it must come in the very near future. By their very efficient organising and propaganda in the constituencies, a pressure is being brought to bear on members of Parliament such that, whatever party is in office, it cannot possibly long resist the demand.

There is much discussion in all quarters as to the extreme methods of the militant section. It is of course being widely condemned, many holding that the lawless tactics are injuring the cause; on the other hand, many whose opinions are valuable consider that without the publicity these methods give the cause would be ignored by the public and Parliament, and that it is only since they have been practiced that the movement has made any real progress.

One very important matter which is not generally understood is that the militant group is only a comparatively small section of the movement.

There are three outstanding points with reference to the work and methods of the suffragette societies generally:—

First, the great extent and efficiency of the organisation. Second, its democratic character and the great enthusiasm of its members. Third, the wide social and political outlook and the burning interest of its members in social and political questions.

As to the first, the number of different societies is to the visitor very surprising. The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies is perhaps the largest; its methods are constitutional. Mrs Henry Fawcett, LL.D., is President, and the committee and vice-presidents include many of those foremost in social work in Britain: Councillor Margaret Ashton, M.A., B.Sc., the Countess of Aberdeen, Mrs Garrett Anderson, M.D., the Countess Brassey, Mrs George Cadbury, Lord Courtney, Sir Francis Darwin, the Bishops of Hull, Lincoln, and Chichester, Lady Henry Somerset, Lady Maud Parry, Mrs Forbes Robertson, Lady Strachley, are amongst them. The number of branches affiliated throughout England and Scotland is some four hundred and eighty.

There are ninety organisers employed by the Head Executive, besides local organisers. The increase in membership is about one thousand a month, and the income of the central office for the year 1913 was between ten and eleven thousand pounds.

The Church of England League for Women's Suffrage has several bishops on the Board of Management, and reported a membership of 3600 at the end of 1912, with sixty-five branches.

By the end of 1913 there were 5080 members and one hundred and three branches, 425 of the members being clergy.

* Then there is the Women's Freedom League, with a large membership and income, and branches throughout the United Kingdom; and there are besides some twenty other distinct societies in England: The Conservative and Unionist Franchise Association, the Catholic Women's Suffrage Society, the Conservative Irish Women's Franchise Association, six other Irish societies, and two Scottish societies, the Women Writers' Association, the Women Teachers' Association, and the Actresses' Association.

So far as I have had an opportunity of judging by a visit to the headquarters of these societies, they are doing quite remarkable work. The larger ones have extensive offices in the best part of London, all of them well equipped and capably staffed by women, in most cases giving their time to the work. These larger offices also have separate departments for correspondence, finance, statistics, political work, and literature. They have a special book shop just off the Strand, and are printing and issuing great quantities of books and leaflets. There are five weekly newspapers and one monthly, all capably conducted and widely circulated. The amount of money subscribed to the funds is one of not the least remarkable features of the movement.

The second very striking characteristic of the movement is its democracy and the very live zeal of its leaders.

Women of all classes and all creeds work side by side; women in society, in the professions, and working women associate freely, their devotion to their cause being their common bond. That refined and well-bred women will either mount the chair or waggon in the park or at the street corner, or will sell newspapers in the streets, is a very practical illustration of their genuineness and strength of conviction.

The third and last point or feature of this new crusade appeals to me as the most important, and appears to give to it a value and significance that is most vital and of the greatest consequence to us as a people nationally, and as it naturally follows, Imperially also. It is a quality of the movement that seems to have been obscured or overlooked by the public generally, and more especially so by our own

people outside the Mother Land. I refer to the fact that the interest the women are taking in the franchise extension to themselves has brought them into direct vital contact with all the great social and political problems of our time. They are being lifted entirely out of the rut of the ordinary round of women's interests, have come, as it were, into a new world of ideas and interests.

The Society woman, with her gay and but narrow round, the middle class and professional woman, also circumscribed in outlook, as well as the working woman, have all been compelled to take a wider view. On the platform, in their journals and books, and at all times and seasons, they are discussing the causes and results of poverty, crime, bad laws, overcrowding, ignorance, and low wages, and indeed the whole gamut of social and political vexed questions that are waiting for solution.

In spite of some small improvement in the general condition of the mass of the workers in England, there is an enormous amount of suffering and degradation caused through low wages and sweating. Wages in many districts are as low as 16s per week for men, and rent consumes one-third of that amount at least. Women in many of the sweated industries earn 2s only for a day's work of twelve hours.

In the past one of the obstacles that lay in the way of a remedy for this has been that the wealthy classes were ignorant of or ignored these conditions. Through the organisation of the Franchise Movement, the barrier is breaking down. The educated woman and the woman in society is being brought in contact on equal terms, through a common cause, with the labourer's wife and the factory worker, and is compelled to realise and understand the suffering and injustice that is being inflicted on her helpless sister.

The working woman on her part has come to see that the road to economic justice is by way of the vote, so that the suffrage struggle has become a means of enormous benefit as an educational force. Altogether apart from the question of the vote, this is now, and will be, a factor of the greatest value in the struggle that is going on for better social conditions for the worker, as well as for a change in women's social and economic conditions generally.

BRITISH DOMINIONS WOMAN SUFFRAGE UNION.

LETTER TO THE FRIENDS OF THE UNION IN NEW ZEALAND.

Dear Friends,—I have just read with the deepest interest the Special Franchise Number of the "White Ribbon" (August, 1914). Almost every article in this paper is of help in England, giving not only knowledge concerning the status of women in New Zealand but what is even more valuable, a clear idea of the aims of these women for the future. Once more the thought comes with renewed force: To how many centres in the other Dominions overseas does this illuminating and helpful paper find its way? I have ventured to write to the Editor of the "White Ribbon" on this point.

At the present terrible crisis in the history of our people it behoves us women more than ever to draw closely together, and thus prepare the way for united endeavour in the future. May I beg you to remember that the first essential is that we shall each know what the other is doing? In each Dominion we must make every effort to extend the sale of the woman's paper of that Dominion. We must encourage each society in each Dominion to take in, for the benefit of its members, the women's papers of the other Dominions:—

The "Woman Voter," Melbourne, Australia.

The "Liberal Woman," Sydney, Australia.

The "Woman's Century," Toronto, Canada.

The "Woman's Outlook," Port Elizabeth, S. Africa.

As I take in and read carefully every one of these papers, I can speak from experience of their value. Specimen copies can be had on application to the Editors.

Further, I am sending you from the London offices a specimen copy of each of the English Suffrage papers in turn. Each of these papers gives a different view of the great woman's movement in Britain and all over the world. Will you compare these papers and decide for yourself which you prefer? If possible, order it through your own local news agent, but if this gives any difficulty, please write to me, and it shall be sent you from London.

I beg you not to feel impatient if I press on your attention again and again the importance of women's

papers. The horror and desolation of the present upheaval in Europe will undoubtedly be followed by an extraordinary period of reconstruction. It will depend on women, even more than on men, that this supreme opportunity shall be turned to the highest advantage of the race. The sacred duty lies on each one of us.

Will you please do all you can to make the subject of this letter known, and lend the papers sent you to as many people as possible?—Yours in the cause,

HARRIET C. NEWCOMB,

Hon. Sec. B.D.W.S.U.

October 21st, 1914.

Care International Women's Franchise Club, 9, Grafton Street, London, W.

(Any one wishing to borrow English Suffrage papers can have same by sending ½d stamp for postage.—Ed. "W.R.")

As in the Plymouth Town Council the question has been raised of the advisability in the present emergency of some measure on the lines of the C.D. Acts, the Hon. Secretary of the British Dominions Woman Suffrage Union has written to the Premier (Mr Asquith), the Secretary of State for War, and the Town Clerk of Plymouth, protesting against the possible granting by Parliament of special powers in the way of police regulations. The B.D.W.S.U. is acting in this matter in concert with the Women's Freedom League and the other Suffrage societies. The women forming the Suffrage Societies and the Women's Political Associations Overseas, many of them the actual mothers of the young soldiers now arriving for the defence of the Empire, are unanimous in condemning any attempt to legalise vice.

A CORRECTION.

Mrs Neal, President of the Pahiutua Union, has written to me explaining that their collection for "Franchise Day" was sent to me for the Organising Fund, but should have gone to Mrs Bendely for their capitation fees. The mistake was not discovered until after the money had passed through my books and reported in November's list of donations. She wishes me to make this correction.

ALICE R. C. TAYLOR,
Treas. Organising Fund.

IMPORTANT.

CONVENTION ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dear Sisters,—

The Annual Convention will open on Wednesday, March 17th, at Christchurch. District Presidents, Secretaries and Treasurers, New Zealand Superintendents of Departments, Organiser and Organising Treasurer, together with New Zealand officers, have, ex officio, a seat in Convention.

Each branch may send one delegate for every 100 or fraction of 100 members, but no delegate can represent more than one branch. All Unions unable to send a delegate may have a proxy appointed by sending me word and enclosing directions (sealed) as to voting for New Zealand officers, and also how to vote on the following motions, notice of which was given at the 1914 Convention:—

By Miss Dewar: "That I, or some one in my place, will move that in the absence of a District President from Convention, the District Treasurer or Secretary should have a seat on the N.Z. Executive."

By Mrs Scanlon: "That I, or some one in my place, will move at next Convention that the time has now arrived when the rule in the Constitution regarding proxies be amended to read thus: 'That any Union finding itself unable, for lack of funds or otherwise, to send a delegate to Convention, shall have the power to choose as their representative any member of the W.C.T.U.; that the word "proxy" be obliterated as altogether unnecessary.'"

By Miss Powell: "That I, or some one in my place, will move at next Convention that Organisers and Organising Treasurers have a seat in Convention."

By Miss Henderson: "That I, or some one in my place, will move to amend Article IV. of the Constitution by striking out the words after 'White Ribbon' and amending to read: 'All above members, who are members, shall act during the Convention, but in the interim between Conventions the Executive, for the conduct of business, shall consist of the President, Vice-President-at-Large, Corresponding and Recording Secretaries, Treasurer, and Editor of the official organ, except when any matter of grave financial importance is involved, when the District Presidents shall be consulted.'"

By Miss Henderson: "That I, or some one in my place, will move that Article VI. of the Constitution be amended by omitting all words after 'Special Committees' to the end of the paragraph."

All members of Convention must present their credentials either at the reception or at the first session of Convention.

As the roll has to be prepared before Convention begins, will all intending members please send me a letter or post-card with their official position clearly stated, such as District President, Secretary, or Treasurer, etc.

Wishing all the Unions a Very Happy and Prosperous New Year.—Yours in the work,

M. W. MITCHELL,

N.Z. Recording Sec.

Lyttelton, Jan. 13th, 1915.

CONVENTION.

FOR DELEGATES.

As Delegates may hesitate to go to Convention on account of expense, we have been asked to state that the steerage, both in s.s. "Wahine" and s.s. "Maori," is very comfortable, and the fare is only 21s, as against 37s 6d saloon. The cabins are large and airy, with ventilation shaft, and contain six berths. If parties of six so arranged, they could travel together.

There are stewards to carry luggage down, and a stewardess is also in attendance.

COD HEARETH THEE.

"God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus."—Phil. iv. 19.

What are thy wants to-day?

What e'er they be, lift up thy heart,
I pray:

God heareth thee.

Then trustfully rely that all thy need
He surely will supply in very deed;
But every prayer of thine, and every
want

Of either thine or mine He may not
grant.

Yet all our prayers God hears, and He
will show

Some day, in coming years, He well
did know.

