

# The White Ribbon

FOR GOD AND HOME AND HUMANITY

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## A NATIONAL PERIL.

(A Paper read at the Canterbury Provincial Convention held at Timaru, September 8th, 1915.)

In attempting to bring the subject of venereal diseases and the vice of immorality before you, one is bewildered as to where to begin, for both go back to furthest antiquity. State regulation and recognition of vice is a product of pagan depravity. It was established in Rome 180 B.C., and from thence the system spread through the different countries conquered by Rome. It was established by the Romans in England, and continued there until 1545, when it was suppressed, and from thence forward, until the year of grace 1864, England only noticed prostitution when discouraging or repressing it.

On June 20th, 1864, Lord Clarence Paget, the Secretary to the Admiralty, introduced into Parliament a "Bill for the Prevention of Contagious Diseases at certain Naval and Military Stations." Just at that time the public mind was in a state of alarm at the ravages of disease among cattle, and Parliament had passed various Acts of a stringent character, under the title of "Contagious Diseases (Animal) Acts." The short title of this Act, which came to be the famous, or rather infamous, C.D. Act, was "Contagious Diseases Prevention Act, 1864." There were very few people outside Parliament who did not suppose it had reference to animals, and in all probability the members gener-



Miss Woodhead (late Maori Organiser) mounted, and ready for her trip of 460 miles round East Cape.

ally were ignorant of its tendencies, or misled, as so many are, by the plausible sophistries of those promoting it. Be that as it may, the Bill met with practically no opposition, passed all its stages rapidly, and received the Royal Assent on July 29th. Like the medical proposals that have exercised our own minds lately, it was not designed to apply to the whole country, but to certain areas, and provided for the compulsory examination, upon suspicion, of prostitutes, and for their compulsory detention, if affected with venereal disease, until considered safe to minister again

to the lust of men. It was the military and naval authorities that were behind this Act. It was to operate for three years only, but was followed in 1866 and 1869 by further enactments, increasing the area of the operations of these Acts, and tightening their provisions. The passage of these later Bills met some faint opposition in the House of Commons. The Right Hon. J. W. Henley said it was "an endeavour to give the opportunity of sin without its consequences," a very good definition of what regulation tries to do, and tries in vain. Mr Ayrton said: "No useful or moral end was intended, the end in view being vice, unmitigated vice."

There is no need to go at length into the horrors created by these Acts, but there were many cases in which it was proved that the police, on the receipt of anonymous letters about respectable women and girls, attempted to compel them to submit to examination, and in some cases did, women of absolutely virtuous character, and they had no redress. Examination on suspicion made such cases possible, and would do so again. The hardships and indignities inflicted upon women under these Acts were unspeakable, while the annual reports to Government show that disease increased among the women subject to examination during the years these Acts were in operation, and clearly demonstrate that such Acts are worse than useless for safeguarding men from disease who consort with prostitutes.

The first note of opposition came in 1868, when the promoters of these

Acts, emboldened by their success, attempted to get up an agitation for their application to the whole country, and that note was sounded by Dr. Hooppell, Principal of the Winterbottom Nautical College in South Shields. He wrote to the "Shiels Gazette" explaining and denouncing the system as it existed in certain parts of England. Mr Daniel Cooper, Secretary of the Society for the Rescue of Young Women and Children, was the next avowed opponent, and his published exposure of these Acts caused the extension party to try and force their Bill through Parliament at once. A Lords' Committee was set up to report on the matter, and they reported, as was to be expected, in favour of extension. Mr Cooper then launched the counter-movement. He, with other workers connected with Reformatory Associations, sent a strongly worded protest to every member of both Houses of Parliament, and the Bill dropped, but opposition had begun in earnest. Mr Cooper made war in London; Dr Hooppell raised the North Country. Influential men rallied to their side, meetings were held, and public interest began to stir. Mrs J. Butler was in Switzerland, where she became acquainted with the provisions of the Regulation Systems, and on her return to England, joined the crusade, not only against their extension, but for the complete overthrow of these disgraceful acts. She became the leading woman of the movement, and her husband, Canon Butler, was in fullest sympathy with her in all her labours. In the autumn of 1869, the National Association was formed, its members being all men, and later, was followed by the Ladies' National Association. In that year the famous Harriet Martineau published four letters in the "Daily News," over the signature "An Englishwoman," denouncing the regulation system, and immediately after, in the same paper, appeared "The Women's Protest," signed by many honoured women, among them being Harriet Martineau, Mary Carpenter, Josephine Butler, Florence Nigthingale. It was afterwards signed by many thousands of women, and was regarded of such importance as to be telegraphed all over Europe.

All the eight clauses of this Protest are worthy of reproduction here, but attention can only be drawn to

three, they being especially applicable to the position now in New Zealand.

The protest begins:

We, the undersigned, enter our solemn protest against these acts. 5th, because, by such a system, the path of evil is made more easy to our sons, and to the whole of the youth of England; in as much as a moral restraint is withdrawn the moment the State recognises and provides convenience for, the practice of a vice which it thereby declares to be necessary and venial.

7th, Because the disease which these Acts seek to remove has never been removed by any such legislation. The advocates of the system have utterly failed to show, by statistics or otherwise, that these regulations have in any case, after several years' trial, and when applied to one sex only, diminished disease, reclaimed the fallen, or improved the general morality of the country. We have on the contrary the strongest evidence to show that in Paris and other continental cities, where women have long been outraged by this forced inspection, the public health and morals are worse than at home.

8th, Because the conditions of this disease, in the first instance, are moral, not physical. The moral evil, through which the disease makes its way, separates the case entirely from that of the plague or other scourges, which have been placed under police control or sanitary care. We hold that we are bound before rushing into the experiment of legalising a revolting vice, to try to deal with the **causes** of the evil, and we dare to believe that with wiser teaching and more capable legislation, these causes would not be beyond control.

Early in 1870 Mrs Butler was induced to speak at her first meeting of working men at Crewe. Her appeals were always to the highest moral and Christian sentiments. One would like to linger over the details of this splendid 17 years' conflict, where so many valiant men and noble women fought against a State iniquity, to tell of the meetings, the addresses, the protests, the deputations, the fine literature, the enthusiasm, the duration, the tremendous political contests, where the Radical Party worked might and main, irrespective of party, against candidates supporting these disgraceful Acts, of the shrieks of the party news-

papers when strong and influential candidates went down, defeated by the rising moral sentiment of the electors, all men. We would like to tell how Government again and again had to abandon its efforts to strengthen this evil, of the insults and misrepresentation the reform party were subjected to, of the cowardly attacks of the press, and its silence on the moral aspects of the question, but only a very few outstanding facts can be mentioned. In 1871, a petition was presented to Parliament, bearing the names of 250,283 women. A special paper in the interests of purity was issued called the "The Shield," which continues to this day. In 1873, the Trades Union Congress was addressed by Mrs Butler, when several of the leading men expressed great sympathy with the movement, and in the same year the Working Men's National League was formed with 50,000 members, and its own journal.

In March, 1875, appeared "The Medical Enquirer." It was the organ of the National Medical Association, for the repeal of the C.D. Acts. It was issued in consequence of the refusal of the weekly "Medical Press" to admit articles against the Acts, and contained valuable investigations into the working of the Acts by Dr Birkbeck of Liverpool, and masterly criticisms of the figures and statements in favour of the Acts.

There exists at least a dozen different societies, all working for the repeal of these Acts, having committees, correspondents, etc., in over six hundred towns.

Over 2,000 clergy of the Established Church, including the Bishops of Exeter, Lichfield, and Salisbury, formally expressed their disapproval of these Acts. From 1869 to 1873, the Wesleyan Methodist Conference annually expressed strongest disapprobation. In 1872, seven hundred ministers, at a conference in the City Road Chapel signed a memorial for immediate repeal.

In 1873 A Friends' Repeal Association was formed, with the resolve to raise £10,000 to secure their object.

The United Methodist Free Churches sent a deputation to the Home Secretary with a memorial against these Acts.

Eight hundred and eighty-five ministers of the Congregational denomination memorialised the Prime Min-



ister against the Acts, and at their annual unions carried unanimously resolutions condemning them.

The Methodist New Connexion, the Primitive Methodists, the English Presbyterians, and the Baptists repeatedly memorialised and petitioned for complete repeal.

The Free Church General Assembly in Scotland petitioned for the same thing year after year. The United Presbyterian Synod did the same, and passed resolutions recommending office-bearers and members throughout the Church to use all constitutional means to secure repeal. The other churches and religious bodies in Scotland acted in a similar manner; while in Ireland the Presbyterians, Wesleyans, Society of Friends, the Primitive Methodists, and other religious bodies passed similar resolutions, and adopted similar modes of action in support of repeal. Yet with all that volume of public opinion on their side, the party of repeal were not successful till the year 1885, when at a general election 257 members definitely pledged to vote for repeal, were elected.

On April 2nd, 1886, the Repeal Bill passed the House of Commons, was read a third time in the House of Lords on April 13th, and received the Royal Assent on April 15th. The victory was complete after 17 years of incessant and self-sacrificing work, and it was on the side of virtue. Thus fell in Great Britain the giant iniquity of State recognition, regulation and unsuccessfully attempted sanitation of a great vice.

Now let us give a few moments to the consideration of what has been done in other countries. Legislators and social reformers confront few more perplexing problems than that of prostitution. It is so universal that many regard it as a necessary adjunct of civilisation, though they also regard it as an evil and a danger to public order and to public health. The regulation of this vice by the State, always involving compulsory examination and detention, has been the measure most favoured for minimising its dangers. In past years this view was almost universally held and acted on throughout Europe. The medical profession believed that by systematic medical control of all known prostitutes an effective check could be given to the spread of those diseases which accompany prostitu-

tion, and which by their after effects cause wide-spread disease and degeneration. International Medical Congresses in 1867, 1873, and 1875 were engaged in drawing up schemes of international co-operation, for the purpose of perfecting the protection which was then believed to be conferred by the organisation and control of prostitution.

Attention is specially drawn to the medical views at this time, because of the touching faith some people have in the medical men of to-day who advocate similar measures, the only excuse for the followers of such blind leaders being that the nature of the subject has prevented its free discussion in the press, and consequently the public at large do not realise the change that has taken place in the opinions of medical experts and scientists, and the correlative change that is taking place in law and administration. Forty years ago the regulation system prevailed throughout the whole of Europe. To-day Europe presents a very different picture. The Northern nations, England, Denmark, Holland, and Norway, have all definitely abandoned the regulation system. In Sweden a Royal Commission has just reported against it, thus following the example of France, where the Extra-Parliamentary Commission, appointed by the Government, has, after exhaustive enquiry, condemned the existing system, and recommended fundamentally different methods. In Switzerland, where each canton enacts its own laws, Geneva is the only place where regulation persists. Italy has swept away the whole machinery of regulation, and has substituted a system of gratuitous treatment for all venereal patients, to the great benefit of the public health. Among the leading syphilologists in Europe there is a remarkable consensus of opinion that the regulation of prostitution by the State has been unsuccessful from the standpoint of public health.

