

MASTERTON UNDER NO-LICENSE.

One of the Palmerston North papers sent a reporter to Masterton to judge of the success or otherwise of No-License in Masterton. The result was a series of articles written for the "Dunedin Star," from which the following is taken:—

Conclusions.

The general results of my investigations into No-License and its effects as seen at the present day in Masterton may be summarised thus:

1. It has resulted in the decrease in the use of alcohol to about one-fourth of the average per head in the Dominion.

2. There is an unquestionably steep decrease in all offences against the law.

3. The town is just now in a higher state of solid prosperity than ever before in its history. Once it had settled down after the first shock of change, progress has been steady and substantial.

4. The accommodation for the travelling public has not been adversely affected.

5. The sly-grog trade is not large, and is steadily on the wane.

6. As no organised effort has been made to provide congregating places to take the place of the bars, the town lacks something of brightness and of cheer.

7. The townships of the neighbouring License areas have not benefited in any way as a result of No-License in Masterton.

These conclusions are the plain truth, and are the result of an investigation conducted with all the impartiality that I could bring to bear on my task. My bias certainly did not lie at the outset towards the No-License side. I have never been a teetotaller, and so far have never voted Prohibition. I dislike and distrust the motives of that section of the No-License party who are in the movement mostly with the obvious hope that the hotel takings will be diverted to their businesses. I believe that the only true measure of human progress is the growth of human fellowship, and there is something coldly lacking in that respect among the leaders of the No-License campaign. I find more beauty in a faultless three-year-old thoroughbred than in the most perfect rose in a church garden, and the spectacle of good horses fighting in the

firing line at the finish of a mile handicap gives me more intensity of enjoyment than any other sight on earth. I can claim, therefore, that I must not be credited with any party feelings when I set out on my quest. I have set out the facts exactly as I found them, and precisely as they appeared to me.

PRESIDENT'S LETTER.

54, Canongate, Sept. 4.

My Dear Comrades,—

I want to remind you that there are now two Banners to be competed for by our Unions this year. The first is presented by the New Zealand Union for the largest percentage increase of members gained in the twelve months. It has already passed through three or four Unions, and is familiar to all who have attended our Conventions these last few years. The second is donated by a friend, and was painted by Mrs Driver, ex-President of Dunedin Union. It is to be presented to the Union that gains the largest actual increase in members during the year. I have just had the pleasure of seeing it, and could wish it were possible to put a picture of it in the "White Ribbon," as an incentive to a "One Win One" Campaign, for I believe every Union would like to possess either one of these lovely banners. Now that the work in connection with the 6 o'clock petitions has ceased, and the lists for patriotic collection closed, there is time for all to make an effort to get at least one new member. If each White Ribboner could gain another by next Convention, it would make our membership six thousand six hundred and sixty-six. Can you realise what an effect such an organisation would have on the members of Parliament when we are seeking legislation in our favour? And what a strength and influence we would be in the Dominion? Think of it, dear comrades, and then all get to work to increase our membership. I imagine I hear many of you saying, "But the jam season is coming, spring cleaning has already begun, and the holidays are before us." Being a woman, I know all about it; but I know also that "Where there's a will

there's a way," and if we set out in the strength of the Lord to organise our own sex, it will give our work an impetus, and help to prepare us for the great fight against the Traffic that is coming at the close of the war, when we hope to vote "dry" at the ballot box. May I urge every Union to immediate decision, to hold drawing-room, home, or any sort of meetings, to personally canvass, or by any means try to double their membership and win either of the banners. Let us get busy, and keep at it. With loving greetings from,

Yours in the work,

RACHEL DON, Dom. President.

MINE-SWEEPERS.

I am very grateful to the Unions who have so liberally responded to my appeal for woollen comforts for the mine-sweepers, to whom we owe so much in this present war. If I have omitted to send circulars to any of our Unions who would like to help us in this good work, would they kindly communicate with me, and I will send them a list of the things required? We shall be sending cases from time to time, as we receive the goods. The following is a full list of articles received up to the present from our Unions:—

Blenheim.—6 undershirts, 6 pairs socks, 1 scarf, 2 pairs mittens.

Christchurch.—31 pairs socks, 3 scarves, 10 Balaclavas, 7 pairs mittens, 1 pair underpants, 1 singlet.

Masterton.—10 pairs socks, 9 Balaclavas, 1 pair under pants, 4 under shirts, 1 pair mittens, 2 scarves, 2 handkerchiefs (second parcel), 1 pair under pants, 1 singlet, 1 Balaclava.

Dannevirke.—8 pairs socks, 5 Balaclavas, 1 under shirt.

Bluff.—14 pairs socks, 3 Balaclavas, 1 cap, 4 pairs under pants, 2 singlets, 1 Cardigan jacket, 1 scarf.

Waipukurau.—6 flannel shirts, 3 scarves, 4 Balaclavas, 5 pairs mittens, 10 pairs socks.

Wanganui.—18 pairs socks, 7 scarves, 12 Balaclavas, 9 pairs mittens, 1 vest, 3 flannel shirts.

E. L. HATCHWELL,

Supt. of Work Among Seamen.

All parcels to be addressed to Mrs R. Hatchwell, c/o Seamen's Institute, Lyttelton.