

consent be raised from 14 to 17 years; (3) that sailors be enfranchised, and vote by proxy, if absent; (4) that boys and girls be trained in the schools in temperance physiology; (5) that legislation be provided to prevent gambling; (6) that a Curfew law be enacted; (7) that a Direct Veto Bill be introduced in reference to the liquor traffic. The Premier promised to give the subjects consideration.

A Parliamentary meeting was held in the Town Hall, when Mrs Ferguson, Colonial President, took the chair, and addresses were given by the Premier, Mr James, M.L.A., Mr Wood, M.L.A., Mr Haynes, M.L.C., Mr Randell (Colonial Secretary), and others, on the subject of the Liquor Traffic; the speakers being sympathetic with the general aims of the Unions although not all agreed on every point.

A Temperance Festival was held on another evening, which was presided over by Lady Onslow. The hall was decorated for the occasion with flowers, banners and flags. Mrs Clark was the recipient of a handsome travelling bag as a token of appreciation of her valuable work. Mrs Ferguson was also presented with a large handsome gilt-framed photograph of the members of the Convention, grouped, edged by pictures of the various institutions carried on by the W.C.T.U.

### Industrial Schools.

Under the auspices of the Christ church W.C.T.U., a meeting was held on Tuesday, October 2nd, to discuss the question of the inspection of Industrial Schools. The Rev L. Sarginson was in the chair. Mrs Cunningham gave a most interesting address, in which she commented on the report of the Minister of Education for the past year. The report stated that at the end of 1899 there were 1668 inmates of Industrial Schools. There were three Government Schools—Auckland, Burnham, and Caversham; and four private schools, St. Mary's (Auckland), St. Joseph's (Wellington), St. Mary's (Nelson), and St. Vincent de Paul (South Dunedin). Of the number classed as inmates of Industrial Schools there were only 590 actually resident in the schools; altogether 1033 were dependent on the State for maintenance, and the remaining 635 were still under control, but not dependent on the schools for maintenance. Four Industrial School inmates were stated as being in gaol, and this Mrs Cunningham thought most ill-advised.

Nearly one-third of the total number of inmates belonged to private Industrial schools, which, curiously enough, were all Roman Catholic. The time had now come when they must look back and revise the system, for the work of the schools from first to last was a ghastly failure. The system by which appointments of teachers and officials were made was utterly unsound. Party influence was used, and capacity for the work was often ignored. While she believed that a successful manager of Industrial Schools was born, not made, yet if the appointments were made by the people, or by a board appointed by the people, there would be a much greater likelihood of getting suitable officers. She was strongly of opinion that every school, whether public or private, should be inspected by the Government, and she did not think that any religious body had the right to have the sole control of any number of people. She confidently looked forward to women being admitted as visitors, but would strongly urge that the visitors should be unpaid.

Mr O'Bryen Hoare, M.A., followed, dealing with the necessity for scientific treatment of these abnormal human beings, and said that what Mrs Cunningham was aiming at, whether she knew it or not, was that the present system of dealing with criminals and lunatics was so unscientific that it required a genius to administer it. They must change their system and make it scientific. The education system of the colony was a very fair one for such a young colony, but was based entirely on an erroneous assumption, that the child was a vessel to be crammed, not a being to be evolved. The young scamps referred to by Mrs Cunningham were, he believed, made criminals by the manner in which they were trained. Many of them were boys who, with scientific training, would make good, useful citizens. The late Mr Joyce had urged the establishment of a training ship, and Mr Hoare said that on a training ship the scientific training was brought into operation to a greater extent than it was in the present Industrial Schools. Dealing with the present Industrial Schools, the title of which, he said, was a misnomer, Mr Hoare contended that the Industrial Schools and Reformatories should be separated. The criminal children should first be taught to be uncriminal, and the State must see that no boy or girl left those institutions without knowing how to earn an honest living.

He believed that the State should be the guardian of every child, and should see that it was trained so that it would become a useful citizen. It was all very well to say, "Punish the parents," but what was the use of that? They erred through ignorance, and should be educated. If they wanted a born principal of a training school they also needed born parents.

The Rev. H. C. M. Watson moved—"That in the opinion of this meeting all industrial institutions, public and private, whether subsidised or not, should receive vigilant and efficient supervision and inspection by persons in recognised public positions."

The motion was seconded by a lady. Mr G. E. Bentley moved as an amendment the addition after "industrial institutions" of the words, "and all homes or institutions into which offenders are received from any Court of Justice."

Mr Watson accepted this amendment, and, as added to, the motion was carried.

### Rest Cottage.

Much misunderstanding still exists concerning the Headquarters of the National W.C.T.U. of the United States, many thinking that as the offices of the National Corresponding Secretary and Treasurer are now in Rest Cottage they are necessarily in the home so long occupied by the Willard family, and for ever sacred to us all on this account.

Will our White Ribbon friends all over the world take pains to make the following statement known through the Press, and in every possible way.

A commodious addition to the original Rest Cottage was built some fifteen or twenty years ago by Miss Willard's widowed sister-in-law, Mrs Mary B. Willard. This addition was purchased by Miss Willard when her sister moved to Berlin, Germany, and has been occupied by different tenants to whom it has been let. It is in this newer part of Rest Cottage, familiarly known as "The North Side," and now owned by the National W.C.T.U., that the sunny, spacious offices of Headquarters are located, for Miss Anna Gordon has no other thought in connection with Miss Willard's home, of which she holds a life lease, than to sacredly preserve its rooms with their furnishings as they were left by Miss Willard and her mother. These rooms, forming a home distinct from the Headquarters, although both are under the same roof,