

ORGANISER'S REPORT.

The next place that called for my attention was Patea. Here I was able to organise quite a promising Union having for its officers, Mrs Robbie, President; Mrs Bridgeman, Secretary; Mrs Ireland, Treasurer; Mrs Harrison, W.R. Agent. A systematic visitation of the town was carried out, several of the newly formed Union assisting. Arrangements were made for Rev R. B. S. Hammond to hold a meeting for ladies in the afternoon of his visit to the town. Three new members being initiated. A visit to Whenuakura for the morning service, addressing Presbyterian S.S., when 24 boys and girls signed the pledge in the afternoon. Taking service at Methodist Church in evening completed a full Sunday's work. After a few more days work here then left for Manaia, calling in at Normanby for their Union meeting. This Union is proving itself a very useful and strong influence for good in this district, and it was very gratifying to see so many busy women gathered together, especially so at this busy season when every minute is of such value on the farms.

It was thought advisable to visit Kapuni. Accordingly on Sunday afternoon addressed a united S.S. gathering, when every boy and girl signed the pledge. Coming back to the home of Mrs Ricketts, held a little meeting in the Dining Room, when 3 new members were initiated in W.R. work, and became members of Manaia Union. Also a pleasant little time and talk was given to the members of this family. Next day Mrs Ricketts drove me out to make some calls which resulted in securing 12 new members for the Union. It is hoped that Home Meetings will be held at this place at no distant date.

Returned to Manaia to be at their Annual Meeting. Letters having come from Stratford and Ngaere for 26th and 30th and Dec. 1st, it was decided to go for these dates and return again to the field. Arriving at Stratford, I was met by the retiring President, Mrs Withy; became the guest of Mrs Reeve. Unfortunately the weather came up very stormy, and wet, during my stay here. I was able to meet with the Union members and speak with them, at the close they desired me to stay for Sunday and to give them a public meeting in the afternoon, which was done, when one

new member was initiated, and the collection taken up resulted in £1, which was given to relief fund.

Early next morning Mr and Mrs Morrison, who were accompanied by Mrs Kennington, drove for me to go to Ngaere, and on our way made several calls. Arriving there, through much rain, were glad of the home welcome of the indefatigable Secretary, Mrs Jones. In the evening a public meeting was held, when a goodly attendance greeted us and a pleasant and profitable time was spent. The newly-elected President of the Union, Mrs Kennington, presided. This capable, active and earnest old veteran in the cause, whose years vie with the allotted span of life, still presents as good a fighting front as ever, and we sincerely wish for her a bright, happy and prosperous term of office.

Next afternoon the Union met at the home of Mrs Morrison, ex-president, where I had the privilege of speaking with these fine lot of workers. The work in this district entails quite a lot of travel, chiefly by driving, or cycling, and to many kind friends I am indebted for making it possible to get from one to the other of these various places.

My work is not yet finished in this district, and will have to wait my next report. Every moment of the precious time now left us in which to work is being availed of, and hope by the time this reaches you the great day will have come and gone. Let us hope and trust all will recognise the importance and sacred responsibility attached to the ballot box.

Yours with prayers that God's will may be done at this time and ever,

ALICE L. MOWLEM.

My address: No 10, Walters Road,
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TEMPERANCE AND THE WAR.

(By Miss Agnes Slack.)

From every part of England I am receiving letters asking how the sale of intoxicants can be best lessened during this serious time. Our country is engaged in the greatest war the world has known, and is facing the most serious crisis our nation has known during the last 100 years.

The National British Women's Temperance Association is urging our

165,000 members to use every effort to show that the expenditure in alcohol is a criminal waste; it has no food value. Lord Kitchener's appeal to our soldiers to abstain from wine indicates a new era in British warfare. The highest physical and mental fitness is attained by teetotallers.

Native princes in India questioned me about the alcoholism of Great Britain, and pointed out the teaching of their religion prohibited it. Canada, Australia, New Zealand; every part of our Empire is giving us a lead on this question, and our wonderful Imperial Army will endure as no army has previously done, largely owing to its enforced teetotalism. The B.W.T.A., through its branches, is urging chief constables on city, borough, or county, by deputations or petitions, and the Licensing Bench, to take action. On September 9th, at the Thames Police Court, the number of charges for drunkenness was reduced from 78 on the previous day to 26, owing to the earlier closing just adopted in that area.

We are urging the distribution of temperance drinks and water to troops passing through railway stations. Our nation gives £1,000,000 in **one** week to the Prince of Wales' Relief Fund, but the Nation **wastes** £3,000,000 **every** week on intoxicating drinks. I am greatly cheered by the article in the "Times" on September 21, showing so clearly that our Allied Army have clean hands. Their march is not signalised by "myriads of empty bottles."

Russia has given the whole world an example. Never in history has any country taken such a great stand in prohibiting the sale of spirituous liquors and beer throughout its immense domains. It is good for us to realise, owing to the work of Temperance Societies and the enormous advance of scientific experiments, that for the first time in history, on the side of the Allies, this is a teetotal war. Our men are being taught that their eyesight, aim, and power of endurance can be best maintained by entire absence from all intoxicants.

I saw on Waggon Hill (Ladysmith), on the bare, stony veldt, a huge narrow trench, in which were buried so many men of the Manchester Regiment. This trench is enclosed by a barbed wire fence. At the end a monument gives the long list of