

of drink, vice and disease? Surely the need for our work was never more urgent if the coming generation is to be saved from the collapse which is inevitable.

Alcohol is not a necessity. It leads to inefficiency; it robs men and women, young and old, of their power of self-control.

We learn the New Zealand drink bill has reached the enormous total of nearly thirteen million pounds. Surely this is alarming when we realise the thousands of citizens and servicemen who are without decent accommodation and homes.

To what good use those millions could be put in supplying materials for homes. How many of our returned men could be given homes, a new start in life in the peace and happiness of such homes? Are the profits from this death-dealing industry of more value than human life?

### Our Children

What about our children, the coming citizens of our fair country? How many of the newly born children of New Zealand have the taint of alcohol in their blood-stream? The numbers are growing because so many parents are imbibing freely. Alcohol is a racial poison, passed on by either parent to their offspring. We ask, how long will this state of affairs be tolerated? We have kept too quiet in face of these facts. It is the privilege and duty of all Christian men and women to protest against this outrage on social and moral conditions brought about by the use of beverage alcohol.

Temperance societies, with the W.C.T.U., have sent many telegrams and resolutions of protest to those in authority, but no offer or any attempt to curtail this terrible position has been made.

Solomon in his wisdom tells us that, "Righteousness exalteth a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people."

Let us do all we can in the name and strength of our Master, to cast out the cause of all the evils that are destroying our nation. Let us not be weary in well-doing, for in due season we shall reap if we faint not.

### The Home

We must put forward the work among our young people, and seek to remove the stumbling blocks from their pathway. We must teach them not to touch, taste or handle intoxicating liquors. The greatest menace before children today is the entrance of intoxicating liquors into the homes. We do not estimate the effect bottled beer has on home life. Young people, watching parents indulging, will have no influence to keep them from the same habits. New Zealand will reap what has been sown, and will not have the clear-sighted, clean-thinking citizens needed in every nation. The home will never be the place we love best when alcohol is carried there and people lose their sense of self-respect.

The home is the place where the foundations of the national life are built up. Can a nation be built on

bottled beer? Can a new order of any value for the generations to come be established without giving God the pre-eminent place in the home, without honouring father and mother, without remembering the Sabbath Day to keep it holy? We must get back to the standards set by God for all men to follow. The hour has come for a nation-wide movement towards righteous living. Our hearts are deeply stirred by our country's need.

We have read with much interest the report of evidence given during the sittings of the Licensing Commission throughout New Zealand. Many people have learned of the waste carried on, of sugar, barley, malt, etc. and the despicable habits of hotel licensees.

### The Native Race

The position amongst our Maoris is causing grave concern to many interested in their welfare. Alcohol was given them by our own pakeha people, and since the introduction of wet canteens during these past years of war, thousands of the flower of Maori manhood have become addicted to alcoholic liquors. It is generally understood that alcohol is more harmful to the Maori than the white man. The great scourge of tuberculosis has taken hundreds of Maori people, young and old. "We may conclude, and that confidently," said Dr. Dickenson, "that alcohol promotes tubercle, not because it begets tubercle, but because it impairs the tissues, and makes them ready to yield to the attack of the parasite."

Thus we see the need to protect our Maori people from the harmful results of alcohol.

Let us determine to keep on in the great fight for the freeing of our land from that which destroys life and nations. Let us hold fast, work, pray, and trust in the Power, Presence, and Guidance of our Heavenly Father Who goeth before us continually.



### A MESSAGE OF LOVE AND SYMPATHY

All readers will be deeply sympathetic with our beloved President, Mrs. Hiatt, in the loss of her sister, Miss B. Mackenzie, which occurred at the end of December. Though Miss Mackenzie's health had occasioned great anxiety for some considerable time, the end came unexpectedly and our loving thoughts and prayers are with Mrs. Hiatt and Miss Mackenzie in this time of sorrow for one so very dear to them. While feelings of thanksgiving for a soul set free from the distress of human weakness come to their help, the sense of loss is very keen, and we pray that Heavenly comfort may sustain them, and the knowledge that "Miss Bene" dwells in that

"Land of pure delight,

Where saints immortal reign,"

where  
"Infinite day excludes the night,  
And pleasures banish pain."

### "NEW ZEALAND"

The Government has had prepared for the Royal Commission on Licensing reports from various departments, Licensing Committees and Magistrates. The most startling of these reports is the one on the Chatham Islands. These islands are a proclaimed area, having 350 Maoris out of a total population of 500. Striking an average, the consensus of opinion is that fully one-half of the income from all available sources is spent on liquor. The European section on the whole, and with few exceptions, could almost be reckoned as total abstainers. The Maori section, however, does sufficient drinking to characterise the whole population as a community of heavy drinkers, from the quantity of liquor consumed. It is impossible to give any accurate figure of the amount of money spent on liquor by the natives. The report states that "the moral, as well as the criminal law is violated to a degree far in excess of what might be expected, sexual cases especially being out of proportion to the population existing elsewhere. This is fostered and favoured by lack of moral teaching, and drinking of liquor, especially in the houses of native residents, where 'drinking parties' are held, and drinking by both sexes and young people is indulged in." There are two licensed hotels, owned by the same person. Both of the houses run a storekeeping business, which is against the law. This facilitates the supply of bottles of liquor for taking away, and this increases drinking, as they can easily be wrapped up and delivered from the grocery department. It is stated that native women get bottles of liquor in this way. The report suggests that all off sales be prohibited (to include Europeans), and there is the alternative of the Government taking over control, either direct or as a trust, under Government supervision, by a Committee nominated by the Government. It is hoped that the Royal Commission will give serious consideration to all these questions.



### THE NEW YEAR

Ring out, wild bells, to the wild sky;  
The flying cloud, the frosty light:  
The year is dying in the night;  
Ring out, wild bells, and let him die.

Ring out old shapes of foul disease,  
Ring out the narrowing lust of gold;  
Ring out the thousand wars of old,  
Ring in the thousand years of peace.

Ring in the valiant man and free,  
The larger heart, the kindlier hand;  
Ring out the darkness of the land,  
Ring in the Christ that is to be.

—Extract from Tennyson.