

p.m. train to Port, and having to wait till 9.30 p.m. to get a train home. Before our next visit South may there be a better train service!

HOW PROHIBITION BENEFITS A COUNTRY.

According to figures cited by Dr. George Kilne, Director of the Massachusetts State Commission on Mental Diseases, of the total number of rejections for nervous and mental disorders in the country as a whole, alcohol was responsible for 3.3 per cent.; in all New England, for 7 per cent.; in Massachusetts, for 9 per cent.; and in Maine, for only 3 per cent.

In Cleveland, Ohio, the first week of the Prohibition regime, the police records show that only six persons were brought before the "Sunrise Court." On the preceding Saturday night 214 were arrested charged with intoxication.

Nowhere were the effects of Prohibition more marked than on the famous old Bowery on the first dry Saturday. Nary a military drunk was noticed on the street that used to be their haven. The saloons that used to be jammed to the doors were sparsely filled.—"New York Herald," July 7th.

The "Baltimore Sun," in commenting upon the first dry Saturday night, says that the total number of arrests made by the police of that city was 50, and but three of these were for drunkenness. The number of arrests for the last wet Saturday night was 337. Marshall Carter, who has been in the Police Department for 35 years, is quoted as saying that 70 per cent. of the work of the Department in the last six months involved drunks, disorderly persons, assaults, and robberies, where whisky was the chief cause.

War-time Prohibition has decreased crime in Chicago 50 per cent., according to a statement on July 10 by Chief of Detectives James Mooney.

It is asserted on competent authority that, during the first eighteen months of the war more men from one of the great Powers were in the hospitals from venereal diseases than from wounds sustained on the battle-fields.—Katherine Lent Stevenson.

PARLIAMENTARY JOTTINGS.

The first week of the Session has not brought any very startling developments. The Prime Minister has not so far put forward any detailed policy as a counterblast to Sir Joseph Ward's exhaustive manifesto of Liberal aims and objects. All parties, Ministerial, Opposition, and Labour, have professed their willingness to subordinate party interests to the good of the country, and allow legislation of Dominion importance, if non-controversial, to pass without undue delay. Accordingly, as far as the Liberals were concerned, there was little or no discussion on the Address-in-Reply. The Labour party used the time-honoured opportunity for speech-making; all five members spoke. A No-Confidence motion was proposed, which found no support among the Liberals, and in the early hours of Saturday morning the debate collapsed.

Urgent matters of a national character were dealt with before the Address-in-Reply debate; the most interesting of which was that which marks the new dignity attained by New Zealand as a partner, and no longer a mere dependency, of the British Empire. In both Houses the motion for ratifying the Peace Treaty with Germany was passed early in the week, with little discussion, except from two Labour members, who opposed the ratification, and were answered by two, a Liberal and a Reform member. Naturally the speeches of the two responsible leaders were listened to with great interest, especially all that concerned Samoa and New Zealand's mandatory. As regards Finance, a Bill was passed through both Houses authorising a loan of 16½ millions for the purposes of repatriation, some for the purchase of land for settlement, some for payment of pensions, gratuities, and other methods of assisting discharged soldiers. The Opposition, not regarding this as a party measure, supported the Bill, but both Liberals and Labour members objected to the loans being free from income tax. An amendment was moved making the loans taxable, but it was defeated. In spite of protests raised in some parts of the House against the Bill being treated as a matter of urgency, it was passed through all its stages at one sitting.

On all sides the question of electoral reform is being discussed, with

reference to substituting some more satisfactory expedient than the second ballot. Proportional representation is favoured by many, but the time is too short to allow of this being introduced at the next election. Sir J. Ward's suggestion that the method should be applied first to the City and Suburban electorates would remove some of the difficulties, and the other proposal to adopt for single-member districts some system of preferential voting is regarded by one great authority on the subject as desirable, even though it is only a very small instalment of the desired reforms. But whether either will be accepted by Parliament remains to be seen.

Members have been busy, as usual, asking questions on various matters, some of which will be of interest to women electors. One wants to know whether legislation will be introduced to allow soldiers' wives to vote at the coming election, irrespective of their length of residence in New Zealand. Other questions related to grants and allowances for soldiers' widows and widowed mothers. One member wished Government to increase the maternity bonus under the Social Insurance Scheme from £4 to £6, and raise the income limit from £200 to £250. The Member for Wellington South has a great desire for returns, and amongst those he has asked for is one showing the number of soldiers and others suffering from Venereal Disease, and the precautions, if any, that are being taken by the Public Health Department to prevent the spread of the disease. Mr L. M. Isitt has asked for a return showing the number of vineyards in the Waitemata and Hawke's Bay districts, and the number of employees at these vineyards. One question, the answer to which will be eagerly looked for by the worried mothers of active, restless boys and girls, relates to the possible intention of Government to place on the market standardised boots at low rates.

PERSONAL.

We are sure all our readers will be deeply grieved to hear that our loved comrade, Mrs Lee-Cowie, is very ill at her home in Dunedin. Our sympathy and love is with our sister, and our prayer is that God may speedily restore her to take her part in the work she so much loves.