

## President's Message



Dear Fellow Workers,—

Now that the "shortest day" has passed we begin to feel that Spring is not far off. Of the four Seasons I think Spring is the most thank-provoking. Already the leaf buds are swelling on the bare branches of the trees and, in imagination, we see them bursting into delicate green tassels and fans. As we look forward with thankfulness I wonder if we remember the past seasons with equal gratitude. How about the past seasons of our beloved Union and the present difficulties which face many of our branches? Are we singing a song of thanksgiving for the grand work of our older members? Are we remembering with sympathy those smaller Unions whose members have worked so bravely for so many years, often in dull and uncomfortable rooms? Now these members are, by reason of advancing years, unable to work as hard as they used to do and as they would love to do now, still they gather faithfully and they give to us a magnificent example of faith and courage and, also, the inestimable gift of their prayers. I would like to ask that at our August meetings there might be a few minutes set aside for special prayer and thanksgiving for our grand women who have borne the burden so long and who are now with undaunted courage continuing to render such fine service. At the close of the prayer sing the Doxology with all your hearts.

How is your Membership Campaign coming on? Also are you getting many pledges signed and how is your literature distribution doing? These three avenues of service lie at the very foundation of our success.

By this time you will have received the particulars of the Essay and Poster Competition. Do try to interest the children round about you

## TEMPERANCE FACTS

**Given at Brooklyn Union Meeting:** "If England could be rid of the drink for 10 years, she would become such a Paradise as men could hardly recognise."—John Bright.

"Alcohol is coveted by many Governments for the revenue it gives them, notwithstanding the fact that it consumes more wealth than has been spent in building all the homes, the railroads, the steamships, the schools, the colleges and the Churches of every nation.

"Alcohol is the costliest inhabitant in every country and demands the expenditure of unreckonable millions for prisons and police courts, for insane asylums, almshouses and orphanages."—Extract from "Confessions of Alcohol."

**Given at Kohi-St. Heliers:** "The age of reason has no place for alcohol as a beverage. Alcoholic liquor clouds the intellect, degrades and destroys the finest faculties of the brain, and produces contentment with undesirable conditions. It is the handmaid of ignorance."

**Brooklyn:** "Alcohol acts by destroying conscience, self-control, and the normal functioning of the body."—George Bernard Shaw.

**Given at Papanui:** "Public health has not deteriorated as the result of the beer strike in Sydney, only that 30,000 drink addicts have suffered from being deprived of their drink."

**Auckland District Executive Meeting:** "Eighty per cent. of the cases of V.D. are due to the influence of alcohol. Alcohol and V.D. go hand in hand, there is no doubt about that."—Dr. Ashton Evans, F.R.C.S.

**New Plymouth:** "The liquor traffic is commercially our greatest wastrel; socially, our greatest criminal; morally, our greatest enemy."—Albert Schweitzer.

**Takapuna:** "Alcohol is one of the greatest enemies of the home; even the publicans, in certain moods, have expressed anxiety to keep our homes free from liquor."—N.Z. "Methodist Times."

**Given at Brooklyn.**—"Canada is spending \$350,000,000 annually on beverage alcohol.

"Never did so many pay so much for so little."

—"Vanguard," 1946.

**Given at Dargaville.**—"A total abstainer cannot become a drunkard except by first becoming a moderate drinker. A moderate drinker is always a potential drunkard."

in this competition. It is a fine means of educating the young.

Would it not be a fine thing if you and I could help to build up such staunch Christian characters as those of our older members who command our loving respect?

May God's blessing rest on each one of us, bringing us daily to a greater knowledge of His love and power.

Yours sincerely,

C. E. KIRK, Dominion President.

## METHODS DEPARTMENT AUCKLAND DISTRICT SCHOOL OF METHODS

A School of Methods was held on May 10, 1948. Two Sessions were held, Mrs. Kasper presiding. At 10.30 a.m., the School opened with Devotions, verses of Scripture being repeated, and a Chain prayer.

The Minutes of the last meeting of the School were read and confirmed. A talk on the correct method of writing and presenting for confirmation, of the Minutes, was given. The Minutes should always be signed by the writer, and the time to amend the Minutes is when the Chairman presents them for confirmation, and not after they are signed. Only business arising should be taken then.

Mrs. Mears, the new District Superintendent for the Peace and Arbitration Department, read a paper on the work of her department. Miss Grigg, the newly-appointed Evangelistic Superintendent for the district, spoke, and a full discussion took place. Mrs. V. A. Read gave an address on "Home Meetings" and explained the work of her department.

Mrs. Kasper spoke on the duties of officers, and the L.T.L. Department.

Mrs. J. Williams led the Public Speaking Study, and then, five-minute speeches were given on the subject: "Why I joined the W.C.T.U." 10 members taking part.

The School closed at 2 p.m.

## SOME REASONS WHY AMERICA LOST THE EIGHTEENTH AMENDMENT (Heard at World Convention)

1. Because Liquor interests spent large sums to create the impression that Prohibition was a failure.

2. Because, during the depression, people were ready to blame anything, and consider any possible remedy.

3. Because Repeal was made part of the Roosevelt Plan in the desperate hope that liquor revenue might reduce taxation.

## IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Dominion Officers meet in Wellington at Headquarters, on Wednesday and Thursday, June 30 and July 1.

**South Auckland District Convention** will be held at Hamilton, September 20th. After-Church Temperance Rally Sunday evening, in the Methodist Hall, London Street, September 19.

**Essay and Poster Competitions:** Subject, "Alcohol—the Great Deceiver." Children, 12½-14 years, eligible for Essay, and all children for Poster Entries. Essay prizes, £5, £3 and £1. Posters (three grades), £1/1/-, 10/6 and 7/6 prizes. Further details on application to any W.C.T.U. officer. Closing date, September 6.

**New Zealand Alliance Annual Meeting:** This is arranged for August 4 and 5.