

The White Ribbon

FOR GOD AND HOME AND HUMANITY

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The National Council of the Women of New Zealand.

THE Fifth Annual Session of the National Council of the Women of New Zealand was opened in the beautiful Council Chamber in the Town Hall, Dunedin, on May 3rd.

With kindly courtesy, the Mayor, Mr Chisholm, and Councillors had placed at the disposal of the ladies the chamber, with desks and mayoral chair, and also a pleasant ante-room to serve as cloak room. The chamber is lofty, with a handsome ceiling, and is warmed through the day by an open fire. At night the splendid gas light gives the room a brilliant effect. The Dunedin ladies provided exquisite chrysanthemums and autumn foliage for desk and table decorations.

At 3 p.m. the Council met in committee, when the following officers and delegates were present:—Mrs Sheppard (president), Christchurch; Mrs Sievwright (vice-president), Gisborne; Mrs Williamson (treasurer), Wanganui; Mrs Welis (secretary), Christchurch; Miss Roberts (Christchurch) of the New Zealand W.C.T.U.; Ensign Sparks, social branch of the Salvation Army; Mrs Williams, Women's Political League, Auckland (proxy delegate, pending Miss Sheriff-Bain's arrival); Mrs Bullock, of the Women's Political League, Wanganui; Mrs Blake, of the Canterbury Women's

Institute; Miss C. Henderson, B.A., of the Progressive Liberal Association of Christchurch; Miss Whitehorn, of the Tailoresses' Union, Dunedin; and Mrs Tasker, of the Democratic Union Wellington.



MRS SHEPPARD.

A proxy delegate was nominated to take the place of Mrs Scott, of Gisborne, who was prevented by illness from attending to represent the Gisborne Women's Political Association. Miss Burton, of Dunedin, was appointed recording secretary.

Congratulatory letters were read from the President of the Women's Franchise League and from the Secretary of the Dunedin Fabian Society.

Letters were also received from Lady Aberdeen, President of the International Council of Women, in reference to the affiliation of the New Zealand National Council, which was accepted at the quinquennial meeting, 1899, held in London; from Mrs McCosh Clark, who acted as New Zealand's delegate at the International Council of Women; and from Mrs Reeves, regretting her inability to represent the Council at the quinquennial meeting.

The Treasurer's report showed a balance in hand of £41 7s 10d.

The Secretary's report stated that copies of the report of the last annual meeting had been forwarded to the chief officers of the National Councils of the world, and many influential journals and notable women workers. Reference was made to the slaughtering of the Bill for the Removal of Women's Disabilities. In March the President addressed the Premier, asking whether the Government would make the measure a policy Bill. No answer had, however, been returned. The Executive recorded with regret the withdrawal from the Council of the Women's Democratic League, Auckland, and the Christchurch Women's Political League. Several societies had been