

the liquor trade that they were prepared to ask the Government to pay compensation and give them prohibition without waiting four and a-half years for it.

The Rev. F. H. Bennett presented a petition signed by 4146 members of the Maori race. They had no vote, and they came as children to a father asking for protection from this deadly evil. He pleaded eloquently for protection for a "dying race."

The Premier, in reply, said that the liquor question must be dealt with. The petition would be referred to Cabinet. He had no desire to postpone legislation. Legislation must follow at the earliest possible date. For himself and on behalf of Cabinet, he promised them a straight run for their proposals.

Sir Joseph Ward said that the suggested compensation to the Trade had cleared the way for many public men; it had for himself. He believed it had made the way open for the expression of public opinion, and made possible a straightforward decision as to whether the liquor trade should continue in this country or not.

The prospects look rosy for a Referendum being taken in the near future, and then will come the tug-of-war. Get to work at once to place voters on the roll, always carry enrolment forms in your bag. We cannot afford to lose one vote through carelessness or lack of effort.

Muster all our forces, and make this a fight to a finish.

GOLDEN WEDDING.

On the evening of October 31st the Christchurch Union celebrated the golden wedding of one of its oldest members, Mrs Israelson. There was a large attendance of members and friends. Mrs T. E. Taylor presided, and welcomed Mr and Mrs Israelson in the name of the Union. Congratulatory speeches were delivered by Miss Henderson, Mrs Bunt, Mrs Wilson, and Rev. J. Cocker. An enjoyable programme of musical and elocutionary items was given. Supper was dispensed, after which the wedding cake was cut and handed round. Mrs Israelson was presented with an autograph album, in which were inscribed the names of the officers and members of the Union. The gathering closed with the singing of "Auld Lang Syne."

AUCKLAND CONVENTION.

The District Convention was held on Wednesday, October 30th, in the Central Mission Hall. Mrs Cook presided. The influenza epidemic made a difference to the attendance, but there was a very good gathering of delegates.

Mrs Reuben Bailey conducted the devotional meeting at 10 in the morning. Mrs Cook welcomed the delegates, and spoke a few inspiring words. After the roll call and minutes, reports were received from the following Unions:—Auckland, Onehunga, Devonport, Ponsonby, Otahuhu, Birkenhead, Takapuna, Avondale, Papatoetoe, Eden, Grey Lynn, Tauranga, Opotiki, Warkworth, Matakana, Pakiri, Henderson, and City and Avondale Y Unions. Several Unions did not send reports.

The reports were of a most encouraging nature, and showed good work had been accomplished. All had done a great deal of patriotic work in connection with minesweepers, hutment, sending cakes to the boys in camp, days at the Soldiers' Club, Red Cross, etc. All had been busy canvassing with the petition. Tauranga Union has collected £70 for minesweepers.

A vote of sympathy was passed to Mrs Witten, President of Matakana Union, in the lamentable death of her husband and son by drowning.

The afternoon session opened at 2 p.m. Mrs Jory, of Birkenhead, conducted devotions.

Mrs W. J. Taylor, Recording Secretary, read a splendid paper on "How We Won the Franchise," written by Mrs Lill, of Ashburton. A vote of thanks was passed to Mrs Lill for her excellent paper.

A discussion followed, several taking part. The following resolution was passed, to be forwarded to the Premier and members of Parliament:—"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."

Adjutant Gordon, of the Salvation Army, and Mrs Moody then gave addresses on the social question. Afternoon tea was dispensed.

During the day the following resolutions were passed:—

"The members of the Auckland District Convention wish to thank Sir James Allen, Minister for Defence, for the legislation passed closing the

liquor bars on the arrival of a troopship, but would earnestly plead that the area of prohibition be extended, and that all hotels be placed out of bounds."

"The members of Convention disapprove of the sentiments expressed by the Minister of Justice in regard to women police. Knowing that in the Salvation Army and other organisations there are women whose special training fits them for that work."

"The Convention views with satisfaction the change of attitude in regard to the women of England, when the House of Commons voted 274 to 25 that they should be eligible for membership to Parliament."

"That this District Convention urges upon Parliament the great need of giving to the people an early opportunity of voting by ballot upon the recommendations of the Government-appointed Efficiency Board. Even while we fail to see why the Trade should receive compensation for not being allowed to continue its work of destruction, we are so anxious to give Prohibition a trial that we will agree to the Efficiency Board's proposal for reasonable money compact in lieu of the four years' time now provided for in the Licensing Act."

The evening session was held in the W.C.T.U. Headquarters at 7.30. We had a very interesting evening with the "Y" Unions. Miss Parkinson, ex-President of the city "Y," presided after devotions.

Musical items were given by Mrs Chapman and Miss Thomas, and a recitation by Miss Stevens. Miss Stevens, President of Avondale "Y," read a paper on "Industrial Womanhood and the W.C.T.U." Miss Bottrill, Corresponding Secretary City "Y," read a paper on "Women and Economics." Both were very instructive. A very helpful discussion on the work among young people followed, several taking part.

The President of the new "Y" Branch at Papatoetoe spoke a few words. This Branch was just the new baby organised by Mrs Napier, and has a membership of 38. The members are full of enthusiasm, and anxious to grow and become a power in the district.

Mrs Cook, District W.C.T.U. President, spoke a few encouraging and inspiring words to the girls, urging them to consecrate their lives to the uplifting of humanity. A very pleasant and profitable evening, and Convention was then brought to a close.