

WORLD'S W.C.T.U.

Evanston, Ill., U.S.A.,

November 15, 1918.

Beloved Comrade,—

As we emerge from the chaos of a world war, we yearningly reach out with unspeakable joy and sympathy to each and every auxiliary and member of the world's W.C.T.U. After four dark years of separation from comrades in Germany, Austria, Turkey, and Bulgaria, W.C.T.U. cables will soon connect "across the lines." At daybreak on the morning the armistice was signed, I could think only of that wondrous, holy morn when the angels gave the world the heavenly message, "Peace on earth, good-will to men." How privileged we are to belong to a great body of women who have covenanted together to help make this vision real to-day to the family of nations!

To our beloved and honoured President, Rosalind, Countess of Carlisle, we turn with renewed allegiance and affection, assuring her of our devoted loyalty and of our earnest determination to bend all our energies to the building up of our blessed organisation, not only that the constructive work we love may go splendidly forward, but that we may have an enlarged membership for the mighty programme immediately to be undertaken. Also we must keenly realise the need of continuing to aid the vast relief work growing out of the war. There is still committed to us this unfinished and supreme task.

Coincident with the cessation of hostilities, November 11, 1918, has come the near approach of prohibition for the United States. Believing the time ripe for an intensive campaign for world prohibition and for rallying the forces of our great organisation to renewed high endeavour, I sent out on that historic day this proclamation:—

"Proclamation for World Prohibition.

"World democracy, world peace, and world patriotism, demand world prohibition.

"Representing the National Woman's Christian Temperance Union of the United States, a Republic about to write prohibition in its constitutional law, we hereby call upon the peoples of all faiths and of all organizations in the world's family of nations to clasp hands with the World's W.C.T.U. and to help bring to full

fruition its hope and its heroic service of thirty-five years on behalf of a sober world. Science declares against alcohol. Health conservation and business prosperity demand total abstinence and prohibition. Together let us agitate, educate, organize, and legislate, until the exalted vision of the founder of the World's W.C.T.U., Frances E. Willard, is realised; until the Gospel of the Golden Rule of Christ is worked out in the customs of society and in the laws of every land.

"At the close of the devastating world war, in the white heat of the limitless, unparalleled opportunities of a new internationalism, depending upon the help of God and of all who love humanity, we hereby proclaim, by the year 1925, the triumph of world prohibition.

"Rest Cottage, Evanston, Illinois, U.S.A.,

November 11, 1918."

To aid in the further development of our great principles of total abstinence and prohibition, and in the achievement of the goal set forth in our proclamation, "The Union Signal," the official organ of the National W.C.T.U. of this country, will, each month, publish a special number, to be known as the "International Edition." This paper will cover news items concerning our progress, and the growth of sentiment for our principles and plan of work in all parts of the world. We shall secure contributors in all our auxiliaries to help speed to success the plans, purposes, and principles which for thirty-five years we have unselfishly promoted. The subscription is 1.52dol, postpaid, or six shillings and fourpence. For the 12 numbers of the "International Edition," two shillings, postpaid. Address Evanston, Illinois, U.S.A.

The general officers of the National W.C.T.U. have telegraphed President Wilson, asking that American women may be appointed members of the Official Peace Conference. Other countries will doubtless make similar requests of their Governments.

In 1919, we must hold our Tenth Convention of the World's W.C.T.U. Lady Carlisle and the other general officers will soon decide time and place for this most important meeting, and all our auxiliaries will be promptly notified. May this Convention demonstrate our worthiness to bear the name long ago ascribed upon our banners.

May it prove that our bond of love for one another and of our long years of united service for our God-given work, is strong enough to survive the strain of war. May it show that as Christian women we are ready, hand to hand and heart to heart, to continue our great and holy endeavour for world sobriety and world Prohibition.—Affectionately,

ANNA A. GORDON.

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK.

Are our police blind? Hotel bars are closed now in a port when a troopship returns bringing troops. A large contingent arrived at a southern port lately; in spite of closed bars many men were under the influence of liquor. Young ladies with cameras could get snaps of soldiers leaving the back door of licensed premises, wiping their lips, and exhibiting great unsteadiness upon their feet; in fact, civilians had no difficulty in seeing that the law was broken openly, only the police were blind. We want to know what is the good of issuing an order to close the bars and then not seeing that the order is enforced. Orders like this from the Defence Minister are a farce.

Our Business Manager desires to thank two generous friends for donations—Mr Brent, of Rotorua, £3; Miss Cockerell, of the Empire City, 10s. During these years, when prices have been going up, our "White Ribbon" has remained at pre-war price, and every year we have had a small credit balance. Will Unions and members help to keep up our record this year by sending in subs. promptly, also by sending in their six new subscribers before the end of the month?

The doctors are opposed to tobacco for soldiers. Next to venereal disease, tobacco causes more sickness than any other given agency. The other morning twenty-five men reported for sick call with sore throats. All but one smoked from four to forty cigarettes a day. Surgeon McLain, of the British Army, says that it weakens the heart-muscles, increases the heart action, and destroys the nerves, but men cannot shoot straight when they use tobacco. This statement can be confirmed in any army camp.—Chaplain Roberts, 7th U.S. Engineers.