

News of the Unions.

(The Editor cannot promise to insert anything in the next issue that does not reach her by the 8th of the month. Correspondents are requested to write their Reports as concisely as possible, on one side of the paper only. Newspaper cuttings are unsuitable.)

NELSON.

Monthly meeting, July 11th. A very good attendance, Miss Atkinson presiding. Seven new members admitted. A resolution was passed urging the Government to bring in a measure in favour of 6 o'clock closing, in accordance with the expressed wish of the New Zealand people. Copies sent to the Premier and the Nelson member. A short report was given of the women's meeting of June 26th, to consider clauses in the War Regulations Bill, after which the following resolutions were passed:—(1) "That we respectfully ask the Premier and members of the Ministry to listen to the prayer of the women of New Zealand, that any restrictive measures concerning the conduct of women be effected by statute, and not by Order of the Governor-in-Council; and in the circumstances of our not having women representatives in Parliament, with full opportunity for obtaining the opinion of representative women thereon." (2) "That we would respectfully draw the attention of the Premier and the members of the Ministry to the fact that women ask for equal laws for both sexes. If the sale of intoxicating liquor is to be prohibited to women, it should be prohibited to men; if to any class of women, to a similar class of men." (3) "That we desire to point out to the Premier that we most earnestly deprecate any return to the C.D. Acts or to regulation in any form, as being directly contrary to all the findings of the British Royal Commission, and of all the latest international conferences for the suppression of venereal disease." (4) "That we would respectfully urge upon the Premier and the members of the Ministry that in view of the fact that wherever women police and patrols have been employed, their presence in the streets and about the camps has had a restraining influence over the conduct of the young of both sexes; that therefore the Government consider the advisability of engaging women police in connection with the camps and in the City of Wellington." (5) "That, as wherever women cooks have been employed in camps, their employment has resulted in better cooking and greater economy, we would urge that the Government consider the advisability of appointing women cooks in all camps. We would also suggest that it is desirable that all women for the position of police or cooks in

camps be selected by women. (6) That we suggest to the Government that where women are convicted under existing laws for solicitation or similar offences, all punishment be of a reformatory character, and that for this purpose an island or farm colony be provided, to be conducted on similar lines to the "George Junior Republic," in which such women may be detained until able to maintain themselves respectably."

These resolutions were all re-affirmed at a special meeting called for their further consideration.

Copies were sent to the Premier and Members of Parliament.

Miss Weymouth reported that there were 64 members of the Nelson Y Branch, and that 60 new members of the Nelson Union had been gained during her visit. A collection was made for the Maori Work, amounting to 14s.

At the Good Citizenship Meeting held on July 14th, the subject for discussion was "Strikes—Are they Justifiable?" A good paper on the subject was read by Mrs Emmett, and the following resolution passed: "While not endorsing the principle of force, which seems to underlie the practice of strikes, we recognise that in cases of serious wrongs, in which redress cannot be obtained in any other way, strikes are justifiable as emphasising the need of justice in all social relationships."

A meeting was held at Brightwater on July 10th, when a Brightwater Branch of the W.C.T.U. was formed. There were 14 present, including two members from Nelson, and two from Wakefield. Mrs Lightband was elected President, and Mrs Harford, Secretary. Meetings to be held on the 3rd Wednesday of each month. Miss Atkinson, who presided, held an initiatory service, when seven new members were admitted. The total membership is 21, several who had been already initiated being unable to attend the meeting.

STRATFORD.

July 6. The resignation of Mrs Reeves, our President, accepted with deep regret, and a standing vote of sympathy passed with her in her recent bereavement. Miss Powell gave a sparkling address on W.C.T.U. work, and especially work among the young. Miss Powell's visit has resulted in several new members and a deepened interest in our work.

TIMARU.

July 25. Mrs Rule presided. Mesdames Butcher and Logan appointed Hospital Visitors. Replies from Ministers and our M.P. re resolutions passed at last meeting were read. Sailors' Rest reported 55 men making 113 visits. Over £28 handed in for Patriotic Fund, and more cards still to come in. Correspondence received from Rev. Dawson.

GISBORNE.

July 25. Twenty present. One new member received. Replies from Ministers to our resolution re venereal diseases were read. Letter from Dr. Pettit on same subject. Rev. Carlisle gave an address on "Sabbath Observance."

INVERCARGILL DISTRICT.

July 4. Mrs Macalister presided. Letters sent to Ministers about six o'clock closing and C.D. Acts, and replies to them were read. Vote of thanks to the Executive for their prompt action. Mrs Judson wrote urging the importance of securing the return of suitable women as members of Education Boards. Two new members were enrolled. Mrs Searell, a South Australian White Ribboner, gave a most interesting address. She was warmly thanked, and a cordial greeting sent by her to the Moonba Branch. Special prayers were offered for our boys at the Front.

WHANGAREI.

July 4. Meeting held in Baptist Church, Mrs Whalley in the chair. A report of the Auckland No-License Convention was read. A very helpful address was given by the President.

PETONE.

July 5. Meeting in the Church of Christ; attendance fair. A silent vote of sympathy, all members standing, was passed with Mrs Thompson, who lost her son at the Front.

July 19. An "At Home" held at the residence of Mrs Burd, Cuba Street. A good attendance, and fine addresses were delivered by Rev. McBean and Mr Burd. A musical programme was given by the ladies, and afternoon tea was handed round. A hearty vote of thanks to the hostess brought a pleasant afternoon to a close.

CHRISTCHURCH.

July 12. Miss Roberts presided over a good attendance. Replies from Ministers re resolutions on venereal disease were read. Secretary was instructed to write and ask Mrs Wilson to read her paper on "Education and Training of the Young" at the Provincial Convention. Resolution re treatment of venereal disease to be sent to Provincial Convention. Secretary to write to Board of Health and Board of Education in regard to increased precautions to be taken during the scarlet fever epidemic in regard to fumigating buildings and hindering children who have had the complaint from an early return to school. Mrs Hayes, from Nelson Union, was welcomed.

July 27. T. E. Taylor Day celebrated, Miss Roberts presiding. The Committee reported having sent the following resolutions to the Premier, Sir J. Ward, and Hon. Russell:—(1) "The Executive of the Christchurch W.C.T.U. emphatically protests