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Conference of Correspondence School Ex-Pupils

MANY spheres of occupation were represented by delegates to the conference of Correspondence School ex-pupils at Lower Hutt recently—accountancy, clerical work, library work, telephone operating, interior decorating, teaching, commercial art, and farming—so many, in fact, that the general members of the Ex-Pupils' Association, of whom there are 500, must be able to make up a fairly comprehensive professional, business, and industrial directory of their own.

There were 23 delegates from 14 of the 18 branches of the Association at the conference. They came from far north of Auckland and from Southland. For three days they discussed their activities, in the form of 100 remits. The main remit dealt with forming a national executive which, in time, will handle all the Association affairs. They talked, also, of producing next year their own magazine, and they decided to form a school memorial library in memory of the many ex-pupils who have given their lives during the present war.

But remits and other matters of a strictly business nature did not occupy the whole of the conference. The delegates forgot the routine work of the agenda paper long enough to attend a theatre party, to visit the Correspondence School—some of them making personal contact with it for the first time—to see the Government Film Studios at Miramar, and to inspect Parliament House.

When opening the conference, Dr. A. G. Butchers, headmaster of the Correspondence School, said something of its growth during 25 years. Its roll, he said, was now 4,000, with studies covering a wide and varied programme. Standards were high, and the work turned out needed no apology. Some ex-pupils were attending the Training College and there were none better. To-day there was a staff of 140; it began with two, and their co-operation had made his task light. The clerical staff had worked hard, with obsolete machines, and performed wonders. Between it and the pupils there was a happy bond of friendship.

Dr. Butchers said that one day he hoped to make the present school into a hostel, with sufficient accommodation to enable all pupils to have a month's

personal tuition and nine months' correspondence yearly. There was room for expansion and, from the start, he had aimed at personal contact; but there were problems confronting the teacher not in personal contact with his class, and Dr. Butchers emphasised the value of vacation schools, radio broadcasts, and breaking-up ceremonies in overcoming these. The chairmen of the conference were E. J. Werry and A. D. McKinley (convener of the Association).



CONTRASTS in a group of delegates to the Conference—
Left to right: Elsie Arnold, Nelson (youngest ex-pupil present
at the Conference); Mr. Robb, Gisborne (oldest ex-pupil mem-
ber of the Association); Edna Neill, Southland ("girl" from
farthest south); Selwyn Armstrong, Whangarei ("boy" from
farthest north).

The assembled delegates are shown in the group at the head
of the page.



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doings of the Barbour family and their
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