—Charlotte Murray.

News of the Unions.

(The Editor cannot promise to insert anything in the next issue that does not reach her by the 8th of the month. Correspondents are requested to write their Reports as concisely as possible, on one side of the paper only. Newspaper cuttings are unsuitable.)

CAMBRIDGE.

Nov. 24. Annual meeting held, Mrs Shepherd in the chair. Reports read, showing good work done during the year. Five new members joined during the year; 37 names now on the roll. Ten ordinary and one special meeting have been held, average attendance being 15; also 10 home meetings for the aid of the Belgians. 350 garments have been repaired, including 30 new outfits for girls and boys, also a number of quilts and new rugs and blankets have been sent to the Belgian Fund. The Band of Hope has prospered this year; good programmes have been given, and some meetings have been crowded. Election of officers resulted as follows:—Pres., Mrs Hogan; Sec., Mrs A. J. Watson; Treas., Mrs C. H. Bycroft; Cradle Roll Supt., Mrs Roberts; Organist, Mrs O. Bycroft; "White Ribbon" Agent and Press Correspondent, Mrs A. J. Watson; Visiting Committee, Mrs P. Smith, Mrs C. H. Bycroft, and Mrs A. J. Watson. The sum of £16 9s 6d collected by members for Dr. Barnardo's Homes. Treasurer's report showed a balance of £5 10s in the bank. £5 was voted to the No-License League. A hall near the polling booth was taken on election day, and lunches served to the workers during the day by our W.C.T.U. members.

CHRISTCHURCH.

General meeting held on November 25th, Mrs J. McCombs presiding; attendance good. A resolution was passed, to be forwarded to the Prime Minister, condemning the granting of bar licenses in Samoa. Miss Wise was appointed convener of the Procession Committee. The balance-sheet of luncheon booth at the Agricultural and Pastoral Show very satisfactory. Resolved to order 1000 more appeals for postage and distribution. Several members offered to make comfort bags for the sailors. Decided that each member of the Union should make one article for the poor of Britain, the gifts to be sent in before Christmas. Resolved that a strong appeal for this object be sent to the "White Ribbon."

Annual meeting held Tuesday evening, December 15th. Mrs J. McCombs presided over a good attendance. The report of the year's work was adopted. Balance-sheet for the Agricultural and Pastoral Show was adopted. The following nominations for Dominion officers were accepted:—Pres., Mrs Don (Dunedin); Rec.

Sec., Mrs A. R. Atkinson (Wellington); Cor. Sec., Miss Henderson (Christchurch); Treas., Mrs Bendely (Auckland). The following officers were elected for the Christchurch Union:—Pres., Mrs J. McCombs; Vice-Pres., Mesdames Patterson, T. E. Taylor, Blyth, Williams, and S. Lovell-Smith; Cor. Sec., Mrs R. Day; Rec. Sec., Mrs F. Stewart; Treas., Mrs Seed; "White Ribbon" Agent, Mrs Williams. Resolved that the next meeting be held on the fourth Wednesday in January, 1915. The appeal to members of our Union on behalf of the poor of Britain resulted in a very large case of warm and useful articles of clothing being forwarded to Miss Harriet Newcomb, care International Women's Franchise Club, 9, Grafton Street, Piccadilly, London, W.

PALMERSTON NORTH.

Annual meeting held on December 4th. Mrs Crabb (President) presided over a large attendance. A comprehensive report, covering the year's work, was read. The chief event was the holding of the Provincial Convention in our town in December; 30 delegates were present, and Mrs Don was with us. Several interesting discussions took place. Mrs Evans presided with wisdom, tact, and dignity. We were represented at the Dominion Convention at Gisborne by our President and two other members. In April the Union assisted No-License League in a monster Bazaar. Valuable work has been done in many departments, notably, Scientific Temperance, Medical Temperance, L.T.L., Relief Work, Moral Instruction, and Educational Work. Mrs Crabb and Miss Powell visited our three auxiliaries. Our tea rooms at the A. and P. Show again proved a success. Public meetings arranged by our Union have been addressed by Mesdames Don, Snowden, and Lady Stout. We have despatched several parcels away to the distressed Belgians, also helped the needy in our own town. Great efforts have lately been made by our President and Treasurer to increase our membership, and they were successful in bringing the roll number up to 100. We cannot close without expressing our deep thankfulness for the recovery of our President from serious illness.

BLENHEIM.

Annual meeting held on December 1st. Mrs Handcock in the chair; attendance good. Election of officers resulted as follows:—Pres., Mrs Adam Jackson; Vice-Pres., Mesdames A. J. Litchfield, J. Rose, B. H. Low, R. Parker, Brewer, and Handcock; Sec., Mrs David Sinclair; Assist. Sec., Mrs G. Litchfield; Treas., Mrs I. Hay; Mothers Meetings and Cradle Roll, Mesdames Brewer, Handcock, and Sinclair; Drawing-room Meetings, Mesdames Fisher and T. Pike; "White Ribbon," Mrs W. Parker; Good Citizenship, Mrs Low; Literature and Medical Temperance, Mesdames Handcock and Martin; Agri-

culture, Mesdames A. Jackson and W. Parker; Reporter to "White Ribbon" and "Express," Mrs Fisher. Decided to hold a Christmas treat for the Mothers' Union and children on the 15th, at the residence of Mrs Sinclair, the members assisting Mrs Sinclair in entertaining. Decided to purchase a photograph of Frances Willard. Afternoon tea handed round.

MASTERTON.

Dec. 1. Monthly meeting held in Knox Hall, Mrs Devonport presiding over a large attendance. Correspondence received from Mrs Taylor, Treasurer for Organising Fund, also World's Vice-President. Decided to donate £5 towards our local No-License League. Decided that Wednesday being unsuitable, as it was the day before election, Lady Stout's lecture be postponed to some future date. The election of officers for the year resulted as follows:—Pres., Mrs Ross; Treas., Mrs Sutherland; Sec., Mrs Flanagan; Superintendents—Home Meetings, Mrs Price; Flower Missions, Mrs J. Walker; Back-blocks Literature, Mrs Miller; "White Ribbon" Agent, Mrs Russell; Press and "W.R." Reporter, Mrs Devonport. The appointment of other superintendents left over until next meeting. Vice-Pres., Mesdames W. H. Hosking, Devonport, James Miller, Miss Thomas, Miss Roberts. Special votes of thanks were accorded the retiring President (Mrs Devonport), the Treasurer (Mrs Sutherland), also the Secretary (Mrs Flanagan), for writing special reports, etc. Arrangements were made in connection with election day.

AUCKLAND.

Annual meeting held December 16th, Mrs Pudney presiding. General regret expressed re the result of the Prohibition poll. A vote of thanks to those ladies who so kindly decorated the lorry for Top Line Demonstration. Reports received and adopted from the officers and superintendents. An increase of sixty members during the year. Ten departments of work taken up. The Treasurer's report very satisfactory. The election of officers for 1915 resulted as follows:—Pres., Mrs J. Cook; Vice-Pres., Mrs Pudney, Mrs J. W. Taylor, and Mrs Thorpe. Miss Evans, Miss Dewar, and Miss N. Dewar were re-appointed to their positions, Secretaries and Treasurer respectively. Election of superintendents of departments left till next meeting.

WINCHMORE.

Monthly meeting held in the church on Wednesday. It being a C.R. afternoon, there was a small attendance of little folk. The Rev. Mr Hughes was present, and gave an interesting address on our motto ("For God, home, and every land"). Mrs Hughes sang two solos. At the conclusion of the meeting each C.R. member was presented with a toy. Afternoon tea was handed round.

OXFORD.

Combined Cradle Roll meeting and Junior Band of Hope picnic held November 22nd. The "Y" Branch Union took charge of games and races. The mothers gathered in Coronation Hall, where Mrs Ryde, C.R. Supt., read an excellent paper, and Rev. J. E. Holloway addressed the mothers. Three new names for C.R. Tea was handed round. Mrs Ryde announced a meeting for December, when Dr. Bagley would give an address. After tea, the Band of Hope assembled in the hall, and Mrs Gainsford (President) briefly addressed them, urging them to be true to their pledge, and to come to the Band of Hope next year.

Annual meeting held in the Coronation Hall December 2nd, the President (Mrs Gainsford) presiding; attendance large. Votes of sympathy passed to the Blackwell family, of Kaiapoi, and Miss Caverhill. Secretary's and Treasurer's reports were read and adopted. The retiring President, Mrs Gainsford, was heartily thanked for her three years' splendid work. Mrs McCombs, of Christchurch, presided at the election of officers, which resulted as follows:—Pres., Mrs G. Ryde; Vice-Pres., Mesdames Gainsford, senr., Coming, Fawcett, Baxter; Sec., Mrs Comyns; Treas., Miss Caverhill; Superintendents, Mrs Gainsford, senr. (Cradle Roll), Mrs Hawke (Evangelistic), Mrs I. Gainsford, junr. (Home Meetings), Mrs Wotherspoon (Notable Days), Mrs Hawke ("White Ribbon"). Decided to meet on the last Thursday in the month at 2.30 p.m. The Union decided to cater for the Sports on Boxing Day, all the profits to be given to the Belgian Fund.

In the evening Mrs McCombs gave a stirring address to the "Y" Branch, and was heartily thanked. Supper was handed round.

On December 6th the combined temperance bodies held a demonstration. A large procession marched to the Domain, headed by the Temperance Band. Addresses were delivered by Miss Roberts, Messrs R. Speirs, D. G. Sullivan, and R. F. Williams, all of Christchurch. Mr D. Hawke presided. The W.C.T.U. and the No-License workers held well-attended meetings in the different schools in the district just before the elections. Our Union has given three prizes to East Oxford School children and three to West Oxford, for the best Temperance essays written by the pupils from the Temperance wall sheets.

MANAIA.

Nov. 24. 21 members present. Welcome to Mrs Mowlem, who presided. Election of officers resulted as follows:—Pres., Mrs Patterson; Vice-Pres., Mesdames Hunt and Parkinson; Sec., Miss Craig; Treas., Miss York; "White Ribbon" Agent, Mrs Hunt; Supt. Cradle Roll, Mrs Ricketts (all re-elected); Organist, Mrs Hunt; Maori Supt., Mrs Mem-

bry; Supt. of Literature, Mrs Hurley. A mock ballot was held during the meeting, one member striking out the bottom line. Four new members were initiated by Mrs Mowlem, who reported 13 new members since last meeting, and congratulated the Union on having a roll of nearly 100 members.

NGAERE.

Meeting held at Mrs K. Tarrant's, Mrs Kennington (President) in chair. 7 members and 2 visitors present. Correspondence received re Temperance essays sent from Ngaere school children; also Superintendents of departments sending individual reports to Dominion Superintendents. Mrs Morison (ex-President) reported that a box of Christmas cheer, including a lamb ready dressed, had been sent from our Union to the Salvation Army Boys' Home at Eltham. Arrangements made for annual Cradle Roll picnic, to be held on January 28th. Two new members initiated. Afternoon tea handed round. Next meeting subject, "Favourite Quotations."

DUNEDIN.

Monthly meeting held December 1st. Mrs A. S. Adams (Vice-President) occupied the chair. Deep regret was expressed at the sudden death of Mrs Hutchinson, a member of the Union, and a motion of sympathy was passed with Mrs Saunders, Mrs Gain, and Mrs Webb in their recent bereavements. Miss Bisson gave an interesting account of W.C.T.U. work in Manchester and Salford. Police missionaries, restaurant workers, White Ribbon bands, were all engaged in combating the drink evil. The members there were much interested in the great campaign for No-License in New Zealand, and on a smaller scale were waging the same war in England by annually protesting against the renewal of licenses.

