

## MISS ROSE DAY, NELSON DISTRICT

### An Appreciation

Members of the W.C.T.U. desire to place on record their sincere appreciation of the work of the late Miss Day, a foundation member of our Union.

Miss Rose Day held various offices, including those of Treasurer and Evangelistic Superintendent, and gave of her best in each one. Her love of children was always in evidence, and as long as her health permitted she taught in Sunday School here and in Nelson. She also took Scripture lessons in the Primary School, and assisted with the Band of Hope and the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

Miss Day collected for many years for the Bible Society, Bible in Schools, and the Leper Missions. The aged and sick found her a loyal friend, and one often met her with a book or other gift to cheer some lonely person.

Her fine Christian character, her cheerfulness and happiness leave a happy memory. Our sympathy goes out to the brother and sister who tended her so lovingly in her illness.

## SPECIAL REPORT

### SPECIAL MEETING, PALMERSTON NORTH

At the March meeting of the Palmerston North Union, the speaker was Mr. Ormond Wilson, M.P. (Labour).

The protests in connection with the Masterton Trust, sent to Unions by the Dominion Executive, had in turn been forwarded to him. He wrote that he was not in accord with any of them, but as he had been appointed a member of the Trust Committee and had heard both sides of the question, he would, if we wished, meet us and discuss with us the points raised. Members voted in favour, so on March 3 he arrived, accompanied by Mrs. Wilson.

He explained, at the outset, that he was not a prohibitionist, and regularly enjoyed his glass of beer, and then commenced the address by quoting from Hooker, "They are not laws which public opinion hath not made so." "The present licensing laws," he went on, "could not be enforced because there were not enough police." He was all for temperate habits, and thought the overcrowding of bars between 5 p.m. and 6 p.m. made for excessive drinking. The time was short, and the men huddled together and drank far too much. If they were allowed to go home from work and come back after tea they could take their drinks in a leisurely fashion, and would not, he thought, overstep the mark.

He considered there should be more publicity about drinking. The hole-in-the-corner method appealed to adventurous youth. They saw men going into some secret place and wanted to see what was going on, and

to taste what was apparently so much relished by their elders. Open drinking in a public place, recognised as being quite respectable, would not have the same appeal, he thought.

"There would be less drinking," he continued, "if the profit motive were eliminated." He favoured Trust, rather than Government Control. With the Trust in charge and the profit motive eliminated, after-hours drinking would be done away with.

He thought there should be no bars. If they had doors and windows through which the public could see, he ventured to say they would soon be empty.

This concluded his address, and he then invited questions and comments.

The first question was, "Was it the people who asked for extended hours?" He replied, "No, the returned servicemen."

A member then observed that extended hours did not make for less drinking. Six o'clock closing had been a boon to the country, and the streets were much safer and free from drunks since its inception. Also it was for the good of the home (and therefore of the country), that husbands should be at home with their wives and children in the evening. He said that he did not think those husbands who "filled up" between 5 p.m. and 6 p.m. were of much use in the evening.

Another member then said that in the Text-book for Training College Students, alcohol had been termed a poison. How then could he support the drinking of it? He replied that sugar was a poison, in fact everything was a poison when taken in excess, and went on to say that, as drink had come to say, and youth was bound to meet it, why not let them do so in public rather than in secret? Tell youth not to drink, and that is just what they will want to do.

A member then spoke up and said that the Principal of the Girls' High School, in an address to the W.C.T.U., had said that she had always felt that Prohibition was not the right solution to the drink evil, for her father, a Church of England clergyman, believed in teaching his children the right and wrong, and then leaving them to decide for themselves. Hence she had not been quite in accord with the compulsion element in Prohibition. During the war, however, she had stayed in an hotel in Wellington, and what she saw there so disgusted her that she realised that the only thing was to take drink away, and now she was a rabid Prohibitionist, preaching Prohibition in and out of season.

Though much in the minority, Mr. Wilson was quite polite and good-humoured throughout, and the meeting was much enjoyed by everyone. The President remarked, "We hope you will come again, Mr. Wilson. I believe that if you came a few more times we should soon have you on our side." He replied, laughingly, that he would send his wife next time, and she would tell us something about the up-bringing of children.

## NEWS ITEMS OF NOTE

### DUNEDIN CENTRAL

In the course of the opening of Dunedin Central Union for 1948 a musical and elocutionary programme was interspersed with "News Items." Here are some of them:

1. Britain's Drink Bill for 1946, £680,000,000. Roughly speaking, the nation spent just over a fifth of its income on food, one-eleventh on intoxicants, and one-twelfth on tobacco. For every pound spent on food in 1946, 15/6 was spent on drink and tobacco, the proportion being 8/3 on drink and 7/3 on tobacco.

2. Public opinion in many parts of America is alarmed at the present state of affairs, and there is every indication that the Dry vote is steadily rising. The numbers of districts that have gone dry under Local Option laws shows a steady and persistent increase. Already some of the more moderate elements in the liquor trade are warning their fellow-tradesmen that unless some of the abuses connected with the trade are remedied the return of Prohibition in America may happen in the not too distant future.

3. Mr. Stakesby Lewis, well-known Temperance Advocate in the Union of South Africa, has cabled the British Prime Minister, Mr. Attlee, "Greetings. In view of desperate food position and wastage of enormous quantities of grain in production of beer and other alcoholic liquor, and consequent loss efficiency, labour and other disastrous results, I respectfully implore you and colleagues for the sake of Britain and the Commonwealth, to use your unique God-given powers to avoid such wanton waste in production of liquor." Mr. Lewis followed up this cable with a letter saying that his convictions were shared by his partners in business. "The whole world is growing tired of the wasting of food stuffs," he says, and expresses the earnest hope that the British nation will not be misled by the liquor interests.

4. "Iceland has no jail, penitentiary, or court, and only one policeman. The population is 78,000. The Public School system is said to be practically perfect, every child of ten years being able to read. No liquor is allowed to be imported."

Among the Departments—cont.

2. We should watch for anything unhygienic in public places and homes.

3. Children should be trained in social purity and taught to refrain from reading unhealthy literature, and from attending unsuitable pictures.

4. When meetings are addressed stress should be laid on the effect of improper diet in connection with increasing the appetite for strong drink.

**Floral Days.**—The group recommended that a floral day or evening be held once in the year.