

The White Ribbon

FOR GOD AND HOME AND HUMANITY

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CONSCRIPTION + OR — PROHIBITION.

During this great world struggle it has been laid down as an axiom by our Government, and accepted as a fact by most of our people, that in order to win the war they have the right to conscript all that may help and to prohibit all that may hinder victory.

Conscription.—The Government has not hesitated to conscript the young life of our Dominion, and in the main they have been loyally supported by the people. Thousands who hate the sound of the word conscription, and hate yet more the thing itself, have consented to it because they believe the representations of our rulers that the alternative to conscription is German World Dominion.

Prohibition.—But when the wives and mothers of this Dominion acquiesced in the conscription of their husbands and sons have they not the right to demand that the Government prohibit all that hinders or delays victory. Now by the universal testimony of statesmen, doctors, admirals and generals we know that the liquor trade is hindering victory. How have our National Government dealt with this hindrance? Very tenderly. Cabinet is continually telling us that our first aim should be to win the war, and that we should grudge no sacrifice to that end. We would remind these gentlemen that "actions speak louder than words," and however loudly their voices may declare that their main object is to win the war, in yet more stentorian tones their actions

thunder "Save **The Trade**, and win the war, but if you cannot do both save **The Trade**." Let us look how they have placed a shield over it. When war broke out, White Ribboners wrote



SOME OF OUR MAORI WORKERS.

Standing: Mrs Hemana (Pahi), Mrs Nathan (Auckland).
Sitting: Mrs Noda (Batley), Mrs Walker (Gisborne), Superintendent of Maori Work; Mrs Manakau (Pahi).

and asked the King's representative here if he intended to follow the example of his sovereign and banish strong drink from the Vice-regal Lodge. The reply to their request came from the Secretary, and stated that "their letter had been received."

The Parliament was petitioned to banish liquor from Bellamy's. This petition was recommended by the Committee to the favourable consideration of the House, but nothing was done.

Then a petition for six o'clock closing of hotel bars bearing 60,000 signatures was presented; favourably reported upon then talked out.

The following session, one bearing 100,000 signatures was presented and met the same fate as its predecessor.

When the House divided upon closing hotel bars at 8 p.m. the Minister of Education was the only member of the Cabinet who voted for it.

The Government gave us anti-shouting with a flourish of trumpets and how is it enforced? Almost at any time if you watch you can see a group of men, and one handing sixpences round before entering the bar. It is done so often that the only wonder is that policemen so rarely see it, and take action. A vessel arrived at a New Zealand port, and a fireman drew his pay, £45. He spent eight days in the hotel, then was carried drunk on board without a penny. Query. Did he drink £45 worth of liquor in eight days, or did he shout for all his friends, or was it a case of "lambling down?" It would be interesting to hear the reply of the Sergeant of Police in that port to this query.

A hospital ship was waiting to sail from a New Zealand port, but the fire-