

## WOMEN'S Christian Temperance Union OF NEW ZEALAND.

Organised 1885

For God and Home and Humanity."

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### TAKE NOTICE.

All correspondents please note that Mrs Peryman's address is now FOXTON.

## The White Ribbon.

For God and Home and Humanity.

WELLINGTON, AUGUST 18, 1925.

### MY AIN COUNTRIE.

Much is being said about the success or failure of Prohibition in the U.S.A., but let us look at home for a while.

We have no Prohibition areas in New Zealand, but we have No-License areas, and they are partially dry. We give here an account of No-License in Invercargill, which was published as a leading article in the "Southland Times" of July 2, 1925:—

#### AFTER NINETEEN YEARS.

Members of the Prohibition Party may be excused for their desire to exult over the results of No-License in Invercargill since it was first adopted in the days when a three-fifths majority was

necessary to achieve victory, because their opponents were at one in declaring that even this measure of reform would mean the utter ruin of the town commercially and morally. To-day, after 19 years, there are facts enough to prove how false were those prophets, and how groundless were their fears. It must always be remembered—and the point is overlooked with remarkable consistency—that Invercargill is not under Prohibition, but No-License, and has a wet area on its borders from which strong drink may flow to the so-called "dry" district. No-License is a restricting measure, not a prohibiting one, and, from the viewpoint of a Prohibitionist, the results, about which any man may be enthusiastic, have been achieved in spite of adverse conditions, and not because of them. Commercially the position of Invercargill is a complete answer to the dismal people who forecasted that grass would grow in the streets and ruin would spread around if the hotels were closed, because among commercial people it is generally recognised that Invercargill to-day and during many years has been one of the solidest business places in New Zealand for all classes of goods. These testimonials are given by men who do not live here, but who come here in the course of their business travels, and in many instances they come from men who do not believe in Prohibition, and who will argue that No-License has not been the cause of this prosperity. That last point need not be argued, because it is enough—though business men in the town will insist No-License is the cause—to accept the admission that No-License has not brought ruin. The system, with all its imperfections, has had a lengthy trial here, and the material results do not leave the opponents of Prohibition a leg to stand on. Last night the statements of the speakers on this point were strong, but the evidence of all is the volume of business being done and the commercial strength of the place, which is generally accepted by business men throughout the Dominion. The other woeful promise that has remained unfulfilled is that No-License would mean the moral degradation of the community. Nineteen years should be long enough to ensure that the effects of the degrading influences shall be known, but all the statistics available go to show that there has been an improvement, not a falling off. Although

the speakers last night quite properly carried their deductions much further, it seems to us that for their purposes it is not necessary to show that Invercargill is morally better, because the prophecy was that it would get very much worse. Proof on this point may be difficult where the margin between the old and the new conditions is small, but in spite of an occasional product of the establishments within easy reach of the borders of the No-License area, the position of Invercargill, in comparison with the Invercargill of the pre-No-License days, is that crime and poverty have been lessened markedly. We do not press these matters to greater length, because we do not wish to be accused of parochial enthusiasm, but the evidence is so clear, so emphatic, that the advocates of Prohibition have in Invercargill an excellent example of what can be done to refute the dismal prophets and to make definite propaganda for the reform, based on the achievements under the admittedly less effective process of No-License.

### TREASURER'S REPORT.

The following donations have been received since date of last report:—

#### New Zealand Fund.

Masterton and Timaru, £2 each; Ormondville, 10s; Mrs Robertson (Ashburton), 10s.

Net proceeds Mrs Don's meetings: Wanganui District, £4; Masterton, £1 16s; New Plymouth, 14s; Napier, 10s; Foxton, 3s 6d.

#### Organising Fund.

Masterton, Stratford, and Timaru, each £5; Riverton, £3; Mrs Findlay (Miranda), £1 11s; Russell 19s 6d; Ashburton, 14s.

#### Maori Fund.

Christchurch, £1 13s 6d; Dunedin, £1 12s; Timaru, £1 10s; Greytown, £1 7s; Ashburton, £1 0s 6d; Masterton, Mosgiel and Stratford, £1 each; Whangarei, 19s; Turakina, 17s; Rama Rama, 10s 6d; Oxford, 8s 8d; Wanganui East, 8s 3d; Kalapoi, 6s 9d; Roxburgh, 6s.

#### World's Missionary Fund.

Christchurch, £1 9s 9d; Normanby, £1.

E. L. R. BENDELY,

N.Z. Treasurer.

Auckland,

10th August, 1925.