

traffic before the bar of human reason and moral justice. Science has already condemned the use of the drug alcohol in the most perfect machine in the world, the human body, but how slow people are to prohibit the mass spoiling of human life through the manufacture and distribution of this drug.

(b) The Gambling Menace

In regard to gambling no less than £80,000,000 were spent last year, representing an expenditure of £40 per head of our population, from which we see that gambling is a very widespread social evil. And nothing is surer than that next year, figures will be higher still, because we now have to contend with the T.A.B. agencies. The effect of off-course betting legislation has been to throw the cloak of respectability over that which, in reality, is a social evil and, in doing so, to confront our people, and especially our youth, with what is now an open temptation, that would otherwise have been confined to the comparative few who fraternise with book-makers. We shall live to rue the day we thoughtlessly voted for off-course betting unless such a feeling of revulsion sets in, as will constrain the government to repeal the legislation. Let us pray and work to this end that there will be a widespread revulsion of feeling against this newly created menace which will soon demand government action.

This is just a glimpse of those twin evils which are increasingly responsible for so much physical damage, moral corruption, and spiritual tragedy in our midst.

(3) Co-operation from all Christians needed

In the face of these obvious evils the challenge comes to all Christians to co-operate in every possible way in a constructive effort to build the moral and spiritual battlements that will save our weaker brethren from falling into the pit. "Unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall much be required," for if we neglect to build the parapets then, if any man or woman fall, if any youth, if any child be caused to stumble, their blood will be required of us. A definite campaign is called for by the Christian Church so that through the power of the Holy Spirit and by means of temperance education the children and youth coming on will be spiritually strengthened and protected, and educationally enlightened as to these grave social evils. The battlements remind us of the old adage that "Prevention is better than cure." Far better to fence the top of the cliff than wait at the bottom with an ambulance to pick up the remains of those who topple over! The young, especially, must be brought to know Christ as their own personal Saviour "Who is able to keep them from falling" and, in addition, they must be enlightened by sound temperance teaching.

(4) The lead of W.C.T.U.

This is just where our friends of the W.C.T.U. are able to give us a lead for we cannot hope to co-operate effectively in this work of building the parapets, unless we are organised, instructed and united as an efficient team. The W.C.T.U., for over 67 years now, has been waging warfare against these entrenched evils, and, during that time, it has gained much experience. Its members know that the parapets to be effective must be both spiritual and educational. They look largely to the organised Church of God to provide the spiritual resources and foundations while they do much to provide the temperance education and

material, and give the government that prod which it repeatedly needs in regard to social evils. We should thank God for all that the W.C.T.U. has been able to accomplish since its inception in grappling with these evils, and we should be prepared to do all we can to back them up. They are the solid nucleus of the still larger teams that are so urgently needed today to awaken the public conscience and to mould public opinion against these evils that menace our national character. This Dominion Conference, which is being held in our midst, is a challenge to all of us, who call ourselves Christians, to do something about building the battlements that protect our moral life and integrity of character. In particular, it confronts the women of our Churches with a direct challenge to co-operate in every way with the local branch of the W.C.T.U. Maybe you should become an active member. In any case, you can pray for the work and give it a measure of financial support, and you can acquaint yourselves with the facts concerning the evils with which they contend. (Facts and educational material will be gladly provided by your local branches.) Do everything you can to help them build the battlements which may be the means of protecting you and your family from possible physical wreck, moral disaster, and spiritual tragedy.

May God abundantly bless the Convention as it continues to deliberate upon these weighty matters and as plans are made for the future campaign. May you of the vanguard, who have already done so much to resist the enemy, be further strengthened and encouraged by the signs of awakening national conscience which will raise its voice with yours in demanding that these social evils be eradicated and the way prepared for a return to that sobriety, Godliness and righteousness which can alone exalt a nation and people.

PRESENTATION OF BANNERS AND VASES

Largest Membership, Dargaville.

Largest percentage increase in membership, Dargaville, 86%.

Largest L.W.R. dept. District, Nelson.

Largest L.W.R. dept. Union over 30 adult members, Nelson.

Largest L.W.R. dept. Union 15-30 adult members, Springlands, 308.

Highest per cent. increase, Eltham, 116%.

L.T.L. Vase for largest membership, Warkworth.

Band of Hope, largest membership, Linwood.

'The White Ribbon':

Largest no. of subscribers, Vase, Riccarton, 138.

Largest no. of new subscribers, Nelson, 15.

Highest percentage increase, new subscribers (Unions with under 20 members), Donnelly's Crossing and Te Kuiti, 23% each.

Y. Department Shield, 1st: Henderson "Y"; **2nd:** Maori "Y's."

MR. T. P. SHAND, M.P. FOR MARLBOROUGH

Mr. Shand, M.P., was unable to attend the Public Welcome, but he visited Convention on Tuesday morning and welcomed delegates and gave some enlightening information on Government problems in connection with Liquor and Gambling.