

News of the Unions.

(The Editor cannot promise to insert anything in the next issue that does not reach her by the 8th of the month. Correspondents are requested to write their Reports as concisely as possible, on one side of the paper only. Newspaper cuttings are unsuitable.)

CHRISTCHURCH.

Feb. General meeting held. Mrs McCombs presided. Decided to donate five guineas to the Belgian Harvest Festival, also that the Union give the use of their luncheon booth, attend to the afternoon tea, and give every assistance possible. A vote of appreciation was passed of the action of those members of the Tramway Board who recently voted against the proposal to make all open seats on cars available to smokers. The Union is pleased to learn that some members of the Board recognise the fact that the trams should be run in the interests of the citizens, and not merely for a section of the public. The following department officers were approved:—Evangelistic, Mrs McKee and Miss Gainsford; Legal and Parliamentary, Misses Roberts and Henderson; Home Meetings, Mesdames De Renzie Newton and Derrett; "White Ribbon," Mesdames Williams and Napier; Peace and Arbitration, Mrs McFarlane; Librarian, Miss W. Lovell-Smith; Press, Miss McKay; Purity, Mrs H. Lovell-Smith; Domestic Science, Mrs T. E. Taylor; Unfermented Wine, Mrs Pedler; Scientific Temperance Instruction and Non-Alcoholic Medication, Mrs Patterson; Educational Meetings, Miss W. Lovell-Smith. It was resolved that a message of sympathy and warm appreciation of past work be sent to Mrs Wise.

The Union met on February 24th. Mrs J. McCombs presided. Francis Willard Day was celebrated. Miss Henderson, B.A., gave an address on the wonderful influence of the life of Francis Willard on the women of America, the total increase in membership last year being 30,780. Miss Roberts gave a short address on work amongst the young people. The following ladies were appointed superintendents of departments:—Anti-Gambling, Mrs Richardson; Good Citizenship, Miss Bishop. The following resolution was passed:—"That in view of the acute distress prevailing in Belgium, this Union urges the Government to provide a generous contribution, to be forwarded monthly, towards its relief, and also to take steps to ensure that by means of taxation every citizen throughout New Zealand contribute thereto according to their means. Committees were set up to collect for the tea booth at the Belgian Harvest Festival.

NELSON.

The first meeting for the present year was held on February 9th; about

20 members were present, Miss Atkinson presiding. The principal business was the passing of accounts, the discussion of the motions to be brought forward at the Convention next month, and the election of delegates. Mesdames Field and Edmonds were chosen to represent the Union. Plans were also discussed for giving systematic help to the soldiers at the front, and to the mothers and babies who were in need of it at home.

NGAERE.

Meeting held at home of Mrs Ellis. Six members present. One new member initiated, and one new subscriber to "White Ribbon."

WOODVILLE.

Meeting held on February 23rd. The chief business was to elect a representative to attend the Christchurch Convention. Mrs Perkins (Vice-President) was chosen. The Union nominated N.Z. officers as follows:—Pres., Mrs Don; Cor. Sec., Miss Henderson; Rec. Sec., Mrs W. A. Evans; Treas., Mrs Bendely.

N.E. VALLEY.

Feb. 25. First meeting for 1915 held; attendance good; Mrs H. B. Gray presided. Our President (Mrs G. B. Elliot) resigned, as she is leaving the district. Regret was expressed by many on losing such a capable leader. Resolved no appointment be made just now. Officers re-elected: Vice-Presidents, Mesdames H. B. Gray, Carlisle, Wright, and Begg; Sec., Miss M. U. Begg; Treas., Mrs H. Sanders; Supts. of Departments to form the Executive. Miss Powell, Dominion Organiser, was present, and suggested plans for work in various departments. Mrs Peart was appointed delegate to Convention, Mrs Mears substitute.

TIMARU.

Feb. Monthly meeting at the Sailors' Rest. Mr Stead reported a quiet month at the Rest.

On Thursday, February 11th, a picnic was given in the Park to the members of the Cradle Roll and their mothers. There were between 60 and 70 children present, from babies a few weeks old to children seven and eight years. The Plunkett Nurse (Miss Cameron) very kindly attended, and gave some well-chosen words of advice to the mothers, at the same time congratulating them on the fine healthy appearance of the children. Afternoon tea was dispensed and much enjoyed. Business in connection with the forthcoming Convention was transacted. Visitors to the Hospital were appointed, and it was decided to ask Miss Powell if she would be able to pay a visit to Timaru while in the South Island. Collection had been made among the members for a family in very sad circumstances through the illness of the father.

STRATFORD.

Feb. 11. Meeting held in Methodist Church; attendance fair. Business in reference to the Convention was discussed. Resolved to ask for a proxy to represent the Union at the Convention in March re election of N.Z. officers and the proposed amendments by Miss Dewar, Mrs Scanlon, Miss Powell, and Miss Henderson. The President suggested that Frances Willard Day be celebrated by an afternoon gathering at the President's home, which was agreed to. Resolved that the President send occasional reports of meetings to "White Ribbon."

On February 17th Willard Day celebrated at the residence of Mrs Reeve. The attendance was marred by rough weather. A very pleasant afternoon was spent. Musical items were rendered by friends, and a competition was keenly contested. A vote of condolence was passed to our Secretary and family in their recent bereavement. Afternoon tea and collection.

NEW PLYMOUTH.

July 27. Election of officers for this year: Pres., Mrs Allan Douglas; Cor. Sec., Mrs Skitrop, Mill Road; Rec. Sec., Mrs Bruce; Treas., Miss Taunt. Much regret was expressed at Miss Ambury's retiring from the Secretaryship. All recognise that the Union owes its general efficiency mainly to our late Secretary's untiring zeal.

Feb. 24. Willard Day was kept by holding a social afternoon and a small Sale of Work and Produce at the same time. Members brought saleable goods, which realised a nice little sum. Tea, music, and recitation by Miss Winnie Tichbon made a pleasant hour.

FEILDING.

Feb. Monthly meeting held, attendance good, Miss Moore in the chair. Mrs Budd (Vice-President) opened the meeting. Apologies were read from absent members. The following resolutions were passed:—To keep the delicate child in the Home as long as funds permit; there is a sum of £2 in hand, and donations were handed in by members. A resolution of sympathy was sent to Mrs F. Lethbridge, one of our oldest members, in her recent sad bereavement. The proposed resolutions for the coming Convention, to be held in Christchurch, were discussed and approved; a delegate to be sent if possible. The advisability of holding young people's meeting, also the matter of holding scientific temperance essay competitions. Other business was done, completing a profitable meeting.

March 4. Our usual meeting was held. The following resolutions were passed:—"That a public social be held at Mrs Pennys West on Saturday, 13th, to celebrate Francis Willard Day"—funds in aid of an invalid child. It was decided to order 12 copies of the W.R. Convention