

During the year I have endeavoured to keep a watchful eye on the attitude of local bodies in relation to Sunday Concerts, amusements, and other forms of Sabbath desecration; and when necessary have entered an emphatic protest, as in the case of the proposed action of the City Council in allowing a charge to be made for the Artillery Concert, in February last.

I think the W.C.T.U. should provide up-to-date literature on "Sabbath Observance," and that there is the need of observing the Sabbath more strictly by Christian people.

Greymouth reports: No Superintendent, but individual members do what they can in this matter.

Wellington District Union.—Supt. of S.O. reports: Have visited shops which have been open on the Sabbath; talked with the shop-keepers, distributed literature, waited upon the Minister of Justice (Hon. A. L. Herdman) and he sent to the Sergeant of Police, who took action, and a number of shop-keepers were summoned for Sunday trading. Had the gratification of seeing one shop closed which was frequented every Sunday by College lads on their way to Church. Have written to two Ministers' Associations asking them to preach a sermon on "Sabbath Observance" once a quarter in their respective Churches. Have spoken to the members of Bible Classes, also to the women in the Alexandra Home, urging them to "Remember the Sabbath Day to keep it holy."

Before closing may I suggest that every member of this Convention will do their uttermost to prevent labour being done on the Sabbath Day; remembering it is God's Gift to all His creatures, and we have no right to rob our fellows of their day of rest, by using trams, trains, telephones, or anything which means work on God's Holy Day.

E. A. BOXALL,
Supt. "Sabbath Observance."

WORK AMONG SEAMEN.

Dunedin.—A lengthy report was received from Mrs Pearson, the Superintendent of the department, from which I gather the following:—The Dunedin "Rest" has been in existence twenty-nine years. It has been the means of helping a very large number of "those who go down to the sea in ships." Spiritual help has always been to the fore, and the workers are able to praise God for untold blessing on their work, which has been truly a labour of love. The Missioner, Mr Robertson, visits every deep water vessel that comes into port, and all on board are invited to visit the "Rest" and make use of all its advantages. There are evangelistic meetings, and meetings for recreation, a library, magazines, illustrated and daily newspapers. It is much used for letter writing, and it is not too much to say that hundreds of let-

ters are written during the year, which would not have been written but for the provision made for them at the "Rest," keeping the men in touch with home, and having a good effect on their daily lives. Mrs Palmer, the caretaker, is never too busy to make a cup of tea, and to mother and attend her sailor boys. Mr Robertson is assisted by a band of willing workers. A debt of gratitude is due to them for their unselfish and purely voluntary labours. The Committee gratefully acknowledge the proprietors of the "Dunedin Star" for free copies daily, also the proprietor of the "Outlook" for weekly copy; also the many friends who have made donations of books, magazines, and illustrated papers, and to those good friends whose annual contributions make it possible for the "Rest" to be carried on. Also to the various coal companies for their generous gifts of coal during the winter months.

Timaru.—The Timaru "Sailors' Rest" still continues its good work under the able management of Mr and Mrs Stead. 673 sailors have made 1244 visits during the year. The men are able to read, write letters, and play games. They often express to Mr Stead their appreciation of the efforts made for their help and comfort. We have to thank the Winchmore Union for a "comfort bag" social evening, which was much enjoyed. Bundles of literature have been supplied to the outgoing vessels. We have to thank the public of Timaru for literature and donations towards the funds, which meet all expenses.

Greymouth.—Greymouth reports a good year at the "Rest," the seamen visiting the port look upon it as their home. The caretaker and his wife receive many letters and post-cards from the men, who look forward to seeing them again. Several social evenings have been held during the year. Eleven pledges have been taken. Flowers and papers have been distributed. A successful picnic was held on Labour Day, arranged by the caretaker and his friends. A perfect day was spent in the country, and enjoyed by all. The wreck of the "Kairaki" is feelingly mentioned in the report. Only a few days before the caretaker's little girl received a post-card from one of the men, telling her they were looking forward to having a good time at the "Rest." A room has been fitted up for the use of men who may remain on shore. Sunday evening meetings are held. Sankey's hymns are sung. Greymouth is getting on, and is hoping for greater results next year.

Lyttelton.—Thirteen members of the W.C.T.U. are members of the Ladies' Guild, and assist the Superintendent of the Seamen's Institute in whatever is going on. The Sunday evening services are well attended. An entertainment and supper is given weekly. Sunday teas are provided. Special services and socials are held during the week, and Saturday picnics

occasionally. In all the above some of the members of the W.C.T.U. assist. A weekly Bible Class for the sailors is conducted by one of the members.

Westport.—The Sailors' Rest Committee is composed of three members of the W.C.T.U. and citizens of Westport, who take a great interest in the work. The "Rest" is well attended. The caretaker and his wife look well after the men, who much appreciate the comfortable place provided for them. The "Rest" owes its existence to the W.C.T.U.

Christchurch and Rangiora made comfort bags, which are greatly appreciated by the men, and are usually presented at the close of the Christmas entertainment.

Courteous replies were received from Nelson, New Plymouth, Pahiatua, Hamilton, and Ngaere, but these had nothing special to report.

I am inclined to think some of the Unions have not been as energetic in the cause of the seamen as heretofore, but I think all have been taken up with work in connection with the terrible war which is raging, so we will thank God and take courage.

A. E. WHITBY,
New Zealand Superintendent.

MILITARY CAMPS.

The year has been one of great opportunity so far as our work in this department is concerned, and we are pleased to report considerable activity by the various Unions where large bodies of troops have been gathered for training. The war has made members of all shades of opinion feel the necessity of doing something in the best interests of the men who have gone forth to take part in the struggle against the deadly militarism of Germany. It is no part of my duty to deal with the war itself, but rather to speak of those efforts that were made in the very best interests of our sons and brothers.

These efforts have not been confined to the somewhat easy task of distributing literature, but have included personal work in providing comforts and making provision for the physical, social, and moral well-being of the men.

Invercargill reports distributing coffee and refreshments to the members of the Battery, and of taking its share in providing comforts in the form of clothing for the men here and at the front.

Timaru reports having distributed literature. During the Addington Camp the Christchurch Union placed their luncheon rooms on the Show Ground at the disposal of the Y.M.C.A. and C.E.M.S., and as some token of their appreciation, the men contributed over £20 towards the expenses incurred by the two Societies. At the close of the camp these two bodies forwarded a cheque for £5 towards our Union funds.