

ment of women includes work in power stations, on sewage farms, in gas works, in parks, in road-cleaning, and in scavenging. Indeed, if all the industries were named it would be very nearly a complete list of Britain's industrial activities. And the testimony of employers everywhere is that in all processes in which women are now engaged they are acquiring ability, and prove themselves persevering, enduring, skilful, and give general satisfaction.

These new conditions must surely react upon the political future of women. British statesmen and political leaders are inclining an attentive ear to the advance in suffrage sentiment in their country, and we hope that when war is over Britain will remember women's heroic service, and reward them by universal enfranchisement. We are pleased to note that Miss Jeanette Rankin has been elected the first woman Congressman in Montana. She is an ardent prohibitionist, and by her activities greatly helped that State to rid itself of the liquor traffic. Finland has now twenty-four women as members of Parliament. In Iceland six members were chosen to the Upper House, and a number of women candidates were up for office at the election in October last. I have not yet heard the result of that effort. New South Wales appointed Mrs K. Dwyer to a seat on the Senate of the University of Sydney, and the "Sydney Sun" says, "She is the first woman to fill such a position in the British Dominions." How is it that we, who have been enfranchised for so many years, are not better represented on all public bodies, especially those that have to do with women and children? It is recognised by all classes that juvenile depravity is on the increase, and it is patent to all that the decay of home life is the root of the evil. Children roam the streets unattended at all hours of the day and night, and seem to have unlimited freedom to go and come when and where they like. The result is that there has arisen the demand for the institution of a Women Police Force to supervise and safeguard the life and honour of the young people in the streets, and that women be appointed as Justices of the Peace, and be authorised to attend all Courts in all cases where women and children are concerned. It has always been a grievance with us, that under our law a wrong-doer is arrested by a male police, represented by a male advocate, tried by a male jury, and sentenced by a male Judge. These things ought not to be, and so we call upon the Government to instal the police women in New Zealand. Other countries have already seen the value of women police in the prevention by women of much minor and juvenile crime. In 1913 there were 38 police women in the United States; now I think it is safe to say there are hundreds. New York alone having added a large number recently.

Canada, Norway and Sweden, Holland, Denmark, Austria, South Africa, Victoria, and New South Wales, Russia, and Germany all have women police. In London and other English cities women volunteer police, and military patrols have been appointed to deal with the conditions created by the war, and wherever she has appeared she has made good. Judges, Police Superintendents, and even ordinary policemen who have been associated with women police testify to their physical fitness, tactfulness, and human sympathy, and admit that she has justified her appointment as an agent in the prevention of crime, that the experimental stage of the women police was long past, and that she was now recognised as an invaluable auxiliary of the regular policeman. In the light of these facts we hope that the whole question will be reviewed afresh by the Cabinet, and that something will be done to bring about this reform, and that quickly.

We are pleased to note that in September last the censoring of kinema films became an actual fact, and during the last five months the Censor (Mr W. Jolliffe) had under his gaze no fewer than 1,302,735 feet of film, and yet only six were cut out, five because it was calculated they were against order and decency, the other because it was calculated to offend one of our Allies. Not being a frequenter of the kinemas, I cannot speak with authority, but judging by the sensational posters exhibited throughout our cities, I think a woman might be appointed to act with Mr Jolliffe, for there can be no question that this is a woman's work. Wisely the care of children has been left in her hands; her judgment of what is likely to be misunderstood by young picture-goers cannot be disputed, and seeing that she had the bringing up of the human race, she could tell best what pictures were good for the child and youth, both in its physical and moral nature.

Gambling.

It is not pleasant to have to record the increase of gambling throughout the Dominion. Mr Lloyd George describes the present war as the greatest crisis that ever shook the world, and at the same time pleaded for every pound that private and public economy can provide, and a few days after that plea was published in the Press, during the Christmas and New Year holidays, in seven days, the total amount invested at 21 race meetings in various parts of the Dominion reached the high total of £851,705. No wonder some of our prominent newspapers brand such an outlay in war time as a "National Scandal," and yet the newspapers are doing nothing to check it. The gambling evil in this country is largely facilitated by the publication of racing handicaps and betting odds. Let all such items be deleted from the columns of the Press, and there

might be some shrinkage in the amount of gambling. Then, too, it seems as if the Government were hand in glove with the racing fraternity, for the Press reported no less than five members of the Cabinet, with the Governor of State, as present on the Riccarton Racecourse. While this is done it is worse than useless talking economy to the people. While condemning men in high places, I want to ask if we ourselves are innocent? We would not dream of patronising the racecourse, but do we patronise the raffles for patriotic purposes? School children are being corrupted by this means. To desire a property, a motor car, or any other valuable article for is an offence against morality, and we should be guiltless of such offences.

I am pleased to note the progress of the L.T.L. during the year. I hope that the Unions in every district will strive to organise the young people into temperance bands of some sort. If we are to save the nation, we must begin with the children. They are the future voters, citizens, and statesmen. Let us win them as workers in our cause to-day, and they will be the leaders in the glorious tomorrow of National Prohibition. The present war has taught us many lessons, among them the value of training, of organisation, and of a fully equipped army of strong men. We need the same if we are to win out this fight, so must not neglect the training of children, and preparing them to be leaders of our forces in the future.

Our Losses.

It would be almost impossible to make a list of the many among us who have lost loved ones in the war, nor could I make mention of all our sisters who have gone to higher service during the year that is past. First of all, we remember with affection our sister, Mrs Oldham, of Napier, who for several years, as Editor of the "White Ribbon," and during her life in New Zealand in many ways, was a zealous worker in the ranks of our Union and for the cause of Temperance. The passing of Mrs Cameron has left a big gap in our ranks. For some years she was the Secretary of the South Dunedin Union, but was better known throughout the Dominion as an active and earnest worker of the Good Templar Order, having been a Grand Lodge officer for twenty-one years. Strange that Mrs Harris, one time President of the South Dunedin Union, and closely associated with Mrs Cameron in Good Templar work, and well known in both temperance and church circles as "Mother in Israel," passed away at her home in Timaru only a few weeks before her co-worker. From the same Union we lost another member, one who was never before the public as a worker, but who left a large family of sons and daughters trained in the principles of total abstinence and clean living. I refer to Mrs McCarthy, mother of our Na-