

WOMEN'S Christian Temperance Union Of New Zealand.

Organised 1885.

"For God and Home and Humanity."

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WELLINGTON, SEPT. 18, 1919.

TERRITORIAL TRAINING.

We are pleased to note that Sir James Allen informed the House it was not intended to make any change in the system of Territorial Training before July, 1920. However diverse the opinions people may hold on this subject, surely all will agree that so vital a change as compelling all young men to have four months' training in camps should not be introduced by the ghost of a Parliament which should have been decently buried two years ago. At the coming election the matter can be threshed out, and the people will have an opportunity of deciding whether the militarism we went to war to kill is to impose its yoke upon us. Pertinent questions must be answered. Why, if the drilling of a nation into a military machine is the best means of defence, did the German machine break down and fail? Did the highly drilled and

disciplined military machine of Germany prove a better defence than the free citizens of our Dominions? Whether military camps are the best means of physical training is open to grave doubt, but there is no doubt about the fact that their mental and moral value is less than nothing—it is a positive evil.

It may be said that our youth need discipline, and that military training gives this. We question that statement. Is the passive obedience inculcated by militarists a good thing? Have not the world's greatest benefactors, those who have done most for humanity, ever been the rebels, not the passive obeyers? In the last resort the defence of a nation depends on the morale of its people. Get down to bedrock, and it is always a question of character. Camp training does not build up fine characters. It may not injure the strong character, but alas! there are many weaklings among us, and to these the segregation in camps away from the influence of mother and sister spells disaster.

The highest form of discipline is self-discipline, and our greatest educationalists aim at teaching the child to govern itself. Self-discipline our boys learn in games, sports, and in their classes; they do **not** learn it in camps. There they have the discipline of an outside will forced upon them—often an intellectual, finely-tempered youth is forced to obey the behests of a comparatively uneducated officer, who never thinks for himself, but does as he is told.

We are democrat enough to trust the people, but if we are to have militarism thrust upon us, it must be by the **Will** of the **People**, and not by the **Act** of a **Government** representing—even when elected—only a minority of the electors.

IN MEMORIAM.

Napier Union mourns the loss of an old and esteemed member. Mrs Kerr, wife of Mr W. Kerr, of the Napier Boys' High School, was an active worker in the Union until failing health compelled her to retire. She was of a very bright disposition, and will be much missed by a large circle of friends and acquaintances. Our sympathy goes out to the bereaved husband and son.

INITIATIVE REFERENDUM. RECALL.

If Parliament fails to enact measures which the people consider necessary for their welfare, a petition may be prepared containing a Bill to give effect to these measures, and when the required number of (attested) signatures have been obtained, Parliament is compelled to pass the Bill within a certain number of days, or submit it to the electors for approval or rejection, with or without a counter or conflicting measure. The Bill approved (if any) at the polls becomes law within so many (say 60) days. This is what is called the Initiative.

The Referendum is used to prevent Parliament from passing any measure detrimental to the people. Within a given time the people may get up a petition demanding a poll of the electors to determine whether an Act passed by Parliament should become law. If no such petition is prepared, the Act becomes law automatically within a certain number of days. If a petition is got up a poll must be taken, and the fate of the Act depends upon the result of the poll.

As to the Recall. To recall a member, a petition must be signed by a number of the electors, say 25 or 50, per cent. (In some American States by an absolute majority of the electors.) The petition must state definitely and clearly the charge against the sitting member, such as flagrant breaches of pre-election promises, immoral conduct, or discreditable actions, and a copy thereof is furnished to every elector, together with the member's defence, prepared by himself. The member is allowed an opportunity to defend himself in a given number of words, and in a specified time, and if recalled would have the right to offer himself for re-election.

THE NEW MOTHERHOOD.

If she had lived a little while ago
She would be wearing tranquil caps of
lace,
Withdrawing gently to her quiet place,
Sighing remotely at the world's
drab woe.

To-day she fronts it squarely at her
foe,
Not from the ingle-nook, but face to
face,
Marching to meet it, steadily keeping
pace,
Armoured in wisdom, strong to
overthrow.