

**WOMEN'S  
Christian Temperance Union  
Of New Zealand.**

Organised 1885.

"For God and Home and Humanity."

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For God and Home and Humanity.

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**POLICE WOMEN.**

In another column we give a report of the deputation which waited upon the Minister for Justice in regard to the appointment of police women. We are confident that the women of New Zealand will feel indignant at the scant courtesy accorded to that deputation by the Minister. Women representing large and important women's societies certainly merited a careful and understanding hearing. Is the Minister really so dense that nothing but a surgical operation will get into his head the difference between the police women asked for by the deputation and the increase of police matrons promised by the Minister? Did he really think that intelligent women were asking for women to be allowed to join the Armed Constabulary? Or was the introduction of the Royal Irish Constabulary one of the Minister's little jokes? For long we have been

puzzled to account for the presence of the Hon. A. L. Herdman in a Reform Cabinet, but we think perhaps he is there to apply the brake and see that the Reform team do not drag the carriage of State too rapidly along this strange new road of reform, for new it is to the erstwhile Conservative party. Yet we have never seen any sign that the team led by the cautious Mr Massey and the shrewd Mr Allen were dragging the State chariot along at any great rate. Every other part of the British Empire has advanced along the road of Temperance reform, while New Zealand is held back by a so-called Reform Cabinet. New South Wales has its police women, Adelaide its women J.P.'s, Canada women Magistrates for Children's Courts; United States, after experiencing the valuable help of women in the State Legislatures, have now for the first time sent women to the National Congress. Surely the New Zealand Ministry needs whip and spur, and not a brake. We would strongly recommend them to leave the Minister of Justice in the stately and aristocratic seclusion of a Conservative Ministry; he is quite out of place in a Reform Cabinet. In fact, if he goes to the poll at next election as a Reform candidate, we advise women voters to look at his record while in office, and say does it not proclaim him a wolf in sheep's clothing.

**DEPUTATION TO THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL, MINISTER FOR JUSTICE, RE APPOINTMENT OF POLICE WOMEN AND THE WAR REGULATIONS AMENDMENT ACT.**

The long delayed deputation, appointed at the women's meeting of June 26th, to wait upon the Minister of Justice for the purpose of urging the appointment of police women, was received by the Hon. A. L. Herdman on Wednesday, the 18th October. In spite of a howling northerly gale, with driving rain, about 20 ladies assembled, representative of most of the women's societies of Wellington.

The deputation was introduced by the Mayoress, Mrs J. P. Luke, who briefly explained the purpose for which the ladies had come.

The first speaker was Lady Stout, the President of the Society for the

Protection of Women and Children, who referred to the fact that for a good many years that Society had been asking for this reform, which all thinking women agreed would make for the better protection of young people of both sexes. She brought forward a large amount of evidence from the United States, Great Britain, and Australia, showing how much good had resulted from the appointment of policewomen, and how commendatory had been the opinions expressed on their work by those best able to judge. Referring to the War Regulations Amendment Act, she protested against the policy of merely driving undesirable characters from the town into the country, as that was the surest way of spreading disease. Legislation dealing with the social evil should apply to men as much as to women, for statistics showed that much more danger was to be feared from their presence in the community. Out of 40,000 presenting themselves for free treatment in Sydney, four-fifths were men.

Mrs Evans, speaking on behalf of the W.C.T.U., referred to the excellent service that had been rendered by the women patrols in London, Sheffield, and other parts of the United Kingdom. She quoted from a report of a crowded meeting held on March 14th at the Mansion House, under the presidency of the Lord Mayor of London, at which such high authorities as the Bishop of Kensington, Major-General Sir Francis Lloyd (commanding the London District), Lord Sydenham (Chairman of Royal Commission on Venereal Diseases), Mrs Creighton (member of same Commission), Miss Damer-Dawson (chief officer of the Women Police Service), and many others, urged the inclusion of properly qualified women in the Police Force with full official recognition and status.

Mrs Donaldson, President of the Housewives' Union, made an effective speech, endorsing what had already been said, and specially referring to the softening effect which woman's influence has on young people. The appointment of women police would tend to bring woman's beneficial influence into the streets and public places, and could not fail to help young people and protect them from some of the temptations to which they were so often exposed.