

Plimmer in the chair. The members discussed the resolutions passed by the Women's National Council, voting against those *re* the Marriage laws, the Co-operative Industrial Settlements, the Nationalisation of the land (although as to this latter they admitted the principle); they agreed that every political question should be selected by a majority vote, and favoured the resolutions supporting an elective Executive and Referendum. The meeting thought there should be some reform in the Upper House, but could not agree as to the direction this reform should take; it supported extending technical education, and maintaining our present system of secular and compulsory education, and agreed with the principle of old-age pensions, of the removal of the political disabilities of women, and of police reform.

## NEWS OF THE UNIONS

[We rely on our local Unions to send us news for this column. We cannot evolve it out of our inner consciousness.]

### Hawera.

Before the last meeting of the Licensing Committee we obtained signatures to a petition to close the hotels at 10 p.m., instead of 11 p.m., but as all the committee members but one belong to the Liquor Party, the petition was disregarded. Our Union has undertaken the free distribution of the *Prohibitionist* for a few months, the League providing the copies. We should be glad if some one could give us the title of a book containing some definite instructions in the shape of short lectures for use in Bands of Hope.

### West Taieri.

In reply to letter *re* WHITE RIBBON, it was resolved that each member contribute towards the debt. Five shillings was sent to the Brunnerton Fund. Several members contributed towards the making up of a box of goods for the New Hebrides Mission Field. The subject of Bible reading in schools was introduced, and resolutions passed in favour. It was resolved to resuscitate our Band of Hope, and steps were taken in this direction. Alliance leaflets are being distributed freely.

### Mosgiel.

Our meeting was held on the last Thursday in June, when the attendance was good. Three new members joined.

A letter was read from Mr Hinton, Secretary, to the Prohibition League, *re* holding monthly public meetings to stir up temperance people before the Election. The question of enrolling electors was discussed. The meeting intended starting a Band of Hope, and it was hoped that Mrs Murdoch would take it up. A Mothers' Meeting was held on Saturday evenings.

### Greymouth.

This branch of the W.C.T.U. is doing regular and steady work. Our first monthly Missionary Prayer Meeting was held a fortnight ago, taking the Uganda Mission as a start. Mrs Gaskin presided, and read interesting extracts of missionary labours. Distribution of religious papers and books continues every Sabbath morning. The Union is now considering taking up juvenile work, as nothing hitherto has been done in this line. We are hoping to be able to secure Mr Isitt's services on the Coast before the next election.

### Hokitika.

A Business Meeting was held on 11th June, but nothing of much importance was brought before the meeting. Attendance at business meetings in winter not so good as in summer time.

Evangelistic Department.—Cottage meetings, held weekly, are most encouraging; attendance large, and God's presence manifest.

Mission Department.—A Missionary Prayer Meeting was held on 24th June, when Mr Thomas read extracts on Miss Weston's work among the sailors in Devonport and Portsmouth. Those present were much interested, and fervent prayer offered for blessing on work and worker. Girls' Winter Sewing Class not started yet; none of the members willing to be appointed superintendent.

### Invercargill.

The "Work for Friendless Girls" (inaugurated a few months since) has had so much attention given to it, that there has been little time left for anything else. Our M.H.K. was awaited on, to ask his co-operation in getting the age of consent raised to eighteen years, and to having the time for laying information in criminal offences extended to three months, to both of which he agreed. His attention was also drawn to the fact that, as the law now stands, if a man slanders a woman she can get

no redress, whereas if a woman slanders a man he can.

The "New Zealand School Reader" was strongly condemned, and is to be kept out of the district if possible.

Dr. Ryder has been amongst us, to our edification in many ways. One result of her visit to our town is, that a "Home Health Association" has been formed, though not under the auspices of our Union.

### Lyttelton.

Our Temperance Meeting held July 7th was very poorly attended, there being only five members present. Having received a letter from the Hokitika Union *re* Mission work, the matter was freely discussed, and it was unanimously decided to devote the last Tuesday in the month to Mission work, each member bringing a Mission paper with something interesting in it. It was proposed and seconded that a resolution protesting against the action of the Legislative Council in throwing out the Repeal Bill be forwarded to the Speaker of the Upper House, and a resolution was unanimously passed thanking the Government for their efforts to Repeal the C. D. Acts.

### Palmerston.

At the monthly meeting officers were elected as follows:—President, Miss Powell; Secretary, Miss Barry; Treasurer, Mrs Whitehead. It was arranged that meetings be held on the first and third Wednesday in each month—the intermediate one to be educational. Mrs Butters was appointed to take charge of the first of these—subject, "Local Option."

### Stratford.

The fortnightly meeting of the Stratford (Taranaki) W.C.T.U. was held in the Presbyterian Church on Wednesday, 24th June. Mrs Collis, Organising Secretary New Plymouth, presided, and, after praise and prayer, the minutes of previous meeting were read and confirmed. A paper on "Loyal Temperance Legion," by Miss Anne Gordon, was then read by Mrs Collis. A discussion on "Juvenile Work" then took place. It was proposed and carried that two copies of the WHITE RIBBON be ordered for circulation among the members.

Despite the rough weather and bad roads several of our members come regularly from a distance of six miles.

### Christchurch.

A meeting was held on July 3rd. A resolution protesting against the action