

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.)

GREYTOWN.

Aug. 30. Anniversary social. The President (Mrs Whincop) being in the chair. The minutes, annual report, and balance-sheet were read. Work in several directions has been energetically carried out by members. Visitors from Masterton Union conveyed greetings. Two short and encouraging addresses were given by Revs. Grundy and Warburton. A good attendance of members. Music, singing and recitations made a very pleasant afternoon, closing with the National Anthem. Tea was handed round. Over £20 has been collected for the Patriotic Fund.

HAWERA.

Aug. 31. Mrs Bone presided over a good attendance. Arranged that Mesdames Bone and Young should visit the Eltham Union. Decided that Franchise Day be celebrated on September 28th. The members of the Manaia, Normanby, and Okaiawa Unions will be invited to be present on that day, and afternoon tea will be provided by the local members.

FEILDING.

3rd August. The members were delighted to hear of the response throughout New Zealand to our Patriotic Fund, and were glad that they too had been able to do a share. Prayers of thanksgiving were given to God for graciously restoring Mrs Thompson to health after her serious illness. Franchise Day to be celebrated at Mrs Mercer's, Manchester Street, on Thursday, September 21st. Each member to be asked to bring a woollen gift for the mine sweepers. Disappointment was keen over the Government's attitude re 6 o'clock closing.

INVERCARGILL.

August 1st. Mrs McKenzie in the chair. Sister Moody Bell was welcomed back. Mrs McKenzie read an article from the paper "Grit" dealing with camps and drink. Resolved that a Band of Hope be established at North Invercargill. The Secretary was instructed to write conveying the sympathy of the Union to Mrs Jamieson on the death of her son at the Front. Sister Moody to write a letter of sympathy to the relatives of the late Mrs Cunningham. The Union calls attention to the revival of the "chain prayer" evil, and condemn it on two

grounds: (1) Its appeal is to superstition; (2) It is contrary to a true spirit of prayer. It makes prayer quite mechanical—the mere writing of a certain petition. The chain prayer system is anti-Biblical and anti-Protestant.

NORMANBY.

July 11. Resolved to send parcel next month for seamen and mine-sweepers, etc. Resolved to start an L.T.L. Normanby Union joined with Manaia in helping with the Red Cross Shop in Hawera, and the splendid sum of over £200 was taken and collected.

August 9. The President, Mrs Scott, presiding. 11 members present. A parcel for seamen and mine sweepers was handed in. Resolved that as a W.C.T.U. we will do all in our power to put men in as Members of Parliament who will give us either a bare majority or a Referendum. That this also be a recommendation to all other Union members.

WHANGAREI.

August 1. Ten members present. Mrs Whalley in chair. A letter from S. Evans (Supt. N.Z.M.C. work) was read, re medal contests. Decided that nothing can be done here. In reply to an appeal for help in connection with the Gift Sale, to be held in October, it was decided that this Branch do what it can to help. Decided to give all possible help with Dominion Convention in Auckland. Suggested by the President that members living near the Hospital be asked to make the bi-weekly visit to that Institute; also that an occasional monthly meeting be held at members' houses.

MARTON.

August 18. Miss Powell presiding. Mrs Knigge consented to act as President, as well as Treasurer. Mrs Jones was elected Secretary, with Mrs Harrison as Cradle Roll Supt., and Mrs McCoskery as visitor. A discussion took place as to the possibility of establishing a Loyal Temperance Legion, the final decision being left until the next meeting. Several members took Y.M.C.A. collecting cards. 3 new members were initiated, bringing the number up to 29.

PETONE.

August. An "At Home" was held to celebrate the 83rd birthday of Mrs Rowse, our President. The building was filled with guests, among whom were Mesdames A. R. Atkinson, Houlder, Brialey, and Knowles-Smith, of Wellington, Mrs Kibblewhite, Rotorua, Mrs and Miss Newey, Dunedin, Rev A. J. and Mrs Seamer, Rev Bruce and Mrs Todd, Rev McBain, and Pastor and Mrs Marshall, and several friends from Lower Hutt. Greetings were received from Miss Peach (Dunedin) and an apology from the Rev Father Quealy, Petone. Beautiful

floral tributes were presented to the guest on behalf of the Wellington, Lower Hutt, and Petone Unions, and a lovely birthday cake made and presented by Mrs Mahon (Mrs Burd's mother) a lady now in her 84th year. The Revs. Todd, McBain, Seamer, and Marshall, Mrs A. R. Atkinson, and Messrs Burd, senr., Kirby, and Collins congratulated Mrs Rowse on attaining such a great age, and also on having spent such a useful and busy life. Miss Kirk presided. Vocal and instrumental items and a recitation were contributed. Dainty afternoon tea was dispensed by the ladies of the Petone Branch. Mrs Rowse, who was in one of her brightest and happiest moods, made a splendid speech, and thanked all for the honour done her. A collection was taken in aid of the Soldiers' Christmas Pudding Fund. The function was brought to a close by the singing of the National Anthem.

NELSON.

August 8. A fair attendance. Miss Atkinson presiding. Three new members were welcomed. Letters were read from members of the Cabinet in answer to copy sent of resolutions passed last meeting, saying that they "would be considered." Also a card from Mr Hammond, Sydney, acknowledging congratulations re 6 o'clock closing. Miss Atkinson spoke of T. E. Taylor Day. Resolved that a letter of remembrance be sent to Mrs Taylor. A vote of sympathy was passed with Mrs Connington, who has lost a son at the Front. Mrs Hampson's resignation accepted with regret. An appeal was made by Mrs Field for old kid gloves to be used in making soldiers' leather waistcoats. Attention called to the scheme for sending gift boxes direct to soldiers from London. Mrs Field has undertaken to receive forward contributions for this. Thanks given to Church of Christ who made up some 50 garments for mine-sweepers; also Mrs Lock, who has interested herself greatly in this matter. Telegrams of protest have been sent to the Premier in connection with the refusal of the Government to pass any measure for the restriction of the sale of liquor during the war.

Aug. 15. Meeting held in the Foresters' Hall, Wakapuaka, in order to form a branch of the Union there; 21 present, including five from Nelson, Miss Atkinson presiding. A resolution was passed that this Branch should be formed, and the following officers were elected:—Pres., Mrs Wastney; Vice-Pres., Mrs A. Dodson, Mrs E. Withers, Mrs Brown, and Mrs W. Frost; Sec., Miss May Dodson; Treas., Miss Snook; "White Ribbon" Agent, Mrs J. Flower, junr. Decided to meet on the first Thursday. An initiatory service was held. The total membership is 25.

Aug. 18. A farewell social was given to Miss Weymouth, at which also the new members introduced by