

## OUR PLEDGE.

(By J.F.).

All through the Dominion, as our members gather for their monthly meeting our Pledge is being re-affirmed, standing all together, we repeat our promise of total abstinence from all intoxicating liquors, and our purpose to employ all proper means to discourage the use and traffic in the same. And then, we pledge ourselves to work and pray till death or victory in the name of Jehorah, who has said: "Certainly, I will be with thee."

Seven thousand women who have made this promise, from which there is no going back, from which nothing but death or victory can release us!!! Do we glory in it? We have put our hand to the plough, there can be no turning back, no looking behind.

For the past thirty-three years we have sought through the Poll to bring in the prohibition of the Liquor Traffic, and so far, we have failed. We have worked and we have spent money, thousands and thousands of pounds, and the Trade has worked and spent more money, and at both games they can beat us. The question for us to face now, as women, is, why have we failed? It is not because the Trade can spend more than we can, nor is it because of any legal handicap. It is not because we have not yet earned success? God's laws are just "Whatever a man soweth that shall he reap." Somehow, somewhere, we have not sown the right seed.

Since the last Poll, it has been increasingly borne in upon some of us, the members of the Women's Temperance Union, and remembering our Pledge, we ask, where have our prayers failed? Maude Royden, in "Prayer as a Farce," says in reference to unanswered prayers, that we do get our desires. Our motives are often so mixed, we ask for one thing and really want another, like the Pharisees at the street corners. Do we know that what we want is Abolition, and Prohibition may not be the best means to that end?

Woman's work is not fighting, her work should not be breaking down or destroying, but building up, creating. "Resist not evil, but overcome evil with good." When we attack any evil and fight it, we arouse all the opposing forces, but if we cultivate the opposite virtue, we draw to our aid all the forces for good.

So we may, by our prayer and our desire, first in our own minds and later in the world around us, create the things we truly desire. In this way let us see the vision of a clean land, where what are now traps for unwary feet are turned to useful purposes, shops and offices where there are now open bars, factories instead of breweries, and a people from whom the desire for strong drink has departed. To some, this may seem a vague, foolish way to work, but to those who realise the tremendous power of united thought and who are weary with the fruitless battle, it will come as a haven of rest and shelter.

In regard to prayer, there may be some who have not yet realised that petition is not the highest form of prayer. If a child never came to his father, except to ask for something, could there be much real love or affection between them. Our Father has given us freely over and over what we can desire, He is always pouring out everything we can need. So, let our prayers be thanks and praise for all He has done, and let us in turn, give out to all around us, good and bad alike, something of what we have received. Let us remember, that in everyone there is the divine spark, hidden it may be under much that to us seems evil. When we met those whose first impression on us is that of selfish indulgence, let us forget it and say, almost though we spoke aloud, "You do not desire this thing, in your heart you hate it." Knowing that this is absolutely true, no soul, however depraved, but longs to be freed from it thralldom. Our work as women is to loose the prisoners.

When we sit in condemnation of others and blame them for their failure, we rouse the evil and bring it to the surface, when we call to the good in them we help them upward.

Shall our noontide be a time of vision?

"When you have started forth towards your vision,

When you have counted up the gain and loss;

When you have faced the old, old world,

Its tale of all endeavour lost.

Then, then, the joy of battle surges in you,

The splendour of the quite unequal strife,

And all the strength of brain and sinew,

Proclaims that you shall win, and this is life."

Let us see visions! Let us dream dreams till our visions and our dreams come true.

## HELPFUL ADVICE GIVEN TO WANGANUI E. BRANCH.

"If at any time we are prone to wonder whether we are making headway in our fight against the liquor traffic, let us remember that we have the word of the 'Chicago Daily News' for the statement that the Washingtonian Home in Chicago, which cared for 4682 patients every year for sixty years before Prohibition came into effect, has had less than that number for the entire period covered by the last five years, and is now prepared to discontinue its ward for alcoholics, and devote its efforts to general hospital work, and that the Board is in search of some other line of humanitarian work in which it can help."

Let us remember that according to a London physician, under a wide open policy, seven out of every ten beds in London hospitals are occupied by victims of drink.

India is reported as having reduced her consumption of liquor in a time of prosperity.

Let us take heart for all these and the countless other signs of the times that point toward victory; let us give thanks for what has been accomplished, and with new determination let us resolve upon the final destruction of every vestige of the liquor traffic in this country.

**APITI**, 1st Thursday, in Presbyterian Church, at 2 p.m. Pres., Mrs Murray; Vice-Pres., Mesdames Gill, Webster, and Courant; Sec., Miss F. Malcolm; Treas., Mrs Gould; W.R. Agent, Miss McKenzie.

**ARAMOHO**, 2nd Tuesday, 2.30 p.m., Presbyterian Church. Pres., Mrs H. Beggs, Glasgow Street; Cor. Sec., Mrs Gilmore, 2 Paterson Street; Rec. Sec., Mrs H. Good, Paterson Street; Treas., Mrs Sleight, Stewart Street; W.R. Agent, Mrs G. Suddaby, 20 Cumbræe Place.

**ASHBURTON**, 1st Tuesday, 2.30 p.m., in Baring Square Schoolroom. Pres., Mrs W. H. Robinson, Hampstead, Ashburton; Sec., Miss Trevurza, 169 Peter Street; Treas., Mrs A. Amos, 165 Peter Street; W.R. Agent, Mrs R. Buxton, Cox Street West, Ashburton.

**AUCKLAND**, second Tuesday, Central Mission Hall, Albert Street. Devotional meeting, 2.15 p.m. Pres., Mrs Cook, 17 Esplanade Road, Mt. Eden; Cor. Sec., Miss N. Dewar, Pompallier Terrace, Ponsonby; Rec. Sec., Mrs J. W. Taylor, Sentinel Road, Ponsonby; Treas., Mrs Dowling, 6 Pompallier Terrace; W.R. Agent, Miss Hill, Russell Cres., Ellerslie.

**AUCKLAND Y's**, 1st Thursday each month, 7.30 p.m., in Mrs Lee-Cowie's Gospel Temperance Hall, East Street. Pres., Miss A. M. McLay, 8 Bourne Street, Mt. Eden; Vice-Pres., Mrs Lee-Cowie, Miss Pyle, Mr Polson; Cor. Sec., Miss N. Barry, 1 Haydn Av., Royal Oak; Rec. Sec., Mr L. Davison, 7 Windmill Rd., Mt. Eden; Treas., Mr Thos. Thompson, Y.M.C.A., Auckland; Supt., Miss Read, Whitaker Place, Auckland.