

Miss Mary Jackson Honoured

(Ashburton Union)

Eightieth Birthday

On June 5th a very special birthday party was held at the home of the Misses Jackson, members of our Ashburton Union, when about thirty-five friends assembled to honour "Auntie Mary," as she is affectionately known to everyone. Afternoon tea, served by her sister, Miss Chrissie Jackson, preceded a very helpful service conducted by Adjutant P. L. Smith, of the Salvation Army.

Mention was made of the wonderful record of Christian work accomplished during fifty-seven years. Included in the various fields in which her gifts have been exercised are forty-seven years of work in the S. Army as a soldier, with hospital visiting as a special activity for twenty-five years.

Her work in the ranks of the W.C.T.U. has been very outstanding. At the age of nine years she joined a Juvenile Temperance Lodge under the careful guidance of her mother, a keen Temperance worker, whose early training bore fruit, which is seen after so many years. One of a large family, she was not able to have what so many young people enjoy today—the benefit of secondary education; but this was no hindrance to her in her career of Christian usefulness. As Band of Hope Superintendent for many years, she built up, with her helpers, a band of children so large that they have held the Banner for the largest number of members for five years. Miss Jackson feels that some other Band of Hope should be able to beat them by now, but it is sure that it will be no easy matter to wrest it from Ashburton, where Miss Jackson's successor is carrying on the fine tradition already established.

Other work done by Miss Jackson was that of Superintendent of Work among Seamen, which she did for many years. As W.C.T.U. representative on the Health Stamps Committee, she served for a period. She became a W.C.T.U. member nearly forty years ago. She owes much to her sister who, recognising Miss Mary's gifts, made it possible for her to carry on her Christian work. She thanks God for the devotion of Miss Crissy. Also she expresses her gratitude to Mrs. Buckler, who made it her pleasure to take Miss Jackson in her car to the various meetings, and gave valuable help in the carrying on of the Band of Hope.

The Jackson home has always been open to those needing care in times of ill-health as well as those in full strength. The wonderful example set by the quiet Christian mother with her family of twelve has been followed by her daughters. Miss Crissy carries on some of the work now laid down by

Miss Mary, and another sister is doing missionary work in South America.

Mrs. H. Taylor presented Miss Jackson with a beautiful spray of red roses from the Home League, and Mrs. Tinker a bouquet from the W.C.T.U. Telegrams from all over N.Z. were received and were read by Messrs. John and James Jackson. Solos and songs were sung during the afternoon, and the Rev. J. Browning read a helpful article on a favourite text. Miss Jackson expressed her thanks for the many gifts and flowers presented by her friends. A beautiful birthday cake, a gift from Invercargill, was cut with musical honours. A verse of "Abide with Me" was sung, and the benediction was pronounced.

Miss Jackson has sent a message of good cheer to her many friends engaged in our work through our pages. We are delighted to pass it on, and will join with her sisters up and down the land in thanking God for the consecrated service of these two sisters, in their individual spheres. Our most sincere good wishes go to them both, together with our prayers for their continued well-being, and joy in the Master's Service.

Her message runs: "Greetings to all Christian workers; and love to all sisters."

PRESS GLEANINGS FROM FAR AND NEAR

"Oamaru Mail":

TALK ABOUT LIQUOR BY HON. A. H. NORDMEYER.

Under the auspices of the W.C.T.U. a meeting was held in Wesley Hall recently at which the Minister of Health, the Hon. Mr. Nordmeyer, gave a helpful and informative talk on matters of general interest to women. Mrs. Winn occupied the chair and introduced the speaker.

Family benefits was one of the matters spoken of, also the banning of obscene books. In regard to the liquor traffic, vested interests were most anxious to increase the importation of liquor. The alcoholic content of New Zealand beer was greater than in Britain or on the Continent. A lighter beer was introduced with a reduced alcoholic content, which also effected a saving in sugar. The closing of hotels on Saturday afternoons had been a great help and increased fines for after-hour trading had also had a deterrent effect. Drinking on trains and buses was made illegal. Advertisements of liquor or of women drinking were prohibited. Formerly preparations were made up with sugar, etc., and sold all ready to make into beer. This also has been prohibited. The

Licensing Commission had focused the light of public opinion on the drink traffic in the Dominion. People all over New Zealand had their eyes opened to the doings of the liquor interest. The brewers and hotelkeepers had tried to have hotel hours lengthened. The prohibition vote had gone back, which showed that public opinion was against prohibition, but the fact remained that a town without the hotel bar was a cleaner and better place than the town with open bars. Though the electoral boundaries had been altered there had been no change in the no-license boundary. It was the same as it had been in the past. Temperance people could not afford to take things lightly else they might lose the great benefit of no-licence by neglect.

Mr. Nordmeyer stressed the importance of Temperance work among the young people and was glad to see a Band of Hope had been started. The young people must be trained in Temperance principles and encouraged to sign the pledge and impressed with the importance of total abstinence. The children of today are the men and women of tomorrow and on their training depends the kind of people of the future. It is public opinion which brings about Parliamentary reforms and it is only if Christian people do their part that they can expect the best results.

Mr. Nordmeyer was accorded a hearty vote of thanks. The usual cup of tea was enjoyed.

MR. GANDHI AND THE W.C.T.U.

In the Missionary Bulletin of the Baptist Church for June of this year is an interesting reference to Prohibition in India. We quote in full:—

"When independence is granted to India, one of the certain things will be prohibition against the importation of alcoholic liquors and the manufacture of the same. It is a great pity that when the Provincial Governments resigned in 1939 the British authorities removed prohibition from the Statute Book. Mr. Gandhi, on May 19th this year, wrote of the 'discredit' and 'shamelessness' of the British Government in reversing the law. He gives several ideas re health drinks and refreshment rooms, etc., and says he got these ideas from a circular addressed from the W.C.T.U., Lucknow." The Rev. M. J. Eade says: "This is one up for the W.C.T.U." Mr. Gandhi goes on to write about cocktail parties among Indians: "We seem to be on the eve of attaining independence. Should we ape bad European manners and customs, and still prize independence? It would be a sad day for India and the world, if the price we have to pay for independence is cocktail parties and the like. What do the famishing millions know of such parties? Let it not be said of us that our moneyed men were gay while those from whom they made money were famishing for food."