

LETTER FROM MISS ANNA GORDON, PRESIDENT OF WORLD'S W.C.T.U.

Believing that just now the United States and Canada are the chief demonstration stations for Prohibition and its enforcement, I personally have felt our efforts in aggressive, intensive campaigns should largely be centred here, so far as my own contribution to world Prohibition is concerned. In the United States we have safely imbedded in our constitutional law the Prohibition of intoxicating liquors. The majority of our people obey and are in sympathy with the law. In the great majority of our forty-eight States its benefits on public health, economics, morality, child life and home happiness are steadily increasing. Even in the States where enforcement is lax—states which did not enact a prohibitory law for themselves—we find conditions better than under the license regime. In the older countries it is very difficult to gain and to hold Prohibition territory, but slowly and surely the educational sapping and mining process is going on, and in due time the nations desiring to conserve the best interests of their people will follow the example of that noble native woman ruler in India, the Begam of Bhopal, and will adopt the Prohibition policy.

We rejoice that in the United States women in all the large organisations having a social welfare programme, women of the churches, women of the patriotic, fraternal and civic groups, one and all are pushing law enforcement and arousing the good citizenship of the country to the peril of indifference to the present critical situation. Lawlessness, however, is not peculiar to the United States to-day, but because the reckless element in our country can include in its attacks and nullifications a constitutional law, the enforcement of which cuts across personal habit and personal greed of gain, good citizens have more to reckon with in a settlement of the issue of lawlessness versus law.

Two great international Conventions have announced their dates for May or June of 1925, to be held in the United States—the Triennial Convention of the World League Against Alcoholism, similar in scope to the Toronto Convention of 1922, and the Quinquennial Convention of the International Council of Women, of which Lady Aberdeen is

President. The general officers of the World's W.C.T.U. have agreed that our 1925 Triennial Convention shall meet in the United States in conjunction with dates to be taken by these other great groups.

The League and the Quinquennial Council desire to co-operate with us in the selection of dates so that they may be consecutive and overseas delegates may have the benefit of special rates for steamships and cross continent travel for those who land on our Pacific Coast, and enable all who wish to do so to attend the trio of vitally interesting Conventions. To this end we shall work, and we hope soon to announce city and dates for the Twelfth Convention of the World's W.C.T.U. The Council meeting will be held in Washington, D.C.; that of the World League will probably meet in New York City.

Knowing this basic fact that our next Convention is to be held in America near the Atlantic sea coast ports of entry, we hope all auxiliary countries will begin at once to organise Convention parties to visit America for these meetings. Miss Agnes Slack will soon be writing you particulars, and I know she will be glad to render assistance to those on the other side of the Atlantic. Even though the latest Convention of the World's W.C.T.U. was held in the United States, we feel it is essential you should come again to our Prohibition experimental station and see for yourselves the splendid strides our law has made in the four short years it has been a Federal provision. We want hundreds of delegates from every quarter of the globe to come to us and carry back to their own people their impartial observations and surveys. This would bring quicker and far more stable extension of Prohibition area and Prohibition principles than to have a few hundred of us Americans centre in one country overseas for a World Convention. To our thought, the coming to America of friends of our cause from fifty or more nations will mean fifty live wires in these fifty countries refuting the liquor propaganda, which now fills the newspapers of these lands.

Sherman said, "War is hell," but there is no war so bad as that in which a Government destroys its own citizens with the artillery of the licensed beverage liquor traffic.

SUPERINTENDENT'S LETTER.

Dear Comrades,—

The 17th of February, the anniversary of Miss Frances Willard's death, is called her "Heavenly Birthday," and when that day comes round every Women's Christian Temperance Union is supposed to hold a commemorative meeting. Again the story of her life is told, and an offering is taken, to be added to the fund used in her name, for the extension of the work so dear to her heart.

Printed copies of a paper on the life of Frances Willard can be obtained from me for 9d each, postage paid.

Wishing you all a Bright and Prosperous New Year.—Yours sincerely,

ALICE JONES,

Dominion Supt. Notable Days.

Address: Mrs X. Jones, 247 Gill Street, New Plymouth.

PROHIBITION IN U.S.A.

Mr W. A. Tate, of Greytown, who has just returned from a trip to U.S.A., gave a Greytown audience facts which he knew about Prohibition in America. He stated that the largest employer of labour in the world is a great advocate of Prohibition, that Prohibition means efficiency, and that money is spent in more profitable ways than in liquor. Mr Tate stated that an eminent American considered Prohibition the greatest thing that man had ever thought of, and as sure as the sun rises, whether we want it or not, we will have Prohibition, as the liquor traffic is financially and physically sapping the strength of our people. From one business establishment, where 125 men were employed, Mr Tate saw at 5 p.m. three men walk away, all the others drove away in their own cars. At another, where some hundreds were employed, every man drove away in his own car. On the whole of Mr Tate's tour in the United States he only saw two men the worse for liquor. One man who had lived in Kansas all his life, and never seen liquor in bars like we have, thought people were mad to think of keeping up the practice of drinking liquor. Mr Tate stated that the W.C.T.U. had done a great deal towards gaining Prohibition in America, and it will here, and he was very proud to be a member.