Annual meeting held December. Mrs Don (Dominion President) occupied the chair, and read an apology from the President (Mrs Driver), who was absent through illness. Reports from auxiliary Unions were read.

Port Chalmers—19 members on the roll, and steady progress in all departments of work.

N.E. Valley.—Initiated 17 new members, making 75 on the roll. Two prizes were given to the local school for temperance essays.

S. Dunedin.—30 financial members and 3 honorary members. Meetings were held in different suburbs where there are no Unions—St. Clair, St. Kilda, Caversham, and Anderson's Bay—and much interest aroused.

Alexandra.—A year of quiet, steady work, and a membership of 12.

The Mosgiel branch, a year ago organised with 13, has now increased to 33. During the year ten monthly meetings and two home meetings have been held.

The President of the Band of Hope reports a membership of 82, and a Cradle Roll of 14.

Dunedin Union.—A year of active work. It being election year, it was thought wise to combine with the U.T.R.C. and hold meetings in their rooms. The women of the Dunedin Union gathered over £21 towards the furnishing of the room.

The Superintendent of Home and Suburban Meetings reported that 26 meetings had been held in churches, halls, and homes, at which Mrs Don spoke 24 times. A number of new members were gained. A good sum towards the Fighting Fund.

Sailors' Rest.—The work for the year has been carried on with good success under the able leadership of our missionary, Mr R. Robertson.

One hundred and fifty-two writing pads have been sold. Several letters written to the papers, and tracts distributed re Sabbath Observance. Money sent for Maori work. All meetings regularly reported to the press. The needs of the Sailors' Rest have been kept before the public.

The Secretary's and Treasurer's reports were read and adopted, and hearty votes of thanks passed to Misses Mazengarb and Reed for the able manner in which they had carried out their duties. A special vote of thanks was passed to Mrs Don, who has devoted herself unsparingly to the fight against the drink traffic. The Union regret the loss by death of three members, Mrs Boot, Mrs Booth, and Mrs Hutchinson. Misses Mazengarb and Hayward contributed musical items, and the Executive dispensed afternoon tea. The initiation of four new members and the singing of the Temperance Doxology brought a most enjoyable meeting to a close.

ORUAWHARO.

Jan. 2. I tae au kite Roopu wahine a Oruawhara ite tahi onga ra o Hanuere, kia hui tahi ai matou ite timatanga ote tauhau. Nui atu te pai ote whakahaere o te perehitini, Tuhi Karaka Paikea. Tetehi mea whakamiharo ko te kaha onga taane menga taitamariki kite awhina ite mahi onga wahine. He whakamarama ahau kia ratou mo etehi ano onga tikanga ote Roopu. —I te tea meeting ote roopu o Oruawhara £14 i riro mai hei whakaora ite wharekarakia. Mihi atu matou kinga roopu na ratou i tuku a mai he takoha kite roopu hei awhina ano ki tenei take. Tino hiahia atu ta tatou Etita kia kaha koutou kite tuku ripoata kite "White Ribbon" pepa. Ahakoa torutoru nga kupu, me tuku kite pepa. Kia ora ano koutou i roto ite tau hou. Mate atua tatou e Manaaki.

Maari Woodhead, Kaiwhakahaere.

POUTO.

I tu te hui aie Roopu wahine o Pouto ia Hanuere 2nd, 1915. Na Hori Manukau inoi te timatanga mete mutunga, Perehitini kia ora a nga mema i hui mai i roto ite tau hou ato tatou ariki. Kati kua wareware

tia e tatou tatatou mitini ia nei marama kua taha nei ite wehewehe o nga mema i nga aitua i pa kia tatou io tatou hoa kua wehe atu nei i waenga nui ia tatou i roto hoki ito tatou roopu. Kia taku take kia wnakaturia he Peike hou mo tatou i te mea. Kua riro te Peeke tawhito kia ora tatou Ema-Kia ora i roto ite tauhou i o tatou koa hoki o te Roopu kua weke atu nei ia tatou taihoa ahau, e hoki-ake kite take a te Perehitihi toku hiania kia mahio ahau e Pehe ana nga moni a te roopu i te Peeke ruatahi. Perehitihi ka haere te Peeke ka mea mai kia au e kore e tae a e au te hui hui itemea kua riri ahau mote haere. Hoi ano te moni i tae e 7s, rati tenei taua moni ka tatu ki te teepu. Kote moni e £2 i riro i tuku hoa i te matenga o to mau matua me whakarite tena e maua kia ora. Pepehi kua oti tena moni te whaka aro e matou hei takoha mate roopu ki to matou hoa. Kia kotahi pauna o taua moni hei utu nga mai e ina. Kia mahio ahau kite tuturu tanga o te korero i tenei wahi motana moni Masefield Kena:—Kei takoutou whiriwhiri e te roopu kite takoto kite hea te tatu tanga koia tena rite tonu. Pepehi kati kua rite Motahi Pauna mau e tuku kite Roopu o Otamatea. Hei awhina mamatou itaratou take tautokotia anai. Ema. Taku Peeke hou ko Romi M. Kena Tautokotia ana. Ema E. Pehea ana tatatou toa kia mahio ahau. Pepehi kei te ora te toa kei te hoki hoki Masefield Kena. Kua kite ahau hei te ora te toa kote moni i kohia e rima pauna a e haere nei ana taua moni kote moni i tukua e au hei tiki tanga £7 7s 10d. Ema e Patai ana ahau kite korero a mate makoare. Perehitihi—Kote korero tenei a mate makoare kua puta ai a ito tatou roopu itemea kua haere aia he wahit ke moni awhina. Ema 6d, Perehitihi 6d, Tiare Huti 2s, Hori Mamukau 1s 3d, Mihaka 2s, Whiuwhiu 6d, Pepehi 3d, Kaani 6s, 7s 6d, Moni i tae kite Peeke 7s, 14s. Kua hoatu kite ringa ite Peeke hui kia ora mai ano e nga tuahine i roto i te roopu i te tau hou hoki kia mau, kia u, kia manawanui i te akinga e nga hau e nga ngaru tuatea o te moana nui akiwa e whawhai mai nei o tatou iwi nunui rangatira hoki itera taha oto tatou ao inoi kite matua iona ringa hei tauapatanga atu mo tatou kireira kia aea.

Masefield Kena, Hon. Sec.

Sometimes those who dare to rebel against conventional bondage make life more possible for those whom temperament would compel to submit.

Pleasures of the senses pall on us by repetition, but pleasures of the soul continue and increase. A delicate dish soon wearies the palate, but the power to appreciate a poem, or a picture, grows greater the more we study it.

Correspondence.

(The Editor is not responsible for opinions expressed by correspondents.)

(To the Editor.)

Dear Madam,—As our branches will shortly be discussing the proposed amendments to the Constitution (which will be found upon pages 3 and 4 of the Convention number of "White Ribbon") perhaps, in the interests of the new branches, you will allow me space for a few words of explanation.

1. Miss Dewar to move: "That in the absence from Convention of a District President, the District Treasurer or Secretary shall have a seat on the N.Z. Executive."

If reference is made to the Dominion Constitution, it will be seen that while each of the above officers has a seat in the Convention, the President only is on the Executive, she being a Vice-President of the N.Z. Union. This alteration would ensure each district being represented upon the Executive provided any one of its officers were present.

2. Mrs Scanlon to move: "That any Union finding itself unable . . . to send a delegate to Convention, shall have the power to choose as their representative any member of the W.C.T.U. That the word 'proxy' be obliterated as altogether unnecessary."

To pass this resolution would be to entirely destroy the representative character of the Annual Convention. A delegate is a member of the Union she represents. As such she has been attending its meeting, and knows the mind of her comrades upon any question which has come before them. She is selected by them as a woman in whom they have confidence, and who may be trusted to cast her vote in the right direction. Very often she is not instructed how to vote; indeed, I heard one delegate say at the Gisborne Convention, "I will never again go to Convention with my hands tied."

A proxy, on the other hand, is not a member of the Union which she represents, and therefore must receive instructions as to voting for N.Z. officers, and also as to any amendments to the Dominion Constitution, of which notice has already been given; while on other questions concerning which she has received no instructions she is free to vote according to her convictions. Were this alteration made she would in no sense represent the Union for which she stands as proxy. A delegate is entitled to hospitality; a proxy is not, although all other privileges of Convention are shared by her. No doubt a good many White Ribboners attending the Convention for the first time—as Mrs Scanlon did last year—fail to see the reason of many rules which have been formulated as the result of earnest

thought and considerable experience. When they have attended as many Conventions as some of us they will see things in a different light.

3 (on page 4). Miss Powell to move: "That Organisers have a seat in Convention."

The words "and Organising Treasurers" (which were included in my notice of motion) have somehow been omitted from the "White Ribbon." At present the Constitution provides that "the Organiser and Organising Treasurer shall have a seat in the Convention." As we have both European and Maori, this resolution would correct what was simply an oversight.—Yours in the Work,

MARY S. POWELL,

Dominion Vice-President W.C.T.U.

(To the Editor.)

Dear Madam,—I am glad that so many of our branches are instituting Scientific Temperance competitions, and trust there will be a considerable increase in 1915. So long as Temperance teaching in our schools is not compulsory, we must make the most of the opportunities which are ours. We cannot afford to forget that the school children of to-day will be voters in a few years. No more important work could be undertaken by any Union than educating the children in re the nature and effects of alcohol. Two years ago our branch offered prizes to Standards V. and VI. in the four primary schools in this town. Three schools took part in the competitions. About fifty essays were sent in. This year Standard IV. was included. Instead of essays, sets of questions were supplied. Over 250 sets of answers were sent in. In addition, the High School pupils wrote essays on the wall sheets, reprints of which were supplied by the Union to all the schools. (These reprints are a splendid investment, for they go into so many homes.) We gave one prize to pupils over 16, and one to those under that age. In the senior division, the Dux girl and Gold Medalist won the prize. Just think what it means to have a girl like that educated on the alcohol question! She has also read Sir Victor Horsley's book on "Alcohol and the Human Body," which we presented to the High School Library.

The successful competitors have the privilege and pleasure of choosing their prizes.

The High School prizes were presented by the Hon. James Allen, Minister of Education, at the "breaking-up" ceremony in the Opera House. The others, at the "breaking-up" ceremonies at their respective schools.

Two of the examiners have congratulated the Union on the work we are doing among the children, and expressed their conviction that lasting beneficial results must accrue.—Yours for service,

(Mrs) ELIZABETH RITCHIE,

Supt. S.T. Department.
Palmerston N., 31st Dec., 1914.

OUR BADGE: WHY DO NOT OUR MEMBERS WEAR IT?

(To the Editor.)

At our Ngaere meeting to-day the above question was asked. One member stated that in Wellington she had met but one person with the badge on. Another said, while travelling from Eltham to Ashburton, via Wellington and Lyttelton, she also only met one wearer of the badge. My own experience is worse, for when spending a few days in Auckland, seeing all I could, and attending service at one of our largest Methodist churches, I did not even meet one who wore the badge. Are we shy? or it may be forgetful, but surely not ashamed of showing our colours.—I am, etc.,

L. KENNINGTON.

MAORI ORGANISER'S REPORT.

Kaipara Harbour, Jan. 2, 1915.

