

avow their belief that prostitution should be licensed by the State; that any girl over fifteen is fair prey for the grey-haired villain; that opportunities for men and women to debase themselves below the beasts of the field by means of strong drink should not be curtailed? And, horror of horrors, they have power to put their beliefs into practice! And we pay them for so doing! One hundred and fifty pounds per annum do we pay each member of our Upper House for barring the way to moral progress and reform! Is our money well spent?

A whisper of collusion floats to our ears. So our "honourables" weakly plead their "Adam" nature, do they? "The Eve (certain members of the Lower House) tempted me and I did eat." Poor "dumb, driven cattle!"

OURSELVES.—The business manager informs us that the district which promised the least in the way of circulation has done the most. At the Convention, when the possibility of publishing was discussed, the Christchurch delegate refused to undertake the responsibility of guaranteeing a certain number of subscribers, seeing that the bulk of the work connected with the publication would be done by Christchurch members. So far, however, Canterbury heads the list by a very long way, Westland coming second. Well done, Westland!

A considerable portion of our space is devoted to a report on the land settlement question—a most important matter truly, involving the pauper question. Any movement that will make our poor independent and self-reliant, compelling them to work for that which they receive, is heartily welcomed. When shall we see the initiation of a scheme for the compulsory employment of the idle rich?

We must apologise for the non-appearance of our usual serial instalment. It has been unavoidably crowded out.

AS OTHERS SEE US.—The following extract is from a private letter sent to the Christchurch Superintendent of Literature:—"Miss Forsaith desires me also to thank you for the 'WHITE RIBBON.' She is pleased to have it, and thinks that a very good article which treated of the C.D. Acts. It is a nice little paper." Miss Forsaith, as many of our readers are probably aware, is secretary to the British, Continental, and General Federation for the Abolition of the State Regulation of Vice.

Speaking of the recent English elections, Mrs Pearson, President of the Nottingham Branch of the B.W.T.A., prophesies that "short-lived will be the Government that went into office on top of a beer barrel."

WELLINGTON NOTES.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

At last our tariff is settled. Members, as well as business men, are no doubt thankful, but the discussions on the proposals have certainly been bewildering to simple-minded women folk, and will continue to be so, I fear, until our tariffs are a little less complex.

The Licensing Bill has been killed in the Legislative Chamber—not at all a surprise to thoughtful members of the Temperance Party, who had noted that during its passage in the House of Representatives there were no liquor men or brewers to be seen in the lobbies—an ominous sign that there was no danger!

The Divorce Bill is to meet the same fate. Rumour has it that pressure from the clergy has done this. But the darkest hour is just before the dawn; we can wait—right must prevail.

General Booth's meetings have thrown politics into the shade for the last few days. His reception has been grand.

BUTCHERS' MEAT AND CANCER.

The Wellington Union, having discussed the subject of the connection between butchers' meat and cancer, wrote to the rabbis in Auckland and Wellington on the matter, and received very telling letters from both gentlemen. We have been requested to publish the one following:—

"Auckland, October 12, 1894.

"Dear Madam,—In reply to your letter, I beg to state that cases of cancer and consumption are *very rare* among my people, although we have an isolated case now and then. We attribute our comparative freedom from these terrible scourges to the strict examination of our meat supply. The English statistics, death rates, etc., which I saw recently, were a remarkable comment on the beneficial effects of the scrupulous care and supervision which our meat receives. The inspection is made by properly certificated persons, who receive their diploma from the Chief Rabbi as a rule, after a severe examination as to their theoretical and practical knowledge of meat inspection. This qualification is imperative in the case of anyone examining meat for a Jewish community.

The death rate among us throughout the world is *abnormally low, out of all proportion*, when compared with that of other sections of the community—more especially in large centres does this fact become rather glaring. In Metz (France), during the last cholera epidemic, eight or nine years ago, only six Jews out of some thousands were attacked by the disease, and it was proved