

News of the Unions.

BRANCH REPORTS.

Please take note:—

1. Reports should reach Editor by 8th of each month.
2. They should be short. Don't report routine business. Do report all new plans and efforts.
3. Use pen and ink, and write only on one side of the paper.

GREY LYNN.

November 3. An enthusiastic rally, and a splendid address was given by Mrs Benfell, District President, who was ably supported by Mrs Williams, District Secretary. Three new members were made. Mrs Harper was elected Superintendent of Cradle Roll; Mrs Watson, White Ribbon Agent, and Mrs Chandler, Secretary. A very pleasant and instructive meeting. Afternoon tea served.

AUCKLAND.

November. Meeting held in the Central Mission Hall, Mrs Cook presiding. A very helpful address was given by Miss Baker on the work of the Holy Spirit at the Devotional meeting. Greetings were received from Mrs Reuben Bailey from Hongkong, and Mrs Williams, a member, who has just arrived back from the Homeland. Mrs Cook gave an interesting report of the recent Child Welfare Conference, held at the Auckland University. Letters of thanks were received from people in the Back-Blocks, gratefully acknowledging magazines, books, illustrated papers, etc., sent by the W.C.T.U. Committee, in connection with the War Memorial Library. An interesting account was read of the Children's Church in London, which is the only one of its kind in Europe. Mrs Fulljames gave a most interesting report of her visit to some of the Maori Unions, where she had gone to re-organise and strengthen the W.C.T.U. work among them. She spoke of the lovable, generous, loyal nature of the Maori, and what a pleasure it was to work among them. They were so responsive to uplifting influences. The meetings held had been most happy and enthusiastic. Parcels of clothes were brought to the meeting to be sent to the Maoris; this practical help is much appreciated by them.

CHEVIOT.

November 3. Meeting took the form of a "Bring and Buy" Afternoon, which proved a great success. Three new members were initiated. Mrs Walmsley, President, gave a short address on the aims of the Union. After repeating the pledge afternoon tea was served.

MAUNGAKARAMEA.

October 22. At residence of Mrs W. H. Gillingham. Four members present, and Mrs Weir, of Whangarei. Mrs Walker presided. Interesting letters were read, also a paper "What Woman's Franchise has Done," and one by Rev. Seamer on "Ourselves and our Maori Fellow-Citizens," all of which were freely discussed. Solos and a duet were rendered by Mesdames Harvey and Hilton-Walker. Afternoon tea served.

PLEASANT POINT.

November 3. Good attendance. Treasurer's report showed credit balance of £2 12s. 3d. Invitation to attend a Public meeting in Timaru received from League of Nations Union; Sir James Allen being speaker. Secretary to represent the Union. Decided to affiliate with League of Nations Union. L.T.L. reported 64 members, 34 being new ones. Vote of thanks to Mr Wakefield for making "Take One" Box for Railway Station. Report of District Executive read. Mrs T. E. Taylor's address published in White Ribbon was read. Very successful "Give and Buy" was held, nearly everything being sold. Afternoon tea dispensed.

WANGANUI CENTRAL.

November 4. Mrs Goody presided and read a paper on "Democracy in the Home." One lady present promised to have a good try to form a L.T.L. Mrs Irwin read a

paper entitled "Ourselves and our Maori Fellow-Citizens." The following fact was read:—As the average number of persons per house in New Zealand is 4.27, the 1923 Drink Bill would, if invested in 10,270 new dwellings of varied designs, provide in a single year accommodation for 14,852 persons. The following resolution was passed. That the Wanganui Central Branch of the W.C.T.U. noted with appreciation, the action of the Town Council, in not allowing sensational pictures to be shown in the streets of the city.

WHANGAREI.

October 5. Fair attendance, greetings received from Maungaturoto and Onehunga. Letter from Miss Bradshaw, re Maoris in need of clothing in Whangarei District. Decided to send parcel immediately, also sent clothing to Willard Home, and funds for coming Convention in Auckland next year.

October 15. "Maori Day" held at the residence of Mrs Heather, Otaka Road; 25 ladies present. Special bus from Whangarei had delightful time. Music, extracts, interesting letters from workers among the Maoris. Afternoon tea.

November 2. 17 present; vote of sympathy passed with Mrs Thompson in her sad bereavement. Discussed annual meeting to be held in December.

PONSONBY.

October 7. Mrs Hayr presided; fair attendance. Final arrangements for a Social Afternoon on October 13th, to welcome home Mrs Lee-Cowie. Decided to send Mrs Cowie a wireless message from her "Daughters." Mrs Andrews, the delegate to District Convention, then gave a very concise report of the Convention, especially emphasizing the repeating of our Pledge at every meeting. Afternoon tea was served.

October 21. "Maori Day." Mrs Lee-Cowie, President, presided; 30 members present. A vote of sympathy with the relatives of the late Pastor Geo. Aldridge, was passed by all members standing, also letters of sympathy, Mrs Hodgekinson and Aldridge. A most interesting paper by Rev. G. A. Seamer was then read by Mrs Williams, Notable Day Superintendent, showing us that there are 50,000 Maoris living as Maoris, who are craving for education, and the W.C.T.U. is a power to help them.