On the New Year's Day I took my first long ride over to Oruawhoro, Port Albert, to attend the meeting of the W.C.T.U. there. I visited this place a year ago, and this time a wonderful improvement was in evidence. The President, Mrs Clarke Paikea, handles all the business right, in a very tactful way. One splendid feature was how the men and boys came in and laid down their offerings of money towards the women's fund, showing that they recognise the Union as an instrument of good for them all. I was able, during my visit to these people, to explain to them an error which was in the printed rules. They hope to send in a report for next month's issue. The Otamatea Union succeeded in raising £14 in aid of church repairs during a tea meeting held on Dec. 14. Other Unions are progressing favourably. I am now waiting for a fresh supply of printed rules to send out to the different branches. These we have had to have reprinted, owing to an error in Rule 5. Wishing you all a Prosperous New Year.

FLORENCE WOODHEAD,
Maori Organiser.**WAR AND STRONG DRINK.**

Notice issued by English War Office:—

"Lord Kitchener wishes it to be understood by friends and members of the Expeditionary Force, and by the general public, that no present of cases of wines or spirits can be accepted for the troops at the front, and that no consignments of this nature will be forwarded to them."

Norway has forbidden grain or potatoes to be used for production of beer or brandy, and likewise sale and retail of such spirits is forbidden.

Russia.—"For the first time in the history of mankind, one-seventh part of the habitable globe has gone dry, and 170 millions of people stopped drinking intoxicating drink."—George Kenman, in "The Outlook."

In September, 1914, in spite of war, savings bank deposits in Russia were 1½ million dollars above September, 1913.

"In eastern provinces of Germany the Government has prohibited the sale of all alcoholic liquors. This action has been taken owing to the finding of the court-martial that in almost every instance desertion of the soldiers has been due to drink."—"Union Signal."

Last year five of the United States outlawed the Liquor Traffic. In four of them women had the suffrage. Compare these dates:—

	Women's Suffrage.	Prohibition.
Oregon ...	1912	1914
Washington ...	1910	1914
Colorado ...	1893	1914
Arizona ...	1912	1914
New Zealand ...	1893	(1917?)

Wake up, sisters, and win in 1917. Educate, Organise, Agitate, and Succeed.

WE'LL CONTROL THE UNIVERSE.**Liquor Organ's interpretation of W.C.T.U.**

When the women of America are granted voting privileges of citizenship, we will bury the liquor traffic beneath an avalanche of votes deeper than the foundations of the earth."—Dan A. Poling.

New Zealand women have had voting privileges for 22 years, and they haven't buried the liquor traffic yet.

Last November, Nevada and Montana voted for woman's franchise. The Liquor Trade bitterly opposed this reform, saying woman's suffrage means Prohibition. In Montana, the wettest State in the Union, the official organ of the liquor trade said:—"All saloon men in the State are lining up for a united effort on behalf of their business."

The Moderate League declares Prohibition in the United States a failure. Funny that States are still going dry by large majorities. Last November Colorado went dry with a majority of 11,572; Oregon, majority 36,480; Washington, majority 18,632; Arizona, majority 3144. Do these States think Prohibition a failure?

Fourteen of the United States have outlawed the Liquor Traffic. Maine,

dry for 60 years, had the chance to resubmit the question, but by a good majority decided to keep dry. Still satisfied with Prohibition after 60 years' trial. Who is the best judge as to success of Prohibition: Moderate League of New Zealand, or people who have tried it for 60 years?

Minister's Office, Defence Dept.,

Wellington, 30th September, 1914.

Dear Madam,—

I thank you very much for your letter of the 26th September. I am confident that the prohibition of alcoholic liquor on the troopships, both for the officers and men, is for their benefit, and I hope they will find it so by their own experience.—Yours faithfully,

J. ALLEN.

Sister Moody Bell,

Hon. Secretary of Convention,

Women's Christian Temperance Union, Invercargill.

HOW THEY DID IT.

Asked as to how Arizona won Prohibition, a leading worker says:—"How did we do it? By pulling together. Probably no stronger or more effective factor participated in this campaign than the W.C.T.U. Mrs Gammage, State Organiser, toured the State, organising 16 new Unions, every one of which went immediately into active campaign work."

White Ribboners in this Dominion are well organised and in good fighting trim. During the next three years let us devote our whole energy to the crusade against strong drink. Start at once by every Union sending a delegate to Convention on March 17th. Send along with your delegate suggestions for the coming campaign. Ample time is allowed on Agenda for discussion on plans of work.

When Unions resume meetings, every member, unless from sickness or any unavoidable cause, should be there, full of suggestions, to help forward the work. We have not yet begun to realise what can be done by individual effort. For instance, let every member undertake to gain one new member per annum for the three years. We have not seen our Treasurer's report yet, but we believe that 1914 would close with at least 3000 members. If each of these gained one new member, 1915 would close with 6000 members, 1916 with 12,000 members, and 1917 (election year)

with 24,000. Then if 1916 closed with 12,000 members, the N.Z. Fund would have capitation fees to the value of £300, and that would be available for 1917 campaign. On the basis of 1s per member, the Organising Fund would have £600. Two organisers at least could be constantly in the field. This is not a Utopian dream; it could be done by every member getting one extra member per annum and by each Union paying its assessment of 1s per member to Organising Fund.

Our sisters in the U.S.A. have set their goal for 1915 at 50,000 new members; but then they have a population of over 70 millions, instead of less than two millions. Can we not set our goal as every member one new member per annum?

Then in regard to our paper, if every subscriber could gain one new subscriber per annum, we should close 1915 with over 4100 subscribers, 1916 with 8200, and 1917 with 16,400. If you increase our circulation, the size of the paper will be increased. More space will enable us to furnish you with all the most up-to-date facts on the Temperance and the Woman questions.

A chain is only as strong as its weakest link. May every link in the W.C.T.U. chain ring strong and true. In defence of home and children may we be like the Spartans of old, "every woman a brick." Even if debarred by sickness or heavy home cares from personal activity in the field, we can at least (1) pay our member's fee, (2) take the "White Ribbon" paper, (3) lend our paper to a friend, (4) talk about Union work and temperance activities to everyone who comes near us.

We should not hear of Unions lapsing if every member realised her personal responsibility, and what individual effort can accomplish. It is hard, we know, but the Master never promised that the upward way should be a primrose path of dalliance. Any weakling can drift with the tide; it takes a strong swimmer to breast waves and currents.

White Ribboners are brave and strong; they never give in, and New Zealand White Ribboners will fight this campaign with a spirit that will draw victory from seeming defeat. Beaten in 1914, we intend to fight harder, to work longer hours, to spare no effort, to grudge no sacrifice, till we shout Hallelujah over a victory in 1917.

ORGANISING FUND.

The following amounts have been received for the Organising Fund during the month of December, 1914: 8th, Otautau (Southland) Union, £1 10s; 14th, Masterton Union, 17s; 17th, Auckland District (2nd donation), £1; 17th, Feilding Union, £1 12s; 17th, Nelson Union (2nd donation), £2 10s; 10th, Mrs J. J. Patterson, Manaia (2nd donation), per Mrs Mowlem, £5; 18th, Port Chalmers, 10s; 21st, Hastings Union, £1; 21st, Greymouth Union, £2 16s; 22nd, New Plymouth Union, £4; 24th, Mata Rana (Auckland), 10s; 24th, Port Chalmers, 10s; 28th, N.E. Valley, Dunedin (2nd donation), £2.

ALICE R. C. TAYLOR,

Treas. Organising Fund.

Money orders payable to Alice Taylor.

Address: Mrs H. R. S. Taylor, "Coveney," Balgownie, Wanganui.

WELL DONE!

We have just heard of a worker, over 70 years, who travelled 225 miles, travelling all night, to record her vote, and then went back next day. Worth imitating, such energy.

W.C.T.U.

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WOMEN'S
Christian Temperance Union
Of New Zealand.

Organised 1885.

"For God and Home and Humanity."

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MRS. DON,
 54 Canongate, Dunedin.

VICE-PRESIDENT:

Miss Powell, 15a Ada Street,
 Palmerston North.

RECORDING SECRETARY:

MRS. MITCHELL, Methodist
 Parsonage, Lyttelton.

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY:

MISS HENDERSON, Clifton Hill,
 Sumner, Christchurch.

TREASURER:

MRS. BENDELY, Aratonga Avenue,
 One Tree Hill, Auckland.

Official Organ:

"The White Ribbon."

Editor: Mrs Peryman, Johnsonville,
 Wellington.

Associate Editor: Mrs Evans, M.A.

Business Manager: Mrs Peryman,
 Johnsonville, Wellington.

NOMINATIONS FOR N.Z.
OFFICERS.

Christchurch Union nominates: President, Mrs Don; Corresponding Secretary, Miss Henderson; Recording Secretary, Mrs A. R. Atkinson; Treasurer, Mrs J. Bendely.

The White Ribbon.

For God and Home and Humanity.

MONDAY, JANUARY 18, 1915.

AGENDA.

Thirtieth Annual Convention
 of the

New Zealand Women's Christian
Temperance Union,

To be held in CHRISTCHURCH,
 March 17th to 25th, 1915.

PROGRAMME:

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 17th.

2.45 p.m.—Executive Committee.
 Meeting of N.Z. Officers and Dis-

trict Presidents. World's W.C.T.U.
 Executive. Meeting of New Zealand.

7.30 p.m.—Reception.

THURSDAY, MARCH 18th.

9 a.m.—Convention called to order by the President. Crusade Hymn, "Give to the Winds Thy Fears." Reading of Crusade Psalm responsively.

- 1 Praise ye the Lord,
 Praise the Lord, O my soul;
- 2 While I live will I praise the Lord:
 I will sing praises unto my God
 while I have any being;
- 3 Put not your trust in princes,
 Nor in the son of man, in whom
 there is no help.
- 4 His breath goeth forth, he returneth
 to his earth;
 In that very day his thoughts
 perish.
- 5 Happy is he that hath the God of
 Jacob for his help,
 Whose hope is in the Lord his
 God;
- 6 Which made heaven and earth,
 The sea, and all that in them is;
 Which keepeth truth for ever;
- 7 Which executeth judgment for the
 oppressed;
 Which giveth food to the hungry:
 The Lord looseth the prisoners;
- 8 The Lord openeth the eyes of the
 blind;
 The Lord raiseth up them that are
 bowed down;
 The Lord loveth the righteous;
- 9 The Lord preserveth the strangers;
 He upholdeth the fatherless and
 widow;
 But the way of the wicked He
 turneth upside down.
- 10 The Lord shall reign for ever,
 Thy God, O Zion, unto all generations.
 Praise ye the Lord.

Prayer.

9.45 a.m.—Roll Call. Minutes. Report of Executive Committee. Appointment of Committees on Courtesies, and Resolutions, Convention Letter Writer, and Press Reporters. President's Address.

12 o'clock.—Noontide Prayer. Letters of Sympathy. Miss Dewar's Notice of Motion. Mrs Scanlon's Notice of Motion.

12.30 p.m.—Adjournment.

2 p.m.—Devotions. Corresponding Secretary's Report. Treasurer's Report. Organiser's Report. Organising Treasurer's Report. Miss Powell's Notice of Motion. Miss Henderson's Notice of Motion. Departmental Reports: Maori Work (Mrs Walker), Evangelistic (Mrs

Upton), Home Meetings (Miss Dewar), Mothers' Meetings (Mrs Jones).

5.30 p.m.—Adjournment.

FRIDAY, MARCH 19th.

9.30 a.m.—Devotional Service.

