

burton co-operated with other women's organisations in securing signatures to petitions asking for amendments of the Crimes Act in the direction of securing more adequate protection for young girls.

Unions in the Canterbury district assisted with a canvass for signatures to a petition asking for an amendment of the Divorce Act of 1920. Auckland co-operated with the National Council of Women in a public protest against this Act. Canterbury Provincial Convention also sent a protest to the Government against the same Act.

Auckland, Wellington, and Canterbury Conventions urged upon the Government amendments of the Crimes Act, the appointment of officers of the Court to collect maintenance dues, and the establishment of a system of compulsory reproductive work for persistent defaulters in regard to the payment of maintenance dues. Canterbury Convention further urged that widows' pensions should be put upon the same footing as those of epidemic widows, and that the wives of chronic invalids should be placed upon the same footing with regard to pensions as the wives of mentally afflicted men; that mothers should be given equal rights of guardianship with the fathers of children; that the

father of an illegitimate child should be made equally responsible with the mother for the welfare of the child; that the Minister of Railways should be asked to prohibit drinking on trains.

Otago and Southland Convention urged that the attendance of children at picture shows should be regulated; also that the Government be urged to continue its "Prohibition" policy in Samoa.

Invercargill reports having secured a mitigation of the sentence inflicted by the local Court upon a young girl.

Stratford protested against the continuance of indentured labour in Samoa.

In respect to legislation of special interest to the Women's Christian Temperance Union, I have to report that, owing possibly to the lateness of the session of Parliament and pressure of business, no Social Hygiene Bill was introduced this session; also that the Petitions Committee of the House reported with regard to the petition asking for the raising of the age of consent and for the extending of the time limit that as these were controversial matters, it had no recommendation to make, while the petition for the abolition of the plea of "reasonable cause to believe" was recommended to the favourable consideration of the House. Notwithstanding the favourable report from the Commit-

tee in this case, nothing was done. I have also to report that (1) the Divorce Act of 1920 has been amended by the provision that if an application for divorce on account of separation is made by the guilty party, and the other party objects, the divorce cannot be granted; (2) the Legitimation Act has been amended so as to make complete provision for the legitimation of children born out of wedlock on the subsequent marriage of the parents. In the old Act there was a proviso that if at the date of the birth of the child there existed any legal impediment to marriage legitimation could not be allowed. This has been repealed by the amending Act of this year; provision has also been made that in the case of a man who has married the mother of a child, born before their marriage, dying without securing the legitimation of the child, the mother may make application for legitimation. (3) The Destitute Persons Maintenance Act has been amended so as to enable maintenance orders made in Great Britain to be enforced in New Zealand. It also provides that an officer of the Court may be appointed to collect maintenance dues. The latter provision is all that we have been able to secure as the result of our agitation to have officers appointed.

### W.C.T.U. Maori Mission Department, BALANCE-SHEET FOR YEAR ENDED 24th JANUARY, 1922.

RECEIPTS.				EXPENDITURE.		
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.		£ s. d.		
Balance at 24/1/22 in P.O.S. Bank		114	2	1	Travelling and Other Expenses, Convention	14 9 0
Donations	39 19 7				Mrs Noda—Visit to Auckland Unions	8 10 6
Collections	19 7 0				Stationery and Typing	1 19 0
Member's Subscription	3 2 6				Badges and Leaflets	2 17 0
Sale of Badges and Leaflets	2 0 0				Postages and Miscellaneous	2 19 5
Grant from N.Z. Treasurer	0 7 6				Mrs Poraumati—Salary and Travelling Expenses since July, 1921	71 10 0
		64	16	7	Mrs Fulljames—Expenses Visit to Batley	1 10 0
					Balance in P.O. Savings Bank	74 18 3
		£178	18	8	Cash in Treasurer's Hands	0 5 6
						£178 18 8

N.B.—Accrued Interest at P.O. Savings Bank, £2 7s 2d, under new regulations not to be entered until March 31st.

N. F. WALKER, Treasurer.

Gisborne, February 21st, 1922.

A. GLEAVE, Auditor.

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