

PRESIDENT'S LETTER.

The Parsonage,

Foxton, August 6th.

Dear White Ribboners,

By the time this letter is in your hands I shall have finished my twelve weeks' itinerary. Being in the district on my first free night I came with all speed to spend it in the hospitable home of our Editor, where I am now writing. To-morrow I go to Apiti, and thence to Wellington for several meetings; on to Ashburton for their birthday celebrations and more meetings, then home. Since my last report, I have journeyed to Masterton, Martinborough, Pahiatua, Featherston, Carterton, Auckland, Whangarei, Hamilton, Pukekohe, Te Kuiti, Palmerston, Feilding, and Apiti. Most of my time has been spent in meetings or travelling, and have not been able to make any record of my tour, but some of it will be a life memory. The weather has been continually wet, with few sunny days, but in spite of dripping clouds there is a wealth of spring flowers in the North, and the beautiful bouquets the various Unions presented to me made my heart glad. The Auckland Ys made the Concert Chamber and Mrs Cowie's Hall a bower of beauty with banners and flowers, which helped to create a bright atmosphere within, when all was dull without. I wish it were possible to tell you in detail about Mrs Cowie's Hall, of our meeting there, of the comfortable rest room, of the many drunkards that are being converted, of the Sunday night teas provided by Mrs Cowie, of Mrs Helen Barton's arrival, and how I had to leave the day she arrived, and so missed the welcome given to her, but I must leave it and tell you that Devenport Union provided a good example of how a meeting can be worked up. The Congregational School Hall was crowded with women, a sumptuous tea provided, the hall gay with streamers and flowers, and speaking made easy because every detail of the programme had been arranged by the new President, Mrs Finch. At Te Kuiti Mrs Edgar came from a sick bed to the station to meet me. You can imagine how I rejoiced to hear that at my last visit 12 years ago I enrolled her as a member. Then she had never worked in public, now she is a local and District President, a member of the City Council, a member of the School Committee, and a representative of all the societies

in the district. This is the second time I met an officer in the North Island enrolled in meetings addressed by me many years ago. The other lady is Mrs Hughson, Treasurer of the Waitara Union. In last report I told you I had enrolled 100 new members, the number has now reached 162. The rain affected the audiences considerably. Some places will have difficulty to meet expenses but if all who had any balance in hand would send it without delay to Mrs Bendely, we could then know how we stand financially. Hosts and hostesses everywhere were royally kind, and did all in their power for my comfort and pleasure, and I owe it to their care of me, and the prayers, that in spite of a severe cold, I was able to fill every engagement in pulpit, home and platform. As you all know, the time between this and the poll is short, but I wonder if we all realise how little time there is to win votes. Are we all praying as we ought? Are we doing all in our power? Are we everlastingly at it? For, according to our faith and works it shall be done. May the blessing of the Lord rest upon us.

With loving greetings.—Cordially yours,

RACHEL DON,

Dom. Pres. W.C.T.U.

ORGANISER'S REPORT.

Dear White Ribboners,—

It is a very long time since I reported to you through the "White Ribbon." For the last several months I have been working in the North Canterbury district. Several Unions have been formed, and a number of meetings arranged and attended.

The North Canterbury District Executive have held a great number of home meetings, by which the outlying districts have been reached, and it is hoped that the woman's vote will be materially improved.

Weather conditions have hindered out-door work very considerably for some weeks. It is considered that the present winter is one of the most severe in Canterbury for many years.

I hope to visit the North Island very shortly. This visit has been delayed in part owing to weather conditions in the North.

I look eagerly for the reports of all the Unions in the "White Ribbon" each

month, and am rather anxious about some Unions which have not reported for some time. Please would the delinquents make an effort to report each month, if it is only to say that you are there. As I wrote the last sentence it came to my mind that something similar had been said to your Organiser re her own reports, but there, you all know whether the Organiser is in the field or not, even if reports are delayed, and that can't be said of the Unions. Sometimes after months of anxiety over a Union which has not reported for many months, our Dominion officers and myself have mourned as though they were dead, and then at last a report comes to light which shows meetings held and good work done; but, ah me! how much needless anxiety. We look upon every branch as a member of our large family, and like to know that the family circle is still complete.

I hope every Union is keeping our main object steadily before it—to win votes in the polling year, planning the work prayerfully and thoughtfully to this end. It is by means of the ballot box that we are to get victory. When every voter who wants the liquor traffic destroyed has faith enough in God to do right, puts the educated conscience into the ballot box, the liquor traffic will be driven out of this nation. There is no other way.

For the sake of all the suffering ones, may victory soon be ours.—Yours sincerely,

ALICE EARNSHAW, Organiser.

AN EXPLANATION.

Owing to a misunderstanding on the part of the writer of our Branch report for May; the following was sent:—

"It was referred to in regrettable terms that the Constitution of the W.C.T.U. should be varied in any way from that of a Christian basis."

It should read somewhat in this way:—

Regret was expressed by the President that Conference did not see fit to pass notice of motion (No. 2) which reads as follows, viz:—

That our Union state definitely our Christian basis, as is already implied in our present Constitution.