

munity, and is disastrous to the welfare of the children.—Carried.

Resolved that Miss Ruth Atkinson be asked to represent New Zealand at the Triennial Conference of the British Overseas Dominions Suffrage Union, to be held at London in June, 1918.

Resolved that £10 should be voted to President from N.Z. Treasury to meet incidental expenses, as telephone bureau charges, etc.

Resolved that the Corresponding Secretary be provided with a telephone, cost to be borne by N.Z. Treasury.

Recommendations of Executive re Life Membership in the W.C.T.U. adopted as follow:—

(1) That life membership in the N.Z. National Union be granted on payment of £5 to the National Fund.

(2) That any member of the W.C.T.U., on donating the sum of £20 or more to a local Union, will become a life member of the local Union, and a Dominion life member provided that:

(a.) Five pounds of the sum be handed to the N.Z. Treasury.

(b.) A special badge, already designed (cost £1), be presented to the donor.

(c.) The balance of the money, after paying for the badge, be retained for the use of the local Union.

(3) That gentlemen honorary members may become honorary Dominion life members on payment of £5 or more to the N.Z. Treasury.

(4) That the life membership roll be printed each year in the Convention number.

Session closed as usual.

WEDNESDAY MORNING, MARCH 20th.

Devotions. Favourite hymns. (Mrs Judson and Miss Powell).

Roll call, 88. Minutes read and confirmed.

Collection at Tuesday evening's meeting, £3 10s; also donation of £1 from Mr Parata to N.Z. Treasury.

Sub-Committee (Mrs Peryman, Mrs Evans, and Miss Henderson) appointed to prepare examination syllabus for young women training for Organisers, syllabus to be published in "White Ribbon," if possible in May number.

Sub-Committee (Mrs Bendely and Mrs Evans) appointed to consider scheme for Old Age Pensions for paid workers of the Union. Both Sub-Committees to report at next Convention.

Special Patriotic Effort for 1918.—Executive recommended Y.M.C.A. hutment for the Front or help for Y.M.C.A. street patrol work in London. After discussion, it was carried:

That £1000 be collected by the W.C.T.U., to be administered by the Y.M.C.A., for a hutment for the use of soldiers at the Front, such hutment to be called the "N.Z. White Ribboners' Hut," and that any surplus money be devoted to the Y.M.C.A. street patrol work in London.

Reports.—Legal and Parliamentary discussed and adopted.

Resolved that a letter of thanks and appreciation be sent from Convention to Dr. Newman and those members who supported him in blocking the compulsory clauses of the Social Hygiene Bill.

Suggested that if possible a Conference of Women Workers should be held in Wellington before Parliament meets, so that a common platform might be drawn up.

Mrs Sheppard moved the following:

That the consideration of the Government be asked for the following statement:—

That the general, social, economic, and moral aspects of government affect women equally with men.

That certain functions of government, such as those associated with Hygiene, Social Purity, Neglected Children, Guardianship of Children, Orphanages, Education, and others, have a special interest for mothers and other women.

That the Parliament of 1893, in denying women the right possessed by every male elector of whatever nationality, namely, the right to represent an electorate, not only deprived them of the full benefit of the franchise, but also deprived the electorates of a right previously enjoyed, that is to say, the right of a free choice of a representative.

That the modern trend of Democratic Government has been towards giving the freest and fullest right to every citizen.

That by reason of there being no women in Parliament to represent their sex, repeated requests for women Justices of the Peace, equal pay for equal work, women jurors, women police, the equal co-guardianship of children, the raising of the age of consent, the better protection of our young women and children, and many other reforms, have been ignored or refused by the Government of the day.

That the Government be asked whether it will cause such an alteration in the law as will give electorates the right to elect a woman representative to Parliament.

That the Legal and Parliamentary Superintendent should request each Branch Union of the W.C.T.U. to forward to its member of Parliament a copy of these statements and resolutions, and ask whether such M.P. will support this alteration in the law.—Carried.

Noonide devotions (Mrs Bardsley).

The President apologised to Mrs Kyneton Parkes and Miss Roberts for omission of a vote of thanks at the public meeting the previous evening.

A hearty vote of thanks was passed by Convention to these ladies for their valuable addresses and paper.

Mrs Parkes responded, and offered to help Unions by drawing-room meetings, or in any other way possible, during her stay in New Zealand.

Report on Anti-gambling adopted.

Session closed as usual.

Wednesday Afternoon.

Devotions (Mrs Hills).

Roll call, 87. Official autograph book brought forward for signatures. Minutes read and confirmed.

Greetings from Rakaia and from officers of Order of Rechabites in Auckland.

Resolutions from Resolutions Committee:

6. Convention urges that any amendment of the nationality laws of the Empire should include, in those parts of the British Empire where such amendment is necessary, the grant to women of the right to retain their British nationality on marriage with an alien, a right enjoyed by them under the laws of the United Kingdom until 1870. It calls on Government to introduce a measure to provide that a woman shall not, on marriage with an alien, be deprived of her nationality against her will, but that she shall be given the same choice of nationality as a man; and further, recognising the desirability and importance of securing Imperial uniformity of policy and action, it urges the Government to instruct its delegates to the next Imperial Conference to vote in favour of recommending the adoption of similar laws throughout the Empire.—Carried.

On motion of Mrs Field, resolution passed at last Dominion Convention re health certificate before marriage, was rescinded.

Mrs Field then moved the following:—That the time has arrived when, in order to promote public health, all men and women should produce a certificate of health from a doctor before a marriage certificate can be issued. In the event of one of the parties to an intended marriage refusing to fulfil his or her engagement because of the refusal of the other to produce the health certificate, no action for breach of promise shall lie.—Carried.

Mrs Judson moved the following:—

Seeing that our boys are now fighting for liberty, justice, and righteousness, we, the women of the W.C.T.U., desire that our Union shall stand for liberty of conscience for every man who truly bases his life and action on the supremacy of conscience, and we pray that the Government shall so amend the military regulations as to secure to all the liberty which is the birthright of every man and woman in a free country.

After some discussion, the following amendment was carried:—That no resolution on the conscientious objectors be passed by this Convention of the W.C.T.U.

Miss Macarthy moved:

That in view of the fact that much unnecessary suffering is caused by the want of special mental hospitals for temporary and mild cases of mental derangement, this Convention urge the establishment, in each of the main centres, of suitable hospitals for such cases. In support of this request, we would point out that among the soldiers who are returning invalided there is a proportion of mental cases