

Morning and afternoon tea was provided by the Local Union, and was much appreciated. The session closed by responsive reading of psalm and the Doxology.

In the afternoon, we were to have been taken to the Whatman Home and the Solway College, but a snow-storm coming on, it had to be abandoned. A party of us went to Mrs Smith's, the Local Secretary's house, and were entertained with songs, recitations, and afternoon tea; we that were privileged to be there had a right royal time, and we heartily thank Mrs Smith for her kindness. On account of the storm, our social at night had to be put off, and we were all glad to get back to our hostesses to a good fire, etc., as it was bitterly cold. We thank our hostesses, one and all, for their great kindness to us.

WAIKATO DISTRICT.

The South Auckland (Waikato) District Union Annual Convention, was held at Morrinsville, on Tuesday, October 5th. Mrs J. M. Jones, of Hamilton, the President in the chair, Mrs T. E. Taylor, of Christchurch, the Dominion President, was present.

The morning session, preceded by an Executive meeting, was held in the Methodist Church, the afternoon in the Parish Hall. Convention was called to order at 9.30, and after the opening exercises, Mrs Jones read from Luke 1, and then very lucidly stressed the fact that total Abstinence from strong drink was a condition on which John the Baptist was set apart for the special work of being a Herald of the Christ's Coming. Samson, too, raised up for the purpose of routing the Philistines was an abstainer, and Daniel, and his three compatriots refused the rich foods and wines of the King's table, and grew in both strength and wisdom.

The roll call was responded to by delegates from Morrinsville, Te Kuiti, Ngaruawahia, Fencourt, Frankton, Hamilton East, Cambridge, and Hamilton, the last three sending delegates from the Young People's Unions also. A party of Waihi members was also present, having motored through.

The Rev. Sage, of Morrinsville, gave a very cordial welcome to the delegates, and a letter of welcome from Rev. W. J. Elliot, of Cambridge,

on behalf of the Methodist Church of the South Auckland District, was received.

The President then gave a very fine address. She emphasised the fact that we must begin with the education of the young, working from the Cradle Roll upwards to the Young People's Unions. Scientific Temperance Instruction was provided for in the State Schools' curriculum, and in order to ensure that that teaching is actually given, women should be returned on School Committees. The speaker referred to the Licensing Bill recently before Parliament, and rejoiced that both it and the Gaming Bill had been dropped. New Zealand need have no fear of poverty if drinking and gambling were abolished.

A touching appeal to the Government from the Maori Chiefs of the King Country, imploring that the pact made regarding the introduction of licenses in the King Country be not broken, was quoted. The speaker concluded with an appeal for prayer, which would remove the mountains of sin and wrong. "More things are wrought by prayer than this world dreams of."

Reports from the several Unions represented were then read. Mrs Baillie, Hamilton, moved their adoption. Mrs Beer, Cambridge, seconded. Carried.

A circular letter from the Editress of the Official Organ, the White Ribbon was read, urging the possibilities of the paper in counter-acting much of the evil influence surrounding the young women of the present generation, and telling them of what earnest-minded and thoughtful women are doing in the world today. Moreover, it is the only actual woman's paper published in New Zealand. Mrs Taylor was of opinion that no officer of any Union could do her work effectively, unless she subscribed to the White Ribbon, and made herself conversant with its information.

The morning session was brought to a close by devotions, led by Miss McLay, the Organiser.

The afternoon session was opened in the Parish Hall at 2 p.m., by the President of the Local Union, Mrs Starnes, who read a portion from the Sermon on the Mount, following with a short, but telling address. The speaker showed that Christ, in this

sermon, used two common articles—salt and light—to symbolise Christian workers. "Ye are the Light," "Ye are the Salt." These are Christ's own words, and Christian workers should see to it that they fulfil these words in their own lives, "lest the salt lose its savour and be cast out to be trodden under foot of men."

A vote of sympathy with the relatives of the late Mrs Edgar, President of the Te Kuiti Union, was passed, all present standing in silence.

After the minutes of the morning session had been read, the Mayoress, Mrs Howie, in a happy little speech, welcomed Mrs Taylor and the delegates, and expressed the hope that the Conference would be productive of good. At this stage, the resolutions forwarded by Mrs Judson, of the Peace and Arbitration Department, were read and confirmed. Recommendations regarding the teaching of History, the triumphs of Peace over those of war, and securing co-operation with Teachers and sympathisers of the Peace Movement and League of Nations, were approved.

The Minister of Justice, Mr F. J. Rolleston, was thanked for certain amendments in the laws relating to Guardianship of Children, to the Justices of the Peace Act, and to the Destitute Persons' Act.

The outstanding feature of the afternoon session was the address by Mrs T. E. Taylor, of Christchurch, whose late husband was the well-known M.P. for Christchurch North. Mrs Taylor based her address on the Scripture account of the Raising of Lazarus, and the Two Commands—"Take ye away the stone," and—"Loose him and let him go." She proceeded to show that the work of the W.C.T.U. is educative. There was a mistaken idea abroad, that its work was the securing of votes at the Poll. This latter was a test of the work done, but the work itself was the education of women and young people in purity of living, in child-welfare, in the evil effect of alcohol on the human body, and on the moral and economic life of the people, and its menace to the sanctity of home. It might be argued that these matters were taught in the churches, but it was in the W.C.T.U. they were taught intensively. If