

WOMEN'S Christian Temperance Union Of New Zealand.

Organised 1885.

"For God and Home and Humanity."

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The White Ribbon.

For God and Home and Humanity.

WELLINGTON, DECEMBER 18, 1915

RUM RATION AT THE FRONT.

In spite of every protest from King and Kitchener, from Bishop and Army officer, from physician and social reformer; in spite of petition from wife and mother; in defiance of every dictate of reason, and every demand for efficiency, the rum ration still continues to be issued to our boys at the Front. A letter received from a boy at Gallipoli, a sapper, tells how, on returning from a day's heavy toil in the trenches, he was handed out a biscuit and a tot of rum. This young man is only twenty, and left New Zealand a life abstainer. Now, we ask is it fair to these boys, is it fair to the mothers who have given them to their country's service, that they should be compelled to drink rum or go without any liquid refreshment? And this in

a country where water is one of the scarcest things.

Is the British Government deliberately trying to manufacture drunkards for the benefit of the brewer and distiller? It looks very much like it. Do they know that when a man is faint and weary, and physically exhausted, then to give him rum, with its false feeling of warmth and comfort, is the best way to create an appetite and foster a craving for this deadly drug? Just as to the man in pain opium is given, that pain may be lulled, then at every return of the pain comes the craving, with ever-increasing force for the magician who can deaden that pain, so to the man faint with toil comes the false stimulant, rum, and with every return of the fatigue comes the craving for the rum. If the British Government does not know this, in the face of modern scientific research, then its ignorance can only be described as criminal.

The wives and mothers of Canada, through their Prime Minister, have sent a petition of over 63,000 signatures to the Imperial Government protesting against the rum ration. Shall not the wives and mothers of New Zealand ask our Defence Minister to request the Imperial authorities that "our boys" shall not be compelled to drink rum or nothing, but that some nourishment, such as cocoa or soup, shall be provided for them in place of rum. That the drunkard's appetite has been formed "at the Front" the experience of one poor mother proves. The mother of a wounded soldier writes: "My boy has been wounded in the trenches, and is invalided home. That is not the worst. He has been more sorely wounded by false friends in public-houses. He has not come home sober a single night since his return, and he will not be twenty-one years of age for some months."

Why is it that rum is still given to mar the efficiency of our soldiers and to make drunkards of our young men? Because influential men in Great Britain are making money by the sale of this nation-destroying poison, and for the salvation of their Empire they are not willing to forego their unholy gains. The "London Evening News" says "that eight dukes, seven marquises, fifty-three earls, eighteen viscounts, seventy-seven lords, 880 knights, 1000 army and navy officers, and over 1200 minis-

ters and clergymen are shareholders in the liquor business. On May 10, 1905, the "Daily News" gave the following summary table of "Brewery holdings of clergymen and ministers: Personal. Trustee.

Church of England—

Home	...	...	850	862
Irish	...	...	74	45
Abroad	...	...	16	3

Total ... 940 310

Roman Catholic—

Home	...	...	30	12
Irish	...	...	74	81
Church of Scotland	...	...	16	3
Wesleyan	...	...	5	—
Congregational	...	...	2	1
Baptist	...	...	2	—

On April the 20th, 1905, the "Daily News" published the names of 296 members of the Houses of Commons and Lords who had brewery holdings.

Some restriction of this traffic has had to be enforced, or the Empire would have gone down in utter ruin, but what shall we say of the Cabinet which cowers at the whip of the brewer and distiller, and dare not deal drastically with the liquor traffic because its friends are making money out of national disgrace?

Thoughtful women, in view of the great sacrifices asked of them for the defence of the Empire, are beginning to ask, "Is the Empire, which cowers like a pack of whipped hounds at the crack of the lash, wielded by the unpatriotic brewers, worth the sacrifices it is asking for its salvation?" In other words, "Is the Empire lying under the heel of the brewer worth saving?" Mothers of New Zealand! You have votes. Use them to save your boys from the rum ration, the first step on the way to a drunkard's grave.

SECRETARIES TAKE NOTICE.

Will all Unions who advertise in the "White Ribbon" kindly see that the names of their newly-elected officers are sent along to the Editor, that is if there is any change. We like our advertising columns to be up-to-date, and shall be glad of your help in this matter. If the names of your officers are not correctly advertised you have only yourselves to blame, as the Editor has no authority to change your advertisement till you send along a change.