

of vodka, and France of absinthe. Austria-Hungary, Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Servia, Germany, and the United Kingdom have all materially shortened the hours for its sale. Some countries have forbidden drink to be sold to soldiers, and others have passed laws forbidding treating or shouting. Our own Defence Minister has recognised the evil drink does to soldiers by asking people not to treat soldiers to drinks. Why does he not go a step further, and forbid either to be given or sold to our soldiers the poison which he admits unfits them for duty. Accurate figures are not available, but sufficient is known to enable us to say that if the public knew the number of men rendered unfit for service by the twin evils of drink and impurity, it would be roused to fight these evils as it has never done before. The people are slowly learning the truth taught so many centuries ago, that "Righteousness exalteth a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people." Another bright gleam is the advance the woman question has made this year. In every rank and profession women have been demonstrating their fitness for service, and walls of prejudice are slowly giving way before their strong and steady advance.

Now let us look forward, and we do so fearfully, almost afraid to face the unknown to-morrow. We believe that faint signs of peace are already visible, but at what a cost have they been purchased. From this struggle nations will emerge exhausted, Europe one vast graveyard, in almost every home, mourning for those who are not. The manhood of the Empires has been so severely lessened and crippled that future generations must feel the effects of it. In the work of reconstruction our Empire wants all at their best. Every one of us must fight for every reform that makes for national efficiency, and oppose with all our powers every evil that would sap our national life. As the women will far outnumber the men, to them in a large measure will the work be committed. May we all fit ourselves for the greatest service to our country.

The two evils which more than any others are race destroyers are intemperance and impurity. Let the W.C.T.U., as the largest organisation of women in the Dominion, start an

organised crusade against these evils. No reform comes to stay unless public opinion calls for it, therefore our first work must be to educate public opinion on these questions.

Neal Dow said Maine did not get its prohibitory law till they sowed the State knee deep in literature. By scattering literature broadcast over the land, and by insisting that every child in our primary schools, every youth and maiden in our colleges, every teacher in our training institutions, is taught the scientific truth about these race-destroying evils, so shall we create such a healthy public opinion that even strong vested interests must give way before it.

Now lastly, let us take an upward look. Many a time, as we have listened to the magnificent strains of the Hallelujah Chorus, we have thought that Handel had not only a musical, but also a spiritual inspiration when he wrote it. Ever as we listen to the voices of the upper parts ringing our their Hallelujahs we hear deep down the foundation notes of the chords strong and vibrant sounding out, "For the Lord God Omnipotent reigneth."

And if Hallelujahs are to sound among the upper harmonies of our life it will be because we have reared our life's structure on the foundation truth that "The Lord God Omnipotent reigneth."

We know that every effort to banish evil either from our own life or the Nation's life has the approval of God Himself. And he always wins who fights on God's side. No question is ever settled till it is settled right, and the only right settlement for the liquor question is National Prohibition; the only remedy for impurity is for every man to be taught to reverence not only his own, but his sister's body as the temple of the Holy Ghost.

Patriotism in the future must mean more to us than it has ever done before. We must not be indifferent, but actively hostile to any evil which threatens our national character.

We have entered on a long and hard fight, but at the beginning of this New Year's work let us hear Him "Who loved us and gave Himself for us," say, "Lo! I am with you all the days, even to the consummation of the ages."

IMPORTANT.

CONVENTION NOTICES.

Will all delegates and members who intend being present at Convention kindly send notice as soon as possible if they wish homes provided for them? Notice should be sent to the Wanganui Secretary, Mrs McKenzie.

MRS McKENZIE,
43, Wicksteed Street, Wanganui.

Dear Sisters,—

The Annual Convention will open on Wednesday, March 15th, at Wanganui. District Presidents, Secretaries and Treasurers, New Zealand Superintendents of Departments, Organisers and Organising Treasurers, together with New Zealand officers, have, ex officio, a seat in Convention. Each Branch may send one delegate for every 100 or fraction of 100 members, but no delegate can represent more than one Branch. All Unions unable to send a delegate may have a proxy appointed by sending me word and enclosing directions (sealed) as to voting for New Zealand officers, and also to vote on the following motion, notice of which was given at the 1915 Convention:—

By Mrs Scanlon: "That any Union finding itself unable to send one of its own members as delegate to Convention, shall have the power to choose as its representative any member of the W.C.T.U. in its own district. Failing this, it may, by request, have a representative appointed by Convention, all delegates and representatives to have the same rights and privileges at Convention."

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

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

Wishing all the Unions a very happy and prosperous New Year.—Yours in the work,

K. M. EVANS.
Pakaraka, Bay of Islands,
January 12th, 1916.

PURITY AND MORAL EDUCATION REPORTS.

Will all local Superintendents for Purity and Moral Education kindly