

**1917 CONVENTION.**

Dear White Ribboners,—

Just a little letter to give you a hearty invitation to the 1917 Convention, which is to be held in the Queen City in March next, opening on the 21st. We are looking for an inspiring time, and trust that there will be a delegate present from every Union in the Dominion. Will delegates who desire hospitality during Convention please let me have their names as early as possible, so that we may know the number to provide for? We pray that God's blessing may attend our gathering, and that the outcome may be an uplift to our great cause throughout the Dominion.—Yours in W.R. bonds,

NELLIE DEWAR,

Corresponding Secretary.

Auckland W.C.T.U.

**MOTHERS' PENSIONS.**

The Canadian Convention of the W.C.T.U. passed the following resolution:—

"Realising that the child must have its part in the State craft of our country, and that no country can be moral unless it cares for and unites its interests in favour of the little child; and that the neglected child will grow and permeate and undermine our wasted prosperity and evade our laws, thus becoming a menace to society, and later joining the criminal ranks.

"And whereas the child is a national problem, and the nation's greatest asset, we believe the mother to be the God-given and proper guardian of the child.

"Resolved, that steps be taken to urge the Government to introduce legislation for mothers' pensions, thus making provision for needy and destitute mothers with dependent children, on whom devolves the responsibility of providing for their maintenance."

The British War Office has recently recognised women in a new way by appointing several hundred London teachers, under the rank of Corporal or Sergeant, to give cooking lessons in the English training camps. This initiative was taken as a result of reports of waste in the camps.

**LIQUOR-SELLER THE CRIMINAL.**

Judge Pollock, in passing sentence upon a murderer, gave utterance to the following remarks:—

"Divine and human law declare, Thou shalt not kill. You stand before the bar of justice confessing to having committed the revolting crime of murdering, in cold blood, the woman you promised to love, honour, and protect. Another crime, that of attempted self-destruction, could justly be laid at your door. The innocent babe which came to bless your home has been robbed of a mother's tender care. You having pleaded guilty, now await the sentence of an offended law.

"Your only excuse in mitigation is that you were drunk when you committed the deed—a plea which can only be received to save you from the gallows.

**Liquor-Seller the Criminal.**

"I do not know, and, under the present state of our laws, I never want to know, who sold you the liquor, under the influence of which you committed this unnatural crime. Let that man's conscience bring such remorse that its energising power will never let go, until the largest possible reparation be made.

"Whoever he was, and wherever he may be at this sad moment; whether his place of business is in the well adorned and highly decorated room, where tempting viands appeal to the taste; where sweet music delights the ear and lulls to sleep the reasoning faculties; or whether it was in the lowest, dirtiest, man-abandoned, God-forsaken and death-dealing charnel house of despair, where only abides thoughtless and sullen greed for gain, it matters not; before the bar of God, if not of man, he stands alike with you morally responsible for this horrible crime.

"The trouble is he is not here with you to receive a merited punishment.

"The statute says 'All persons concerned in the commission of a public offence, whether they directly commit the act constituting the offence, or aid, or abet in its commission; or who by fraud, contrivance or force, occasion the drunkenness of another for the purpose of causing him to commit any crime, are principals in any crime so committed.'

"If your partner in this offence were here, he would plead by way of

defence that he did not 'by fraud, contrivance or force' occasion your drunkenness—a plea which would have to be sustained.

"How much longer will the Courts be deprived of authority to do complete justice between their fellow-men? An enlightened and long-suffering public will some day, and that very soon, rise in the majesty of its power, and demand that the Legislature strike out the words 'by fraud, contrivance or force' and 'for the purpose of causing him to commit any crime,' and boldly declare that he who in any manner sells intoxicating liquor to another as a beverage, under the influence of which a crime, whether of murder or of some lesser offence is committed, is equally guilty as a principal in any crime so committed. Such a law would distribute the blame, and place it upon all those responsible for the crime."

**PATRIOTIC FUND.****W.C.T.U. TRUST ACCOUNT.**

Brought forward, £1905 15s 10d. Opotiki (Mrs Holman), £18 10s; Wanganui (Mrs Siddells), £1 8s 6d; Devonport (Mrs Little), £1 3s; Auckland (Newton), (Mrs Garroway), £3 0s 6d; Epsom (Plummer), £2; Normanby (Linn), 11s; Napier (Clare), £7 13s; New Plymouth (Griffin), £5; Timaru (Avison), £1; Takapuna (Dewar), £9 12s; Tokomaru (Davis), £1 10s 6d; St. Albans (Roberts), £8 5s 4d; Warkworth (Cox), £1 0s 6d; Opotiki (Holman), £3 10s; Greymouth (Sweetman), £8; Marton (Shriggie), £1; N.E. Valley (Sanders), £6 10s; Whangarei (McLeod), £2; Christchurch (Paterson), £48 17s; Blenheim (Hay), 15s; Stratford (Birdsall), £1; Greytown (Houlder), £3 5s; Turakina (Hamilton), £1; Wellington Central, £1; A Friend, Napier, 5s. Total, £2043 12s 2d; error, £71—£1072 12s 2d.

Dear Comrades,—Owing to the error in the first printed statement, we find we have yet to pull up some £28 to cross the £2000 line. Wellington Central is only 8s short of £1 per member for the whole 88 members. I am hoping that belated cards will balance our books, although the fund is closed now.

B. L. COWIE.

The "White Ribbon" will be posted to any address on receipt of 2s 6d, payable to Mrs Peryman, Port Chalmers.