

WOMEN'S
Christian Temperance Union
 OF NEW ZEALAND.

Organised 1885.

"For God and Home and Humanity."

PRESIDENT:

MRS DON, Ravensbourne, Dunedin.

VICE-PRESIDENT:

MRS T. E. TAYLOR, Casamere,
 Christchurch.

RECORDING SECRETARY.

MRS EVANS, M.A., c/o W.C.T.U.
 Rooms, Constable Street, Wellington.

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY:

MISS HENDERSON, B.A., Clifton,
 Sumner, Christchurch.

TREASURER:

MRS BENDELY, 17 Aratonga Avenue,
 One Tree Hill, Auckland.

ORGANISER:

MISS EARNSHAW.

Official Organ:

"THE WHITE RIBBON."

Editor: Mrs Peryman, Carterton.
 Telephone 161.

Associate Editor: Mrs Judson.

Business Manager: Mrs Peryman,
 Carterton.

UNIONS! PLEASE NOTE.

With this issue we are enclosing a supplement for the Young People. It is detached, and so subscribers have practically an adult paper and a children's paper for the one subscription.

The White Ribbon.

For God and Home and Humanity.

WELLINGTON, MARCH 18, 1924.

ONE HAVING AUTHORITY.

Many and varied are the reports we hear of the working of Prohibition in U.S.A. A resident of Los Angeles, now in this Dominion, says he saw more drunkenness in Wellington in 1½ days than he had seen in Los Angeles in the last 10 years.

But the following statement, from the Federal Prohibition Commissioner on the fourth anniversary of their going dry, is most instructive and convincing:—

"The four great outstanding accomplishments of Prohibition in the four years it has been in operation are the

closing of the distilleries, the closing of the breweries, the wiping out of the saloons, and putting an end to the open making and selling of liquor as a beverage," declared Federal Prohibition Commissioner Roy A. Haynes, in commenting upon the fourth anniversary of National Prohibition.

"In accomplishing these four things," he said, "Prohibition has decreased drunkenness to such an extent that in most places it has almost ceased to exist; it has lessened poverty and brought prosperity; it has given children and girls and mothers a better chance, has reformed countless drunkards, and brought happiness into thousands of American homes. It has cleaned up 'Main Street'; one can spend time in hotel lobbies, in parks, at baseball games, in theatres, on the streets, and in public resorts, and not see a drunken man. There is practically no open and above-board drinking anywhere; that is to say, drinking in so-called saloons is so guarded and done so surreptitiously, that under-cover or disguised agents are required to secure evidence that will convict. On every street, in every city, there are legitimate business places where once there were saloons and dives generally. There is not a first-class hotel anywhere in the country with a bar-room, and no first-class hotels permit drinking in their public dining rooms. The average first-class hotel manager does not desire drinking in private rooms. First-class restaurants do not permit drinking and are opposed to hip-pocket violations. Truly open drinking and 'treating' have gone. Imagine being asked to have another drink of hair tonic, or canned heat, or gin, or Scotch made out of the same sort of alcohol used to keep automobile radiators from freezing, or another drink of moonshine made in a swamp or dirty cellar, in old ash cans, galvanised iron pipes, and lead coils; fermented with lye and coloured with iodine. Typical of the decreased drunkenness evident in the larger cities, Mayor Dever, of Chicago, announced that there were twelve arrests for drunkenness in Chicago on New Year's Day, while in New York, according to report of the divisional chief in charge, there were only six arrests made by his men.

"It is impossible, even for the American who is least inclined to put his own

weight behind the Eighteenth Amendment, most loath to forego personal indulgence, to ignore the fact that the prosperity of the United States has not been due to any increase in her foreign trade, against which the exchange rate operates; that we are consuming more of our own products. He cannot dodge or fail to take account of the fact that the men who make America's automobiles are driving them; that our silks and fine textiles are finding buyers among our own people; that sober workmen are consuming a larger portion of our manufactured products than ever before in our history.

"He knows, if he reads his daily newspaper, that we are the only nation in the world without an unemployment problem. The sums we once invested in the destructive distilling and brewing business now operate factories, mines and railroads.

"Our school life has been lengthened. The family purse to-day suffices for the family support, now that the bar-rooms are closed, without the children adding their pittance. Revived ambition in the home has sent to high schools, academies, preparatory schools, and colleges thousands who, in our wet years, lacked the means or the encouragement to study, or both.

"In the factory, the counting-room, the store; in the mines, on the farms, in the great open spaces, in the home, in the schoolroom, in the church, there is a great, quiet, resistless force in motion that is lifting America to a place of unchallenged leadership of the world.

"Enforcement of the prohibition law has not been without its difficulties, but there have always been those who failed to obey automatically for a time such statutes as were regarded to be in conflict with their 'personal liberty.' However, it is my opinion that in the years to come, the period through which we have been passing will seem as inexplicable as the vigorous challenges which have been uttered throughout the history of legislation wherever personal liberty has been limited by constitution or statute.

"These are my convictions, and they cannot fail to be the conviction of every serious-minded American who will study the facts and figures as they come in from every State, city and village of the land."