In the Medical Conference at Brussels on this subject, held in 1902, the following resolutions were carried unanimously:—

"That all persons suffering from venereal maladies should have easy access to gratuitous treatment, with no unnecessary publicity."

"The most important and the most effectual means for combating the diffusion of venereal maladies consists

in widespread information as to the importance of these diseases, and the very grave dangers attending them. It is especially necessary to teach young men not only that chastity and continence are not injurious, but that these virtues are highly recommended from the medical point of view."

On one point reformers in all nations are agreed, that venereal disease must not be punished, but healed. The result of doing so has been to increase the number of cases under treatment. In Denmark and Norway, where statistics are most carefully kept, this was especially so, and this is the very point aimed at, to try and induce all sufferers to come for healing.

We turn now to our own country. The C.D. Acts were introduced into New Zealand on the lines of the English Act, and were in operation in Auckland in 1883, and in Christchurch before that date. There was continuous agitation against them in both cities, and the law became a dead letter. The continued demands for their repeal from the women's societies secured their removal from the Statute Book in 1910.

Now we are faced by their re-introduction under a subtle name and an alluring aspect. The medical proposals, already referred to, entitled "The Public Health Amendment Bill," contain the most objectionable features of the C.D. Acts, and their embodiment in legislation would mean the re-introduction of those Acts again. The three compulsory provisions are—

- (1) Compulsory notification.
- (2) Compulsory examination on suspicion only.
- (3) Compulsory detention.
- (4) Partial application of the law.

The point of difference lies in the fact that in these proposals, men as well as women are apparently included, but this inclusion of men is merely a device, and a very clever and subtle one, to hoodwink the public and disarm criticism and opposition.

The compulsory provisions can not, and will not, be enforced against men.

Venereal disease differs from all other contagious disease, in that it is not apparent. It is easily concealed; the persons affected can pursue their daily occupations without any suspicion being created. It is not acutely infectious like smallpox or diphtheria. It is felt to be a disgrace to be af-

fected by it, and sufferers from it are most anxious to conceal the fact that they are so affected.

Keeping these points in view, and supposing such a law being enforced, you can easily understand that infected persons will not seek medical aid, knowing that by so doing they subject themselves to compulsory notification and compulsory detention for an indefinite period. It is most important that medical treatment should be given in the earliest, which are also the most infectious, stages of the disease, but these compulsory measures would have the effect of preventing affected persons from seeking medical aid as long as possible.

Compulsory notification cannot be enforced, for the existence of the disease is known only to the doctor and the patient. How can any pressure be brought to induce the doctor to notify? If he fails to do so, how is the evidence to be obtained that will convict him? The patient is not likely to give it, and save him and the doctor you have no one else to look to for information or evidence. Can you imagine the law being put in force against rich and influential men, or men in a public position, and if not in their case, why in any other? It is quite evident compulsory notification would not be universally and impartially applied, and there is no means to insure its being done; and laws which cannot and will not be enforced impartially against all sections of the community should not be placed on the Statute Book, otherwise justice and liberty will be lost to us as a nation. Any one giving the clause a few moments careful and thoughtful consideration, and knowing anything of the nature of the disease, can see that its inclusion is merely to serve as a blind to the real intention of the proposal, which is contained in the next provision of compulsory examination on suspicion. Now, who are the persons who would or could be suspected of being affected with venereal disease? Can you imagine any man being compelled to submit to compulsory examination on suspicion? Can you think of a married woman being subject to such a provision? Compulsion implies police enforcement, and you know no Government would dare to put such a provision into force against any man in any class of society, or against any class of women, save one. And it is

against that class, and that class alone, that these proposals are directed, and the moment compulsory examination of prostitutes becomes legal, you have the C.D. Acts in operation, and the recognition and regulation of vice by the State. In this connection let us remember the words of that famous Protest of Women, "That State control of vice means the removal of a moral restraint," and all the experience of past ages, of every country where regulation has existed, testifies to their truth.

In the fight against the C.D. Acts in England, a petition in their favour was secured from prostitutes, but with that exception I know of no instance where a woman's voice was lifted in their behalf, and it is most amazing that in this country women can be found who approve of a proposal leading directly to State regulation of vice.

But can we do nothing? Are we to sit with folded hands while these diseases work physical degeneration among us? By no means. When reliance on a false system is destroyed, the way is cleared for true reforms. These diseases will be most effectually dealt with by inducing all sufferers, guilty or innocent, to present themselves for treatment, rather than by compulsory measures, which can reach only a section of those infected, and that section not the one that spreads disease among wives and children.

A most important point strongly emphasised by experts is the education of the public, and young people especially, in sex hygiene by means of lectures, literature, and private talks. It was insisted upon again and again by the men who gave evidence before the Royal Commission on Venereal Disease, which sat last year in England, that young men should be informed in time of the nature of these diseases and their results. The instruction of children in sex hygiene by special teachers, carefully selected and trained, was advocated. Another point stressed was the better education of the medical student on these matters, and when that is an accomplished fact advocacy of compulsory measures by the medical profession will be a thing of the past. The need for timely warning to young men was mentioned in the Report on Venereal Disease presented to the Medical Congress held in Auckland last year.

It stated that it was the common experience of medical practitioners to find that the newly infected have been greatly ignorant of syphilis and its prevalence.

In that same Report reference was made to the fact that children born of women affected by syphilis are ill-nourished, immature, weakly, show signs of inherited disease, and they frequently die within the year of birth. Reference was also made to the tendency of women so affected to have untimely births, and one particular case was quoted, from many, from Dr. F. W. Mott. The mother married at 20, the father being 22. There were 12 children—the first, premature at 5 months; 2nd, the same; the 3rd at 6 months; the 4th, at 7 months, lived 8 hours; 5th, born alive, very frail, ulcers on legs, eyes affected; 6th, a girl, at the age of 14 suffering from juvenile general paralysis, with well marked signs of congenital syphilis; 7th, a girl, living, well; 8th, a boy, living, well; 9th, a boy, living, well; 10th, a boy, died at 11 months of convulsions; 11th, a girl, died at 8 months, brain disease and club foot; 12th, a boy, living, well.

Now, in view of such facts as these, can it be right for medical practitioners never to tell a married woman when she is suffering from venereal disease, the reason being the danger of disturbing domestic harmony; but is it not a dreadful thing, a great wrong, to let a woman go on ignorantly bearing children to a diseased man? Has she not a right to a voice in the matter, and should not a woman be protected by law if, under such circumstances, she absolutely refuses motherhood, by making venereal disease a cause for legal separation? And should not doctors be legally bound to inform married women of the nature of their complaint when they are affected by venereal disease?

In the discussion which followed the Report just referred to, it was mentioned by Dr. Harvey Sutton, from Melbourne, that he had given definite information in sex hygiene and on venereal disease to the students at a training college, their ages ranging from 16 to 19. The women teachers under the Education Department of Victoria also requested the Department to arrange for them such a course of instruction, and it would include the junior teachers of 16 and



17. Dr. Sutton strongly supported the giving of such instruction to young people. A most interesting contribution to the debate came from Dr. A. H. Hallen. Though surrounded by nations where profligacy was an adjunct of religion, and prostitution received State sanction, the Jews, though they fell often into dissolute habits, never gave prostitution State recognition, and Dr. Hallen stated that when he was a young man, practising in London, he attended at a dispensary where he came into contact with great numbers of pauper Jewish emigrants, who had fled from persecutions in Russia, Poland, Germany, and other States. He was struck by the fact that venereal disease was most uncommon among them, and that the standard of sexual morals was much higher than in the classes among which they lived. He says: "My enquiries drew information that the absolute moral sexual superiority of these people was due directly to the fact that at puberty it is the custom for the parents, assisted by the Rabbi, to put their children through a prescribed form of instruction, or catechism elaborated on an ancient basis, which antedates by hundreds of years the foundation of Christianity. I cannot doubt that Christian peoples could adopt this system with material advantage in the reduction of venereal diseases, prostitution, and their complex, social, and racial injuries."

I have but touched the fringe of this subject, and in conclusion I wish to draw your attention to a memorandum issued by the British Medical Association, and printed in full in the supplement of the "British Medical Journal" of May 8th, 1915.

The Association has taken a lively interest in the work of the Royal Commission on Venereal Disease, nominating witnesses who were, in the opinion of the Association, able to give special assistance to the Commission on the prevalence, and most recent methods of diagnosis and treatment of venereal diseases. The memorandum deals with the subject from the point of view of the private practitioners and touches many points. The concluding paragraph contains these words:—

"Finally, the Association has little faith in the methods of direct attack on these diseases which have been proposed in various quarters, namely, compulsory notification, compul-

sory detention of patients, and prevention of the marriage of persons who have once suffered from venereal diseases until they can obtain a certificate of cure. Such suggestions appear to the Association to be impracticable in view of the moral stigma they would impose. The Association has much more hope of the indirect methods which resolve themselves into the better education of the public as to the serious nature and wide spread incidence of these diseases, and the grant of easy access to the best treatment."

At the conclusion of the paper the following resolution was carried unanimously:—

"In view of the fact that the expert medical evidence given before the Royal Commission on venereal diseases in England, unanimously recommended free voluntary treatment for all persons affected by these diseases, and seeing that this recommendation is strongly endorsed by the British Medical Association, and as it is most necessary that medical aid should be given in the earliest stages of these diseases when they are most infective and yield most readily to curative treatment, this convention earnestly urges the Government, in the interests of public health, to open immediately evening clinics in the four centres at least, where all sufferers affected by venereal disease, whether guilty or innocent, can secure the best advice free of cost, without unnecessary publicity, and that provision be made for a certain number of beds in general hospitals for the use of such persons when necessary."

### HEARD IN PARLIAMENT.

When our legislators sit in council assembled to discuss the weighty affairs of the nation, it is permitted to the gentler sex to sit and listen to the words of wisdom which fall from their lips. And truly "The House" viewed from the ladies' gallery presents a marvellous sight at times.

