

to drop from the blue. It sounded purely Utopian at first; but when Miss Gordon, of Christchurch Union, actually a foundation member, made the offer to be responsible for collecting funds for this purpose, and the offer was accepted by Convention, members began to feel that this was no usual Convention. Things were happening. It is not possible to tell all here. The Handbook, which all are urged to purchase for their officers and for themselves, costs 1/3, and is to be had from headquarters when it is ready.

Dominion Officers

The election of officers, excellently conducted by Mrs. Long, resulted as follows:—

Dominion president, Miss Kirk; Dominion vice-president, Mrs. Hiatt; Dominion corresponding secretary, Mrs. Toomer; Dominion recording secretary, Mrs. Underhill; Dominion treasurer, Miss M. Lovell-Smith; Dominion assistant treasurer, Miss J. Anderson; editor "White Ribbon," Mrs. Christian; business manager, Mrs. Grigg.

Much is left untold. You will hear more anon.

The Chair

It was something of a blow to the Convention when Mrs. Hiatt, our beloved president during the last eleven years, was suddenly called home to Dunedin to the bedside of her brother, who has been in failing health for some time. Deep sympathy was felt and expressed with her and Miss McKenzie, her sister, in this sudden trial. Messages were received from Mrs. Hiatt later, in one of which she grieved that her farewell as president had to be made to her sisters in the work "on paper." Our prayers and thoughts were often with her.

Mrs. Kasper stepped into the breach, unable to make any preparation, and took up the duty of carrying on in place of Mrs. Hiatt. To her we owe our sincere gratitude, for the task was not easy. The lovely flowers presented to her were a small token of the sympathetic attitude of the Convention. Her gesture in having them sent to Mrs. Pirrett, who had contracted a severe cold in journeying, and was forbidden by the doctor to attend Convention, was felt to be characteristically kind and thoughtful.

Retiring Corresponding Secretary

Although we had been warned, it was with very real regret that we parted with Mrs. Mitchell as our corresponding secretary. Her bright personality and thoroughly capable handling of our work have endeared her to us through the ten years completed at this Convention. The presentation of a beautiful rose bowl from Convention members was felt to be a fitting gesture.

"Till We Meet Again"

The old Closing Service of Convention seemed to have a peculiar significance this time. God grant that our plans and work may come to full fruition.

EDITOR'S REPORT

During the first year of holding the position of editor of our official organ, "The White Ribbon," I have had a great deal of pleasure, and a great deal of hard work, some disappointment and some surprises. The pleasure has been caused by the contact with many of our members whom I have never seen, and whom to know even through this medium is a privilege, and by the actual work of the paper which I have found very congenial.

The hard work goes without saying; one could do with a staff of assistants really; but that is impossible, and as I have my own home to run also the hard work must be regarded as inevitable, and I accept it very cheerfully.

The disappointment has been caused by the fact that there is strong evidence of the fact that many who take the paper do not really read it. In spite of the constant announcements, material intended for Mrs. Grigg continued to come to me right up to the end of the year. However, the red ink in the January-February number seems to have caught the eye, and I hope for freedom from the need to re-direct and re-post advertisements, changes of officers and money to Mrs. Grigg.

The surprise has been caused by the many kind things said to me about my work. In my own mind, there is an intense dissatisfaction about it. Honestly, I have a deep sense of my own inadequacy, and have not felt really pleased with one single number. I think that I have done so much writing myself for each number, and that takes away from its value for me. I should be very glad of contributions from superintendents of departments, or from anyone at all who can send an interesting article. I earnestly hope for the standard to improve.

I should be glad of expressions of opinion on the following suggestions which have been made from time to time:—

A series of short, informative articles on "Famous Women."

A column of suggestions for our own work each month.

News from overseas.

A "Homemaker's Column."

I shall be grateful for any other suggestions.

I wish very sincerely to acknowledge the good work done by the reporters. I advise all readers to read all the reports, if they have not done so previously. Nothing can give the sense of fellowship or reveal the spirit which is moving throughout the Dominion Union as these reports do. I must, however, remind reporters that it is very important to have the date, and name of the union, on the reports. A model form of report will probably appear in the "W.R." very soon, and it is suggested that all reporters follow the line of this. All salient features will be included, but details of purely local interest will not. Space becomes more valuable as our work and membership increase. That these should increase is the aim and purpose of the "W.R."

The "Beacon" has given me much pleasure in that I have come to know several of our young people. I should like to think that our own members would read it. The young viewpoint is vitally important; and its value to our work should not be underestimated.

I am a little worried about the "Y.P. Supplement." It is so small and when finished does not seem to have enough of temperance teaching in it. If L.T.L. and Band of Hope leaders have any suggestions to offer they will be most gratefully received. The children in my own town seem to like it and look for it, but whether more could be done by it is the question.

My last word is one of thanks for much kindness, sympathy and assurance of the prayers of unions and individual members. Also I am greatly indebted to Messrs. Wright and Carman for much assistance in carrying out a piece of work for which I was ill-qualified. I have been genuinely helped in these ways, and acknowledge them with sincere gratitude.

SPECIAL REPORTS

Pukehuia began its year's work by holding a public meeting in the local hall on January 31st, followed by a very good "bring and buy." About 40 people attended and there was no lack of helpers. Miss Cook sang two solos, and Ren Cook gave a splendid address. We got a clearer idea of the cruel enemy we are fighting, and the need for more courage as we face, in the name of the Lord, the 1946 poll.



READERS' VIEWS

(To the Editor.)

Dear Madam,

My union, having read and digested Mrs. Mercer's article re "Retiring Age for Presidents," and the reply of "Once

Under Fifty-Five," we find we are quite in agreement with the latter; especially our younger women.

Many women long past fifty-five have proved they can hold their own with their younger sisters in leadership.

Certainly, let us hand over if there are others capable and willing to take over, but it will not be because we are becoming unfit at fifty-five.

Yours sincerely,

"Another Over Fifty-Five."

[The editor would welcome an expression of opinion from an "Under-Fifty-Five," but otherwise this correspondence is now closed.]