

Answers to Resolutions Passed at Last Convention

The following letters have been received by Miss C. Henderson, J.P., in answer to hers conveying the text of resolutions passed at the 1946 Convention. They were read during this Convention.

Office of Minister of Health,
Wellington,
7th June, 1946.

Dear Madam,—

I acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 27th May conveying the text of two resolutions passed at the Annual Convention of the New Zealand Women's Christian Temperance Union.

With reference to the first request that advice be given regarding the danger of the drink habit, the Department has used the radio broadcasting periodically to give advice on the drink question. It is intended to continue dealing with this subject from time to time in the future.

With regard to your second resolution, I have to advise that the Department does pay attention to the care of food-stuffs. A difficulty is that local authorities have the direct control of retailers' premises in towns of any size. However, the Department exercises a supervisory function and is endeavouring all the time to accomplish higher standards of cleanliness in the handling of foodstuffs. In addition the radio, the press and magazines are being used to educate both food handlers and the general public in the need for higher hygienic ideals with regard to food handling.

Yours faithfully,

D. R. NORDMEYER,
Minister of Health.

Office of the Minister of Industries
and Commerce,
Wellington,
20th June, 1946.

Dear Miss Henderson,—

I have your letter of 27th May in which you convey the text of a resolution carried at the Annual Convention of the New Zealand Women's Christian Temperance Union, dealing with the rationing of sugar as it affects breweries.

In reply, I wish to say that the amount of sugar used by the breweries in New Zealand forms only a very small fraction of the total sugar usage and even if the manufacture of beer were entirely eliminated, there would be no appreciable difference in the supplies available for other purposes.

The sugar allowances to breweries have already been cut by 50% of pre-rationing consumption, and in this respect they are on an equal footing with other industries whose output is not within the essential class.

Yours sincerely,

D. G. SULLIVAN.

Prime Minister's Office,
Wellington,
30th May, 1946.

Dear Madam,—

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 27th May and note that the members of the New Zealand Women's Christian Temperance Union are of opinion that building materials should not be used for hotels while the housing problem is so acute.

I shall be glad to bring your representations in this connection to the notice of the Hon. Minister of Works.

Yours faithfully,

JAMES THORN,

for the Prime Minister.

Office of Minister of Works,
Wellington,
18th June, 1946.

Dear Madam,—

The Rt. Hon. the Prime Minister has referred to me your letter of the 27th of May expressing your Union's opinion that building materials should not be used for hotels while the housing problem is so acute.

In this connection I would like to point out that Licensing Authorities all over the Dominion are continually requesting licensees to provide a better standard of service from the point of view of living accommodation, sanitary condition of kitchens, sanitary conditions of bars. In many cases, too, Health Inspectors have made representation to the Building Controller for the repairing of many rat-infested hotel premises.

The Building Control Advisory Committee is fully seized with the urgency of providing homes for returned servicemen and is most reluctant to see any materials going into hotels, breweries, racecourses, etc., that might be avoided, and has only allowed items which ensure a reasonable standard of decency. General maintenance, however, is not covered by Building Regulations and maintenance can be effected by building owners without a building permit provided there are no structural alterations.

In the main I agree with your Union's views on the matter.

Yours faithfully,

R. SEMPLE,

Minister of Works.

INTOXICATION

"When the ability of the driver of an automobile has been lessened in the slightest degree by the use of intoxicating liquors, then the driver is deemed to be under the influence of intoxicating liquors."

—Ibid (p. 19); definition of "intoxication" recommended as a "standard instruction to juries."

—Committee on Tests for Intoxication, 1938 Report (p. 7). National Safety Council.

APPRECIATIONS AND WELL-WISHINGS

Our Convention record does not attempt to be a copy of the Minutes, and is not to be considered as anything but a brief survey of the outstanding events and features. It would not be complete, however, without some reference to happy moments when people said and did kind things to some of our sisters who had earned them. First among these was Miss Kirk's motion that a special Minute of appreciation of Mrs. Hiatt's eleven years of devoted service as Dominion President, should be recorded. This was done with the greatest enthusiasm, a presentation also being made to Mrs. Hiatt of a book in which delegates were invited to inscribe their names. Musical honours were also accorded Mrs. Hiatt, who feelingly responded.

Then came a similar motion, on a succeeding day, that Miss Kirk's sixteen years of service as Dominion Recording Secretary should be marked by a special Minute; proposed by Mrs. Hiatt. The long and close association of these two splendid women in the work they both hold so dear, made these two events very significant. Most enthusiastic applause bore testimony to Miss Kirk's place in the hearts of all.

Then there were the presentations of the "Long Service" badges by the President and Vice-President on the two occasions when this was done, and much pleasure was felt in the pleasing little ceremony of acknowledgment of many years of service in local Unions.

Finally, the words of well-wishing and God-speed to our two heroic adventurers, Mrs. Kasper and Mrs. Mackie, who expect to travel by air in May to Asbury Park, New Jersey, U.S.A., for the World Convention, come in for very special mention. Mrs. Kasper's most unfortunate and painful indisposition has caused some doubt as to her ability to undertake the journey, but a feeling of certainty that the many prayers offered on her behalf will be answered, has prevailed. Miss Kirk voiced the feelings of all in her few words of farewell as Mrs. Kasper left the hall on the last day of Convention. The greatest interest will be taken in the great adventure and it is expected that on their return both ladies will visit unions to report on the Convention. Our prayers will follow them both.

OUR DOMINION TREASURERS ASK

that all cash should be made payable to N.Z.W.C.T.U., and sent to Miss Atkinson, 57 Pitt Street, Wadestown, Wellington; and all letters, enquiries and accounts should be sent to Miss M. Lovell-Smith, 305 Riccarton Road, Christchurch, W.2.