

NEW ZEALAND WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN TEMPERANCE UNION

(Incorporated)
Organised 1885

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"For God, and Home, and Humanity"

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"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. Supple-
ments and subscriptions must be made.

The White Ribbon.

"For God, and Home, and Humanity"

WELLINGTON, JUNE 1, 1947.

GOOD WORK IN HAWKE'S BAY

We are grateful to the Hawke's Bay Union for this account of their spectacular Election effort, and have much pleasure in publishing it in the present issue.

This is a somewhat belated news note concerning the Hawke's Bay District Union Show Stand pre-election effort, but as such displays can be very worthwhile, and should, we believe, be made more use of in the interval between polls, this little report in spite of its late appearance, may be of interest and perhaps of some help to other unions.

When the Hawke's Bay District Union definitely decided to attempt such a display, it sought the co-operation of newly-formed branches of the N.Z. Alliance, and the Hastings Alliance particularly was indeed of tremendous assistance, its men-folk taking full responsibility for the erection of marquees and such-like. An extensive calico sign stretched across the top of the marquee, and as the crowds of people entered the main gate to the show-ground, they were "hit in the eye" as it were, inescapably, and told by means of this huge sign, to "Vote for Prohibition."

In the two tents or marquees were all kinds of posters displayed on every inch of wall space, set off by bowls of flowers and shrubs. In the front centre of one

was a revolving gramophone disc, with an arrangement which held eight posters, and it is really amazing how valuable a MOVING display can be—it attracts the attention very definitely, and young and old stop to read.

Literature? Yes; piles and piles of it; a tremendous lot of which found its way into the hands and pockets of the large crowds passing by. Not an easy job, this giving out of literature, oh no! Some abuse, much argument, some very sympathetic encouragement—but, with it all, the smiles and patience of the ladies of the stall won the day. Those who were approached were asked pleasantly to put this literature into their pockets and take it home to read at their leisure—and the result? At the end of the day, of all the quantity of leaflets distributed, scarcely a score could be found littering that huge area of ground. That in itself was a triumph indeed.

Humour? Yes, much of that, and not only from the Stall ladies whose sense of humour was much in evidence—and HAD to be. A shoe-shop display card was set up to draw attention to the fact that the money spent on drink at 2/- a day, in three months would otherwise give about £9 towards providing the family with shoes. One well-dressed lady came to the writer and said in her stylish way, "Oh, where do you give the order for a pair of shoes? I have always to have mine made," etc. When matters were explained to her, her interest literally fizzled out. She believed in letting people have the drink if they were fools enough to drink it. She had made the rule that if her boy spent his money in drink, then he had to go without other things, and she had told him how silly he looked when he had been drinking, and so he had learned not to take too much.

One young man, whose breath was a big tell-tale, felt very brave in coming to us and telling us "what a silly lot of women" we were. "Giving out papers is easy. Why don't you do something worth while—Plunket work for instance?" and much more in the same vein. Yes, humour, but humour with sadness, which made one yearn to help all such to a truer conception of life at its best.

At the end of the second day all were thankful indeed to pack up and know the work was done, but all went home feeling that it had been well worth the doing. The result? Well, that is in Other Hands than ours, but we do firmly believe that if each does her part to the

1946 LICENSING POLL Analysis of Votes Cast

The following analysis, prepared by Mrs. Grainger, of the Hawke's Bay District, Hastings Union, is full of interest and answers many questions suggested by the election results. The article well repays study.

Total votes cast, 1,004,507.

Total votes cast for Continuance, 542,681, or 54.02%. Previously this was 57.36%.

Total votes cast for State Purchase and Control, 202,664, or 20.18%. Previously this was 13.41%.

Total votes cast for Prohibition 259,162, or 25.8%. Previously this was 29.23%.

Continuance had a decrease of 3.34%.

Prohibition had a decrease of 3.43%.

State Purchase and Control had an increase of 6.77%.

Prohibition had a decrease of 10,638 votes, but there were nearly 82,000 extra votes cast.

Continuance had an increase of 13,285 votes, but a decrease of 3.34%.

Many electorates had a decreased vote, but the majority had an increase of votes.

State Purchase and Control had an increase in all but three electorates, these being Remuera, Hamilton, and Invercargill.

In Remuera and Hamilton, the vote for State Control was smaller, but the percentage was higher.

In Invercargill, there was a decrease in the Vote and the Percentage. This is very interesting.

Of the 76 electorates, 24 had an increase of votes for Prohibition, but only four had an increased percentage.

Of the 11 No-License Areas (which used to be 13), five had an increase of votes, but only one (Mataura) had an increased percentage. Seven of the eleven have under 50% of the votes, which is far from satisfactory. Restoration must gain over 60% of the votes to be carried. Once carried, there is no further vote, so the Liquor Party concentrate on one No-License area, this time Masterton being their priority target.

In 1943 No-license votes in Masterton were 48.49%.

In 1946 No-License votes in Masterton were 37.22%.

very best of her ability, God honours the very smallest effort and will bring it to fruition in His own good time.

—R.L.