

IMPRESSIONS OF A DELEGATE AT HER FIRST W.C.T.U. CONVENTION (BLENHEIM)

From opening to the close, one was held by an atmosphere of sincerity, a definiteness of purpose for service, reminding one very much of those other disciples in the "Upper Room"—"they were all with one accord in one place".

The inner stirrings of each heart were manifested from facial expression, tone of voice, and mannerisms. One was very conscious of a "set purpose".

As one scanned the faces of those around, realising they were women from every walk of life; as it were, "ribbons"—"White Ribbons" from almost one hundred homes, brought together in this ordinary hall, and united in the great heart of the Master, in service for God, Home and Country, in or by the mechanism of the W.C.T.U.

The days quickly passed; the immensity of the task seemed to grow; decisions had to be made; discussions were sometimes long and intense, at the end of which a hymn and prayer—waiting upon God, set His seal, and all was well. This was particularly so as a verse of the Noontide Hymn rang out from earnest hearts, "Somewhere the haze is shifted, God hears and sees." All was well.

One was impressed by the number of great stalwarts present—those who had fought and been instrumental in the growth of this great cause. Busy wives and mothers, who amidst exacting home duties exerted themselves to make time to fight for the cause of Right, and were now slowly relinquishing their hold on the activities of this work, but whose interest and prayer will not wane with advancing years.

Surely now is the time to glean all we can from these stalwarts of their experience and work that the purpose of the W.C.T.U. be strengthened and go forward as in their day.

Too, the organising of this great gathering impressed one deeply. God's command, "Let everything be done decently and in order," was really seen here.

"The joy of service" was the outstanding virtue in the homes of our hostesses and extended through the whole family, where delegates were well catered for.

Our hostess had five delegates, and after catering for us lavishly, invited any who were able, to stay for a few days' rest. Surely that was going the second mile!

One did not forget that behind all these were our hardworking, hard praying Executive officers. Not only were they present at every ordinary meeting, but they had to dovetail extra meetings, while we were resting. Their hours were long and arduous, yet freedom of mirth and lightness of heart were ever present.

The interest of the whole community of Blenheim and Picton was very wonderful, and proved active—the various Churches providing teas, etc. The M.P. for the district, the Mayor, leaders of various Christian movements and Churches coming to give their appreciation of the work of the W.C.T.U. helped one to realise what a great work is this work.

The whole Convention was a time of education—mentally, physically and spiritually; one must say, "It is good to be here." We trust we may again be on the forward march for the uplift of Home, Country, and God's Rule.

A padre at the last war wrote a book the title of which would well suit those at Convention, "My Utmost for His Highest".

—M. BESWICK, Tauranga.

AIR LINES AND LIQUOR

A problem of serious proportions has been launched with the news that American Airlines, a major trans-continental operator, is going to ask for licenses from the States over which it flies, to serve liquor in its flights. The carrier would be bound to respect the liquor laws of those States which have elected to remain dry. Already on overseas flights American Overseas Airlines, the trans-oceanic division of American Airlines, has felt it necessary to serve liquor to meet the competition of foreign airlines.

Aboard aircraft, passengers who do not like liquor are forced into proximity with drinkers.

Coupled with this is the problem of managing a drunken person aboard a plane. And if a situation should develop requiring alertness among passengers, drunken persons could easily imperil the safety of other passengers. It is now a well-documented fact that the effects of a single glass of liquor are doubled when taken at high altitudes. It is ironic that the same carrier which pioneered in family fares for air travel is now asking for liquor licenses. Many family heads are going to decide that air travel is not for their families if planes are to become taverns. The airplanes now have a fairly strict rule against admitting obviously intoxicated persons on board flights.

—Christian Science Monitor.

THESE ARE NOT LOST

"The look of sympathy, the gentle word,
Spoken so low that only angels heard;
The secret act of pure self-sacrifice,
Unseen by man, but marked by angel's eyes—
THESE ARE NOT LOST.

The kindly plans devised for other's good,
So seldom guessed, so little understood;
The quiet, steadfast love which strove to win
Some wanderer from the woeful ways of sin—
THESE ARE NOT LOST."

—Selected.

NEW SUBSCRIBERS TO "WHITE RIBBON"

Blenheim, 3; Christchurch Central, 1; Dunedin Central, 3; Gonville, 1; Gore, 3; Hastings, 1; Henderson, 1; Motueka, 3; North East Valley, 1; New Plymouth, 2; Otorohanga, 1; Opawa, 2; Oamaru, 1; Palmerston North, 1; Ponsonby, 1; Riccarton, 2; Tauranga, 4; Te Kuiti, 2; Timaru, 1; Wellington, 1; Wellsford, 1. **Total, 36.**

"Samuel C. Dunk, who many years ago was turned down by an Insurance Company because he was a total abstainer, is now ninety-six years old, and is said to be the oldest bowls player in the British Isles. He attributes his longevity to total abstinence and clean living."—"Alert."