

Greetings from Wellington District, Wanganui East, Palmerston Y's, and Mrs Maria Webb, of Ormondville.

Rev. J. Dawson and Mrs Dawson attended Convention, and were welcomed by President. Mr Dawson brought greeting from N.Z. Alliance and the Temperance party throughout New Zealand, and addressed Convention at some length on the position of the fight against liquor in the Dominion and elsewhere. President briefly replied.

Letter and apology, greetings and good wishes from Mrs Bendely.

Resolved to send a letter of thanks to the Railway Commissioner for having put a ladies' carriage on the Main Trunk railway.

Discussion on scheme for 1918 campaign then resumed, and resolution 3 carried as follows:—

(3) That each District Union be expected to organise and carry on work in its own district, as well as arrange for receiving these lecturers and making the campaign effective.

Members of Convention then invited to make suggestions, these to form basis of resolutions.

Session adjourned in usual way.

SATURDAY MORNING, MARCH 1.

Devotions (Mrs J. Wright and Mrs Keene). Roll call, 84. Minutes read and confirmed.

Greetings from Ashburton and New Plymouth.

Letter read from Mrs Mary Lovell to Mrs Neal, dealing with war conditions in America, and urging attention to humane education as best method of checking war spirit.

Reports Adopted: Maori.—Mrs Walker submitted balance-sheet of Maori Organising Fund, showing balance last year £68 4s 4d, total receipts £111 16s 1d, expenditure £29 8s 8d, leaving balance of £82 7s 5d. Accounts audited by Mr D. Morice, to whom thanks due from Convention. Maori Organiser still not found. Superintendent suggested appointment of local superintendents, who might visit Maori members and get in their subscriptions, and distribute Maori leaflets.

Work Among Seamen.—Resolved to send letter of thanks and appreciation to Mrs Nimmo and her husband for splendid work they had done in connection with the mine sweepers' effort.

Resolved that as the need for warm clothing for the mine-sweepers is still insistent, a second campaign be inaugurated, and to this end the Dominion Union shall register as patriotic war worker.

Good Citizenship.—Unions urged to take united action for reform of picture entertainments for children. See below for resolutions on this subject.

Y's and Medal Contests.

Bible-in-Schools and Sabbath Observance.

Prison and Reformatory Work.—Reference made to improved methods in the model prison in Invercargill, and to the women's prison in Addington.

Session closed shortly after noon with noontide devotions.

MONDAY MORNING, MARCH 18th.

Intercessory service (Sister Moody-Bell). Roll call, 88. Minutes read and confirmed.

Vote of thanks and appreciation passed to Rev. T. Stinson for inspiring service and excellent sermon on Sunday evening.

Miss Powell announced that 52 new members, including 7 gentlemen, had been initiated at the great Temperance rally on Sunday evening.

Greetings from N.E. Valley, also from Australasian W.C.T.U., through Mrs Carbosso, who wrote hoping a New Zealand representative might attend the Triennial Conference in Perth in September, 1918.

Letters of sympathy sent to several old members of the Union, Mrs Fulton, Mrs Webb of Ormondville, Mrs Crump of Nelson, Mrs Dewar Auckland, Mrs Blackwell, Miss Trevurza, of Ashburton, Mrs Mason (Grevmouth).

"White Ribbon" Editor presented her report, 2625 subscribers, increase of 410 on last year. In spite of £15 increase in cost, year ended with credit balance of £9 15s 3d. There would be further increase in cost of printing of £17 for ensuing year, therefore Unions must again make special effort for new subscribers.

Balance-sheet showed total receipts, including balance from last year £350 10s 6d, total expenditure £340 14s 3d, leaving credit balance of £9 16s 3d. Warm appreciation of Editor's work expressed by many members, and report was adopted.

Vote of thanks passed to Editor and Associate Editor.

Mrs Evans again nominated as Associate Editor.

Usual honorarium, £25, voted to Editor, also telephone charges for use of Editor and Business Manager.

Usual vote of £25 for printing Convention number passed.

Noontide devotions. Continuation of intercessory service.

Report of Cradle Roll, L.T.L., and Band of Mercy adopted.

Lunch adjournment.

Monday Afternoon.

Devotions, conducted by the Y's.

Roll call, 87. Minutes read and confirmed.

Decided that Convention should march in procession to and from lunch at Caroline Bay the next day, and also to public meeting in evening. (Heavy rain prevented this being carried out.)

Report given re picture slides for exhibition at cinema entertainments; cost £2 per month, for two slides shown twice each evening, for engagement made for eight months for, say, eight chief centres, charge correspondingly much less.—Matter left in hands of Executive.

Reports.—Medical Temperance.—Adopted.

Moral and Social Hygiene.—Report adopted.

Afternoon mostly taken up with discussion of question of Venereal Disease. Manifesto brought forward by Christchurch Union, dealing with treatment of venereal disease, opposing compulsory measures and use of prophylactics, with reasons for opposi-

tion, suggesting other remedies as farm colonies, free clinics, total abolition of drink, and education of boys and girls in sex hygiene.

(As copies of this manifesto were distributed among delegates, it is not reprinted here.)

Manifesto adopted, with addition: "That State regulation necessitates the supply of girls being kept up by the White Slave Traffic."

Resolved, on motion of Mrs Lee-Cowie: "That this Convention of representative women of the W.C.T.U. of the Dominion of New Zealand express their utter abhorrence of the effrontery of Miss Ettie Rout in implying that our New Zealand boys must be supplied with remedies to make wrong-doing safe, and sin easy. We contend that we send our sons to fight for purity and righteousness, and we utterly discountenance everything that slackens moral fibre and self-control, and place on record our emphatic repudiation of prophylactics and the woman who advocates them."

Resolved, on motion of Miss Roberts. This Convention notes that the Minister for Public Health recently drew attention to what he rightly characterised as a "most appalling matter," viz., the question of illegitimacy, and called on the women of the country to assist in checking it. He gave the figures for 5 years up to and including 1915, as follows:—

Age of Mother.	Total for 5 Years.
13	4
14	20
15	57
16	131
17	260
18	379
19	430
20	407
21	383

Total 2071

This Convention draws attention to the large increase in the number of illegitimate births after the age of 16 years, and holds that the women of this country are practically powerless in the matter of checking this evil so long as the Government refuses or neglects to pass measures for the better protection of our young women and children.

We therefore urge the Government once again, as we have urged for years, to pass legislation providing:

- (1) For the raising of the age of consent from 16 to 21 years.
- (2) For the extension of the time limit in which information can be laid for criminal assault.
- (3) For the abolition of the power of accused to plead belief in the girl's attainment of the age of consent as a palliation of an offence against her purity while under that age.

Resolved, on the motion of Miss Henderson: This Convention protests most emphatically against the inadequacy of the sentence passed by the Dunedin Magistrate upon the man Ebzery, who was convicted of keeping a disorderly house and of enticing young girls thereto. The Convention places on record its sense of indignation with the feeble state of the law dealing with such offences. That a