

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

alise, as God taught him to realise, that progress in righteousness is being made, that even now there are 7000 who have not bowed the knee to Baal.

Women, in their quiet work, with their strong faith, hear the still small voice of God, which whispers of difficulties overcome and faith triumphant. True to their ideals, they must toil on, and victory is ever coming nearer and yet nearer. The women are not left to work alone. Much encouragement may be found in contemplating the many forces working with us and for us. Their aid is ever ours if we will believe in their presence, and be willing to work with them. Sometimes we are like Elijah, apt to think we are alone in the conflict, and so we fail to see all that is working for us, and we lose the inspiration and help which we should derive from the knowledge and recognition of these other forces silently co-operating with us.

Slowly, but yet surely, the international spirit is growing, love and brotherhood are becoming more than mere words, and the spirit of peace is extending her wings, and the day is hastening on when the whole planet shall abide beneath her outspread pinions. Partly we despair, because the war and its aftermath have torn the veil from before our eyes, and revealed evils in all their naked ugliness.

Seven thousand women in New Zealand are discouraged by forgetting that many others are silently working with them. * Scattered away, among the hills and valleys, in the lonely forests, and on quiet farms, are still to be found many who have never bowed the knee to Baal, and who will aid in the work to which we dedicate our lives, for God and Home and Humanity.

LYNTON

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We have passed another milestone on our long march to Prohibition, and though we have not written victory upon it, we can say, Ebenezer, for we fought a good fight, and as one of our workers recently said, "If beaten, we are not disgraced; if unsuccessful, we are still unconquered; and we face the future with hearts emboldened in the assurance that our cause is right."

As usual, we fought against heavy handicaps, the first of these being the unjust condition of the present law, which provides that Prohibition can only be carried by polling a majority of votes over the other two issues combined. The splendid majority vote for Prohibition (22,430 more than Continuance) proves once more that in a straight-out contest between these two issues, Prohibition would certainly win. The thousands of immigrants, who are many of them opposed to our reform, was another factor in our defeat, as were the Liquor Traffic's lies about the results of Prohibition in the United States, and the effort made on behalf of State Control by a few of the lesser dignitaries of the Anglican Church, all of which resulted in a considerable increase in the votes in favour of the middle issue. Nor could the alarming increase in drinking by women and young people have failed to affect the vote. Under these circumstances, the result of the poll, with its clear Prohibition majority, gives us every encouragement to fight on until victory comes. The voting was as follows:—For Prohibition, 319,450; for Continuance, 299,584; for State Control, 56,043. Yet we are as we were, in spite of this excellent vote, except for the loss of Ohinemuri, which, by the vote on the National question, indicated its desire to remain "dry" if the whole Dominion were the same. Ohinemuri is the only one of our dry electorates to move backward, as it was the only one which became dry because of a quarrel between the purchasers and sellers of alcoholic liquor as to the price of beer.

A writer on "The Need for Education" in the January number of the "Vanguard," reviewing the poll results, says: "The fact that the Prohibition vote increased by nearly 19,000 at the last poll is satisfactory as far as it goes, but remembering the large number of first time voters, the increase

should have been still larger. The inevitable conclusion, from consideration of the figures, is that there is still very much to be done in the way of education in regard to the evils of alcohol and the injurious effects of the Liquor Traffic on national life."

When our Union was first organised in New Zealand, over forty years ago, its slogan was, "Educate, Agitate, Organise, and Legislate," and the need for the progressive policy thus enjoined was never greater than it is to-day. From now onward we must concentrate on educative work, not only among our young people, but wherever we can get a group of listeners together—we must try to teach the true facts about Alcohol, that the depredations wrought by it may be brought home to the great body of public opinion. In pursuit of this policy, we must remember that education can only be undertaken successfully by those who are themselves informed as to the subject of which they treat. It behoves us all to keep abreast of the times, and not attempt to convince those whom we wish to convert to our own views by the use of stale literature and worn-out arguments.

Anna A. Gordon, our World's W.C.T.U. President, in her message to the Convention of that Union, held in Scotland last June said: "In our programme for the coming three years, the mobilisation of youth, and training of our boys and girls should be a first objective. Plans for the special training in scientific temperance and organisation work of our gifted young women should be one of the outstanding features of this Convention's plan of work. We must formulate for the leaders of to-morrow a programme that will equip youth with a knowledge of the moral, economic, and patriotic reasons for Total Abstinence and Prohibition."

Dr. Anna Howard Shaw said she never wasted any time trying to convince a person who had reached the age of 40 years. Her time and effort were directed to those just coming on the scene of action. Man/ workers complain that such effort is wasted—that young people are trained for a short time in our branches, and then go away, and the effort is lost. But such is not the case. Some impression is made upon their lives, by their connection with a branch for however short a time. It is like the migration of the birds. They are with us but for a little season.