

GOSSIPING!

What about it? It's woman's safety valve! Then gossip the truth!

Mr. Alfred Williams, of Mildway, at a great mass meeting in Auckland Town Hall recently, urged his audience to "Gossip the Gospel."

He told the charming story of how John Bunyan, the dissolute tinker of Bedford, was drunkenly shuffling along the village street when he came upon a group of village women gossiping. He listened in. They were gossiping the Gospel, retelling the Story of Redeeming Love. Bunyan caught the message. It led to his conversion. It may well be that the world owes "The Pilgrim's Progress" to a few gossiping women.

Yes, it's a safety valve much used! A little friendly gossip goes a long way towards restoring the balance or easing a sore heart.

Could we gossip the Truth a little more, so that others might hear and catch fire?

And what about gossiping *Prohibition* now that the poll is nearing?

Gossip the truth about the wrong of the Liquor Traffic. Tell aboard the facts you know and hear at meetings and read in the "White Ribbon." That is how public opinion grows and is swayed—by everybody gossiping.

Stage a few tea parties. Every woman can do that. Invite a few non-members. When "weather" is exhausted, serve "The Franchise—was it worth the fight?" See what they know about it. "The Poll"—women's bullets. Then lead on to "Prohibition," "A New Dry Order."

Get literature to pass on. There's some excellent stuff at headquarters, reasonable. Tell how State Control would make *you* a partner—as a citizen of the State—in the most lawless and vicious traffic in the world.

How Alcohol is the handmaid of immorality.

How it is a Racial Poison, destroying the unborn child.

How it is the leading cause in motor accidents, murder, crimes against women and children.

Although these facts are commonplace to us they are not known to everyone.

Tell of the wastage of money and happiness.

During an ocean trip we noticed an "old man of the sea" make his way to the bar 4 or 5 times a day and return licking his lips. We hailed him as he passed our deck-chairs one day and had a friendly little gossip. Later we gently broached the subject of his "light refreshment." He said, "Oh, I just take a wee nip now and then." Pressing the matter kindly we asked "How often, say?" "Oh, maybe, 4 or 5 a day. I'm a greaser and it's dry work!" "How much does 'a nip' cost?" "Oh, a shillin'!" "How long have you been at sea?" "Oh, a matter of 40 years or so." He began to drink very young; ashore

probably drank much more.

With paper and pencil handy we did a little sum:

5 "nips" a day	5/-
6 days a week	£1/10/- (Sunday queried)
52 weeks a year	£78
40 years	£3,120

Next time he passed we asked him to look at the little sum. He was very genial! He looked, read, scratched his head, muttered "I never thought of it that way!" asked, "Can I keep this?" Went away studying it, shaking his head. Poor old lonely, homeless, robbed soul! The enricher of the distilling and brewing millionaires! And he could have bought a home and retired in comfort at 60!

Tell it forth! Gossip the truth!

C. M. McLAY.

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A CALL TO THE PRAYING WOMEN.

To each local Evangelistic Superintendent, please read Jeremiah 9:17-21.

Will you each try to arrange as many Prayer Meetings as possible to be held throughout the day on Polling Day? Ask for use of a room from members or non-members. Place someone in charge. Make it widely known. Invite men and women to come for a period. PRAY that No-License areas remain dry.

PRAY that our Cause may prosper.

PRAY for the Servicemen's Vote.

PRAY for all who are working to save the youth of New Zealand.

A. M. McLAY,
Dom. Evan. Supt.

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OBITUARY.

It is with very deep regret we report the death of our very esteemed and efficient District Cradle Roll Supt., Miss M. Straw, and secretary of the Shirley-Richmond branch. Our dear sister was suddenly called to higher service on May 3rd. We thank God for her life of service in the Church and W.C.T.U. She was always willing to take her share of work in our executive though suffering from impaired health, and her place will be hard to fill.

Mrs. Nelson.

Timaru mourns the loss of its very efficient Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. Nelson was also reporter to the "White Ribbon," and very faithful in discharge of this duty. She attended the W.C.T.U. meeting on Tuesday, and on Wednesday evening the Home Call came suddenly.

Think of her faring on, as dear
In the love of the There as the love of
Here.

Think of her still as the same, I say;
She is not dead—she is just away.

DISTRICT EXECUTIVES.

Auckland, June 14.

District president, Mrs. J. W. Long, presided. Devotions, Mrs. Hooper. Mrs. Long reported on the All Day of Prayer, also on the gathering which was held in the Town Hall in connection with Mothers' Day. Decided to make this gathering an annual function on Mothers' Day. Reports received re the supper provided at St. Matthew's Welcome Club for the men of the Armed Forces and also the day at the Patriotic Shop. Miss C. M. McLay reported on her work as organiser, stating that 67 new members had been gained for the various units. Mrs. V. A. Read appointed Supt. Home Meetings departments. Jubilee celebrations and election discussed.

Auckland.—July 5th. Mrs. J. W. Long presided. Good attendance of members. Devotions led by Sister Jessie. Quite a number of matters arising from the recent Dominion Convention were dealt with, also the work in connection with the coming Poll. Miss C. M. McLay's monthly report of her work as organiser in the Auckland District was received, and this showed that much good work had been done by Miss McLay in visiting and addressing many local unions, and in gaining new members. Arrangements were also made to commemorate the Jubilee of the gaining of the Franchise for women in New Zealand, which falls in September.

Marlborough.—Women's Day of Prayer held in St. Andrew's Guild Room, June 30th. Sessions commenced at 10 a.m. and were conducted by the following ladies: Morning, Mrs. E. Leslie, Mrs. W. B. Wilson. Afternoon, Mrs. C. Booth, Mrs. A. Robinson, and Mrs. Bayley. Very wet, cold day affected attendance, nevertheless some very helpful and inspiring addresses were given, and those who were present received a spiritual uplift. Very sincere prayer, all present taking part. Requests for special prayer to be handed in at the opening session at July Day of Prayer.

North Canterbury.

Mrs. C. W. Barrell presided at the meeting, held 1st Wednesday of June. There was a good attendance of town and country members. A letter was read from Miss Straw thanking members for sympathy in the death of her sister, who had been superintendent of Cradle Roll for Executive. A discussion took place on how to commemorate Franchise Day on 19th September. Reported that £14 14/- had been handed in from branches to the "All Nations' Fair" for patriotic purposes. Mrs. J. T. Grigg reported on a meeting she had attended about an inquiry into the control and distribution of food. Mrs. McLean gave an encouraging "White Ribbon" report.