

to study subjects connected with duties and responsibilities of citizenship. The Nelson Union also aided in gaining improved picture programmes for children; two special programmes were given, and largely attended by children.

Other activities are reported as follows:—Deputations to the Police Inspector regarding the opening of refreshment rooms on Sunday, and to the Town Council re the censorship of posters on hoardings (Greymouth); the oversight and improvement of women's rest rooms (Ashburton); visiting the Hospital and Old Men's Refuge (Whangarei); help given to the St. John Ambulance Class (Pahiatua); Red Cross work and nursing during the epidemic (Ashburton and Wanganui); securing the services of St. Helen's maternity nurse (Ashburton); helping in street collections (Wanganui); securing the reopening of the Public Library (Oxford).

In conclusion, may I express the hope that, in the time of reconstruction that this year is bringing in, the Unions throughout the Dominion will endeavour to realise the responsibilities of women citizens in the remoulding of society upon a firmer, purer basis, and that each one will endeavour to take up some line of activity which may help in this great work.

LEGAL AND PARLIAMENTARY. (Superintendent: Miss Henderson.)

A great deal of work has been accomplished in this department during the year, the most important effort being that put forth in connection with the canvass for signatures to the petition asking Parliament to give effect to the Efficiency Board's proposals regarding the Prohibition of the liquor traffic. All our Unions report work in this connection, and a number were represented on the deputation which presented the petition to the leaders of Parliament.

In accordance with the decision of last Convention that the Government should be urged to pass legislation making women eligible for seats in Parliament, a circular letter was sent to every Union asking that a copy of the Convention resolution on this subject should be sent to the Member of Parliament for the district, and that he should be asked if he would support such legislation. The Prime Minister and Sir Joseph Ward were asked to introduce the necessary legislation, and the other Cabinet Ministers were asked for their support. The following Unions report that they complied with the terms of the circular letter:—Dunedin District, Otago, Balclutha, Ngaere, South Dunedin, Wanganui District, Auckland, Nelson, Ponsonby, Ashburton, Onehunga, Kaiapoi, Lower Hutt, Rakaia, Motueka, Pahiatua, Feilding, Picton, Marton, Timaru, Taihape, Christchurch, New Brighton, Tinwald, Richmond, Wellington District, Wakefield, Hawera, Gisborne, Milton, Napier, Wanganui

East and Port Chalmers. The appeal to the leaders of Parliament produced the usual reply: "The matter would receive consideration." During the Parliamentary session, however, Mr McCombs, M.P., introduced a Bill providing for the necessary amendment of the Legislative Act, but the House was not given an opportunity of considering this Bill. At a later stage when the Legislative Council Amendment Bill was before the House, Mr McCombs moved an additional clause, which would have the effect of securing what the Union was asking for; this clause passed the Lower House, but was rejected in the Legislative Council, and though a big effort was made to induce the Lower House to insist upon the inclusion of the rejected clause, the effort failed, both the Hon. W. Massey and Sir Joseph Ward being in the opposition, while some of the members who supported the clause in the first instance absented themselves from the division on the second occasion, and so helped to defeat us. Telegrams and letters of protest were forwarded to the leaders of both Houses.

Another question on which the Unions were asked to take action arose out of the notorious "Kelburn" case. The police having made a raid upon a house alleged to be used for immoral purposes, arrested all the women found there at the time, while the men present were allowed to go free. The Unions were asked to protest against the obvious recognition of a double standard of morality in carrying out the laws. The Unions which report that they took action are: Auckland, Christchurch, Nelson, Wellington District, Pakiri, Maitua, Waihi, Wellington Central, Ashburton, Onehunga, Kaiapoi, Lower Hutt, Rakaia, Oxford, Pahiatua, Feilding, Petone, Timaru, Picton, Winchmore-Greenstreet, Blenheim, Bluff, Wanganui East, N.E. Valley, Waipukurau, Invercargill District, Belfast, Tinwald, Wakapuaka, Richmond, Wakefield, Gisborne, Otahuhu, Wanganui District, Otago, Ngaere, and Port Chalmers Y's.

A comprehensive series of resolutions dealing with educational reform in the direction of providing better equipped schools, and special schools for defective children, limiting the number of children in each class, extending the provision for medical inspection of school children, making provision for free dental treatment of school children, the establishment of central schools in country districts, and the extending of the school age, were forwarded to the proper authorities by Auckland, Dunedin District, South Dunedin, Wanganui District, Wanganui East, Napier, Bluff, Nelson, Wellington District, Wellington Central, Ashburton, Lower Hutt, Hastings, Pahiatua, Feilding, Timaru, Christchurch, Wakefield, Gisborne, Otahuhu, N.E. Valley, and Waipawa.

Immediately on receipt of the news that the Armistice had been signed, telegrams were sent to all the District Unions advising that they should im-

mediately wire and urge their auxiliary unions also to wire to the Prime Minister asking that hotel bars should be closed during Peace celebrations, Auckland, Nelson, Napier, Wellington District, Christchurch, Dunedin District, Wellington Central, Ashburton, Tinwald, Onehunga, Kaiapoi, Lower Hutt, Rakaia, Feilding, Pahiatua, Timaru, Winchmore-Greenstreet, New Brighton, Gisborne, Wanganui District, Wanganui East, Bluff, all report having complied with the request.

Resolutions praying that hotel bars should be closed on the arrival of a hospital or troop ship in a New Zealand port were sent to the Minister of Defence by Auckland, Nelson, Onehunga, and Wellington District, and Avondale. Auckland also reports having sent to Sir James Allen a letter thanking him for the regulation making provision for closing the bars on such occasions, also asking that the area of prohibition should be extended. Auckland also protested against the granting of a liquor license at Taneatua, and also against Hon. T. M. Wilford's reply to the request of the New Zealand Union for the appointment of women police. This Union also joined in a deputation to the Acting-Prime Minister to protest against Miss Elsie Rout's propaganda, and to ask for her recall. In the same connection Wellington Central protested against the N.Z. Medical Club at Hornchurch being under the Expeditionary Force. Wellington Central also protested against the recent appointments to the Legislative Council. Wellington District made a strong protest against the publication of the names of the young women who were associated with the Kelburn case; and also expressed unqualified disapproval of the injustice perpetuated by the publication of the names of the women, while those of the men concerned were withheld.

Dunedin District Union protested against reports of race meetings being telegraphed through the Dominion after the closing hours of telegraph offices. Wanganui and Dunedin have advocated separate Courts for women, and Ryal Bush has protested against the granting of a license at Taneatua.

The resolutions supporting the demand for reform in our Educational System were passed by the Provincial Conventions, which met at Masterton, Stratford and Oxford. Nelson District Convention urged the throwing open of all public offices to women as well as men, and Wellington Provincial Convention forwarded to Cabinet Ministers a resolution urging that the legal age of marriage should be raised.

I have not included in my report resolutions which had been passed at the Dominion Convention and reaffirmed by Unions or Provincial Conventions, or resolutions having only a local significance.

NARCOTICS.

(Superintendent: Mrs. Boxall.)
Wanganui East.—An illustrated address, entitled "Smoker's Heart," taken