10 a.m.—Roll Call. Minutes. Reports: Unfermented Wine (Mrs Gaskin), Narcotics (Mrs Wright), Literature (Mrs Dearlove), Work Among Seamen (Mrs Whitby), L.T.L. and Cradie Roll (Mrs Neal), Domestic Science (Mrs T. E. Taylor).

12 o'clock.—Noontide Prayer. Press (Mrs Duxfield).

12.30 p.m.—Adjournment.

2 p.m.—Devotions. Roll Call. Resolutions. Reports: Scientific Temperance Instruction (Miss Maunder), Medical Temperance (Mrs Neal), Purity and Moral Education (Dr. Florence Keller), Prison Reform (Sister Moody Bell).

5.30 p.m.—Adjournment.

SATURDAY, MARCH 20th.

9.30 a.m.—Favourite Hymns.

9.45 a.m.—Roll Call. Report of "White Ribbon" Editor. Report of Business Manager. Appointments of Editor, Associate Editor, and Business Manager. Any unfinished business.

12 o'clock.—Noontide Prayer. Resolutions.

12.30 p.m.—Adjournment.

MONDAY, MARCH 22nd.

9.30 a.m.—Devotional Meeting.

9.45 a.m.—Roll Call. Minutes. Reports: Backblocks (Mrs Israel), Thrift (Mrs Flanagan), Hygiene (Mrs McDonald), Sabbath Observance (Mrs Boxall), Good Citizenship (Mrs Judson).

12 o'clock.—Noontide Prayer.

12.30 p.m.—Adjournment.

2 p.m.—Devotions. Plans of Work for 1915, and Discussion of same.

TUESDAY, MARCH 23rd.

9.30 a.m.—Music and Quotations.

9.45 a.m.—Roll Call. Minutes. Reports: Rest and Refreshment Booths (Mrs Howard), Bible-in-Schools (Mrs Houlder), Legal and Parliamentary (Miss Roberts), Notable Days (Mrs Watson).

12 o'clock.—Noontide Prayer. Resolutions.

12.30 p.m.—Adjournment.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 24th.

9.30 a.m.—Devotions.
 9.45 a.m.—Roll Call. Minutes. Reports: Flower Mission and Relief Work (Miss E. C. Cole), Educational Bureau (Miss Powell), Y's and Medal Contests (Mrs Moody), Military Camps (Mrs Mitchell), Anti-Gambling (Miss Roberts), Peace and Arbitration (Mrs Lee-Cowie).
 12 o'clock.—Noon tide Prayer. Resolutions.
 12.30 p.m.—Adjournment.
 2 p.m.—Devotions. Special Consideration of a Forward Movement, "Work among Young People" and "Maori Organising."

THURSDAY, MARCH 25th.

9.30 a.m.—Devotions.
 9.45 a.m.—Roll Call. Minutes. Appointment of Tellers. Election of N.Z. Officers and Superintendents of Departments. Resolutions.
 12 o'clock.—Noontide Prayer. Question Box.
 12.30 p.m.—Adjournment.
 2 p.m.—Devotions. Unfinished Business. Votes of Thanks. Conclusion.

THE UNWED MOTHER TO THE WIFE.

(By Ella Wheeler Wilcox.)

I had been almost happy for an hour,
 Lost to the world that knew me in
 the park
 Among strange faces; while my little
 girl
 Leaped with the squirrels, chirruped
 with the birds,
 And with the sunlight glowed. She
 was so dear,
 So beautiful, so sweet; and for the
 time
 The rose of love, shorn of its thorn
 of shame,
 Bloomed in my heart. Then suddenly
 you passed.
 I sat alone upon the public bench;
 You with your lawful husband rode
 in state;
 And when your eyes fell on me and
 my child,
 They were not eyes, but daggers, poi-
 son tipped.
 God! how good women slaughter with
 a look;
 And like cold steel, your glance cut
 thro' my heart—

Struck every petal from the rose of
 love,
 And left the ragged stalk alive with
 thorns.
 My little one came running to my
 side
 And called me Mother. It was like
 a blow
 Between the eyes; and made me sick
 with pain.
 And then it seemed as if each bird
 and breeze
 Took up the word, and changed its
 syllables
 From Mother into Magdalene; and
 cried
 My shame to all the world.

It was your eyes
 Which did all this. But listen now
 to me
 (Not you alone, but all the barren
 wives
 Who, like you, flaunt their virtue in
 the face
 Of fallen women); I do chance to
 know
 The crimes you think are hidden from
 all men
 (Save one who took your gold, and
 sold his skill
 And jeopardised his name for your
 base ends).
 I know how you have sunk your souls
 in sense
 Like any wanton; and refused to bear
 The harvest of your pleasure-planted
 seed;
 I know how you have crushed the
 tender bud
 Which held a soul; how you have
 blighted it.
 And made the holy miracle of birth
 A wicked travesty of God's design;
 Yea, many buds, which might be
 blossoms now
 And beautify your selfish, arid life,
 Have you destroyed because you chose
 to keep
 The aimless freedom and the purpose-
 less
 Self-seeking liberty of childless wives.

I was an untaught girl. By nature
 led,
 By love and passion blinded. I be-
 came
 An unwed mother. You, an honoured
 wife,
 Refuse the crown of motherhood;
 defy

The laws of nature, and fling baby
 souls
 Back in the face of God. And yet
 you dare
 Call me a sinner and yourself a
 saint;
 And all the world smiles on you,
 and its doors
 Swing wide at your approach. I
 stand outside.
 Surely there must be higher courts
 than earth,
 Where you and I will some day meet
 and be
 Weighed by a larger Justice?

INDECENT LITERATURE.

Last month a decision of vital interest to all workers for Social Purity and Moral Education was given in the Magistrate's Court, Wellington. A pamphlet had been issued warning young men and women of the pitfalls spread for them. The police prosecuted under the Indecent Publications Act, and though the Magistrate held that the writer's motives had been good, he fined him £15. The Magistrate held that it was not the function of religious bodies to give moral education. Perhaps His Worship thought it was the duty of parents to give this knowledge. If so, we agree with him; but the fact remains that our cities are full of wrecks of young manhood and womanhood, who struck upon rocks which their parents knew of and refused to warn them about. When parents will not perform their duty, is any religious or social worker who attempts to warn young people to be liable to prosecution and fine? We have had cases of young girls taken for "joy rides," given liquor, and left in the streets dazed. Why, then, should it be an offence to warn these young girls that these things are done? "Men love darkness rather than light, because their deeds are evil." There is nothing the seducer, the procurer, and all of that class dread so much as the light of publicity upon their actions. If this decision stands, any writer exposing the white slave trader and his partners, and warning the unwary of his methods, may be harassed by police, taken to Court, and heavily fined if a Magistrate chooses to think the warning an indecent publication.

**PALMERSTON NORTH W.C.T.U.
SCIENTIFIC TEMPERANCE
COMPETITIONS.**

**PRIZE ESSAY, SENIOR DIVISION,
HIGH SCHOOL.**

**"EFFECTS OF ALCOHOL ON THE
BODY."**

(Essay written by Ivy Willis, Dux Girl and Gold Medallist, 1914.)

Alcohol belongs to the class of drugs known as narcotics, which are stimulating for a short time, and depressing for a longer time. Alcohol is just as much a poison as are opium, strychnine, and chloroform.

Alcohol has a great affinity for water. If substances, such as meat and vegetables, which contain water, are soaked in alcohol, they lose this water, and become tough and hard. Thus, the presence of alcohol in the stomach makes the work of digestion more difficult, and this tends to the imperfect nourishment of the body.

If we consider, in detail, the organs of the body, and how each is affected, we find, first, that the stomach is affected to a great extent, even if alcohol is taken in small quantities. The effect of alcohol on the stomach is to cause an excessive flow of digestive juice, which is of no use to a healthy individual. This juice is wasted in the absence of food to digest. Acute inflammation may result from the excessive use of alcohol.

Another very important digestive organ which becomes affected is the liver. The liver will become slow, congested, and torpid, and will not, consequently, carry out its proper functions. The liver may ultimately harden and shrivel, thus offering great resistance to the passage of blood through it.

The lungs become affected, and offer less resistance to disease germs. Thus affection of the lungs may become a very serious matter. In conjunction with the effect on the lungs, let us consider the effect of alcohol on the heart and on the circulation. The pumping powers of the heart are temporarily strengthened, but permanently weakened. The heart becomes unduly dilated, and fat tends to be deposited about the muscles of the heart, and thus the muscles become partly paralysed. The functions of the circulatory system are impaired; the waste products are not

properly removed, nor are the waste tissues repaired.

The white corpuscles in the blood help us by fighting against germs of disease. These corpuscles are so effectually damaged by the use of alcohol that they lose this function. The oxidising properties of the red corpuscles are seriously impaired by the action of alcohol.

Owing to excess of alcohol, the kidneys lose their filtering power. Various serious ailments, even to Bright's disease, are the result.

Alcohol has a very bad effect on the brain. The brain becomes so diseased that it can no longer receive impressions or form ideas. It is an appalling fact that prolonged indulgence in alcohol leads to insanity and to paralysis.

Von Moltke, the distinguished German leader, has declared that "Beer is a far more dangerous enemy to Germany than all the armies of France." Excessive use of alcohol, as it were, saps the very strength out of man; consequently, a nation whose men are constitutionally ruined by the curse of drink becomes inferior to a nation whose men are sober, stalwart, and steadfast. We should, then, strive to keep our Dominion as free from the drink evil as possible, so that we may continue to be worthy sons of grand old mother England.

**PRIZE ESSAY, JUNIOR DIVISION,
HIGH SCHOOL.**

(Essay written by Eric Horn,
age 13½ years.)

Drinks such as beer, wine, and spirits, which contain a large amount of alcohol, are not health-giving, as milk or water are. They do not help the growth of the body, but they make a person much more liable to disease. Navvies working in England who are temperance men do more work in less time than those who drink. What does this show? That drink lessens the power of endurance. Alcoholic drinks should not be taken in any shape or form, except by a doctor's express orders. Then, we may ask, if drink so confuses one's brain and lessens the power to endure hardships, why do people drink? Because drink creates an almost irresistible desire for more. It does not quench thirst, but creates it. Many a fellow has been asked by a friend to have "just one

glass," and has not had the courage to say "No." That one glass may lead to his downfall, and to his becoming a confirmed drunkard. The old proverb, "Look not on the wine when it is red in the cup, for at last it stingeth like an adder," is too true.

Persons who drink become unhealthy, and the craving for drink becomes stronger. Once a man is in the grip of drink, he might as well be in the grip of his deadliest enemy, for he will have the greatest struggle of his life to get free from its clutch. A teetotal person who receives a serious wound has much more chance of life than a heavy drinker, because drinks which contain alcohol destroy, rather than create, good blood. The money which a man spends on his glass of beer could buy him bread, containing 15oz. of heat-giving food, and 2½oz. of flesh-forming food, and he will be much healthier in consequence.

Now let us see what other evils are caused by drink. Everyone admits that more than half the crimes which are committed are due to drinking. Drink also is the very pathway to consumption, cancer, and inflammation of the lungs, the worst kind of diseases from which a person can suffer.

If drinks containing alcohol, in whatever quantity, small or great, were taken out of the world, how much we should benefit by it! But, we may perhaps ask, what will we have for stimulants? The ordinary person does not need any stimulant, and if any are wanted, fruit forms a far better one than alcohol.

