

We are prepared to open a social room and bear all the current expense of running the same, in each area where a staff of women patrols are working, which will act as a base from which you can operate.

As you are aware, already we are doing this work with men street patrols, but we are convinced that there is a great work which only women like yourselves can do, and we are anxious to build up this new department.

Wishing you every success, and assuring you of our heartiest co-operation if it be found possible for you to remain here to continue the work.—Believe me, yours sincerely,

(Sgd.) CYRIL BAIN,

Organising Secretary.

We ask our readers who is most likely to know: the men who come in daily contact with these women, and know how efficiently they are doing their work, or the Minister of Justice in a Dominion so backward that it has no police woman in it?

The late Minister for Justice, Sir James Allen, told a deputation who approached him on this question that he had sought information as to the work of women police from Great Britain and America, and the replies he got were that they were doing eminently satisfactory work.

The present Minister of Justice told the deputation that he knew nothing of that report. Pity such information should be pigeon-holed by one Minister and not available to his successor. Mr Wilford has missed a great opportunity. He might have been looked upon by posterity as the far-seeing Minister who instituted a great reform. But he was unable to rise to such a height. He may delay, but cannot stop this reform. He is an up-to-date Mrs Partington, trying to stop the onrush of the mighty Atlantic billows with a tiny mop. When the first locomotive was running its trial trip, George Stevenson was asked what would happen if a cow got on the railway line before the advancing train. The great man replied that it would be bad "for the cow." It will always be bad for men, even Cabinet Ministers, to get in the way of the advancing car of Women's Freedom, the Freedom to do whatever she can do well.

CANTERBURY PROVINCIAL CONVENTION.

September 3rd and 4th. Executive meeting on Tuesday afternoon, and Reception to Delegates in the Town Hall in the evening. Mrs Ryde, local President, presided, and welcomed the Delegates. Addresses of welcome were given by Mr Hawke, Chairman of County Council, and by the local clergy. Mrs T. E. Taylor replied on behalf of the Delegates, and thanked the speakers for their words of welcome.

Business began on Wednesday at 9.30 a.m., in the Coronation Hall. Twenty Delegates answered the roll call. Reports from Provincial Secretary and from Christchurch, Ashburton, Timaru, Waimate, Lyttelton, New Brighton, Kaiapoi, and Oxford Unions. Timaru, Ashburton, and Oxford all report strong Y Branches. Kaiapoi reports 202 Band of Hope members. All Branches report good work for Patriotic Funds. Several Unions reported work in Social Hygiene Department. Christchurch gave £10 to Nurse Chappell's campaign. Winchmore and Tinwald have large and increasing Cradle Rolls.

Afternoon Session at 2 p.m.

Following resolutions were passed: (1) The members of the Convention express their strong indignation at the attitude taken by the Hon. T. M. Wilford, Minister of Justice, in refusing to support the appointment of women magistrates, women jurors and women police in the different branches of Departmental work under his control, would respectfully remind him that the women of New Zealand will never cease their agitation for the above reforms until they are appointed with men to investigate cases where women and children are concerned.

(2) This Convention is of the opinion that in cases where the police make a raid upon premises suspected of being used for immoral purposes, the men as well as the women found thereon should be made equally responsible and punishable. The present Regulation which provides for the arrest of the women only are a direct recognition of a double standard of morality.

(3) This Convention is opposed to the present system of altering the

boundaries of electorates after taking the census, being against the best interests of the electors, making it impossible to maintain that community of interest, which is the mainspring of an intelligent participation in public affairs.

(4) That more vigorous censorship should be exercised over picture films which glorify crime and animal passions, and urge that the proposed assistant censor who is to be appointed should be a woman.

(5) That the Government be urged to extend the 6 o'clock closing, so that it may apply to packet licenses on ferry steamers.

The following were passed re Educational System:—

(1) Age limit for compulsory education to be raised over 14 years.

(2) A more thorough medical inspection should be carried out in the schools, and that free dental treatment be provided for the children attending primary schools.

(3) That some of the School Inspectors be women.

(4) That Government be asked to secure a better carrying out of the compulsory clauses of the Education Act.

(5) That special provision be made for deficient children.

(6) That the Education Department provide for payment of travelling of all children who ride to school, and of proficiency certificate holders travelling to high schools.

The following officers were elected: President, Mrs T. E. Taylor; Secretary and Treasurer, Mrs W. Lill; Vice-President, Mrs Rule.

A Paper on Social Hygiene, written by Mrs Bagley, was read.

Three members joined the Union.

Evening Session at 7.30 was attended by many visitors.

A Paper, "How We Won the Franchise," was read by Mrs Lill, and an interesting address on the present campaign by Miss Henderson. A number of questions by local workers were answered.

A resolution was passed urging the Alliance to arrange for Mrs Don to come at once and help in the campaign, speaking at meetings in the Canterbury Province.

Convention closed with thanks to the hosts, hostesses, and the local Union, and the singing of the Temperance Doxology.