

## LIQUOR IN THE KING COUNTRY.

## LEADING CHIEFS SPEAK OUT.

A deputation of Native Chiefs from the King Country, waited upon the Prime Minister early in this month.

They presented to him the following petition:—

To the Premier,  
Native Minister

of New Zealand.

Greetings to you Sir,

You are the Protector of your Maori people. Thus we send you the last testament of our chiefs, asking that "No hotels be opened in the King Country." That Law was made between our Fathers and the Government in the year 1884. At that time there were no Pakehas in the King Country, and when the Government granted our request, the Pakeha was permitted to enter under the conditions of that law and the Railway and European settlement followed. This was the result of Wahanui's visit to Wellington, and his appearance before the "Bar of the House." Now, O Sir, some of those Europeans whom we permitted to enter, are asking to break that Law, and are persuading some of our young people to sign a petition, but we assure you our chiefs and elders are all opposed to that Pakeha petition. We trust our prayer is not too late to hasten this our last request. "O, Sirs, do not permit the pledge made with our Fathers to be broken." Our hearts are grieved at the efforts of the Pakeha, and we are helpless, as we have no money to fight our cause like the Pakehas, who want to sell their drink. We do not want a vote, because our young people would be bribed to break the sacred law of their elders. We trust in you, O Sir, as the representative of our Mother Queen Victoria, to continue that Royal protection so faithfully bestowed to us her children under the Treaty of Waitangi, and thus prevent the introduction of anything that would do us harm. O Sir, hear our prayer. Our words to our Pakeha friends are these: "If they want hotels, let them go to those parts where there are hotels, but if they wish to remain in the King Country, they must honour the 'Sacred Law' of our fathers." We have no objection to the Pakeha as such, and would welcome others in their place, who are prepared to honour our Covenant.

We do not want a vote. We want the Law made by Tawhiao, Wahanui, Rewi Maniapoto, and the Government to remain. This was the prayer of our petition to Parliament in 1923, and resolutions to this end have been unanimously passed by meetings of our Native people throughout the King Country. This is enough.

TUWHAKARA.

(Signed)

Te Rata Mahuta Tawhiao Potarau,  
Tuwhakaririka Patana,  
Hotu Tana Pakukohatu,  
and Thirty Leading Chiefs of the  
King Country.

Te Kuiti, August 2nd, 1926.

They also pointed out by declaration to the Prime Minister, that a petition had been circulated among the Maoris, praying for a Referendum on the Liquor Question. That this petition had misled them by placing at its head the words of their great Chief Wahanui. They therefore begged that their names be withdrawn from this petition, and that the Prime Minister present to the Houses of Parliament their desires that the pact be not broken. A Declaration was also sent out, which 35 leading Chiefs were appointed to sign, to the People and Tribes of the King Country. They stated that the petition for licensed Houses in the King Country "is the underhand work of the Pakehas and their agents." These Chiefs also put it on record that "Our present position (without licensed hotels) is much better than that of any other tribes (those in licensed areas)."

The Chiefs indignantly repudiate the statement that there is more drinking amongst natives in the King Country than amongst those in any other Maori District. They declare this to be an insult to their people. These important Chiefs also state that "some signed their names in ignorance; others have had their names written in without their consent; some young children have signed, and some names have been written in lead pencil.

A statement is also appended, signed by Teone Haereiti, that his name was placed upon the petition by some person without his knowledge or authority.

One must admire the effort of these chiefs to keep their people free from the curse of the licensed liquor trade. The Pakehas who settled in

the King Country have no grievance. They went there knowing well the solemn pact made with the Maori Chiefs. If they now want licensed houses, let them go where such houses are to be found, and not attempt to legalise the sale of liquor where by solemn agreement, it is not to be sold.

## DOMINION LIBRARY.

The following books have been added to the Library since the list was published in April:—

- | No.  |   |
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| 177. | The Little Grandmother of the Russian Revolution, postage 3d                |
| 178. | The Date Boy of Bagdad, given by the author, the Rev. J. Cocker, postage 3d |
| 179. | T. E. Taylor: A Memoir, post 1d   |
| 180. | Defeat or Victory? (by Arthur Mee), postage 1d                              |
| 181. | How the Nations Help One Another, postage 1d                                |
| 182. | The Sun Babies (by Edith Howes), postage 3d                                 |
| 183. | The Conquest of Fear (by Basil King), postage 3d                            |
| 184. | The Faith of a Worker (by L. P. Jacks), postage 2d                          |
| 185. | Agnes Slack (by Aelfrida Tillyard), postage 3d                              |
| 186. | Thoughts for Mothers, postage 1½d   |
| 187. | A Mother's Journal, postage 1½d   |
| 188. | Confidential Talks with Young Men (by Lyman B. Sperry, M.D.), postage 2d    |
| 189. | Confidential Talks with Young Woman (by Lyman B. Sperry, M.D.), postage 2d  |

The last four are from Sister Moody Bell.

No. 185 is lent to the Library by Mrs Tillyard, of Nelson, and cousin of the author.

The Library is for the use of all members of the W.C.T.U. The books are lent for one month on receipt of postage.

Those wishing to circulate the books amongst the members of their Union are asked to state that fact, and how long they require them, when applying, otherwise they may be asked to forward them to the next applicant at the end of the month.

All parcels of books on which the postage is 2d or over should be marked, "Library Exchange, W.C.T.U." the charge for which is 2d for the first pound, and 1d for each succeeding pound up to 5 lbs.; otherwise the charge is 1d for each 2oz. or fraction thereof.

A copy of the previous list may be had for 1½d from

(Mrs) J. FIELD, Librarian,  
The Rocks, Nelson.