

old, but he says himself he would have done greater things had his early years been attended with less suffering.

No woman nor girl may now go into the mines to work, and no boy under 14. But there are still 100,000 little children engaged in street trading in their spare time, selling papers, running errands, and so on, often till late at night. It ought to be prevented by legislation, for they show signs of nerves—and little children ought to be nerveless—or they develop spinal curvature; they do not sleep enough, for every child under 12 should be in bed at seven and up again at seven. Efforts are being made to abolish this street trading, and very few girls are now engaged in it.

We still have immense problems to face: the reduction of the saloons, for instance, but we are working hard, and had it not been for the war, the next two or three years would have seen great reforms. Lloyd George is keenly interested in the condition of women and children; Mr John Burns has devoted himself to the question of pure milk supply. But though reforms will certainly be delayed through the war, I am optimistic, for the great crisis has stirred all hearts. All over the country organisations of men and women are looking after the women and children. The Suffrage Associations have all given up their time and their offices for this purpose, some for British specially, some for all nationalities. One is trying to find out how many working women are out of work; another to secure work for the workless. About a dozen of our women have been invited to join Queen Mary's Committee. Does anyone say, "Why should I worry about posterity? What has it done for me?" We realise that we cannot pay our debt to those in the past generations to whose noble efforts we owe so much, therefore we will pay it to those coming after us, and do our utmost to make the world a safer and brighter place for the little children to be born into it in the years to come.

HAMILTON DISTRICT CONVENTION.

The fourth annual District Convention of the Hamilton W.C.T.U. and its auxiliary Unions was held on October 23rd, in Wesley Church, Hamilton, President Mrs Auld presiding. Convention opened with the singing of the Union hymn, "All Round the World." The Crusade Psalm was read in unison. After prayer, the minutes of last Convention were read and confirmed.

The following Unions were represented: — Cambridge, Morrinsville, and Ngaruawahia.

The President heartily welcomed the delegates, and in giving her address, thanked God for His goodness to us during the year. We celebrate this year the coming of age of the women's franchise. It was a long and dignified struggle, in which our Unions largely shared for over 15 years. The name of Mrs Sheppard would always be honoured in this Convention. The W.C.T.U., composed of 45 Nations, have always advocated total abstinence for the individual, and prohibition for the nation. The President spoke of the sad calamity which had happened at Huntly, our sympathies going out to the women and children who were the sufferers. Also this great and terrible European war, which we greatly deplore. We believe it to be a righteous war, and pray that God will bring it to a speedy and successful issue. We express our sympathy with gallant little Belgium, who so valiantly withstood the unjustifiable incursion of the German army. We regret to notice that the totalisator permits are increased by 31 days, although they have already over 200 days. This year we are fighting the foulest evil that curses and degrades man. Once more we have the opportunity of ending the drink evil. We specially pray that statesmen may be led to see the great mass of misery, degradation, disease, and death produced by the liquor traffic, and the urgent need for its entire abolition. We regret the defeat of Mr Massey's Bill to reduce the three-fifths handicap, but which shows us again the necessity of returning men to Parliament who are on our side.

Mr Mason welcomed the delegates on behalf of the No-License Council, and gave an account of its work, urg-

ing all present to co-operate in canvassing.

Hamilton reported having three hospital visitors, who visited regularly every week; 300 names on the Cradle Roll; literature collected and sent to the back-blocks and hospital, also jams, jellies, eggs, fruits, etc., to patients. The sum of £25 promised to No-License Council, partly raised; members assisted in the equipment of our Expeditionary Forces, also in making and collecting clothing for needy families in Huntly and Belgium. One Union member on School Committee.

Cambridge reports: Monthly Band of Hope well attended; 31 names on Cradle Roll; collected for Dr. Barnardo's Homes.

Ngaruawahia reports: Good Band of Hope meetings; donation sent to "Home Journal"; collected for Dr. Barnardo's Homes; held a gift auction and concert in aid of the No-License campaign, realising £24 5s.

Morrinsville reports: Meetings lapsed for some months, owing to removal of officers. A fresh start has now been made; new officers elected.

Resolutions.

"That this Convention views with great displeasure the attitude the present Government has taken in the increased number of racing days, and that the Waikato and Raglan members of W.C.T.U., who represent a good proportion of voters, strongly protest against it."

"This Convention strongly protests against the three-fifths No-License majority Bill being thrown out."

"This Convention tenders its heartfelt sympathy and condolence to the sufferers through the Huntly mine disaster," all members standing.

Mrs Horne read an open letter from Mrs Pethick Lawrence to the Bishop of London.

Evening Session.

Mrs Auld presiding. Addresses were given by the following:—Mesdames Hogan and Brown, Mr Foster and Dr. Waddell. Solos were given by Misses Gaulton and Stewart.

Hearty votes of thanks were carried by acclamation, and a very profitable Convention closed with the Benediction and National Anthem.

The "White Ribbon" will be posted to any address on receipt of 2s 6d, payable to Mrs Peryman, Johnsonville.

Politics is not a dirty game, but a human science, and it is our duty to use it.—Beatrice Forbes-Robertson,