Let us for a moment look into a drunkard's home. What do we see there? The terrible and degrading effect of drink on man. Broken tables, chairs, cups and saucers; dirty rags are worn for clothing by the children, and beer stains are on everything! Children and mothers are crying out for bread to a drunken father, who spends all his money in the public-house! Yet when polling day comes, people go and vote for Continuance of this business, and believe themselves right in doing so! When the Territorials were in town a while ago, 40 of them were arrested for drunkenness, and yet people say that this trade does no harm! Let them use their eyes, and they will see examples of its harmfulness all around them.

A PAGE FOR Y's.

A GIRL'S INFLUENCE.

By Annie M. Vail.

(Continued.)

Mabel waited in vain, and finally went to the meeting after ten o'clock, her thoughts full of icy cars and broken rails and ghastly burdens so often brought home to that "division town," its railroad graves outnumbering by far those of promoted soldiers.

Lizzie Clifford relieved her anxiety. Ed. had been in to supper; then she was certain he had found some urgent opportunity of doing good. It was the sister who was uneasy now, with the thought of what might be the matter. She slipped out at once, and went home to find if there was any news of him.

It was a spree of more than usual magnitude. It began with larking about the streets with old comrades, whom he still found amusing. An uproar in a saloon over a turkey raffle drew them all in to see what was the excitement. It was a drunken crowd, and right away complications arose, which made it seem for the moment the easiest thing to take the drink offered and get away.

He might have stopped then, but the instant it was done he felt he had renounced everything. Mabel's power, all he had based his claim on, had not held him.

"Farewell, Paradise!" he cried, hoarsely, his voice lost in the hubbub of unmeaning laughter and howls and curses. He drank repeatedly, and—"Come on, boys," he was the leader of the van in a foray to "paint the town." Before the watch-meeting was over, a company of drunken men and reckless women were behind the bars to await the proceedings of the Police Court.

There was no morning paper. Alice came to Mabel and told her, gently but unsparingly. "I thank God this has happened," she said. "The Lord can save him yet, but you see you can not."

Mabel was terribly overcome. There was sense of loss, and sickening disgust and shame. Her condescension suddenly appeared to her as it had to others. "Oh, Alice, where did I do wrong? Should I never have spoken to him, when he seemed so wrought upon, and I

thought it might be the turning point?"

"No, dear, that was right, I am sure. It was when he made it such a personal matter—there was the danger. If you had shared the responsibility and the friendship—I don't mean to blame you." And Alice took the shrinking little figure in her arms, and dropped tears on her bright head. The lesson was so hard.

"Alice," she weakly whispered, "will it be right to abandon him now for one misstep?"

"My child," said Alice, "if he could do as he has now, with so much at stake, what will restrain him when he has no fear of losing you? He must have a surer anchorage than the influence of the girl he wants to please."

"They will say I might have saved him."

"Perhaps; but, my child, the sacrifice is not yours to make. Listen, Mabel, what does wifehood mean? It means motherhood. Have you any right to bring on innocent children the consequences of drunkenness and licentiousness?"

"Thank you, Alice, I thought perhaps I must go on, and I did not see how I could."

Clifford's fine was a heavy one. He would have had to lie in gaol if Mabel had not privately sent the money. The transaction was fatal to any lingering touch of sentiment. He made no plea, and left town at once. His first month's pay was sent to cancel the obligation. Afterward, Mabel knew he could not be doing very badly, since she learned from Lizzie that he sent money home regularly.

It was a heavy time for Mabel. Those who criticised before blamed her now. She was thoroughly humiliated; the place seemed intolerable to her. The opportunity came to her and Alice to take with friends a European tour, and they went gladly.

I cannot interest you in Mabel's later history. It leads through pleasant paths, and finds her the centre and inspiration of that only earthly paradise, a perfect home. Not quite so slight and girlish, but lovelier than ever, one New Year's morning found her playing gleefully with her crowing, laughing, dimpled babies, when a letter was brought in.

With a touch of the old dramatic instinct, the writer had used his knowledge of trains and mail delivery to

insure its reaching its destination on that particular day.

Mabel studied the commercial college handwriting of the superscription without enlightenment, but a glance at the signature carried her back almost too strongly to that experience whose recollection had made her more and more the friend and teacher of young girls, a receiver of confidences and counsellor in difficulties. That very afternoon she was to matronise a bevy of them while receiving at the cosy "Y" headquarters down town.

It was a reassuring letter, a little highflown, as in the "guardian spirit" and "guiding star" days.

"I would not have you think I did not suffer," he wrote. "The thought of all my folly had cost me was terrible, but I comprehended after a time that it had been too wild a dream. Miss Santly wrote me a letter about that time, which made me fighting mad at first, but it told me what was what. I couldn't have kept up to your mark. I want you to know that your goodness did help me, and the revival was not lost on me. I never gave up altogether. I belong to the church. I trust I am now a humble Christian."

He told her, besides, that he had risen to the proud position of passenger conductor, and was saving money for a home. He thought, perhaps he knew, the "presiding goddess" might be pretty and better educated than he was, "but he knew too much now to get his eye on a college-bred girl he couldn't keep in sight of."

The letter told her what he had too good taste to say outright, that she need not reproach herself with the thought that his disappointment had done him any lasting harm.

"That takes every bit of conceit out of me," she thought, smiling happily, for she had entertained such haunting thoughts.

She looked at the letter, with its schoolboy penmanship, stilted diction, and occasional misspelt word, and glanced with a little shudder through the portiere, where at the library table sat the genial, cultured gentleman, her husband, the ideal of her inmost soul, with whom every taste and faculty was in fullest accord. Just then he looked up.

"From my old protege," she said, waving the letter gaily. "He is promoted, and has found a presiding goddess."

(The End.)

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Superintendents' Letters.

L.T.L. AND BAND OF HOPE.

Dear Fellow-Workers,—

The World's Superintendent of the Mercy Department has sent to our President a package of leaflets dealing with the work of this department. Mrs Don is greatly interested in this, and has asked me to appeal to those of you who work among the young people to try to form Bands of Mercy in connection with L.T.L.'s and Bands of Hope.

In America it is usual to have a Band of Mercy in connection with each L.T.L. (see L.T.L. Handbook, page 35), which reads thus:—"Make one of the boys or girls a superintendent of the Band of Mercy. 'The Young Crusader' and 'Our Dumb Animals' will supply them with many incidents about pets and animals generally, and give them lessons in kindness to animals."

The following are extracts from the World's Report of the Mercy Department:—

"Africa.—In the Wesleyan Sunday School, Mercy literature is taken in rotation with other selections in the half-hour preceding the regular exercises, and has had a most beneficial influence."

"Canada.—In St. Thomas fountains and watering troughs have been erected, and 1000 children have signed the Mercy pledge. Seven medals were awarded for humane essays, 500 children competing. Five addresses were given in Sunday Schools, and five prizes given for the highest number of Scripture passages showing God's care for animals."

Mercy contests were also held in Japan, the prizes being "Humane books."

The police are helpful in enforcing the laws against cruelty, but the Superintendent says: "Teaching mercy in the schools and giving instruction through the newspapers are more effective than police work." She

has offered prizes throughout the Empire for essays on Mercy.

"In the Philippines there is an immense Band of Mercy. A law has been enacted prohibiting the docking of horses' tails, and the importation of horses so treated."

I could quote more, such as where superintendents have worked to get children and animals into homes, have protested against and helped to abolish bull fights, worked to get legislation passed protecting birds, etc., but have striven to point out how the Mercy Department may be worked among the children of the L.T.L.'s, Bands of Hope, and the Sunday Schools.

Will superintendents kindly write to me for Mercy leaflets, also for L.T.L. Handbook, and sample copy of "The Young Crusader." These I will forward post free.

Trusting that many Unions will decide to form a Band of Mercy, and to adopt the suggestions given.—Yours for God, Home, and Humanity,

CLARA M. NEAL,

Dominion Supt. L.T.L.

"Trocadero," Pahiataua.

EDUCATIONAL BUREAU.

Dear Sisters,—Kindly make a note of the fact that all papers belonging to above department should be returned without delay, not to me, but to Mrs Young, No. 4 Line, Fitzherbert West, Manawatu, who has kindly taken over the work until the Convention. All reports not already forwarded should be sent to me promptly at address given below.—Yours in the work,

M. S. POWELL,

Supt. Educational Bureau.

St. Clair, Dunedin.

TAKE NOTICE.

Will N.Z. Superintendents of Departments please remember that their reports must reach "White Ribbon" office not later than January 31st, in order that they may be printed in time for Convention.

ORGANISER'S REPORT.

Dear Sisters,—Ngaere meetings being over, I hastened back to Manaia, and started right away visiting, securing in one day seven new members for the Union, and having good talks with the people. My heart was saddened as I visited home after home where drink has made sad havoc. We had hoped, in spite of fears, that many a home would have been made brighter and purer as the result of last poll, but in spite of all our effort the deadly traffic goes on doing its devilish work, legalised by our Government and its people. One feels that the Women's Christian Temperance Union justifies its existence, if only to unite to help fight for these homes and the wives and mothers who bear patiently "for the children's sake" these trials caused through this infamous trade.

Visited again Kapuni, when two more new members were initiated. My last meeting before the poll was with the Executive of the Union. A full membership had gathered to talk over ways and means of furthering the work of the W.C.T.U., and a profitable time was spent. I then returned to Auckland in time to help in the strenuous duties of polling day. The following week had the pleasure of visiting the Auckland District Union. And now my term of office is brought to a close, and Miss Powell again takes on her duties. To all I wish to express my gratitude for assistance given in placing vehicles and drivers at my disposal, and in the countless acts of kindness received from all with whom I have come in contact. I shall ever watch with interest the growth and development of the various Unions and the work achieved by our W.C.T.U. Praying that though delayed, we may yet see the object of our desire, the abolition of the drink traffic. Wishing you all the very best of years through the new one just entered upon.—Sincerely yours in fellow service,

ALICE L. MOWLEM.

The "White Ribbon" will be posted to any address on receipt of 2s 6d, payable to Mrs Peryman, Johnsonville.

W.C.T.U., CAPE PROVINCE, SOUTH AFRICA.

The White Ribboners of the Cape Province were much disappointed at not being able to hold their annual Convention this year, owing to the outbreak of the European war, and the consequent unsettled state of the country. It had been decided to meet at Alice, in the Eastern Districts, in September, and the Convention was to be a very special one, it being the twenty-fifth anniversary of the founding of the W.C.T.U. in South Africa, and also the Alice Union hoped to celebrate its twenty-first birthday. The disappointment was therefore very keen when the general officers decided, under the existing circumstances of war, and unrest, to cancel all arrangements for holding Convention. Later on, however, it was decided to call together a larger Executive Committee than the usual quarterly one, in order that the reports of officers and superintendents, which had been prepared for Convention, could be read and adopted, the President's address given, and other urgent matters settled. This Committee met in Capetown on November 5th and 6th, the session of the first day being open to the public and the members of the local branches. Miss Emilie J. Solomon occupied the chair, and the opening devotional services were conducted by Mrs Wm. Abbott, acting-Superintendent of the Evangelistic Department. This service was followed by the reading of the "Declaration of Principles" by the President, while all stood.

The reports of the Corresponding Secretary and the two "Y" Secretaries were then submitted, all being of an encouraging nature, and telling of an increased membership.

