

held for only five consecutive years, and that the same officer should not be eligible for re-election to that particular office for two years." Proposed by Phoebe Seed.

I hope every Union will clearly understand that unless above conditions are complied with, no proxy can be appointed. Last year several branches were disappointed through failing to note this point.

Wishing you all a very Happy Christmas and New Year,

Believe me, Yours in the work,
M. S. POWELL,
N.Z. Recording Sec.

Otahuhu,

December 2nd, 1907.

Marmion,

Ormondville,

December 5, 1907.

Dear Sisters,—

As the time at which your report is returnable is now not far off, I would again remind you that you would save much trouble and waste of time if you will fill in **all** the particulars asked for. If you fill in the number of meetings held, and forget to mention your membership, I have to write again to ask for that; and if I get all other details but not the names of the new officers, it means another letter, and a stamp wasted. Please remember to give names and addresses of officers in full, not just "Last year's officers re-elected."

I rely on you all to send in your reports the first day you can, as I am new to my work, and need the help of all secretaries to do it properly.

Yours sincerely,

ALICE F. WEBB.

Act. Cor. Secretary, N.Z.W.C.T.U.

Box 209, P.O.,

Christchurch, Dec. 7th, 1907.

To the Legal and Parliamentary Superintendents of Local Branches.

Dear Fellow Workers,—

Will you kindly send me your reports for the year as soon as possible, so that I may be able to prepare my New Zealand Report in time?

With best wishes for the coming year,

Faithfully yours,

K. W. SHEPPARD,

L. and P. Supdt. for N.Z.

PARLIAMENTARY JOTTINGS.

The Session ended on the 25th November, after an eventful run of five months. General satisfaction is felt at the work accomplished. The three Land Acts alone, with the Infant Life Protection Bill, and the Gaming and Lotteries Act, would have made any Session memorable. The first goes far to prevent the octopus of land monopoly crushing out national life, as it has done all too surely in Britain and Ireland, while they have placed old-age pensions and the growing needs of education on a firm basis at last. The second has boldly affirmed the principle that a State is to consider its unfortunate children as wards, not criminals, from birth, and lays down amended regulations as to boarding-out and training. The last embodies the most drastic regulation of betting and gambling in any modern state. It proposes to shut up betting shops, and gambling saloons, it has closed the Press against betting news of any description, and apparently makes it impossible to bet, save on the race course itself. For all this we are devoutly thankful, notwithstanding that the party of reform has got two bitter pills to swallow—the retention of the totalisator, and the provisional licensing of bookmakers. The last clause recognises the true British right of the small man to lose his money, as well as the sharers of the princely profits of the totalisator. It was carried during a stormy month that afforded the diverting spectacle of Satan fighting Beelzebub. That is, the wealthy racing clubs hailed the trespassing bookmakers to court, from whence the then existing law consigned them to gaol in dozens. Before their release under the new law, petitions in their favour were signed by prominent reformers, as well as by genuine sympathisers. As a matter of principle this was doubtless right. As a matter of personal sentiment, it will always be difficult to wax warm in denying that those who elect to live without work must also live without respect. Mr. Wilford, who had previously given pointed

support to the retention of pigeon-shooting, joined Mr Herries in a spirited attempt to provide a loophole of escape for keepers of gaming and betting houses. They were not so successful there as in the matter of the pigeons. The Council wiped out both that sport and the coursing of hares in enclosed areas. When the Animals Protection Bill returned to the House, a few belated Roman holiday makers succeeded in restoring both abominations, though under some regulation.

Though the sale of drink on coasting steamers is not forbidden, it has been greatly curtailed by the Packet License Bill, which transfers the license to the captain from the steward, and does not issue any permit for very short journeys.

Delicate and difficult questions are raised by the passing of the Divorce Act Amendment, which has stopped the prevalent practice of obtaining divorce for desertion, on failure to comply with an order for restitution of conjugal rights. Two lawyers, Messrs Baume and Barclay, protested against a change which, they said, would drive unfortunate persons into immorality. That freedom to re-marry should be made anything but a matter of ease and speed goes without saying, but any change tending to keep loveless people in a union devoid of Divine sanction is a matter for searching thought. Divorce is also at last legalised in the case of long and hopeless lunacy, and where a parent has murdered children of the union.

The Beer Duty Act has passed, with cordial approval of all who desire to see No License having a fair trial, unhampered by beer shops on the boundary.

When we add the substantial benefits of the new tariff to the rest, it may be fairly admitted that the Session has justified itself this year.

J. M.

"Make channels for the streams
Where love may broadly run;
And love has overflowing streams
To fill them every one.

"But if at any time we cease
Such channels to provide,
The very fountains of love for us
Will soon be parched and dried."