

ing the departmental work from getting into a rut, that changes should be made from time to time. The recommendations of Executive for Superintendents of Departments were received and adopted. (List of Superintendents on p. 14.)

Question Box.—Various questions dealing with matters of more or less interest answered.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Devotions (Mrs Cooke). Roll call, 81. Minutes.

Executive recommended that Mrs Lee-Cowie's offer to organise the effort for National Prohibition be accepted. Carried unanimously with enthusiasm.

Resolutions Carried.—(21) That this Convention of the W.C.T.U. emphatically protests against the dangerous element of gambling introduced into patriotic work, as being harmful to the morals of the people of the Dominion, and respectfully asks the Government to collect all necessary monies by taxation and subscriptions.

(22) Whereas there has never been a time when economy and reproductive industry were so emphatically a patriotic duty, and whereas the time and money spent in racing and gambling are admittedly almost entirely wasted, and whereas the betting in last Christmas and New Year holidays alone shows the great increase of £67,871 over last year's receipts, therefore this

Convention of the New Zealand Women's Christian Temperance Union earnestly urges the Cabinet to refuse all racing and totalisator permits during the period of the war.

(23) That in view of the widespread demand for 6 o'clock closing, as shown by the petition of 100,000 voters presented last session, and the more wide-spread indignation expressed at the failure of Parliament in this time of unexampled need for economy and efficiency, to make any adequate attempt at the restriction of the Liquor Traffic, we hereby pledge ourselves to co-operate, as far as possible, with the N.Z. Alliance in their petition for 6 o'clock closing, or for a referendum on the hours of sale.

Re proposal to send a letter to the Home Government remonstrating against rum rations supplied to New Zealand soldiers, it was resolved to leave matter in hands of Executive.

Invitations for 1918 Convention received from Greymouth, Invercargill, Timaru, and Palmerston North. Timaru's invitation accepted. President, while thanking Auckland Unions for their splendid entertainment, suggested that it would be well in future to make the entertainment simple, and to curtail it considerably, as business was too much interfered with.

Suggestions were made for Plans of Work for ensuing year: Make more use of Home Meetings, hold "American Teas," get more honorary members, work Cradle Roll and L.T.L.'s vigorously, establish Y.P. Branches.

Mrs Cowie, on behalf of Convention, made a small presentation to Mrs

Dearlove, in recognition of quiet, steady, faithful service during past years. Mrs Dearlove briefly responded.

Notices of Motion.—(1) By Miss Powell: That at the next Convention, I, or someone in my place, will move that to avoid confusion with District Presidents who are also Vice-Presidents of the Dominion Union, the title of the first Vice-President be altered to Vice-President-in-Chief.

(2) By Mrs Crabb: That any Union, finding itself unable to send one of its own members as delegate to Convention, shall have the power to choose as its delegate any member of the W.C.T.U. in its own district. Such delegates shall be instructed by the aforesaid Union as to voting for Dominion officers and on any amendment to the Constitution.

Votes of thanks passed as follows:—

To Mr James, photographer, for the photograph of the Maori delegates, and six copies of same presented to the Organising Fund.

To the Civic League, for invitation to afternoon tea. An official letter to be sent, with thanks and regrets that press of business prevented Convention from accepting invitation.

To Mr Tibbs, headmaster of Grammar School, for invitation to visit Grammar School. Declined with much regret, owing to press of business. Official letter to be sent.

To Auckland District Union and Auxiliaries.

To the church bodies who provided afternoon tea.

To the No-License League for harbour excursion.

To Trustees of Baptist Tabernacle for use of building.

To the caretaker of same.

To the Lady Editor of "Star."

To Mr Goldie and his housekeeper for hospitality at the Lake.

To the gentleman who presented copies of the "Free Press."

To Hon. George Fowlds for his instructive address.

To the Convention Letter Writer.

To the Committee of Courtesies (the Misses Dewar) and to Mrs Hildreth and Miss Weymouth for attention to papers and letters.

To the hosts and hostesses.

A few words of greeting or farewell or appreciation from Rev. K. Kempton, Mrs Dewar, Mrs Miller, and Mrs Baillie, the visitor from Australia.

Convention closed by singing "God Be With You" and the Benediction pronounced by the President.

"Alcohol, as a beverage or in patent medicines, is a menace to personal and community health, is a common source of sickness and death, is blocking the path of preventive medicine, and is a menace to the physical and social development of the nation."

—Dr. Emmerson, Commissioner of Health, New York.

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

Dear White Ribbon Sisters,—

The year has been one of the saddest in the history of our organisation. So many among us have lost sons in the war, and White Ribboners in many lands have the same deep sorrow of bereavement. Many of our workers, and some of our Unions, have turned from their usual activities and thrown themselves into Red Cross work, relief for Belgians, or providing comforts for our soldiers at the Front. We have been continually praying for peace, yet the battlefield is still stained with the blood of our young manhood, and one wonders if we are ready for peace. There are few signs anywhere that this terrible war is being taken with sufficient seriousness. No evidence of repentance for national sins. While some are practising self-denial, and many are sacrificing practically their all, pleasures, racing, gambling, and drinking go on just the same. Prussian militarism may be crushed, but unless some other things are also crushed the peace arrived at will rest upon a very insecure foundation.

Though the saddest year, it records many marvellous victories in the Temperance cause. Great Britain is giving more time and thought to the subject than ever before. Over two million signatures were obtained in less than six weeks to the memorial presented to the British Parliament last August, praying for the prohibition of the liquor traffic during the currency of the war and for six months afterwards. Some idea of the immensity of this document may be gathered from the simple fact that if the signatures had been stood end on end they would have covered eleven miles of ground. The weight of this enormous document was estimated at over a ton. In addition to English and Welsh petitions, Scotland forwarded one signed by 420,000 women, while from Ireland came petitions signed by 220,000 men and women. In a word, 2,700,000 of the womanhood and manhood of Great Britain showed themselves to be "solid" for the curtailment of the liquor traffic in the United Kingdom while the war is on. Through Sir Robert Balfour we learn that enough grain to make two million loaves, and enough sugar to supply the entire Imperial Army, have been used during the war in the manufacture of alcohol, and two million tons of shipping space used up last year by the liquor traffic. Sweets and chocolates are to be prohibited in England; we shall be asked to banish a hundred items of food value from our tables, while at the same time hundreds of tons of cereals, sugar, molasses (food for millions) are being destroyed in the process of manufacture of intoxicating drinks. Is it any wonder that everywhere there is an increasing popular demand for prohibiting the traffic during war time?

Canada has voted John Barleycorn out of nine of her ten provinces, and though only a temporary measure