

WOMEN'S Christian Temperance Union Of New Zealand.

Organised 1885.

"For God and Home and Humanity."

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The White Ribbon.

For God and Home and Humanity

WELLINGTON, JUNE 18, 1918.

WOMEN POLICE.

THE KELBURN RAID.

"If at first you don't succeed,
Try, try, try again."

"They never fail who dare to try
again."

Again and again have we urged upon the Cabinet the necessity for the appointment of Women Police, but like the importunate widow, we intend to keep on until, by our continual coming, we weary them into granting us this measure of justice.

The Kelburn case has shown once more the need of:—

(1) Women Police, to prevent, less than to punish. Had capable women police had charge of that case, the girls who were discharged "not guilty" would have been warned and prevented from the shame of public arrest, search, and in one instance

submitting to a medical examination to prove her innocence.

(2) Women Magistrates to try all cases where women and girls are concerned.

(3) Separate Courts for women and children.

These things are established and doing fine work in the United States and Canada. Magna Charta conferred upon every man the right to be tried by his peers. We want a new Magna Charta for women, giving them the right which every man has of being tried by their own sex.

There are other features in this case which call for strong protest, notably the double standard observed by the police. If prostitution is a crime for a woman, it is equally so for a man, and the police should have arrested men as well as women. Women must fight for perfect equality of treatment for both sexes.

Upon one point the Magistrate disbelieved the constable's evidence. Yet he condemned the women largely on that man's evidence. The whole method of dealing with immorality is opposed to all reason. Alarmed at the spread of venereal disease, the Cabinet makes drastic regulations. It does not aim to keep the soldier moral, but by giving the police power to enter any woman's home, to subject women to any infamy, it strives to make vice safe for men. Solicitation and prostitution must be made crimes for both sexes, or for neither sex. We who are strong must help our weaker sisters, and permit no injustice to be done them.

Wherever wrong is done, to the meanest and the weakest,
Beneath the all-beholding sun, that
wrong is done to us,
And they are slaves most base, whose
love of right
Is for themselves alone, and not for
all the race.

WOMEN'S MEETING, HELD IN THE CONCERT CHAMBER OF THE TOWN HALL, WELLING- TON, ON SATURDAY AFTER- NOON, JUNE 8th, 1918.

A public meeting of women interested in social questions was held on Saturday, June 8th, at 2.30, to discuss various reforms urgently needed in legislation affecting women and children. The meeting was called by

Lady Stout, and on the platform with her were Mrs Harverson, Mrs Donaldson, Miss England, Miss Coad, and Miss Nicholls.

The hall was full, and from the outset it was evident that the large audience was not unanimous in its opinions and sympathies. At times there were frequent interruptions, especially from several ladies, who were anxious to voice their opinions or express dissent. Good humour prevailed, however, and the interruptions gave zest and liveliness to the proceedings in contrast to the order and decorum that usually mark women's meetings.

Letters or telegrams of support and approval were read from Mrs Sheppard (Christchurch), Mrs Hiatt (Dunedin), The Civic League (Auckland), and Canon Curzon-Siggers (Dunedin), and later on from the Christchurch Branch of the National Council. The chair was occupied by Mrs W. A. Evans, who pointed out that the present agitation for legislative reforms was no new thing, but had been carried on for years by the Society for the Protection of Women and Children, the Women's Christian Temperance Union and other Women's Societies. The object of the meeting was in no way to suggest or urge interference with the course of justice in the late trials resulting from the Kelburn raid, but to take advantage of the public interest aroused by them to press once more for the reforms already urgently and frequently demanded. The aim and object of these reforms might be summed up as three—(1) to obtain equality of punishment for similar crimes, regardless of sex; (2) to secure better measures of protection for women and girls, both for those who have already fallen into crime, and those who are in danger of drifting into it through ignorance and inexperience; (3) to ensure that punishment of the wrong-doers should be better adapted to restore them to the status of respectable law-abiding citizens.

The first speaker was Lady Stout, who, after acknowledging the many courtesies and concessions accorded to the Women's Societies by the Magistrate in the recent trials, went on to show from the evidence that there was great need for more protection from the powers given to the police under the War Regulations. She referred to the excellent results of the appointment of women police in Canada and other countries, and urged that men must rise to the standard of morality expected from women, if