

NEW ZEALAND WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN TEMPERANCE UNION

(Incorporated)
Organised 1885

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"For God, and Home, and Humanity"

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Official Organ:
"THE WHITE RIBBON"

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All matter for publication, reports, etc., should be in the hands of the Editor by the 15th of the month.

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All Union advertisements must be sent to the Business Manager, to whom all payments for Advertisements, Beacons, Y.P. Supplements and subscriptions must be made.

The White Ribbon.

"For God, and Home, and Humanity"

WELLINGTON, MAY 1, 1947.

NEWS FROM FAR AWAY

OUR GERMAN SISTERS

Apropos of the suggestion made in Mrs. Mackie's "Talk" on her Peace Report, given at Convention, and appearing on the front page of this issue that we should try to know the people of other lands we publish here a copy of a paragraph from the "Bulletin" as being one likely to help us to think with sympathy and Christian charity of those whose sufferings have been terrible, even though they were our "enemies."

"This letter comes from Frau Fischer of Bremen, Germany. Everything she owned in the world is lost. She says it is difficult to interest people in anything if they are hungry. Continuing, she says:

"It is my aim to build our German W.C.T.U. again. More than 30 local unions were lost, and more than 1,500 members from there died on the streets last winter. This was in East Germany. In January I began to gather together the members in British and American Zones. I thought, and still think, the practical work in our alcohol free houses, as well as in factories for fruit juices has given us popularity and shelter against the Nazis, but will also be able to give us best possibilities in the future. Our plans for rebuilding and for organising are greatly hindered by lack of everything, food and coal, and inability to secure workmen.

As long as God gives us life we will do our duty for Him and home and every land. We beg of you do not be disappointed if we cannot work as well as we would like to, because we are rather feeble, and our frailty is mounting from month to month, even from week to week."

This letter was received at World Secretary's Office in reply to one sent from there.

FROM NEW SOUTH WALES

No more heartening news could have been received than that of the great triumph described in the following extract from the Australian Temperance Advocate:—

"On Saturday, February 15th, the people of New South Wales declared themselves concerning the closing hour for hotels in that State. The hours submitted were 6, 9, and 10 p.m. They gave a thumping verdict for 6 o'clock closing.

This decision does credit to the good sense of the people, and consequently, it is not surprising. The New South Wales judgment is an expression of the sanity of mind of the average Australian, who is neither a wowser nor a fool. Being a man of ordinary intelligence, he knows that an increase in hours for drinking would mean that more drink would be sold, and in consequence more drunkenness would prevail. Apparently the New South Wales elector does not want any more of that indecency sprawling over the State. Of course, the barons of the breweries know these things, but, not being particularly sensitive about public decency, they were willing and prepared to spend large sums of money to gain an extension of hours for sale, believing that what is expended this year would be recovered next year if the extended time for the sale of liquor were allowed. Their hope was an hypothesis: the supposition did not succeed.

FROM AMERICA

Arresting Statement by R. S. Lufkin.

"Lassitude within the alcoholic beverage industry, plus the ambitious campaigning of Drys, will return Prohibition to the United States within from four to six years."

Mr. Robert S. Lufkin, secretary of the National Tavery Association and president of the Massachusetts Retail Liquor Dealers' Board of Trade, made the above

startling statement before a meeting of the Maryland Retail Liquor Dealers' Association held at Alcazar, Baltimore.

In April, the same speaker predicted the return of Prohibition within six to eight years. He now says:—

"After travelling thousands of miles around the country on behalf of the liquor industry since repeal—and I have travelled about 34,000 miles since the first of January, I have moved up the arrival of Prohibition from eight to six years, to SIX to FOUR years."

No wonder the industry seeks to extend its sphere of influence.

LETTERS FROM BRITAIN

11 Belvedere,
Weymouth,
4th November, 1946.

Dear kind friends in Feilding and Masterton, New Zealand,—

We have just held our Branch monthly meeting, and I am writing at once to send the thanks of our members to you.

Please excuse a joint typed letter, but we passed a resolution that has to be sent to the Mayor and Corporation, and the clergy and ministry of the town, so as I am the Branch Secretary, you can imagine all the work I have to do—as well as send the notice to the local papers.

We have 20,000 sailors in our midst, the Fleet having come to our harbour, and no accommodation for social facilities except one small Salvation Army Home, AND the places where they can get intoxicating drinks. This is something I am absolutely ashamed of and I shall try to rouse the town to action. During the war we had a fine "B.W.T.A." Canteen and Club, of which for five years I was Commandant, and over one and a-half million meals were provided, sometimes over 2,500 in one day. But the Churches wanted their halls back after the war, and much as we have tried we cannot find other property. We want to run a peace-time club. Our monthly meetings are held in the Liberal Club premises. If only the Churches would realise their opportunities and the work crying out to be done! I get really worked up. It is so difficult to get anything done, alas!

But to return to your parcels. The members were delighted. I had

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