

# The White Ribbon

FOR GOD AND HOME AND HUMANITY

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## A LEGITIMATE TRADE.

"We have got to remember that the licensing trade is a legitimate trade."—Pt. Hon. Mr Massey.

"But Brutus says it is legitimate, and sure he is an honourable man."

What is this trade which our Premier is so anxious to whitewash? What is it licensed for? It is licensed to sell alcohol. What is alcohol? "It is a racial poison," says Dr. Saleeby. It has been banished from the pharmacopoeia of U.S.A., because it is valueless as a medicine. It was described by Sir Victor Horsley as "the most popular poison known." Dr. Chapple says: "Our hospitals do without it and the death-rate goes steadily down." It has been pronounced by another authority as a "body-destroying, soul-destroying, and nation-destroying drug." Is it legitimate to trade unrestrictedly in poison? The Premier says it is legitimate.

We are engaged, so our leaders are always telling us, in a life and death struggle for our national existence. Everything must be sacrificed for efficiency's sake. We must "scorn delights and live laborious days" to increase that efficiency. Does this trade increase the efficiency of our soldiers? It was stated on good authority that much of the Mesopotamia muddle was due to the leaders' brains being fuddled with drink. It was stated in the British House of Commons that 40 per cent. of Kitchener's Army was in hospital from



CORPORAL ANDREW, V.C.

A WHITE RIBBON HERO.

Corporal Andrew is a son of Mr and Mrs Andrew, of Wanganui East. His mother is a very valued officer of that Union, and an earnest W.R. worker. She joined the Union twenty years ago, and our young hero, then an infant in arms, was at the meeting with her. Corporal Andrew passed for a commission before he was 19. He left with the 12th without having received a commission. He held markman's and signaller's badges, and the star for the best shot in his company. He won the V.C. for a fine feat of heroism and leadership. Detailed to attack and capture a machine gun, his little force came unexpectedly upon another gun pouring out a stream of bullets. When this was captured he only had three men left. With these he attacked the gun crew in the rear, and captured the gun he was sent after. He left two men to remove the gun, and with the third went on a reconnoitring expedition as far as the British barrage would permit, and brought back valuable information.

preventable diseases, and "that, in military language, means wine and women." It is asserted on competent authority that, during the first 18 months of the war, more men from one of the great Powers were in hospital from venereal disease than from wounds received on the battlefields. All medical authorities examined before the Royal Commissions both at Home and in New South Wales, stated that 90 per cent. of the soldiers affected by the Red Plague would never have become diseased unless they had taken alcohol. The Dean of the Faculty of Medicine in Sydney University says: "Alcohol spoils soldiers. It is subversive of discipline, and robs a man of prudence, judgment, conscientiousness, and higher morality. I have seen 400 men in one day in one place. They all came from one military camp, and alcohol was the indirect cause of all their misery."

It is an admitted fact by scientists that alcohol weakens the power of self-control, and taken to excess inhibits or puts out of action this power. What can we call a trade which deliberately debauches and ruins our soldiers, sending boys who entered the Army, abstainers, home to their mothers, drunkards? Is it legitimate or diabolical? Mr Massey says "Legitimate."

Does this trade tend to increase race efficiency? France set up a Commission of Doctors and Scientists to solve the question of why the grave was beating the cradle in the national race of life. The report submitted to the President said, "The greatest cause