

Correspondence.

(The Editor is not responsible for opinions expressed by correspondents.)

WOMEN IN PARLIAMENT.

Dear Editor,—Will you allow me space to explain the position with regard to our efforts to secure an amendment of the Legislature Act so as to enable women to sit in Parliament? The statements made by the Right Hon. W. F. Massey are likely to cause some misunderstanding among our members, for he completely ignores the fact that a Bill had been introduced by Mr McCombs on the first day of the session. Briefly, the history of the agitation is as follows:

At our last Convention a lengthy resolution was passed, setting forth the claims of women to full election rights, and asking the Government to introduce the necessary legislation. As the session of Parliament approached, I sent a copy of the resolution to every Union, accompanying it with a request that the Union would send it to the local member of Parliament, and ask him if he would support the demand. I also forwarded copies to Mr Massey and Sir Joseph Ward, and asked that the necessary legislation should be passed during the session then proceeding. The answers were of the usual kind—mere acknowledgments of my letter. I again wrote to Mr Massey, and said that what the Union wanted was an assurance that the Government would either introduce the legislation itself or give the House the fullest opportunity for discussion of the Bill which had already been introduced. Mr Massey replied that the matter was one for the Cabinet, and that when it had been dealt with a pronouncement would be made.

Mr McCombs' Bill was set down for its second reading on November 27th, being the first item of business on the order paper for that day. On that date, however, no opportunity was given for the second reading, the whole time being occupied with Governmental business. On the following day, November 28th, a supplementary order paper gave notice that when the Legislative Council Amendment Bill was in committee, Mr McCombs would move the addition of certain clauses. The object of the new clauses was to give women the right to sit in Parliaments. As the Bill was not taken to Committee till December 5, the members had eight days in which to make themselves acquainted with the significance of the proposed amendment. Under these circumstances it is rather hard to believe that members did not understand what they were voting about. Now, I think I have said enough to show how much sincerity there is in Mr Massey's protestations that the amendment was a decidedly irregular and unconstitu-

tional way of dealing with a great policy question, and that "a Bill should have been introduced preferably in the House." And after all, Mr Massey has not promised that he will bring down a Bill next session. But we mean to have one, he can be assured of that. Meantime we must not let the question rest. Members of Parliament must be made to understand that we mean business. Every Union should see to it that the local Member of Parliament knows that his vote is being watched.

Just one other point before I close. If all the members who voted for the amendment on December 5th had voted for it again on December 7th, the probability is that it would now be law; but 12 absented themselves from the division on the second occasion, and the amendment was defeated.

C. HENDERSON,

N.Z. Legal and Parliamentary Supt.

HAVELOCK—AUGUST 16th, 1918.

A name and date upon this page

A hand is writing here;

Strange that the mind which guides the hand

Ere long will disappear.

The writing traced hereon may live

When hand and mind are gone,

The hand returned to kindred dust,

The Mind—will it live on?

Its whence or whither none may know,

Or what its history;

Its coming or its going are

Involved in mystery.

We live, we suffer and enjoy,

Nor know the reason why;

In vain we try to solve it, till

The end comes and we die.

We die! We wonder what is Death?

Is it the end? Ah! no,

'Tis but the passing of the breath

That bids the spirit go.

Unseen, impalpable, and yet

A something that's within,

Says "with the shedding of the clay

A new life will begin."

All we can do is wait, and wish

It free of earthly ills;

Man lives and dies, and in the end

His destiny fulfils.

—W.H.S.

Auckland District, 2nd & 4th Wednesday, 1.30 p.m. W.C.T.U. Headquarters, Wesleyan Chambers, Wellesley Street (entrance Lorne St.); Pres., Mrs. Cook, Point St., Mt. Eden; Cor. Sec., Miss N. Dewar, Pompallier Terr., Ponsonby; Rec. Sec., Mrs. J. W. Taylor, Sentinel Rd., Ponsonby; Treas., Miss J. Dewar, Pompallier Terrace; "W.R." Agent, Mrs. Neilson, 78 Esplanade Road, Mt. Eden.

Avondale, 3rd Tuesday, 2 p.m. Brown Street Methodist Church. Pres., Mrs. Stevens; Rec. Sec., Miss B. Gittos; Cor. Sec., Mrs. Proctor; Treas., Mrs. Walker; W.R. Agent, Mrs. Morgan.

Auckland, Y's.—Last Monday at 7.45 p.m. in W.C.T.U. Headquarters. Pres., Miss Alice Parkinson; Vice-Presidents, Misses I. Cook, and O. Scott; Supt., Mrs. Perrett, Market Road, Epsom; Rec. Sec., Miss Hazel Patterson; Cor. Sec., Miss M. Bottrill, 31 Arthur St., Ponsonby; Treas., Miss D. Stubbs, Shoal Bay Rd., Devonport; "W.R." Supt., Miss I. Sussex.

Ashburton, 1st Tuesday, 2.45 p.m. in Baring Square Schoolroom; Pres., Mrs. W. T. Lill; Cor. Sec., Mrs. C. Holland; Rec. Sec., Miss Trevvarza, 169 Peter Street; Treas., Mrs. W. J. Brown, Walnut Av.; "W.R." Supt., Miss Butterick, Wakanui.

