

THE VICTORIA LEAGUE

Unification of Empire



Auckland Activities

THE Victoria League, with headquarters in London, was founded shortly after the demise of Victoria the Good, to commemorate the consolidation of the Empire which was accomplished mainly during the

reign of that beloved monarch, and to promote a closer union, and consequently a better understanding between the Mother Country and her Overseas Dominions, by spreading among her widely sundered peoples a more intimate knowledge of each other than they formerly possessed. With unswerving devotion to the Throne, and a passionate attachment to the Institutions and ideals of British citizenship, the League knows no political parties, but is equally interested in all the citizens of the Empire, no matter what their opinions may be.

The Auckland Branch of the Victoria League was incorporated early in November, 1910, at a largely-attended meeting held in St. Mary's Hall, Parnell, presided over by Mr. White Thomson. Miss Mowbray, who had recently returned from a visit to the Old Country, where she came into close touch with the working of the parent League, addressed the meeting on its constitution and objects, and it was unanimously decided to form a branch in Auckland.

As a result, Miss E. M. Statham was appointed as officer in charge of soldiers' and sailors' graves. A sum of £1000 was voted towards the monument, which, after many delays caused by the Great War, was



Nellie E. Ferner, photo.

Mrs. Hope-Lewis, widow of Dr. Hope-Lewis, who was the first President of the Auckland Branch of the Victoria League.



Bartlett, Auckland, photos.

Miss J. Mowbray, Hon. Treas. of the Victoria League since its inception. The League owes much of its success to her capable and enthusiastic efforts.



Schmidt, photo.

Mrs. W. Lind-Mitchell, wife of the President of the Victoria League. Mrs. Mitchell has been connected with the League for eight years, and is well known as an indefatigable worker in patriotic and social causes.



Bartlett, Auckland, photo.

Mrs. Hudson Williamson, Vice-President of the Victoria League, whose Red Cross Tea Organisation was the means of raising several thousands of pounds for our soldiers during the war.

land. The late Dr. Hope Lewis was elected the first president, Mrs. Carr Rollett hon. secretary, and Miss Mowbray hon. treasurer.

The newly formed branch devoted itself energetically to the distribution of information about the Empire, and to the assistance with advice and hospitality to Britons from all parts of the Empire visiting the United Kingdom and Overseas Dominions; to the despatching of books and magazines to settlers in isolated districts in New Zealand; to the care of graves of soldiers and others who had rendered service to the Empire, and to the fostering of an Imperial spirit among the youth of the Dominion by the establishment of Children's Libraries.

THE Government was approached with reference to the restoration of soldiers' graves in the Symonds Street and other cemeteries, and as to the erection of a monument to the memory of those who fell in the New Zealand wars.



Bartlett, Auckland, photo.

Mrs. H. F. Edger, Vice-President of the Victoria League, and President of the Care of the Soldiers' Graves Committee.