

### W.C.T.U., CAPE PROVINCE, SOUTH AFRICA.

The White Ribboners of the Cape Province were much disappointed at not being able to hold their annual Convention this year, owing to the outbreak of the European war, and the consequent unsettled state of the country. It had been decided to meet at Alice, in the Eastern Districts, in September, and the Convention was to be a very special one, it being the twenty-fifth anniversary of the founding of the W.C.T.U. in South Africa, and also the Alice Union hoped to celebrate its twenty-first birthday. The disappointment was therefore very keen when the general officers decided, under the existing circumstances of war, and unrest, to cancel all arrangements for holding Convention. Later on, however, it was decided to call together a larger Executive Committee than the usual quarterly one, in order that the reports of officers and superintendents, which had been prepared for Convention, could be read and adopted, the President's address given, and other urgent matters settled. This Committee met in Capetown on November 5th and 6th, the session of the first day being open to the public and the members of the local branches. Miss Emilie J. Solomon occupied the chair, and the opening devotional services were conducted by Mrs Wm. Abbott, acting-Superintendent of the Evangelistic Department. This service was followed by the reading of the "Declaration of Principles" by the President, while all stood.

The reports of the Corresponding Secretary and the two "Y" Secretaries were then submitted, all being of an encouraging nature, and telling of an increased membership.

Following on these reports was the annual address given by the President, Miss Solomon. This address was a review of the twenty-five years' growth of the organisation in South Africa. Miss Solomon recalled how in 1889 a frail little woman had visited South African shores. Mrs Mary Clement Leavett had come from America on her "all round the world tour," in order to extend an invitation to all women to join the White Ribbon movement, which had worked such wonders in her own land. Before the visit of Mrs Leavett there had existed one Union at Woodstock, organised by Mrs Denholm as a result

of a visit to America some time previously, but this branch had been affiliated directly with the World's W.C.T.U. Miss Solomon then sketched the story of the Women's Crusade as told by Mrs Leavett in Capetown on June 19th, 1889, which came as a "bugle call to many, causing them to see neglected duty and bidding them be up and doing." The story, Miss Solomon said, was told with all the earnestness of an enthusiast, and many responded to her invitation to join the mighty army of White Ribbon women. Thus began the work in the Cape Province, and in 1890 the first Convention was held, over which Miss Ferguson, of the Huguenot Seminary, presided. Miss Virginia Pride was elected President. This Convention only lasted three hours. Two important matters were accomplished. The members solemnly banded themselves together, and formed the W.C.T.U. of Cape Colony. At this Convention, too, a delegate was appointed to the first World's Convention, held in Boston in 1891. Miss Solomon then referred to the many activities of the Union, speaking at length on the various vicissitudes of the White Ribbon magazine, started as "Y's and Otherwise," and edited for many years by Miss Anna Cummings.

A warm and loving tribute was paid to the workers and organisers from other lands who had done so much for South Africa, Mrs Andrews and Dr. Kate Bushnell, Miss Alice Palmer, Miss Jessie Ackermann, the Misses Vincent and Cummins, and Miss Agnes Slack, all of whom had done much to build up the W.C.T.U. in South Africa. Mrs Fehr, Mrs John Brown, and Mrs Hartnoll were also affectionately remembered.

Miss Solomon spoke feelingly of several noble comrades of the early days, some of whom were removed to higher service, while many were still among the active workers, and a tender tie bound these to one another.

Though in South Africa no sensational developments, such as America had witnessed, can be recorded, we can rejoice in a steady growth of Temperance sentiment throughout the country, and the W.C.T.U. can claim a large share of thus educating public opinion. We have done much to secure a more general observance of Temperance Sunday. We initiated the movement against the sale of liquor in Defence Force camps, and

it was in our Union that the spade work was done which resulted in the establishment of the Duxhurst Home for Inebriate Women.

In concluding this very comprehensive address, Miss Solomon earnestly appealed to her fellow-comrades to reconsecrate themselves to this sacred calling.

The reports of the superintendents were extremely interesting, and showed progress in many directions.

---

### AN APPEAL TO BRITISH WOMEN.

---

While we contemplate with deepest grief the heavy cloud of war hanging over the Continent of Europe, yet we feel thankful for the many gleams of brightness, which show that even this cloud has a silver lining. The splendid willingness to help shown right throughout the Empire, and the energy and ability brought to bear upon the problem of relief, seem to us to give promise of a glorious noon-tide, when the mists of early morning have cleared away.

We admire the patriotism that inspires men to volunteer for the defence of their country; we glory in the heroism which they display upon the battleship and in the trenches; but especially to us appeal the sufferings of the wives and children. Apart from Belgian women and children refugees in England rendered homeless and friendless by war, many English women and children are in dire need. Shops and offices have reduced their staffs, many are out of work, or working half-time, and no wages means starvation. To the rescue have hastened the Women's Suffrage Societies, well organised and splendidly equipped, and are hourly demonstrating that if they don't get the vote, at least they richly deserve it. They are establishing depots where milk for babies can be had. They are providing work for the workless at a minimum wage of 10s per week. The Actresses' Franchise League has started work in a direction which will be of permanent national value, viz., the cultivation of waste ground for the production of food-stuffs and the utilisation of surplus food. Miss Carey, of the Actresses' Franchise League, has secured the control of the tons of unsold meat, vegetables, fruit and fish which has hitherto been de-