

SPECIAL REPORTS

NORTHLAND DISTRICT CONVENTION

The Northland District Convention was held at Dargaville in the Presbyterian Sunday School Room on August 25th. There were delegates from Whangarei, Maungakarama, Pukehuia, Te Kopuru and Maungaturoto. Mrs. Roberts, District President, presided over the three sessions, and with Mrs. Green, the Dargaville President, welcomed the delegates.

Mrs. Roberts took Devotions, and gave a heart-searching address on the "Talents." A resolution was passed urging Parliament to include Temperance teaching in schools; also asking that a copy of the law which prohibits boys and girls from selling raffle tickets be brought to the attention of the teachers. Complaint was made at the alleged distribution of raisins and sultanas to wine makers, while home-makers are kept in short supply. A strong protest was made against the continued rationing of sugar while so much is being wasted on alcoholic drink manufacture. These were all sent to the Dominion Superintendent of Legal and Parliamentary affairs.

Mrs. Roberts was again elected as District President and much appreciation was expressed for her sixteen years of work in this position.

Dargaville Union provided luncheon for the delegates, and Te Kopuru served afternoon tea. The Union reports were very encouraging, great interest being shown in our work. Mrs. Knightbridge sang a solo, and Mr. Pace, representing the N.Z. Alliance, gave some very interesting facts about Invercargill and America.

An evening meeting was well attended, the young people from Te Kopuru giving some pleasing items. The Mayor presided. The Ministers of the Methodist, Presbyterian and Salvation Army Churches attended, this being much appreciated. Mr. Pace was the guest speaker. He told of attending the sittings of the Royal Commission and spoke with authority on Temperance affairs. Questions asked at the close were answered by the speaker.

TEMPERANCE YOUTH RALLY TAURANGA

Temperance Sunday

On a day of torrential rain which never once ceased, quite a good afternoon Rally was held in the Tauranga Methodist Church on Sunday, September 1st, Temperance Sunday. The Rev. A. A. Bensley conducted the service, Mrs. Christian introducing the speaker, Mrs. Thompson, of Opotiki. In inspiring words, Mrs. Thompson told of work done in her own district, urging the claims of Temperance as a Christian duty on each person present. Her racy, happy manner secured her a most attentive hearing and the success of her appeal was evident when seventeen young people came forward to sign the Pledge at the close of the address. All then adjourned to tea

which was laid in the Hall, members of the Union having prepared this. After a bounteous repast, Mr. Archer, of the Sunday School Union, showed the splendid film, "It's the Brain that Counts," the guests sitting at the tables. "A Family Affair" was also shown. Other good "shorts" occupied the time till almost service time.

At the evening service, a very fine Temperance sermon was preached by Mr. Bensley, Mr. Archer reading the lessons. At the close of the service, the "still," "Beneficent Reprobate" was shown. Literature was distributed.

Had the weather been kinder, the attendance would have been very much larger, but the day's results were so well worth while that all were very glad that the effort had been made. Generous donations more than covered the fairly heavy expenses involved.

WOMEN'S MONTHLY DAY OF PRAYER

Blenheim

The Blenheim Monthly Day of Prayer was held at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Friday, August 30th. Sessions were conducted by the following ladies: Mesdames Bythell, Pickford, Kears and Crow. Special prayers on behalf of converts made during the recent Lionel Fletcher Mission, also Thanksgiving for blessings received and strength renewed by Christians who attended the meetings, and for those who rededicated their lives. Prayers for the Rev. and Mrs. L. Fletcher. Several requests for prayer were received, and answers to prayer were recounted. Testimonies to the power of the Holy Spirit's work in individual lives were given. Helpful messages were given by the leaders, Mrs. Bythell's address being outstanding. Hymns suitable for the subjects were chosen by the leaders. Mrs. A. E. Blick sang a solo very feelingly in the afternoon. Mrs. Leslie was organist.

NORTH BRIGHTON

North Brighton has held a special afternoon which was very interesting. At the close of the business session on August 20th, a "Bring and Buy" was held. A wonderful display of work was on show, including fancy work, rugs, pictures and knitting. Pauline Daniels sang solos; and a very happy time was spent by all present, several visitors being among the number. Three of the very active members, Mesdames McIlwraith, Goldman and Compton were unable to attend because of sickness, and letters of sympathy were sent. The "grand little lady" of the Union, Mrs. Felton, the oldest member, passed away recently at the age of eighty-four, and Mrs. Aston, another member, had lost her husband very suddenly. Wreaths and letters were sent from the Union.

TEMPERANCE FACTS

Given at Remuera, August 26th, by Mrs. Laird. "The word 'toxic' always

implies poison, so a man who is intoxicated is poisoned. Scientists tell us that alcohol, which is the product of fermentation, is a deadly poison. Our Saviour came to give health and life and liberty, so we know He did not make the drink of death at Cana."

Given at Kohi-St. Heliers, August 15th: "Alcohol paralyses the nerves which control the heart, and allows it to beat too rapidly, thus becoming weakened and overworked."—Dr. W. A. Chapple.

Given at Takapuna by Mrs. Roper: "One of the first questions asked by doctors for insurance companies is, 'Are you a teetotaler?'"

IN MEMORIAM

MRS. GEORGE DASH (Waimate)

It is with deep sympathy that we record the passing of Mrs. George Dash, wife of a valued friend of our cause, which occurred on August 15th at Waimate after a long and painful illness. The very large number at the funeral bore testimony to the high esteem in which she was held in the town, which was her birthplace and the scene of her many activities. The flag over the Borough Council Offices was flown at half-mast, and the basketball tournament planned for the day was cancelled.

Mrs. Dash was in every sense a help-meet to her husband during the 45 years of their happy married life. As Mayoress for eighteen of those years, she ably fulfilled the many duties involved. In many women's organisations she took a leading part, the W.D.F.U., W.L. Girl Guides, Waimate Benevolent Society, Plunket Society all claiming her services. It is a matter of very great interest to find in a 1904 issue of the "White Ribbon" that Mrs. Dash had been elected secretary of the Waimate local Union of the W.C.T.U. Many references are to be found in succeeding numbers to her work in connection with the Union. All Temperance work was keenly supported by her and her husband.

The last two years of her position as mayoress were served during the second World War, and she gave of her best in the work that had to be done. The Lady Galway Guild made great use of her experience as an expert needlewoman, and even in failing health she carried on. The Red Cross also saw much of her work. The first World War had still two years to run when Mr. Dash became mayor for the first time, and Mrs. Dash had a strenuous time then.

Her home was always known for its generous hospitality, and many were those who shared it. From many lands and of many creeds, men and women from all parts of the Empire were entertained, and from all parts of New Zealand friends were wont to share in the same kindly, warm welcome always extended.

The service at the graveside was conducted by the Rev. O. Burnet, of the Methodist Church.