

# The White Ribbon

For God, and Home, and Humanity.

Thought for the Month.

"THEY ARE SLAVES WHO DARE NOT BE  
IN THE RIGHT WITH TWO OR THREE."

—Lowell

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## FORWARD! WITH A LOOK BEHIND

With the memory of Convention still fresh and the inspiration of the splendidly constructive and practically helpful work done still illuminating our minds, it is yet worth while to cast a backward glance, and to discover wherein we have failed in the past. Some of the suggestions for the future, most excellent as they are, are not really new. Yet, they came with all the glamour of freshness around them. How is this? Why should it be so?

Well, the answer is fairly obvious. If the suggestions made in days quite long ago had been actually put into practice they would not have needed to be made at this late date. The moral is plain. Suggestions, plans, rulings, resolutions, fine though they may be, are worthless until they are made use of. Unless every union sees to it that the possibilities opened to our view are fully explored and all available energy is directed towards carrying them out, they will pass into the limbo of the "might-have-beens."

Is it a hard doctrine for the small unions? Perhaps it is, but the marvel of our work is that when intense effort is put forth, there is always a response. Enthusiasm begets enthusiasm. If we are so keenly alive to our present opportunities and our present dangers as to be able to communicate the sense

of urgency to those around us, we are doing a great thing. How often the note of belief in the power of God, our Father, was struck in those days at Christchurch, and how we were urged to "be strong and of a good courage." As we go to our meetings this month, let us carry the note of hopefulness and belief in our ultimate triumph over the hosts of evil with us, and see to it that some definite steps are taken towards bringing our own Convention plans into the field of practical endeavour.

## MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Nelson—Three new members.

L. M. MITCHELL.

March 7th, 1946.

## TARANAKI DISTRICT CONVENTION

The annual district convention of the Taranaki branches was held on 14th February in Wesley Hall, Hawera. There was a good attendance of delegates from the five branches.

Mrs. T. J. Hurrell, vice-president, presided. After morning tea, provided by Hawera as the hostess union, the convention was opened with devotions, taken by Mrs. Haywood, Hawera.

Full reports were given by branch delegates and by district superintendents.

Convention passed a resolution of hearty support to the resolution of the executive of the W.D.F.U., this being: "That as shops and offices now had to close on Saturdays, hotel bars should also be closed." At noontide, Mrs. Tozer sang the noontide hymn, and several delegates led in prayer.

Afternoon devotions were taken by Mrs. K. Thayer, Hawera. Officers

elected were: President, Mrs. T. J. Hurrell, Hawera; district secretary, Mrs. Tarrant, Ngaere; treasurer, Mrs. Simpson, Ngaere.

Two duets were rendered by Mesdames Tozer and Meyerchough. All district superintendents were re-elected with two changes as follows: Home meetings, Mrs. Thayer, Hawera; flower and philanthropic, Mrs. T. Cox, Eltham. Afternoon tea was served by Hawera, hostess union.

Miss Elsie Andrew, guest speaker for convention, gave a very fine talk, her subject being "Woman; Her Strength and her Weakness." Miss Andrews also had a discussion on plans of work.

Convention was invited to New Plymouth for next year. Convention closed with votes of thanks, prayer and benediction by Mrs. Arthur, of Inglewood.

## AMONG THE DEPARTMENTS

It is worthy of note that one of the matters discussed in Convention was concerned with the reporting of departmental activities. This arose from the fact that in one instance at least the winners of a banner had not reported to the Dominion superintendent, and a suggestion was made and seriously discussed that under such circumstances the award of the banner should not be made. It was agreed that for this time the actual winners should have the banner, but that in future they would be penalised if they had not reported to their own departmental superintendent, either through their district or local union, or directly themselves. A touch of humour ran through the discussion and it was thought that in all probability the penalty of being made ineligible would not need to be enforced.