

gained in canvassing from house to house for signatures to the six o'clock closing petition. The total financial membership of the Union is 3639. It is a matter for regret that there is only one branch of our Union on the West Coast of the South Island. Greymouth still holds its own, but we ought not to be content with that. There are as great opportunities for Union work on the Coast as elsewhere in New Zealand.

The practice of holding "Provincial Conventions" has become firmly established, and splendid work is being done in this direction. It is possible for all the Unions concerned to be represented at these Conventions, which thus serve as a more immediate source of inspiration and help than the National Convention can be.

In conclusion, I must remind delegates that unless Parliament has the temerity to further prolong its own life, a poll for National Prohibition will be taken next year, and this year we should be making greater preparations than we have ever made before. The next poll should be the women's great opportunity to sweep the liquor traffic from this land.

### TREASURER'S REPORT.

Madam President and Dear Sisters,—

The balance-sheet for the New Zealand Fund, which I have the pleasure of presenting to Convention, shows that we commenced the year with a credit balance of £82 8s 10d; that the total receipts were £146 14s 5d, and the expenditure £142 14s 8d, and that the year closed with a credit balance of £86 8s 7d.

Capitation fees have been received from 86 Unions, with a membership of 3569, and since the books were closed two more Unions and a membership of 70 have reported, making a total for the year 1916 of 88 Unions and 3639 members, as against 82 Unions and 3333 members for the preceding year. On comparing the items of revenue, I note that the contributions for the World's Missionary Fund show a slight decrease, and the donations and contributions from the Franchise Day Fund combined are about equal to those of the previous year. On the expenditure side, there are decreases in the items of printing and miscellaneous, both of which had been exceptionally heavy in the preceding year.

Before closing the books I remitted to the World's Treasurer the amounts due for the World's Missionary Fund, capitation at the rate of 1d per member on 3824 members, including, as in previous years, the last known membership of the Native Unions. I also forwarded, as a donation from the N.Z. Union, the sum of £6 15s 1d, being the remainder of the amount collected for the year as world's capitation fees.

I shall exhibit to you the usual statement showing details of the mem-

bership and finance of all our branches, a summary of whose balance-sheets show that they began the year with an aggregate credit balance of £456 19s 9d; that the total receipts were £3736 19s 4d, and the expenditure £3391 2s 3d, and that the financial year closed with a total credit balance of £802 16s 10d. I have included in this statement also such particulars as to assets and liabilities as have been obtained from the branches, in accordance with the wish expressed at last Convention. Our of those who have reported, 10 Unions returned assets totalling £4667, against which there were liabilities amounting to £975, leaving a surplus value of £3692.

In the figures for the Banner Contest, the largest actual increase of membership for the year is shown by Auckland, with 86 new members, other good increases being shown by Nelson (57), Nelson "Y" (46), and Palmerston North (45). On the percentage basis, the banner is won by Nelson "Y" with an increase of 219 per cent, the next highest being Hikurangi (175 per cent.), and Morrinsville (170 per cent.).

The Tuakau, Papakura, and Westport Unions are reported as having been dormant during the year. No returns have been received from Pukekohe, Te Kuiti, Okaiawa, Sheffield, Alexandra, and Ashburton "Y." The Greymouth and Tokomaru Bay returns were received after the closing of the books.

The Organising Fund balance-sheet shows that the year began with a credit balance of £101 5s 2d; that the receipts amounted to £172 18s 3d, and the expenditure to £135 4s 8d, and that the year closed with a credit balance of £138 18s 9d. The loyal manner in which Unions responded to the appeal for funds which I issued at the close of the year has been extremely gratifying.

The whole of the accounts have been audited for me by Mr George Plummer, to whom our hearty thanks are due for his assistance. I also wish to express my appreciation of the manner in which our Branch Treasurers have supplied me with their returns.

NELLIE BENDELY,

N.Z. Treasurer.

Auckland, 20th March, 1917.

### REPORT OF DOMINION ORGANISER.

Immediately after the last Convention I started work in Taranaki, spending close on four months among its Unions. All were visited, several of them repeatedly, and two new ones organised, viz., Fitzroy (New Plymouth) and Urenui. Several days were also spent in Waitara, but as no leader was forthcoming, no attempt at organising was made, though a good foundation for the future was laid in the securing of ten subscribers to our paper. Finding

that not a single juvenile temperance organisation existed between Hawera and New Plymouth, I spent a considerable amount of effort in working up the Unions to the point of asking Mrs Duxfield to visit them and form branches of the Loyal Temperance Legion, and later had the satisfaction of knowing that seven had been organised, not a branch being left out. Taranaki Unions were found to be healthy, with the exception of Eltham, where the friends had become discouraged, their membership having for some years stood at six. An additional twenty were secured as the result of working up three monthly meetings in succession. A Branch was organised at Marton, a second visit being paid to set it on its feet. Te Kuiti had for some months been asking for a visit, and in the spring I arrived there and organised a Union. This Branch is in an unfortunate geographical position, being such a distance from its District Union that it is almost impossible for it to be visited and mothered. It has also fallen on evil times in the loss of its President by removal.

Next came the Waikato, and from there I visited the Bay of Plenty, organising branches at Kati Kati and Tauranga, and working up the Union at Opotiki, which I found to be in a very live state, in spite of its isolated position. Every effort was put forth to revive our work in Taneatua and Whakatane, but no encouragement was received. Thames and Te Aroha were also visited, but no one seemed willing to take up the work.

Hamilton District Union is entirely satisfactory, which is, in my opinion, attributable to the fact that it holds a monthly devotional meeting in between the ordinary business ones. Different members throw open their homes, and the average attendance is twenty-five, while the special subject and method of conducting it vary. The result is a beautifully unanimous spirit. Its auxiliaries were found not as flourishing as might be, but are now improving. I have still one place on the Thames line to visit, Eastport Road, which seems ripe for the establishment of a branch.

During the year since last Convention I have travelled 960 miles on my cycle, and over 4000 by public conveyance (rail or motor 'bus), in addition to spending several nights on the sea. Much of this travelling has been rendered necessary by the abundance of patriotic meetings, our women being so engaged in war work that it is impossible for them to get up an extra meeting just when it suits me, and I have to fall in with existing arrangements. Only seven new Branches have been organised during the year, it being considered wiser by the Organising Committee to strengthen existing branches rather than, during the war, to form new ones, unless in exceptional cases. 223 new members have been secured, and 87 "White Ribbon" subscribers. When organising a branch it is not