

MRS. EVA C. WHEELER.

A very pleasant function was held in Dunedin on Thursday, October 9, when the Mayoress, Miss Begg, gave a reception to welcome our White Ribbon sister from U.S.A., Mrs Eva C. Wheeler. It was held in Stuart Hall, which was very tastefully decorated. Miss Begg spoke a few words of welcome, and then asked our Dominion President, Mrs Don, to preside. Our Dunedin Mayoress is Secretary of the N.E. Valley W.C.T.U., and a very fine White Ribboner.

Mrs Don said how pleased we all were to welcome Mrs Wheeler to New Zealand and to have her help in our great campaign.

Mrs Wheeler, who is a fine elocutionist, gave a monologue and a recitation. Then she spoke very clearly upon prohibition in America, and fully explained the difference between the war-time Prohibition that came into force by the vote of the Government last July 1st and the Constitutional Prohibition which is to come into force next January by the Eighteenth Amendment to the American Constitution ratified by 45 States.

After the reception the Executive of the Dunedin Union entertained Mrs Wheeler to tea at the Hanover Street Schoolroom. A very pleasant time was spent. Mrs Don, Mrs Cowie, Mrs Peryman, Mrs Hiett, Mrs Dick, and Mrs Blair informally expressed our pleasure at having an American sister with us. Mrs Wheeler spoke earnestly of her desire to help in our fight. She told us that every Prohibition State in America had had a big defeat before the final victory. New Zealand Prohibitionists had been defeated last April, but believed and prayed for victory next December.

The same evening Mrs Wheeler addressed an audience of young women in connection with our Young People's Movement. On Friday afternoon, Mrs Wheeler, who is President of the largest missionary organisation in the world, addressed a meeting of the combined Women's Missionary Societies, which was well attended. The lecturer left immediately after her address to catch the train for Balclutha, where she was to speak in the evening.

On Sunday Mrs Wheeler preached at the Central Mission, and spoke at an after-church rally in the Salvation Army Barracks. All her meetings drew crowded audiences.

We hope that our Unions everywhere will give Mrs Wheeler a warm welcome, and take every opportunity of hearing her. We would urge White Ribboners to work and pray to make these meetings successful.

THE SOCIAL AND MORAL CONDITIONS OF INDIAN WOMEN IN FIJI.

64 Tancred St., Linwood, ChCh,
October 3, 1919.

Dear Editor,—The readers of "White Ribbon" will be glad to learn that the efforts of the Committee of Enquiry into the social and moral conditions of women in Fiji have met with considerable success. The following letter and resolutions are the latest communications I have had from the Committee of Enquiry.—Yours etc.,

C. HENDERSON,
Hon. Cor. Sec. W.C.T.U.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Suva, Fiji,

11th July, 1919.

Madam,—With reference to my letter of the 23rd May last, I am directed by the Governor to enclose, for the information of the Committee of Enquiry into the social and moral conditions of Indian women in Fiji, copies of resolutions adopted unanimously by the Legislative Council of Fiji at a meeting held on the 1st instant.

2. I am to add that the Select Committee recommended by the Legislative Council has been appointed by the Governor, and that it is hoped that its report will be received in time for consideration at the next meeting of the Council.—I am, Madam, your obedient servant,

(Sgd.) R. RANKINS,

Acting Colonial Secretary..

The Honorary Secretary, Committee of Enquiry into the Social and Moral Conditions of Indian Women in Fiji.

Resolution.

That a Select Committee be appointed to consider and report:

- (1) What steps might be taken to bring about an adjustment of the sex ratio among East Indians in the Colony.
- (2) What steps should be taken to improve the housing accommodation of East Indians employed as labourers on plantations,

so as to ensure that each married couple shall occupy a separate house, and that single men and single women shall be housed in quarters some distance apart.

(3) What steps should be taken:

- (a) To improve the medical and nursing arrangements.
- (b) To extend the educational and religious facilities for East Indians generally.

(4) What further steps should be taken for the general improvement of conditions affecting East Indians.

Resolution.

- (1) That the indentures of all East Indian immigrants allotted to employers under the provisions of the Indian Immigration Ordinance, 1891, whose period of service has not expired on the 1st August, 1920, be cancelled, with effect from that date.
- (2) That employers of labour, the indentures of whose immigrants are cancelled as above, be paid from public funds an amount in respect of each immigrant, which shall bear the same proportion to the cost of introduction of such immigrant as the unexpired period of the indenture shall bear to the whole period thereof.

WOMEN IN PARLIAMENT.

Once more the House of Representatives has affirmed the principle that women ought to have the right to be elected to Parliament. The Bill passed the Lower House, but the Upper House, standing on its dignity, has amended the Bill to take away the right of women to be nominated to the Legislative Council, holding that the Bill infringed the privileges of the Council that a Bill to alter its constitution should not originate in the Lower House. The Lower House has refused to accept the amendment, and both Houses have appointed Managers to meet and confer.

So the matter stands as we go to press, and this Bill, granting a simple matter of justice to the women of this Dominion, stands in jeopardy of being killed, not because either branch of the Legislature disbelieves in the principle, but on a question of privilege.