

SUPERINTENDENT'S LETTERS.

MAORI DEPARTMENT.

Dear Sisters,—In a letter recently received from Mrs Rebecca Harris, she states that she has not been able to start her Maori organising work for us yet. Her husband, Rev. Mr Harris, has not been well, and she has been busy helping amongst his people. She hopes, however, to be able to take it up later on. As the weather and roads are very bad just now in these districts, perhaps this may be just as well, and we hope that when the fine weather comes again circumstances will enable her to carry on our work.

The thanks of this department are due to the following for donations sent:—Waipukurau Feb. 9th, 8s 6d; Ponsonby, May, £1 10s; Dunedin, May, 11s; Otamatea, June, 5s; Oran-whereo, June, 5s; Winchmore, June, 9s; Ashburton, June, 11s; Nelson, June, 16s 6d; Napier, June, 10s; Gisborne, June, £1 13s 6d; Mrs Toney-cliffe, June, 10s.—Yours in Union service,

N. F. WALKER,

N.Z. Supt. Maori Department.

“Gortgowan,” Upper Fox Street,
Gisborne.

NOTABLE DAYS.

As next September 19th will be the 25th anniversary of the extension of the Parliamentary Franchise to the women of New Zealand, it would be instructive, as well as interesting, to call to mind some of the humanitarian enactments passed in the New Zealand Houses of Legislature since the granting of that privilege in 1893:

Infant Life Protection Act.

Act to regulate the adoption of children.

Industrial Schools Act Amendment.

Juvenile Smoking Suppression Act.

Servants' Registry Offices Act.

The interests and health of shop girls safeguarded (Shop Assistants' Act).

Equal standard of morality in new Divorce Act.

Criminal Code Amendment in the direction of purer morals.

An Act enabling women to receive compensation for slander without proving special damage.

Summary Legal Separation Act.

Recognition of the principle of equal pay for equal work, in Factory Act.

Economic partnership of husband and wife. Principle acknowledged in at least two Acts (Municipal Franchise and Old Age Pensions). Testators' Family Maintenance Act. Women admitted to the practice of law.

Technical Schools, giving equality of opportunity to both sexes.

Old Age Pensions.

An Act regulating the election of Hospital and Charitable Aid Boards, whereby women have the right as ratepayers, and in municipalities as the wives of ratepayers, to vote, and are also eligible as candidates for election.

Compulsory scientific temperance instruction given in our public schools.

Abolition of the C.D. Acts.

Probation and First Offenders' Act.

Reformatory treatment in our prisons.

Six o'clock closing of hotel bars.

There are still many reforms which the women of New Zealand hope to gain. At present they suffer under legal disabilities, in the matter of trial by jury.

Having to obey laws which are framed by men only, the New Zealand law forbidding the election of any woman to Parliament.

While recalling with gratitude all that has been achieved during the last 25 years we should also remember that advantages entail responsibilities, and that there is still much to be done.

“Progressive” New Zealand is lagging behind other countries in many respects.

Norway and Canada have women Judges, and Canada a woman Member of Parliament; Russia has appointed women as assistant Judges, while in the early stages of the war Russia completely abolished vodka.

Several countries have appointed women police; the force, even in conservative England now numbering 612. Nine women were sworn in at the Guildhall as special constables. Australia recently appointed 14 more women as J.P.'s.

The entire Dominion of Canada now prohibits traffic in liquor. Alcohol has been prohibited in the American Army and Navy.

What are we doing to justify our enfranchisement? The work nearest to hand just now is the struggle for National Prohibition. Let us see to it

that we all do our part in the great fight.

Franchise Day collections go to the N.Z. Treasury.

A. C. JONES,
Dominion Supt. Notable Days.

LECTURE BY MR J. PRICE AT RICHMOND W.C.T.U.

Members present expressed pleasure in their welcome to Mr Price, who said that he always felt glad to do his little bit in the district. Men were just beginning to realise the good work the W.C.T.U. were doing. Men had tried for 2000 years, and had failed! What a sad state the world was in to-day. Woman in the past had been underestimated; men had not encouraged her, had tried to do without her, but to-day, because of the war, her help had to be sought. We had often thought that woman's uplift by the Lord Jesus Christ must have been for a purpose. Woman should do more. Women have the vote, and should use it if in the interest of temperance and to combat the social evil. This they were not doing as a body we knew from the results of the ballot. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7. Mr Price counted the number present; why so small in a place like Richmond? No doubt many were kept away through force of circumstances, but it is our duty to do all we can, and every member try to bring one more. Try to get the law enforced in regard to 6 o'clock closing. Mr Price thought we should meet the district police in a body, and not let things rest till law was enforced. After-war questions will be greater than before, continued the speaker. We shall be cleaner or dirtier as a nation; it must be one or the other. Which shall it be? The women must decide—men would not, because men as a rule were selfish. The W.C.T.U. stands for sobriety, responsibility, and more. He was glad that drink was kept from wounded soldiers; it should be kept from every soldier. Put women in the House of Parliament; they could do good there. Mr Price advised members to try to increase strength and numbers. He would always be glad to help in any way possible, and hoped that his little talk would encourage us in our good work.

A hearty vote of thanks was accorded Mr Price.