

The White Ribbon

For God, and Home, and Humanity.

Thought for the Month.

"If you have built castles in the air, your work need not be lost; that is where they should be built; now put foundations under them."—H. D. Thoreau.

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FOR FRANCHISE DAY, SEPTEMBER 19th

As the time for the Poll draws near, our thoughts naturally are of our inestimable privilege of VOTING. This month we observe September 19th as "Franchise Day," and recall the oft-told story of how we Won the Vote. What it has done for us and for our children cannot be fully stated or even computed. More is involved than is suggested by Acts of Parliament, the effects of which may be entirely beneficial. The self-respect engendered in the Woman-soul of the nation; and the

sense of personal responsibility developed through the years since 1893 are important factors in the life of our land today. The opinions and aims of the women have influenced legislation in many directions; and a wholesome respect for them is evident in quarters where it "matters." In our meetings this month, let us thank God for our opportunities; and pray for further realisation of our duty as Citizens of New Zealand—and of the World.

West Australian Women's Parliament

We offer our sincere congratulations to the women of West Australia who have taken a great step forward in the formation of a "Women's Parliament." This follows closely on the lines of the London Women's Parliament which was formed in 1941 to mobilise women for the war effort. Now it hopes to mobilise them for the maintenance of Peace.

Real equality of opportunity, and the removal of injustices, the pooling of ideas, joint planning and concerted action; and education in regard to the vital part to be played by women, with knowledge as to the power they possess when they act together, are among the things for which it stands. West Australia has established its Parliament along similar lines. Under the auspices of the Women's Service Guilds, women of all organisations have joined, over 100 becoming members within one week of the formation. The membership fee is 2/6. Splendid organisation is reported. The Organising Committee of 11 members dealt with the arrangements for the opening on Tuesday afternoon, April 2nd.

This was a most successful function. The Strangers' Gallery was crowded. Mrs. Bromilow, as Governor, gave a most inspiring address.

After referring to the London Women's Parliament, she went on: "I charge you to emulate their efforts. I charge you to bear in mind the struggle of women throughout the ages, the all-

too-slow emancipation of women from the slavery of the cave to the comparative freedom of these our days; to remember how, in some lands, even today, woman is looked upon as a chattel, a beast of burden; to recall the great women of the past—Elizabeth Fry, Mary Somerville, Florence Nightingale, Millicent Fawcett, Josephine Butler, Mrs. Pankhurst and her daughters, the mill-girl Annie Kelly, Lady Constance Lytton, Emily Davidson and scores of others; remember them and their immeasurable influence on the progress of civilisation. I charge you to hold clearly the thought of what women have done on the war-front and on the home-front; their suffering, their fortitude and their untiring devotion to duty; to express in your own actions the high hopes you entertain for the future of all women, when, hand in hand with men, they shall, as inevitably they must go forward, to that universal peace and prosperity, whose early beams we can see even now, timidly breaking over the far distant hills.

"I solemnly charge you to strive to the utmost in your endeavour to reach the ideal of that Christ-like soul who said, 'With malice towards none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right as God gives us to see the right, let us bind up the nation's wounds; and care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow and orphans; and do all that which may achieve and cherish, in just and lasting

peace among ourselves and all nations."

A rapid survey of the matters to be brought before the House in ensuing sessions followed here. These included the Housing question; the providing of domestic help in homes where it is needed; immigration policy; always with the principle of equality of opportunity and equal status as between men and women. Earnest appeals were made throughout the address for the BEST of womanly power and intellect as represented in the Parliament, to be exercised in the approach to the many problems which would be worked upon during the various sessions. Idealism was held to be the dominant note. In conclusion, Mrs. Bromilow said: "Throughout your deliberations you will maintain as a background one awful thought—the Atomic Bomb. You will realise that in this, man has done what has hitherto been deemed the impossible; he has reversed creation: you will realise that, since the dawn of the Christian era, this is the most far-reaching event to happen on earth; you will realise that a stupendous power for good or evil has been placed within the hand of man; that this power opens vistas of wondrous beauty, vistas of hellish inferno, and—nothingness. Beyond all things, you will bend every energy, every ability to the great purpose of eliminating of war from this planet for ever.

Great is the opportunity, heavy is the task, worthy is the reward. Go to