

WOMEN'S
Christian Temperance Union
Of New Zealand.

Organised 1885.

"For God and Home and Humanity."

PRESIDENT:

MRS. DON,
Ravensbourne, Dunedin.

VICE-PRESIDENT:

MRS CRABB, 128, College Street,
Palmerston N.

RECORDING SECRETARY:

MRS. W. A. EVANS, M.A., Hiropi
St., Wellington.

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY:

MISS HENDERSON, B.A., 26 Tui
St., Fendalton, Christchurch.
(Telephone No. 4258).

TREASURER:

MRS BENDELY, Aratonga Avenue,
One Tree Hill, Auckland.

Official Organ:

"The White Ribbon."

Editor: Mrs Peryman, Port Chalmers.
(Telephone No. 1).

Associate Editor: Mrs Evans, M.A.

Business Manager: Mrs Peryman,
Port Chalmers.
(Telephone No. 1).

The White Ribbon.
For God and Home and Humanity.

WELLINGTON, DEC. 18, 1918.

WOMEN IN PARLIAMENT.

For over a quarter of a century women have been electors in this Dominion without having the right to be elected to Parliament. A Bill was brought in by Mr McCombs to give women the right to be elected, but before it reached its second reading, Mr McCombs secured a vote in favour of this reform by moving an amendment to the Legislative Council Amendment Act. The Legislative Council refused to adopt the amendment on the ground that it was quite irregular and unconstitutional. The Bill went back to the Lower House, when the Premier asked the House not to insist upon its amendment. There was a short discussion, and then the House by a thirty to eighteen vote agreed to the Premier's suggestion to drop the amendment. The

Woman's Societies of Wellington sent a deputation to Sir Francis Bell, and several Unions also wired protests. The reply received from the Prime Minister was: "In reply to your telegram of the seventh, I am not opposed to women becoming eligible for election to Parliament; but as leader of the House of Representatives, I cannot consent to a most important constitutional question such as this being decided on a side issue without proper notice and without full consideration."

Mr Speaker ruled that Mr McCombs amendment was quite in order, so that the Premier was really calling in to question a ruling of Mr Speaker. The stalwart eighteen who voted against the Premier's motion to drop the amendment allowing women to be elected to Parliament were: Messrs Anstey, Craigie, Dickson (Chalmers), Ell, Fraser (Wellington Central), Hornsby, McCallum, McCombs, Parr, Payne, Poland, Sidey, Smith (Taranaki), Stewart, Sykes, Talbot, Veitch, and Wright.

We shall have more to say upon this subject in a future issue, but we think that the earliest possible opportunity should be given for members to vote upon this subject. The Government should, at the earliest opportunity either bring in a Bill giving women the right to be elected to Parliament, or they should give every facility for the Bill introduced by a private member to become law.

THE EPIDEMIC.

For the last month our thoughts have been busy and our hands employed with the scourge of influenza. Never before has our Dominion had so serious a visitation. It followed close upon the news of peace, and tempered our joy with tears. It caught us unprepared, and at a time when our doctors and nurses were few, and the few left were overtaxed and suffering from the past years of strain and hard work; but they rose magnificently to the occasion, and the selfless devotion to duty exhibited by both doctors and nurses is beyond all praise. Many of them gave life in the discharge of duty, and well have they earned the crown for "duty done." We sympathise with all who have sorrowed and suffered, and pray that God may comfort all who mourn.

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT.

Ravensbourne, Dec. 11th, 1918.

Dear White Ribboners,—

Events have moved rapidly since our Petition Campaign. The Licensing Bill has passed the House, and the Poll is to be taken in April. After long years of strenuous warfare, we have come to what ought to be our last lap. This is our great opportunity! Every woman should pray and work as never before; every branch of our organisation should endeavour to inspire its members to fresh resolve and high courage, and straightway adopt every means in its power to carry prohibition.

After four years of suffering through the war, the long prayer of Peace has come, but even while we were saying "Thank God," we were smitten with the influenza scourge. It had no respect for persons; in some whole families became its victims. Our members everywhere did their full share of ministry to each other, and worked in the afflicted homes, in public and temporary hospitals. All meetings, by order of the Health Department, were cancelled, and, with few exceptions, no annual meetings were held, nor can now be held this year; but in view of the coming poll, it is necessary to continue our regular meetings. The annual gatherings should be held as early in January as possible, followed by continuous meetings right up to the Poll. We must work as though the whole issue depended on our organisation and our individual effort. May every heart be inspired for the warfare ahead; may every heart be strengthened, our councils guided, and our courage revived. May God Himself lead us to victory, and give us Peace.—With cordial greetings, yours lovingly,

RACHEL DON.

PRAYER.

God answers prayer; sometimes when hearts are weak,
He gives the very gifts believers seek.
But often faith must learn a deeper rest,
And trust God's silence, when He does not speak;
For He whose name is Love will send the best.
Stars may burn out, nor mountain walls endure,
But God is true, His promises are sure
To those who seek.

—M. G. Plantz.