

NEW ZEALAND WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN TEMPERANCE UNION

(Incorporated)

Organised 1885

DOMINION HEADQUARTERS:

46 and 48 Brougham St., Wellington, E.I.
Phone 52-062.

President:

Miss C. E. KIRK, J.P.,
57 Pitt St., Wadestown, N.Z. Phone 40-729.

Vice-President:

Mrs. J. HIETT,
11 Duke St., Dunedin.

"For God, and Home, and Humanity"

Treasurer:

Miss M. B. LOVELL-SMITH,
305 Riccarton Rd., Christchurch, W.2.

Assistant Treasurer:

Miss J. ATKINSON,
57 Pitt St., Wadestown, Wellington, N.Z.

Recording Secretary:

Mrs. V. UNDERHILL,
Lakings Rd., Yelverton, Blenheim.

Corresponding Secretary:

Mrs. H. N. TOOMER,
Songer Street, Stoke, Nelson.

Legal and Parliamentary Superintendent:

Miss C. HENDERSON, M.A., J.P.
15 Euston St., Sumner, Christchurch.

Official Organ:

"THE WHITE RIBBON"

Editor:

Mrs. F. N. CHRISTIAN,
"Fairlight," Tauranga.

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

Business Manager:

Mrs. J. H. GRIGG,
1 Mallam Street, Karori, Wellington, W.3.
Telephone 26-903.

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, MARCH 1, 1948.

ABOLITION OF THE LIQUOR TRADE

FIRST RECORDED MEETING FOR THAT PURPOSE HELD IN NEW ZEALAND

Recorded by R. A. A. Sherrin.
Published by Brett.

Page 371.

The trade in spirits having attained large proportions on the river banks of the Hokianga, a public meeting was called at Mangungu on the 21st September, 1835, for the purpose of prohibiting the importation and sale of ardent spirits on the river Hokianga, Lieutenant McDonnell in the chair, when the following resolutions were passed unanimously:

1. That the British residents and natives do from this (21/9/1835) agree that the importation and sale of ardent spirits be abolished.

2. That Captain Young and Mr. Oakes, with Moetara, a native chief, be appointed to board and examine all vessels entering the Hokianga River, and to make their commanders acquainted with the native law against the importation of ardent spirits, which will be subject to seizure if attempted to be landed, as also the boat in which such ardent spirits shall be found.

3. That the creditable determination of Mr. Manning and Captain Clendon to follow the example set by Captain McDonnell, the additional British Resident, in stating all the spirits of his establishment previously to this meeting, be publicly recorded.

4. That Thomas Mitchell, George Stephenson, John Jackson, and Robert Hunt be appointed a committee to decide on all measures connected with this meeting.

5. That in order to the more effectual crushing this infamous traffic, it is also agreed that if it can be satisfactorily proved that any person imports or sells ardent spirits after this date, a fine of fifty pounds shall be levied on the vendor or purchaser, namely, twenty-five pounds each. The amount of the said fine to be put to such purposes as the committee shall direct in defraying any expenses which may be incurred, to support the objects of this meeting. It is not intended that any spirits now held as the property of others shall be destroyed but shall be shipped from this river at the earliest opportunity, of which the committee shall give due notice to the agents, in order that no excuse may be pleaded.

6. That a fair copy of these resolutions be sent for publication in the Sydney "Herald" and in the Hobart "Town Courier."

7. That the thanks of this meeting be given to Captain McDonnell, the additional British Resident, for the very warm manner in which he has advocated a cause so replete with benefit to all, and for his impartial conduct in the chair.

About 500 of the natives were present at the meeting and a few of the colonists. In accordance with the fourth resolution, a deputation proceeded to a vessel shipping timber for Australia, and, making known the decision of the meeting, "the delivery of the grog on board" was demanded. The master, finding there was no alternative, reluctantly complied, making this observation, "Matters have come to a pretty pass now that we are compelled to go on our voyage without our supply of grog." The captain, how-

ever, ordered the puncheon of rum to be hoisted on deck; it was taken by the natives to the gangway, the bung drawn, the sailors coveted treasure emptied into the sea, and the cask handed back to the captain, who remarked, "I have no more spirits on board."

Some of the settlers renewed their excesses openly, and some of them went so far as to visit the mission chapel at Mangungu and dance round it holding bottles of rum in their hands. One of them, named Thomas Styles, received a blow from John Marmon, which gave him only 24 hours to prepare for death. He was a man of mark among his fellows and when seeing how fatal would be the effects of the blow, he sent for the missionaries, expressed his sorrow on account of his determined opposition to them and the confederate chiefs, and as a proof of his compunction, he ordered all his rum puncheons to be taken from his store and their contents to be poured on the ground in the presence of his assembled associates.

This was about April, 1837.

"WITHIN THE VEIL"

In September, 1947, the members of the late Rakaia Union lost a very dear friend in the passing to higher service of Mrs. Boag, who was president from the inaugural meeting of the Union in October, 1914, till October, 1936, remaining as vice-president while the Union continued to function.

Mrs. Boag was also South Canterbury District President for a number of years, probably about eight. She was much loved by all who knew her and was an inspiration to all. She was a sufferer for many years, and many a one took fresh hope and courage from being with her.

Sent by Mrs. Hopwood.