One favour is granted to lady visitors. They are allowed in for prayers, while gentlemen are not allowed in till prayers are over. One's first thought is why do members "air so much eloquence when apparently nobody is listening to them." Members wander to and fro, and hold confer-

ences with their friends, not always "sotto voce." When these asides become so pronounced that one cannot hear the member who is supposed to have the floor, then the voice of Mr Speaker is heard, "Too much conversation," and for a time the buzz ceases. A young collegian remarked, after his first visit to the gallery, "They behave worse than a lot of schoolboys when the master is out of the room."

One thing always strikes a woman in listening to their debates, and that is how differently an assembly of men view many questions from what women do.

As a case in point, during a discussion on the registration of illegitimate children, the suggestion was made that it be compulsory to register the name of the father as well as that of the mother. At once several members protested vigorously, pointing to the fact that in many of the cases alluded to the father was a married man, and what a wicked thing it would be to place his name on a register, where his wife could find out the fact.

Now, how differently a woman would have viewed this question. She would see that in the case of a married man and a young girl the greater fault was the man's, and there would be no justice in compelling her name to be placed upon the register and not his.

Then the injury done to the wife was quite overlooked. She is to be treated like a child, kept in ignorance of her husband's crime, both against her and against another woman, in order "that the home might not be broken up."

We wonder were these members practising the golden rule? Would they, as husbands, like to be treated as they were pleading for these wives to be treated? Would they like to be kept in the dark by legal enactment in order that they might continue to live with an immoral wife? A wife has a right to know the character of her husband, and the right of choice should be hers as to whether she forgives him or separates from him. Moreover, would not the knowledge that his name would be registered cause such men to take a more serious view of a crime like this, and so act as a deterrent? Is it not time that women were heard in Parliament, and their views placed before members, instead of having only one side of the question stated?

## CANTERBURY PROVINCIAL CONVENTION.

The Canterbury District Provincial Convention was held in Timaru, September 7th and 8th in the hall of the Trinity (Presbyterian) Church. At the reception to welcome the delegates, Mrs A. P. Rule, President of the local Union, took the chair, and read an apology from the Mayor, Mr Guinness, and the first business was the passing of a vote of condolence to Mr and Mrs Guinness on the loss of their son, who had died of wounds received at the Dardanelles.

On behalf of the Ministers' Association, the Rev T. A. Joughlin welcomed the delegates to Timaru, and made a brief appreciative reference to the work of the Union in the Dominion, and throughout the world. Mrs Rule, on behalf of the local Union, also gave a brief address of welcome, and a like service was performed by Mr J. Wallace, on behalf of the Timaru No License League.

Mrs McCombs, President of the District Convention, replied on behalf of the visitors.

At a public meeting held in the evening, Mrs McCombs presiding, an apology was received from Mr Geo. Dash, Waimate, whose place was ably filled by Mr Stewart, a member of the Waitaki Temperance Reform Union. This speaker outlined some of the lessons learnt from the war, making special reference to Russia. Miss Roberts, Christchurch, made an impassioned appeal on behalf of the noble men who were making such heavy sacrifices on the battlefield for the people at home, not to raise money on their behalf by the degrading methods that had been resorted to all over the country. It was an insult not to be suffered, and the lawmakers were allowing the laws, bad as they are, to be openly flouted and set at naught.

Mrs McCombs, Christchurch, made an earnest and telling appeal for all present to help in creating a cleaner environment for the young people of all classes, and illustrated her appeal by facts that had come to her knowledge during her long experience as secretary of the Children's Aid Society.

At 9 o'clock on Wednesday morning the delegates assembled for business. Mrs Kavanagh was appointed press

reporter. Very few written reports were received from the Unions, several secretaries were not aware that this was necessary; in such cases verbal reports were given.

A lengthy report was received from Christchurch, where the Union raised £279 at the Belgium Harvest Festival.

Winchmore had increased its membership by 150 per cent.

Ashburton has the management of the Borough Rest Rooms, and reports on a special occasion 299 visitors in one day.

Rakaia reports a Band of Hope, whose membership includes five denominations.

Rangiora has worked successfully in the K.K. Pledge movement.

Kaiapoi has enlisted the sympathy of the local head master and District High School teacher in arranging essays on Temperance by the school children. The room owned by the Union is the local headquarters for Red Cross Work.

Timaru leads in Cradle Roll membership. Over 200 children enrolled.

Waimate supplies a Temperance column in the local paper.

Sheffield has found it necessary to meet twice monthly.

Lyttelton work among seamen.

Oxford continues the splendid work reported last year. One of the most aggressive of the branches.

Practically all the Unions obtained signatures to the petition for the early closing of hotel bars. Several Unions are engaging in Red Cross work. Certainly individual members from all Unions are so engaged.

Several Unions report prizes given for Temperance essays by Public School children, with excellent results, while the larger Unions also report Rest or Luncheon Tents at various open-air gatherings.

On Wednesday afternoon a helpful paper entitled "The Ideal Home," by Mrs Liddell, was read by Mrs Rule. A paper by Miss Henderson, Christchurch, entitled "Women in the Administration of the Law," referred to several anomalies in the passing of sentences. Special reference was made to the light sentence passed on men found guilty of repeated indecent assaults on women and young children, and again to the heavy sentence passed on Alice May Parkinson. A paper by Miss Roberts, entitled "A National Peril," traversed the

findings of the Medical Conference in regard to venereal diseases. The Unions were urged to support Convention, where members of longstanding, wide experience, and special knowledge, had placed their services at the disposal of delegates, who, with fuller knowledge of the facts, had, with one voice, passed resolutions bearing on this subject.

### Resolutions.

1. That the members of the Canterbury Provincial Convention of the Women's Christian Temperance Union desire to tender their heartfelt sympathy with the wives, mothers and sisters whose loved ones have gone to the front in defence of their country, and to express our deep appreciation of the sacrifices they are making in giving up their dearest for the defence of the Empire.

2. That the section of the Licensing Act relating to the sale of drink to minors be amended in the direction of making it illegal for any person to supply drink to minors.

3. That this Convention heartily supports Mr McCombs' amendment to the Shops' and Offices' Act, bringing hotel bars into line with other business places in regard to six o'clock closing.

4. That this Convention urges the Government to amend the Licensing law in the direction of prohibiting the supply of liquor to soldiers in uniform.

5. This Convention of the Canterbury District Women's Christian Temperance Union strongly protests against the disproportionate length of the sentences passed on women (as in the case of Alice May Parkinson) for offences for which men escape with light sentences, or without being made to feel any moral responsibility, and Convention urges that the Women's Christian Temperance Union take active and united efforts to bring the matter before our legislators and urge immediate action.

6. This Convention urges that the Crimes' Act be amended to provide that men convicted of criminal assaults upon children of tender years, and men convicted of more than one offence of this nature, whether the victim be under age or not, shall be detained for life in a reformatory or farm colony.

As no invitation for 1916 District Convention has been received, no place



could be decided on for next year's meeting.

On Thursday morning the delegates were taken to the Sailors' Rest, an institution of which the Timaru Union is justly proud; subsequently they were entertained at the Tea Rooms on Caroline Bay by the local Union till mid-day.

## SUPERINTENDENT'S LETTERS.

### BAND OF MERCY.

Dear Fellow-Workers,—

Since I wrote to you I have received a letter from Mrs Mary F. Lovell, our World's Superintendent of the Mercy Department, in which she says:—

"I cannot tell you how greatly I rejoice over the good news of the adoption of humane education in the L.T.L. in New Zealand. If this world is ever to become really the kingdom of Christ, every child born into it must be taught humaneness as systematically and regularly as reading and writing are now taught. I understand from what you say in your letter, and from reading the number of the 'White Ribbon' which you sent me, that as yet the Band of Mercy is adopted only in the L.T.L., but I trust that this is merely the beginning of greater things, and that you will gradually increase its scope until you have Bands of Mercy in your Sunday and day schools, in the Epworth Leagues, Christian Endeavours, and every other possible place. There should be one at least in each W.C.T.U. in New Zealand.

"Your country is so progressive, and sets such a noble example in many ways to the rest of the world, that if the attention of your women is drawn to the necessity for this teaching, I believe it will be widely promoted and encouraged.

"The copy of the 'White Ribbon' which you sent me arrived some time before your letter, and I at once sent samples of the literature of this department to each President of a W.C.T.U., whose address was given. I hope this may awaken interest in the work, and that you may hear from some of the ladies to whom the packages were addressed."

Dear friends, in addition to every Union organising a Band of Mercy, could not each Union make the suggestion to all the Sunday schools in their vicinity, and give to each a packet of Mercy leaflets, which I will supply at threepence per packet?

I urge Unions to start this work at once, by appointing a superintendent to attend to the matter.

I would remind you that the report which you send to me in December will be the one from which I will compile my report for the next World's Convention.—Yours in the work,

CLARA M. NEAL, Pahiataua.

## IN THE FIELD.

The month of September was spent in the Wellington Province, in travelling between the city, Lower Hutt, and Greytown. I attended the Provincial Convention in Wellington on 1st and 2nd, then returned to Greytown to arrange for a Band of Hope meeting on 24th. Upon returning to inaugurate this, I found that the letter informing me that the meeting had been unavoidably postponed had missed me, and there was nothing for it but to once more entrain for Wellington. In the city I addressed a Franchise meeting at Constable Street, and Home meetings at the houses of Mesdames Boxall and Sidey, small additions to our membership being made at each. I had attended two meetings at Lower Hutt, working up each beforehand by visiting. This method was also pursued with the third, which was held on 21st. There was a fine attendance, and eight members were initiated. In all seventeen new members were obtained, and two or three lapsed ones came back, bringing the membership up to 31.

On 30th I left Wellington for a final visit to Greytown, when the Band of Hope was commenced, 29 persons, old and young, joining, and the committee formed and arrangements made for the next meeting. In Wellington I was indebted for kind hospitality to Mesdames Houlder, Cummins, Weston, and Denton.

Friday night (October 1st) was spent in Palmerston North. Patea was reached the following day, and at a meeting of officers the same evening arrangements for meetings were made. On the Sunday evening I conducted the service in the Methodist Church, the Methodist parsonage being my congenial home while in the town, and on Tuesday afternoon Mrs Bridgman, my kind hostess, gave a home meeting, which was well attended. On the Thursday we went out to Kaka-ramea in a gale of wind and rain to a home meeting. In spite of the weather, we had an audience of eleven. Two had joined the Patea branch already, and when we had duly initiated and pinned the magic bow upon the other nine, Mrs Bridgman and I felt well repaid for getting wet.