Following on these reports was the annual address given by the President, Miss Solomon. This address was a review of the twenty-five years' growth of the organisation in South Africa. Miss Solomon recalled how in 1889 a frail little woman had visited South African shores. Mrs Mary Clement Leavett had come from America on her "all round the world tour," in order to extend an invitation to all women to join the White Ribbon movement, which had worked such wonders in her own land. Before the visit of Mrs Leavett there had existed one Union at Woodstock, organised by Mrs Denholm as a result

of a visit to America some time previously, but this branch had been affiliated directly with the World's W.C.T.U. Miss Solomon then sketched the story of the Women's Crusade as told by Mrs Leavett in Capetown on June 19th, 1889, which came as a "bugle call to many, causing them to see neglected duty and bidding them be up and doing." The story, Miss Solomon said, was told with all the earnestness of an enthusiast, and many responded to her invitation to join the mighty army of White Ribbon women. Thus began the work in the Cape Province, and in 1890 the first Convention was held, over which Miss Ferguson, of the Huguenot Seminary, presided. Miss Virginia Pride was elected President. This Convention only lasted three hours. Two important matters were accomplished. The members solemnly banded themselves together, and formed the W.C.T.U. of Cape Colony. At this Convention, too, a delegate was appointed to the first World's Convention, held in Boston in 1891. Miss Solomon then referred to the many activities of the Union, speaking at length on the various vicissitudes of the White Ribbon magazine, started as "Y's and Otherwise," and edited for many years by Miss Anna Cummitgs.

A warm and loving tribute was paid to the workers and organisers from other lands who had done so much for South Africa, Mrs Andrews and Dr. Kate Bushnell, Miss Alice Palmer, Miss Jessie Ackermann, the Misses Vincent and Cummins, and Miss Agnes Slack, all of whom had done much to build up the W.C.T.U. in South Africa. Mrs Fehr, Mrs John Brown, and Mrs Hartnoll were also affectionately remembered.

Miss Solomon spoke feelingly of several noble comrades of the early days, some of whom were removed to higher service, while many were still among the active workers, and a tender tie bound these to one another.

Though in South Africa no sensational developments, such as America had witnessed, can be recorded, we can rejoice in a steady growth of Temperance sentiment throughout the country, and the W.C.T.U. can claim a large share of thus educating public opinion. We have done much to secure a more general observance of Temperance Sunday. We initiated the movement against the sale of liquor in Defence Force camps, and

it was in our Union that the spade work was done which resulted in the establishment of the Duxhurst Home for Inebriate Women.

In concluding this very comprehensive address, Miss Solomon earnestly appealed to her fellow-comrades to reconsecrate themselves to this sacred calling.

The reports of the superintendents were extremely interesting, and showed progress in many directions.

AN APPEAL TO BRITISH WOMEN.

While we contemplate with deepest grief the heavy cloud of war hanging over the Continent of Europe, yet we feel thankful for the many gleams of brightness, which show that even this cloud has a silver lining. The splendid willingness to help shown right throughout the Empire, and the energy and ability brought to bear upon the problem of relief, seem to us to give promise of a glorious noon-tide, when the mists of early morning have cleared away.

We admire the patriotism that inspires men to volunteer for the defence of their country; we glory in the heroism which they display upon the battleship and in the trenches; but especially to us appeal the sufferings of the wives and children. Apart from Belgian women and children refugees in England rendered homeless and friendless by war, many English women and children are in dire need. Shops and offices have reduced their staffs, many are out of work, or working half-time, and no wages means starvation. To the rescue have hastened the Women's Suffrage Societies, well organised and splendidly equipped, and are hourly demonstrating that if they don't get the vote, at least they richly deserve it. They are establishing depots where milk for babies can be had. They are providing work for the workless at a minimum wage of 10s per week. The Actresses' Franchise League has started work in a direction which will be of permanent national value, viz., the cultivation of waste ground for the production of food-stuffs and the utilisation of surplus food. Miss Carey, of the Actresses' Franchise League, has secured the control of the tons of unsold meat, vegetables, fruit and fish which has hitherto been de-

stroyed daily, and also of the unused cooked food which in great hotels and restaurants, and in wealthy private houses, has hitherto been thrown away. In every part of London depots have been set up, and women and girls are cooking and distributing this food. Women of professional class thrown out of work are employed in cultivating waste places and hitherto unused spaces of land. Our sisters in the Motherland are doing splendid service for the needy and suffering, and they ask us to help by sending financial support.

Miss Harriet Newcomb, Hon. Sec. B.D.W.S.U., appeals to the women of our Dominion to send all the help they can. Our vast Empire is one, and when the very heart of our Empire is struck down with suffering to the remotest part, we feel it. Our Dominion is safe, and sheltered behind the living ramparts of the allied armies and the steel walls of the British Navy. Let these defences be overcome, and the fate of Belgium awaits even this far off Dominion. Our sisters are bearing the burden. Let us send all the help we can. The smallest contribution is heartily welcomed, and may be sent to Miss Harriet C. Newcomb, care International Women's Franchise Club, 9, Grafton Street, Piccadilly, London, W.

SCIENTISTS BRAND ALCOHOL AS POISON.

Text of Resolutions adopted by the National Convention of Alienists and Neurologists, in session at the Hotel La Salle, Chicago:—

Whereas, in the opinion of the meeting of alienists and neurologists of the United States, in convention assembled, it has been definitely established that alcohol, when taken into the system, acts as a definite poison to the brain and other tissues, and that the effects of this poison are directly or indirectly responsible for a large proportion of the insane, epileptic, feeble-minded, and other forms of mental, moral, and physlocal degeneracy; and

Whereas the laws of many States make alcohol freely available for drinking purposes, and therefore cater to the physical, mental and moral degradation of the people, and many hospitals for the insane and

other public institutions are now compelled to admit and care for a multitude of inebriates, and many States have already established separate colonies for the treatment and re-education of such inebriates, with great benefit to the individuals and to the Commonwealth; therefore, be it

Resolved, That we unqualifiedly condemn the use of alcoholic beverages, and recommend that the various State Legislatures take steps to eliminate such use, and that we recommend the general establishment by all States and Territories of special colonies or hospitals for the care of inebriates; and

Resolved, That organised science should initiate and carry on a systematic, persistent propaganda for the education of the public regarding the deleterious effects of alcohol; and be it further

Resolved, That the medical profession take the lead in securing adequate legislation to the ends herein specified.—"Union Signal."

Do a thing—don't talk about it! This is the secret of success in any enterprise. Talk means discussion; discussion means irritation; irritation means opposition; and opposition means hindrance, whether you are right or wrong.

ASHBURTON, 2nd Tuesday, 3 p.m., in Baring Street Schoolroom; Pres., Mrs W. K. Watson, Box 37; Rec. Sec., Mrs J. H. Dent, 112 Wills St. W.; Cor. Sec., Mrs E. Buchanan, Wills St. W.; Treas., Mrs W. T. Lill, Willowby; "W.R." Supt., Miss Butterick, Wakanui.

AUCKLAND District, 2nd & 4th Wednesday, 3 p.m., Central Mission Hall, Albert St.; Executive meets 2.30; Pres., Mrs Pudney, Wallace St., Ponsonby; Cor. Sec., Miss N. Dewar, Pompallier Terr., Ponsonby; Rec. Sec., Miss Evans, G.F.S., Wellesley Street; Treas., Miss Dewar, 4 Pompallier Terr., Ponsonby; WHITE RIBBON Agent, Mrs Gouk, Wallace St., Ponsonby.

BLenheim District, 1st Tuesday, 3 p.m.; Pres., Mrs Grace, the Vicarage; Sec., Mrs Gordon Litchfield, "Glenalvon"; Treas., Mrs. Hay; Mothers' Meetings and Cradle Roll, Mesdames Brewer and Handcock; WHITE RIBBON Supt., Mrs W. Parker.

CAMBRIDGE, first Tuesday in month, in Victoria Hall, at 3 p.m.; Pres., Mrs W. D. Shepherd; Sec., Mrs A. T. Watson; Treas., Mrs Minchin.

CHRISTCHURCH DISTRICT, rooms corner Manchester and Worcester Streets. Second and fourth Wednesday; Pres., Mrs I. McCombs, Fendalton; Cor. Sec., Mrs R. Day, Milford St. St. Albans; Rec. Sec., Mrs B. Whyte, Warrington St., St. Albans; Treas., Mrs Seed, 44 Brittan Street, Linwood; WHITE RIBBON Supt., Mrs Williams, 21 Philip Street, Linwood.

DANNEVIRKE, 2nd Wednesday, Wesleyan Schoolroom, 3 p.m.; Pres., Mrs W. F. Knight, Tahoraiti; Sec., Mrs Stokoe, Allardice St.; Treas., Miss Burdett, the Manse.

DEVONPORT, Fourth Thursday, Wesleyan Schoolroom, 3 p.m.; Pres., Mrs G. H. Mann, Parsonage, Church St., Devonport, Auckland; Vice-Pres., Mrs Veats, Hurstmere Rd., Takapuna; Sec., Mrs A. Little, 31 Church St.; Treas., Miss Le Roy, Waterview Rd., Stanley Bay.

DUNEDIN District, 1st Tuesday, Congregational Church Hall, Moray Place, 8 p.m.; Pres., Mrs H. H. Driver, "The Chalet," Newington; Cor. Sec., Miss Nicol, 16 William St.; Rec. Sec., Miss Mazengarb, 362 George St.; Treas., Miss Winnie Reed, Bishopscourt, Roslyn; Supt. Sailors' Rest, Mrs Pearson, corner Union and Castle Streets; Supt. WHITE RIBBON and Writing Pads, Mrs Anderson, 32 Duke St.; Press Cor., Miss L. Neil, 5 Park St.

FEILDING, 1st Thursday, 3 p.m., St. Paul's Hall; Pres., Miss Moore, c/o Mr W. H. Bain, Feilding; Rec. Sec., Mrs Burnley, Glasgow Ter.; Cor. Sec., Mrs J. C. Thompson, Denbigh St.; Treas., Mrs Williamson, The Hill; "W.R." Agent, Mrs Burnley; Railway Box, Mrs Shearer.

CISBORNE District, last Tuesday, 2.45 p.m., Presbyterian Schoolroom; Pres., Mrs A. Graham, Kaiti; Sec., Mrs N. F. Walker, Fox St.; Treas., Mrs Goffe, Ormond Rd.; WHITE RIBBON Supt., Mrs J. Stewart.

GREYMOUTH District, last Tuesday, at 3 p.m., in Sailors' Rest Hall; Pres., Mrs Gaskin; Sec., Mrs J. Hayes, Tainui St.; Treas., Mrs Sweetman.

HAMILTON District, First Thursday, Wesley Class Rooms, 2.30 p.m.; Pres., Mrs J. M. Jones, Clandelands; Sec., Mrs H. W. Milner, Clandelands; Treas., Mrs J. P. Masen, Hamilton.

HASTINGS, 2nd Wednesday, St. Andrew's Hall, 3 p.m.; Pres., Mrs Martindale, Raureka, Southland Rd.; Vice-Pres., Mesdames Boyle, Ramsay, Wallis, Clapham, and Barbour; Rec. Sec., Miss Ford, 206 Lyndon Rd.; Cor. Sec., Miss Manson, Mahora; Treas., Mrs Barbour, Karama Rd.; Purity and Evangelistic, Mesdames Clapham and Stewart; Maori Supt., Miss McKeown; "W.R." Supt., Mrs Griffiths.

HUNTLY, 3rd Wednesday, Presbyterian and Methodist Churches alternately, 2 p.m.; Pres., Mrs Butler; Vice-Pres., Mesdames Sheeran and Edmunds; Sec., Mrs Gleeson; Treas., Mrs Leather.

