

**OTAGO DISTRICT**

At the Annual Convention of the Otago District, held in Hanover Street Baptist Hall, Dunedin, the highlights of the gathering were the addresses given by Miss C. M. McLay and the Rev. A. H. Ivory.

At the morning session, Miss McLay stated that alcohol has been found to be a racial poison, which is ruining the race before it is born, and destroying the minds and brains of men. She referred to the work being done for mental defectives in Scotland, of which she could speak with first-hand knowledge, and said that in nearly every case there was a history of drunkenness in the family. In working to promote temperance, we are reducing the number of defective children.

At the afternoon session, the Rev. A. H. Ivory said that the passing of resolutions was not sufficient to combat the Drink Trade, but the most powerful weapon was well-informed and well-directed public opinion.

The following office-bearers were elected:—President, Mrs. V. M. Hazlewood; Vice-Presidents, Mrs. J. Hiett and Mrs. V. Dickinson; Secretary, Mrs. M. Rippin; Treasurer, Mrs. F. Graham; Cradle Roll Superintendent, Mrs. P. M. Dow; "W.R." Superintendent, Miss M. Ford; District Superintendent, Y.P.C.T.U., Mrs. Dickinson.

**SOUTHLAND**

7th November, 1947

The Southland District held its Convention on Friday, 7th November, the meetings being held in the Y.M.C.A.

Mrs. T. A. Thomson conducted the morning Devotions, and acted as Secretary for the day's meetings. The Preamble was read and the Pledge repeated.

Only seven Unions were represented by delegates, but the meetings were interesting and heartened members who were becoming discouraged. Owing to the number of deaths exceeding the number of new members the total membership has dropped a little. Gore Union won the tablecloth for greatest increase, and Invercargill Central had the largest Cradle Roll.

A letter was read from Mr. Geo. Dash, of Waimate, announcing his proposed visit to Invercargill, and a small committee was appointed to arrange meetings for him with groups of young people.

At the afternoon session, Devotions were led by the President, vocal duets were rendered by Mesdames Bell and Pope, and afternoon tea was enjoyed. The highlight of the Convention was the address delivered by Mr. M. Leadbeater, Rector of the Southland Boys' High School. His talk, on the subject of Social Responsibilities, was both informative and encouraging, and helped to renew in White Ribboners confidence in the worthwhileness of their cause.

A vote of thanks to the speaker, proposed by Mrs. E. Holmes, was carried by acclamation.

**GREAT EVANGELISTS and TEMPERANCE****X.—GENERAL BOOTH**

By VICTORIA GRIGG, M.A.

No people opposed the work of the Salvation Army at its commencement more than the publicans. In fact, in one town, the magistrate reported the charge sheet reduced to one-half as a result of the Salvation Army meetings. In this place, the publicans, alarmed at the decrease of their trade, offered the women officers £300 if they would transfer their efforts elsewhere.

William Booth was born of humble parents in Nottingham, on April 10th, 1829. At the age of thirteen, he was apprenticed to a pawnbroker for six years, and surely the hand of God was in this, because it was here he learned so much of the miseries of the poor, and saw the havoc drink played with people's lives. He longed to change their conditions. The sound teaching he received in the Methodist

shocked to find that his brother-in-law was a hopeless drunkard, and that his beloved sister had also become one of alcohol's victims. With this personal grief, and the vision of clothes pawned on account of drink, can we wonder that one of the first rules for his officers and members was that they should be total abstainers? As he could find no other work, he had to return to pawnbroking, but at the same time he preached in the streets and parks. At the age of twenty-three he was invited to become the minister of a small group, one man guaranteeing him a salary of £1 per week for three months. It was in this work that he met his wife, then Catherine Mulford, who came from a refined home. As a small child, she had always shown a desire to help anyone who suffered.



Church made him form high standards for the application of religion to daily life. When he was nineteen, his apprenticeship having concluded, he passed through the severe trial and testing of a year's unemployment. The experiences he suffered gave him sympathy with every man in such a position, and later on the Army was to care for the members of the "unemployed."

He decided at last to go to London to his married sister. Here, he was

One day she saw a policeman taking a poor, dirty drunkard to the lock-up. A crowd of boys followed, jeering, but little Catherine walked beside him to the gaol, so that he should know that someone was sorry for him.

The marriage of William and Catherine Booth was one of the great Christian marriages of all time. Together they commenced a great work for the poor and wretched of every description. What would our magistrates do, in many cases, if the Army