

## "FRESH COURAGE TAKE"

A new year opens before us: a quick glance backwards reminds us of our successes and our failures, our high hopes and disappointments. Let us "put a cheerful courage on" and plan for the coming months. Have we done well? Let us do better. Have we fallen short of our aims? Let us "strengthen our hands," draw closer together and make a fresh start.

Our greatest need is **personal prayer, patience and perseverance**. We must cultivate loyalty to our President and co-operation with our fellow-members in the Union to which we belong.

**Increase our Membership.** One of our first aims should be to get new members. How? By the simple and sensible way of inviting our friends and acquaintances to join us. It is quite surprising how little is really known of the scope and extent of the work of our Organisation. It is also surprising how few—comparatively—of our acquaintances have ever been asked to "join up." Make a list of your friends, keeping in mind that our work is **interdenominational** and by personal contact or in whatever way be most convenient try to bring in new members.

**A Welcoming Atmosphere.** Having asked folk to come it is for us to see that they are made welcome. To this end, let members take it in rotation to go early to open the door, prepare the room or hall and be ready to extend a really warm welcome to all who come. It creates a helpful atmosphere and "uplifts" the whole gathering. Old members and newcomers alike feel that their presence is appreciated.

**Afternoon Tea.** This is no insignificant part of our programme. To make the best use of it have the "cup of tea and a biscuit" as early as possible. Why? Many housewives have had to hurry to get to the meeting. They are often tired by the time they arrive. They will be refreshed and better able to listen to what is said **after** the tea. Of set purpose make it easy for the helpers by continuing the "rationing" time of something simple to eat, for it saves labour and time.

**The programme.** If a "gap" has to be filled at some time, then five minutes "community singing" of old familiar hymns may be very enjoyable.

**Subjects for addresses.** So far as possible, visiting speakers should be asked to take some branch of our work as their theme. So many members know little of what is doing until some annual Report is printed. We will need to enlarge our knowledge of what our Union "stands for."

**To "follow up."** Between the meetings let us keep in touch with the newcomers—hoping they will become active members. It will take time and prayer—yes! But well worth while.

Having read this, some of you will say, "Here is nothing new. We knew all that before." Quite true. There is, however, such a thing as putting fresh life and vigour into old methods.

"And they said, Let us arise and build. So they strengthened their

## "WITHIN THE VEIL"

MRS. ADA TEASEY  
Tauranga Union

The Tauranga Union has suffered a severe loss in the unexpected death of Mrs. W. T. Teasey, who passed away on Sunday, December 3rd.

Mrs. Teasey was one of the foundation members of the Union; and held the office of treasurer for over twenty years, performing her duties most faithfully. A life-long member of the Methodist Church, she was one of the most regular attendants, being present the Sunday before her death. She served in many capacities, as organist, choir member, Guild Secretary, at different periods. For many years she arranged the church flowers, which were always beautifully done.

The cause of temperance and the work of the W.C.T.U. were dear to her; and she was always anxious to further the work. She will be greatly missed and much sympathy is felt for her two sons and her three remaining sisters. Only a day or two after Mr. Teasey's death following on a long and trying illness Mrs. Teasey suffered a complete collapse, passing peacefully away in a very few days. A large number of W.C.T.U. members attended the beautiful service in the church, and at the cemetery each dropped a white flower into the grave as a farewell token to a loved sister and comrade.

## The Late Hon. Peter Fraser

In the passing away of the late Right Hon. Peter Fraser, the Temperance cause has lost a sympathetic friend.

Mr. Fraser was a total abstainer and was always ready to give a careful hearing to any deputation, when there was occasion to wait on him at Parliament Buildings.

We mourn his passing, and are grateful that in his high position he was an example for total abstinence.

## CRADLE ROLL PARTY

The Waimate Union held a Cradle Roll afternoon for its final meeting. Devotions were conducted by Mrs. Duckett. Mrs. Captain Ojala gave a talk on the humour of children and urged mothers to teach their children to see the bright side in life. Miss P. Tooley, Cradle Roll Superintendent, arranged the following programme. Vocal solo, Anthony Dench; recitations, William Dodds; pianoforte solo, Ruth McKenzie; recitations, Joy Hunt and Robert Hunt; tap dance, Desiree McKenzie; solo, Lois Brokenshire; vocal duet, Ruth and Gladys McKenzie.

Mr. G. Dash spoke words of encouragement, urging mothers to train their children in the ways of temperance.

Ice-creams and afternoon tea were served.

hands for this good work." Let us remember our motto—that our work is for "God, Home, and Humanity."

M.A.L.S., Canterbury.

## "THE DEVOTIONAL PERIOD"

A NEW YEAR MESSAGE

Matthew 11:28-30.

**Text:** "Come unto Me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you, and learn of Me, for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."

Like the familiar striking of Big Ben or the gentle quarter hour reminders of the smaller clocks, the beginning of each New Year marks a conscious period of time in your life and mine. But because it happens less often, we take more notice of it. All down the centuries, the New Year has been given a distinguished welcome.

As the curtain of time has risen in each infant year, voices of the past and hopes for the future have lingered awhile and mingled on the wings of human memory. Today, as we look at the sorry state of the world, I feel there is but one approach to the New Year—1951, and that is, if we wish to see happiness and peace restored, we must work with all our might for God's Kingdom. "Take my yoke upon you, and learn of Me," Jesus commands, and we are reminded of the need of service.

The word "yoke" suggests hard work, and it comes from our Lord's lips immediately after He has spoken of rest. The more we exert ourselves in the service of Jesus Christ, the deeper becomes His peace. "Take my yoke upon you, and learn of Me," is a clear statement of this truth.

The more we learn of Him, by contrast, the more we learn about ourselves. It becomes clear that we are limited in our abilities and, as that truth bears home, we realise our dependence on God's mercy and love. We reach a condition of humility which is good for us and which is Christ-like. "I am meek and lowly in heart," indicates our Lord's own estimate of Himself, so we cannot do better. If we follow the advice of our text, step by step, we shall truly find rest unto our souls, and our journey through the coming year will become a splendid pilgrimage. "Come unto Me"—our Lord invites us to have fellowship with Him.

Our hearts grow lighter as we walk with Him along the way, and we feel that great experience of transformation which leads to victorious and triumphant living.

**Prayer:** Heavenly Father, again we come humbly to Thee in prayer to thank Thee for all Thy goodness and tender mercies bestowed upon us, throughout the past year. Help us, our Father, to begin this New Year of service in faith, that we may be guided in all our doings and guarded all our days, as we seek to serve Thee faithfully, and finally by Thy grace attain the glory of everlasting life—through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

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(Evangelistic Supt.).