

SUPERINTENDENT'S LETTERS.

MAORI DEPARTMENT.

Dear Sister,—I am glad to be able to report that Mrs Rebecca Harris has consented to act as Maori Organiser for the Maori Department of our work, and is commencing her duties this month.

In thanking the Unions for their interest and financial help in this department during the past, I would remind them of the need for a bigger effort now, so that Mrs Harris may not be hampered in the work which is so important to push forward.

I would also remind them of White Ribbon Day on June 15th, which is the day set aside for Maori work, so that they may prepare for a big effort on that day.—Yours in Union service,

N. F. WALKER,

N.Z. Organiser for the Maori Fund.

RED LETTER DAYS.

Will all Unions kindly remember "White Ribbon Day," June 15th, and where possible arrange for a social afternoon or evening with special addresses.

Collections in aid of Maori Fund.

A. C. JONES,

N.Z. Supt. Notable Days.

FAITH.

From the soft South the constant bird comes back
Faith-led, to find the welcome of the Spring.

In the old boughs whereto she used to cling,
Before she sought the unknown southward track;
Above the winter and the storm-clouds wrack
She hears the prophecy of days that bring
The Summer's pride, and plumes her homeward wing
To seek again the joys that exiles lack.
Shall I, of little faith, less brave than she,
Set forth unwillingly my goal to find,
Go home from exile with reluctant mind,
Distrust the steadfast stars I cannot see,
And doubt the heavens because my eyes are blind?
Nay! Give me faith like wings, to soar to Thee!

ORGANISERS.

Dear White Ribbon Sisters,—By this time you will all have made a thorough study of the Convention number of "White Ribbon," and will be fully conversant with the new scheme for employing Organisers. The principal points of the scheme are: (1) That as soon as it becomes possible to do so, an Organiser shall be appointed for each Provincial District; and (2) That a Travelling Secretary be appointed to collect annual and other subscriptions for a fund to be used for organising and campaign purposes.

Under this scheme the following appointments have already been made:—

Travelling Secretary: Miss Weymouth. Miss Weymouth's duties will be to collect subscriptions from sympathisers, and to secure subscribers to the "White Ribbon." Please note that Unions will still be expected to pay to the N.Z. Treasury the usual levy for the Organising Fund.

Organisers: Miss Powell, for the Dominion; Mrs Cowie (without salary), for Otago and Southland; Mrs Napier (without salary), for "Y" Unions; Miss S. Waterman. Miss Waterman will undergo some months' training before she will be ready to take up the duties of an Organiser.

In addition to these, Mrs Clara Neal, President of Pahiutua Union, has offered to visit any Union inviting her, but the Union must provide hospitality and pay travelling expenses.

Applications for the services of Miss Powell, Mrs Napier, or Mrs Neal must be made to the N.Z. Corresponding Secretary, Miss Henderson. Unions in Otago and Southland will make their own arrangements with Mrs Cowie. Her address is "The Chalet," Littlebourne, Dunedin.

The Executive most warmly commends these workers to the prayers and sympathy of the members, and confidently expects that they will have the cordial co-operation of the Unions in order that their labours may have the fullest possible measure of success.—Yours in the work,

CHRISTINA HENDERSON,

Hon. Corresponding Sec.
26 Tui Street, Fendalton, Christchurch, May 7th, 1918.

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

Correspondence.

(The Editor is not responsible for opinions expressed by correspondents.)

(To the Editor.)

Dear Madam,—It is with some pricking of heart that I read the letter of Mrs S. S. Page in your February issue. A Press Superintendent should have led on this subject in the W.C.T.U.'s own organ. But I trust I am not too late to urge on every Union an earnest consideration of the treatment of conscientious objectors in New Zealand and the alleged worse treatment they have received on board ship, and in the English camps, with the terrible possibility of being shot in France as disobedient soldiers.

It may be that some few of our members themselves hold views as to the unlawfulness of taking life. Most of us certainly hold that the defence of home and country, women and children, calls a Christian man to warfare. But surely all of us hold that the call of conscience is sacred, although that call may differ to this one, and that, owing to psychological cause known only to our Creator. Is it, then, a light matter to Christian women that men, for the most part dutiful and honourable, are persecuted by law and authority in our country for holding more literally to the Sixth Commandment than the majority? Is it a light matter to New Zealanders that the New Zealand law, exempting only Quakers and Christadelphians from military service, is more unequal than the English law, which regards conscience even when divorced from the special dogma of any church? Is it a light matter to free citizens that men guilty of no crime are herded with criminals here, and liable to be spirited away to be persecuted, or even shot, in Europe, without the knowledge of their fellow-countrymen? Must we revert to the ways of the Star Chamber, and make our own gallant soldiers the minions of a new Inquisition, in order to win a "righteous war"? Are we, who stand no less for the rights of manhood than we do for the rights of womanhood, to see earnest young men, boys in many cases, either broken in body, or worse still, broken in soul, because they do not see eye to eye with us?

Personally, I have no understanding of the conscientious objector's point of view in regarding the wrongs of Belgium, the desolation of France, and indeed half of Europe, and the fate that Prussian militarism designed for ourselves four years ago. But I do understand that neither honour nor blessing can attend persecution for conscience sake, even of abnormal conscience. Ere this is in print, I trust our Unions will have spoken on this matter.—I am, etc.,

JESSIE MACKAY.

March 11.