M. S. POWELL.

P.S.—Will correspondents please note change of address, which is now Miss Powell, c/o Mrs Wilkes, 466,

Gladstone Road, Gisborne. Jerusalem badges are 'off' until the end of the war, as no money can be safely sent there just now. Will friends ordering enamelled badges kindly send postal notes, not stamps?—M.S.P.

## VALUE OF PRIZE SPEAKING MEDAL CONTESTS.

By the Rev O. M. Miller, Editor of the "National Advocate," N.Y.

Seeing that I am Medal Contest Superintendent as well as "Y" it will not seem amiss if I copy some extracts that may be helpful to our L.T.L. or "Y" branches in a very valuable work.

It has been our privilege to get up many different Temperance Prize Speaking Medal Contests, and we have a firm belief in their great value, and from our own experience in the work, and from correspondence and conversation with others who have held these contests, we desire to show the value of these Medal Contests to the Temperance Cause.

## EDUCATING PUBLIC SENTIMENT.

Medal-Contests are valuable in helping to educate public sentiment on the Temperance question. Many people will come to a church or hall to hear young people recite strong Temperance selections, who never go to hear a Temperance lecture. And many parents will go to hear their own boy or girl speak at these contests, who would not even go to hear some other person's child speak. Thousands of people have heard their first Temperance lecture at these contests. As the selections recited are taken from the writings of the greatest temperance writers and speakers of the country, the audience listens to the strongest temperance arguments that can be produced.

As Miss Emma E. Page, assistant national superintendent of the W.C.T.U. Medal Contest Work, says: "The best arguments of our ablest Temperance speakers and writers are poured into willing ears and understanding hearts—ears and hearts that would have been closed against these same utterances from the authors themselves."

We believe that the repeating at these Medal Contests, all over the country, of the great speeches of Gough, Finch, St. John Bain, Frances

Willard, and others, will prove in the years to come, when history is written, to have been a mighty factor in bringing about the overthrow of the saloon, which is sure to be accomplished.

Christ says: "Ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free," and many a man has been set free from prejudice against the Temperance cause by listening to these splendid selections delivered by the young people of the community.

It is the uniform testimony from every place where these contests have been held, that they have had a great influence in educating public sentiment in favour of total abstinence, and against the saloon. They have been helpful in warning the young against liquor drinking, and in arousing the voters to do their duty at the ballot box. Through the influence of these contests in many places, drunkards have been reformed, whole communities have been improved, and No License has been carried at Municipal elections.

Numberless testimonies come from all parts where contests have been held.

Mrs E. L. Bowman of Ohio, says: "Medal Contests of Ohio have done as much, if not more than any other department in educating public sentiment against the great saloon evil."

Mrs S. L. Jeffries, State Superintendent of Michigan, says: "That the Medal Contest is rapidly gaining in interest and popularity is evident from the fact that the Pere Marquette Railway has given special rates to contestants and their friends wishing to attend these educational entertainments. The testimony of some of our best workers is that these contests are a powerful factor in making prohibition votes."

One writes: "A drinking man who heard his child speak in two contests has reformed and become a Christian. The fathers of four contestants (all drinking men) were present at our last contest."

Another writes: "The conditions of our community have improved fifty per cent. since these contests began."

Another: "The Medal Contest was the grandest Temperance meeting we ever held in this city, and helped us wonderfully towards our successful No License vote. The Medal Contest was the best thing we ever tried for a No License meeting—Church crowded.

It helped more than any other agency to carry our city for No License.

Charles L. Fenwick, of St. Louis, had his first ambition for oratory fired by Medal Contest work. He won the W.C.T.U. series of four medals in his own home city. Then he attended a school of oratory in Chicago, and won the diamond medal on a Temperance oration, delivered at the commencement exercises of the school. He is a strong temperance young man, and he credits his positive convictions to the influence of these Medal Contests.

I could write pages of testimonies from all parts, but I am afraid of wearying the readers, but would like to add that as a money raiser the Medal Contest is an excellent method.

I hope to hear of more Unions holding these contests this incoming year. Temperance education is the crying need of the hour, and that is just what these contests furnish.

To the Nelson "Y" Union: Sorry not to have been able to accept invitation being rather out of the way, but hope to do so later on.

Yours for service,

S. A. MOODY.

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**WOMEN'S****Christian Temperance Union  
Of New Zealand.**

Organised 1885.

**"For God and Home and Humanity."**

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54 Canongate, Dunedin.

VICE-PRESIDENT:

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MISS HENDERSON, B.A., 26 Tui  
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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.**Timaru nominates: Pres., Mrs Don;  
Sec., Miss Henderson; Treas., Mrs  
Bendelely.**The White Ribbon.****For God and Home and Humanity.**

MONDAY, OCTOBER 18, 1915.

**WAR AND LIQUOR TRAFFIC  
RESTRICTION.**

Much has been said lately about war being contrary to Christianity. Indeed, it is so, but so are many other things in our midst, such, for instance, as the Liquor Traffic, the White Slave Traffic, as well as much in our social and economic systems. And we think it possible that in the eyes of God war may not appear the greatest of these evils.

Every nation engaged in this terrible conflict is learning that if it wishes to be in the state of greatest efficiency it must do away with strong drink. Russia has become a prohibition country, and all other belligerent nations have had to restrict the traffic. National sins bring national punishments. The United States washed the dark stain of slavery from her flag in the blood of her bravest and her best, and if the British Empire purges herself from the sin of the licensed liquor bar at the cost of a terrible war, dare we say the price has been too great? Statisticians tell us that on an average every year strong drink slays more than war, pestilence and famine combined. The abolition of the liquor traffic, even at such a cost, would mean a saving of life in the long run, and what mother would not prefer to sacrifice her son in defence of his country than see him fall a victim to the brewer's greed?

From a temperance worker in New South Wales comes the following:—"South Australia has carried 6 o'clock closing at a referendum, and the Government has passed a Bill to give effect to it. Our Parliament carried a vote asking the Government to make 9 o'clock closing compulsory (opening at 8 a.m.). We are trying to force the Government to put a Bill through to give effect to the vote. Victoria has carried a Bill, now in force, opening bars at 8 a.m., closing at 9.30 p.m. West Australia is submitting it to the people's vote the same as South Australia, except that the State is divided into four parts, thus the cities may carry one hour of closing, and the goldfields another."

What is New Zealand doing to restrict this traffic, or are we going to be left behind in this good fight?

A call was made upon our Unions to get petitions signed in favour of 6 o'clock closing, and, short as the time was, many Unions rose nobly to the occasion. Dunedin secured 5214 signatures; Wellington, 3264; Christchurch, 3790; Timaru, 2508; Invercargill, 1139; Waipawa, 1210; Palmerston North, 1870; Hastings, 1001; Napier, 781; Auckland, 799; Gisborne, 734; Kaiapoi (Electorate), 624; Nelson, 671; Ashburton, 521; Wanganui, 576; Patea, 551; Stratford, 528; Lower Hutt, 453; Waikato, 428; Feilding, 415; Pahiatua, 402; Picton and Blenheim, 485; Waitemata (Electorate), 461; Whangarei, 370; Waitaki, 308;

Mataura, 390; Wellington Suburbs (Electorate), 344; Mosgiel, 207; Petone, 222; Wallace, 205; Port Chalmers, 278; Masterton, 258; Egmont, 265; Tuakau, 130; Onehunga, 168; Lyttelton, 137; Te Kuiti, 128; Otaki, 148; Pukekohe, 175; Bluff, 103; Waihi, 157; Hikurangi, 191; New Brighton, 91; Morrinsville, 88; Ellesmere, 33; Rakaia, 96; Central Otago, 43; Wellsford, 56.

This petition was presented to Parliament, and was referred to the M to Z Committee, and after evidence had been taken by this committee, it was reported to the House. The Committee reported that as this was a policy measure, they could make no recommendation, but urged the Government to give consideration to the matter. The petition was talked out, and so for this session nothing will be done.

Now what are we going to do? The Wellington Provincial Convention has sent a recommendation to the N.Z. Convention to discuss the matter fully and make arrangements for a thorough canvass of the Dominion with a view of presenting so large a petition to Parliament at the beginning of the session that even a National Government must give effect to the will of the people.

Now, in order to do this it will be necessary for every Union to be ready, and to send delegates to Convention, or if this be impossible, then send to the Corresponding Secretary suggestions for carrying out this work.

We know that the war is engrossing our thoughts and energies, but surely, without relaxing our efforts for our "boys" at the front, we can spare some time and strength to fight an even deadlier enemy than the German or the Austrian.

**WIN ONE CAMPAIGN.**

Cambridge Union reports that since starting this campaign in February 13 new members have been gained.

Hutt reports 17 new members.

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

## ESSAYS ON TEMPERANCE.

First Prize offered by Woodville W.C.T.U., won by J. Riley.

Alcoholic drinks such as wine, beer and spirits are not foods such as milk and cocoa are. They do not and cannot help the body, nor increase its strength; instead the drinking of alcohol retards the growth of the mind and the body. If taken in small quantities alcohol is a stimulant, but a strong and healthy person does not need stimulants. The old adage that stimulants are the whip and the spur, not the corn and the grass, is very true. A man who is a habitual drinker may die from disease, which in the case of a total abstainer might mean only a short illness. No alcoholic drinks quench the thirst as well as water. They are apt to make people more thirsty, and so cause a desire for more which may become irresistible. It has been proved that total abstainers can endure more hardships and fatigue than drinkers. Many diseases, such as consumption, inflammation of the lungs, cancer and brain diseases are among the diseases to which alcohol may render a person liable. Alcohol hinders digestion, and therefore tends to imperfect nourishment of the body. In the stomach an excessive amount of digestive juices are created which are of no use to a healthy individual, and are therefore wasted. Further acute inflammation of the stomach may be caused by the secretion of mucus. Alcohol also prevents the kidneys from performing their proper duties, by letting good material go and keeping back bad.

Experiments have shown that alcohol does not permanently strengthen the action of the heart, but tends to weaken it. Both the nerves and muscles of the heart may become partly paralysed; this may lead to heart disease in time and end in heart failure. Drinking alcohol often leads to poverty for the money spent in alcohol is a wasteful expenditure. Drinking may end in insanity for a man or woman who continues to drink to intoxication. The expenditure in New Zealand on alcoholic drinks is very high, being over an average of three pounds for each person in the Dominion. The habit of intemperance affects not only the man or woman but also the State in which he or she lives. A child or young per-

son should not touch alcohol in any form, except by the express orders of a doctor. A gang of navvies working on the North Western Railway line in England, because they were total abstainers did more work than any other gang working on the line.

