

no one has been found to take her place. Sincerely I hope that this Convention will be able to complete some scheme that will not only see new branches of our Union organised, but will keep us in touch with those already formed, and so by education, and insisting on legislation, we may do something to preserve a race that, unfortunately, are all too quickly dying out.

#### Women's New Occupations.

It is difficult to say what employment has not been invaded by women since the war sent Englishmen to the Front. In most cases the innovations were not made without opposition till necessity forced the objectors to give way. Naturally, the higher and better paid positions were most contested, and of these even now comparatively few, save in the medical profession, have been given to qualified women. A register has been compiled of University women capable of taking almost any position in education or science, and a fair number of such appointments have been recently made. As we have said, medical women have received high positions both at Home and abroad. The War Office have appointed women to be heads of war hospitals, and the services of women in medicine and surgery are at a premium. In local government, women have received many positions as inspectors, members of Boards, and Commissioners, etc. In clerical work, women have made a great advance on the whole, but women clerks, both now and before the war, are greatly underpaid. Women police (as distinct from voluntary women patrols) have not been much encouraged, but in Glasgow and in some other towns some appointments have been made. In the lower classes of work, women are largely employed; in many cases, happily, at fair wages; in a few even on the same scale as men. This is the case with certain of the women who have been called into munition work, where they have won great praise. In many cities women are tram-drivers, postmen, chauffeurs, van-drivers, etc., and give great satisfaction. Lady gardeners have come greatly to the front. Women chemists are much in demand. Women are now begged to go into the harvest fields and agriculture generally, and are doing it. There are women grooms, riding teachers, etc. The whole domain of industry has been more or less invaded by women during the war, but greater than the positions they have received under authority, municipal or Government, is the fame they have won by their tremendous success in voluntary organisation, where they were not hampered by the continual jealousy and economic hostility of men.

Last year has discovered to the whole world the administrative capability of women, and it is splendid!

#### In Conclusion.

As was to be expected, the great European war has not only cast a

gloom around us, but interrupted our ordinary routine of business, but we must not allow our temperance and social work to stop. White Ribboners the world over are doing more war work than we are, and still they are keeping up their efforts against the drink traffic. Certified facts prove that Prohibition is the only means by which this same traffic can be destroyed, and to do this a great revival of passionate enthusiasm and intense self-sacrifice is much to be desired, and the way to get this is on our knees. Together we must pray for strength to fight, seek guidance in reform work, ask for wisdom to make plans and carry them out, knock for open doors, and pray for boldness to enter them.

We must practice, preach, and promote total abstinence. We must bend all our energy and use every means in our power to educate the young in temperance principles, and aim at making them workers for the cause. We must agitate, educate, legislate, and keep everlastingly at it, and remember that—

"We fight, but 'tis He who nerves our  
 arms,  
 He turns the arrows that else might  
 harm,  
 And the work that we count so hard  
 to do,  
 He makes it easy, for He works too;  
 And the days that seem long to live  
 are His,  
 And close to our need His helping  
 is."

#### RECEPTION.

On Wednesday evening a public reception was accorded to the members of the Convention. There was a goodly gathering in St. Paul's Hall, including most of the delegates and a large number of the leading residents of Wanganui. The meeting was presided over by Mrs Blamires, the President of the Wanganui District Union, and on the platform were Mrs Don, Mrs Sampson, the Mayor of Wanganui, Mr McColl, Rev. Radford, and Hon. E. Carson.

After devotional exercises, Mrs Blamires, in the name of the Wanganui Union, welcomed the delegates to the city. She said she welcomed them as Christian women and as Temperance women, because of the ideals for which they stood. Nowadays physical forces and mental forces were receiving due recognition, but we did not always realise the strength of the spiritual forces at our command. We were up against hard facts, for in spite of the war, more money than ever was being spent on drink and the totalisator, yet victory was assured if only we made full use of these spiritual forces. She hoped that the Convention would be productive of great good, and that delegates would get fresh strength and inspiration.

His Worship the Mayor gave the members a hearty welcome in the name of the citizens. Many activities, he said, must be curtailed by reason of the war, but this was not the case with all. Education was more than ever a necessity, and the great social movements must and would go on. War was the greatest test for a nation; in time of war great moral advances were made, and elements of character were hardened up. We must not relax our efforts in any good cause. He wished the visitors a pleasant time and great success in their work.

Mrs Sampson, in the name of the patriotic women societies of Wanganui, expressed pleasure at the presence of the W.C.T.U., and in a happy speech complimented the members on having braved all the dangers of a journey, not shrinking even from opening their proceedings on so fateful day as the Ides of March.

Mr McColl, welcoming the delegates on behalf of the Temperance societies, said the W.C.T.U. was entitled to respect, for it stood for every possible reform. He paid a warm tribute to the high qualities of such leaders as Mrs Sheppard and Mrs A. R. Atkinson, and reminded all that they had a high standard to reach. There was important work before them, for they must try to bring home to the Government of New Zealand the necessity for moving in such matters as "shouting" and early closing, so that the efficiency of our soldiers might be maintained.

Rev. Radford, representing the Ministers' Association, said he was sure the meeting of the Convention would be an uplift to the home, for the W.C.T.U. placed God first. Referring to the "anti-shouting" petition, this was the psychological moment for it. In that city almost all the lawyers and all the medical men had signed it.

Hon. E. Carson reminded the members that women were now eligible for the Legislative Council, so soon as the corresponding Bill was passed in the Lower House, and he gave a striking incident proving the fitness of such women as Mrs Atkinson for a seat in Parliament and other responsible positions.

Mrs Don, in responding, made some humorous references to the fires and the earthquake that had occurred in seeming welcome to the delegates. She said we were still marching on, and should continue to do so till we had banished liquor from the State. In the words of the well-known liquor advertisement, we were still "going strong," working as ever for every reform, and in view of the present war conditions, which she thought were really worst for the women who wait at home, we should pray, like the old woman in the prayer meeting, to be kept cheerful. She thanked each and all for the kind and cordial words with which the delegates had been welcomed, and she also hoped that this visit to Wanganui would result in