

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.

HAWERA.

Jan. 28. First meeting of the year; Mrs Exley presided over a fair attendance. All present repeated the pledge. A Committee was formed with the object of gaining more subscribers for the White Ribbon, though our Agent, Mrs Spavin, has done good work in gaining new subscribers since taking office. She will be glad to have a little help from members. A Garden Party is to be held on February 17th, at the residence of Mrs Corry, Glover Road, when Francis Willard Day will be observed; each member is asked to bring a friend. Two new members were enrolled. All hopefully looking forward to another year's work. (Thanks for forming Committee.)—(Ed. W.R.)

HAMILTON EAST.

Dec. Annual meeting; fair attendance of members. After devotions, the Secretary gave report of District Convention held at Morrinsville. The following officers were elected:—Pres., Mrs R. Morgan; Vice-Pres., Mesdames Meachem and Watkins; Sec., Mrs R. Mearns; Treas., Mrs G. Jack; W.R. Agent, Mrs W. Dey; C.R. Supt., Mrs L. E. Hiett. The meeting recorded their appreciation of the faithful service of the Retiring President (Mrs Watkins) who has filled the position for six years.

WANGANUI CENTRAL.

Feb. 3. Mrs Goody presided, ten present. A letter was read from our "Editor," dealing with the "White Ribbon," and how to increase its circulation. Mrs Warwick, our Treasurer, presented the annual report. Arranged that our next meeting should be a social, and that we have a sale of cakes and produce, in aid of Union funds. Mrs McKinnon was appointed Convenor of the Tea Room and Sale.

INGLEWOOD.

We look back over a year of quiet activity each one feels we have personally gained ground; learned lessons that will help us in the future.

Dec. 1. Pay-Up Social and Election of Officers. Best attendance for the year. Mrs Longbottom proposed a vote of thanks to our Officers; they have been faithful to their duties. President, Mrs J. B. Simpson; Secretary, Miss Johnson, and Treasurer, Mrs Burgess, were re-elected; Mrs Arthur, Evangelistic; Mrs Longbottom, Vice-President; Miss M. Simpson, W.R. Agent; and Mrs Bond, Sunday School Superintendent and Recording Secretary. A very nice programme including a pianoforte solo, and vocal solos, Rev Boyd. An excellent report from our President. A dainty afternoon tea was served. Another member enrolled, and our Treasurer received most of our members' subs. Thus came an end of our 1926 work.

Our Sunday School World's Temperance Sunday was observed. Our speaker was Mrs Phillips, District President. Mrs Phillips rather enjoyed our special verse and chorus sung by the children at the end of the well-known Temperance Song in Sankey's Hymn Book. So I pass it on, that others may use it too:—

Hold the Temperance Banner high,
On to Victory Grand,
License and the Trade defile!
Hail to the Temperance Band.

Chorus:

Dare to Vote No-License,
Dare to stand alone;
Dare to have that purpose firm,
Dare to make it known.

Sunday, December 19th, was our Prize-giving. This year each child received a very nicely bound copy of the New Testament with very good pictures. In all, 27 New Testaments were presented. Two Attendance Prizes and one Special to Ernest Peters for his Essay on "Our Violet Day."

TEMPLETON.

Nov. 23. Well-attended meeting. Our President, Mrs Simpson, presided. Annual reports read by Secretary and Treasurer, showing good work done. Mrs T. E. Taylor then presided. Officers elected:—President, Mrs Clark; Secretary, Miss Clinton; Vice-Presidents, Mesdames Brown, Mander, and Clinton; Hon. Vice-President, Mrs Simpson; Treasurer, Mrs A. Jones. Loving thanks and many good wishes for their future welfare was accorded to Mrs Simpson, President, and Mrs Williams, Secretary, who have moved to Christchurch. It was passed to buy fruit for inmates of Paparua Prison for Xmas cheer, also voluntary donations of cake, etc. Mrs Taylor then addressed the meeting. One new member gained. A hearty vote of thanks was accorded to Mrs Taylor. Afternoon tea was served.

Jan. 25. Mrs Clark presided over a fair attendance. Pledge repeated. Correspondence read. After business was finished, meeting closed with benediction. Afternoon tea was served. Next meeting to be held in Library.

TAKAPUNA.

Dec. 2. President, Mrs Morgan Richards, in the chair. The Retiring President (Mrs Penning, who has held office for the last six years) was presented with two very nice books. Mrs McRae spoke a few words about the coming Convention. There was a good attendance, and afternoon tea was served.

Feb. 3. The Cradle Roll Picnic was held during the afternoon in Kitchener Park. There was a good muster of children and their parents, and as it was a fine day, everyone had a good time. Mrs Morgan Richards addressed the children, and then proposed a hearty three cheers for Mrs Winstone, the Cradle Roll Superintendent, who gives a good deal of time to the work, and who arranged that afternoon's entertainment. She announced that we had 153 children on the roll. Afternoon tea was served, and sweets and biscuits given to children.

RAI VALLEY.