2nd prize offered by Woodville W.C.T.U., won by O. Laurence.

Drink is the mother of want and the nurse of crime. If there is one drunkard in the family it renders the whole home unhappy. Drink spoils the nerve of a man, and also the working system, for instance, there were a certain number of men working on a railway line, one half were non-drinkers and the other half drinkers, they had an equal amount of work to do, and the drinking party took the longest time to do the work; this shows that drink has an effect on a man's working system. Drink leads to many crimes, such as suicide, murder, etc. It is often the cause of insanity. "For six years I have watched and chronicled the number of insanity cases that passed into the mental hospital, and threequarters of the cases are caused by drink," says a well-known London doctor. Lord Kitchener, as Minister of War, is trying to keep drink from the army, for he knows it destroys the marching powers of the men, and it also destroys the nerve, and the men would not be able to shoot straight. If England could be made sober, at least half of her gaols might be closed, says Lord Chief Justice Coleridge. Drink is the ruin of many men who were in a high position, many such have been brought to beggary, and their children have to live in rags and sleep in boxes and barrels. Drink destroys the organs of the body. Drink has been banished from the Russian army and also from the American Navy.

People who drink do not live long nor healthy lives. Drink in small quantities is a stimulant, and healthy people do not need stimulants. Alcohol does not quench the thirst as well as water does. Drinks such as wine and beer do not help the body to grow, but help to kill it. Once a man has got into the habit of taking strong drink he finds it very hard to leave it alone. Some people go so far as to pawn their watch or anything else that will bring money to buy drink. And you read about the Germans killing

and cutting people's ears and arms off, this is caused by the Germans getting drunk, and thus committing things they would not think of doing if they were sober.

## DEPUTATION TO THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE.

A deputation, representing the Women's Societies of Wellington, waited upon the Minister of Justice, to present a petition signed by the N.Z. Executive and officers of local branches of the W.C.T.U., and by officers of other Women's Societies in this Dominion. The petition asked for better protection for our girls. It requested that where men were convicted of offences against girls of tender years, or of more than one offence, they should be detained for life, preferably in farm colonies. The deputation received a sympathetic hearing, but it is too late for anything to be done this session.

We intend to move in this matter early next session, and to keep on bringing this subject forward until the law is so amended that little girls may be protected from outrages of this kind.

As we wish to be well prepared, we ask all Unions to assist us in gathering information. Will our White Ribboners, whenever a case of assault on a girl is reported in their local paper, kindly cut out the clipping and send it to the Editor of the "White Ribbon"? We wish to have an accurate knowledge of the number of such cases occurring in our Dominion, and of the severity or otherwise of the sentences inflicted on the culprits.

We shall be grateful for any assistance given us in this matter. The subject is of deep interest to every woman in our land, and we should never rest until more adequate protection is given to our children

**Well-tried and highly recommended Recipe for "Bermaline Bread," as used by many White Ribboners in N.Z.** "Pass it on":—

2 large cups wheatmeal; 1 large cup flour; 1½ cups milk and water, 1 tablespoonful treacle; ¼ teaspoonful salt; 1 teaspoonful C. soda; 2 teaspoonfuls cream of tartar. Method—Mix all dry ingredients, pour hot water on treacle, add milk, mix to rather soft consistency. Bake low in oven.



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**Christchurch**

## AUCKLAND PROVINCIAL CONVENTION.

The first provincial convention of the various branches in the Auckland province was held on the 15th and 16th of September in the Central Mission Hall, Albert Street, Mrs J. Cook, (President of the Auckland Union) presided, and welcomed the visiting delegates in a few well-chosen words. There were sixty delegates present, representing Auckland, Ponsonby, Birkenhead, Takapuna, Otahuhu, Warkworth, Matakana, Onehunga, Waihi, Opotiki, Morrinsville, Hamilton, Ngaruawahia, Pukekohe, Papakura, Hikurangi. The first business was the adoption of a model constitution. Reports were submitted from the various branches, which showed good progress, and an increase of membership all round. Bad roads in some of the country districts had militated against regular attendance of members, but all the branches had done good work during the past year, especially in patriotic movements.

Greetings were received from the branches at Cambridge, Waiuku, and Opotiki.

Letters of apology were read from Dr Florence Kellar and Mrs Saunders.

Decided a telegram of sympathy be sent to Dr F. Kellar, who was leaving Wellington that night for America on account of her father's illness.

Wednesday afternoon, Mrs Smeeton addressed Convention on "A Day with the British Executive in London." The speaker outlined the good work that kindred societies were doing in England towards providing comforts for the soldiers, and in doing their utmost to encourage the men to abstain from alcoholic liquor. Miss Evans made an appeal for "recruits" in the Temperance campaign. A vocal item, "The Shadows," was given by Miss Scott of Mt. Eden.

Thursday, devotional exercises were led by Mrs Morrison of Warkworth.

A great part of the morning was devoted to the answering of questions and interesting remarks were made on a number of subjects. Mrs Porter explained the gift auction. A deputation was introduced from the Auckland Peace Society by Mrs Pudney, the speaker being Mrs Blundell. Two interesting papers were read "Woman: Her Power," by Mrs Morrison, and "A Woman's Mission," by Mrs Snow of Hamilton. Mrs Snow dealt more particularly with the rearing of children from the cradle. Mrs Morrison said that by bringing up her children in the way they should go, a woman was laying the right foundation for the future generations. Songs were sung by Mrs Fountain and Miss Ogilvie. The election of officers resulted in the Auckland officers being elected for the first year. It is hoped the next provincial convention will be held in Hamilton. The Convention closed with the initiatory service, four new members joining.

On Thursday evening, at the request of the W.C.T.U., Mrs (Dr) W. H. Parkes repeated her lecture on work at the base hospital in Egypt. Mrs Parkes told how the great hospital near Cairo (where the Australasians were treated) was being extended to cope with the increasing numbers of wounded, and she asked those present to assist in the work of keeping up the supplies of clothing. A collection was taken up for patriotic purposes.

The following resolutions were passed during Convention:—

That this meeting of the Provincial Convention of the Auckland Women's Christian Temperance Union realises in the present troubled condition of international affairs a call to declare its unswerving loyalty to the British Throne. It recognises the high and honourable motives that have influenced the action of the British Government in the present war, and prays that wisdom may be given to those in authority to continue to take such steps as may be necessary to lead to

a peace that will be established on a basis of national and international righteousness.

The following resolution, addressed to the Minister for Defence, was passed:—

That this meeting of the Auckland Provincial Convention of the Women's Christian Temperance Union, composed chiefly of mothers (many of whom have sons in the New Zealand Expeditionary Forces) would earnestly appeal to you to take some steps to prevent the men wearing the King's uniform spending so much of their time in the liquor bars of our towns and cities. We believe that under the guise of friendship, the open bar is allowed to wound many soldiers before they reach the firing-line, and so disqualify them for efficient service. We therefore trust that you will give to our men, who are making such sacrifices for our Empire, protection from this enemy.

That the Government be urged to provide for the closing of hotel bars at 1 p.m. on the statutory half-holiday observed by other trades in the same district.

## Correspondence.

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

Napier Union.—Am making enquiries re "Girls and Civil Service," and will reply next month.

Dear Sisters,—I am writing to suggest that we put off Convention until another year. All money is needed now to help our boys, and so much work has to be done that any unnecessary expenditure of money should be stopped in the meantime.

Two or three members have spoken to me about the above.—Yours in the work,

A MEMBER.

## 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.)

### NAPIER.

Sept. 21. Franchise Day. Short report of what N.Z. women have gained since 1893 by Mrs Fossey. Address by Matron of Bethany Home on "How to Help Our Fallen Sisters." Musical items and afternoon tea. Arranged that Tuesday afternoons should be kept for making sand-bags so long as a sufficient number of members help.

The following resolution was sent to the Prime Minister: "That the Napier Branch of the W.C.T.U. notes with extreme regret that the Members of Parliament in this Dominion have so far failed in their duty to the Empire as to continue the consumption of alcoholic liquors at Bellamys, by a secret vote at a time when example is better than precept, and particularly as His Majesty the King has set so noble an example.

October 6. Reported that 200 sand-bags had been sent away; that £29 14s had been collected for sand-bags, and woollen comforts for the soldiers, and that a box containing 127 operation cloths, 64 diet cloths, 41 fomentation cloths, 7 hot water bottle covers, 98 bandages, 38 face cloths, 14 bundles of medicine cloths, 2 cotton blankets, and 1 pair of woollen bed socks, had been sent also. The last packing case was ready for the Belgians, containing all new clothing, about half being hand-made woollen garments, 242 garments in all, making 469 sent.

### NGAIRE.

October 5. At Mrs X. Jones's. Good attendance of members. Superintendent of Flower Mission reported having sent a parcel of clothing to the Door of Hope. Decided to buy £3 worth of flannel to be made up for our soldiers at the front. Money has been collected for sand-bags, and over 100 have been made up. Decided to forward to the Minister of Defence the following resolution: In view of the fact that a number of youths between the ages of 17 and 20 years have been accepted by the military authorities for service abroad, we, the members of the W.C.T.U., Ngaire, beg that the Minister of Defence take steps to prevent further enlistment of such lads, and return such as are already in camp to their homes. We, as mothers, consider that youths of such tender years, not having reached maturity will easily fall victims to the many diseases which are prevalent at the war front,

and so will greatly increase the loss of life amongst our brave troops. This is surely unnecessary, as there are still many men over 21 years of age who are able to bear arms, and until these are all under arms, we strongly urge the authorities not to accept the brave lads who have shamed many older men by volunteering for service. We consider that the law is being evaded, and would respectfully suggest that all applicants be compelled to produce their certificates of birth when sending in their names.

### INVERCARGILL.

October 5. A fair attendance. We are deeply sorry that owing to illness, Mrs McKenzie has had to send in her resignation as President, and sincerely hope that she may soon be restored to health. Mrs Baird, senior, Vice-President, was appointed to preside until the end of the year. Very feeling reference was made to the death of Mrs D. Strang, one of the first band of W.C.T.U. women in Invercargill, a faithful and devoted Christian worker. A resolution of condolence and sympathy with the family, in the loss of their mother was passed, and a wreath sent by members of Victoria Home Committee.

