

Secretary. Invercargill and Nelson have each one W.C.T.U. member on the Hospital and Charitable Aid Board, and Nelson one on School Committee. Wellington District, Christchurch, and Nelson nominated women candidates for the Board of Education, but were unsuccessful. School Committees elect members of Education Boards, so we should put on them those who are likely to support women candidates.

In educative work, Auckland reports leaflets distributed and visits paid to mothers. Nelson held fortnightly meetings through the winter for the study and discussion of social reforms, also one public meeting, to which members of the City Council were invited, and where the system of election by proportional representation was explained. The Council were asked to adopt this system at their next election, but did not accede to the request. Though unsuccessful, it brought the subject of electoral reform before the public.

Meetings of protest against clauses in the War Regulations Bill were held in Hastings (addressed by Lady Stout), Palmerston North, and Nelson, at both of which resolutions were passed urging the appointment of women police. Similar resolutions have been passed in many other places, notably Dunedin. At Hastings a lecture was given by Mrs Lee-Cowie on "National Peril." Four lectures have been given at Wanganui East; one by Mrs Don (Eccles. ix., one by Mrs Blamires ("Facing Facts"), one by Mrs Hughson ("Is it Worth While?"), and one by Miss Cruickshanks, M.A. ("Education as a Social Force").

Invercargill sent information re "Woman's Suffrage in New Zealand" to an English Suffrage Society requesting such. South Invercargill forwarded to the High Commissioner a resolution in favour of Woman Suffrage in Great Britain. Hastings and Invercargill worked for the censorship of picture films and hoardings; Hastings also for obtaining a rubbish destructor and conveniences for women. Invercargill purchased spaces for Union advertisements to replace liquor advertisements, and also sent a deputation to the Minister of Health re establishment of St. Helen's Hospital for Southland, which was sympathetically received. Tuatapere worked hard to secure a district nurse, but failed, as none were available. Pahiatua works in connection with St. John Ambulance and the Medical Corps of Women's National Reserve. President of Union being secretary of both.

(Since the above was written, Tuatapere has secured its district nurse, and the W.C.T.U. arranged a public reception for her.—Editor "White Ribbon.")

BACKBLOCKS AND RAILWAYS.

Superintendent: Mrs Israel.

Only six Unions reported, and of these only four report work done. Hawera, New Plymouth, and Gisborne report literature sent to backblocks and bush camps, and Wellington Central keeps boxes at railway stations supplied with literature.

MILITARY CAMPS.

Superintendent: Miss Helyer.

Owing to members of our Unions taking individually a very active part in the various patriotic movements of the Dominion, the reports of work done directly for Military Camps are few.

Early in the year Unions spent much time and effort in securing signatures for six o'clock closing of hotel bars. This was work done in the interests of Military Camps in that it was an effort to protect our soldiers, when on leave, from the temptations of alcohol. One gratifying feature of that petition was the number of signatures given quite voluntarily by soldiers in camp.

Literature sent to camps and boys at the front by Auckland, Hastings, and Ashburton. Pukekohe, Hastings, Ashburton, and Dunedin correspond with lonely soldiers. Wellington Central supplies our patriotic leaflet, "A Message for You," to the Y.M.C.A. Hostel. Nelson sends Testaments to Nelson boys leaving for the Front, and also gifts. Invercargill sent sand bags, and South Invercargill made a donation of £4 12s 6d to Gift Parcels Fund. Otautau and S. Invercargill sent resolutions to Ministers on military matters. The Unions of the Ashburton district provided farewell teas to the country men of the 10th, 11th, and 14th Reinforcements respectively. In addition, each man was given a box of chocolates and a purity leaflet. Ashburton has also secured clothing and comforts for returned soldiers.

Suggestions.

That all Unions should appoint a local Superintendent for this department.

That an effort should be made to induce soldiers, before entering camp, to sign the pledge.

That some members of each Union should undertake correspondence with lonely soldiers.

PRESS.

Superintendent: Mrs Duxfield.

Only twelve Unions have sent reports this year, as against 20 reports last year. The importance of using the press for creating a real live interest in our work cannot be overestimated. Members and others who cannot attend monthly meetings watch for the reports, and in this way their interest is kept alive.

New Brighton, Invercargill, Ashburton, Auckland, Oxford, Hawera, Pahiatua, Nelson, Timaru, Wellington Central, Wanganui East, and

Hastings have reported their meetings in the local press, and also in the "White Ribbon." Invercargill paid for temperance paragraphs in the local press. Ashburton reports that their local paper has published some fine articles on temperance and social reform. Auckland has had special features of interest in their meetings reported in the lady's column of the "Star." Wanganui East has inserted full reports of their L.T.L. meetings in the local press.

LEGAL AND PARLIAMENTARY.

Superintendent: Miss Henderson.

This department has covered a good deal of work during the year. In accordance with the decision of last Convention, a petition to Parliament asking for the closing of all liquor bars at 6 p.m. during the war and for six months after was prepared. Copies of this were distributed throughout the Dominion, every electorate being covered. With one or two exceptions, the work in connection with the canvassing for signatures was most enthusiastically taken up by the Unions, many of which made themselves responsible not only for their own towns, but also for the distribution of petitions to other places in their electorate. The assistance of a number of ministers and sympathisers with the movement was secured. The New Zealand Alliance also decided to co-operate with the Union, and issued petition forms of its own. Owing to the uncertainty that existed as to the duration of Parliament, it was not possible to allow much time for the obtaining of signatures—the petition was issued in April, and called in before the end of May. In spite of the limited time at the disposal of the workers, over 100,000 signatures were obtained. The petition was supported by public meetings in a number of important centres, and by influential deputations to Ministers. Finally the Petitions Committee having heard the evidence of a number of leading business and professional men, decided to advise Parliament to give the question consideration. When the report was presented, a number of faithful champions of the liquor trade came to its rescue and "talked the matter out," and nothing was done. Many of the Unions report that in addition to obtaining signatures to the petition, they passed resolutions in support, and sent copies to the members of the Cabinet and local M.P. Gisborne, Hastings, Wellington, Christchurch, and Invercargill report deputations to Cabinet Ministers. In short, everything possible was done to make the movement a success. In spite of this, when, at a later stage in Parliament, the question of early closing was again introduced, the proposal was rejected, all the Cabinet Ministers but one voting against it. Another attempt to restrict the consumption of liquor was more successful. The majority of our Unions joined in the movement to secure the prohibition