

are on the Municipal Roll being entitled to vote. In this case it is of course essential that nominations should be sent in seven days before the election, the papers being filled in and signed according to the instructions thereon (Third Schedule, section 2). It may be noted that any householder resident in the district is eligible as a candidate, even if the name is not upon the Municipal Roll, though not as an elector.

There are obvious advantages in the new regulations, both as regards the method of election and the wider franchise; the bringing of this election into line with the others, and placing it under the same control, tends to obviate some of the illegalities which are liable to creep in under the old system, and to minimise the effect of personal influence and petty jealousies, which are apt to make themselves felt, thus giving freer and fuller expression to the wishes of the community as a whole. The education and general well-being of the children should be a matter of interest and grave importance to every member of the community, and it is only right that all should have a voice in the appointment of those who are more or less responsible for the conditions under which instruction is given.

I believe Nelson City is the only district in which the new regulations have yet come into force; the six schools in the city having, through the existence of side schools, always been under the jurisdiction of one committee, and the population being over 8000, all that was necessary eighteen months ago was for the Secretary of the Board to place the district under the new regulations, and the last election was conducted accordingly. This course was fully justified by the results, both as regards the quiet and orderly way in which it was carried on, and the placing of suitable members on the Committee, more particularly in the success of our two women candidates. The introduction of this change is of course in the hands of the School Committees of any district, but there is work which should be taken in hand at once by our Unions wherever such a change is desired. There is first the arousing of general interest in the matter, spreading the idea first by individual work, and later on by means of home and public meetings,

when the subject will be discussed; at the same time seeing that the names of all who are eligible as electors are placed upon the Municipal Roll; and then the bringing of influence to bear on members of School Committees, endeavouring to gain their support in favour of the change. Success may not come immediately, but we must remember that in this reform, as in so many others, the main factor is public opinion. It is in the education of public opinion that the hope of success lies, and it is this on which we have mainly to rely in all our efforts for social reform.

MARION JUDSON,

N.Z. Supt. Good Citizenship Dept.

### "THE SOLDIER'S LAMENT."

These lines were taken from the body of a New Zealand boy by one of his mates, and sent to us.

Sing me to sleep where bullets fall,  
Let me forget the war and all;  
Damp is my dug-out, cold are my feet,  
Nothing but bully and biscuits to eat.

Sing me to sleep where bombs explode,  
And shrapnel shells tear up the road,  
Over the sandbags helmets you'd find,  
Wounded in front of you, wounded behind.

Far, far from France I want to be,  
Where German snipers can't pop at me;  
Think of me crouching in rain and sleet,  
Waiting for orders, but not for retreat.

Sing me to sleep in some old shed,  
While all at home are snug in bed,  
Stretched out upon my waterproof,  
Dodging the raindrops through the roof.

Sing me to sleep where camp fires glow,  
Dreaming of friends I used to know,  
Dreaming of home, and night in the West,  
Somebody's hob-nailed boots on my chest.

Far, far from France I want to be,  
Lights of New Zealand I'd rather see;  
Think of me crouching in rain and sleet,  
Waiting for orders, but not for retreat.

Parliamentary Candidate: "Gentlemen, you twit me with being a 'turncoat.' Years ago I supported this measure. Then I had a reason. But now, gentlemen, I have lost my reason." And he wondered at the deafening roar that pervaded the meeting.

### NOTES OF PAPERS READ BEFORE THE CONFERENCE OF THE WELLINGTON DISTRICT CONGREGATIONAL UNION, AUGUST 16th (Continued).

The second paper was read by Mr C. J. Nicklin on "Social Reconstruction after the War." After pointing out that this problem was one that would seem ridiculously easy or profoundly difficult according to the point of view taken up, he enumerated some of the outstanding conditions, social and economic—the awakening of men's minds during the last half-century through the spread of education, the unrest in the industrial world, the inequalities between rich and poor, the apparent powerlessness of the churches—that combine to make our time one of the most critical in the history of the world. Society will have to be reconstructed out of the old materials, much of which will be the worse for the war. Just as the tillers of the soil will have to free the land from the debris of conflict before they can sow for harvests, so those who attempt to reconstruct the whole national organisation after the dislocation caused by these years of war, will be confronted by a task more complex than that of simple rebuilding. As one result of the war, there will surely be serious deterioration of the national character in many of its phases, both among those who have gone to fight and those who have stayed behind. To be a part of a great military machine, where individual thinking is incipient mutiny, does not conduce to the development of traits that make for Social Progress; while those who stay behind have in some ways a harder task to fulfil. All honour to the men who have gone to the Front in response to their country's call, but no less honour to those—too rare, alas!—who on principle refuse to make profit out of the war, who in times of popular clamour dare to utter what they conceive to be the truth, in the face of public hysteria, and who have learned that in God's purpose the way of life is not to be ministered unto, but to minister!

Perhaps the most serious menace to the national life arises from the fact that on the strength of the shibboleth, "We must win the war, nothing else matters," the Government have induced the people to acquiesce in the jettisoning of every popular liberty