

Mrs Atkinson, seconding the resolution, said that a long time ago, before women had the franchise, she had studied books on the question, and one sentence had always remained with her as aptly expressing the principle, "a right to elect without a right to be elected is a knife without a handle." She had not thought much then, but since that time she had been driven to see that women must be admitted to Parliament, for both the Parliament at Home, and the Parliament here had shown such blindness, such want of common-sense in dealing with the Liquor Traffic. For example, in 6 o'clock closing movement, the petition of 60,000 electors received short shrift; that of 100,000 electors had no chance of being granted. But it was impossible to get out of Parliament anything better than you put in; and a Parliament so largely composed of brewers and their supporters could have little sympathy with reform. Would a mixed Parliament have refused to restrict gambling and race meetings in this time of stress? In Auckland alone, during the Christmas and New Year races, £257,958 went through the totalisator, an increase of £21,000 on the previous year. People can spend money in gambling! Yet these things we could cut off without difficulty. No trade is so beggarly to labour as the Liquor Traffic. Brewing gives £7 to labour, where mining gives £50. The speaker concluded with an impassioned appeal for united, effective action in dealing with these evils for the sake of our boys who have gone to the Front, many of whom have made the supreme sacrifice for the Empire. With an eloquence that went straight to the heart of every one that heard her, she pleaded that the sacrifices of the fathers and the mothers must not be disregarded, nor the sufferings and loss of their sons go for nothing, but that we for whom they had given themselves should see to it that the Dominion, the Empire, was worth such sacrifice, and that the land should be a purer, nobler home for them to return to when the great struggle should be over.

The resolution was put and carried unanimously, after which an initiatory service was held, when about a dozen joined the Union.

The meeting then closed in the usual way.

THE STRENGTH OF THE NATION MOVEMENT.

Beloved Comrades,—We are having the mightiest stirring since Convention that we have ever had, I think. Our Manifesto has appeared in every important paper in the Dominion. We have had one donation of £10, and have spent £84. Of course, I am not going to let our W.C.T.U. exchequer bear any of the burden, but we look to God in the financial, as well as the other phases of our great advance movement. Here is a little of work done during the month:

Manifesto and letters printed and despatched to all parts of North Island. Interviews with Mayors, doctors, Efficiency Board member and Chairman, Sir James Allen, and others. Fine meeting in Wellington called by the Mayoress, another in Theatre. Manifesto printed in large size in "Herald," "Star," "War Cry," "Vanguard," "Methodist Times," "Outlook," Wellington "Post," "Dominion," "Press," "Lyttelton Times," "Otago Daily Times," "Otago Star," "Southland Times," and "Daily News."

South Island organised, finishing with fine Working Bee in Invercargill on May 2nd, when Manifestos were sent to Mayor and Councillors, headmasters of schools, Patriotic Committees, Friendly Societies, ministers of every denomination, and every organisation we could reach.

The Presbytery of Scoych Dinnes graciously granted me audience, and promised every help. Our prayers have begun in all directions, and in a few days God may lead us out of homes and churches to pray as our brave pioneers had to do—in streets and public bars.

I have spoken to Commissioner Hodder, and he has promised the help of the Army in our fight against Drink, so if we have to go forth to show how desperately in earnest we are, we may have not our own 5000 women, but 20,000 to hold up praying hands to God, and break down the awful walls of Drinkdom in New Zealand.

Sisters, there must be no turning back now. "Our God shall fight for us." "Whatsoever He saith unto you do it."

I am willing to go to prison and to death for God and our people. **Are you?**

We have so often sang "Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus." Will you stand now in this time of testing that is coming, or will you fail Him just when He needs you? **Pray, Pray, Pray.** Call your neighbours together. Get your little ones around you, or pray alone; but Oh! Comrades, pray with such passionate pleading that you will shake heaven and earth. Read Psalm 18, and cry unto God as David did, till God shall bow the Heavens and come down.

BESSIE LEE-COWIE.

TEMPERANCE INSTRUCTION IN SCHOOLS.

Wellington,

18th April, 1917.

Dear Madam,—With reference to the representations made by the deputation from the N.Z. Women's Christian Temperance Union, which waited upon me at Auckland on the 29th ultimo, urging that scientific temperance instruction in public schools be made compulsory instead of optional as at present, I desire to inform you that one of the amendments to the syllabus, recently gazetted specifies that all teachers are to make a special record in their work-book of temperance lessons given to their classes. This will ensure that such lessons are duly attended to. During the complete revision of the syllabus, which will take place later in year, it is hoped to outline a definite course of temperance instruction.

With respect to the request of the deputation that students in Training Colleges should be thoroughly grounded in the subject of scientific temperance before being sent out to teach, you will be pleased to learn that the Department has recently ordered a large supply of charts and instruction books from the W.C.T.U. of Illinois, and it is proposed to forward some of these to the Training Colleges in order that young teachers may be shown how to deal with the subject.—Yours faithfully,

J. A. HANAN.

Miss Henderson,
Corresponding Secretary,
Women's Christian Temperance
Union,
Fendalton, Christchurch.