

lation was needed to prevent evasion of the law dealing with removal of licenses; and early closing legislation, if carried, would have to be made permanent after the war, for it was becoming an industrial question, as employers were beginning to recognise it as a duty to make provision for evening recreation of employees.

A hearty vote of thanks passed to Mr Dawson.

The Organiser (Miss Powell) read her report, and made strong appeal for increased funds. President urged delegates to press on Unions the claims of Organising Fund. The assessment of 1s per member should be faithfully paid by Unions, who alone, and not individual members, were expected to provide the funds by whatever methods seemed to them advisable. Many Unions, small as well as large, recognised their responsibility, but others had failed to understand what was expected of them. All delegates should regard as their purpose in coming to Convention not merely having a good time and becoming enthused, but also learning such points of business for future guidance of their Unions. Warm tributes paid to Organiser by Presidents of Patea, Greytown, and other Unions for assistance given in reviving or arousing interest in the work. If only funds allowed it, appointment of second Organiser, so that North and South Island might each have one, would be sound policy, and would eventually be absolute necessity.

Report adopted.

Session closed with Benediction.

MONDAY MORNING.

Devotions conducted by Mrs Morrison. Roll call, 82. Minutes read and confirmed.

Greetings received from Mrs Kennington (Eltham), Dr. Platts-Mills, who regretted inability to address public meeting as requested; and Mrs Scott, Normanby Union, enclosing £2 2s for Dominion W.C.T.U.'s patriotic effort.

Re patriotic effort, letter drafted by Mrs Lee-Cowie to be sent by delegates to their Unions without delay.

Intercessory service postponed to Wednesday evening.

Invitation given to visit schools and hear Bible lessons given at 9 a.m.; also to visit Central Infants' School to see the Montessori system working.

Letter read from Mrs Shepherd, re British Dominions Overseas Suffrage Union.—Deferred.

L.T.L. and Cradle Roll. Press, Prison and Reformatory Work, Sabbath Observance, Work Among Seamen, Literature reports discussed and adopted.

Mrs Duxfield congratulated on L.T.L. demonstration given on Friday evening. Several delegates intended beginning work on similar lines. Suggestions for keeping boys as they grow up: Enrol in Young People's Branches, pass on to Rechabite Order, interest them in musical band or lantern work.

Suggestions to Press Superintendents: Send telling paragraphs to local papers; engage a column by the year or an inch per day; insert "scatterers" in "Wanted" column and elsewhere. In some districts papers willing to give half a column, or pay for interesting paragraphs.

Satisfactory position reported re Addington Gaol for Women, having excellent matron and three official women visitors.

Much Sunday working reported in various districts, but law preventing applied only to those earning money by usual occupation. Action could be taken only on complaint of neighbours.

Making comfort bags for sailors suggested as suitable work for Y Branches or Union members unable to attend meetings through distance of homes.

Mrs Lill conducted noontide devotions.

Mrs Neal and Mrs Dearlove drew attention to literature of their departments, Band of Mercy leaflets, charts, song books, K.K. pledges, Miss Austen's booklets on Purity; attention drawn also to Miss Roberts's pamphlet, "The National Peril," and "Think It Over" series of leaflets, printed by Auckland No-License League for house to house distribution. The W.C.T.U. leaflets might with advantage be sent to all names on directory in any district that Organiser was intending to visit, to prepare way for her work.

Convention closed in usual way.

MONDAY AFTERNOON.

Devotions by Mrs Lee-Cowie.

Roll call, 85. Minutes read and confirmed.

Greetings received from Kaikorai and Nelson Unions, Mrs Boxall (of Wellington), and Mrs Webb (of Ormondville).

"White Ribbon" report and balance-sheet read and adopted. The Editor made an earnest appeal to "W.R." agents to collect subscriptions promptly and obtain new subscribers, so as to meet increased cost and maintain efficiency and influence of the paper. Great appreciation expressed of Mrs Peryman's splendid work, and she was unanimously re-elected Editor and Business Manager.

The sum of £25 voted for printing Convention number, grant of £15 made to Business Manager, and bonus of £10 to the Editor.

Mrs Peryman nominated Mrs Evans as Associate-Editor. She asked members to assist by sending details of cases requiring comment, and to remember the paper daily in their prayers.

After afternoon tea, an initiatory service was conducted, and five members received into the Union.

Scientific Temperance and Medical Temperance reports discussed and adopted.

Executive brought forward letter from Mr Maunder re chart, manual, and leaflets recommended in place of

present wall sheets. After discussion, it was resolved that Minister of Education and Directors of Education be approached with a view to securing the introduction into our public schools of a more systematic scheme of Temperance instruction, Mesdames A. R. Atkinson and Evans to form the deputation.

Plans for Work for 1916.

Recommendation brought up from Executive that the Union should get up forthwith a petition for 6 o'clock closing of hotel bars. Carried unanimously, "That the Union should immediately print and get out petitions, returnable to Corresponding Secretary by June 20th,* for presenting in first week in July. Mrs Peryman and Miss Henderson to see about printing and circulating petitions, and each Union to be invited to make a contribution towards cost of printing them. Full instructions would be given, but points to be specially emphasised were all signatures must be in ink or indelible pencil, must be full names, with addresses, of electors 21 years of age. Those unable to write could get Justice of the Peace (but no one else) to sign for them and put their mark."

Every member of every Union must work with the greatest energy to make petition a gigantic success.

President gave hints from Dunedin experience as to best ways of getting signatures, such as tables at street corners (for this permission must be obtained from the Mayor), visiting factories, getting petitions signed at church doors.

Session closed at 5.30 with Benediction.

TUESDAY MORNING.

Devotions (Mrs Houlder). Roll call, 84. Minutes confirmed.

Backblocks report adopted without discussion.

Discussion on Plans of Work continued.

(a.) Resolved: "That the petition urging measures for the better protection of women and children, presented to the Minister of Justice late last session, and withdrawn at his suggestion, be presented at as early a date as possible."

This petition urged—(1) That men convicted of sexual offences against children of tender years be imprisoned for life.

(2) That men convicted of more than one offence against women or girls have more adequate punishment. It had been signed by representatives of women societies all over the Dominion, and in such a petition large membership of Union tells, so every Union should do its utmost to get every woman to join, even though unable to do active work.

(b.) Re assistance to backblocks, suggested by Stratford Union, following resolution unanimously passed.

*Decided later that petition must be in by end of May.