

Schools was systematic temperance instruction given. But the time seemed opportune for a pledge-taking campaign, seeing how much attention had been drawn to the subject by the grave serious danger that now threatens the nation, and by the fine example set by the King and the royal household. Another method that had been carried out with good effect in some parts was to have picture shows, with films illustrative of the evil effects of drinking. More could be done, however, by personal work than in any other way, if earnest men and women, conversant with the economic aspects of the question, would get in touch with the young people, and bring personal influence to bear. In this connection, a resolution was passed that the Alliance should be asked to prepare a "vest-pocket handbook," giving in compact form, data and statistics, useful for argument. It was also resolved that the Alliance should send a letter to Christian Endeavour Societies, and kindred organisations, urging them to take up a pledge-taking campaign.

The third division of the subject, introduced by Mrs A. R. Atkinson and Rev. T. H. Radford, related to the training of new-comers. There was no doubt that the No License and the National Prohibition vote was largely influenced by the immigrant section of the population. Those coming from lands that had not Local Option, required instruction as to their powers and privileges, and as to the position of the temperance question. The new arrivals must be got hold of, whether by literature, or by a column in the newspaper, or scattered advertisements in the Saturday issue; especially they must be made to understand that the liquor advertisements were totally unreliable. The best way of all was by personal work, and much good could be done in the back-blocks by sending post-cards, leaflets, etc., to the lonely diggers and miners and workers, to whom the arrival of the mail bag has often brought only disappointment. Leaders and sub-leaders might be sent to country papers, many of which would welcome such contributions; and facts should be re-stated over and over again for the benefit of new-comers. Something might be done before the emigrants started, if there were some one at Home who could furnish the right kind of information to those just leaving, and give them

matter for reading on board. News might also be sent to the British press, marking any advance made in Prohibition in New Zealand.

The evening session was devoted to the consideration of literature, and the first subject to be dealt with was the "Vanguard." A well-deserved tribute was paid to the capable and efficient Editor, and various suggestions made for the improvement of the paper. In the opinion of some, it would be better to have more original articles, contributed by the many able men to be found in the ranks of the N.Z. Prohibition party, and to compress within narrower limits the clippings dealing with Prohibition in other lands. There should be more local notes, such as were already sent in from Auckland and Canterbury, more correspondence of an interesting nature, and stories of N.Z. life. In style it would be an improvement if long articles were broken up into short sections with striking headlines, and important truths and principles might be worked into articles of general interest. Another suggestion was to have a column for Band of Hope work, and correspondence and competitions for children. To improve the circulation, each delegate was asked to secure one new subscriber, and a canvass of those in the room resulted in some eight or ten being added to the list. The matter of a Dominion campaign paper was discussed, and the necessity for it was urged. Cheap it must be, but full of facts, a fighting paper to appeal to the rising generation, and its distribution to be as wide as possible by house to house visiting. For little or nothing could be done through the ordinary press, which was either unfriendly to Prohibition or took up a neutral attitude.

One of the most difficult tasks that the Congress had to perform was to decide upon its legislative policy. A long time was devoted to the discussion of this, perhaps the most important business brought before the Congress. Excellent addresses were given by Mr A. S. Adams and by Mr A. R. Atkinson on the reforms needed in Licensing and in Electoral legislation respectively, but in reference to both it was felt that it would be unwise to press the Government, in view of the tremendous strain caused by the present European crisis. Accordingly the burning questions that usually provoke long and earnest dis-

cussion were practically held in abeyance. One point, however, as being of special importance while a permanent camp exists for the training of the Territorials, was made the subject of a resolution, aiming at the reduction of hours during which intoxicating liquor can be sold. —Interesting points were raised in connection with electoral methods, such as the necessity for a longer interval between the closing of the rolls and the date of the election, and the adoption of the principle of polling booth areas, which, as worked in New South Wales, tends to lessen the possibility of impersonation.

Under the heading Organisation, Mr Daniells described some of the difficulties that meet an Organiser in country districts, and the methods of overcoming them; and Mr L. M. Isitt spoke strongly on the necessity for unceasing work in organising the city electorates. What we had to do, to recover lost ground, was to get 50,000 more votes. Among the sections of the community the most promising for securing this result were the young people and the women, especially the latter. He made a powerful appeal for educating the women, many of whom were grossly ignorant of the harm done to child life by alcohol. This work should prove effective, for women as a class do not drink, and therefore have no personal interest in maintaining the liquor traffic, while their love for children, and the fact that all their interests and hopes centre in the home, are a tremendous lever for gaining their sympathy and support. To this end it was resolved that the Executive of the Alliance, and that of the W.C.T.U., should confer as to the best methods of educating the women of the Dominion on the alcohol question.

The closing session of the Congress was taken up with the discussion of the Budget and the election of President, and with various unfinished business, or special resolutions. Mr Wesley Spragg had definitely announced his decision not to stand for re-election as President, but there was hardly a member of the Congress but hoped he might be prevailed on to reconsider his decision. When these hopes proved vain, several prominent gentlemen were nominated by ballot, according to the method adopted at an earlier sitting of the Congress, and eventually the choice fell on Rev.