

Press was more sympathetic than heretofore. For the first time on record the "Maoriland Worker," which is the journal of the Labour party, declared in favour of Prohibition, while the religious papers, especially the "Outlook," rendered magnificent service. Then we had the influence of the children, who appealed for votes by songs, processions, and spectacular demonstrations; and, more important than all, the numbers in our Union who individually and collectively gave themselves to unceasing prayer. Yet we have not won the hoped-for victory. How have we lost? By the soldier vote they polled such a big majority for Continuance, and the many who were opposed to Compensation for fear of taxation. The last defence of the Trade is that liquor revenue helps to pay the taxes, the truth is that Drink is our greatest public debt-maker and our greatest public burden. Then our opponents made a great cry about whisky being necessary to cure influenza and its accompanying pneumonia, and gave a superabundance of unsolicited advice, at the same time showing their dense ignorance of the effect of alcohol on the human system, and an equal lack of knowledge as to the attitude of intelligent physicians generally towards liquor as a medical remedy, and because of the dread malady that so recently has taken such a terrible toll of human life, some believed them, and refused to vote against alcohol. One cannot help asking if alcoholic liquor is a "cure" for this disease, why is it not a preventive? No one can dispute the fact that heavy drinkers are usually fatal cases in pneumonia. Physiology has found that alcohol is out of place in human insides, and that statistical and actuarial science has demonstrated that even steady drinking, not more than what is ordinarily called moderate, raises the death-rate over 80 per cent.

But whatever the reason, the fact remains we are not on the winning side. We did not obtain our objective, so we must work on until we do. Dr. Waddell tells the story of a little company of war-weary soldiers that were halted for rest alongside a certain rude entrance. A Boche shell screamed through the air and fell beside them, and a fragment of it got the youthful Captain. With the last surge of his departing life he raised himself, looked into the eyes of his lieutenant, and said "the order is Forward," and fell back dead. That is the spirit that won the war; the same spirit will win ours.

It is great to know that money is at our disposal, that science is in our favour. It is greater to know that men of all classes are on our side. The greatest of all is the knowledge that God is our Leader, and while we trust in Him we must win, though victory is long delayed. For a generation the Drink Traffic has stayed the march of higher and better things; it has been an obstacle in the path of

the forces of truth and righteousness, and it will resist to the last gasp all efforts to overthrow it, and as the object of our organisation is to destroy it, root and branch, we must unflinchingly fight until we have banished this great offence to God.

THE WORLD AGAINST LIQUOR.

We rejoice greatly with our American sisters in the glorious fact that on January 16, 1920, the United States will be "dry" throughout the length and breadth of its enormous territory, and affecting a population of over 100,000,000 men, women, and children.

We take the liberty of copying the following from a recent "Union Signal":—"America has erected a great Prohibition Lighthouse that is sending its gleams to the far corners of the world. In every country where campaigns of education or legislation are in progress America is the unanswerable indisputable argument for Prohibition. Our temperance papers have been filled with the success of the anti-liquor movement in America. It is exploited from the platform and pulpit; it is blazoned in posters on the walls and buildings. Do the slow of understanding insist that Australia cannot afford to relinquish its drink revenue. The Prohibition champion will pull from his pocket a signed statement from the Governor of one of the Prohibition States testifying to the unexampled financial prosperity of communities and States that have been relieved of the burden of caring for the victims of the liquor traffic. Do the agents of the liquor interests in New Zealand protest that the elimination of the traffic in Drink would work ruin, that commercial interests would cease to thrive, that hotels would be without patrons, and stores without customers, some well-informed advocate of 'dryness' will send a cablegram from the Mayor of Seattle and silence every objector by the emphatic answer that no law enacted has been such a prosperity promoter as that which abolished saloons, breweries, and distilleries. Does some employer of the booze interest bring forward the labour argument; the army of men out of employment; American labour leader in dry States will send back an answer true and strong that Prohibition in every instance has safeguarded the health and efficiency of the working man, and wherever fairly tried has been approved of by them."

And because of America's achievements we salute our White Ribbon sisters, and rejoice with them that their prayers and self-denying toil and unquenchable enthusiasm have now received a glorious crown. Canada is bone dry, bleached white, and over our sister Dominion floats the Prohibition flag, and every day she is proving that the benefits gained are so incalculable that the very thought of going back to the old system is quite out of the question.

The temperance societies of Great Britain are in possession of much evi-

dence showing that in spite of the Government limitations in the output of beer, there is still enough drinking to impair the health, efficiency, and discipline of the soldier, deplete the food supply, and sap the economic strength of the working people. Strenuous efforts are being made to secure State Purchase, but evidently public sentiment is much opposed to furnishing money to buy out the liquor traffic.

In France over one thousand drink shops have been closed in Rouen, Havre, Dieppe, and in the vicinities of Lower Seine. The Union is lending every energy to awaken public opinion and influence the public powers to take action against the sale of alcohol. The Minister of Armaments said recently: "At the end of the war there will have to be a readjustment of the alcohol question from the standpoint of the higher interests of the country. The industrialisation of alcohol, and not the alcoholisation of the individual, will be the programme to be realised."

Prohibition has prevailed in Belgium by the Royal decree of King Albert. We hope it will be easy for her people, after having driven out the curse of invasion, to prevent the return of the other curse, alcoholism. Holland has organised a National Local Option League to educate the people in total abstinence principles; a memorial asking, for local option, signed by over 600,000 citizens, has recently been sent to the Queen.

Russia, who took such a magnificent forward step in Prohibition, fell from being a world hope for freedom, and is now a world menace and a world problem.

The Parliament of Japan has enacted a law, which went into effect on the 1st of this month, prohibiting the sale to or giving intoxicants to minors. The W.C.T.U. in India sent a memorial appealing to the Governments of all civilised countries of the world to be presented at time and place of Peace negotiations. Powerfully they state their cause, and ask that a decisive step be taken against the acknowledged curse of the earth, strong drink. The memorial is signed by the Executive Committee of the National W.C.T.U. of India, numbering 4000 members.

China had the opium treaty forced upon her by a Western nation, and after years of degradation she was able to break that treaty. Now she faces a fact equally horrible. During the past two years American brewers, who have been forced to relinquish their hold on their victims in that land, have been pouring into China. By way of inducement to the Chinese officials to sell territory to the brewers for the erection of their plants, the enormous revenue that will result therefrom is being urged, and poverty-stricken China is facing this dire temptation. In her struggle against this new evil China is not left without help. The W.C.T.U. for 20