

Thirty-Third Annual Convention OF THE N.Z. W.C.T.U

Held in Wesley Hall, Timaru, March
14th to 21st, 1918.

(Abridged.)

Convention opened with devotions, conducted by President, who read from Ephesians vi.

Roll-call 75, including 12 "Y" delegates.

Members of Convention.

Dominion Officers.—Mrs Don, President; Mrs Crabb, Vice-President at large; Miss Henderson, Corresponding Secretary; Mrs Evans, Recording Secretary; Mrs Peryman, Editor, "White Ribbon"; Miss Powell, Dominion Organiser; Mrs Lee-Cowie, World's Missionary and Dominion Superintendent for Peace and Arbitration; Mrs Walker, Maori Organising Treasurer.

District Presidents.—Mrs Goite, Gisborne; Mrs Venables, Napier; Mrs Watson, Nelson; Mrs Gaskin, Greymouth; Mrs Rule, Timaru; Mrs Lill, Ashburton; Mrs Hiett, Dunedin; Mrs Houlder, Wellington.

District Secretaries.—Mrs Taylor, Auckland; Mrs Chellev, Napier; Mrs Upton, Wanganui; Mrs Hills, Palmerston North; Mrs Keene, Wellington; Mrs Day, Christchurch; Miss Williamson, Dunedin.

District Treasurers.—Miss Taunt, New Plymouth; Mrs A. Brown, Nelson; Mrs Paterson, Christchurch; Mrs Young, Dunedin; Mrs Brown, Ashburton.

Superintendents of Departments.—Mrs J. Wright, Evangelistic; Mrs Neal, L.T.L. and Medical Temperance; Mrs Judson, Good Citizenship and Peace and Arbitration; Mrs McDonald, Home Science; Miss Macarthy, Moral and Social Hygiene; Miss Maunder, Scientific Temperance; Sister Moody Bell, Prison and Reformatory Work.

Delegates.—Mrs Peritt, Auckland; Mrs Noda, Otamatea; Mrs Martindale, Hastings; Mrs Jemison, Ngaere; Mrs Scott, Normanby; Mrs Bartlett, Marton; Mrs Bridge, Feilding; Mrs Rowlands and Mrs Kensington, Palmerston North; Mrs Brown and Mrs Mountier, Wellington; Mrs Boucher, Greytown; Mrs Miller, Masterton; Mrs Hope, Petone; Mrs Field and Mrs Moyes, Nelson; Mrs Richards, Blenheim; Mrs Saxton, Miss Gordon, and Miss Roberts, Christchurch; Mrs Hall, New Brighton; Mrs Kippenberger, Oxford; Miss Watson, Ashburton; Mrs Hopwood, Rakaia; Mrs Trott, Timaru; Mrs Driver and Mrs Kirkland, Dunedin; Mrs Fawcett, Kai-korai; Mrs Peart, N.E. Valley; Mrs Johnstone, Port Chalmers; Mrs Tiffany, Sawyer's Bay; Mrs Fairbairn, Invercargill South; Mrs Stewart, Waimate.

"Y" Delegates. Miss Patterson, Auckland; Mrs Bottrill, Auckland;

Miss Wright, Avondale; Miss Gil-mour, Aramoho; Miss Murray, Wanganui; Miss Crabb and Miss Rowlands, Palmerston North; Miss Hayes, Nelson; Miss Phillips, Wellington; Miss Oakley, Ashburton; Miss Waterman, Oxford; Miss McKenzie, Port Chalmers.

Minutes of last meeting (1917) read and confirmed. Vote of sympathy to Dominion Treasurer, absent through indisposition.

Appointments made for Committee of Courtesies, Mesdames Cave and Irvine; Convention Letter Writer. Sister Moody Bell; Messenger for Mails, Miss Patterson; and for Press Reporters.

Notice given for appointment of Resolutions Committee.

Proxies appointed for 10 Unions; and for five others at later times in the Convention.

