

DISTRICT CONVENTIONS AUCKLAND DISTRICT TWENTY-FIFTH ANNUAL CONVENTION Church Parade

The 25th Annual District Convention of the Auckland District began with the Annual Church Parade, which was held in the Church of Christ, West Street, the service being conducted by Pastor W. Campbell, whose subject was, "Why I refuse Strong Drink." A great tribute was paid to the W.C.T.U. Between 40 and 50 delegates attended.

Reception to Delegates

The annual reception to delegates was held in the Presbyterian Hall, Edinburgh Street, which was beautifully decorated for the occasion. The District President, Mrs. F. W. Mountjoy, presided over a representative gathering of well over a hundred. Several apologies for absence were received, included among these being those of the Mayoress, Mrs. J. A. C. Allum, the Rev. J. D. Smith, and Major Rogers. Mrs. Mountjoy welcomed the delegates and visitors and representatives of other organisations who had brought greetings.

An excellent programme was provided, the artists being Dr. Mavis Mortimer, Mrs. H. Kersey, Mrs. W. T. Cullen, and the accompanist was Miss N. North.

The guest-speaker was Dr. Kingsley Mortimer, recently returned from Rhodesia. After thanking the officers for asking him to be the speaker, which he considered was an honour, he said he considered that being a Christian today was by far the most important thing in life. He then spoke of life as he found it in Rhodesia.

During the afternoon Mrs. H. Kasper presented the Silver Vase to the Wellsford Union for the best work done in the "Five-fold Plan," and the Bronze Vase went to the Onehunga Union which had really tied with Wellsford. Onehunga was again the winner of the Cradle Roll Banner for the best record of work done in the department. The Brass Vase was won by Birkenhead Union and the Kura-huna Maori Girls' School won the banner for the best work done in the L.T.L. The Silver Vase for the best "Y" work went to "Rangimarie" Maori Branch.

Communion Service

The Annual Communion Service was held in the Beresford Street Congregational Church on Tuesday morning and was well attended. A beautiful, impressive service was conducted by the Rev. R. L. Chaliss and provided a most suitable opening for Convention.

Tuesday Morning Session

Convention opened in the Edinburgh Street Hall with the singing of a sacred solo by Mrs. S. Carter.

Mrs. Mountjoy, District President, welcomed the delegates and visitors. Fifty-four delegates were present. Various Convention Committees having been appointed, reports from the Recording Secretary on the work of the Executive, and the Corresponding Secretary on the work of the Unions, were received. Mrs. J. A. R. Prussing presented the Treasurer's statement and balance sheet.

The Cradle Roll report, given by Mrs. J. Williams, showed the district Roll number to be 1,673. Grey Lynn still has the largest Roll (440), Takapuna coming second with 196.

Noontide Devotions were taken by Mrs. Cullen, her theme being "Shining for Jesus."

Mrs. J. W. Long gave a marvellous report on the work of the Maori Girls' Hostel, telling of all the wonderful things which had happened during the year.

Tuesday Afternoon Session

Business was preceded by the giving of an address by the Rev. Roland Hart of the Valley Road Baptist Church. He divided his talk into two parts: (1) The devotional life of W.C.T.U. members, and (2) the withdrawal of the movement from the local church.

The Service of Memories followed, conducted by the President, for the sisters of the various Unions who had passed to Higher Service during the year. The service closed with the singing of a sacred solo by Mrs. Anstice.

The Presidential address was then given by Mrs. Mountjoy, and was a most outstanding and comprehensive survey of present-day conditions in this and other lands.

Several resolutions brought forward by the Resolutions Committee were dealt with. The Session closed with the Benediction.

Wednesday Morning Session

Miss Grigg led the opening Devotions, her theme being "The Spirit and the Bride say 'Come.'"

A number of greetings were sent to friends both near and far. Departmental reports received were: Press, Flower and Philanthropic, Mrs. Joiner; Bible in Schools and Sabbath Observance, Mrs. Cook; L.T.L., Mrs. Knauf. Noontide Devotions were led by Mrs. Kasper, who spoke on "Wines of the Bible."

