

STATE PURCHASE.

(Contributed by a White Ribboner.)

The time when women have the privilege of voting either for the drink trade to remain with us, or to be forever abolished from this Dominion, is drawing near. It behoves every woman to very carefully consider the three issues which are at stake, and vote for that one which will tend to the uplifting of the race. Have we women ever grasped the significance of the truth that the power to carry Prohibition really rests with us, owing to the fact that so many more women at the present time are eligible to vote than men?

Are we going to allow it to be said, to our eternal disgrace, that when we had the chance to purge our land of this curse, we refused to take it, and that it was the woman's vote—or failure to vote—that lost the day? I want to write more especially to those who have any doubt on the matter as to how to vote. With all the specious arguments in favour of State Control, some seem to lose sight of the fact that whether the liquor is sold by a highly respectable servant of the State or by a drunken publican, its evil effects are just the same.

Have we ever considered the financial aspect of the question? Under State Control, or State Purchase (for the business would have to be purchased before it could be controlled), the State would purchase hotels, breweries, etc., at the present highly inflated values, giving anything up to £20,000,000 for them, only to find that at another election, in three years' time, Prohibition would be carried, and it would be left with properties on its hands which would have to be disposed of at a great loss. How many of our business men would stand for a proposition of this kind? Of course we hear a lot about the revenue that will be derived, and what an immense help it will be to help pay off our ever increasing debt, but if the business is carried on legitimately, will the profits be so large? If, as State Controllers tell us, hotels are to be portioned out on a population basis, and no more than a certain quantity of drink sold to each customer, will not the profits dwindle very considerably? Again, think of the large amounts that will have to be paid out in pensions. We must never lose sight of the fact that every employee—whether he be the State manager of a large hotel, or only a driver of a brewer's delivery waggon

entitled to a pension on retirement.—will be a civil servant, and as such Why should we Prohibitionists be forced to pay taxes to support a measure such as this. As true, loyal citizens we are willing to pay taxes that go towards the betterment of our land, but when it comes to making us help to support the liquor trade, which is dragging the manhood of this country down to hell, then I consider that, as a matter of principle, we are called upon to resist. Let us do as the Americans did with the tea that was forced upon them by the English Government—throw every cask of whisky and beer into the sea, rather than have it said that we are aiding and abetting the liquor traffic, even if it be under protest. A hundred times rather let us have Continuance, with all its evils, than this other white-washed business, which is bound to be just as deadly in its effects.

In conclusion, I would urge on every woman of this land not to vote as some one else—perhaps someone very near and dear to her—tells her to, but to vote as her conscience dictates, and then I think the successful issue of the campaign will be assured.

VOTE IT OUT.

Strike a blow at drink forever,

Vote it out;

Every link of weakness sever,

Leave no doubt.

Dally not with State controlling,

Vote out straight;

Just for once put all your soul in,

Ere too late.

Daily faced with sore temptation,

See the boys;

Those who fought for King and Nation

Won the prize.

Prize of peace for battle's galling

Heavy chain;

Mother! now you see your calling,

Turn again!

Stand to arms, and win a victory

For the right;

This time say a valedictory

In your might.

Say farewell to drink for ever.

Compromise!

Put it from you, now or never,

Win that prize.

—Ethel L. Piper, Milford.

Auckland District, 2nd & 4th Wednesday, 2.30 p.m., W.C.T.U. Headquarters, Wellesley Chambers, Wellesley Street (entrance Lorne St.); Pres., Mrs. Cook, Point St., Mt. Eden; Cor. Sec., Miss N. Dewar, Pompaier Terr., Ponsonby; Rec. Sec., Mrs. J. W. Taylor, Sentinel Rd., Ponsonby; Treas., Mrs. Perrett, Market Road, Epsom; "W.R." Agent, Miss Davies, Onslow Rd., Mt. Roskill.

Avondale, 3rd Tuesday, 2 p.m., Brown Street Methodist Church. Pres., Mrs. Stevens; Rec. Sec., Miss B. Gittos; Cor. Sec., Mrs. Proctor; Treas., Mrs. Walker; W.R. Agent, Mrs. Morgan.

Auckland, Y's.—Last Monday at 7.45 p.m. in W.C.T.U. Headquarters. Pres., Miss I. Sussex; Vice-Presidents, Misses I. Cook, and O. Scott; Supt., Mrs. Perrett, Market Road, Epsom; Rec. Secretary, Miss L. Street; Cor. Secretary, Miss M. Bottrill, 31 Arthur St., Ponsonby; Treas., Miss D. Stubbs, Shoal Bay Rd., Devonport; "W.R." Supt., Miss Budd.

