

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.)

NAPIER.

Sept. 21. Franchise Day. Short report of what N.Z. women have gained since 1893 by Mrs Fossey. Address by Matron of Bethany Home on "How to Help Our Fallen Sisters." Musical items and afternoon tea. Arranged that Tuesday afternoons should be kept for making sand-bags so long as a sufficient number of members help.

The following resolution was sent to the Prime Minister: "That the Napier Branch of the W.C.T.U. notes with extreme regret that the Members of Parliament in this Dominion have so far failed in their duty to the Empire as to continue the consumption of alcoholic liquors at Bellamys, by a secret vote at a time when example is better than precept, and particularly as His Majesty the King has set so noble an example.

October 6. Reported that 200 sand-bags had been sent away; that £29 14s had been collected for sand-bags, and woollen comforts for the soldiers, and that a box containing 127 operation cloths, 64 diet cloths, 41 fomentation cloths, 7 hot water bottle covers, 98 bandages, 38 face cloths, 14 bundles of medicine cloths, 2 cotton blankets, and 1 pair of woollen bed socks, had been sent also. The last packing case was ready for the Belgians, containing all new clothing, about half being hand-made woollen garments, 242 garments in all, making 469 sent.

NGAIRE.

October 5. At Mrs X. Jones's. Good attendance of members. Superintendent of Flower Mission reported having sent a parcel of clothing to the Door of Hope. Decided to buy £3 worth of flannel to be made up for our soldiers at the front. Money has been collected for sand-bags, and over 100 have been made up. Decided to forward to the Minister of Defence the following resolution: In view of the fact that a number of youths between the ages of 17 and 20 years have been accepted by the military authorities for service abroad, we, the members of the W.C.T.U., Ngaire, beg that the Minister of Defence take steps to prevent further enlistment of such lads, and return such as are already in camp to their homes. We, as mothers, consider that youths of such tender years, not having reached maturity will easily fall victims to the many diseases which are prevalent at the war front,

and so will greatly increase the loss of life amongst our brave troops. This is surely unnecessary, as there are still many men over 21 years of age who are able to bear arms, and until these are all under arms, we strongly urge the authorities not to accept the brave lads who have shamed many older men by volunteering for service. We consider that the law is being evaded, and would respectfully suggest that all applicants be compelled to produce their certificates of birth when sending in their names.

INVERCARGILL.

October 5. A fair attendance. We are deeply sorry that owing to illness, Mrs McKenzie has had to send in her resignation as President, and sincerely hope that she may soon be restored to health. Mrs Baird, senior, Vice-President, was appointed to preside until the end of the year. Very feeling reference was made to the death of Mrs D. Strang, one of the first band of W.C.T.U. women in Invercargill, a faithful and devoted Christian worker. A resolution of condolence and sympathy with the family, in the loss of their mother was passed, and a wreath sent by members of Victoria Home Committee.

In September a most successful Cradle Roll meeting was held, when Miss Birss gave a most instructive address on the "Montessori System of Infant Education," illustrated by apparatus used. Resolved to request Miss Birss to repeat the address at a future larger meeting. Resolution passed "Disapproving of the kind of pictures that are being shown to children in the local picture theatres." Some action to be taken in this matter. Mrs Hunter and Mrs Parr took charge of the Rest Rooms at the recent Patriotic Demonstration, and reported that a good sum of money was collected by their willing helpers for the Wounded Soldiers' Fund. Decided to forward the money for sand-bags to England to Miss Agnes Slack, our World's W.C.T.U. Secretary, asking her to get the bags made there and forwarded immediately. £2 was voted from our funds, and one member has collected a much larger sum. A letter from Mrs Barney, World's Missionary, with reference to Victoria Home was read.

WELLINGTON DISTRICT.

Three At Home meetings have been held during the last five weeks, given by Mesdames Wright and Cummings, Boxall and Webb, and Mrs Sidey, when thirteen new members were initiated. Miss Powell was the speaker, and her addresses were very much appreciated by those present. "Franchise Day" was held on September 23rd, when there was a good attendance. Miss Powell said that many requests had been made to the members of Parliament during the twenty-two years the women had had the vote, and emunerated some of the reforms

which had been granted by the Government through the agitation of the W.C.T.U. The Rev Hunt and Mrs Kemmington gave recitations, which added much to the pleasure of all.

The monthly meeting was held on October 7, when Mesdames Webb and Richards' reports of Provincial Convention were read, for which they received hearty votes of thanks.

OTAUTAU.

Sept. 9. The President in the chair. Resolved to send a letter of sympathy to Mrs W. E. Robertshaw on the death of her husband, also similar letter to husband and family of the late Mrs Ed. Henderson, who was one of our oldest members.

A special meeting was called for September 23, when arrangements for Band of Hope final concert on 29th October were made, and a committee are at work. Decided to affiliate with the Invercargill Union.

PALMERSTON NORTH.

A most interesting meeting here on the 17th. About fifty members were present. Public welcome to Rev and Mrs Blackburn, the new Anglican clergyman; Mrs Hodder presided. The President, Mrs Crabb, welcomed on behalf of the Union; Mr Crabb, on behalf of the No License League; Mr Monro on behalf of the Rechabites. Mr Blackburn responded, expressing his fullest sympathy with the cause of Temperance, and wished us God's speed in our work. A solo was sung by Mrs Whitehead. Mr Blackburn prayed, and we closed with the singing of a hymn. Two new members were initiated.

LOWEY HUTT.

Sept. 21. Mrs Routley, President, in the chair. Mrs Brash was appointed Treasurer. An address was given by Miss Powell. The sum of £5 voted for second lot of sand bags for the soldiers at the front. Eight new members were initiated bringing the total up to thirty.

October 5. Meeting held in Church of Christ, Mrs Routley presided; twelve members being present. Meeting opened with hymn and prayer. Mrs Lyford elected Superintendent of Cradle Roll.

OPOTIKI.

Union still actively engaged in its mission. We have been interviewing the heads of town and district schools re Temperance Essays, and we hope to have this carried through about the middle of October. Mr J. B. Gow has consented to examine the papers. Our Vice-President, Mrs W. Morice, has suffered bereavement in the loss of her son at the Dardanelles; we extend her our heartfelt sympathy.

AUCKLAND.

Usual meeting held, Miss Caley presided. A letter was read from Miss Dewar, asking for two delegates to at-