

In Memoriam

MRS. KATE DOWNING Dunedin Central Union

The Dunedin Central Union lost a valiant warrior for our cause when Mrs. Kate Downing was called home on the 19th of September.

Mrs. Downing was an outstanding woman, brave and fearless. Right was right with her. She never compromised, but hit the Liquor Trade whenever she had an opportunity, and she sought opportunities. She was optimistic as to the ultimate victory over the drink trade. One of her last messages was: "Keep the flag flying."

She wrote excellent letters to the Press when we needed to show our colours, and always gave a logical reason for fighting beverage alcohol.

She will be greatly missed for her vigilant watch over happenings through drink reported in the newspapers, for her faithful attendance, and for her cheerful courage. We can ill spare from our ranks a woman of Mrs. Downing's calibre, and trust that others will join who will carry on the work with the same outspoken and fearless denunciation of drink, and with the faith that God will give the victory when the women of our land are found faithful. I saw her a few hours before the call came. She asked for prayer, and said, "Thank you, thank you. God bless you for ever, and bless our 'White Ribbon' sisters. How I love the white ribbon bow. It cheers my heart to see it."

—JESSIE HIETT.

MRS. H. GRINSTEAD, JUNIOR Wanganui Central

It is with deep regret that Wanganui Central has to record the death of Mrs. H. Grinstead, Junior, who passed away recently, after some weeks of suffering in hospital.

Our sister was a real live member, and held the offices of Recording Secretary, Superintendent of the Cradle Roll, L.T.L., Band of Hope, and any other duty she was asked to undertake. With marked success she coached the children for the Annual Scientific Temperance Examinations, and on different occasions her son, Eric, won

the Gold Medal with highest marks.

Mrs. Grinstead loved the work connected with the Union, which indeed was really part of her. With an optimistic outlook, she was always cheerful and helpful.

As a link between the Alliance, per Grandpa Grinstead, Palmerston North, she kept us up to date, and we shall miss her at every turn.

At our monthly meeting tribute was paid by several members, all of whom deeply deplored her passing, and a silent vote of sympathy with her husband (who was her help-mate in all Temperance activities) and her grown-up family of two sons and two daughters was passed.

In Church activities she took a prominent part, and was leader of the "Kinders," where she will be much missed.

The funeral, which was conducted by Mr. L. R. H. Beaumont, B.A., of the Church of Christ, was largely attended, and with the many beautiful floral emblems testified to the high esteem in which our good and worthy sister was held.

—ANNIE DUXFIELD.

MRS. E. A. FELTON North Brighton Union

On August 27th, at Christchurch, a much-loved foundation member of the North Brighton Union, Mrs. E. A. Felton, passed on to Higher Service.

Mrs. Felton was in her 85th year, and remained to the last an active Temperance worker. During the war a knitting circle was held at the home of Mrs. Compton, one of our members, under the auspices of our Union. Mrs. Felton always attended each week to do her bit towards comforts for North Brighton Servicemen. She was a true Christian and read her Bible every day. For years she was a great sufferer, but rarely murmured about it. Near the end, she said to a minister, "Tell my friends not to weep for me. I am ready to go." Mrs. Felton has been aptly called, "A grand old lady." She will be greatly missed from our Union.

—E. GOLDMAN.

COMMENT ON REPORT OF LICENSING COMMISSION

The Rev. R. B. Spence, M.A., minister of Knox Church and President of the New Zealand Alliance, Dannevirke branch, in response to a request made the following statement to the Evening News on the recent report of the Royal Commission on Licensing:—

"The evidence before the Royal Commission brought to light a wealth of information, some of it most startling, which would otherwise never have seen the light. In this respect at least the commission has made a contribution to our knowledge. If the liquor traffic is to remain, a redistribution of licences is inevitable.

"It is recommended 'that information be made available both in the schools

and to adults on the latest scientific findings on the effects of alcohol and the use and abuse of alcoholic liquors.' This scientific knowledge is already being taught in some public schools by permission of Education Boards, but it is so emphatically against the consumption of alcoholic liquors in any form that it is quite obvious members of the commission themselves have not read what they urge upon others. Such scientific findings make the commission's recommendations to extend drinking facilities in evenings, in restaurants, cabarets, and private parties groundless and irrational.

"The report falls down badly also in its neglect to recognise the moral life

of the country and the deleterious effect that extended drinking facilities will have. If the experiment in Invercargill is any criterion, the drinking shops opened there are teaching young people to take spirituous liquors at an alarming rate. And what will night traffic do. 'Righteousness alone exalteth a nation.' In 1939 New Zealand spent £9,000,000 on liquor, in 1945, £13,000,000. Does anyone imagine that extended drinking facilities will uplift the nation, or reduce the toll that liquor takes of human life? The scientific findings of medical men, ministers and social workers are in flat contradiction to the report on this issue.

"The commission speaks of safeguards because of 'the definite view of the majority that intoxicating liquor is a commodity with dangerous possibilities and therefore, in the public interest, requiring safeguards not ordinarily necessary.' Those suggested are a strict watch on the character of licensees and heavy penalties for breaches of the law. The existing legislation provides adequate penalties. More legislation will mean nothing, unless the police, the law courts, and Licensing Committees are prepared to enforce it.

"In regard to the King Country I am prepared to take Sir Robert Stout's word before that of Mr. Justice Smith. Sir Robert declares 'that there was a bargain made between the Maoris and the Government that this district was to be kept free from the sale of spirituous liquors. . . . We got on that territory on this condition—no alcoholic liquor was to be sold in that district.' Any Government, therefore, that re-introduces liquor to the King Country has no honour and deserves the worst that comes to it.

"Regarding State control and ownership, the Labour Party will make the Invercargill experiment their first and last if they are wise, or their liquor policy will smash them."

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JUST A REMINDER

MAORI GIRLS' HOSTEL "SMALL DONATIONS FUND"

Contributions are now due if you wish to renew

The work of the W.C.T.U. Hostel in Parnell goes on actively and is filling a very great need in the lives of many Maori girls.

Some very greatly needed additions and repairs are being undertaken, and your financial help will be very much appreciated.

Donations may be sent to the Matron, Mrs. J. W. Long, 9 Cleveland Road, Parnell, Auckland; or to Miss McLay, 115 Bassett Road, Remuera, Auckland, S.E.2. —C. M. McLAY.

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DONATIONS TO WHITE RIBBON DAY FUND

The donations from the following Unions are acknowledged with many thanks:—

Upper Hutt, 10/-; Onehunga, 10/-. Total, £1. Total received to 10th October, 1946, £31/15/6.