

WELLINGTON PROVINCIAL CONVENTION.

The Convention was opened at Woodville in September. Eighteen delegates were present. Mrs Perkins welcomed on behalf of the local Union, and Mrs Crabbe replied. Reports were received from the various Unions, showing good work done in various departments, as well as hard work for six o'clock closing petition and collecting for Patriotic Fund. Several Unions have done splendid work in helping to circulate the "White Ribbon." Lady Stout addressed Convention on "The War Regulations Bill as Affecting Women and Children." The following resolutions were passed:—(1) "That we respectfully ask the Hons. Allen and Herdman and members of the Ministry to listen to the prayer of the women of New Zealand that any restrictive measures concerning the conduct of women be effected by statute, and not by order of the Governor-in-Council; and in the circumstances of our not having women in Parliament, with full opportunity for obtaining the opinion of representative women thereon." (2) "That we would respectfully draw the attention of the Premier and the members of the Ministry to the fact that women ask for equal laws for both sexes. If the sale of intoxicating liquor is to be prohibited to women, it should also be prohibited to men; if to any class of women, to a similar class of men." (3) "That we desire to point out to the Hon. J. Allen that we most earnestly deprecate any return of the C.D. Acts or to regulation in any form, as being directly contrary to all the findings of the British Royal Commission, and of all the latest international conferences for the suppression of venereal diseases." (4) "That we would respectfully urge upon the Premier and members of the Ministry that in view of the fact that wherever women police and patrols have been employed, their presence in the streets and about the camps has had a restraining influence over the conduct of the young of both sexes; that therefore the Government consider the advisability of engaging women police in connection with the camps and in the city of Wellington." (5) "That, as wherever women cooks have been employed in camps, their employment has resulted in better cooking and greater economy, we would urge that

the Government consider the advisability of appointing women cooks in all camps. We would also suggest that it is desirable that all women for the positions of police or cooks in camps be selected by women." (6) "That we suggest to the Government that where women are convicted under existing laws for solicitation or similar offences, all punishment be of a reformatory character, and that for this purpose an island or farm colony be provided, to be conducted on similar lines to the 'George Junior Republic,' in which such women may be detained until able to maintain themselves respectably."

A vote of deep sympathy was passed with all W.C.T.U. members who have lost relatives during the war, and have husbands and sons away "at the Front."

The following officers were elected:—Pres., Mrs Crabbe; Sec., Mrs Neal; Treas., Mrs Houlder.

A public meeting was held in the evening, at which Lady Stout gave an address on "The Liquor Traffic and the War Regulations Bill."

THE LION.

"The Lion is asleep," they said,
"Tis safe to start on France,
For should the Lion hear our tread,
He will not raise his stupid head
To question our advance.

Through Belgium we will wend our way,

She will not dare resist,
If promises will not persuade,
And threatenings leave her unafraid,
We'll try the mailed fist.

With France and Russia beaten down,
Our little bill sent in,
We'll turn upon the Lion bold,
And lay him out, all stiff and cold,
Before he can begin.

The Lion rested in the sun
(They thought they heard him snore),
When through the air they heard the cry
Of Belgium, "Help us, or we die!"
Then came the answering roar!

The Lion sprang with mighty strength
To where the need was sore,
And from the corners of the earth
The Lion's cubs came tearing forth,
To join him in the war.

And is the British Lion old?
The sun about to set?
Is he feeble? as they said.
Is he dying?—nearly dead?
NOT YET, my boy, NOT YET!
"Toronto University Gazette."

FRANCHISE DAY.

LECTURE BY LADY STOUT.

Franchise Day was commemorated by holding a meeting in Trinity Church, Newtown, when an inspiring address was given by Lady Stout on "Woman's Opportunity." After a brief musical programme and a few introductory remarks by Dr. Platts-Mills, who was supported on the platform by Mrs Evans, M.A., Dr. Edith Huntley, and Mrs Houlder, Lady Stout commenced her lecture by saying that although women in this country had possessed the Franchise for 23 years, they had not yet realised their responsibilities or their power. The work that women were doing in every direction in Great Britain was reviewed, including that of the women police. Of all the countries that were engaged in the war, said the speaker, New Zealand was practically the only one that had done nothing, or next to nothing, to protect its soldiers against drink. In England the Government had taken over the control of numbers of hotels and distilleries, where a non-intoxicating liquor was supplied. Why could not the same thing be done here? In France there was not only restriction of the sale of liquor, but it was prohibited altogether. What a difference here! Women here in truth were asleep, or else had forgotten their homes and their children, or they would not have allowed other countries to have set the pace and not follow themselves. At the close of the address, a resolution was proposed by Mrs A. R. Atkinson to the effect that this meeting of Wellington women urges the Minister of Justice to appoint immediately women police to visit the railway stations and wharves, to patrol slum areas, and the vicinity of military camps, to keep a watchful eye upon houses of ill-fame, to visit public parks, to prevent young women from being molested, and also to put detectives on the track of persons suspected of endeavouring to decoy young girls for immoral purposes. Dr. Edith Huntley seconded the resolution, which was passed with enthusiasm. Mrs Wright moved a hearty vote of thanks to the lecturer, and also spoke to the resolution.

A deputation, consisting of Lady Stout, Dr. Edith Huntley, Dr Platts-Mills, Mrs Evans, M.A., and Mrs Houlder, will wait upon the Minister of Justice to present the resolution.