

## District Conventions

### NELSON DISTRICT

September 18th, 1947

Delegates from Nelson, Motueka and Richmond attended the annual District Convention of the Nelson District on September 18th. The Rev. A. Petch led the opening Devotions. Mrs. Toomer, President, welcomed the delegates and also Mrs. Underhill, of the Marlborough District, Dominion Recording Secretary.

Greetings were sent to absent members. Secretary's and Treasurer's reports were read and adopted.

Following the reading of the Dominion Corresponding Secretary's letter, it was decided to—

1. Send further food parcels to Britain and

2. Bring the claims of "Y" work before each Union before the next meeting.

Mrs. Underhill spoke briefly, and expressed a hope for closer union between Marlborough and Nelson.

Noontide Devotions were taken by Mrs. Carter and Miss Cresswell. A Roll Call, "When and Why I Joined the W.C.T.U." called forth some interesting reminiscences.

The afternoon session was opened by a devotional talk by the Rev. Mr. Every. Encouraging reports were read from all Unions. Mrs. Gardiner, Dominion Supt. for Sailors' Rests, gratefully acknowledged donations of goods and money.

All officers were re-elected with the exception of Miss Lammas, who had retired from the position of "Birthday" Superintendent on account of ill-health. Mrs. Lummis was elected to the position.

Mrs. Toomer thanked all officers for their work during the year, and it was decided to send a letter of thanks to Miss Lammas for her work. Two new members were initiated.

The guest speaker was Mrs. Underhill, who gave an inspiring talk entitled "A Vision and a Challenge." Frances Willard's life and work were the basis of the talk. Mrs. Toomer thanked the speaker for her message.

An invitation to have next Convention at Richmond was gratefully accepted.

An enjoyable Convention closed with a hymn and Benediction.

### SOUTH AUCKLAND DISTRICT

September 18th, 1947

Following on the Silver Jubilee celebrations of the Tauranga Union, to which all delegates to District Convention had been invited, a good start was made on the following day, with delegates from Te Kuiti (both Unions), Te Awamutu, Hamilton, Cambridge, Thames, Fencourt, Cpotiki, Tauranga, and Rotorua.

Miss Kirk, Dominion President, led the opening Devotions, setting a high tone for the day. The President, Mrs. Christian, welcomed all delegates, especially those of the newly-formed Unions. The presence of Sisters Nicholls and Heni, Methodist Deaconesses, and of Mrs. Hera Munro, a veteran worker in our cause, and the Misses McLay, now

resident in Rotorua, were a special cause for pleasure. Votes of sympathy were passed in silence, with Mrs. Stephenson Craig, of Hamilton, former Secretary and now Vice-President of the district, in the loss of her husband, and with the relatives of Mrs. Peryman, prayers being offered on their behalf.

The Secretary, Mrs. A. L. Lewis, presented her report, and Mrs. Clark read the financial statement, both of which were adopted. Excellent work was recorded. A short report from each Union was read. Arising from the Opotiki report, Mrs. Thompson gave a short account of the wonderful Band of Hope work carried on by the Union under her superintendency, which was received with warm appreciation. Miss C. M. McLay reported on the organising done in the King Country in a really inspiring manner. The district representative on the N.C.W., Mrs. Lewis, asked that the Hamilton member, Mrs. Moore, should report on this, as she had been unable for various reasons, including electricity shortage, to attend regularly. Mrs. Moore did so, her report being full of interest. Noontide prayer was offered by Mrs. Bensley, Tauranga Evangelical Superintendent.

Sister Nicholls led the afternoon Devotions, speaking of the need for prayer and sympathy on behalf of the Maori Unions, which were enthusiastic and prepared for great things, but would need all the help possible to fulfil their hopes.

The election of officers was conducted by Miss Kirk and resulted as follows:—President, Miss Annie McLay; Vice-Presidents, Mrs. Stephenson Craig and Mrs. Christian; Secretary, Mrs. A. L. Lewis; Treasurer, Mrs. Clark. On the motion of Miss C. McLay, most enthusiastically passed, it was agreed to appoint Mrs. Craig Life Vice-President for the district she had served so long and well. Mrs. Christian retiring President, thanked all the officers with whom she had worked during the past, and ten preceding years, for their loyal and efficient co-operation.

Miss Kirk, speaker for the day, then addressed a large gathering of women's organisations, whose greetings were given by Mrs. McNaughton, President of the N.C.W. Tauranga Branch. Miss Kirk outlined the growth of Temperance work in New Zealand, and spoke of the part taken by the W.C.T.U. She showed how the Union had influenced public thought, and in many ways had helped materially to bring greater freedom and justice to women. The position held by the Union in the minds of thinking people was very high, and membership was a thing worth having. She urged greater activity and earnestness.

Two solos were beautifully sung by Miss Pearl Herbert during the afternoon.

The following remits were passed: From Fencourt, "That this Convention urges that at specially advertised 'Child-

ren's Sessions' at cinemas the inclusion of any unsuitable film should be forbidden." From Executive, Remits as suggested by Dominion President.

The question of the division of the district into two more workable areas was left over for another year. Hamilton's invitation for next Convention was received with thanks.

Afternoon tea was served by the members of the Baptist Church, morning tea having been dispensed by the local union members. Votes of thanks to all helpers, especially the hostesses, were carried. Convention closed in the traditional manner.

### AUCKLAND DISTRICT

#### Church Parade

The Twenty-fourth Annual District Convention commenced on Sunday, September 24th, 1947, by the Annual Church Parade, which was held in the Beresford Street Congregational Church and was conducted by the Rev. Percy Kightly. Between sixty and seventy delegates attended the Parade.

#### Reception to Delegates

The Convention continued on Monday, September 22nd, by the holding of the annual Reception to Delegates in the Presbyterian Hall, Edinburgh Street, which was beautifully decorated with flowers. The District President, Mrs. F. W. Mountjoy, presided over a large and representative gathering, over one hundred being present. An apology for absence was received from the Mayoress, Mrs. J. A. C. Allum, and several others, including the Misses McLay. Mrs. Mountjoy welcomed the delegates, and representatives of other organisations who brought greetings and messages of goodwill to the Convention, these being many in number.

An excellent musical programme was provided. During the afternoon, Mrs. Kasper, who had recently returned from the World's Convention in the U.S.A., presented the Cradle Roll banner for the largest C.R. to the Grey Lynn Union, their number being 426 this year. The L.T.L. banner was won by Birkenhead Union. The Silver Vase was won by the Warkworth Union for the best work done in the "Five-fold Plan," the Bronze Vase going to the Auckland Union, who had second place.

The Rev. L. A. Day was the guest-speaker, his address being most instructive and inspiring, challenging all to work harder for the abolition of the liquor traffic. Mrs. Kasper also spoke briefly on her experiences at the World's Convention, and at the close of her talk presented on her own behalf a silk cover memorial of Frances Willard to the Auckland District Executive.

#### Communion Service

The annual Communion Service was held in the Beresford Street Congregational Church on Tuesday morning, and was well attended; the Rev. Percy Kightly conducting a most beautiful and impressive service, a most suitable opening to Convention.

#### The Sessions of Tuesday and Wednesday

Fifty-two delegates attended the Tuesday Sessions and forty-six the Wednesday