

## SUPERINTENDENT'S LETTER.

## GOOD CITIZENSHIP.

Dear Sisters,

Just a few lines in connection with "Empire Shopping Week" which is to be observed, simultaneously, throughout the Dominion, in May. I am sure that we women all realize that we need educating as to our responsibility in regard to Empire trading. When we realize that women have 85 per cent. of the spending power of wages, we begin to know what a great power and influence we might wield! The purchasing power of the New Zealander is the highest in the world. As Mrs Amery has pointed out, every Britisher, wherever he may be is a member of a big family, whose welfare is entirely dependant upon the welfare of the individual members, and for reasons of sentiment and no less for economic reasons we must realize these facts.

This question has a vital connection, also with the question of unemployment. Through no fault of their own, thousands of able-bodied men and women are to-day out of work. There are many reasons for this regrettable state of affairs, one of the chief being (so said a speaker in Christchurch last week) that women will persist in spending their money on the imported articles instead of purchasing the New Zealand product, and thereby keeping their money within the country. Everyone could assist in relieving the position by demanding New Zealand goods—if not procurable, then goods manufactured within the Empire. The locally-made articles compare favourably for quality and price with the imported goods. Let us educate ourselves and try also to influence and interest other women in these matters. Let it not be said of us, sisters, that the women of to-day are falling behind their brothers, and sons, in patriotism. Let us all take an interest in, and show a practical sympathy with, the aims and ideals of the Empire Industries Association, which is working hard to make "Empire Shopping Week" a great success.

I am,  
Yours for service,  
NELLIE BLACKWELL,  
Superintendent.

## THE ISLAND OF NIUE.

Like our own beautiful country, this island of the Pacific was first visited by Captain Cook, but on account of the ferocious attitude of the inhabitants, he named the place "Savage Island."

The natives were entirely unfriendly, and at length drove him away. Later on the Missionary Ship, "John Williams," with the intrepid Missionary of that name, called in, and he tried to show the natives that he only came for their good; eventually, he persuaded two young men to go back with him, to whom he gave special training in Samoa. They returned two years later, one was killed, the other (Benjamin) was hidden away by his friends. He afterwards was able to tell the people the mistake they were making in keeping out the Missionaries. He gained the sympathy of a few, who, when the Mission Ship returned, asked for some more teachers; they were able to give them one, a Samoan, Paul by name.

For some months the people of the island threatened to kill him, but he was protected and hidden by the few friends. These he taught, and when the anger of the islanders was cooled down, sent them out as of old two by two, to other villages. Gradually he won the island, made peace between the two parties, North and South, which has lasted to this day, formed schools for children and adults, and trained catechumen who were afterwards received into the Church.

A Memorial Stone about 15 feet high was erected last year to commemorate the memory of these two brave and good men, Paul and Benjamin, and a general annual holiday has been declared to perpetuate their memory.

The present resident Missionary, Rev. C. Beharrell, to-day testifies thus: "I have no hesitation in saying that no finer piece of Missionary work has ever been done on the Island, than that accomplished by the W.C.T.U., in helping to form the 'White Ribbon Band,' which in less than two years, has a membership of 630 native women, all pledged to live a life of purity and sobriety."

## PEACE AND ARBITRATION.

## A FEW FACTS FOR READING AND DISCUSSION ON PEACE DAY.

The League of Nations is the only power on earth that can prevent another war, so that women should be deeply interested in it.

It is 2,400 years since Hebrew prophets foretold the time when swords would be turned into ploughshares and spears into pruning hooks. The League has done more towards this end than any other institution. Its work has been described as the application of Christ's principles to international relations.

When the victorious allies met to draw up the Treaty of Versailles at the end of the war, President Woodrow Wilson suggested the formation of the League. He had the bitter experience of dying with his country still outside the League.

Fifty-six nations belong to the League, having signed the Covenant, which sets out the aims of the League. They are: (1) To try to reduce armies and navies; (2) To make no more treaties or alliances in secret; (3) To settle disputes by arrangement instead of by war; (4) To protect small and weak nations; (5) To end injustice and fight disease throughout the world; (6) To stand together so that no nation in the League will dare to break its word; (7) To promote international co-operation, and to achieve international peace and security; (8) To secure better labour conditions throughout the world; (9) To put down the White Slave Traffic, traffic in opium and other drugs, and traffic in arms and ammunition; (10) To obtain freedom of communication and transit, and fair commercial treatment for all.

The official Birthday of the League is January 20th, 1920. The only important nations who do not belong to the League are, United States, Russia, Turkey, Mexico.

"Prohibition is constructive conservation of life, health, effective service, happiness, nobility, money and morals in so far as they are affected by alcoholic beverages."—Mrs Ella A. Boole, National President of the Women's Christian Temperance Union.