

The White Ribbon

FOR GOD AND HOME AND HUMANITY

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OUR AIMS AND OBJECTS.

In last month's issue appeared an article telling of the daring conception of a world union of women, of all races, of all classes, of all sects and creeds, united together for social and temperance reform. This lovely dream has begun to materialise, the ideal is becoming the actual, and is no mere figure of speech when saying, "All round the world our ribbon white is twined," but a statement of fact. It, in very truth girdles the planet. Starting from the United States, it is looped around the South American countries. It crosses the Atlantic, and wraps its snowy folds around South Africa. Then its strands divide; one goes northward to link India, China, and Japan to its silken chain; it crosses with the railway into Europe, and extending through Germany, Italy, Belgium, and France, it hastens to place its snowy badge upon the United Kingdom. Back across the North Atlantic till Canada's White Ribboners are encircled, then bending southward, it meets at San Francisco the other strand, which crossed the Southern Ocean to decorate Australia's daughters, and thereafter waving over our own fair Dominion, rejoins its other strand, and unites in one large bow. Already the W.C.T.U. is organised in over 50 countries, and its membership is fast approaching a million. Our watchword is

Organise.—For over thirty years we have been organised in New Zealand, and by the time this article is in the hands of our readers delegates from

all parts of this Dominion will be gathered in Convention in Auckland. We are scarcely proud of the fact that in thirty years we have not reached a membership of 5000. Let us improve upon this speedily. We are passing through critical times, and during the period of demobilisation large powers will rest in the hands of women voters. Who is going to organise and train the young womanhood of New Zealand? Is the W.C.T.U. going to claim them for the service of God and Home and Humanity, or are we going to leave them to other and less elevating influences? For the successful carrying on of our work it is imperative that we enlist the young womanhood of the Dominion in our crusade. How are we to do this? With one or two notable exceptions, our Y. Unions have not been very successful. Why not make an effort to meet the young women and get them into our Unions? To do this we must have evening meetings, say one afternoon and one evening meeting a month. Our young women are in business during the day, to attend afternoon meetings an impossibility. Naturally, they are not keen to join a Union whose meetings they can never attend, neither is it desirable that they should do so. Encourage young women to join our Unions, take them at reduced fee, hold an evening meeting for them, elect from among them a Vice-President of the Union, whose duty it shall be to preside at these evening meetings. By meeting both afternoon and evening some members could attend one meeting, and some the other. Also in this way we

should be training leaders for the future.

Our great leader, Miss Willard, described the W.C.T.U. as organised mother love. But alas! for lack of enthusiasm among us, much of the mother love of New Zealand goes unorganised. It is not too early to organise for the 1918 election campaign. We want not a "Win One" campaign, but a "Win half-a-dozen" campaign. Unions who are in earnest will personally ask every woman in their neighbourhood to join their Union. We so often are told, "I would like to join your Union, but I have never been asked to do so." Wake up! White Ribboners, and see that every woman has an invitation to join us. We meet women who are willing to assist us in many branches of social reform, but who will not sign the temperance pledge, and so become members. Now, don't let us lose sight of these women. Get them to subscribe to our paper, and so keep in touch with them. Make a determined effort to secure non-members as subscribers to our paper. If they read it they will in time become interested in our work, and may become members. Let us use our paper to advertise our work among outsiders.

Agitate.—Direct attention to wrongs and evils. Don't let them alone. All that the devil asks for is to be let alone. The deadliest of the seven sins is the sin of doing nothing. Individual women see and deplore evils, but seem powerless to protest, but organised womanhood can speak with mighty power. Remember that the more members we number, the more votes we can count, the greater will be