

Figures and the Year Book for 1944

Read at Convention by Mrs. Grigg

I've had a job given to me to prepare a short paper giving a **Comparison of New Zealand's Expenditure on Liquor** with that on some other productions, the figures to be taken from the latest Year Book. So, armed with pen and pencil, notebook and specs, I settled down in the reading and reference room of the public library with the latest copy, 1944, of the Year Book. I dallied with figures, all in millions, on the value of our butter, our cheese, our lamb and our wool. I listed timber milling products, value of boots made and of clothing, and then was pulled up with a jerk when I sought out expenditure on "**Liquor.**" "**Liquor,**" no such word in the Year Book! I had memories of a drink bill of something from £9 to £12 millions, but where was that among the statistics in the book? Not there! The value of the actual product of the breweries—the millions of gallons of beer, ale, stout, etc., worth, or rather, costing so much to make is shown, but that is small compared with what the public finally pays for it. Nowhere is there any indication of the actual annual expenditure on "**Liquor.**" I tried to find out something about the value of the wine made at the Government vineries at Te Kawhata—there was no mention of that, though, from another return, I find that the amount produced has increased in six years, 1935 to 1941, from 12,600 gallons to 18,000 gallons, but how much is paid for that is not given, nor is there any mention of the alcohol, "proof spirit," which is distilled and used to fortify the wine and to sell to other manufacturers to fortify their wines! I can now understand where the licensed trade gets its figures from when it presents a drink bill less than half the actual one. They take this cost price of the product of the breweries. Since I am to keep to the Year Book, I will do the same. Here are some:—

Breweries Just over £5,000,000
Boots and Shoes Just over £3,000,000
Clothing Nearly £7,000,000
Education Just over £5,000,000

Now, in order to realise within a little what an expenditure of £5,000,000 means, let us see, in some fuller detail, what that money buys in, say, education.

1. It pays for our **elementary education**, that is, our ordinary public schools; all the teachers' salaries; all the upkeep, with cleaners and caretakers; all the books, ink, chalk, maps, apparatus of all kinds, and all the hundreds of etceteras! This is the largest item of our £5,000,000; it costs over £3,000,000 of it.

2. Then it pays for our **secondary and technical schools**. These do not take as much as you might think for many of them are endowed, and also scholars often pay fees towards costs.

3. The same applies to **training colleges** and the **higher education**.

4. It pays for our **schools for the deaf**; for our **education of the blind**; for schools and classes for **mentally backward**.

5. It pays for all the **child welfare work** under which we support and board out friendless children.

6. It pays for our **country library service** as well as—

7. **The vocational guidance departmental work** as well as various other things.

And New Zealand spends as much on making its **beer** for a year as it spends on all these together in the same year.

Again, we could buy all the boots and shoes made in 1944 for all our civilian population and for all our hundreds and thousands of soldiers in the Pacific, in Italy and in other parts, all their leggings and leather goods, for £2,000,000 less than the country spends on **beer**! It seems incredible!

M. C. EDMED.

TALK ON METHODS

Given by Mrs. Kasper at Dominion Convention

We have, as an organisation, been fortunate in our officers, who have drawn up a very lucid constitution to follow; also the superintendents of departments, who have set out the work of the departments, but we must not be satisfied to know the **work**. We should study the correct manner of procedure—the very best way to carry out the work of each department.

We can get into a rut by doing the same things at our meetings year in and year out. At the world convention Mrs. Rachel Palmer said at one of the study classes: "Present the old truth in a new way. Try to catch the public and interest them in our work with new ideas and more attractive methods." I have never forgotten that. To do it, we need initiative, a

keener interest, and better organisation.

Frances Willard said once: "When organising, **don't** despise the day of small things. I have organised seventy women into a weak organisation, and **seven** into a strong one."

Don't fail to keep your wit, wisdom and patience well to the front.

Don't take too much for granted.

Don't assume the role of "Sir Oracle." Teach without seeming to do so. Put yourself in the attitude of a learner with the rest; thus your style will be kindly and suggestive rather than authoritative.

Officers

So much depends on the officers and their methods of carrying out the work. It is like launching a lifeboat.

If the captain is near-sighted and the mate a blunderer, the raft will swamp before it gets beyond the breakers. Let the presidents of our unions preside and go forward quietly to their places as a matter of course.

Be definite. Get the business on the agenda through as quickly as possible, then introduce a programme that is attractive and interesting. Invite visitors. I have met people who have told me that they thought only members could attend.

If a president is not sure of the correct method of conducting a meeting, let me give her the advice that Frances Willard gave when addressing a class on procedure: "Rehearse. Practice. Try to become perfect. Let everything be natural, but let it be clear-cut, systematic, ship-shape. Treat your audience as carefully and graciously as you would a guest in your own house."

Preparing for a Meeting

Re the method of preparing for and carrying out the programme of a meeting, whether it be a social function or just an ordinary meeting, my advice is to plan matters thoroughly beforehand. We will never gain members for our unions and interest people in our work unless we make our meetings worth coming to. Let there be nothing haphazard, as is too often the case in our temperance meetings. Neither let us have anything of the "cut and dried" method where the president reads every words she says. A well-appointed meeting is a work of art. Don't let your music go by default. Keep to the programme as far as possible, and make the room fair and gracious with flowers. Note that hotel lounges are always comfortable and well decorated.

LATE REPORTS

Wanganui District: Wanganui Central.—March meeting, small but good spirit. Mrs. R. Wilson led devotions; Mrs. Goodey presiding in the absence of Mrs. Duxfield at Dominion Convention. Apologies from Mesdames Ogg and Glenn, away after sickness. Reports from Treasurer, Mrs. Gooday, and Mrs. Mercer, Good Citizenship. Letter received from Coastguards' service, but agreed that W.C.T.U. work reserved for own Seamen's Hostels. Requests for help for CORSO and Poppy Day referred to District Executive. Agreed with Electors' Association action in trying to get opinions of all local citizenship bodies as to sending well-backed request for better wireless programmes. Recitation by Mrs. Harris. Article by Mrs. Grinstead on increasing gambling; and lively discussion. "Bring and Buy" in charge of Mrs. Mercer.

Manawatu District: Feilding.—March 6th. Mrs. Spence presided. Devotions led by Mrs. Kendall. President read the Constitution of the W.C.T.U. Members to help in street collection for funds to establish Chair of Obstetrics at Auckland. Prayer by Mrs. Spence.

North Canterbury District: North Brighton.—March. Agreed that freewill offering for Headquarters be taken up. Mrs. Noonan appointed as Convention delegate. Vote of thanks to Mrs. Scott for her hospitality. Meeting closed with prayer.

Auckland District: Auckland.—March 12th. Opening meeting for the year. In absence of Mrs. Long at Convention, Mrs. Holmes presided. Willard Day observed, and collection taken up for World Fund (Missionary). Sympathy expressed with families of three of our members who had recently received the "Home Call." Paper and discussion on the life of Frances Willard. Deeply deplored increase of drinking at weddings.