

ren that remain. The future is for them. If that future does not offer them every possibility for the development of all that is best and highest, then indeed we shall have to feel that this great treasure of sacrifice has been poured out in vain."

TREASURER'S REPORT.

Madam President and Dear Sisters,—

The report which I have the pleasure of presenting to you shows that we commenced the year with a credit balance of £96 1s 2d; that the total receipts were £149 10s 11d, and the total expenditure £163 3s 3d, and that the year closed with a total balance of £82 8s 10d.

On comparing these figures with those of the previous year, I find that the total amount of receipts is practically the same, although individual items show differences. The combined total of the Franchise Day collections and the donations, both of which go to the N.Z. Fund, are only a little short of the previous year's total, and I wish to thank those friends and Unions who have helped materially by individual donations or by undertaking to collect from others. When I made a special appeal for assistance at the last Convention, some of our members kindly offered to collect in aid of the appeal. Further consideration, however, convinced me that, in view of the heavy calls which present conditions are making upon the time and purses of most members of the community, it would be inadvisable to press the claims of the N.Z. Fund, and therefore, while appreciating very highly the willingness of our friends to assist, I have not availed myself of their kindness, in undertaking any special widespread collection. The assistance which some have nevertheless given is therefore all the more welcome.

Turning to the items of expenditure, the total is about £24 in excess of last year's outlay. Practically the whole of this is due to heavy expenses in printing the patriotic pledges, constitutions, and leaflets on "National Peril," in addition to the usual items which make up our printing bill every year. Before closing the books, I remitted to the World's Treasurer the amount collected for the World's Missionary Fund, and the amount of capitation fees at the rate of a half-penny per member upon our total membership, including that of the Native Unions, using for the latter the membership returns as given in last Convention number. You will be aware that in previous years we have sent to the World's Treasury, as a special donation, the other half-penny per member which we collect. This year, however, I have held over the amount for the present, so that Convention may decide whether to have it sent as a donation as previously, or to send it as a special donation to the Willard National Temperance Hospital, whose appeal was published in the last "White Ribbon," or to hold it over until sufficient can be sent to entitle the N.Z. Union to nominate a life member of the World's Union,

I shall exhibit to you the usual detail statement of the membership and finances of the branch Unions whose returns have been received. The total membership shows an increase, capitation fees having been paid for the year on 3333 members, with a few returns not yet to hand. The balance-sheets received from 84 Unions show a total revenue amounting to £2198, and expenditure totalling £2140, with a sum of £646 in hand at the close of the year. The latter does not include the value of other assets owned by some of the Branches. At the time of closing the books, no returns had been received from the following Unions:—Aratapu, Tauranga, Upper Hutt, Kaitiaki, Westport, Methven, and Alexandra.

The Banner Contest is won this year by the Patea Union, with a membership increase of 166 per cent. The following other Branches have also secured good membership increases:—

Winchmore: 143 per cent.
Normanby and Dannevirke: each 125 per cent.
Lower Hutt: 120 per cent.
New Brighton: 101 per cent.
Belfast: 100 per cent.

Mr George Plummer, of Auckland, has kindly audited the accounts this year, and I shall ask Convention to express its appreciation of his assistance. I wish also to thank the Branch Treasurers for the complete and satisfactory way in which their returns have reached me.

NELLIE BENDELY,

N.Z. Treasurer.

Auckland, 10th March, 1916.

ORGANISING FUND REPORT, 1915-1916.

Madam President,—

I am pleased to report that the Organising Fund maintains a fairly firm position, notwithstanding the many hindrances to a successful issue owing to war conditions.

We started in March, 1915, with a balance of £132 7s 4d, as against £82 14s the previous year.

The receipts for the year amount to £107 6s 2d. Last year our receipts were £143 6s 10d—a marked difference. The Bank interest for the year is £3 11s 3d, an increase on £2 13s 10d on the previous year.

The fall in receipts is £36 0s 8d, which is serious.

The private donations, although still generous, are not as numerous as usual, which helps to explain the drop in amounts received for the year, for we really depend very largely on our private contributions.

It is gratifying to report that so many Unions, both large and small, have sent in their full membership levy.

Invercargill takes first place with its contribution of £7. Dunedin is next with £6. Next in order of merit come Wellington District, Wellington Central, Nelson, Christchurch, Palmerston North, etc.

It is a pleasure to notice how faithful so many small Unions are in the

regular forwarding of their levies to the Organising Fund. Some never miss, year by year. It shows, I think, true interest in the work.

The noticeable contribution that came to hand during the year was from the Okoia L.T.L., who, under the capable management of Mrs Duxfield, gave entertainments which resulted in a generous gift of £3 4s 7d to the Organising Fund.

This report shows a marked increase in expenditure, proving very plainly the difference in travelling and living generally, when the country is under the shadow of a terrible war.

I do trust that in the near future the Unions will rally round this Fund for the support of an Organiser. What has been done in the past is gratifying, but we do not want to go "down-hill."

It will call for thought and economy on the part of each Union in dealing with its funds, but I feel sure the effort will be worth while, because the organising treasury cannot long cope with the extra drain due to cost of living and travelling with decreased receipts.

ALICE R. C. TAYLOR,
N.Z. Treasurer Organising Fund.

REPORT OF DOMINION ORGANISER.

Immediately after the last Convention I returned to Otago to finish the work in the South, revisiting the newly organised branches at Sawyer's Bay and South Invercargill, and further conserving the work, as well as visiting a few of the older Unions.

In April I passed on into Canterbury, visiting and holding meetings in Timaru, Ashburton, Winchmore, Christchurch, New Brighton, and the Kaiapoi district. A considerable amount of time was spent in visiting in Tinwald and Rakaiia, branches being organised in both places. Sickness and patriotic functions prevented further pioneer work in Canterbury.

In July the North Island was reached, several home meetings being addressed in Wellington and suburbs, the results being good considering the many other interests occupying the minds of women in war-time. Lower Hutt Union had been for some time in very low water, in spite of the efforts of the District Union. This was nursed for three months, a few days being spent in working up each meeting, with increasingly promising results. An invitation having been received to visit Greytown (Wairarapa), I spent about a fortnight in calling upon women likely to be interested, and organised a strong branch, returning several times to attend the monthly meeting until it got on its feet.

Masterton was also visited twice, and Patea being in a state of collapse, early in October I went out of my way to try and save it, several new members being received and plans laid for inaugurating work among the children.

For several months previously October had been promised to Gisborne,