

The Wanganui E. Union offered prizes for an essay to be written during school hours, entitled "The Evil Effects of Alcohol During War Time." No names were attached to the essays, which were judged by the head teachers of Wanganui E. and Okoia schools, also the President of the Wanganui East W.C.T.U. The possible marks were 100. Huia Clayton gained first prize in senior division with 89 marks, and Olive Penn headed the Juniors. Both essays will appear in the "White Ribbon" in due course.

WANGANUI.

Meetings are held every Monday evening. The Legion commenced with 15 members, and now numbers 93, and is aiming to get 100 before the session closes. Mr Noble, an honorary member, gave an address on "A Fountain Pen." Pledge-signing night is approaching, when a packed house is anticipated.

LETTER TO MAORI UNIONS.

Dear Friends of the Northern Auckland Unions,—

I should like, through the "White Ribbon," to express my pleasure at your allegiance to the work of the W.C.T.U., especially this year, when we all have so many difficulties to face in our work. We hope soon to have some leaflets ready with good advice for the mothers and the young girls in the homes, which I am sure you will all like to read. We would like to thank Miss Woodhead for much valuable help given to our work since she had to resign her position as Organiser through illness, and hope that she may soon be strong again. We would also thank Rev. F. Paikea and other kind friends who gave hospitality and assistance to Miss Woodhead lately when she visited some of the Northern Unions. Our thanks are also due to the Dargaville, Devonport, Winchmore, Gisborne, Stratford, Nelson, Waipawa, Napier, and Wellington Central Unions for donations to the Maori Fund.

With greetings to the Native Unions.—I am, yours in Union service,

N. F. WALKER,
N.Z. Supt. Maori Dept.

AN AMERICAN LETTER.

Topeka, Kansas, U.S.A.,
August 1st, 1916.

To the Editor, "White Ribbon,"
Port Chalmers, New Zealand.

Dear Madam,—Will you kindly permit an American, from the State of Kansas, who is a practical believer in total abstinence from the use of all narcotic stimulants, to address a few words of encouragement to the members of the New Zealand W.C.T.U., and to others engaged in humanitarian work, in this trying period of your national history?

The great and noble work accomplished in past days, not only for the general welfare of the Dominion, but the wide influence wielded on humanity throughout the world, should now give to your organisation such faith and power that will have marked influence on world-wide humanitarian laws of the near future.

Such grand achievements as have been attained by the influence of the New Zealand branch of the W.C.T.U. never fails to prove a blessing to the human race, and here in Kansas we extend the hand of fellowship to you in the great effort you are making to rid the world of the greatest evil that ever befell the human race; and our most earnest prayers are that success may soon crown your efforts to drive the liquor traffic from the Southern Hemisphere, as we are endeavouring to drive it from the Northern, and when the last saloon on earth has been closed, to never again deal out destruction and death to our race, it will be largely due to the women of that day, and we are now very sure that the women of no land will be more entitled to wear the crown of glory than will the women of New Zealand, for their share in the world-wide movement.

Perhaps just at this time it is difficult to see the results of your labours, but no greater opportunity ever presented itself to the faithful workers in the great fields than are now at hand, and truly it proves, just as your wise and judicious President Mrs W. R. Don, so nobly expressed, "If there was a time when we need to work to save our people from drink and its evil influences, it is **now**," and I will add: If there was ever a time when the gentle influence of the women commanded such great re-

spect, and serious and careful consideration by men in every "rank and file" of life, history has failed to record the fact, therefore be of good cheer, for reform will follow just as the sunshine follows the shadow.

The great war in Europe has caused two of the greatest events in the world's history, one which we now see face to face, and brings sorrow to millions of homes, and one which cast the shadow over the entire earth, for do not all sincere hearts bow in grief, whether involved in this struggle, or merely a neutral spectator? The other one we **will see**, the "dawn of the perfect day," which will follow the wild stormy night, the darkness of which now fills every land, will open to the world, a world of peace, free from many of the greatest evils that the race ever had to contend with, among these will be the elimination of strong drink; the signs of this is now apparent to all who pause to give it a single thought. No greater victory was ever won than the forcing of the liquor element to accept "Six O'clock" Closing of the liquor bars, and we heartily congratulate you on this success in Tasmania, South Australia, etc., for it is the "beginning of the end" of the liquor trade in Australia, for when the public has had a chance to carefully observe the great benefits derived from the early closing of the liquor bars in these States, but little argument will be required to convince them that National Prohibition of the liquor traffic will only be one more step in a real progressive movement—from every available standpoint will this prove true, and when this takes place prosperity will reign where ruin prevailed. I wish to impress this one thought on the minds of the electors of each and every State and Province where liquor licenses are permitted to be issued: **from the day the licensed liquor bars are closed the average individual's taxes are decreased, while the State's revenue is increased, and thus peace and prosperity are created.**

No greater error was ever committed than for a State Government to oppose Prohibition of the liquor traffic on the grounds of revenue obtained. In each and every one of the American States, which has adopted State-wide Prohibition, the revenue from the increase of honest legitimate business has more than counter-

At Spitalfields the death-rate among Jewish children is only about half that among English children. Why? Jewish mothers do not drink.