

SPECIALS.

GOLDEN WEDDING AT PETONE.

April 20. A most enjoyable afternoon was held in the Salvation Army Hall, Mrs Cole presiding. It was a very interesting occasion, as it took the form of a complimentary social to our President and her husband on their attaining to their golden wedding. We were very sorry indeed that Mr Murgatroyd could not be present, owing to the inclement weather.

The hall was tastefully decorated with chrysanthemums and white bows, a beautiful foresight of some of the ladies.

There was an excellent programme, in which the following took part:—Mrs Heyward, song; Mrs Wiseman, piano-forte solo; Mrs Franklin, song; Mrs McAlpine, song; and Miss Nancy Slater, a recitation, after which the company adjourned to the other room, where a bountiful repast was laid. Toasts honoured and proposed: "Bride and Bridegroom," "Bridesmaid."

Mrs Battersby, Mrs Carter, and Mrs Jones spoke of the good work that Mr and Mrs Murgatroyd had done for the community.

Mrs Battersby then presented an afternoon tea set to Mrs Murgatroyd from the ladies of the Union.

The afternoon's enjoyment was brought to a close by the joining of hands and the singing of "Auld Lang Syne."

Our Union extends their best thanks to all the ladies who took part in the programme.

OPENING OF MUNICIPAL REST ROOMS, INVERCARGILL.

On Wednesday, 13th April, before a large attendance of the public and W.C.T.U. members, the magnificent new Municipal Rest Rooms, erected in Invercargill as the result of the efforts of the local W.C.T.U. Branches, backed by a generous donation from the Trustees of the Invercargill Savings Bank, were officially opened by Mrs L. B. McKenzie, first President of the District W.C.T.U.

The Mayor, Mr Andrew Bain, said the opening of the rooms marked another stage in the history of the town, in that it now possessed one of the finest buildings of such a nature in all the Dominion.

The cost was approximately £2000, of which amount the sum of £1000 had

been generously donated by the Invercargill Savings Bank. He congratulated the builder, Mr P. Larsen, and the architect, Mr N. R. Lightbody, on the well-finished and beautiful building. Mr Bain then laid the first foundation stone, and expressed the wish that the building would very successfully fulfil the purpose for which it was erected.

On behalf of the W.C.T.U., Mrs Fairbairn, District President, then presented Mr C. J. Broad with a handsome trowel in commemoration of his laying the second stone, which was inscribed: "District W.C.T.U. This stone was laid by C. J. Broad, Esq., in memory of the pioneer women of Southland. April 13th, 1927."

Mr Broad paid a glowing tribute to those pioneers who, with indomitable courage, had cut out a home and splendid heritage from the fastness of the bush. "Our children," he said, "have everything that their ancestors worked long years to gain. They start where those who have gone before left off."

Mrs Fairbairn then handed Mr Broad a sealed casket containing copies of the "Southland Times," the "Southland News," and the "Southern Cross," the white badge and "White Ribbon" of the W.C.T.U., and coinage of the realm. This was placed in a recess behind the stone, which Mr Broad declared well and truly laid, expressing the wish that the Rest Room would long fulfil the purposes for which they were erected.

The foundation stones having been laid, the Mayor then called on Mrs McKenzie to declare the Rest Room open.

Mrs L. B. McKenzie, first President of District W.C.T.U., spoke in a very interesting and inspiring manner, reviewing the history of the W.C.T.U. movement in Southland. "This," she said, "is a proud day for the members of the local branches of the W.C.T.U., in that, with it, comes the realisation of their vision of many years ago. The W.C.T.U. is a world-wide organisation, and each branch is but a link in the great chain. One of the principles upheld by the organisation is good citizenship, and it is in support of that principle that we have made this effort. The first step achieved in this direction had been in 1909, when, after some difficulty, they had succeeded in getting a seat placed in the Post Office Square. Since that the W.C.T.U. had instituted Rest Tents for women and children at the A. and P. Shows, and now, with the help of the Town Council and the Trus-

tees of the Invercargill Bank, they had attained this long-desired object. Then thanks were due to Mr Lightbody, whose services had been so kindly given free, which had done much towards making the accomplishment of their aim possible. Their thanks were also due to the District President, Mrs Fairbairn, and the Secretary, Miss Mary Hardie, and to all the women of the W.C.T.U. who had devoted their time and efforts towards attaining this object." Mrs McKenzie paid a tribute to the pioneers of the W.C.T.U. movement, many of whom had passed away, handing on their vision of what might be done in the future to the women of to-day. Mrs McKenzie then placed the key in the lock with the words: "To the Glory of God and for the use of the women and children of Southland, I declare this beautiful building open to you."

Afternoon tea was then served by members of the local Branches of the W.C.T.U., and the rooms inspected by those present.

BIRTHDAY RALLY AT CANVASTOWN.

Between 30 and 40 ladies met at a rally of the W.C.T.U. at Canvastown on April 23rd, when a most enjoyable and profitable afternoon was spent. Mrs Murray presided. Nineteen members were present, several having pushed their "prams" several miles, while others from a greater distance were driven thither by their considerate men folk. Several were unavoidably detained by illness or home duties.

The meeting opened with the singing of the noon-tide hymn, followed by the customary devotions. The President's opening address cordially welcomed Rai Valley President and members, Havelock President and members, all local members and friends. The year's work was briefly reviewed, the membership having risen from eight to twenty-six. Tribute was paid to the Executive and to the little band of workers and regular attendants at all meetings. Finally, the President introduced Mrs Grigg, District President.

Mrs Grigg, with her usual fluency, delivered an interesting and instructive address on the "Aims and Objectives of W.C.T.U."

Mrs Leov, President Rai Valley, and District Secretary, whom we all love for her cheerful, whole-heartedness, spoke at some length on the great work and ideals of W.C.T.U., and finally compli-