

IN THE FIELD.

In October, 1916, at the request of Mrs Baines, an ex-Normanby member, I organised a branch at Kati-kati, Bay of Plenty. I confess I had some doubts as to how it would fare, for the community is a small and scattered one, the township consisting of the inevitable hotel, one general store, and two or three minor industries, and the Anglican and Presbyterian Churches. I was recently asked to pay them a second visit, and duly arrived on November 5th, being, as heretofore, most kindly entertained by Mr and Mrs Baines. I found an increased membership, and a plan of campaign made out, and bristling with activities for every day of my stay. A home meeting was held at Mrs Hume's residence, and on the Saturday, having previously addressed the children of the public schools on the subject, I organised a Band of Hope. The following day was Temperance Sunday, and, by the request of the Presbyterian Home Missionary, I gave an address at the evening service.

Milking being in full swing, teas and evening meetings are out of the question, and many persons would have said nothing could be done with the girls at present, but our Kati-kati members are made of different stuff, and they decided to invite the young ladies to a luncheon in the Public Hall. Some of the mothers attended also, and we organised a promising Y branch, with thirteen members for a start.

On Tuesday Mrs Baines and I walked over to the neighbouring pah, and talked to the five Maori mothers at present residing there, but as they speak very little English, little could be done until cards and literature are procured from Mrs Walker.

My campaign in the district closed on Wednesday with a meeting of the Union, when we discussed organisation, and two or three appointments to office were made. The weather throughout was perfect, in marked contrast to that during my last visit, when every day was wet, and on three consecutive days it rained without intermission.

The next move was to Hamilton East, where I organised a branch in February last, and here I was at home in the Methodist Parsonage, with Rev. and Mrs McArthur. A few days were spent in working up the

annual meeting, which took place on November 20th. The attendance was small, on account of this being the first day of the Show, but the little Branch, though handicapped by the very wet weather and multiplicity of other meetings, has done well.

I had promised Feilding a further visit, but as their final meeting had to take place before the usual time, all I could do for them was to help the Treasurer in gathering in the fees while staying a few days with my old friend and comrade, Mrs J. C. Thompson. I went over to Woodville from there, spent a night with Mrs Perkins, and assisted at the annual meeting, also at those of Petone and Wellington District, and the December meeting of Wellington Central.

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**A FEW PERTINENT QUESTIONS
BY A U.S.A. SENATOR.**

Will a sober nation not win the war more quickly than a drunken nation?

When the food controller asks everyone in the country to conserve the food supply, why must the food supply going into beer be excepted?

If beer drinkers are going to rebel unless they get their beer, will the temperance people rebel unless they get Prohibition?

If someone were to take as much food stuff as goes into booze and dump it into the sea, what would the people of the nation say?

Is beer more essential than bread?

What kind of people are those who are not willing to give up their liquor to help their country?

Are the interests of the brewers in this country more important than the winning of the war?

Are we willing to sacrifice everything except beer in the country to win the war?

With the great demand in this country for labour, and the high wages paid, could there ever be a better time as far as the labouring men are concerned, for the transition from a wet to a dry country?

When there is a shortage of labour in the important and necessary work of carrying on the war, why waste labour in making booze?

CINEMA PICTURES.**PALMERSTON NORTH.**

The Vice-President of the Union and President of the local branch, Mrs Crabbe, accompanied by six women representatives of various religious denominations, interviewed the manager of the local theatres, three of which are showing pictures in the above town. Various questions and suggestions were brought forward conducive to raising the tone of dramatic films. This more particularly applied to children. A set of resolutions passed by various women's societies at the Canterbury Institute in June were read over and the following ideas from them were discussed:—

1. Will the Government Education Department collaborate with the picture management in placing suitable cinemas for children on such occasions as they are likely to attend?

This question could hardly be dealt with locally, but the manager was of opinion that the response to the higher class picture in the past was too poor to hope that they would take on. He instanced several fine plays that had been coldly received, and sometimes resulted in loss to himself.

2. Could there be explanatory intervals of darkness to rest the eyes of the children? Also,

3. Could seats for children be placed further from the screen?

Both these questions were negative. Lights had to be raised owing to the mischievous propensity of certain children to destroy leather coverings or anything else in their power when unobserved. Nor would it be possible to place many children far from the screen, as most of them are in down-stair seats, and some must necessarily be near the screen.

4. Could the sexual and criminal bent in too many of the pictures be eliminated for something more elevating?

The deputation were assured that the only way possible was to refer the matter to the Receiver of Films in Wellington, and endeavour to get objectionable films tabooed altogether before being shown at all.

The deputation had a courteous hearing, and withdrew feeling that if there was no immediate encouragement, they had at least broken ground, and gained information for further action.