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## THE WHITE RIBBON.

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*The White Ribbon:*

FOR GOD AND HOME AND HUMANITY

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 15 1906.

## The Anti-Totalisator Crusade.

STRANGE as it may now appear, there were, a few years since, numbers of good men in this Colony who believed that legalising vice would diminish vice, and they therefore advocated, or at least tolerated, the legalising of the totalisator. Man's mind apparently moves in narrow grooves, for the same

fallacy led to the introduction of the C.D. Acts and is at the present time in measure responsible for the liquor traffic. But experience, that saddest yet surest of teachers, is rapidly convincing those of open mind that with public sin even as with private sin, to countenance evil is to increase the wrong. It was a member of a Christian church who was responsible for the bringing forward in Parliament of the Bill legalising the totalisator. He has passed away, but he lived long enough to publicly confess that had he foreseen the evil that would follow, he would rather have cut off his right hand than have been the means of introducing such legislation. And of late the clergy of all denominations have uttered scathing denunciation of this facilitator of wrong-doing. "The totalisator is the most damnable thing in New Zealand to-day," said Bishop Neligan, of Auckland, in May last, "it is an engine of the devil that is driving souls to hell." And only last week, Bishop Julius, of Christchurch, wrote, "By means of the totalisator we are inoculating the whole community with the vice of gambling."

From judge's bench and magistrate's court comes equally pronounced condemnation. The Chief Justice has said, "The desire to make money by investing pounds in the totalisator is the dominant passion of the majority present at horse-races. Classes of people who would never have dreamt, and would not now dream of making bets with bookmakers, rush to the totalisator with their pounds. Women, from seventeen to seventy years of age, are not ashamed to use the totalisator . . . and so it has increased gambling." That it hampers the carrying out of the ends of justice is evident; for, dealing with an infringement of the Gaming and Lotteries Act, in Auckland, but a few days since, Mr Kettle,

S.M., remarked that he "always felt a disinclination (perhaps wrongly) to impose heavy penalties in such cases, seeing that the State legalised the totalisator and did everything to protect it against those who ran the same class of business." A short time before, when hearing the case of a youth charged with theft, Mr. Kettle said, that "in his opinion the totalisator should never have been legalised; it was a great temptation to men and boys, and since it was introduced it had demoralised the youth of the colony." Mr Beetham, S.M., publicly stated that "betting on horse racing meant ruin to those who followed it up, morally, intellectually and physically, and wherever it was there were lies . . . the totalisator was at the root of the whole business. It was a beastly thing." Adjudicating on a case of trespass, Mr Bishop, S.M., remarked that "so long as the State continued to license the totalisator, and the Jockey Club to derive a large proportion of its revenue from it, so long would the law courts be pestered with the sort of case before him."

And so one might go on piling up evidence. Surely this thing has been weighed in the balance and found wanting. Professedly Christian people have now opportunity to prove their right to their title by insisting that the besmirching, befouling influence of the machine shall be at once removed.

## NOTES AND COMMENTS.

"UNION SIGNAL," WORLD'S W.C.T.U. CONVENTION NUMBERS.—The New Zealand Executive is ordering a limited supply of copies of the *Union Signal* for November. These are expected to contain a full record of the proceedings of the World's Convention, the reading of which will doubtless prove not only interesting, but educative and stimulating. Unions that have not ordered direct from America may obtain copies on application to our N.Z. President,