

WOMEN'S Christian Temperance Union Of New Zealand.

Organised 1885.

"For God and Home and Humanity."

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The White Ribbon. For God and Home and Humanity.

WELLINGTON, MAY 18, 1918.

OURSELVES.

Once more the Convention was faced with another rise in the cost of production of its official organ, the "White Ribbon." Again it appeals to Unions to increase the circulation, and asks each branch to send in 6 new subscribers. Several Unions last year never sent in one new subscriber, and quite half did not gain the 6 new subscribers. Other Unions did so well that our total increase was over 400. Unless new subscriptions are sent in during this quarter in good numbers, we shall have to use ordinary newspaper for the "White Ribbon." Will all Unions help to circulate our official organ, and make it a real help to our campaign? Don't leave all the work to your "White Ribbon" agent, but every member try to secure one new subscriber.

HOUSE RAIDED AT KELBURN.

The police at Wellington raided a house at Kelburn. The Press, with its usual unfairness in affairs of this kind, published the names of the girls found there, but the names of the men, who were at least equally guilty, were not published. The girls, two of whom were only 19, were hurried off to gaol, and the men were allowed to go free.

We cannot too strongly protest against such sex legislation and class legislation. Both men and girls are found in the House. Why are not all detained as prisoners?

The following resolution, passed by the Wellington District Union, speaks for itself:—

"The members of the Wellington District W.C.T.U. desire to protest most emphatically against the publication of the names of the young women arrested in the recent raid on a Kelburn house. Considering the popular odium attaching to the crime of which they are accused, and the probability that they will at once lose their business positions and incur the opprobrium of society in general, such publication is tantamount to the infliction of a severe penalty before their guilt is proved, a method of procedure utterly opposed to British justice, and tending to drive them to a life of crime. The Union desires also to express their unqualified disapproval of the injustice perpetrated by the publication of names of the women arrested, while those of the men are withheld and the men themselves escape scot free, and being convinced that to set up a different standard of morality for men and women renders it impossible to deal effectively with the social evil, and they emphatically protest against such differentiation of the sexes."

As the Magistrate has not yet given his decision in this case, we forbear further comment till next issue. But we strongly urge that the police in future be authorised to arrest both men and women found in any house raided by them. Why should these girls be subjected to the indignity of arrest and their male companions go free?

In Victoria all bars were closed on the day the Referendum was taken. In Melbourne there were only five arrests for drunkenness on that day.

ANZAC DAY.

STRONG PROTEST BY A MAGISTRATE.

Mr Frazer, S.M. at Auckland, said at the Police Court: "On the afternoon of Anzac Day I saw more drunk men about than I have seen for years past. It is disgusting the way the returned men are allowed to get drunk, and I guarantee that 99 per cent. of them get drunk in the bars. I am not personally inclined to take a harsh view of the liquor business, but what I saw that day, a day which was more or less a solemn occasion, is the sort of thing that will bring prohibition quicker than anything else." His Worship went on to urge the putting of hotel bars out of bounds.

Similar scenes were enacted in Wellington, where the Anzac Dinner was marred by disorderly conduct of men under the influence of liquor.

If the few soldiers who so far have returned have been so subjugated by drink that they cannot let it alone on an occasion so sacred as a dinner to the memory of the brave who fell on that historic day, what will be the state of our Dominion when war is over and all the forces return?

Must we not be more than ever determined to close all hotel bars "before the boys come home"?

OPEN LETTER TO THE UNIONS NOT REPRESENTED AT CONVENTION.

Dear Sisters,—It is very unfortunate, but no doubt sometimes inevitable, that some Unions are not represented at Convention, either by delegates or proxies. At Timaru there must have been 20 or more. To all these I want to suggest that they obtain a concise and interesting report that has been supplied through the proxies to several Unions. A copy of this report could probably be obtained by application to the Secretary of one of the following Unions:—Wanganui East, Kaiapoi, Lower Hutt, Devonport, Winchmore, Henderson, Waipukurau, Pahiatua, Warkworth, Birkenhead, Takapuna, Hawera, Ormondville, Stratford.—I am, yours in W.R. bonds,

KATE M. EVANS,

Dominion Rec. Secretary.

April 15th, 1918.

Liquor causes suicides, homicides, sorrow-cides, and burnt-out-insides.