In September a most successful Cradle Roll meeting was held, when Miss Birss gave a most instructive address on the "Montessori System of Infant Education," illustrated by apparatus used. Resolved to request Miss Birss to repeat the address at a future larger meeting. Resolution passed "Disapproving of the kind of pictures that are being shown to children in the local picture theatres." Some action to be taken in this matter. Mrs Hunter and Mrs Parr took charge of the Rest Rooms at the recent Patriotic Demonstration, and reported that a good sum of money was collected by their willing helpers for the Wounded Soldiers' Fund. Decided to forward the money for sand-bags to England to Miss Agnes Slack, our World's W.C.T.U. Secretary, asking her to get the bags made there and forwarded immediately. £2 was voted from our funds, and one member has collected a much larger sum. A letter from Mrs Barney, World's Missionary, with reference to Victoria Home was read.

### WELLINGTON DISTRICT.

Three At Home meetings have been held during the last five weeks, given by Mesdames Wright and Cummings, Boxall and Webb, and Mrs Sidey, when thirteen new members were initiated. Miss Powell was the speaker, and her addresses were very much appreciated by those present. "Franchise Day" was held on September 23rd, when there was a good attendance. Miss Powell said that many requests had been made to the members of Parliament during the twenty-two years the women had had the vote, and emunerated some of the reforms

which had been granted by the Government through the agitation of the W.C.T.U. The Rev Hunt and Mrs Kemmington gave recitations, which added much to the pleasure of all.

The monthly meeting was held on October 7, when Mesdames Webb and Richards' reports of Provincial Convention were read, for which they received hearty votes of thanks.

### OTAUTAU.

Sept. 9. The President in the chair. Resolved to send a letter of sympathy to Mrs W. E. Robertshaw on the death of her husband, also similar letter to husband and family of the late Mrs Ed. Henderson, who was one of our oldest members.

A special meeting was called for September 23, when arrangements for Band of Hope final concert on 29th October were made, and a committee are at work. Decided to affiliate with the Invercargill Union.

### PALMERSTON NORTH.

A most interesting meeting here on the 17th. About fifty members were present. Public welcome to Rev and Mrs Blackburn, the new Anglican clergyman; Mrs Hodder presided. The President, Mrs Crabb, welcomed on behalf of the Union; Mr Crabb, on behalf of the No License League; Mr Monro on behalf of the Rechabites. Mr Blackburn responded, expressing his fullest sympathy with the cause of Temperance, and wished us God's speed in our work. A solo was sung by Mrs Whitehead. Mr Blackburn prayed, and we closed with the singing of a hymn. Two new members were initiated.

### LOWEY HUTT.

Sept. 21. Mrs Routley, President, in the chair. Mrs Brash was appointed Treasurer. An address was given by Miss Powell. The sum of £5 voted for second lot of sand bags for the soldiers at the front. Eight new members were initiated bringing the total up to thirty.

October 5. Meeting held in Church of Christ, Mrs Routley presided; twelve members being present. Meeting opened with hymn and prayer. Mrs Lyford elected Superintendent of Cradle Roll.

### OPOTIKI.

Union still actively engaged in its mission. We have been interviewing the heads of town and district schools re Temperance Essays, and we hope to have this carried through about the middle of October. Mr J. B. Gow has consented to examine the papers. Our Vice-President, Mrs W. Morice, has suffered bereavement in the loss of her son at the Dardanelles; we extend her our heartfelt sympathy.

### AUCKLAND.

Usual meeting held, Miss Caley presided. A letter was read from Miss Dewar, asking for two delegates to at-



tend Provincial Convention, Mrs Plummer and Fountain being elected. It was with sorrow that the Union recorded the death of an old member. At the close of the meeting, Madam Isherwood kindly sang a solo.

#### TINWALD.

Sept. 8. Mrs Mill (Vice-President) presided over a fair attendance of members. A paper written by Miss Powell was read by the Secretary. One new member was initiated. It was decided to ask one of the Ashburton members to report on the Convention. Mrs Smith presented a money box to the Union to receive donations. A visitor from the Winchmore Branch was welcomed.

#### CAMBRIDGE.

June. Secretary reported having sent box of new clothing to the London poor, per Victoria League. Decided we take up Red Cross work for the base hospitals in Egypt. Decided that we hold prayer meetings for peace and guidance during the war. One new member welcomed.

July. Sympathy expressed, and letter sent to Mrs Watson, re the illness of Mr Watson.

August. Resolved: That we make an emphatic protest against the increased number of race days, and assume an hostile attitude against all forms of gambling, and that the Secretary send a letter to our member to that effect. Mrs Hogan asked for old linen to send for the use of Red Cross work.

Sept. Decided that a letter be sent to member of district supporting the petition for 6 o'clock closing of hotel bars. Letter read from Belgium Relief Secretary in London expressing thanks for the case of clothing sent by our W.C.T.U. and friends. Secretary reported Red Cross parcel sent, containing: 8 flannel nightgales; 4 sets flannel pyjamas; 8 night shirts; 15 tie bandages; 20 rolled bandages; 6 many tailed bandages; 15 triangle bandages, etc.; also a large hamper sent to Sister Esther for the Auckland needy ones, containing boots, shoes, and over 60 garments. Mrs Roberts, Cradle Roll Supt., resigned, owing to her leaving Cambridge. Three new members proposed. Band of Hope sent collection of £1 8s in aid of Red Cross Work.

#### BLENHEIM.

July. Members decided to start Red Cross work. Resolutions from Miss Roberts were discussed. One re the gambling and racing permits was passed unanimously. Decided to send another box of clothing to England.

August 5. Decided to publish in local paper a letter received from Mrs Lee-Cowie, to the Moderate League. Mrs Jackson read a letter on behalf of Alice Parkinson. A resolution being passed protesting against the life term of detention.

Sept. 7. Decided to offer prizes for best essays written by school

children on the Temperance Wall Sheets.

October 5. Four new members joined the Union. Decided to hold an afternoon gathering on the 15th of the month at Mrs Sinclair's; Home members and friends to bring parcels suitable for hospital ship. Mrs Rose to speak on the Win-One Campaign.

#### WANGANUI.

There was a fair attendance presided over by Mrs Blamires (President). A vote of sympathy passed with Mrs Cummings in connection with the death of her son, Claude. Mrs Upton gave a splendid report of the work done at Convention just held in Wellington, showing splendid activity in the Unions throughout the Dominion. The Union decided to hold a "Tinned Afternoon" on October 15th to provide comforts for the brave boys at the front, each guest to bring a gift.

#### PAHIATUA.

October 7. Mrs Neal presided. Members expressed regret that Miss Powell has been obliged to postpone her visit indefinitely, also that Mrs Peryman cannot come for our Franchise Day meeting. The President conveyed greetings from the Woodville Union. She had, by invitation, attended their last meeting, and given a Cradle Roll address to mothers. The report of the Provincial Convention was read and discussed. The school being closed just now on account of measles and diphtheria, resolved, not to offer prizes for essays on the Temperance Wall Sheets this year.

#### WANGANUI EAST.

Usual monthly meeting held last Friday in month, in Baptist Church. The President occupied the chair. Correspondence received from Canterbury Women's Institute re "Militarism." It was resolved that in future all meetings be held in Baptist Chapel to save confusion. Mrs Mercer was thanked for donation of 6s 5d to our funds. Meeting closed with Benediction.

#### NEW BRIGHTON.

Sept. 16. Attendance good. Correspondence was received from the Hon. G. W. Russell re six o'clock closing. Our delegates gave an interesting report from the Convention. As it was near Franchise Day, a paper was read on that subject, a collection being taken up for the Organising Fund. An invitation was sent to Mrs Lill, inviting the Provincial Convention of 1916 to be held in New Brighton. The invitation has been accepted. A quantity of linen has been collected by our members for the Red Cross.

Oct. 7. An enthusiastic meeting was held. Decided to hold a "Hospital Ship" afternoon, all members taking an active part. One new member for Win One campaign.

#### FEILDING.

Sept. 2. A large gathering of ladies assembled to say farewell to Mrs Budd, one of our active members, who has moved to Auckland. The President handed the guest of the afternoon a writing case and copper hot water jug, as a small token of appreciation from the Union. Mrs Budd thanked the friends, and spoke of the spiritual and temperance aspects of the W.C.T.U. Several new members joined.

Sept. 23. Mrs Barton kindly lent her beautiful grounds for a Garden Party to celebrate Franchise Day. The visitors from a distance were Mesdames Peryman ("White Ribbon" Editor), Crabb (Palmerston President) and Miss Sorley (a Feilding ex-President, now correspondent and cor. secretary). Mrs Peryman, in a very interesting and forceful address, held the close attention of her audience, speaking of the many aspects of W.C.T.U. work and its world-wide influence, and urged members to continue their interest in a practical way in the various departments of Christian and reform work. In Miss Sorley's address she mentioned that there were three ladies present who were daughters of some of our first workers and members of the W.C.T.U. when it was started in New Zealand. Mrs Crabb mentioned that they were having a food stall at the A. and P. Show at Palmerston in November, and wished our Branch to help in making it a success, a resolution being passed to do so. Miss Moore (President) welcomed and introduced the visitors, also proposed a vote of thanks. Six new members joined.

Oct. 7. Miss Austen, from Africa, addressed our meeting on the Purity question. She is a fluent speaker, and told her story in a beautiful and instructive way.

#### SAWYER'S BAY.

Oct. A social afternoon, to give members and friends an opportunity of bidding farewell to Mrs Falconer, who with her husband is removing to Naseby. Mrs Don voiced everyone's regret at losing such a good and useful member, and wished her God-speed and happiness in her new abode. Mrs Falconer briefly responded, and expressed much regret at leaving Sawyer's Bay. The Union is now in recess till March, 1916.

#### OXFORD.

Sept. 28. A social to celebrate the fourth "birthday" of the Oxford W.C.T.U. A well-filled hall, and the President gave a report of the year's work. Band of Hope, Cradle Roll, and other meetings had been held. The Union had raised over £60 for the Belgium Fund. Mrs T. E. Taylor gave an address on "Kindergarten Work," describing the methods used at the Sunbeam Kindergartens, Christchurch. Mrs Taylor was accorded a very hearty vote of thanks.

Rev. Mr Bain gave a recitation, and two sacred solos were sung by Mrs Martin, of Ohoka. Decided that the birthday cake given by Mrs G. Ryde should be sold for the benefit of the Red Cross Fund.

Meeting of the Senior Band of Hope was held on Thursday evening. The Rev. Mr Bain presided, and gave an address on the "Burning Bush." Songs and recitations were contributed by members.

