

the Convention Agenda of 1917 for a 'School of Methods,' details to be arranged by the Dominion Executive."

The following recommendation from Executive was unanimously adopted by Convention: "That Convention urge all Unions to make every effort to secure young women as members and as workers in the Union. It recommends holding one evening meeting a month, in addition to the afternoon one, so that young women engaged in business through the day can attend; and also recommends that Unions organise Young People's Branches wherever practicable, and if advisable make a reduction in the fee."

Immediately after afternoon tea an initiatory service was held, at which 21 members were welcomed to the Union. Of these, 13 were young girls, who are to be constituted into a Y branch for Wanganui. During the whole Convention 37 new members were initiated.

On Mrs Bendely's motion, votes of thanks were passed to the Auditors, viz.: National Fund, Mr G. Plummer, Auckland; "White Ribbon," Mr Lynneberg, Ngāio; Organising Fund, Mr Brechin, Wanganui; Maori Organising Fund, Mr D. Morice, Gisborne.

Votes of thanks were passed to the following:—

The hosts and hostesses.

The churches and other organisations that provided afternoon tea.

The Managers of St. Paul's Hall for the use of the hall.

The press and the reporters.

The Wanganui Union for their excellent entertaining.

The Committee of Courtesies.

Mrs Hunter, for her management of papers and photos, by which she was able to hand over the sum of £1 17s 3d to the N.Z. National Treasury.

The Convention Letter-writer.

The Chairman of the Central Infants' School Committee.

The Lady Principal of the Girls' College.

Mr Illingworth, the photographer, presented to the Union an enlargement of the group photograph he had taken of the Convention. In accepting this on behalf of the Union, and returning thanks for it, the President announced that Mr Illingworth had signed the K.K. pledge, and been made an hon. member of the Union.

In response to the Treasurer's usual appeal for donations to the N.Z. Fund, the sum of £20 3s was contributed or promised by members or by Unions through their delegates.

The hymn "God be with you till we meet again" was sung, and the Convention was brought to a close by the President pronouncing the Benediction.

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

Dear Comrades,—

At our last Annual Convention, the War of Nations was not many weeks old, and we were hopeful that it might be soon over and peace restored. But the shadow of the war cloud has enveloped us and our work all through the year, and is still deepening.

The fact that we have gathered for our thirty-first Conference with a full agenda shows that in spite of the devastating struggle, the loss of life, and overwhelming sorrow it has brought to so many homes, we are determined to go on with our programme, and ceaselessly keep our high standard of Total Abstinence for both individual and State before the people. The world's news of our Unions is that everywhere, except perhaps in the United States, the war has interfered with our usual work, but the exhortation of our founder—Miss Willard—to "enter every open door" has not been forgotten, for the reports of work accomplished and work still going on makes good reading. The White Ribboners in England have handed over to the authorities three motor kitchens; inside is every needful appliance for cooking, and for keeping food and dishes hot. The details include four primus stoves, a soup boiler, tea and coffee urns, and all the necessary utensils. These cars cost £2000. Scotland has raised the same amount, and purchased three motor ambulances for use in France. New South Wales has also presented an ambulance for the front, which cost £670.

Besides this, our work includes the furnishing of empty houses for the use of soldiers. The establishing of counter-attractions to the saloons, the forming of Red Cross Societies to make provision for wounded soldiers; Sewing Associations for the equipment of same; organising relief work among the wounded and dependents of soldiers—this means providing soup kitchens and buffets near camps, meeting train loads of soldiers with hot soup, coffee and tea, visiting, nursing, and giving relief of all kinds to the poor; the distribution of pocket Testaments and suitable literature to the soldiers; and lastly, the making of almost every conceivable effort to get soldiers and others to sign the pledge, to get the sale of liquors curtailed, and Temperance principles established wherever possible.

When the European war was declared, an American pressman remarked to Senator R. P. Hobson: "That now the Temperance people would have to get out of the limelight." But what has really happened is that the cause of Prohibition has been advanced beyond the dreams of its most ardent supporters. It was not long before all the nations involved in the great war realised that "booze" must be "hit, and hit hard," to make military operations successful. And in enforcing sobriety in their armies and

among the civil population, the nations at war have come to realise that there are many other advantages to be gained from National Prohibition besides and beyond military success, such as industrial efficiency, which at present is essential to military efficiency, and after the war is ended will be needed to rehabilitate the nations financially and economically.

Throughout the whole British Empire there are men and women of all classes and creeds who are not abstainers, and have never advocated Temperance, yet would have been glad and proud if in this time of severe crisis their nation had set the example, instead of allowing Russia to lead the way in National Prohibition on the largest scale the world has yet seen. When King George proclaimed himself a total abstainer for the period of the war, and Lord Kitchener and others followed the Royal lead, the hopes of temperance reformers rose high, and though every effort was made to get a million Londoners to sign the pledge, the results have been disappointing. But the events of last winter provided an object-lesson which we hope will never be forgotten. It was found that strong drink seriously interfered with the manufacture of munitions of war, with coal mining, with ship building and repairing, and with the operations of many other trades needful for the proper equipment of our Army and Navy, and caused the declaration by Mr Lloyd George that "England has three great enemies—Germany, Austria, and Drink," but the greatest of these is Drink. Since then the hours for the sale of drink have been restricted from noon to 2.30 o'clock p.m. and 6 to 9 o'clock p.m., and the Prime Minister, speaking in the House of Commons, said that where the liquor restrictions had been introduced there had been an appreciable diminution in drunkenness, and a considerable reduction in the amount of liquor consumed, besides which more effective work had been performed. This shortening of the hours of the Trade, coupled with the order for the non-treating of soldiers, has thrust the subject of Prohibition before the people of Great Britain as it could not have been done in normal times, and when the war closes the Temperance forces will find themselves on a vantage ground for pressing their cause in the future.

The result of Prohibition in Russia has been beyond the imagination of the most hopeful and extravagant prophets. The "World's Outlook" reports that the police have little or nothing to do, babies have all the milk they need, women go about as if they were in Paradise, Savings Banks can now be said to be the substitutes for vodka shops, and at the end of the first seven months for Prohibition, according to the Comptroller of the Treasury, the total savings in the Russian banks had increased 147 per cent. Illness, insanity, accidents, injuries, and alcoholic sicknesses decreased in an astounding measure,

The "White Ribbon" will be posted to any address on receipt of 2s 6d, payable to Mrs Peryman, Johnsonville.