Ashburton, 2nd Tuesday, 2.30 p.m., in Victoria Hall; Pres., Mrs. W. T. Lill, Willowby; Cor. Sec., Mrs. G. Bowman, Peter St., E; Rec. Sec., Miss Trevurza, 169 Peter St.; Treas., Mrs. W. J. Brown, Walnut Av.; "W.R." Supt., Miss Butterick, Wakanui.

Avondale Y's, 3rd Wednesday, 7.45 p.m. in Road Board Room, Blake Street. Pres. Miss Elsie Stevens, Vice-Pres. Misses Ada Adams, Lilla Russel & Rowley; Rec. Sec., Miss G. Wright; Cor. Sec., Miss M. Cottrill, New Windsor Rd., Avondale; Treas. Miss M. McCarthy, Station Rd.; W.R. Supt. Miss R. Thomas; Y. Supt. Mrs. Pirrett, Market Rd., Epsom.

Blenheim District, 1st Tuesday, 8 p.m.; Pres. Mrs. A. J. Litchfield, Livermere; Sec. Mrs. H. S. Horn Springslands, Blenheim; Treas., Mrs. Hay, Stephenson St.; Mothers' Meeting and Cradle Roll, Mesdames Brewer and Hancock; W.R. Agent, Mrs. W. Parker, Grove Rd.

Cambridge, 1st Tuesday, in month in Victoria Hall, at 8 p.m.; Pres., Mrs. A. T. Watson; Sec. Mrs. G. Beer; Treas., Mrs. C. H. Bycroft; Cradle Roll, Mrs. W. Hogan; W.R. Agent, Mrs. A. T. Watson.

Christchurch W.C.T.U. Rooms, 247 Manchester St., opp. His Majesty's Theatre. Second and fourth Wednesday. Prayer Meeting, on the third Wednesday. Pres., Mrs. T. E. Taylor, Cashmere Hills; Cor. Sec., Mrs. R. Day, Millford St., St. Albans; Rec. Sec., Miss Bishop, 12 Bealey St.; Treas., Miss M. B. Lovell-Smith, Box 114; Assistant-Treas., Miss Gordon, Holly Lea, Manchester St.; "W.R." Supt., Mrs. Day, Millford St., St. Albans.

Dannevirke, 2nd Wednesday, Wesleyan Schoolroom, 8 p.m. Pres., Mrs. Richards; Rec. Sec., Mrs. McPhee, Princes St.; Cor. Sec., Mrs. Wiseman, High St.; Treas., Miss Burdett.

Dunedin District, 1st Tuesday, No-license Rooms, Moray Place, 3 p.m.; Pres., Mrs. Hiatt, 264 George Row; Cor. Sec., and Press Cor., Mrs. Chisholm; Rec. Sec., Nurse Williamson; Supt. WHITE RIBBON, Mrs. Anderson, 82, Duke St.; Treas., Mrs. Young, Bishopscourt, Roslyn.

Devonport, Second Thursday, Wesleyan Schoolroom, 2.30 p.m.; Pres., Mrs. Barr, Victoria Rd.; Vice-Presidents, Mesdames Budd, Elliot, Sheppard, George and Young; Sec., Mrs. Burnett, Jubilee Av.; Treas., and Supt. W.R., Miss Le Roy, Waterview Rd., Stanley Bay; Supt. Cradle Roll, Miss Lilliwall.

Feilding, 1st Thursday, 2.10 p.m., St Paul's Hall. Pres., Mrs. Barton, "Brabourne," Monmouth St.; Cor. Sec., Mrs. Clara Neal, 3 Fitzroy St.; Rec. Sec., Mrs. Cooke, Manchester St.; Treas., Miss Svendsen, East St.; "W.R." Agent, Miss Jordan, c/o Mr. H. Feild, "Cloverdale," North Road; Literature, Mrs. E. Bridge and Miss O'Neill.

Gisborne District, last Tuesday, 2.45 p.m., Presbyterian Schoolroom; Pres., Mrs. Goffe, Ormond Rd.; Sec., Miss W. J. Rosie, 151 Stout Street; Treas., Mrs. F. J. Wilkes, 466 Gladstone Rd.

Greymouth District, Business only last Tuesday. Prayer Meeting second Tuesday in Fallow's Rest Hall; Pres., Mrs. Gaskin; Sec., Mrs. Mason, Cobden; Treas., Mrs. A. Parkinson, Terapuhi St.; White Ribbon Agent, Mrs. T. Brown; Vice-Presidents, Sister Moody Bell and Mrs. Parkinson.