INVERCARGILL District, 1st Tuesday, 3 p.m. and 7.30 alternately, Allen's Hall; Pres., Mrs J. Mackenzie, North End; Vice-Pres., Mrs Baird, Mrs C. H. Macalister, Mrs H. Lee-Cowie; Sec., Sister Moody Bell, Amethyst Hall; Assistant Sec., Mrs T. W. Walker, Crinan St.; Treas., Mrs Hunter, 110 Don St.; "W.R." Agent, Mrs Hunter, 110 Don St.

KAIAPOI W.C.T.U. COFFEE ROOMS, open daily. Union meets second and last Wednesday, 3 p.m. Pres., Mrs Brighting; Sec., Miss Blackwell, "The Willows"; Treas., Mrs T. G. Blackwell; WHITE RIBBON Supt., Mrs Ward.

KAIKORAI, last Friday in month, Presbyterian Hall, Kaitorai; Pres., Mrs Pinfold, Meth. Parsonage; W.R. Agent, Mrs Somerville; Treas., Mrs Martin; Sec., Mrs Hamilton; Cradle Roll, Miss Osborne.

LYTTELTON, 1st Wednesday, Methodist Schoolroom; Pres., Mrs Whitby; Sec., Mrs Bromley; Treas., Mrs Clark; "W.R." Agent, Miss Elsie Clark, "Waratah," W. Lyttelton.

MANAIA, 2nd Friday, Methodist Church; Pres., Mrs J. J. Patterson; Vice-Pres., Mesdames Prackinson and Hunt; Treas., Miss York; Sec., Miss Craig; Cradle Roll, Miss Ricketts; "W.R." Supt., Mrs Hunt.

MASTERTON, 1st Tuesday, Knox Hall, 3 p.m.; Pres., Mrs Devonport; Sec., Mrs M. Flanagan, 4 Cole St.; Treas., Mrs Sutherland; WHITE RIBBON Supt., Mrs Russell.

MATAKANA, 3rd Thursday, Presbyterian Church, 2.30 p.m.; Pres., Mrs W. Smith; Vice-Pres., Mrs Eyton; Sec., Mrs E. Roke; Treas., Mrs A. Roke; Cradle Roll, Mrs Eyton; "W.R." Agent, Miss Tindall.

NAPIER District, 1st Wednesday and 3rd Thursday, Willard Institute, Carlyle Street, 3 p.m.; Pres., Mrs Fossey, Nelson Crescent; Rec. Sec., Mrs Clatworthy; Cor. Sec., Mrs Ingram, Cameron Rd.; Treas., Mrs Dearlove, Lincoln Rd.; Legal and Parliamentary, Mrs Dodds; Home Meetings, Mrs Ball; Purity, Mrs Oldham; "W.R." Supt., Mrs Dearlove.

NGARUAWAHIA, 1st Tuesday, 2.30 p.m., Presbyterian Church; Pres., Mrs Bycroft; Vice-Pres., Mrs Bell; Sec., Mrs W. A. Porter; Treas., Mrs Morris; Supt. Cradle Roll and W.R., Mrs Kendall.

NEW PLYMOUTH District, last Wednesday, 3 p.m., Good Templar Lodge-room; Pres., Mrs Allan Douglas, Pendarves St.; Sec., Miss Ambury, Gover St.; Treas. and WHITE RIBBON Agent, Miss Taunt, Victoria Rd.

NORSEWOOD, 3rd Wednesday, 2 p.m.; Pres., Miss Campbell; Vice-Pres., Mrs Oliver; Sec., Miss A. E. Olsen, "Willow Park"; Treas., Mrs S. Frederickson; "W.R." Agent, Miss M. Olsen, "Willow Park."

NELSON District, 2nd Tuesday, Methodist Schoolroom, 3 p.m.; Pres., Miss Atkinson, Fairfield; Sec., Mrs Knapp, Alfred St.; Treas., Mrs A. Brown, Weka St.; "W.R." Agent, Mrs Whitford, Mount St.

OPOTIKI, 2nd Thursday, St. John's Hall, 3 p.m.; Pres., Mrs J. G. Murray; Sec., Mrs J. R. Sinclair; Treas. and Supt. "W.R.," Mrs Holman, Otara; Supt. L.T.L., Mrs Goodall; Cradle Roll, Mrs Pearson.

OXFORD, last Wednesday, 2.30 p.m., Coronation Hall; Pres., Mrs G. Ryde; Cooper's Creek Sec., Mrs Comyns, East Oxford; Treas., Miss Caverhill; "W.R." Supt., Mrs D. Hawke; Cradle Roll Supt., Mrs Gainsford, senr.

PALMERSTON N. DISTRICT, 1st Friday, St. Andrew's Schoolroom, 3 p.m.; Pres., Mrs Crabb, Fitzherbert St.; Cor. Sec., Mrs Hills, Cuba St.; Rec. Sec., Mrs Hodder, 46 Ferguson St.; Treas., Mrs Clausen, Cook St.; WHITE RIBBON Supt., Mrs Holbrook, 41 Waldegrave St.

PETONE, 1st Tuesday, Church of Christ, Sydney St., 3 p.m.; Pres., Mrs Rowse, Udy St.; Vice-Pres., Miss Kirk, Mesdames Corner and McPherson; Sec., Mrs Burd, 37 Cuba St.; Treas., Mrs Donoghue; Cradle Roll, Miss Peach; Flower Mission, Mrs McPherson; Home Meetings, Mrs Ashby; WHITE RIBBON Agent, Mrs Wilson; Literature, Mrs James.

PONSONBY, 2nd Thursday, 2.30 p.m., Queen's Hall, Paget St.; Pres., Miss Caley; Vice-Pres., Mrs C. I. Harris and Dr. Keller; Sec. and "W.R." Agent, Mrs S. A. Plummer, Coronation Rd., Epsom; Treas., Mrs M. A. Bailey, Ponsonby.

RANGIORA, last Friday, ante-room of Institute Hall, 2.45 p.m.; Pres., Mrs Cobden Cox; Sec., Miss Wadey; Treas., Mrs H. Taylor.

SHEFFIELD, 1st Wednesday, 2.30 p.m., Road Board Office; Pres., Mrs McIlraith, Annat; Sec., Mrs Pettit, Kiriwee; Treas., Mrs W. Kennedy, Annat.

STRATFORD, 1st Thursday, 2 p.m., Methodist Church; Pres., Mrs T. White, Juliet St. South; Sec., Mrs M. T. Phillips, Skinner Rd.; Treas., Mrs T. H. Birdsall, Antonio St.

TIMARU District, last Tuesday, 7.30 p.m., Arcade; Pres., Mrs Rule, North St.; Sec., Miss M. Avison, Victoria St.; Treas., Mrs Cave, Raymond St.; Evangelistic and Press, Mrs Lamb; Cradle Roll, Mrs Valentine; Maori Work, Mrs Butcher, Wai-iti Rd.; WHITE RIBBON Agent, Mrs Stead, Sailors' Rest.

TAURANGA, 4th Thursday, 3 p.m., St. Peter's Hall; Pres., Mrs Christian, 8th Avenue; Vice-Pres., Mrs Wedderspoon and Miss Sorley, Spring St.; Cor. Sec., Mrs P. Munro, Cameron Rd.; Rec. Sec., Mrs C. York, Morris St.; Treas., Mrs A. E. Hammond, 2nd Avenue; "W.R." Supt., Mrs J. W. Snelgrove, Willow St.

TUAKAU, monthly, Wesleyan Church, 7.30 p.m.; Pres., Mrs Hunter; Vice-Pres., Mesdames Bridge, Roberts, and Deeble; Sec., Mrs C. Bycroft; Treas., Mrs Oldham; Supt. Band of Hope, Miss Madill; Supt. Cradle Roll, Miss Burns; WHITE RIBBON Supt., Miss Dwen.

TANEATUA, 2nd Thursday, in Presbyterian Church, at 3 p.m.; Pres., Mrs Yeoman; Vice-Pres., Mrs Ravn; Sec., Mrs Johnson; Treas., Mrs Mairs; WHITE RIBBON Agent, Mrs Schofield.

WAIMATE, 2nd Wednesday, in Knox Church Hall, at 3 o'clock; Pres., Mrs W. J. Roberts, Willowbridge; Sec., Mrs George Dash, Box 27, P.O.; Min. Sec., Miss Strong, Lower High St.; Treas., Mrs S. J. Hitchens, "Te Rangi," Mill Road; WHITE RIBBON Supt., Mrs G. H. Graham, Rhodes St.

WAIPAWA, 4th Tuesday, 3 p.m.; Pres., Mrs Jas. Bibby; Vice-Pres., Mesdames McLean, Bott, and Maslin; Sec., Mrs H. McLean; Treas., Miss Johnson; WHITE RIBBON Supt., Mrs S. Bott.

WANGANUI EAST meets alternately in Baptist and Presbyterian Churches last Friday, at 3 p.m.; Pres., Mrs Andrews; Cor. Sec., Mrs Hicks; Recording Sec., Mrs Duxfield, Okoia, Wanganui; Treas., Mrs McLeod, Wanganui E.

WANGANUI District, 1st Friday, 2.30 p.m., Trinity Church Parlour; Pres., Mrs Blamires; Cor. Sec., Mrs J. McKenzie, 46 Wilson Street; Rec. Sec., Miss McAnemy; Treas., Mrs Siddells; "W.R." Supt., Mrs W. Grant.

WARKWORTH, last Thursday, 2.30 p.m., Schoolroom, Methodist Church; Pres., Mrs Attwood, Hepburn Creek; Sec., Mrs H. B. McKinney, Millburn; Treas., Mrs Cox, Schoolhouse; "W.R." Supt., Mrs S. Morrison; Supt. Cradle Roll, Mrs Miller.

WINCHMORE, 1st Wednesday, 2.30 p.m.; Pres., Mrs Hanson; Vice-Pres., Mrs Prebble and Mrs Blair; Sec., Miss Muirhead, Winter's Road, Ashburton; Treas., Mrs Moore; WHITE RIBBON agent, Mrs Glassey.

WELLINGTON DISTRICT, 1st Thursday, 3 p.m., Rooms, Constable St.; Pres., Mrs Evans, M.A., Hiropi St.; Sec., Mrs Spearman, 5 Dawson St., Berhampore; Treas., Mrs Houlder, 108 Wallace St.; WHITE RIBBON Supt., Mrs Webb, Hall St.

Girls' Association Rooms, Constable St., Newtown. Evening classes and socials. All girls invited.

WELLINGTON CENTRAL, 3rd Friday, 3 p.m., Alliance Rooms, Manners St.; Pres., Mrs A. R. Atkinson, Wadestown; Cor. Sec., Mrs McDonald, 80 Pirie St.; Rec. Sec., Mrs Port, Pirie St.; Treas., Mrs Helyer, Oriental Bay; WHITE RIBBON Supt., Mrs Port, Austin St.

WAIPOKURAU, 2nd Thursday, St. Andrew's Hall, 3 p.m.; Pres., Mrs Hopkirk; Vice-Pres., Mrs Harding and Mrs Nicholson; Sec., Mrs Sowry; Treas., Mrs Robinson; Organist, Miss Moffat.

WOODVILLE, meets 4th Tuesday, 3 p.m., in Ormond St. Hall; Pres., Mrs Perkins, Ross St.; Vice-Pres., Mrs T. Jackson; Sec., Mrs T. Cole, Woodlands Rd.; Treas., Mrs Davie, Station St.; Cradle Roll, Mrs Cole.

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JANUARY 18, 1915.