

## President's Message



Dear Friends,—

Congratulations to all Unions who have made such a good beginning with the work of Convention. May the end of the year show the successful carrying out of the work begun. May I remind Unions that it is not too soon to begin the training and preparation of officers and delegates for the 1949 Convention, to be held in Timaru, and it is certainly not too soon for Unions who will be entertaining Convention within the next four or five years to begin their preparations. With such good notice every District has ample time to make plans, and there will, I feel sure, be no District not ready, not only because it is loyal, but, also, because any one District which fails to shoulder its responsibilities places an unfair burden upon the next in order.

Just at the present time all our members will be very busy with "Aid to Britain" work but, more especially, with the appeal for starving children. It is difficult for us in this wonderful country to realise what "starving" really means in relation to children; to see a clear picture of little children who had absolutely no food yesterday or today, and are not in the least likely to have any tomorrow or for many tomorrows. How must their mothers be feeling? What a magnificent opportunity for us through this channel to help to spread the spirit of good will. Money has come in freely. We now have only to see that the food purchased goes to the right places. Let our prayer be that wisdom and judgment may be granted in large measure to those who have the very great and grave responsibility of distribution.

All these activities work in side by side with what we call "our own work" for the very good reason that

## "DEVOTIONAL PERIOD"

"More things are wrought by prayer than this world dreams of."

—Tennyson.

Hymn 36: "O Blessed Life!"

Scripture Reading: James V, 13:16.

"Prayer to many of us is like an emergency call. It is not sent up until we are in peril or difficulty or trouble or distress. And then it is more in the nature of a panic-stricken utterance than a real prayer. We have largely lost the sense of the true meaning, value and importance of prayer. Prayer, in the first place, is not petition nor supplication nor even intercession. It is communion. How many of us spend an hour a day in communion with God? If more time were spent in such manner, and the Spirit of God were allowed to take possession of heart, mind and life, we should find ourselves with an increasing burden for the souls of men. We should find our prayer interest widening considerably. We should find that five hurried minutes a day will not suffice. We should find that before a soul is born again, someone has to travail for it. Prayer is not to be measured by time dimension, but by its intensity. When we really begin to feel the desperate need of a sin-stricken world and a lost soul, we shall pray with fervent desire that will burn us up. May God lead us so to pray."

—"The Challenge."

it is work to be carried out under our Motto: "For God, and Home, and Humanity." If we are to have a good base from which to work we must strengthen the position of our Union; that is why you are doing your best in the membership and educational campaigns. Keep on keeping on; if you find the fight getting harder be thankful. It means that the Devil, or the Power of Evil (or whatever you like to call it) is realising that God's strength is being granted to us. If we were not making headway the Devil would not be trying to block the way. He is not so foolish as to be using his power where there is no strength to fight him. Never for one moment forget that those who enlist in God's Army are always given sufficient strength to march and carry His flag. There is unmeasurable power available. Let us use it. "Who in the power of Jesus trusts is more than Conqueror." May God's blessing be upon us and upon all people of goodwill everywhere.

Yours sincerely,

C. E. KIRK,

Dominion President.

## OVERSEAS TIDINGS

From the "World Bulletin" we learn the following, which clears up the mystery of the "Light Liners." Some Convention delegates wondered what the term signified.

N.B.—A Light Line Union is one that contributes \$5 or £1 to the World's W.C.T.U., and subscribes for the National Union's magazine to be sent to a foreign missionary. The Light Unions are a great help to the World's Funds.

Also from the "Bulletin" we have the following very interesting and informative report:

### U.N.O.

In September, a two-day conference of International Non-Governmental Organisations was held at Lake Success, New York. Miss Helen G. H. Estelle, President New York State Union, and Miss Elizabeth A. Smart, National U.S.A. Legislative Director, were our representatives. We were invited to send an entry for the Exhibition, and Mr. Geoffrey Staunton (nephew of Miss Dorothy Staunton, England), was commissioned to make a poster. It was large and colourful, sensitively executed, and artistically arranged. At the head of it were the name of the Union, date and name of founder, the motto, description of badge. We have National Unions in 44 countries, and 29 of these are member countries of U.N.O. The flags of these were portrayed in an oval design linked by a waving band of white ribbon, tied in a bow at the base. Inside the oval were these words:

"The W.W.C.T.U. forwards the common cause of the United Nations by Departmental Educational Work as follows: CHILD WELFARE: CITIZENSHIP: FILMS: HEALTH and NUTRITION: MORAL WELFARE: NARCOTIC DRUGS: PEACE and ARBITRATION: and by maintaining an International Correspondence Bureau for Young People.

"The W.W.C.T.U. advocates the personal and national advantages of abstinence from intoxicants, of the sanctification of the home, and of an equal standard of liberty and purity for both sexes."

At the close of the conference, Miss Estelle and Miss Smart dined with Mrs. and Miss Boole, taking the poster for them to see. It is hoped to get small reproductions made eventually.