#### GISBORNE. Franchise Day.

Meeting held September 21st, between 30 and 40 present. Musical items opened the afternoon, then tea, and afterwards a very good talk by Rev. Chatterton on Franchise generally, showing how much women could do if they would only realise their united power. Two extracts were then read by Mrs Malcolm and the Rev. McCutcheon. The following resolution was then passed:—"That this meeting desires to enter a strong protest against the action of the Mayor in electing himself to the vacant seat on the Hospital and Charitable Aid Board by his casting vote, and also against the unique position taken up by those Councillors who rescinded a motion passed at a former meeting appointing the lady ratepayer who came next highest at the poll. The following was also carried:—"That this meeting would like to convey its thanks to, and appreciation of the strong stand taken up by those Councillors who stood for the principle of the democratic vote, in spite of organised opposition."

Sept. 28. 18 present. Discussion on the coming visit of Miss Powell. Temperance Convenor reported having written to headmasters re essay, and hoped to have good results. Mrs Israel read extract from letter re "Lumbermen and Miners." Telegram read from W. D. L. McDonald saying, "Views noted for consideration when legislation being considered," referring to early closing petition. The only reply we had out of three telegrams sent.

#### TIMARU.

Mrs Paterson read a most interesting paper on "Some of China's Problems," showing great insight into the needs of China. Mrs Trott, one of the delegates to the District Convention, gave a bright account of the work done there, and spoke in very high praise of papers read, especially those by Miss Roberts. Mrs Grant reported a visit to the hospital, and mentioned as of special interest the cases of three men who had returned invalided from the Dardanelles. Mrs Kavanagh suggested that one day a year be set apart for the collection of eggs to give to the hospitals. Mr and Mrs Good were appointed to take up the work at the Sailors' Rest, in place of Mr and Mrs Stead, who have done the work so faithfully and well. Votes of condolence were passed to

three of our members whose sons had given their lives for their country in this dreadful war.

#### HASTINGS.

A Sewing Guild was formed some time ago in connection with the W.C.T.U., to sew and make new clothing for the Belgians. The workers have now sufficient garments in hand to pack and forward a box. A very successful concert was held in Wesley Hall on September 23rd to raise more funds. The Rev. M. A. Rugby Pratt occupied the chair. There was a splendid programme of songs, recitations, dialogues, etc., which was much appreciated by all present. The Rev. P. Ramsay gave an encouraging patriotic address. The proceeds of the evening realised £4 7s.

#### PETONE.

Only a fair number were present, some being sick, and others away. Our Treasurer, Mrs Doneghue, has just had a very serious operation. We have sent from Petone upwards of 500 postcards, signed by residents re closing hotel bars at six o'clock, to Mr Wilford, M.P.

An enjoyable "At Home" was held at Mrs Hope's house on Wednesday, 22nd inst. "The Tragedy of Ignorance" was read by Mrs Houlder, and an address was given by the President, Mrs Rowse. Pianoforte duet and recitation were given. Afternoon tea was served by Mrs Hope. Two new members were initiated. Mrs Hope was heartily thanked for a pleasant afternoon.

#### PUKEKOHE.

A social held on September 9th, Mrs Frost (President) in the chair. Prizes were distributed to the school children for their essays on Temperance. The prizes were awarded in each class from the Third Standard upward, the Rev. G. Frost (Wesleyan minister) being the judge. The prize essays were read by the President, a vote of thanks being accorded to the headmaster for his kindness and co-operation in the matter. An enjoyable musical programme by the school children and friends was followed by afternoon tea. The thanks of the meeting were accorded to the ladies who worked so hard to make the social a success.

#### NELSON.

Sept. 14. Miss Atkinson presiding. A resolution of sympathy was passed with Mrs Newton, who has lost her son at the Front. Unanimously resolved that the usual Sale of Work should be held this year in the Temperance Hall. Decided that as it was not possible that Franchise Day should be celebrated on the 19th, it should be observed on a later date. A very interesting address was given by Miss Waymouth, now visiting Nelson, in which she spoke of her work in connection with the No-License League and W.C.T.U., and also of

her social work both here and in England. She received a very hearty vote of thanks. Two Good Citizenship meetings have been held, on September 10th and 24th, at which the study of Norman Angell's pamphlet "Shall this War End Prussian Militarism?" Both meetings were well attended, and the reading called forth much interesting discussion. The monthly prayer meeting was held on September 27th; we have many expressions of thankfulness at the institution of these meetings.

#### GREYTOWN.

Sept. Snowballing has been carried out enthusiastically. A letter was read from the Wairarapa M.P., who heartily sympathised with all who desired 6 o'clock closing of the hotel bars, but was powerless to do anything; said the Government would do nothing. 10,000 knitted eye bandages are required for the soldiers. Many ladies entered heartily into the work, promising to supply as many as possible. Vigorous collecting of old linen is being carried on, also books for the troops on the transport ships. Six were initiated, and all present wore the white badge. The Band of Hope was organised, 39 joining the ranks. A collection of 11s 2d was taken up.

#### WARKWORTH.

August. The Warkworth W.C.T.U. monthly meeting was held in the Methodist Church on August 26th. The attendance was small, so much time being spent with relief work. Mrs Attwood presided. Delegates were appointed to attend the Auckland District Convention. Usual business dealt with, and the meeting closed with the Benediction.

Sept. 30. Attendance good. Mrs Attwood presided. Mrs Roose, as delegate, gave an interesting report of the Auckland Provincial Convention. Mesdames Hamilton and Morrison also spoke on the Convention, and gave useful hints for next year's work. Mrs Morrison read the paper "Woman, Her Power," that she gave at the Auckland Convention.

#### HAWERA.

Sept. Franchise anniversary was celebrated. Mrs Mills, a new member from the Old Country, gave an address on local temperance work in the North of England. Mrs Herrick read quotations from the utterances of a number of leading men of the Dominion in warm appreciation of the way women had exercised their political influence. A list of humanitarian Acts passed during the last twenty-two years was also read. The speaker then referred to the eagerness with which women at Home were grasping any opportunity to help the Empire in this crisis, and urged members to use their influence with all women to exercise their vote with a greater sense of responsibility than heretofore. Mrs Blamires, who was



in the chair, concluded with a brief forcible speech on the same lines.

#### WAIPIKURAU.

Aug. 12. The subject of venereal disease was discussed, and the following resolution was carried unanimously:—"The members of the Waipukurau Union are strongly in favour of the Medical Conference's proposals on venereal diseases, feeling sure they are for the benefit of the public health of the people of the Dominion." Resolutions were also passed and sent to the Government asking them to rigidly enforce the law as regards raffling and art unions; also to reconsider their decision not to restrict racing permits, as it was felt there was need for economy and thrift in this time of stress. Decided to accept an offer of roll of jute Hessian for sandbags from Mrs Harding (one of our members). This has been made into bags, and is now ready to send away to the front. Two new members joined our numbers. Collection was taken up for Taylor Memorial Fund.

#### NORMANBY.

July. 16 members present, 3 new members joined, each member pledging themselves to try and win one new member. For "Our Boys at the Front" members willingly subscribed £1 10s towards a bed, which has since been made up and sent to Trentham. Hawera friends invited Normanby members to celebrate T. E. Taylor Memorial, 17 members being present.

Aug. 5. A very successful Home meeting was held at Mrs Scott's residence. A large number of members and friends were present. Mrs Blamires addressed the meeting on her work as "sister" in the South. Five new members joined.

Sept. 15 members present, 2 new members joining. Members are busy washing and fixing up sandbags for the boys at the front, also donating old linen for the same purpose.

#### WHANGAREI.

Sept. 7. Seven members present, Mrs Williams in chair. A letter was read from Miss Dewar re sending delegates to Provincial Conference. Decided to send two delegates. The meeting closed with Benediction.

#### GREYMOUTH.

Sept. 18. Drawing-room meeting held at the residence of Mrs and Miss Parkinson (new members); a good attendance. Mrs Whitcombe, of South, gave a most able and interesting address on the work and possibilities of the Union, and women's work generally. A sacred solo by Miss Parkinson, and afternoon tea closed a very pleasant time.

Sept. 20. Franchise Day meeting. A most interesting afternoon. Mrs Gaskin presided. Addresses were given by Revs. Trotter and Patchett; song, Mrs Patchett; reading and recitation by Misses Parkinson and

Hayes. Miss Staffen, of Auckland, was present. Four new members joined our Union. Our Sailors' Rest Sale of Work is postponed until November 18, which will give our dear readers and sisters a little longer time in which to send us some small gifts, for which we shall be so thankful.

#### MATAURA.

Aug. Usual meeting held. The petition re Alice Parkinson was signed by all the members.

Sept. 24. Reported that a box of clothing for Dr. Barnardo's Home, containing 307 garments, was sent away last week. Members have been working at the meetings for the soldiers or poor.

#### MASTERTON.

October 5. Mrs Ross (President) occupied the chair. A vote of sympathy was passed to Mrs Morris on the death of her father. Arrangements were made for the visit of Miss Bisson, of Manchester W.C.T.U., who is expected to be with us this month. Mrs N. Millar gave her report of Convention, and was accorded a vote of thanks. Resolved to hold the annual social on November 2nd, and that an invitation be sent to the Greytown Union.

#### DUNEDIN.

The President, Mrs Driver, reported having received numerous letters from troopers who have left for Trentham, stating that they had signed the K.K. Pledge sent out by the Union, also that the petition in favour of the remission of the sentence for manslaughter on Alice Parkinson was largely signed in Dunedin, kindred societies willingly co-operating with us in our effort to get signatures. A silent vote of sympathy was passed to the family of the late A. R. Falconer in his sudden home going, he having died in Church during the singing of a hymn. The deceased was for thirty years in charge of our Sailors' Rest, and during that period his work became not only well known throughout the Dominion, but all over the world. The meeting expressed its indignation at the treatment of the petition for early closing of bars, and the carrying of the Gaming Bill. Mrs Lindo Ferguson, President of the Otago Women's Club, gave an address on Venereal Diseases from the view point of a doctor's wife. In the course of an instructive address, she expressed herself as sympathetic with the Union in their efforts to get women police appointed, and hoped all women's societies would be able to prevail upon the Government to provide a detention home for abnormal girls; spoke of the need of more home life for young girls, of the need of parental control, of a Curfew law that will clear the streets of girls unattended, at an early hour, and concluded a practical talk by suggesting the making of a law that will necessi-

tate the production of a clean bill of health before the marriage license is granted.

#### CHRISTCHURCH.

Sept. 22. Mrs McCombs presided. Mrs Patterson reported that several schools had already written promising to do all in their power in regard to the essay competitions on the Temperance Wall Sheets. It was resolved to write to the City Council to take action in regard to boys selling newspapers in the streets and frequenting hotels, also asking if the bye-law is still in operation prohibiting boys from selling newspapers without a license.

