

the reading of the paper a number of resolutions were passed, and all save one appear in the report of the proceedings of Convention. Strange to say, that one which, by some misadventure, was omitted, was the most important of all, inasmuch as it has to do with the definite work of the unions.

The resolution reads thus:—"The delegates here assembled pledge their unions to unceasing agitation for the removal of the civil and political disabilities of women."

The unions throughout the length and breadth of New Zealand will therefore see that whatever work they may do or leave undone, they are pledged to carry on active and unceasing warfare against those legal enactments which bind and oppress women and hinder their full development, both as individuals and as the mothers of the race.

### "Mankind in the Making."

The writer of the paragraph referred to by our correspondent, "An English Son," which appeared in the February issue, is Mrs Frances Swiney, who, we presume, as an Englishwoman, speaks for her countrywomen. We fancy "An English Son" has scarcely comprehended the ground of her accusation. As English law stands, law made by English men—sons of English mothers—a woman is placed in the same category with children, lunatics, and criminals. Now, one may and should reverence children, treat the imbecile with affection, and at least pity the criminal, but let "An English Son" ask himself if the most lavish display of these sentiments would in any wise make up to a man for the loss of the right to conduct his own business affairs, to take his share in the government of his own country, and to order his life as he thinks becoming. Let him ask himself, too, if he thinks such

deprivation would tend to produce a finer man, or one better fitted to become an "ancestor." Would the privilege naturally conferred on infancy, or on mental or moral weakness, compensate him for loss of justice?

It is not pampering and petting that true women desire, but the right to take their share of the burdens and responsibilities of life, the right to order their own life according to their own conscience, the right to play their part in the world in such manner as their own taste and ability direct. And we cannot expect woman to attain to her full stature until she is developed by such freedom.

Mr A. S. Adams, speaking at the public meeting held in connection with the Dunedin Convention, put the matter thus cogently: He said that, "In the past men had been very complimentary to women, but they had not dealt righteously by them. Women had been treated like hot-house plants, and had been stifled in the artificial atmosphere thus created for them. Men had flattered women, and coquetted with them, and at the same time had cheated them out of their legitimate rights. The hand that rocked the cradle had got tired of ruling the world theoretically, and now desired to make application of this oft-repeated maxim."

### Chronic Drunkards.

Mr H. G. Ell, M.H.R., is nothing if not pertinacious, and we are therefore exceedingly glad to note that he has taken up the cause of the chronic drunkard of the depraved class. There is strong hope that the matter will not be allowed to drop until some provision has been made for those poor creatures who spend their time between the gaol and the police court. Mr Seddon's reply to Mr Ell is decidedly non-committal. Does he expect Prohibition to be generally carried at the next Licensing Poll, or does he simply mention the probable result of the reform so as to avoid the necessity for a direct ye or nay to the demand to have the pro-

visions of the Inebriate Homes Act, passed in 1898, carried into effect? The marvel is that the utter absurdity of the present mode of procedure, simply from an economic point of view, has not penetrated the brain of the taxpayer who is charged with the support of these drunkards and the whole paraphernalia of police and warders and courts and gaols. If the general public would only look into the matter, and then make its voice heard, we venture to think it would not be long before these unhappy creatures were safely housed from temptation and placed in a position where they would be largely self-supporting.

### Our Illustration.

It is with the greatest pleasure—a pleasure shared, we are sure, by all our readers—that we accede to the wish of our N.Z. President and give as our illustration this month the portraits of the late Editor and Business Manager. From us no eulogistic words are needed. Their work has spoken for itself, and their praise is not only in all the unions but on the lips of many women and men outside the White Ribbon ranks.

### NOTES AND COMMENTS.

ORGANISER.—We have much pleasure in informing our readers that Miss Hughes, of Auckland, has consented to act as our organiser, and will start work as soon as the necessary funds are forthcoming. Will unions kindly reply to Miss Powell's circular without delay, so that no more time may be lost.

THE UNIONS' RESPONSE.—Since the above paragraph was written, Miss Powell reports that the unions are responding most encouragingly to the appeal for funds for the organiser's work.

NATIONAL COUNCIL.—We are asked to notify that the meeting of the National Council of the Women of New Zealand has been postponed till September.

CHILDREN OF THE STATE.—The members of the Canterbury Women's Institute are to be congratulated on the success of their efforts to initiate quarterly public meetings in Christchurch for the discussion and elucidation of social and political problems. It is quite probable that the choice of sub-