

The White Ribbon

FOR GOD AND HOME AND HUMANITY

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NEW ZEALAND'S BEREAVEMENT.

ALL New Zealand mourns the passing of that noble, fearless, gifted man, T. E. Taylor, whose short life of less than forty-nine years has given such impetus to every movement in this country tending to the uplift of humanity. Born in England, he was twelve years of age when he arrived with his parents in New Zealand. As a lad he entered the employ of Messrs J. M. Heywood & Co., and rose to the position of manager; leaving in 1895 to go into business for himself, thereby securing greater freedom and time for political and temperance work. As a boy in London he liked attending meetings, and signed the pledge at a gathering addressed by the late Dr. Bernardo, and throughout his life he earnestly sought to save his fellow-men from the evils of drink. He became a member of the Addington Methodist Church when he was seventeen, and at church meetings and literary societies he gave evidence of his coming powers. It was in 1890, in connection with temperance matters, that he came into public notice. With characteristic clear-sightedness, he saw it was better to stop the cause of drunkenness than to spend one's life in heart-breaking and often fruitless efforts to reclaim the drunkard, and so, enlisting the Rev. L. M. Isitt in the cause, he organised the campaign which resulted in the election, by the ratepayers, of the famous

Sydenham Licensing Committee,

pledged to refuse every license in their district, and the quashing of whose decision, in the Supreme Court, gave rise to the magnificently conducted crusade by Rev. L. M. Isitt, throughout the Colony, for the Local Option vote. Sydenham has the honour of forming the first Prohibition League in New Zealand, with T. E. Taylor as Secretary.

which debars women from Parliament, and the Local Option Act by the hated three-fifths majority. From this time Mr Taylor was a public man. He was then a member of the Sydenham Borough Council, a position he filled for six years. In 1896 he was a candidate for Christchurch at a by-election, and though defeated then, he was returned at the general election held at the end of the same year, and events and work have crowded his life ever since. In addition to Parliamentary duties and work for the Prohibition movement, the Police Commission, his labours in connection with the Lake Coleridge scheme, and the organisation of the Electrical Construction Co., which secured and carried out the contract for the construction of the Christchurch tramway system, are monuments to his wonderful ability and marvellous energy. But that which distinguished him most was his

MR. TAYLOR'S LAST WORDS.

"I want to say that this year of 1911 is our year of emancipation if we are true to God and to our opportunity. They call us fanatics, but National Prohibition is worth living for, and worth dying for. I have had a happy life, and it has been full from the beginning to the end. I am very tired. I know I shall be happier where I am going, but I am glad to think I have lived out every moment, and that I have tried to do always what was right."

Alongside the demand for Local Option raged the agitation for Woman's Suffrage, and the success of our cause owes much to Mr Taylor's stalwart championship. So splendidly and strenuously were these reforms fought for that 1893 saw them both passed into law, though both Acts are marred, the Woman's Suffrage by the clause

every proposal that made for the better protection of women and children was sure of his warmest support. No thought of his own personal advantage or disadvantage ever stayed him from the most unflinching hostility to that which he considered wrong or opposed to the public good. Abounding cheerfulness, dauntless courage, untiring

Self-Sacrificing Devotion

to the cause of humanity. The humanitarian legislation passed in recent years was strenuously worked for by him both in and out of Parliament, and