

## SPECIAL REPORTS

### FIFTY-SECOND ANNIVERSARY—DEVONPORT UNION

The President, Mrs. Williams, presided over a gathering of over fifty persons, members and visitors, at a Social afternoon to extend good wishes to Devonport Union, which was formed on October 23rd, 1896.

The function opened with the singing of the National Anthem, followed by prayer and the Doxology. The President welcomed those present. Greetings were given by representatives from the City and surrounding Unions, the North Shore Unions, the District Executive, and the various local organisations. Mrs. Mountjoy, District President, gave an interesting talk on some of the work of the W.C.T.U. Solos were given by Mrs. James, elocutionary items by Mrs. Cullen, and competitions were held. A sumptuous afternoon tea followed. A large cake given by the members was cut by the President. Its maker was Mrs. Jones, one of the members.

### CRADLE ROLL PARTY—LEVIN UNION

A very good attendance of mothers and children were welcomed to the Annual Cradle Roll party at Levin, by Mrs. Kennerley.

As the afternoon was gloriously fine, the children were able to enjoy games outside, under the guidance of Mrs. Muirhead, whilst Captain Hill, of Foxton, addressed the adults present. She spoke of the influence of mothers. At the conclusion of the talk, Captain Hill was thanked by Mrs. Kennerley, and Mrs. Plaster presented her with a lovely posy of flowers.

The serving of afternoon tea to the large company was done by Union members. The small folk were entertained out of doors, and tea was followed by ice cream. Judith and Joy contributed enjoyable items.

Several new babies were enrolled by Mrs. V. Hudson, C.R. Supt. A delightful party was closed with the Benediction.

### THE BIRTH OF A PRINCE—Contd.

in our living. We know that we shall probably be in a minority wherever we are. We know that we shall have to face insecurity, opposition, and perhaps danger, for the confession of our faith. But the Christian Church has always prospered in adversity, and we must certainly not be afraid.

"I think it is comforting to remember those wonderful marching orders given by Joshua, 'Be strong and of good courage' and then to think of the other men and women in times past who, through the grace of God, were enabled to go forward into an unknown future with confidence and resolve. When we go to the Cathedral together I ask you to join with me in offering ourselves anew to God that we may be worthy successors of the pilgrims of old and be found valiant and devoted to the service of God and our fellow men."—Quoted from "The Reaper."

## AMONG THE DEPARTMENTS

### METHODS DEPARTMENT

Dear Sisters,—

Will all secretaries please report to me any work done in the above Department, and especially the work of the Five-fold Plan, Study Groups, Conferences, or Schools of Methods.

Please report also any new methods of organisation during the year, to ensure a good report for the forthcoming Dominion Convention.

MRS. HUGH KASPER,  
169 Tamaki Drive,  
Kohimarama.

### MAORI DEPARTMENT

#### New Union at Hangatiki

As an outcome of a visit by the Maori Organiser to the King Country in May last, a new Union was organised by Sister Nicholls, District Maori Superintendent, and Mrs. A. Joseph, President of Te Kuiti Maori Union, in July, at Hangatiki. The meeting was held at the house of Mr. and Mrs. Davies. Mr. Davies greeted all present and expressed his interest and hearty approval of the work of the W.C.T.U. Officers elected: President, Mrs. R. Haeriti; Vice-Presidents, Mrs. Davies and Mrs. Poihihi; Secretary, Mrs. We Nikora; Treasurer, Mrs. Gray. Eight paid-up members were initiated.

At the next meeting, August 11th, Mrs. A. Joseph read the Scripture lesson, Sister Nicholls gave the Devotional talk, and Mrs. Haeriti led in prayer. 15 present, including visitors. Departmental Superintendents were appointed as follows: Evangelistic, Mrs. Poihihi; Cradle Roll, Mrs. M. George; "W.R.," Mrs. Phillips, Seamen's Work, Mrs. Hurst. Two visitors donated 15/- towards funds.

Educational meetings were held in August and October. On November 11th, Miss C. M. McLay attended the meeting held in the local hall. 12 present. Mrs. Haeriti presided. Miss McLay gave a talk from John 3:16. Pledge repeated. Roll call, a recipe. Invitations to special meetings from Otorohanga and Te Awamutu Unions. Seven bags handed in for Seamen's Rest. C.R. report. A girl of eighteen signed the Pledge. Miss McLay told of Seamen's Rests, and of the Women's Rest Room, opened by the W.C.T.U. in Te Kuiti, the value of our work in other lands, and the "New Look" at wedding breakfasts in the use of non-alcoholic drinks.

## THE LICENSING BILL

The long-awaited Licensing Bill has been introduced at last. It has come as a blow, in many ways, to all who looked for such changes as were likely in some measure to improve existing conditions in regard to the drink traffic. Its provisions fill one with dismay. The ridiculous nonsense talked about the lessening of drunkenness by the increasing of facilities for drinking would be amusing if the issues involved were not so terrible. As it is, one feels that the hosts of wickedness are being entrenched more firmly than ever.

Thanks to Mr. Milner, the General Superintendent of the N.Z. Alliance, and those associated with him, especially the Presbyterian Assembly Temperance Committee, the Bill is not going to have the rapid and easy passage evidently planned and expected by Mr. Nash and those who prepared it. The long delay in making the provisions known, and the introduction of so controversial a measure so late in the session might well have led to its passing through without any proper opportunity for investigation of its implications to be made. Mr. Milner's persistence and vigilance have prevented this, and we owe him our gratitude.

The splendid stand being taken by Princess Te Puea and other King Country Maoris of high rank, has given us great inspiration in our efforts to stay the hand of those who would violate the "Solemn Pact" so well and completely authenticated by unimpeachable authorities. Our prayers should be offered for the success of their plea to His Majesty to refrain from assenting to any Parliamentary enactment that would transgress this Pact, and all our influence should be brought to bear on those able to assist or hinder the passing of legislation by which liquor can be legally sold in the King Country.

The promise of a referendum on the issue of the extension of the hours of sale should make us realise that there is much work for us to do in preparing for this. The example of New South Wales should, and probably will, influence the vote in New Zealand, but our prayers and work will have to be constant. If we can do no more than to impress on the indifferent voters the necessity for them to vote if they are to preserve for themselves as well as others, the measure of security from crime and danger which early closing has given; let us see to it that we **DO** so. By talking about it, praying about it, and doing all possible to awaken our friends to the realisation of the retrograde nature of this proposed change, we are able to affect the issue.

By letters and telegrams to M.P.'s and Ministers, something can be done and we should watch the papers carefully so that no chance is lost.

The Gambling Referendum should also give us reason for redoubling our activity. We understand that this is to be taken on the same day as the Licensing Referendum, early in the new year.