

**LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT.**

Dear White Ribbon Sisters,

I am often thinking about our Membership Campaign, and wondering how the districts and local Unions are getting on with it.

More than five months have passed since Convention, and if we are to come any where near our objective of a 10,000 membership by 1927, we should now have somewhere like 1,000 new members already on the roll, or an average of about 85 for each district.

I feel sure that some districts have already done more than their share of this average, but we must not forget that other districts are weak in numbers, both of Unions and members, and therefore the strong districts and the powerful Unions, must pull all the stronger to build up their memberships.

The present Licensing Bill has been dropped so much to the good for an expression of public opinion. But, it will appear again, so we are told, next session, and all may take it for granted that in it will be clauses against which we must fight.

It is possible that next year we may be called upon, in company with the Alliance and other bodies, to work up the strongest opposition to some clause that has ever been organised in New Zealand. In any case, we should see to it that, if asking for a two-issue ballot paper, persistently and insistently, can incur its introduction, then we shall keep asking for it. What better way have we of preparing for this work than by building up an educated and powerful membership.

Ten thousand personally pledged women, representing through their families many more tens of thousands of voters, would surely be a force that no Prime Minister or member of Parliament would afford to lightly pass over in any demand they might make for the highest welfare of the young life of this nation.

So let us go on building up our organisation for the work ahead of us. Our foundations are deep and strong, as everlasting as Christ's own teaching, therefore, see to it that we build a structure worthy of those foundations, well set and good to look upon, a refuge for the sorrowing ones in the midst of this our country.

But, for this we must have faith,

faith in our Master's will for us, and faith in our own power to do whatever He calls us to do. Living creative faith in God and man and ourselves, for this alone can bring a dynamic spiritual life-force into our work and give concrete form to all our Christian ideals.

With loving greetings,  
E. B. TAYLOR,  
Dominion President.

**THIS YEAR'S LEGISLATION.**

(By our Legal and Parliamentary Superintendent).

There has been so little time to consider any legislation brought before Parliament this session, that our W.C.T.U. members may be pardoned if they have failed to keep track of the various measures. Some of these are of special interest to women, and for that reason, I must ask for space to explain their significance.

The first of these measures to be passed was the Amendment of the Justices of the Peace Act. This contains a clause which provides that a woman shall not be disqualified by sex or marriage from being appointed to the office of J.P. This means that at long last, we have won what we have asked for and been denied so often.

Very great importance attaches to the second of these measures, the Guardianship of Infants Act, which makes a number of changes in the old law. The most important of which are (1) That it gives the mother, on the death of the father, the same rights of guardianship as the father has on the death of the mother, and (2) It further enacts that in the case of the marriage of an infant, the mother's consent as well as that of the father is necessary. The old law required only the father's consent. The actual conditions provided for are:—where both parents are living together, the consent of both; if the parents are divorced or legally separated, then the consent of the parent who has custody of the infants; if one parent has been deserted by the other, then the consent only of the one who has been deserted is required, and so on, the conditions being the same in regard to both parents.

The Amendments to the Destitute Persons' Act are in the direction of making it more difficult for any person to evade obedience to a maintenance order. Maintenance officers have now to take proceedings to compel payment without waiting until instructed to do so. At present, these officers are employed only in the four main centres, the new law allows a maintenance officer to be appointed in connection with any Magistrate's Court.

It is a matter of regret that Parliament again failed to make provision whereby a man committed to gaol for non-compliance with a maintenance order may be employed upon remunerative work, and his earnings applied to the support of his family.

A measure which has created a good deal of interest is the Family Allowances Bill. This provides that where a workingman has a family of more than two, and the total weekly income is less than £4 per week, an allowance of 2/- per week may be made in respect to every child under 15 years of age, in excess of two, but the total income including the 2/- must not exceed £4. It is more than probable that in the long run this will not prove to be any advantage to the worker, but the bill does recognise an important principle in that the allowance is paid to the mother.

Those branches of the W.C.T.U. which have from time to time made objection to the nature of various advertising posters, will be glad to know that the Cinematograph Film Censorship Amendment Bill gives the Governor-General in Council authority to make regulations for the censorship of posters and other advertising matter in connection with the exhibition of films, and for prohibiting the display of any such matter that is of an objectionable nature.

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