Avondale Y's, 3rd Wednesday, 7.45 p.m. in Ante-room, Town Hall. Pres. Miss Elsie Stevens, Vice-Pres., Misses Ada Adams, Lilla Russel & Rowley Rec. Sec., Miss G. Wright; Cor. Sec., Miss L. Morey Treas. Miss A. Douthwaite; W.R. Supt. Miss R. Thomas; Y. Supt; Mrs. Pirrett, Market Rd., Epsom.

Blenheim District, 1st Tuesday, 8 p.m. Pres. Mrs. A. J. Litchfield, Livermere; Sec. Mrs. H. S. Horn Springlands, Blenheim; Treas., Mrs. Hay, Stephenson St.; Mothers' Meeting and Cradle Roll, Mesdames Brewer and Hancock; W.R. Agent, Mrs. W. Parker, Grove Rd.

Cambridge, 1st Tuesday, in month in Victoria Hall, at 8 p.m. Pres., Mrs. A. T. Watson; Sec. Mrs. Clark, Methodist Parsonage; Treas., Miss Clark, Hall Street; Cradle Roll, Mrs. W. Hogan; W.R. Agent, Mrs. A. T. Watson.

Christchurch W.C.T.U. Rooms, 247 Manchester St., opp. His Majesty's Theatre. Second and fourth Wednesday; Pres., Mrs. T. E. Taylor, Cashmere Hills; Cor. Sec., Mrs. R. Day, Milford St., St. Albans; Rec. Sec., Miss Bishop, 12 Bealey St.; Treas., Mrs. Patterson, 346 Worcester St., Linwood; Asst. Treas., Miss Gordon, Holly Lea, Manchester St.; "W.R." Supt., Mrs. Drinnan, 11, Brown St., St. Albans.

Dannevirke, 2nd Wednesday, Wesleyan Schoolroom, 8 p.m. Pres., Mrs. W. F. Knight, Tahoraiti; Sec., Mrs. Wiseman, High St.; Treas., Miss Burdett, The Manse.

Dunedin District, 1st Tuesday, No-license Rooms, Moray Place, 3 p.m. Pres., Mrs. Hiatt, 72, Heriot Row; Cor. Sec., and Press Cor., Mrs. Macartney, 156, Eglinton Road, Mornington; Rec. Sec., Nurse Williamson; Supt. WHITE RIBBON, Mrs. Anderson, 82, Duke St; Treas., Mrs. Young, Bishops Court, Roslyn.

Devonport, Second Thursday, Wesleyan Schoolroom, 2.30 p.m. Pres., Mrs. Barr, Victoria Rd., Vice-Presidents, Mesdames Budd, Elliot, Sheppard, George and Young; Sec., Mrs. Burnett, Jubilee Av.; Treas., and Supt. W.R., Miss Le Roy, Waterview Rd., Stanley Bay; Supt. Cradle Roll, Miss Lillwall.

Fitzroy, last Friday, 2.30 p.m. Methodist Church Pres., Mrs. A. Hayward, 834, Devon Street, Fitzroy; Sec. Mrs. L. Gray, 638, Devon Street East New Plymouth; Treas., Miss Tolme, Chilman St., Fitzroy; W.R. Agent, Mrs. J. Kibby, Clemow St., Fitzroy.

Feilding, 1st Thursday, 8 p.m. St. Paul's Hall; Pres., Miss Moore, c/o Mr. W. H. Bain, Feilding; Rec. Sec., Miss Jordan, c/o Mr. H. Feild; Cor. Sec., Mrs. C. J. Thompson, Denbigh Street; Treas., re Williamson, The Hill; "W.R." Agent, Mrs. Burnley; Railway Box, Mrs. Shearer.

Gisborne District, last Tuesday, 2.45 p.m. Presbyterian Schoolrooms; Pres., Mrs. Goffe, Ormond Rd.; Sec., Mrs. F. S. Malcolm, Gladstone Rd.; Treas., Mrs. F. J. Wilkes, 466 Gladstone Rd.

Greymouth District, last Tuesday at 3 p.m. in Sailor's Rest Hall; Pres., Mrs. Gaskin; Sec. Mrs. Mason, Cobden; Treas., Mrs. Sweetman, White Ribbon Agent, Mrs. T. Brown; Cradle Roll and Band of Hope, Mrs. Stewart and Mrs. Perry.

Greytown, Last Tuesday at 2.30 p.m. in Presbyterian Sunday School. President, Mrs. Whincop, Gasworks; Secretary, also W.R. Agent, pro tem., Mrs. Banks, Humphreys St.; Treas., Mrs. Boucher, Humphreys St.; Vice-Pres., Mesdames Quin and A. Haigh.

Hamilton District, first Thursday, Wesley Class Rooms, 2.30 p.m. Pres., Mrs. J. T. Horne, Clifton Road; Sec., Mrs. W. H. Paul, Clandlands; Treas., Mrs. E. J. Davey, London Street; W.R. Agent, Mrs. Gaulton, Rosstrevor Street