

THE 1919 CONVENTION.*

Dear White Ribbon Sisters,—

Doubtless many of you will have been wondering when our next Annual Convention is to be held. In view of the poll to be taken on April 10th, it was felt that Convention could not be held at the usual time, seeing that all would be busy in their respective districts with enrolment work, the distribution of literature, or other preparation for the poll. Moreover, with Dominion Prohibition hanging in the balance, it would have been impossible to plan for the work of the ensuing year. It was therefore decided to postpone the Convention till after the poll, and the 23rd of April is fixed for the opening day. This is immediately after the Easter holidays, which will, perhaps, give delegates an opportunity of combining attendance at the Convention with a preliminary holiday.

Napier is to be the scene of the annual visit of the New Zealand Union, and members will look forward to a few days' sojourn in this beautiful little town.

District Presidents, Secretaries, and Treasurers, New Zealand Superintendents of Departments, Organisers and Organising Treasurers, with the New Zealand officers, are, ex officio, members of the Convention. Each Branch is entitled to send one delegate for every 100 or fraction of 100 members, but no delegate can represent more than one Branch. An important alteration was made at last Convention with reference to the appointment of delegates, so that a Union unable to send a delegate from amongst its own members, may elect as delegate any other member of the W.C.T.U., provided she is resident in its own District. This will obviate the necessity for asking for a proxy to be appointed. Should there be any Union, however, that still desires a proxy, it will be necessary to send me word to that effect and to enclose directions as to voting for the New Zealand officers and to voting on the Notices of Motion. Of these there are two: The first, to be moved by Mrs Peryman, "That as Unions may now choose as their delegate any member in their own District, Article II. of the Constitution be amended by deleting the words 'No proxy shall

be appointed, etc., to the end." If this motion is passed, the effect will be to do away with proxies altogether. The second notice of motion, to be moved by Miss Macarthy, is that Article IV. be amended by inserting after the words "Editor and Business Manager of the 'White Ribbon'" the words "and Superintendents of not less than 4 nor more than 6 Departments, to be selected by the Executive." The purpose of this is to give to the Superintendents of the more important Departments a seat on the Dominion Executive during the time of the Annual Convention.

Members of Convention are expected to present their credentials at the Reception, or at the first Session.

Will the Secretaries please remember to send me the names of delegates as soon as possible, and to state their official position, whether District President or Secretary, etc.?

Every Union should endeavour to be represented at this coming Convention. If the poll on April 10th is in our favour as we all hope and pray it may be, and as many signs seem to show that it can be—it will be a historic occasion, in which all will wish to have some part. To that end let us all devote our best energies, that to us, as to the woman of old, it may be said, "According to your faith, be it unto you."

Yours in White Ribbon bonds,
KATE M. EVANS,
Recording Secretary.
19, Hiropi Street, Wellington.

CANADIAN WOMEN ADDRESS LLOYD GEORGE.

"We, with breaking hearts, gave up our husbands, sons, and brothers to fight for liberty and justice in Europe, and to protect our Motherland from the encroachments of the enemy, but we did not give them up to be ruined in body and soul by drink and disease in England.

"In Canada our men are protected by the dry canteen in the camps, but in England you took away that protection, and exposed them to all the temptations of the open bar, with all its horrible consequences. It was a cruel and a wicked thing, never to be forgotten by the women of Canada—a boy's return for all their self-sacrifice and suffering.

CREATION'S PLAN.

Back of creation's plan Love always waits, and always acts. It always holds joy, but we are not always in a state to receive it. We are children on a new path, every day, and have a very imperfect conception of earth and its values, and still more imperfect of Life and its possibilities. Disappointments follow our hopes and wishes delayed, or denied, until we are ready to make better use of them. But for our ignorance, we would be glad to wait. Hopes gratified at the wrong time would bear bitter fruit. It is better to wait; but waiting is not pleasant, especially to the untrained soul. A wise old writer said: "Let Patience have its perfect work." But Patience is a growth. We have patiently to wait for patience to grow. When it gets a good growth, it is a wonderful transformer. But the need to wait for desired objects often reaches us before patience has grown. We may say be patient, and thus we suggest the way to find it. It grows as we try to grow it. It is ours to possess, to open, to unfold. It works well mixed into every-day life, and always leads to the light. Because love reigns, many of our hopes must not materialise very many of them. There is a great work for patience in the life of every one. We may define our waiting without worry or grief. Its bedrock is, my Father knows best. The bud may have a bitter taste, but sweet will be the flower.

COMPENSATION FROM THE BUSINESS MAN'S POINT OF VIEW

A prohibitionist and a prominent business man from Sydney writes thus about our fight over here:—"I have come to the conclusion that we made a mistake with our "No Compensation" cry. It has been an awful handicap to an uphill fight. This traffic is sucking the life-blood of our nation, and its abolition is worth paying for. We have let the injustice of the compensation clause weigh too much with us. It is a greater injustice to our nation to allow its evils to exist one day longer than necessary, if freedom from those evils can be obtained by granting compensation."