

The White Ribbon

For God, and Home, and Humanity.

Thought for the Month.

"Grow old along with me;
The best is yet to be."

—Robert Browning.

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"NEW YEAR"

When this issue reaches our readers, 1947 will be well on its way. Not too far, however, for our good wishes to come along with it. To one and all, we send greetings, and hope that they may find "all the best" in happy, healthful life and service, during the year ahead.

Of nothing is it easier to write endless platitudes, than of New Year. Ever since, as children, we puzzled our little brains to know what this thing that people said to each other as they shook hands, smiling with extra kindness, could really mean; we have heard the same ideas expressed. 'A new beginning; a time for making good resolutions; a good place for re-planning work and activity; such are the thoughts we habitually hear, and feel within ourselves, at this time. Are they not very old and stale? Should we have not gone a stage further than this? Surely, it is not necessary for us to keep on making this "fresh start". All this was done when we were children; and we are further on our way by now.

All very well, to talk in this strain. Notwithstanding, the eye of experience sees across the years behind, something of beauty and joy in those New Year aspirations. Always a hope for something finer and better in the future lit up the passing of the old into the new. How sure we were that we were going to make something good of the opportunities which to come. And though, in this backward glancing, we see how far short of the dream the reality always was; we cannot but feel that it was all to the good that the dream was there.

And here at the beginning of 1947, there is an almost unbearable delight in having all the promise, all the veiled suggestion of unknown possibilities, once again as our possession. Past disappointment, failure, sadness and suffering, are powerless to quell the strange deep sense of unexplored regions of the spirit of experiences beyond all we have yet known; of vision clearer through past pain; and of something which "passeth understanding". We all have it. Thank God for it. It is a gift of his own hand, to lead and inspire even in the days of darkness. No mere dream or fancy, but a possibility, is at the heart of this strong upsurging of hope for coming days. In its warmth and sweetness, our love and faith are strengthened even now as we stand—

"at the portal
Of the opening year."

NOTICE TO UNION SECRETARIES

Please be sure that your delegate is supplied with her credentials to present on arrival at Convention.

See that proper notice is sent to Mrs. Williams, "Armley," Queen Street, Devonport, Auckland, if hospitality is required for her.

Furnish her with your Union's requisition of Convention "White Ribbons."

Ascertain the amount she may promise for Headquarters Fund, and, if possible, send it along with her.

If you hold any banners, please send them to Convention addressed to Mrs. Underhill.

Remember to send your delegates' names with Union name also, to Mrs. Underhill as early as possible, so that the Roll may be prepared.

Picture of W. Australian Women's Parliament Officers



—By courtesy of Dawn, organ of "Women's Service Guilds," West Australia.