

Union has almost ceased to exist. The members have, however, still retained their love for Temperance Work, for they have a capital Band of Hope, and distribute a hundred copies of the *Prohibitionist* regularly. While Convention was in Session a telegram was received from Miss Powell, saying that the Feilding branch had been revived.

LEVIN.

During the earlier part of the year our members worked very hard in endeavouring to prevent a second hotel being established in this district. In concert with other Temperance workers, Licensing and other meetings were attended, and several petitions prepared, the last of these being signed by 75 per cent. of the settlers. Despite our efforts, and in defiance of the wish of the great majority of the people, four Committees-men granted the removal of a license to Levin, close to the State farm. We have now two hotels, both of which are very harmful. In our great fight we had hearty help from other places. We have pleasure in acknowledging the assistance given by Miss Kirk and Mr A. W. Atkinson, of Wellington, Messrs Grant and Stubbs, from Palmerston North, and the Messrs L. M. and F. W. Isitt and Mr Crabbe. These friends, by their public addresses and personal influence, caused a large growth of temperance sentiment. We sent delegates to the Conventions held at Palmerston North and Wellington, and also to the reception given to Mrs Sheppard on her return to New Zealand.

HAWERA.

This branch was organised on January 13, 1896, by Mrs Collis, of New Plymouth, a few days after a visit and address from Miss Kirk. The number of members on our roll is thirteen, and several others have been elected, but have not yet signed the constitution. The departments arranged for are Literature, visiting absent Members, Home Meetings, and Legislation.

STRATFORD.

This branch was organised on January 29, 1896. The number of members on the roll is twenty-four. Superintendents have been appointed for Literature, Franchise, Influencing the Press, and visiting absent Members.

WELLINGTON.

The work of the Union has gone on steadily during the year. The Annual Convention of the N.Z. W.C.T.U. took place here during the year, the reception meeting being held on March 18, at 3 p.m. The Union provided breakfast for the meeting of the N.Z. Alliance, and also assisted in the arrangements for the farewell meeting to the Rev L. M. Isitt. The department of Relief work under Mrs Corlett has done good work. Homes have been visited, clothing supplied, maternity bags lent, and sewing classes for little girls have been held during the winter. Hospital work has been superintended by Miss Wilkinson, visits being paid to the Hospital and the Home for the aged and needy. The Committee greatly regrets that the Chinese work so ably conducted by Miss L. M. Kirk had to be given up to avoid clashing with the work of the Chinese Missionary, who is supported by the C. E. Union. We have signified our intention to resume the work if the C.E.U. abandons it. Miss Ball has been appointed to superintend the supply of reports to, and the obtaining of subscribers for, the WHITE RIBBON. Literature is regularly distributed at the railways. The Union sent a circular to the Medical Congress and the local medical men re the C.D. Acts, and also took action on Mrs Kirkland's letter re temperance sermons. Our Union appointed three delegates to attend a conference of workers called by the leaders of the Forward Movement to consider the unemployed difficulty. A report was sent to the Minis-

ter of Labour, and a Standing Committee formed to watch events. We also joined in preparing a petition to the Governor for the removal of those members of the Licensing Committee who granted the removal of the license from Lambton Quay to Newton. Our membership roll contains the names of 55 ordinary and 8 honorary members.

BLENHEIM.

There has been no increase in the number of members. Early in the year the Union purchased a piano, on which £20 has been paid. This sum was raised by donations, collections, entertainments, &c. The Union acknowledges its indebtedness to Mr T. L. Buick, M.H.R., and the ladies and gentlemen who assisted him for three lectures on "National Song," which realised £28 13s 6d. During the greater part of the year, Saturday Evening Socials were held at the rooms. The attendance was good, and the appreciation hearty. A public meeting was called by the Union to discuss the New Licensing Bill. As an outcome, a large debating society was formed, and vigorously worked, resulting in a contribution of £4 13s 9d to our funds. Drawing-room meetings have been held by Mesdames Noseworthy, Litchfield, and Rose. A successful Temperance Picnic was held on March 10, in grounds lent by John Holmes, Esq., followed by a social in the rooms in the evening. Joint proceeds £8 2s 9d. There has been no distribution of literature during the year, but some has now been procured, and will be distributed. The Union acknowledges its indebtedness to Mrs Penny for her economical and successful management of the Reading and Dining-rooms. These are now under the management of Mrs Wheeler, who is devoted to the cause.

HOKITIKA.

The members on the roll number 20. Ten business meetings have been held, at which Temperance literature has been read,

Evangelistic—Cottage meetings have been held weekly throughout the year, save in the month of December, with encouraging results.

Missionary Work—A monthly missionary prayer meeting has been held, at which gleanings from the Mission field have been read, and contributions for the China Inland Mission received.

Juvenile Work—During the winter a sewing class for girls under 15 was held, and was attended by 16 girls. Some of the articles made are to be presented to the Old Men's Home, and the proceeds of the sale of the remainder will be devoted to the same charitable object.

Work Amongst the Maoris—The Pah at Arahura has been visited, hymns sung, Scriptures read, prayer offered, and Maori tracts distributed.

Unfermented Wine—Leaflets have been sent to ministers and office-bearers of the various congregations.

Literature—The *Woman's Signal* is taken by the Union, and individual members subscribe to the WHITE RIBBON and *Prohibitionist*.

Flower Mission—Bouquets, with texts attached, have been sent to the patients at the Hospital.

BRUNNERTON.

The membership is nine, being diminished by death and removals. Eight meetings have been held. Ministers have been written to re Temperance sermons, and have complied with our request. Signatures have been obtained for the Moral Reform Union Manifestoes. A committee has done good work among the sick and needy, giving practical assistance where necessary. We have discussed several subjects, "Alcohol as a Medicine" proving specially interesting and helpful.