Sept. 29. Mrs J. McCombs presided. This meeting was called to discuss ways and means of raising funds for Red Cross work. Decided to hold a Jumble and Produce Sale on Saturday, October 23rd. Decided to have boxes on the tables at the A. and P. Show in November. Resolved to make a donation of articles to the hospital ship. Miss Henderson promising to get an estimate of sheets and pillowslips by next meeting. The Secretary was asked to notify members re Refreshment Booth at A. and P. Show, and River Bank Carnival Meeting to be held on October 6. Miss Roberts drew the attention of members to the amendments to the Gaming and Lottery Act proposed, and introduced by Hon. G. W. Russell, and the following resolution was passed:—"This Union strongly protests against the proposal to amend the Gaming Act in the direction of giving greater facilities for raffles and art unions in connection with war funds. The Union holds that gambling tends to weaken the moral fibre of the nation, and consequently, the resort to it is opposed to the spirit of true patriotism. In view of the nature of the great sacrifices made by the gallant men, for whose benefit these funds are intended, the Union believes that the appeal should be made to the highest patriotic sentiments, and not to the lowest form of personal greed. It was also resolved to send a letter congratulating Mr Harris on the passing of his amendments to the Maintenance Bill.

Lady Liverpool Fund. Red Cross Report:—6 foment cloths; 2 doz. operation cloths; 11 tray cloths; 3 pairs socks; 2 scarves; 5 bottle covers; 2 vests; 1 pair pants; 2 night shirts; 4 doz new flannelette bandages; 1 doz. manytails bandages.

**Ashburton.** 2nd Tuesday, 8 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. Lil. Willowby; "W.R." Supt., Miss Butterick, Wakanui.

**Auckland District,** 2nd & 4th Wednesday, 8 p.m., Central Mission Hall, Albert St.; Executive meets 2.30; Pres., Mrs Cook, Point St., Mt. Eden; Cor. Sec., Miss N. Dewar, Pompaier Terr., Ponsonby; Rec. Sec., Miss Evans, G.F.S., Wellesley St.; Treas., Miss Dewar, 4, Pompaier Terr., Ponsonby; "W.R." Agent, Miss Pudney, 16, Wallace St., Ponsonby.

**Blenheim** District, 1st Tuesday, 3 p.m.; Pres. Mrs A. Jackson; Sec., Mrs D. P. Sinclair, Box 27; Treas., Mrs Hay, Stephenson St.; Mothers' Meeting and Cradle Roll, Mesdames Brewer and Hancock; "W.R." Agent, Mrs W. Parker, Grove Rd.

**Cambridge**, first Tuesday in month, in Victoria Hall, at 3 p.m.; Pres., Mrs W. Hogan; Vice-Pres., Mesdames P. Smith and Gow; Sec., Mrs A. T. Watson; Treas., Mrs C. H. Rycroft; Cradle Roll, Mrs M. Robert.

**Christchurch** District. Rooms cr. Manchester and Worcester Streets. Second and fourth Wednesday; Pres., Mrs I. McCombs, 26, Tui Street, Fendalton; Cor. Sec., Mrs R. Day, Milford St., St. Albans; Rec. Sec., Mrs Stewart, 514, Madras Street; Treas., Mrs Seed, 44, Brittan St., Linwood; "W.R." Supt., Mrs Williams, 21, Philip St., Linwood.

**Dannevirke**, 2nd Wednesday, Wesleyan Schoolroom, 3 p.m.; Pres., Mrs W. F. Knight, Tahoraiti; Sec., Mrs Wiseman, High St.; Treas., Miss Burdett, The Manse.

**Dunedin** District, 1st Tuesday, Congregational Church Hall, Moray Place, 3 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 Reid, Bishopscourt, Roslyn; Supt. Sailor's 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.

**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, Water-view Rd., Stanley Bay.

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

**Gisborne** District, last Tuesday, 2.45 p.m., Presbyterian Schoolroom; Pres., Mrs A. Graham, Kaiti; Cor. Sec., Mrs F. J. Wilkes, 466 Gladstone Rd.; Rec. Sec., Mrs F. S. Malcolm, Aberdeen Rd.; Treas., Mrs Goffe, Ormond Rd.; "W.R." Agent, Mrs D. W. Coleman.

**Greymouth** District, last Tuesday at 3 p.m., in Sailor's 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. Mason, 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; Sec., Mrs Harrison, 202, Gray's Rd.; Treas., Mrs Barbour; Purity and Evangelistic, Mesdames Clapham and Stewart; Maori, Miss McKeown; "W.R." Supt., Mrs Collinge.

**Huntly**, 3rd Wednesday, Presbyterian and Methodist Churches alternate'y, 2 p.m.; Pres., Mrs Butler; Vice-Pres., Mesdames Sheeran and Edmonds; Sec., Mrs Gleeson; Treas., Mrs Leather.

**Invercargill** District, 1st Tuesday, 3 p.m. and 3rd Tuesday, 7.30 p.m., 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 Street.

**Kaipoi 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, Kaikorai; Pres., Mrs Pinfold, Methodist Parsonage; "W.R." Agent, Mrs Somerville; Treas., Mrs Martin; Sec., Mrs Hamilton; Cradle Roll, Miss Osborne.

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

**Manaiia**, 2nd Friday, Methodist Church; Pres., Mrs J. J. Patterson; Vice-Pres., Mesdames Prakinson 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 Street; Treas., Mrs Sutherland; WHITE RIBBON Supt., Mrs Russell.

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

**Mosgiel**, Meets in Presbyterian Hall, 2nd Tuesday at 2.45 p.m. Pres., Mrs H. D. Bedford; Sec., Mrs Pinfold; Treas., Mrs Wilson.

**Napier** District, 1st Wednesday, Willard Hall, 3rd Thursday, Baptist Church, Napier S., 3 p.m.; Pres. Mrs Fossey, Nelson Cres.; Rec. and 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.

**Ngauwawhia**, 1st Tuesday, 2.30 p.m., Presbyterian Church; Pres., Mrs T. E. French; Vice-Pres., Mrs L. Bycroft and Mrs Vincent; Sec., Mrs W. A. Porter; Treas., Mrs S. Whitburn; Supt. Cradle Roll and W. R., Mrs Kendall.

**New Plymouth** District, last Wednesday, 3 p.m., Good Templar Lodgeroom; Pres., Mrs Allen Douglas, Pendarves St.; Sec., Mrs W. Bruce, 251 Molesworth St.; Treas., and W.R. Agent, Miss Taunt, Victoria Rd.

**Normanby**, Second Wednesday, 2 p.m., Social Hall; Pres., Mrs Scott; Vice-Pres., Mrs Butler and Mrs Clement; Sec., Mrs Saunders; Treas., Mrs Lynn; Cradle Roll, Mrs K. Hall; WHITE RIBBON, Mrs Dickson; Literature, Mrs Hayward.

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

**Nelson** District, Second Tuesday, Temperance Hall, 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 Tuesday, 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 Waidegrave St.

**Petone**, 1st Tuesday, Church of Christ, Sydney St., 2.30 p.m.; Pres., Mrs Rowse, Udy St.; Vice-Pres., Miss Kirk, Mesdames Corner and McPherson; Sec., Mrs Burd, 87 Cuba St.; Treas., Mrs Donoghue; Cradle Roll, Mrs Barrow; 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., Dr. F. Keller; Vice-Pres., Mrs C. I. Harris, Mrs C. R. Vickers, and Miss Coley; Sec., Mrs Plummer, Coronation Rd., Epsom; "W.R." Supt., Mrs Plummer; Treas., Mrs M. A. Bailey, Ponsonby.

**Pukekohe**, Methodist Church, 1st Thursday, 3 p.m.; Pres., Mrs Frost; Sec., Mrs Haslem; Cor. Sec., Miss Usher; Treas., Mrs Comrie; "W.R." Supt., Miss Goldsworthy.

**Rangiora**, last Friday, ante-room of Institute Hall, 2.45 p.m.; Pres., Mrs May; Treas., Mrs H. Taylor.

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

**Stratford**, 1st Thursday, 3 p.m., Methodist Church; Pres., Mrs Reeve; Vice-Pres., Mrs P. H. Cameron and Mrs L. Lily; Sec., Mrs J. McAllister; Treas., Mrs Birdsall.

**Takapuna**, 1st Thursday, 2.30 p.m., Takapuna Methodist, and Milford Baptist, alternately. Pres., Mrs Fulljames, East Coast Rd.; Sec., Mrs Carter, Lake Town Rd.; Treas., Miss Rushbrook, Milford.

**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, Sailor's 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 Ave.; "W.R." Supt., Mrs J. W. Snelgrove, Willow St.

**Tuakau**, 2nd Thursday, Methodist Church, 2.30 p.m. Pres., Mrs Hunter; Vice-Pres., Mesdames Madill, Lee, Long and Graham; Sec., Mrs C. Bycroft; Treas., Mrs Goldsmith; Supt. Band of Hope, Miss Worthington; 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 Raven; Sec., Mrs Johnson; Treas., Mrs Mairs; WHITE RIBBON Agent, Mrs Schofield.

**Waimate**, 2nd Wednesday, in Knox Church Hall, at 8 o'clock; Pres., Mrs W. J. Roberts, Willowbridge; Sec., Mrs Geo. Dash, Box 27, P.O.; Min. Sec., Miss Strong, Lower High St.; Treas., Mrs S. J. Hitchens, "Te Rangī," Mill Rd. 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; Rec. 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 St.; 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 Atwood, 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 Rd., Ashburton; Treas., Mrs Moore; WHITE RIBBON Agent Mrs Glassey.

**Wellington District**, 1st Thursday, 3 p.m., Rooms, Constable St.; Pres., Mrs Evans, M.A., Hiroki St.; Sec., Mrs Spearman, 6 Dawson St., Berhampore; Treas., Mrs Houlder, 108 Wallace St.; WHITE RIBBON Supt., Mrs Webb, Hall St.

Girl's 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 McVicar, Brougham St.; Rec. Sec., Mrs Port, Pirie St.; Treas. Mrs Helyer, Oriental Bay; WHITE RIBBON Supt., Mrs Port, Austin St.

**Waipukurau**, 2nd Thursday, St. Andrew's Hall, 3 p.m.; Pres., Mrs Hopkirk; Vice-Pres., Mrs Harding and Mrs Nicholson; Sec., Mrs H. French, Main St.; 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., Miss B. Galbraith, Gladstone Rd.; Treas., Mrs Davie, Station St.; Cradle Roll, Mrs Cole; "W.R." Agent, Mrs Thompson, Fox St.