November 4. Mrs Lee-Cowie presided over a splendid meeting. Letter was read from Miss Henderson, re Badge of Honour; one of our sisters having obtained 14 new members during the year. Arrangements were made for next meeting to be our Annual meeting, election of Officers and Superintendents. Mrs Cowie entertained members at afternoon tea.

GORE.

October. Mrs Rhodes presided; night very wet. Attendances not very good, but notwithstanding, a quantity of business was dealt with, mainly remits to be considered at District Convention, held in Invercargill, on November 3rd. Two delegates, Mesdames D. McAskill and G. F. Mirams, were appointed to attend that Convention. Mrs Acutts spoke shortly on Slum Work at home and Miss Winnie Cullen played a violin solo. Decided to hold a "Bring and Buy" Sale at our November meeting. Supper was enjoyed at the close.

ASHBURTON.

November 2. A moderate attendance; Mrs W. H. Robinson presiding. Letters of sympathy sent to the relatives of Mrs W. K. Watson, and to Mrs H. Hopkins and family, and Mr Leadley and family in bereavement; also to Mrs Norrie, Timaru, in sickness. An interesting report of South Canterbury District Executive was received from the Secretary, Mrs H. Hopwood. Arrangements were made to take charge of the Rest Tent at the A. & P. Show on November 4th. Superintendents of Departments submitted their annual reports which were subsequently adopted, and votes of thanks accorded each. Especially, do we feel grateful to Sister Mildred, for getting the room in readiness each month, and the "Flower" Superintendent, in making wreaths when necessary. Gifts of clothing were received for the Willard Home. An article on Military Training by Dr. D. C. Herron, Auckland, was read and approved of. A cup of tea was served, and the meeting was closed with the Benediction.

JOHNSONVILLE.

October 21. This meeting was organised by our Presbyterian friends, and was a great success. The room was tastefully decorated with flowers. There were two songs, beautifully sung by Mrs Sloane and Mrs Livingstone respectively. Then we had a short address by Miss Cheyne, from Scotland, who was visiting the District. We were greatly cheered by the wonderful work being accomplished in that country. We also had an address from Mrs Evans, M.A., on "What the W.C.T.U. Stands for." After the address, an appeal for new members was made. Five were enrolled. Afternoon tea was daintily served. A hymn and Benediction brought a very fine meeting to a close. There was a record attendance.

DUNEDIN CENTRAL.

November 2. Mrs T. E. Taylor paid our Union a flying visit on her way through to Invercargill. Large attendance; Mrs Taylor spoke on Woman's work and her place in the Community.

November 5. A very successful Paddy's Market was held on the street, in aid of our funds. Thanks to Kalkorai and Mosgie Union for gifts, and also for helping on the stall.

TAUMARUNUI.

The branch had the very great privilege of hearing the Dominion President at their October meeting. There was a good attendance, and all present greatly enjoyed the address, which looked to the future of the movement, when women realise their present opportunities and fit themselves to grasp them. Mrs Taylor met the Executive Committee before the general meeting, and gave much useful advice about certain lines of work which we have not yet touched, particularly the Cradle Roll. We hope that, as a result of these inspiring talks, more will be attempted in the way of educational work than has been done. The Public Works camps, sawmill places and road-construction works could be reached with good literature, which might open a way for more personal work. Routine business was transacted, and a hearty vote of thanks accorded to Mrs Taylor.

AUCKLAND.

October 12. A Sock Social was held to raise funds for the Organising Fund, and also the Dominion Convention Fund. There was a good attendance. The St. John's Ambulance Association sent a letter of thanks and appreciation for the help given by the Union in the Street collection. Dr. Mildred Staley gave a most instructive address on Mother Endowment and Family Allowance. She spoke of the great success it had been in the various countries in Europe, where it had been adopted. She explained how the money was raised by the Impersonal Pool, and the immense benefit it had been to the families in these countries. Questions were answered and interest aroused. Songs were contributed and a recitation. Afternoon tea was served, and a pleasant social time spent.

WAIPIKURAU.

October 14. Presided over by Mrs Smales, who was heartily welcomed after her long illness. Fair attendance of members. Two papers on "Our Badge" were read. These had been prepared by Mrs Banks, of Hastings, and Mrs Hall, of Napier, for the District Convention, and were a splendid tribute to our White Bow. Decided to hold a "Cake Stall" in order to raise some money to meet local expenses. Next meeting to be a "Pay Up," so that Treasurer can get her balance sheet ready in good time.

BELFAST.

October 13. Meeting took the form of a Pay Up Social. One new member initiated. Pledge repeated by members. Decided to send 10/- to Willard Home. Mrs Rowntree, of Christchurch Union, gave a very fine paper and talk on Service, which inspired us very much. The speaker was thanked. Afternoon tea was served, and some of the Band of Hope children sang.

RAKAIA.

October 15. President presided over good attendance. Meeting took the form of a "Maori Afternoon," and it was decided to adopt a Maori Union, a different member to write each month. Gifts were received for