

The council meetings were held at Whitefield's Central Mission, the spacious Tabernacle and the club-rooms of the Institute adjoining giving ample and comfortable accommodation to the 958 delegates registered as attending. The increase in membership for the year was reported to be 9376. An increase of 56 B Branches, and 33 Y Branches was also reported, and 18,144 pledges had been taken. A characteristic message was received from Mrs Pearsall Smith, "Now is the time to be good."

Among the resolutions carried were those asking that Scientific Temperance Instruction and Hygiene be made compulsory subjects in the Education Code; that the Parliamentary franchise be granted to women; that the principle of local veto with regard to the drink traffic be made operative; that the public-houses be closed on election days; and that steps be taken to terminate the opium traffic. Other resolutions urged the branches to study the intimate relation between diet and the drink crave, and also to approach the responsible authorities of cooking classes with regard to the use of alcohol in the recipes used.

Among the social functions was a reception held by Lord and Lady Carlisle, in the beautiful Portman Rooms.

Lady Carlisle was re-elected President, and Miss Agnes Slack, Secretary.

### Mrs. Leavitt in Reply.

Members of the W.C.T.U. will remember that at the Greymouth Convention—our Coming-of-Age Convention—Mrs Sheppard was requested to send a letter of greeting to Mrs Leavitt, who, twenty-one years ago, organised the W.C.T.U. in New Zealand. Subjoined is Mrs Leavitt's reply:—

18, Huntington Avenue, Boston.

Monday, June 13th, 1906.

My dear Mrs Sheppard—

Your letter of April 30th gave me much solid comfort, especially when we look at the root meaning of comfort, "a strengthening together;" and indeed it does strengthen my soul to know that the people of New Zealand recognise that I had some small part in leading them out and up to the foremost place of any women in the world. But the same thoughts, the same words,

were carried to women in many other lands, with apparently no more result than comes from pouring water on the rock; so it must have been mainly owing to the people of New Zealand—the men and women of that beautiful island—that you have such power in your hands to-day. Wisely and for good ends have you used it thus far. So may it always be. Proudly can we point our opponents to New Zealand and say, "No harm has been wrought there by equal suffrage—on the contrary, much and permanent good."

May you be enabled, the dear members of the W.C.T.U., to go on from strength to strength, always in the front rank, always for the absolute truth and justice and purity as we find it in the Word of God.

You will be glad to know that though my life is in a small circle—shut in the house for eight months of the year by our severe climate, and too weak to move about much in the other four—I can read and write as much as I wish, and use my needle, which I greatly enjoy, as my sight, with the help of glasses, is yet nearly perfect. Thus I keep up with the great movements of the world, the life of the nations, the progress of the Kingdom of Christ; and all is much more real to me than it would have been had I not learned on the spot how the people felt, believed, and acted, and had I not seen the very spot where great things have been done. Thus, I was on nearly every battlefield in South Africa, in most of the places where missionaries were murdered in China. I love the memory of New Zealand, of my many dear personal friends there, and I shall not forget nor cease to love them as long as I remember anything.

Will you, dear Mrs Sheppard, kindly convey my grateful thanks to the W.C.T.U. for their loving remembrance, and believe me,

Sincerely and affectionately yours,

MARY CLEMENT LEAVITT.

### Mrs. Seddon in Reply.

Wellington, New Zealand,  
11th July, 1906.

Dear Madam,

I have to acknowledge with deep gratitude your cable of the 11th ultimo, forwarding the sympathy of the National Council of Women on the death of my husband. In reply, I have to ask you

to be so good as to express to the Council the grateful thanks of myself and family for their timely and thoughtful condolence in the sad bereavement we have suffered. It was indeed very kind of you and them to think of us in our hour of grief and sorrow.

Yours sincerely,

LOUISE J. SEDDON.

Mrs K. W. Sheppard, President,  
National Council of Women of New Zealand, Christchurch.

Wellington, New Zealand,  
16th July, 1906.

Dear Madam,

I have to acknowledge with deep gratitude your letter of the 15th ultimo, forwarding the sympathy of the Women's Christian Temperance Union of New Zealand on the death of my husband. In reply I have to ask you to be so good as to express to the members the grateful thanks of myself and family for their thoughtful condolence with us in our sad bereavement.

Yours sincerely,

LOUISE J. SEDDON.

Mrs F. Cole, President, W.C.T.U. of  
New Zealand, Christchurch.

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