

Town Hall. Sir Joseph Ward occupied the chair, and briefly introduced the visitors. Mr Snowden gave a telling address, clear, logical, and to the point. He argued that all social problems are closely knit together, so that it is impossible now to deal with one apart from the others. The social problem of to-day is really the old problem of earlier times modified by the different conditions of modern life. The aim is to secure the largest amount of happiness with the least expenditure of labour, and in the earlier stages of civilisation slavery was held to supply the solution. The social problem of to-day is to devise some industrial organisation whereby sufficient wealth for the needs and comforts of all may be obtained with the least expenditure, so as to leave each individual leisure for the development of his intellectual faculties, and for social intercourse. In the great countries, like Britain and the United States, it takes the form of a protest against the extremes of wealth and poverty, idleness and hard work, culture and ignorance; or the effort to devise a scheme whereby the wealth of the nation may be produced in the most economical way, so as to abolish the present waste of time and money. He traced the great change that during the last twenty years has taken place in public opinion, so that no party working for the improvement of social conditions now confines its attention to one aspect and ignores all others. At one time the Temperance party refused to consider anything but the drink question; the Socialist Party maintained that the unsatisfactory position of the working men was in no way due to their drinking habits; Trades Unionism had nothing at all to do with Temperance. But now the British Labour Party and British Trades Unionism have alike taken up an entirely different attitude, and recognise that drink is one of the greatest obstacles to their progress, for the man that drinks is always the one that wants to come out on strike. On the other hand, it is now generally admitted by all parties labouring for reforms that the abolition of the Liquor Traffic will not remove slums, nor solve the housing problem, but it will make this and all other problems easier to solve. If the working people are to be the dominant political power, they must prepare themselves for it. They must think less about asserting their rights and more

about understanding and fulfilling their duties; and they must avoid that which tends to unfit them for the exercise of power. The address concluded with a powerful appeal to all to go forward and use their power to abolish the Liquor Traffic, and thus ameliorate the conditions of living.

Mrs Snowden said she wished to emphasise the woman's viewpoint of the Liquor Traffic. One purpose she had in coming to New Zealand was to find out whether women used the power they had gained, through their enfranchisement, to the best advantage, and she would be heartbroken if she had to acknowledge herself disappointed. She had never prophesied that the millennium would come when women had the vote, but it was a fact that wherever women had been enfranchised they had, in part, or altogether, abolished the Liquor Traffic. The woman's point of view in regard to every public question must take a certain line, for alike with men and women, the viewpoint is that which each has gained from past experience. To men has belonged the duty of supporting the home and obtaining property; to women that of bearing and training children. Men have worked for procuring material things, so certain parts of the male character have developed unduly. What men have toiled for so much they respect highly, so they think too much of property. This is seen in the laws respecting property. Only 100 years ago there were 300 crimes against property that were punishable with death, and though this state of things has gone, and we do not now hang a thief, still the same old spirit is found in the attitude of those who administer the law. Here is an instance reported in one of the Liverpool papers: A man stole two overcoats in order to buy bread for his starving wife and children, and for this he was sentenced to six months' hard labour. In the same paper was reported the case of a man who had assaulted a little girl of 10 in a picture theatre, and he was fined 10s and costs. But the change of public opinion is such that an audience of British men would express their disapproval of this just as heartily as an audience in New Zealand. Women are not better than men, nor men than women; each is superior to the other in different ways. There is a sense in which the children are especially the property of the mother,

who has suffered so much for their sake. Fatherhood can be achieved without the father knowing it, but motherhood brings its special experience and training, wherever the mother is. So when women are enfranchised and are called upon to decide between property and children, they will vote for the children. There are exceptions, no doubt; there are women canvassing for the Licensed Victuallers, for many women take the selfish attitude on this question, and this class is said to be growing with the spread of social, intellectual, and political liberty. Some even argue that because of the increase in liberty women ought to have more liberty to drink. But drinking among women is a serious menace to the existence of the nation and of the Empire, through its terrible effects on the bodies, minds, and souls of the children. It was bad when the aristocracy took to drink; it was worse when the middle class followed their example; worse still when the evil habit spread to the working classes; but it is worst of all when the women yield to the temptation. "I appeal to the chivalry of the men," said Mrs Snowden, in conclusion, "to sacrifice their own small pleasures, and to make drink inaccessible; to protect the women of your nation, and so make way for the superman and superwoman, for whose coming we are daily waiting."

#### ORGANISING FUND.

The following amounts have been received for the Organising Fund during the month of October, 1914:—

- 6th—Opotiki Union, 10s
- 9th—Woodville Union, "Franchise Day," 12s
- 12th—Mrs Boniface, Pungarehu (per Mrs Mowlem), £1.
- 22nd—Donation from Manaia Union (per Mrs Patterson): Normanby Union, £2; Mr Douglas, New Plymouth, 12s 6d; Ngaire, 10s; Manaia Convention contribution, 13s 6d
- 25th—Timaru Union, £3 13s
- 30th—Wellington S. District, £5 7s
- 30th—Invercargill Union, £5.

ALICE R. C. TAYLOR,

Treasurer Organising Fund.

Money orders payable to Alice Taylor.

Address: Mrs R. H. S. Taylor, "Coveney," Balgownie, Wanganui.

The "White Ribbon" will be posted to any address on receipt of 2s 8d, payable to Mrs Peryman, Johnsonville.