

## WOMEN'S Christian Temperance Union Of New Zealand.

Organised 1855.

"For God and Home and Humanity."

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"The White Ribbon."

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Associate Editor: Mrs Evans, M.A.

Business Manager: Mrs Peryman,  
Port Chalmers.

## The White Ribbon.

For God and Home and Humanity.

WELLINGTON, DEC. 18, 1916.

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President: Mrs Don.

Corresponding Secretary: Miss Hen-  
derson.

Recording Secretary: Mrs Evans.

Treasurer: Mrs Bendely.

### JUVENILE DEPRAVITY.

Revelations made in the Auckland Police Court lately have aroused an intense feeling of grief and indignation throughout the Dominion. A little corner was lifted of the covering which is so carefully spread over the dark plague spots to be found in our cities. It is well that we should see things as they are, but it is better that we should get a glimpse of things as they ought to be. These evils are not necessary, but are largely due to the low ideals held by so many

on the subject of purity. An equal standard must be demanded from both sexes. Two causes were given for the awful state of things revealed in Auckland. First, lack of parental control; second, lowness of the age of consent. The conditions of modern life have rendered it much more difficult for the parent to control the child in its teens. Girls go to shops, colleges, factories, and countless places of business; there they mingle with associates of whom their parents know little or nothing, and over whom they have no power of choice. Children travel to and from school and business in trams and trains, and there mingle freely with people unknown to their parents. Then our fine climate tempts the girl shut up all day in school or office to go for an evening ramble in park and promenade, and there unscrupulous men wait to destroy them. Would we go back to the days when girls spent their time bending over fancy work in almost harem-like seclusion? Certainly not; the age of the chaperon has passed, but alas! the age of the self-respecting girl has not yet fully dawned. How can we protect them? With singular unanimity, magistrate, jury, probation officer, Education Board, and social reformer are asking for women police. They would be no experiment, for they have been tried and proved capable in America, Great Britain, Australia, and other places. Women, tactful and resourceful, are needed to patrol our parks and streets to take home young girls who are out at night, to keep a watchful eye on men who accost girls, and entice them with joy rides and other devices to ruin them. There is a great work awaiting women police here. The Auckland Magistrate lamented the fact that a girl so young could legally consent to her own ruin. All workers among the women who lead lives of shame tell us that they started on this life before 21, and most of them before 18. Said a Commissioner of Police: "If you get a girl safely past 20, there is little danger of her becoming a prostitute." How necessary to guard the girl, then, till at least 18! We believe that the State should protect a girl's honour as long as it protects her property. Had that taxi-driver swindled the girls out of property the law could have punished him, but because he only robbed them of their purity and innocence, no law

can touch him. When will our laws recognise that property is not the most valuable thing in the world? Young lives are worth more to the State than any amount of property. We cannot afford to let men of immoral life ruin and blast the future mothers of our race. We must arouse ourselves and thunder at the doors of Parliament until it passes laws to protect our girls. Women police must be appointed and the age of consent raised.

### ENTHUSIASTIC MEETING IN DUNEDIN.

On December 6th a meeting was held in the Town Hall, Dunedin, to urge the appointment of women police. It was organised by the W.C.T.U., and was thoroughly representative. Members were present from 20 kindred societies. The chair was taken by Canon Curzon-Siggers.

The first resolution was moved by Mr Mark Cohen, Editor of the "Evening Star," and seconded by Mrs Peryman, Editor of the "White Ribbon." It was: "That this meeting of representative citizens of Dunedin, in view of the fact that the appointment of women police has given great satisfaction wherever tried, urge the Minister of Justice to immediately appoint women police." This was carried unanimously.

The second resolution was proposed by Mr Gilkinson, and seconded by Mrs M. A. Jackson (President of the St. Vincent de Paul Society, and a member of the Hospital and Charitable Aid Board): "That for every centre a woman should be appointed as a 'protector' and adviser of young women and children, with the authority and standing of a Justice of the Peace; that such a 'protector' should be authorised to attend all Courts in all cases where any woman or child is concerned, and to interfere if she considers it desirable."

Mrs Major Colvin and Dr. Edith Siedeberg spoke in support, and it was carried unanimously.

The third resolution was proposed by Rev. W. Hay, and seconded by Mrs Don (Dominion President of the W.C.T.U.): "That copies of these resolutions be sent to the Acting-Prime Minister and the other members of Cabinet, and that the co-operation of all organisations aiming at social