

# 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"

## Editor:

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All matter for publication, reports, etc.,  
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All Union advertisements must be sent to  
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ments and subscriptions must be made.

## The White Ribbon.

"For God, and Home, and Humanity"

WELLINGTON, DECEMBER 1, 1948.

## District Convention Address, 1948

By the District President,

MRS. F. W. MOUNTJOY

To see clearly children must first  
learn to think for themselves. Unless  
they start learning to do so in the  
home, they will never learn.

Through quest and question they  
find out things for themselves that  
they will remember all their lives and  
form a habit they will never forget.  
We should encourage the habit by  
not trying to force our own ideas and  
ways of doing things on our own  
children and those others we come in  
contact with, as the only correct  
method. By learning to reason the  
why and the wherefore they are de-  
veloping their characters, and when  
temptation comes their way, if guided  
along the right path, they automatic-  
ally know right from wrong.

We mothers have a great responsi-  
bility in developing the little lives en-  
trusted to us, our children or our  
grandchildren. Through them we  
reach a larger circle and we must see  
that there will be no stumbling block  
left in their way that they cannot sur-  
mount.

Children, at some stage of their  
lives, make heroes or heroines of  
people they meet or read about; their

teacher, a sportsman, a statesman. I  
remember a girl in the sixth standard  
cuddled all she could of the life of  
President McKinley. She afterwards  
became a Doctor of Medicine. It is  
good to bring to children's notice  
people with high ideals as Don Brad-  
man the cricketer, Lovelock the run-  
ner, Lord Montgomery, perhaps the  
greatest soldier that the British Em-  
pire has ever had, or a recent Gover-  
nor of New Zealand, Sir Cyril Newall.  
These men have reached their present  
fame and neither drink intoxicating  
liquor nor smoke. There are many  
others just as famous in other direc-  
tions, who have taken the same stand.  
Most young people desire to be  
physically fit, and these people could  
never have reached their goal without  
physical fitness. They advise one and  
all that to be 100 per cent. fit one must  
leave intoxicating liquor strictly alone.

In August 1948's "Consumer News,"  
appears an article entitled "Drinking  
and Driving," issued by the Depart-  
ment of Health, in which it states,  
"Alcohol is a drug which, no matter  
how we may try to talk ourselves out  
of it, affects our brains. This is just  
cold, scientific fact. What alcohol  
does is to influence those parts of the  
brain, the so-called higher centres, that  
give us judgment, concentration, self-  
criticism and skill. The same part of  
the brain gives us anxiety, frustration  
and worry. Alcohol cuts down the  
activity of this part of the brain. The  
effect of even small quantities of alco-  
hol is to diminish skill and self-  
criticism and to prolong reaction time,  
the time between spotting a danger  
and acting accordingly. In fact, it  
produces just those conditions that  
make a skilful driver of a motor  
vehicle less skilful. We should not  
have to learn through bitter experi-  
ence that when driving, a little alcohol  
can be a dangerous thing."

In spite of advice like this from one  
of its own departments, our Govern-  
ment licenses the sale and manufacture  
of this poisonous drug.

New Zealand's drink bill for 1947  
was £16,208,343. An appalling figure  
for such a young country. In 1941 the  
expenditure in New Zealand on intoxi-  
cating liquors was £6/6/- per head. In  
1947 it had increased to £9/1/11 per  
head.

The late Lord Stamp, who was a  
leading world economist, said, "The  
National Drink Bill represents a bad  
bargain for the community." "When  
intoxicants have been made, sold and  
consumed, there is nothing to show

for the expenditure except a certain  
crop of trouble, poverty, crime and  
disease. It is more than sheer waste.  
It would have been better for every-  
one concerned if all the money had  
been expended on digging holes and  
filling them up again," said Thos. P.  
Whittaker, British M.P.

While this waste in the use of bar-  
ley and sugar is going on the people  
are being asked to ration themselves  
to help the hungry people of Britain  
and Europe. The Government prom-  
ised that barley for brewers would be  
curtailed, but they were actually al-  
lowed to use 176,889 bushels more  
grain in 1946 and 1947 than in 1945.  
New Zealand produced 2,505,000 more  
gallons of beer in 1947 and 3,000,000  
more gallons of beer in 1946 than in  
1945, yet the people are being asked  
to eat less meat, less butter and less  
bread. It would appear as though the  
planned production in New Zealand  
considers brewers and beer should  
have priority.

We read that the quantity of beer  
and stout produced in Australia dur-  
ing the 12 months ending June 30,  
1947, was the highest on record. Fig-  
ures compiled by the Government  
Statistician show that production dur-  
ing that period reached 128,267,000  
gallons.

In the "Auckland Star," August 10,  
1948, in the "London News," we read  
that "just under 4,250,000 gallons of  
Scotch whisky were exported during  
the first six months of this year,  
creating records for whisky as a dollar  
earner. Of the total quantity export-  
ed, the United States took 2,206,000  
gallons, and Canada 332,000 gallons.  
If whisky exports are maintained at  
the same level during the second half  
of this year they will earn £15 millions  
sterling worth of dollars and reduce  
home stocks by more than 63,500,000  
bottles."

What is going to be the result of  
all this production and sale of this  
soul-destroying liquor? We are see-  
ing it in our young country in the  
divorce courts, broken homes, road  
accidents, etc. The same applies to  
Australia. These countries are beer-  
drinking countries, but America, which  
is a spirit-drinking country, shows in  
her appallingly increasing number of  
alcoholics the havoc that is being  
wrought there.

The head of the Psychiatric Insti-  
tute in Chicago courts states that  
whereas 15 years ago one out of every  
five alcoholics was a woman, now it  
is one out of every three. One out  
of every 17 males in U.S.A. is an