

# District Conventions

## NORTHLAND DISTRICT

The Northland District Convention was held at Maungakarama on September 22nd, Mrs. Green, District President, in the chair. After leading the opening Devotions, Mrs. Green welcomed the delegates, who represented four Unions.

A resolution of protest was passed which ran as follows: "That we urge railway authorities to enforce the law prohibiting the taking of liquor into railway carriages. Young people travelling are often subjected to very objectionable conditions."

Noontide Devotions were led by Mrs. Bickers.

An address was given by Mr. S. Green, of Donnelly's Crossing, in which the value and purposes of the W.C.T.U. were emphasised, and the need for its work to continue into the coming generation. Mr. Green was asked several questions at the close of his address.

Lunch and afternoon tea were served by the Maungakarama ladies, for which they were duly thanked.

Mrs. Roberts led the opening Devotions for the afternoon session. A "Memorial Service" was conducted during which all members stood in silent prayer to honour the memory of those who had passed away since last Convention, who were Mrs. Vyle and Hiss Hilford, Whangarei; Mrs. Bradley, Dargaville; Mrs. Hahnan, Maungakarama, and Miss Andrews, of New Plymouth.

The reports of the Recording and Corresponding Secretaries, the Treasurer, "White Ribbon," L.T.L., Bands of Hope, Peace, and Maori Work were given and adopted.

Officers were elected as follows: President, Mrs. S. S. Green, Donnelly's Crossing; Corresponding Secretary, Miss Edmed, Dargaville; Recording Secretary, Mrs. F. J. Moorhead, Dargaville; Treasurer, Mrs. H. Taylor, Dargaville; Departmental Superintendents were also appointed. Mention was made of the interesting fact that two ex "Y" members are now District Officers.

Branch Reports were read from Maungakarama, Dargaville, Te Kopuru, Maungaturoto, Pukehuia and Whangarei.

Further Resolutions passed were:

"That we strongly protest against the proposed extension of the hours of the sale of liquor, and ask for a Referendum on the question."

"That the Agricultural Department be asked to use the expansion in the grape industry in the making of unfermented drinks."

"That a letter be written to Tauranga W.C.T.U. asking for more information re Prison Reform."

Plans of Work were discussed, arising from which it was agreed that

Miss McLay should be invited to come north for organising in the Far North in the coming year.

The Convention closed with the Doxology and Benediction.

## SOUTH AUCKLAND DISTRICT

South Auckland Convention was held at Hamilton, in St. Paul's Methodist Schoolroom, under the chairmanship of the District President, Miss A. M. McLay, on September 19th. Nine Unions were represented. Opening Devotions were conducted by Mrs. Christian, Vice-President. Miss McLay welcomed the Dominion President, Miss Kirk, who was able to attend the morning session, and also all delegates and friends present. A special welcome was given to the delegates from Te Kuiti, Sister Nicholls and Mesdames Josephs and Ewan.

The annual report compiled by the District Secretary, Mrs. A. L. Lewis, was read by Miss C. McLay. This showed a gain of over 100 in the district membership, owing to the fine organising work of the Dominion Organiser, especially in the King Country. A new "Y" Branch had been opened at the Maori Girls' Hostel in Hamilton, with 23 members, and Band of Hope work had been begun in other places.

Sister Nicholls then spoke on her work for Temperance among the Maoris, and drew a very moving picture of the struggle involved in keeping the Pledge taken by some of the people she knew.

Miss McLay then called upon a visitor, the Rev. Hemi Nikora, who had been the first President of the "Y" branch which used to be at Opotiki. Mr. Nikora spoke briefly, recalling his association with Miss McLay, and appealing for a friendly spirit to be shown towards those of his race, saying that the Maori would always respond to a friendly approach.

Miss Kirk was asked by Miss McLay to say a few words, and she added to the interest of the discussion on the Maori position by telling incidents from her own knowledge and experience. Referring to the great Temperance Rally held on the previous evening, Miss Kirk said she had been struck by the earnestness of the faces, and the intent expressions as the address of the Rev. Mr. Henkin was given.

Sister Nicholls led Noontide Devotions and the Maori members sang a hymn in their own beautiful language.

The afternoon session was opened with Devotions, led by Miss C. McLay. Union reports were then read by the delegates, and much fine work was shown to have been carried out. It was noted that the Maori Unions were able to show the Pakehas how to carry out things properly, their reports recording great attention to detail and care in proper procedure.

Officers elected for the coming year were: President, Miss A. McLay; Vice-Presidents, Mesdames Craig, Christian; Secretary, Mrs. A. L. Lewis; Treasurer, Mrs. Clark.

Miss McLay then gave her Presidential Address, in which she spoke of W.C.T.U. work in many lands, showing pictures of great interest. A beautiful solo was sung by Miss Clark, and, being recalled, another was given.

Shoulder sprays were presented by Mrs. Bradley, of the Hamilton Union, to all officers, and afternoon tea was served.

A remit from Tauranga was referred to the Dominion Officers for their comments. Plans of work were discussed. Votes of thanks to all helpers were carried, and the usual Closing Service was held.

A special Greeting was to be sent to Mrs. Stephenson Craig, Life Vice-President, who was unable to be present owing to illness, her presence being greatly missed.

## WANGANUI DISTRICT

The Wanganui District Convention was held in the Baptist Church Schoolroom on October 13th. Pastor Griffith led the opening Devotional period, speaking from Romans V, on "The Gifts of God" Mrs. Chesswas, District President, was in the chair; and welcomed all delegates and friends, especially Miss Scarrow, of Raetihi, and Mrs. Robb, new President of Wanganui East.

Greetings were to be sent to presidents unable to attend. Delegates present represented Wanganui Central and East, Aramoho and Gonville. The District report showed a slight increase in membership, and the Financial report showed a favourable position. Union reports were read by the delegates, and showed that the work was being sustained.

The "Service of Memories" was conducted by Mrs. Chesswas, and a special tribute was paid to the memory of Miss Elsie Andrews. Various departmental reports were given, and it was agreed to continue the annual subscription to the Crippled Children Society.

Mrs. Chesswas led the Noontide Devotions, following which she reported on the Dominion Convention.

The afternoon session was opened by the Rev. A. S. Archibald in a Devotional Period. Mrs. Chesswas then gave a full report on the N.C.W. Reporting on hospital visiting, Mrs. Duxfield mentioned the Jubilee Home, saying the work there was profitable, being much appreciated.

All Officers were returned unopposed: President, Mrs. Chesswas; Vice-Presidents, Mesdames Day, Duxfield, Clancy and Sanford; Secretary, Mrs. H. R. Ogg; Treasurer, Miss E. Christie. Departmental Superintendents were also appointed. N.C.W. delegates were Mesdames Day and