

shouting for soldiers is most desirable. Mrs Hunter read her most excellent report of Convention, and was accorded a hearty vote of thanks. Mrs McKenzie informed the meeting that Mrs Bonthron, the pioneer of Temperance reform in Invercargill, is at present staying in town, and would be pleased to meet any members of the Union. Although Mrs Bonthron is over 81 years of age, she still takes a deep interest in our work, especially in the Band of Hope or Loyal Temperance Legion work. In conjunction with the South Invercargill Union we are taking a space in the tram cars for advertising our Union meetings.

May 3. The petition forms re 6 o'clock closing of liquor bars were distributed and streets allotted to each canvasser. Arrangements were also made to obtain signatures in the vestibules of the different churches, as the people enter. Reported that three members of the South Union had been elected for the South School Committee, i.e., Mrs Morrison, Mrs Parkin, and Mrs Garrett. Noticing by our local papers that information upon the political status of women overseas was invited by the British Women's Dominion Suffrage Society for their triennial Conference, which is to be held in London in July, Mrs Baird and Miss Birss were appointed to send a report to care of Miss Agnes C. Slack. Convention number "W.R." and other literature were on the table for sale.

DUNEDIN.

May 2. Mrs Don presiding. Resolved to have a Sale at the Winter Show, profits to go to patriotic effort. Arrangements were made for thorough canvass for signatures to petition for early closing. The Trades and Labour Council, Salvation Army, and churches were all asked to assist. An invitation was received for all members to attend prayer meeting held weekly in Hanover Street Baptist Church, and to join in supplication for "our boys at the Front."

OPOTIKI.

April 13. Social afternoon to welcome Mrs Wm. Goodall back from the Convention, Mrs Jas. Thompson presiding. There were 40 ladies present. A motion of sympathy was passed with Mrs Redders in the death of her son. Decided to have a stall on the street on Saturday in aid of the field kitchen for New Zealand soldiers at the front. Mrs Goodall gave a splendid report of the work and business that passed at Convention. Vote of thanks to Mrs Goodall. Afternoon tea was handed round.

GISBORNE.

Usual meeting held March 28th, 21 present. Decided we take up the proposal for Patriotic Fund, and collect for same. Mrs Coleman, "White Ribbon" Agent, resigned. The following telegraphic reply was

received from the Hon. Allen:—"I have to thank you for your kind telegram of congratulation on my opinions regarding shouting. I also hope that we may end the practice." Mrs Malcolm read an account of a deputation which waited upon the Hon. Russell while he was here re "shouting" and 6 o'clock closing. They did not consider they got much satisfaction from him. Decided to have a social and receive delegate's report at April meeting. Collection taken up to help defray legal expenses re Mrs Walker and the Hospital Board seat. Carried that a case of warm clothing be collected and sent to Dr. Barnardo's Home at the end of the year.

TIMARU.

Annual social held at the Sailors' Rest on 28th. Mrs Rule presided. Attendance good. Hon. J. Allen replied, re "shouting," that the question would not be neglected. Report of Sailors' Rest showed a very quiet month. Mrs Rule gave an account of Convention, and all were much interested. Decided once more to canvass for signatures for closing hotel bars at 6 o'clock. Decided to send a special contribution to the War Fund. Mrs Brooker gave account of her visit to the Hospital. The patients are very grateful to our members who visit them and take a few comforts and speak a few words of cheer. Mr Grant and Mrs Clay appointed visitors for April. One new subscriber for "White Ribbon."

MATAKANA.

Last November our President gave an address to the school children on the Temperance Wall Sheet. After the address the children were asked to write essays on the subject, prizes to be given for the best essay, and Rev. Southern to act as judge.

March 2. Four prizes were awarded for temperance essays, which reflected great credit on the writers. Union invited school children and parents to the prize-giving. The President read out the selected essays. Miss Lily Roke sang "Is There Room for Mary There?" and the prizes were distributed. Members of the Union provided afternoon tea under the trees.

NELSON.

Special meeting held on February 28th for the passing of a resolution against the practice of "shouting" by soldiers, and asking that it should be immediately prohibited. The resolution was forwarded to the Minister of Defence. Secretary was directed to write a letter of sympathy to Mr Hammond, Sydney, in his efforts to obtain 6 o'clock closing of hotel bars. A hearty vote of thanks was given Miss Weymouth for her valuable help in the work of the Union.

The Richmond Union was formed at a meeting held for the purpose on

March 8th, Miss Atkinson presiding. The Union consists of 22 members, two being initiated on the occasion, with Nurse Field President, Mrs Woods Secretary, Mrs Burrough Treasurer, and five Vice-Presidents: Messdames O. Sutton, Hunt, Cropp, Ashcroft, and Price. Meetings will be held on the second Wednesday. The first business of the new Union was the passing of the anti-shouting resolution. The members are intending to take up Band of Hope work.

April 11. Convention report postponed to next meeting. Mrs W. Hill appointed Local Treasurer for Patriotic Fund. Many members took cards, and Miss Weymouth undertook to distribute more cards. Arrangements made for canvassing for 6 o'clock closing petition.

April 12. Richmond Union met, and decided to assist with Patriotic Fund and early closing petition. The usual monthly intercessory service was held on last Monday in the month; attendance was small.

MANAIA.

Feb. 8. Ten members present, one visitor. Mrs Hunt elected as delegate to Convention. The sum of 6s 6d was collected for Red Cross Fund. One new member initiated; eight new members for Cradle Roll.

March 14. Eleven members present, four visitors. The Treasurer having resigned owing to illness, Mrs Judd was elected for the position. One new member initiated, one new member for Cradle Roll. The sum of 11s 6d, also one Balaklava, was collected for the Red Cross Fund. Several interesting items from the "Vanguard" were read and discussed.

AUCKLAND.

Feb. 9. Delegates were appointed to confer with the Executive of the No-License League in regard to the printing of suitable literature for house to house distribution in connection with literature campaign. Superintendents were appointed for the various departments of work as follows:—"White Ribbon" Agent, Miss Pudney; Moral Education, Miss Evans; Bible in Schools, Miss N. Dewar; Peace and Arbitration, Mrs Pudney; Cradle Roll, Miss Cato; Visiting Sisters, Mrs Taylor and Mrs Wright; Home Meetings, Mrs Darby; Maori Work, Miss Wilson; Back Blocks and Camp Literature, Mrs Thorpe; Sabbath Observance, Mrs Stainton; Notable Days, Mrs Dick; Evangelistic Work, Mrs Jamison. Resolved: "That in view of the serious crisis through which we are passing, and the urgent need for the highest national efficiency, this meeting of the Auckland W.C.T.U. is of opinion that immediate steps should be taken by the Government to reduce the consumption of liquor by taking effective steps to put down the practice commonly known as 'shouting.'" Arrangements were made to supply refreshments, etc., to the Soldiers.