

WOMEN'S
Christian Temperance Union
OF NEW ZEALAND.

Organised 1885.

**"For God, and Home, and
Humanity."**

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AUCKLAND CONVENTION.

The Auckland Convention will be held in the Onehunga Methodist Schoolroom on September 24th, commencing at 9.30 a.m. A public meeting will be held in the evening of the 23rd idem., when an attractive programme will be presented. The nominations for District Officers are as follows:—President, Mrs. Lee-Cowie, Mrs. Morgan Richards, Mrs. Benfell; Vice-President, Mrs. Lee-Cowie, Mrs. Morgan Richards; Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. Clark; Recording Secretary, Mrs. Johnston; Treasurer, Mrs. Taylor.

NELLIE CLARK,

Corresponding Sec.,

District Executive, W.C.T.U.

**WELLINGTON DISTRICT
CONVENTION.**

Wellington District Convention meets at Methodist Church, Karori, Wednesday, September 11th, 1929. Any delegate requiring hospitality, please write to Mrs. Watchman, Campbell Street, Karori.

The Canterbury District Convention will be held in Waimate on September 17th to 19th; Y.P. Conference on September 19th.

Will all those requiring hospitality, please forward their names early to Mrs. R. Gillen, Harris Street, Waimate.

The White Ribbon.

"For God, and Home, and Humanity."

WELLINGTON AUGUST 18, 1929.

**NATIONALITY OF MARRIED
WOMEN.**

On February 18th, 1928, the Sixth Pan-American Conference, meeting at Havana, Cuba, created by resolution a Commission to be composed of women, to enquire into the international status of women in the Western Hemisphere. This is a Commission, composed of one woman from each country, and the report of its findings is to be made to the Seventh Pan-Pacific Conference, to meet in Montevideo in 1933. This is the first time that the Nations of America have formally recognised woman's intelligence in international affairs.

Miss Doris Stevens, the brilliant young feminist, is the Chairman of this Committee. "The creation of the Inter-American Commission of Women," says Miss Stevens, "is a step of great significance, not only in the impetus it gives the feminist movement, but also in its challenge to law-makers the world over. The new world can, in fact, be a new world for women as well as men. Women have entered the international field to stay. When we asked the Pan-American Conference in Havana for this woman's Committee, it was the first time that such a request had been made to a Pan-American Conference. That they granted it the first time it was presented, is to their immortal honour.

"The first subject taken up is the Nationality of married women. There is no uniformity in laws on nationality. A woman may find herself possessed of several nationalities or of none.

"In some countries the law works both ways. A native woman who marries a foreigner takes his nationality; a foreign woman who marries a native man takes his

nationality. This is true of Haiti, for instance. On the other hand, there are countries in which the law works only one way. Again, as in Guatemala, a woman is given an option as to her nationality. She may keep her own or take her husband's, as she prefers, if she makes a definite statement to this effect in the marriage agreement.

"In other countries, the naturalization law is different for men and for women. In Ecuador, for instance, the naturalization of a man carries with it the naturalization of his wife and children, but the naturalization of a married woman, on the other hand, does not carry with it the naturalization of her husband and children.

"In some cases, most illogical and lamentable of all, a woman has no nationality. An Englishwoman, for example, married to an Argentine, ceases to enjoy English nationality according to British law, but does not become Argentine by Argentine law. There is no remedy whatever for such a condition. In practice, however, Argentine gives the woman her passport and diplomatic facilities, but she is beyond the pale of nationality: cast off by her own country and not accepted by her husband's.

"There are a few countries in our hemisphere, such as Brazil and Uruguay, which have an enlightened law that marriage shall not affect the nationality of women.

"In the United States, a woman retains her nationality upon marriage with a foreigner only when he is himself eligible for U.S. citizenship. In other words, a woman may lose her nationality upon marriage; a man never does.

"Again, in the United States, a woman who marries a foreigner and lives two years in her husband's country is presumed to have lost her nationality, and to maintain it must overcome this presumption. A man under the same circumstances is never presumed to have lost his nationality! If a woman from the United States marries a foreigner and lives with him five years anywhere outside her own country, according to U.S. law, she is again presumed to have lost her nationality.

"In some countries—the U.S. among them—when a child is born abroad, the country will give