January 28th, in the Carluke Church, ten members being present. Mrs Leov, on behalf of those present, welcomed the Vice-President, Mrs Woodward, who is just recovering from a long illness. Decided to accept the services of the Dominion Organiser, the time to be arranged later. Mrs Leov read a report on the work for the year of the different Unions in the district. A report on the District Nurse proposal, showed that the scheme was well on the way to completion, and it was decided, subject to the approval of the Nurses' Committee, to invite the mothers of the district to afternoon tea, at the conclusion of the Baby Show, which is being held on February 17th.

PONSONBY.

Jan. 20. Mrs Hayr presided over a good attendance. The Misses Pyle who have just returned from a trip to Honolulu and America, were welcomed back by the President. Mrs Kasper, who has been on a trip to Great Britain and the Continent, and to whom the members were presenting a W.C.T.U. brooch set with pearls, unfortunately could not be present. Decided to have a Coffee Supper with musical programme on February 17th, at 7.30, in place of afternoon meeting, to raise funds for a Banner. Miss McLay, Organiser, gave us a short address on the progress of Temperance in Scotland. Afternoon tea was served.

February 3. Mrs Hayr presided over a good attendance. Mrs Kasper was welcomed home, and she and Miss T. Payne gave an interesting account of their experiences while away. Mrs Kasper having had the honour to be present at the National Executive Convention held at Oxford, England. Miss T. Pyle and her sister were delegates from Honolulu to the Los Angeles Convention. So they have had wonderful and interesting experiences. Mrs Wakelin elected Evangelical Superintendent. Afternoon tea was served.

CARTERTON.

Feb. 2. First meeting of 1927. Mrs. R. H. Every presided over a fair attendance. A letter was read from Mrs. Peryman, giving helpful suggestions for the New Year. Our Paper the "White Ribbon," was discussed and to make it more widely known, the Union have decided to have three extra copies sent each month, and Mrs Pepperell was appointed to sell them, so hoping to gain more membership. A letter from Mrs Evans concerning Convention. Mrs. Kennerly was appointed Delegate to Convention. At District Executive, Lower Hutt, Mrs. Raine will represent this Union. We were pleased to have one new member and one transferred from another Union. Mrs. Every then spoke on "The Life of Frances Willard." It was listened to with the greatest of interest, and enjoyed by all. The speaker was thanked for her talk. Afternoon tea was dispensed.

KAIAPOI.

Jan. 26. Opening meeting. Mrs Barnard in the chair. Mrs. White read the opening address of the President at the conference at Geneva which was listened to with interest by the members. Decided to ask Miss Harband to act as Proxy for our Union at the convention at Auckland. The meeting closed with the benediction.

January . Meeting opened with devotions. A fair attendance. President in the chair. Flowers are being taken to the Public Hospital. General monthly routine business was gone through after which the Delegate was chosen for the Convention. Meeting closed with benediction.

RICHMOND.

Jan. 18. Eight members present. Mrs Cropp, Treasurer, read balance sheet showing balance of £8 9s. 9d. Mrs Crabtree appointed Delegate to Convention. Resolved that Babies' Day be held in Baptist Church grounds, on Thursday, January 27th. Arrangement for same being made.

Jan. 27. Babies' Day was beautifully fine and well-attended. A well laden stall of produce was well patronised, and afternoon tea was enjoyed by all. Short speeches were given by the President, who also welcomed visitors, and by Mrs R. Patti, Cradle Roll Superintendent and Pastor Every of Baptist Church. A programme of recitations and songs was given by L.T.L. members and was greatly appreciated. Proceeds amounted to over £4, thus swelling our balance and enabling us to proceed with the year's work. Afternoon tea closed by singing of the Doxology.

HASTINGS.

Jan. 31. About fifty mothers and children gathered on the lawn, at the President's home, at the Garden Party tendered by the Cradle Roll Department. Games and competition provided entertainment for all, while afternoon tea, fruit and cool drinks were much appreciated. Mrs Paul welcomed the guests, and in a concise little speech outlined the work of the W.C.T.U. and its departments, stating that the Cradle Roll members locally numbered 50, which they hoped soon to increase to twice that. Four new members were added to the roll.

ASHBURTON.

Feb. 1. First meeting for 1927. Mrs Robinson presiding over a good attendance of members. A letter of sympathy was directed to be sent to Mrs S. S. Chapman and family in their recent bereavement and sickness. Correspondence was received and dealt with, including New Year suggestions from the W.R. Editor re making the paper a more effective factor in educational work. Mrs C. Roseveare, Willowby, delivered an interesting address on "Work Among Orphans." The speaker took as the basis of her remarks, "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto the least of these my little ones, ye have done it unto Me." Two new members were enrolled. Mrs W. H. Robinson and Mrs J. Moore were unanimously elected Delegates to Dominion Convention. In honouring "Frances Willard" Day, the President referred to the life and work of our noble Founder, and the Missionaries who carry forward the work of the Organisation in foreign lands. A collection was taken up in support of their work. A warm welcome