Greetings received from Avondale "Y's," Wanganui Central, Hamilton, Invercargill, Warkworth, Auckland "Y's," Masterton, Wanganui "Y's," also by letter from Miss Anna Gordon, Mrs Barry (World's Superintendent Penal and Reformatory Work), and Miss Harriett Newcomb.

Corresponding Secretary read her report, showing total number of financial members as 4327, an increase on last year of 688; also 507 "Y" members in 11 branches, 6 being new during the year, and also 63 Maori members.

Report adopted.

Noontide devotions (Mrs Hiett).

Treasurer's report and balance-sheet, read by Mrs Peryman, showing total revenue, £402 14s 3d; total expenditure, £313 15s 1d, leaving credit balance of £314 6s 6d. Number of financial members, including "Y's," 4,834. In Banner Contest, Ashburton scores complete victory, winning both banners, with actual increase of members 97, percentage of increase 202 per cent. Unions next in order, Auckland, Dunedin, Onehunga, Dan-nevirke, Norsewood.

Organising Treasurer's report showed receipts, £185 2s 5d; expenditure, £139 16s 7d, leaving a credit balance of £184 4s 7d. Accounts and balance-sheet had been audited by Mr G. Plummer, to whom the thanks of Convention are due.

President referred to lamented death of the late Dr Bedford, and expressed deep and sincere sympathy with Mrs Bedford. Resolved also to send a letter of sympathy to Mrs Bedford, Senior, in South Africa.

The following vote was passed, on the motion of Miss Roberts:—

We, the members of the W.C.T.U., in Convention assembled, desire to place on record our profound sorrow for the death of Dr Bedford, and our deep appreciation of the work he has done for all moral reforms, especially in the cause of Temperance. The campaign for the abolition of the drink traffic in this country owes much to Dr Bedford's able advocacy and brilliant oratory.

We thank God that a life so richly endowed with rare ability, high courage, energy and enthusiasm was dedicated to the service of God and

humanity, and we rejoice to know that the gate of death was for him but the entrance to fuller life and higher service. We tender to his wife and children our loving sympathy in their bereavement.

President, on behalf of Convention, expressed deep and loving sympathy with all who had suffered bereavement during the past year through the war, but asked that no request should be made for letters to be sent, except in very exceptional cases.

Thursday Afternoon.

Devotions (Sister Moody Bell and Mrs Crabb).

Roll-call, 91. Minutes read and confirmed.

Organiser's report read, showing a good deal of ground covered, and several new branches formed, in spite of Miss Powell's accident, and various other difficulties.

Notice of motion brought up by Miss Powell to define title of first Vice-President. Motion passed with amendment, that title be Chief Vice-President.

Notice of motion brought up by Mrs Crabb to allow Unions that are unable to send delegates from their own members to choose some member of the W.C.T.U., resident in their own district. Motion carried.

President delivered her address, a rapid survey of progress made during the past year. Received and adopted, with great appreciation of its value.

Greetings received from South Invercargill, Normanby, Blenheim, Stratford, Sawyer's Bay, and from Miss E. Sorley, of Palmerston North.

Reports considered and adopted: Evangelistic and Home Meetings, Narcotics, Educational Bureau, Notable Days, Scientific Temperance.

FRIDAY MORNING.

Devotions (Mrs Cowie and Mrs J. Wright). Roll call, 89. Minutes read and confirmed.

Recommendations of Executive brought forward, dealing with scheme for campaign for 1918. President outlined her plan, and after long discussion in Committee, following resolutions passed:

(1) That we immediately start a campaign to secure success at the next Licensing Poll.

(2) That in order to do this, we press into service as many suitable women as we can secure to travel for some time previous to the poll to hold afternoon and evening meetings; the object being to educate the electors and win votes for Dominion Prohibition.

Noontide prayers (Mrs Peryman and Mrs Lill).

Discussion interrupted by luncheon adjournment.

Friday Afternoon.

Devotions (Miss Powell). Roll call, 91. Minutes read and confirmed.

Members attending Convention for first time, 28 in number.

Congratulations to Miss Maunder attending this her 21st Convention consecutively; also to Miss Powell on having missed only one in last 22 years.