

BREAD OR BEER.

The following extracts are taken from a pamphlet entitled "Bread or Beer," written by W. Stokes, Secretary of the Northumberland Miners' Association:—"We have been told that the Government is afraid that the working men would resist Prohibition. That might be true in times of peace, and even in times of war, were our foodstuffs not threatened; but to suggest that the working men, when faced with an imperative choice, such as we are now faced with, between bread and beer, will choose beer, is such a reflection on the character and intelligence of working men that, as one, I repudiate the slander.

"The obstacle is not the working men. Have we not been called upon to make far greater sacrifices than this? And have we not made these sacrifices in order to come successfully through the national struggle? Is it to be thought for a moment that when the national crisis has reached its most acute stage, and starvation threatens, that we will not make this sacrifice also for the sake of our mothers and sisters, our wives and children? Are these less dear to us than those of the wealthy classes are dear to them?"

"The hand that grips the throat of the Government is the fist of Gold. There is money in it. The Drink Trade has made and unmade Governments in the past, and the present Government is afraid of it. Perish the food of the people provided the dividend of the brewer remains. Thousands of small businesses have been destroyed without compensation, and the owners themselves compelled to give their lives in the service of the nation. These businesses helped to build up and strengthen the nation, while this drink business weakens and destroys. Still it has got to be preserved, and why? Because there is money in it."

WANTED.

Applications are invited from Young Women willing to take work as Canvassers in connection with the coming Poll for NATIONAL PROHIBITION. Applicants should, where possible, obtain a recommendation from an officer of the local branch of the W.C.T.U.

Full particulars as to work can be obtained from Miss Henderson, 26, Tui Street, Fendalton, Christchurch.

INDENTURED LABOUR.

One half the world does not know how the other half lives." How true! We venture to think that very few New Zealand women can be aware of the conditions under which our Indian sisters are living in Fiji. The system of indentured labour differs very little from slavery. In many instances Hindu ladies are kidnapped and shipped off to Fiji, compelled to labour on plantations, and live immoral lives.

It is actually a Government regulation that three men should be allowed for every woman. One overseer thus explains the system as worked on his estate: "I first separate off the married couples, and then I divide the rest of the women among the men, telling so many men that they must go to this or that woman. If I did not do this there would be endless sexual quarrels."

The following leaflet was distributed at a meeting held in Allahabad, India, last year, to protest against the system of indentured labour:—

"TO THE MOTHERS OF INDIA."

"Mothers! I have seen with my own eyes the misery of your sisters in Fiji. They have come to me with tears day after day, in that distant land, and implored help in their sorrow.

"They have shown me their own children, living in the midst of squalor and vice. This shame may still continue unabated, and new children be born into it, if our voices are not raised against it.

"In the name of sacred motherhood and innocent childhood, and by the memory of your sisters' tears, uplift to heaven your supplications, that this evil may be taken away from God's earth.

"C. F. ANDREWS."

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**MRS HOULDER,
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