

This to be sent to all Churches.

After further discussion on Plans of Work, the election of Officers was held, Mrs Peryman and Mrs Young being appointed Tellers.

The result was the practically unanimous re-election of all the Dominion Officers.

Noontide devotions.

Superintendents of Departments were appointed as follows:—

Social and Moral Hygiene: Miss Webb, Ormondville.

Literature: Mrs Mowlem, Wellington.

Good Citizenship: Mrs Duxfield.

The remainder were appointed in a block, being the same as for last year.

President extended a greeting of good wishes and farewell to Mrs Parkes, who would have left the Dominion before next Convention; also to Mrs Judson, who expected to leave shortly for India. Both briefly responded.

President also referred to the greeting brought by Mr Bailey from the women of Vancouver, to whom a greeting should be sent in return.

Session closed in usual way.

THURSDAY AFTERNOON, MAY 1.

Devotions (Mrs Rylands Brown).

Testimonies given by delegates to the help and inspiration they had received from the Convention.

Roll call 82.

Greetings from Oxford.

Minutes read and confirmed.

Mrs Walker re-appointed Maori Organising Treasurer. She expressed willingness to act again, provided Unions would assist her in the ways suggested.

Grants made from N.Z. Treasury for telephones for use of President, Corresponding Secretary and Editor of the "White Ribbon."

Resolution passed.

That this Annual Convention of the W.C.T.U. desires to place on record its high appreciation of the valuable services rendered to the cause of Temperance by Mrs Peryman as Editor and Business Manager of the "White Ribbon." It congratulates her on the ability that has secured the high literary excellence of the paper, as evidenced by the testimonies received from various parts of the world, and upon the fact that unfavourable conditions of the war and epidemic have been met without incurring any appreciable debt, and without either raising the price or lowering the standard of the paper.

This special minute of appreciation to be placed on the Minute Book.

Mrs A. R. Atkinson re-appointed Custodian of Records.

Votes of thanks were passed as follows:—

To Mrs Cowie for the organising work done by her in the middle of a severe winter in Central Otago and Southland, resulting in a gain of nearly 1000 new members.

To Mrs Judson for preparing report for the typewriter.

To Mrs Napier for the services she had rendered to the "Y" Branches as Honorary "Y" Organiser.

Notices of Motion.

(1) By Mrs Peryman: That as Unions may now choose as their delegate any member in their own district, Article III. of the Constitution be amended by deleting the words, "No proxy shall be appointed, etc.," to the end.

(2) By Mrs Field: That all Dominion Superintendents of Departments present at Convention shall have a seat on the Executive, except at the meeting at which they are nominated.

Invitations for 1920 Convention received from Wellington, Palmerston North, Dunedin; Wellington accepted.

Financial result of the "Y's." evening was a credit balance of 11s 9d.

Sunday night's collections, £5 3s 6d; garden party collection nearly £10, divided equally between Hastings Union and Napier Union.

In accordance with resolution passed at New Plymouth Convention, that one collection be always taken up during Convention on behalf of N.Z. Treasury, 11s 9d was handed over, and Hastings' Union generously donated to Treasury its share of the garden party collection.

Further discussion of plans of Campaign work.

Afternoon tea recess.

Mrs Lee-Cowie again outlined her schemes, and after discussion, the following resolutions were passed:—

(1) That this Convention urges that when licenses are removed, the need of each locality shall be met by members of our Unions, in conjunction with other societies, in providing "parlours" or other places to give "Home Life" to lonely lads and others.

(2) That this Convention recommends the promotion of the grape industry for the production of raisins, currants, unfermented wine, grape jellies and beverages, cream of tartar, grape sugar and industrial alcohol, to prove that the W.C.T.U. is for constructive, and not only for destructive, work.

Votes of thanks were passed to the following:—

The Hosts and Hostesses.

The Entertaining Unions.

The Trustees of St. Paul's for use of the schoolroom.

The Press.

The Adjutant of the Salvation Army for the services of the band in leading the procession on Sunday evening.

The Organisations who provided afternoon tea.

The Rev. Richards for preaching the Convention Sermon.

The Hastings' Union for the garden party, and for the donation to the N.Z. Treasury.

Convention brought to a close by singing Hymn 84, and prayer offered by the Dominion Evangelistic Superintendent.

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

Dear Sisters,—

Our Convention is two months late. We postponed it, prayed and planned for it, and worked as never before to make it historic. We thought our rallying cry would be Victory, our prayers all thanksgivings, our dominant note praise, but here we are assembled with our slogan, "We will see this thing through," still unaltered, our prayers still suppliant, the disappointment of defeat heavy upon us, but with our faith in God unshaken, and through Him and with each other to gather up our forces and decide what next.

The year just passed has been one of the most eventful in our reform, and full of ceaseless activity. Our first effort was the preparation of and presenting to Parliament a petition containing 242,000 signatures, asking for an immediate referendum on the Efficiency Board's proposal of Prohibition with Compensation to be decided on a bare majority vote. At the same time our Unions and some churches started a season of definite prayer in the home and at special meetings, and in answer to our supplications the desired poll was granted to us, and six o'clock closing, which had been given only as a war measure, made permanent by Act of Parliament. But before we could muster our forces to consider plans of campaign, there came the glad proclamation of victorious peace, the four years of dreadful war had ended in glorious victory, the greatest conflict in the history of the world had come to an end, but while the songs of rejoicing were yet on our tongues, the scourge of war was followed by the scourge of disease, and the events of the great war sunk into partial insignificance under the shadow of pneumonic influenza, which swept the world, levying a fearful toll upon human life and health. All classes of the community, including White Ribboners in every centre, did what they could to minister to the sick and dying about them, and were the full story told we should doubtless hear of heroism and self-sacrifice on the part of Christian women equal to anything witnessed in recent years upon the battlefield. With the tragedy of pestilence resting heavily upon us, we plunged into the campaign against the Trade that has done more harm than war, plague, and famine put together. Never have we put up such a fight, never had we such a number of speakers that came from far and near, including politicians, professors, doctors, ministers, and laymen, returned soldiers, representatives of Labour, and women. We had the Bishop of Christchurch and Father Cronin advocating our cause; we had the whole weight of the Nonconformist Church; we had the heart and brain of the Labour party; we had the Acting Premier's voice as first citizen; and we had the co-operation of the Efficiency League. In many cases the