

THE WHITE RIBBON.

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The White Ribbon :

FOR GOD AND HOME AND HUMANITY.

Wednesday, January 15th, 1908.

1908.

“ the golden year.
 Old writers pushed the happy season
 back,
 we forward.”

The Editors most cordially wish their readers a Happy New Year.

A new year, even as a new day, comes laden with possibilities—with opportunities for hastening the coming of the golden year when “all men’s good” shall “be each man’s rule.” Yes, and each woman’s rule. It is with the latter we are here concerned. For an uneasy suspicion arises now and again that our New Zealand women are not so actively interested as they should be in all men’s good. A faithful few are toiling away, utilising as far as lies in their power, opportunities for public service, for duty in the larger home. But a very large proportion are content to take all the good the public gods send them without rendering anything like a fair return. Can it be that the material prosperity of the country during the past decade and more has not been a matter of unmixed good? Possessions have multiplied, and added possessions mean added care. Is it possible that the more elaborate house, the more expensive dress, the increased means wherewith to attend and arrange social

festivities and functions have occasioned undue attention to one phase of life, and that not the most important? Certain it is that for the various departments of social service women, old and young, are not offering as they should. May this new year see a great awakening in the matter. May the mother see that her own duty to her family is not limited by four walls, and may she also train her daughters in early maidenhood to look not only on their “own things,” but to willingly take a share in the world’s duties and activities.

WORK FOR THE YEAR.

The General Election and Licensing Poll year, of course, brings special opportunities and duties, and our W.C.T.U. women, if wise, will already be mapping out a line of action that will largely affect the results of polling day. Among the many channels of influence that will suggest themselves for use in the work for no-license may we put in a plea for work through the little ones. The old words are still true: “A little child shall lead them.” And if we can only impress the children with temperance teaching, with the thought that the licensed bar is a menace and a danger to the individual and the nation, the children will prove most effective evangelists to the older folk.

The abolition of the totalisator will, of course, loom large in the W.C.T.U. programme. Having entered upon the task of banishing that which has indeed proved an engine of destruction, we must not stay our hand till the work is accomplished.

The question of women’s dis-

abilities is one that cannot righteously be shirked by any one Union or individual member. It is, indeed, fundamental—a race question, and most strenuous effort should be put forth so that woman may be able to claim her own children, her own purse, her due status in the industrial world; that she may be able to exercise her own talents, and make her own influence directly felt in both local and national legislation and administration.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

Nominations for N.Z. W.C.T.U. Officers.—Nominations received during the past month are:—Ashburton: President, Mrs Cole; Secretary, Miss Webb; Treasurer, Miss Powell. Several other Unions have also sent nominating the present officers for re-election to their present positions.

Money for Life and Money for Death.—Speaking at Christchurch on January 7th, Mr Keir Hardie said that old-age pensions had been talked of as long as he could remember at Home, with the ever-present problem as to where the necessary £15,000,000 a year was to come from. Yet there had been no trouble in finding £40,000,000 a year by which the expenditure upon the army and navy had been increased in the past twenty years.

Socialism and Equality of the Sexes.—Mr Keir Hardie remarked recently that “Socialism stood for equality of men, equality of sexes, and equality of nations. It had nothing to do with the wickedness its calumniators had associated with it, and made no attempt to interfere with any man’s religion. But the Sermon on the Mount and the general principles of Christianity could never be applied in the life of the people until Socialism prevailed.”

The Holiday Season and Drink.—If further incentive were needed to whole-hearted service this year