

**WOMEN'S**  
**Christian Temperance Union**  
**Of New Zealand.**

Organised 1885.

"For God and Home and Humanity."

ACTING-PRESIDENT.

MRS. DON,  
 54 Canongate, Dunedin.

RECORDING SECRETARY:

MRS. MITCHELL, Methodist  
 Parsonage, Kaiapoi.

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY:

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TREASURER:

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Official Organ:

"The White Ribbon."

Editor: Mrs Peryman, Johnsonville,  
 Wellington.

Associate Editor: Mrs Evans, M.A.

Business Manager: Mrs Peryman,  
 Johnsonville, Wellington.

**NOMINATIONS FOR N.Z.**  
**OFFICERS.**

South Dunedin, Belfast, Ashburton,  
 Invercargill, and Oxford each nominate—

President: Mrs Don.

Recording Secretary: Mrs Mitchell.  
 Corresponding Secretary: Miss Henderson.

Treasurer: Mrs Bendely.

**The White Ribbon.**

For God and Home and Humanity.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1913.

**LEST WE FORGET.**

When that floating city, the Titanic, struck in mid-Atlantic and sank to the bottom, carrying with her so many precious lives, W. T. Stead was one of the heroic souls who there went to his doom. Mr Stead was a man whom all Societies of women everywhere should delight to honour, for his life and the best of his energies were devoted to the cause of womanhood. No man believed more sincerely or laboured more devotedly for

the removal of all sex disabilities, and for placing the wife and mother in the position which she ought to occupy in the councils of the nation.

In the early days of the Salvation Army work in the London underworld, when first their leaders discovered the existence of an organised traffic in the bodies and souls of young girls, it was W. T. Stead that they turned to to rouse and stir public opinion on this subject.

It required no little courage at that time for a journalist to attack this traffic, so carefully was it protected by "wicked men in high places." The press had maintained a truly criminal silence, and everywhere it was thought that such things should be covered up. Bramwell Booth and W. T. Stead realised that this covering up meant the yearly sacrifice of hundreds of girls just emerged from childhood, and so they determined to break up this conspiracy of silence. Mr Stead published in the "Pall Mall Gazette" those articles entitled "The Maiden Tribute of Modern Babylon," which roused the conscience of the nation, till the public clamoured at the gates of Parliament, and demanded that girls should be protected till the age of 16 years, and this protection was granted with a celerity that the British Parliament does not often exhibit in protecting person instead of property.

And from that day to this public opinion has been steadily rousing and forcing Parliament to legislate against the "White Slave Traffic," and we believe that only by the creation of a healthy public sentiment will this vile traffic be banished from our Empire.

Mr Stead was also an ardent advocate for arbitration instead of war, and took a great interest and leading part in the Hague Peace Conference. He recognised that nations cannot go on increasing expenditure on armaments for ever; and that the day is surely coming when nations must "beat their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning hooks." In other words, when the immense sums spent on war and armaments will be diverted to the peaceful pursuits of agriculture and commerce.

In view of Mr Stead's great services to the cause of women, a movement has been set on foot to raise a suitable memorial to him whose motto was "The union of all who love in the service of all who suffer."

The circular which has been issued, and which bears the names of many well-known men and women, including bishops, clergy, and members of Parliament, states that, "Believing that the best memorial to a man is one that carries out the spirit of his life, it has been decided by a group of friends and admirers of Mr W. T. Stead to perpetuate the memory of his work by the erection of homes for women workers, to be called 'The Stead Hostels.' . . . The proposition has so far been mooted at private meetings, but has received immediate support, her Majesty Queen Alexandra responding by a donation of £100. It has now been decided to seek the approval and financial support of a wider public for the foundation of such lodging-homes for women. The need is pressing, for increasing numbers of women seek employment in large towns. Those in charge of labour exchanges testify that they often do not know of suitable lodgings for women for whom work is waiting. We are desirous of raising a substantial fund, to be supplied in grants or on loan, till no large town shall be without at least one such hostel. . . . The first hostel is being arranged for in London, but as Mr Stead's work was international, it is hoped that "Stead Hostels" will be erected to his memory in many countries. We ask for whole-hearted support in raising this memorial from all the friends and admirers throughout the world of Mr Stead's work."

The circular is signed by Earl Grey (chairman of the inaugural meeting), Major-General Brocklehurst (chairman of committee), Bouchier F. Hawkesley, Esq. (hon. treasurer), and Miss Josephine Marshall (hon. secretary). Amongst the members of the Council are Sir W. F. Barrett, F. R. Benson, Esq., Mrs Despard, Mrs Henry Fawcett, LL.D., the Bishop of Hereford, Miss Elizabeth Robbins, Miss Agnes Stack, the Bishop of Birmingham; while amongst the names of those expressing strong approval of the scheme, we find the Right Hon. Winston Churchill, Right Hon. H. H. Asquith, Mrs Annie Besant, Madame Sarah Grant, the Bishop of Lincoln, Mrs Olive Schreiner, Laly Henry Somerset, Sir Robert and Lady Stout, Archdeacon Wilberforce, Mrs Ella Wheeler Wilcox, and many others.

A Women's Shilling Fund has been started, and all women's societies have been asked to assist in this project. It