Several more resolutions were dealt with, the session closing with the Benediction.

Wednesday Afternoon Session

Mrs. Mountjoy again presided, Mrs. J. W. Long leading Devotions, her subject being "Jesus understands." A sacred solo was beautifully sung by Mrs. Jamieson.

Election of Officers

The following were elected as officers for the ensuing year: President, Mrs. F. W. Mountjoy; Vice-President, Mrs. J. W. Long; Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. W. T. Cullen; Recording Secretary, Mrs. R. A. Joiner; Treasurer, Mrs. J. A. R. Prussing.

Further resolutions were dealt with, and Departmental Reports received were: Anti-Gambling, Mrs. Ecersall; Methods, Mrs. H. Kasper; Peace and Arbitration, Mrs. Mears; Evangelistic, Miss. Grigg; Notable Days, Mrs. Woods; Good Citizenship, Mrs. Cook; New Members, Mrs. Day; Maori Work, Mrs. Long; and "White Ribbon," Mrs. Joiner. Seventeen Departmental Superintendents were appointed. After the usual votes of thanks were passed the Closing Service found in the Hymnal fittingly ended another Convention.

NORTH AND SOUTH CANTERBURY DISTRICT CONVENTION

The joint District Convention of North and South Canterbury was held on September 22 and 23 in the Central Mission Rooms, Christchurch, Mrs. R. Clark presiding, and welcoming all delegates, and also Dr. Jeanie Craig. Forty-eight delegates answered the Roll Call.

The North Canterbury officers were re-elected as follows: President, Mrs. E. R. Clark; Vice-President, Mrs. M. Griffiths; Secretary, Mrs. R. Black; Treasurer, Mrs. E. Adkins.

South Canterbury officers elected were: President, Mrs. H. Densem; Secretary, Miss Tooley; Vice-Presidents and Treasurer to be elected later, health reasons being responsible for delay. A motion of thanks to Mrs. Stark, ex-Treasurer, for her service in this office, was passed.

Four five-minute papers were a feature of much interest, topics dealt with being "Mental Hospital Psychiatry" (Mrs. Griffiths), "Peace, a plank in our platform" (Miss S. Hayman), "Effects of alcohol on the body" (Mrs. A. Wallon), "Highlights of Timaru Sailors' Rest" (Miss Stevenson). All papers were freely discussed, and thanks heartily accorded the writers for their able contribution.

Greetings were sent to Otago and Marlborough Conventions, then sitting, and were received from Manawatu, New South Wales, Ashburton and Timaru. Various Convention appointments were made.

The annual reports of both districts were read and showed good work done by all Unions. Plans of work suggested by the President were that good methods should be adopted in teaching Girls' Life Brigade for their Temperance Badge, and that the Christchurch Competitions should include a Temperance section, with recitations, etc.

Miss Lovell-Smith spoke on the use of Films, and Mrs. Mackie gave a talk on the World Convention, and repeated a Pledge of Allegiance to the Christian flag that was used in the Convention and read a Peace Proclamation from the World Superintendent, Mrs. Vera Akersson. This was received, and Miss Henderson moved that copies be given to all delegates so that their Unions could discuss it. Mrs. Mackie was heartily thanked for her fine address.

A talk on the "Laws of the Bible" was given by Mrs. C. L. Crowley, in which she showed how these apply to present-day life. Appreciation was expressed by many speakers.

The North Canterbury District "W.R." Superintendent reported that 70 copies are placed in institutions, factories, orphanages, and hospitals, these being paid for by local Unions and also individual members.

Resolutions passed at the recent Alliance Conference were read by Mrs. Clark, and after full discussion it was agreed to support these.

The following resolution was moved by Mrs. Densem and carried: "That we ask Dominion Officers to place before the Government our desire to press again for Local Option."