

times difficult, but altogether necessary piece of service for our Unions. Their travels take them, at times, far afield into the back-blocks and lonely places of New Zealand, often facing hardships and doing work that none of us may attempt—building up and conserving as nothing else can possibly do, the temperance and prohibition sentiment of our women and young people throughout this land. We all love and appreciate our Organisers, and therefore I would most earnestly ask that every one of us individually, and collectively as Unions should realise our responsibility for them, both financially and otherwise, and that every Union face up to its part and keep the fund in credit.

Surely the labourer is "worthy of her hire," and it is not a fair proposition that the Treasurer should have to borrow from any other fund to meet the liabilities of this one.

We cannot overestimate the need for keeping this work at the highest point of efficiency possible, and indeed, were finance available, six Organisers in New Zealand would not be any too many. But when one hears of Unions giving away their hard-earned money to all sorts of outside organisations and starving their own departments of usefulness, one wonders where their loyalty to their own Union comes in and whether they have ever read the Constitution at all. In the Legal and Parliamentary field of our activities, you will see that there is little to report. In women's special interest Parliament has done nothing, but for this we can hardly blame them—considering that the year before they gave us much that we had been years in the asking—so that if the questions of Women Police, Domestic Courts, The Age of Protection, etc., have found no place in the Councils of the Nation, it is largely because women themselves have made but little effort to push for political action. Probably they are resting somewhat upon their laurels, in preparation for more aggressive action next session, or failing that at the coming Parliamentary elections.

On the other hand, it must not be forgotten that in spite of pressure from many quarters, we have again to record a failure of the Government

further to carry into effect the recommendations of the Report of the Commission on mentally-affected children.

This is a most serious and altogether unjustifiable attitude on their part, and certainly should not be allowed to rest where it is. What is the sense in spending the immense sums that are being spent in the maintenance of the mentally defective and the mentally ill, delinquent and criminal, that we are spending and doing nothing whatever to stop an ever increasing supply of these unfortunate people from being brought into existence. Why do we forever go on dealing with results and taking no account whatsoever of the causes.

Passing on, we are happy to say that this year a forward move has been made by the appointment of Mrs Simons as Maori Organiser. Mrs Simons is to be congratulated upon the awakened interest in our cause amongst our Maori sisters in so many additional districts.

In this connection also, our thanks and appreciation are due to the sisters of the various denominations, who have so readily and cheerfully helped our Organiser, and also to Mrs Jones, Waikato District President, and Mrs Fulljames, Auckland District Maori Superintendent.

Of all the varied activities of our Union that which assuredly fills us with greatest hope for the future is the work amongst children and young people. This year we really can rejoice over the fact that so much more has been done this year and is being done than in the past. The increased number of young children whose names are upon our Cradle Roll is a true cause for congratulation, in addition to which the interest in the L.T.L., Band of Hope and Y. Branch membership should prove a source of great encouragement, for the importance of this work in its bearing on the future of our movement, cannot be too strongly appreciated or overestimated.

There can be no room for doubt that the freeing of Miss Catherine McLay for special work amongst young people was one of the best moves that the Union has ever made; and there is no lack of evidence to show that members of Adult Unions are realising as never before the deep

and paramount importance of youth education, and are doing all they can to foster it.

District Organisation as well as the possibilities of District Executive work are gradually, but only very gradually, being understood and appreciated, and many District Officers are only now learning to realise their proper and very important place in the perfect working out of the Union in New Zealand. This cannot be too strongly emphasised, for until the District Executives throughout the country are functioning as they should do, co-operation between all parts of our organisation will never be complete, nor shall we be capable of doing effectively any big undertaking or plan of work requiring the combined efforts of all our members.

For example, take the petition for the two-issue ballot paper—we are justifiably proud of the fact that in the short time at our disposal we succeeded in getting nearly 85,000 names on the petition forms, but the other fact remains that there were thousands of women left, who would gladly have signed it, had they had the opportunity, but that opportunity was never given them. Had the thirteen District Unions been alive to all their responsibilities and effectively in touch with the officers and members of each local Union, and had the local Unions been in close and sympathetic touch with the District officers everywhere, it is a foregone conclusion that even in the short time we had, another 15,000 or 20,000 names might well have been added, thus making our petition far more worth while and impressive.

That many Unions and members worked splendidly is well-known—all honour to them. We congratulate them heartily upon the result of their labours. At the same time, it is also true that Union members by the dozen refused to help at this important and critical stage, while many a woman, who is not a member with us, spent days and weeks securing signatures, travelling from house to house, many of them in scattered country districts—to all such we tender our sincerest thanks, while at the same time wondering how much value some of our own women place upon the abolition of the liquor trade, and how much sacrifice of time and comfort they are really prepared to