

Legal and Parliamentary Dept.

(Please read at Union Meetings)

Replies have been received from the **Hon H. G. R. Mason**, Minister of Justice, on two matters:

1. Re Reinstatement of Anti-shouting Legislation:

The views of your organisation have been noted and while I do not think that public opinion favours the re-introduction of anti-shouting legislation, the question will be considered when the Licensing Act is reviewed.

2. Re Removal of State Control Issue from the Ballot Paper:

The views of your organisation on this matter will be given consideration by the Government. I think there is something to be said for dropping the issue of State Control from the Referendum, but the matter is one which can more properly be considered in conjunction with a general review of licensing laws than in isolation.

Re Local Option. Our remit to N.C.W. on Local Option was supported by that body, but an unfavourable reply was received from the Minister of Justice, who stated that there had been an agreement between the two parties to drop local option in favour of a National Poll. I have replied that this story by one man has been refuted by such dependable people as Sir Francis Bell, the late Mr Justice Adams, Rev. John Dawson, and Mr A. R. Atkinson, and I have supplied the Minister with a lot of detail on this matter. It was the Liquor Trade that demanded the third issue of State Control, which Alliance Representation strongly opposed.

License to Dunedin Milk Bar. We were glad to see that the Licensing Control Commission cancelled the License issued by a Licensing Committee in Dunedin.

Wet Canteens in Drill Halls. North Canterbury District forwarded a protest and I have written an objection to the Minister of Defence.

British Street Offences Bill. We have been interested in the protest made by the B.W.T.A.U. on the matter in England. Their Union considers that, by confining the offence to the common prostitute, the Government ignores the responsibility of both sexes for the condition of the streets and for the business of prostitution. It is also thought that the Bill gives dangerous power to the police, in that they may arrest women without a warrant. Innocent women might be summoned mistakenly. Objection is also made to the term, common prostitute.

Publication of Court Proceedings. We have thought it all to the good for young folk, who are children of involved marriages, that unsavoury details of divorce cases should not be published. Mr Justice Turner, in a recent address given in Auckland, has pointed out some disadvantages of this new measure. It is made easier for litigants to lie under oath without so much fear of detection and without newspaper publicity to check their veracity. The Courts are anxiously watching the working out of this recent Divorce Proceedings Amendment Act.

Important. It is highly probable that attempts will be made to legalise restaurant drinking and liquor in dance halls. Members are asked to watch carefully for any word to this effect and to protest to their local M.P.s at the first sign of any such step.

Recommendation. A recently published book is recommended for study. It is "Alcohol and the Christian Ethic", by Dr T. G. Dunning, the well-known British Baptist, who has been General Secretary of the Temperance branch of the Council of Christian Churches.

Kentish Ale. A number of requests for information about this drink have been received. Its sale is quite legal without a licence, as it is of similar strength to ginger beer and hop beer. Ginger ale is, of course, a soft drink. The terms proof spirit and alcohol are not synonymous. Halve the amount of proof spirit and you get the approximate amount of alcohol. Some scientists would like the term proof spirit eliminated, as it is often misleading.

—L. K. V. Grigg,

Director, Legal and Parliamentary Dept.

AUSTRIAN REFUGEE PARCELS

Appeal to Unions for Christmas Gifts

Dominion Convention in Christchurch again sanctioned the appeal for the giving of Christmas parcels to **Austrian Refugee Children's Villages**. Gifts such as wollies, soft toys, puzzles, aprons, pocket knives, etc., are suitable to send, **but not story books.**

Your local Post Office will supply postage rates. An 11 lb. parcel is the most economic per lb. to post. **PARCELS MUST BE POSTED BY THE FIRST WEEK IN OCTOBER,** to

Miss Hedwig Missner,
Brechergasse 6,
Vienna, XIX/117, AUSTRIA.

Please state on Post Office form that the parcel is for refugee children, and **value gifts at wholesale rate only.**

—V. Jackson (63 Cole St., Masterton).

PAN PACIFIC AND SOUTH EAST ASIAN WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

The Wellington Area Group, to which Wellington District W.C.T.U. is affiliated, received a wonderful response to the gift of books sent to the Tokalau Islands' schoolchildren. People in countries less fortunate than our own, are hungry for literature.

The Wellington Group received letters in good English and beautiful handwriting from Standard 6 pupils and teachers, with really lovely specimens of handwork, a canoe, hats, bags, table mats and fans, edged thickly with chicken feathers. The Wellington Public Library is to display this work and in a response to our appeal for further books and some clothing, a large parcel will be sent. It has been heartening to get such warmth of pleasure and gratitude from these Island people and we commend such efforts of the PPSEA to our members. These Islands are very isolated with a mail only once in three months. —V.G.