

the wilderness, and made the desert to blossom as the rose.

### A Shadow is Cast.

Yet sin and sorrow have left their traces. In conflicts with war-like tribes, or with the degenerate whites in South Africa,

"Shoulder to shoulder and side by side,  
Lads of ours have fought and died."

The drink trade and gambling and the social evil have been brought to this new fair land, and have claimed their victims. Especially is this manifest in Christchurch at the present time. Among the thousands that have been attracted to this city by the festivities are many lewd and vicious, and pitfalls and dangers abound. Although "Peace hath her conquests," she has her failures too. There is need for every woman to persistently work until the drink traffic is not only curbed and shackled but completely overthrown and destroyed. There is need for every mother to patiently and earnestly strive to build up in her children a character that will resist every impulse to evil. And there is need for every loving heart that loves the Christ to tenderly care for the neglected children, the debased men, and the outcast women.

### Samaritans.

Stirred by this Christ-love, four women have opened a "Women's Shelter" in Christchurch during the Carnival week. Two women are in attendance the whole night from 10 p.m. till 6 a.m.; tea and coffee and a cheerful fire are provided. The police Inspector has instructed his men where to direct the wandering steps of any waif or stray or belated woman, so that she may find rest and safety from the perils and danger of the night. The good women who have undertaken this work of mercy and Christ-like effort are Ensign Waldie of the Salvation Army, Sister Christian of the Methodist Deaconesses House, Sister Edith of the

Church of England, and one other who prefers to be nameless.

### Levites.

It is interesting to compare the actions of these women of the Churches with those men who are supposed to be their pastors and guides. A few weeks ago, a committee of Ministers met to consider the social evil. The result of their deliberations was a recommendation to the Government, which would not only be useless but evil if carried out. It is, indeed, only too probable that because of this ill-conceived recommendation we shall have a weary and almost heart-breaking fight against the introduction of a new C. D. Act. Later on the Canterbury Anglican Synod successfully resisted an attempt—made by our old friend—Sir John Hall—to give women a vote at Parish Meetings.

While their Ministers were trying to relieve themselves of their preventive and rescue work by a recommendation to Government, or were combating the claims of women to a voice in matters in which they are the best workers, these good women were quietly planning how to teach and help those who were lost. Which were the most Christ-like, the women or the Ministers?

### Soldiers of Christ.

It would be only fair to say that in the Salvation Army the men as well as the women seem to have caught the spirit of the Master. Not only have they realised that in Christ there is neither male nor female, but their special mission has been to the outcast, the fallen, and the neglected. In the battle against the drink trade, against the social evil, against gambling, there is no force braver or more devoted and whole-hearted than the Salvation Army. In every effort to gain fair play, or bring about right living, we have been able to rely on the strong common sense and the splendid enthusiasm of the Salvation Army.

### The New Licensing Bill.

The new Bill is another attempt to crush the temperance sentiment of the people. By enlarging the licensing districts the principle of Local Option is completely destroyed. The people of Timaru may be prevented from closing their public houses by the votes of people living at the Hurunui, one hundred and fifty miles away. We have little doubt that the referendum would be against extending the three years' license to one of six years. But the taking away of the rights of localities to decide whether they will or will not have public houses in their midst must be actively and stubbornly resisted.

Systematic work will be necessary if the legalised sale of drink in the King Country is to be prevented. The liquor sellers will strain every nerve to convince the Royal Commission that licenses are necessary. It should be the work of the Maori department, and those other of our Unions near to the King Country, to show how fatal a system of licensing would be.

### The W.C.T.U. at the Christchurch Show.

In accordance with its long-established custom, the Christchurch Union had its luncheon and refreshment tent at the Metropolitan Show. The marquee, which is planned to seat about 400 at once, was a great source of attraction to the visitors, and the attendants, who numbered over one hundred, had a laboriously happy time.

It is estimated that the wants of between four and five thousand people were ministered to, and the ladies' tent proved to be a strong counterpoise to the alcoholic refreshment booths on the Show ground.

### Our Illustration.

It may perhaps be remembered that at the World's Temperance Congress held in London, one afternoon, was de-