

## WELLINGTON DISTRICT ANNUAL CONVENTION

Wellington W.C.T.U. were hostesses to delegates from nine branches who met at Wesley Church, Taranaki Street, Wellington, on 23rd October, for their Annual Convention. Miss V. Jackson presided and led the opening Devotions, speaking on the need for Faith and a Long View. Miss Brooks welcomed the delegates on behalf of the entertaining union. Greetings were sent to Mrs. Hiatt and Mrs. Helyer, and a greeting received from Mrs. Tyler of the Carterton Union. Discussion took place on the use made by the teachers of the copies of the Temperance booklet supplied to schools in the district and it was decided to seek more information from the Board office. The District Treasurer's report showed a satisfactory balance. The Youth work report, given by Mrs. Spencer and Mrs. Sired showed further activity in our L.T.L. at Belmont and the "Y" branches at Belmont and Brooklyn. Good results had been obtained in the Scientific Temperance examination. Lantern and microscope had been used in the meetings held during the year. Bands of Hope at Kurapuni and Johnsonville also doing good work. All Unions reported on work done during the year, special emphasis being placed by Masterton delegates on the great efforts made to ensure all possible being done to limit the scope of Trust control in Masterton. It was announced that a member of the Upper Hutt Union had received from His Excellency the Governor-General the order M.B.E. for services rendered at Trentham Military Camp during the war years. The order, with its beautiful ribbon, was shown to delegates. During the year a new Union had been started at Petone, which needed the prayers and support of all unions so that it might grow and become a help in that area. The officers elected for the ensuing year were: Mrs. Watt, Upper Hutt, President; Mrs. Brewer, Brooklyn, and Miss Jackson, Masterton, Vice-Presidents; Mrs. Reed, Central, Secretary; and Miss Atkinson, Wellington, Treasurer. District Superintendents were re-elected, one department being left vacant until a volunteer could be found for it. Preliminary arrangements for Dominion Convention in 1948 were made, the committee to meet as soon as arrangements for a hall were finalised. During the lunch hour Wellington Union conducted a "Bring and Buy" for the benefit of Convention funds, the table being very quickly cleared of goods. A vote of thanks to the entertaining union was passed. Convention closed with the singing of a hymn and the Benediction.

## SPECIAL MEETING TE KUITI MAORI UNION

The newly-formed Maori Union at Te Kuiti held a special gathering on October 17th, when members of the Otorohanga and the Te Kuiti Pakeha Unions were also present. In spite of very inclement weather, a fine number attended in the Methodist Church, under the chairmanship of the Rev. R. C. Patchett. Mrs. Christian, of Tauranga, was welcomed as she entered the Church, by the traditional Powhiri, the Maori members, led by their President, Mrs. Aupouri Joseph, chanting the beautiful words of welcome. After the opening Devotions in which the Rev. N. K. Kukutai assisted, Mrs. Joseph spoke words of welcome in her native tongue, then in English. Mr. Kukutai also added kindly greetings.

Mrs. Kenny, President of the Otorohanga Union, read the lesson and Mr. Patchett called on the speaker, giving her a welcome on his own account also. Mrs. Christian spoke on "Road-making," showing how development and progress must always follow on the preparing of the road for the people. The work of the W.C.T.U. was essentially road building, and all those who took part in it were building for the future of the race.

Following on the meeting, which was closed with hymn and prayer, a delightful tea was served in the hall, which was decorated beautifully by the members with flowers, and excellent examples of needlework, and here a further conference on our work was carried on informally. Mrs. Rawinia Ewan, Treasurer, and Mrs. Kukutai, with their helpers, were in charge of the tea arrangements and had decorated the room. Many interesting questions were opened up, and a very profitable time was spent in general chatting about these. Mrs. Christensen, President of the Pakeha Union, and Mrs. Aupouri Joseph acted as hostesses. Sister Nicholls, whose work is too well known to need comment here, assisted in every possible way in making the occasion pleasant and useful. Mrs. Emery, Press Reporter, also gave valuable help.

### Evening Youth Meeting

In the evening, a Youth gathering was held, the attendance at which suffered because of a very strong counter-attraction in a School Fancy Dress Ball. All the same, good work was done with those who were present. Mrs. Christian conducted and addressed the gathering, speaking on the effects of alcohol on food, and organs of the body, and also showing by diagram and experiment the various stages of intoxication. Pledges were signed, and the youthful listeners expressed their thanks in pleasant words at the close. After a good discussion, it was agreed to form a Band of Hope in the New Year, when it was hoped that members of all ages would be gained. The meeting closed with the Temperance Doxology.

## SILVER JUBILEE, TAURANGA UNION

On the eve of the District Convention (South Auckland), the Tauranga Union celebrated its twenty-fifth anniversary, many delegates for the Convention being present. Mrs. Christian presided, and with her on the platform were the Dominion President, Miss Kirk, J.P., Mrs. F. Faulkner, J.P., His Worship the Mayor, Mr. L. R. Wilkinson, and Mr. George Dash, of Waimate. The hall of the Methodist Church was beautifully decorated, and a very good audience was present.

The President outlined the history of the Union, telling of the formation of a Union as long ago as 1896. Various lapses took place, but there had been continuous activity since the final reorganisation in 1922. Letters from past officers, and messages of well-wishing were received.

Mrs. Exley, a past officer, had travelled from New Plymouth in order to be present.

Congratulations and greetings were given by His Worship on behalf of the town, the Rev. P. J. Wainwright, Mrs. Faulkner, representing Women's organisations, Miss Kirk, on behalf of the Dominion officers, and Mr. A. J. McKinney, president of the local branch of the N.Z. Alliance. Mrs. A. A. Bensley, Vice-President of the Union, suitably replied.

Flowers were presented to the ladies on the platform and to others who contributed musical and elocutionary items to the programme.

Mr. George Dash, J.P., then spoke in a breezy, happy manner, congratulating Tauranga on its work and influence, and urging the continued and increased need for such work. Stories and reminiscences kept the interest of the audience very keen throughout the address.

The Hon. B. C. Robbins, veteran M.L.C., and a lifelong supporter and friend of Temperance, was unexpectedly present, and on being requested to speak, gave a most inspiring, short speech, in which he mentioned his pleasure in having been able to attend the gathering, and spoke of his great admiration and regard for the W.C.T.U. This address was received with great enthusiasm, the speaker's great age (91) giving him a unique place in the community's regard, and his fearless championing of our cause being a helpful and encouraging addition to the programme.

Delightful items were contributed by local artists. The Jubilee cake was cut by Miss Kirk, the twenty-five candles being lit by Mrs. York, and extinguished by Mrs. Foxcroft, both of whom had held office in the Union for the full period of its life. Supper was served after the singing of the Temperance Doxology.