

W.C.T.U. CONVENTION IN VICTORIA.

The W.C.T.U. in Victoria held their annual Convention last October, when the report of the work done was most encouraging. In spite of much time and energy being given to Red Cross and other kinds of patriotic work, their one peculiar work shows no signs of neglect.

Twenty-one new branches have been organised during this year, and their membership has increased 1000 for the year. Will New Zealand show anything like a corresponding increase?

We give a few extracts from the opening address of their President, Mrs Downing: "Our ideals of national patriotism consist in bringing our soldiers and civilians up to the highest pitch of national efficiency by giving to them that only which will make them able to think and act quickly, to shoot accurately, withstand disease and wounds effectively, and increase brain and nerve power, either for battlefield or workshop use. As members of the W.C.T.U. and loyal citizens of the Empire, we are engaged to fight the greatest foe that the world has ever contended against—King Alcohol. Are we going to make Victoria a safe home for our returned heroes? Australia might now lead the world in the matter of social reform if all her women were united to cast out the enemy within. Much of our duty as an organisation in the future will be to bring to bear upon the liquor war the same force of character and qualities of mind which our soldiers have exhibited on the battlefield."

Mrs Downing stated that the immediate objective of the Union was to forward a great national movement for the closing of hotels at 6 p.m., the abolition of the "shouting" evil, the abolition of the employment of barmaids, and the education of the electors of Victoria (the majority of whom are women) to vote for No-License in 1917.

For the first time in the history of Massachusetts, a woman, Mrs George Ladd of Sturbridge, has been appointed to membership in the State Board of Agriculture.

ORGANISING FUND.

The following amounts have been received during the months of August, October, and November, 1915:—
August—7th: Stratford Union (T. E. Taylor Memorial Day), 10s. 28th: Warkworth, £1. Per Miss Powell: Mrs F. White, Greytown, £1 1s; Mrs W. A. Tate, Greytown, £1 1s.
October—7th: Lower Hutt, £1; President Lower Hutt Union (donation), £1. 15th: Per Mrs Lill: Donation from Canterbury Provincial Convention, 15s; donation from Mrs McCombs, 16s 10d. 15th: Waimate Union, £2. 30th: Per Miss Powell: Collection (nett), 19s 3d.
November—6th, Waipukurau Union, 13s; 7th, Woodville Union, £1; 14th, Wellington Central Union, £5 5s; 17th, Kaiapoi, £1; 26th, Wellington District, £5 8s; 27th, Wanganui East, 10s. Per Miss Powell: 27th, Mrs Lownley, Gisborne, £1 1s; Mrs E. Murphy, Gisborne, £2; Miss Elsie Williams, Hastings, £1; smaller donations, 2s 6d.
December—3rd: Palmerston North, £3; Okoia L.T. Legion (per Mrs Duxfield), £3 4s 7d.

ALICE R. C. TAYLOR,
Treas. Organising Fund.
Address: Mrs H. R. S. Taylor,
"Coveney," Balgownie, Wanganui.

PAX VOBISCUM.

I thank Thee for the sunshine
That floods the world to-day,
I thank Thee for the promise—
The promise of the May;
But Oh! I thank Thee, most of all,
That on our restless heart doth fall
Thy word of peace away.

The earth is full of anger,
Of bitterness and hate;
The faith our fathers fought for
Men say is out of date;
With thunder all the air is charged,
And hell her borders hath enlarged,
And shut seems heaven's gate.

O, where shall men find comfort,
Find comfort for their soul?
The idols that they worship
Can never make them whole.
In vain they call them to their aid,
When on the brink they stand afraid,
And death demands his toll.

O Christ, 'tis Thou has given
Our souls from death release,
And only in Thy presence
All enmity doth cease.
Though earth dissolve and melt away,
Thy love is our sufficient stay,
Thy Word is still our peace.

—E.S.B.

Correspondence.

(The Editor is not responsible for opinions expressed by correspondents.)

1916 CONVENTION.

(To the Editor.)

Dear Editor,—I have been in touch with officers of several provinces about our next Convention, and now feel led to write to urge every Branch and every member to make this the greatest Convention we have ever had. Our workers everywhere are unsparing in their labours for the soldier boys, and patriotic efforts; but we have never worked under the name of our own organisation, and so we have lost the credit of the invaluable work and thousands of pounds given by our members. Could not we all unite and give £500 to ambulance work from our Convention, or to a hospital bed for soldiers, or a Y.M.C.A. canteen for Egypt, or some one of the great efforts to bless and benefit our boys? If every member collected twenty shillings, or gave that amount, what a magnificent sum would stand to the credit of the W.C.T.U. in their own name for national needs.

Sisters, make Wanganui notable for the most magnificent Conference and magnificent sacrifice the W.C.T.U. has ever enjoyed. "Our God is able to do exceeding abundantly, more than we can ask or think." Shall we ask £500? Shall we think £3000? I will give my portion. Will you give yours?—Your loyal sister,

BESSIE LEE-COWIE,
World's Missionary W.C.T.U.
Amethyst Hall, Invercargill,
December 11, 1915.

THE ANNUAL CONVENTION.

(To the Editor.)

Madam,—I am greatly surprised that any White Ribboner should suggest dispensing with our Annual Convention in 1916. My own feeling is that the necessity for this is even greater than usual. Our minds are so occupied with the war and kindred topics that we are in danger of forgetting that other foe—drink—which Lloyd George declares to be a more deadly one than the Austrians or Germans, and more to be feared than the submarines of our enemies. The District President of Palmerston North is planning a campaign for the weeks immediately after the holidays, especially with a view to working up the Convention and promoting a good representation from the little branches in the neighbourhood of Wanganui. This plan commends itself to me as an admirable one, and I shall be glad to fall in with it. We have some very big plans afoot, and our best brains will need to confer as to the methods most likely to ensure success. We shall not relax our efforts on behalf of our boys at the front (they lie