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CHRISTCHURCH.

PROVINCIAL CONVENTIONS.

CANTERBURY.

The Canterbury Provincial Convention was held in Lyttelton on Tuesday and Wednesday, October 28th and 29th. Mrs Lill presided in the absence of the President, Mrs T. E. Taylor. The Executive met in St. John's Presbyterian Church Hall on Tuesday afternoon. Twenty delegates answered the roll call, and a programme of work was arranged for the following day.

In the evening a public meeting was held in the Excelsior Hall, when the Rev. Frost introduced Mrs Wheeler, of California, whose portrait appeared on the front page of the October "White Ribbon." Mrs Wheeler gave a recitation and a monologue, and then followed with a splendid address on the American and New Zealand flags, telling the story of the Prohibition movement in the United States of America. After January 1st, 1920, there will be 110,000,000 people in the States living under Prohibition. To keep the drink traffic meant the destruction of 100,000 young men and 60,000 girls every year. The brewers driven out of the States were building large breweries in other places, and sending their goods to other parts of the world.

Miss Thorpe, of Lyttelton, sang a solo, and Mr Lester, the Mayor, extended a hearty welcome to the Union delegates.

On Wednesday Convention met at 9.30 a.m., when devotional exercises were conducted by Mrs W. J. Williams, of Sumner. It was then arranged to present Mrs Wheeler with a New Zealand flag as a souvenir of her visit to Canterbury. Votes of sympathy were passed to several absent members. Encouraging reports were then read from Tinwald, Ashburton, Christchurch, Timaru, Kaiapoi, Winchmore, Rakaia, New Brighton, Lyttelton, and Oxford Unions.

An excellent address was delivered by Miss McCorkindale, Organising Secretary of the "Strength of Empire League," of Queensland, who has come to help in the coming campaign.

She emphasised the need of scientific temperance instruction in State Schools, stating that Prohibition was maintained in America through the right training of the rising generation.

The delegates were entertained at luncheon by the Lyttelton Union, and the afternoon session opened at 2.30 p.m. Mrs W. T. Todd, of Lyttelton, led the devotional exercises, after which Miss Henderson moved the following resolutions, which were passed, to be forwarded to Parliament:—

(1) "The Canterbury Provincial Convention of the Women's Christian Temperance Union learns with pleasure that it is the intention of Government to provide this session for an increase in widows' pensions."

(2) This Convention desires to record its gratification at the passing of the Women's Parliamentary Rights Extension Bill, whereby women have been made eligible for election to the House of Representatives."

(3) "This Convention resolves to make an earnest endeavour to secure the following reforms in the administration of the same in regard to cases where women and children are concerned:—(1) The appointment of women Justices of the Peace; (2) the appointment of women on juries; (3) the employment of women police."

(4) This Convention strongly feels that the law relating to the guardianship of children should be amended in the direction of giving the mother equal rights of guardianship with the father."

(5) "That this Convention is of the opinion that the present system of altering the boundaries of electorates after taking the census is opposed to the community of interests, which is the mainspring of an intelligent participation in public affairs."

(6) "That this Convention urges that the Government should adopt a very liberal policy in regard to the establishment of Maternity Hospitals, and considers that in this matter very special consideration should be given to the claims of mothers in country districts, and that in their interest a maternity hospital should be estab-

lished in every centre of population."

A paper, entitled "The Woman of Yesterday, To-day, and To-morrow," written by Mrs Garrett, of Invercargill, was read by Mrs Lill.

An invitation to hold the next Convention at New Brighton was gratefully accepted.

The election of officers resulted in Mrs T. E. Taylor being elected President, and Mrs Kippenberger Secretary and Treasurer.

Votes of thanks were passed to the members of the Lyttelton Union and the hostesses for their kind hospitality, and the singing of the Temperance Doxology and the pronouncing of the Benediction brought to a close a very happy and profitable Convention.

WELLINGTON.

The Sixth Annual Wellington Provincial Convention of the W.C.T.U. was held on Wednesday and Thursday, October 8th and 9th. A meeting of the Executive was held on the evening of October 7th.

Convention opened at 9.30 a.m. on Wednesday, the President, Mrs Crabb, of Palmerston North, presiding. Delegates were present from Wellington District, Wellington Central, Greytown, Lower Hutt, Masterton, Petone, Palmerston North, Feilding, and Woodville. Apologies received from Bunnythorpe, Marton, Pahiatua, Taihape, and Taoroa.

Mrs Ashby, Petone President, welcomed the visiting delegates, and Mrs Crabb suitably responded. The President's address was a comprehensive survey of present day conditions, and urged that no member of the Union should stand idle. Mrs Neal, Secretary, read replies from various M.P.'s. The President and Organiser of the local No-License League addressed the Convention. Messrs Beddingfield and Haslam, headmasters of the Petone schools, gave addresses on Education Reform, and the following resolution was passed:—"That this Convention heartily supports the following reforms in our educational system: