

Miss Johnson, Hokitika; Mrs. Hodge, Port Chalmers; Mrs. Chisholm, West Taieri; Miss Filleul, Oamaru; Mrs. Bringans, Mosgiel; Mrs. Jones, Invercargill. Miss Sears was also present as visiting delegate from the C. E. Union.

A reception meeting in conjunction with the Otago Prohibition Council was held in the Choral Hall on Friday, April 3rd, at 7.30 p.m. The chair was taken by Mr. Jago, and addresses were delivered by Mrs. Dick, Mr. A. S. Adams, Mr. Greenwood, Miss Kirk, and Mr. Baxter. Selections of music were given and refreshments served during an interval.

FIRST DAY.

The first meeting was held in First Church Hall on April 4, and commenced with a prayer meeting, led by Mrs. Schnackenberg. The president's address was read, and was followed by a discussion as to the possibility of obtaining Mrs. Hoffman's services before the General Election. The question was deferred till later on in the session.

Mrs. Kirkland read the New Zealand Treasurer's report and balance-sheet, showing a balance in hand of £14 7s. 2d. The total of the cash balances held by the local Unions was given as £202 2s. 11d., and the turn-over for the year as £2617 7s. 1d.

A discussion as to the possibility of augmenting the funds of the New Zealand Union followed, and it was resolved—"That for next year the New Zealand Treasurer live in the district where Convention is to be held, and that it be her duty to devise means for increasing the New Zealand fund."

Mrs. W. S. Smith read the report and balance-sheet of the WHITE RIBBON, showing a deficit of about £21. A discussion ensued, which was adjourned to the next session.

SECOND DAY.

The Convention resumed its sitting on Monday, April 6.

Greetings were received from Mrs. Nicholls, of South Australia, and a letter was received from Mrs. Packe asking that Miss Slack, the World's Corresponding Secretary, be kept informed of the progress of the Union.

The discussion on the WHITE RIBBON report was resumed. It was resolved that a vote of thanks be given to Miss L. M. Smith and Mrs. Venables for their services during the year. Officers were elected as follows:—Editor, Mrs. K. W. Sheppard; Associate Editor, Miss L. M. Smith; Treasurer and Business Manager, Mrs. W. S. Smith; Distributing Department, Mrs. Venables; Committee, the New Zealand President and Corresponding Secretary, the Presidents of District Unions, Mrs. Wells and Miss L. M. Kirk. It was resolved that the reports be printed in the next issue of the WHITE RIBBON, and that the Convention number should be double the ordinary size.

BRUNNERTON RELIEF FUND.—It was resolved to give £2 3s. from the New Zealand Fund, and a further sum of £3 3s. was promised on behalf of the Christchurch Union. The report of the Superintendent of Unfermented Wine was read.

The request of the Kaiapoi Union to be made a District Union, in order that it might be able to comply with requests to form branches in the surrounding country, was unanimously granted. The report of Evangelistic Work was read by Mrs. Kirkland. Mrs. Miller presented the report of Young Women's Work, which was discussed. Ultimately it was resolved that it be a "Recommendation" that Unions form a Y. Department, admitting young women as members at a fee of 1s; members to have full voting rights at local meetings; an evening quarterly meeting to be held especially in the interests of such members, if desired."

The report of Juvenile Work was read by the President, as was also the report of the Literature Department.

Mrs. Schnackenberg read several letters from the Moral Reform Union and kindred Societies, and the Social Purity Report was read by Mrs. Troy. It was resolved that resolutions be drafted for presentation to the Premier and the Legislative Council. It was resolved to ask that the age of consent be raised to 18 years.

In compliance with an invitation from the N.Z. Alliance, it was resolved that Mrs. Ostler be asked to act as the W.C.T.U. delegate to the Convention in June.

It was also resolved that Miss L. M. Kirk represent the N.Z. W.C.T.U. on the Alliance Executive during the coming year, and that Mrs. Schnackenberg and Mrs. Widdowson be our representatives at the Convention to be held in Christchurch to form a National Council of Women.

Mrs. Litchfield gave an interesting account of the work of the Blenheim Union. The Parliamentary Report was read by Mrs. Sheppard.

THIRD DAY.

Owing to the First Church Hall being otherwise occupied, the Convention met in the Hall of the Congregational Church.

After a discussion on Mr. MacGregor's Divorce Bill, it was resolved "That, in the opinion of this Convention, the condition of divorce should be equal for both sexes."

Greetings were read from the Queensland Union and the Otago Prohibition Council.

Dr. Emily Ryder was received by the Convention, and gave a short address.

The report of the Superintendent of Cottage meetings was read by Mrs. Kirkland, and that of Scientific Temperance Instruction by Mrs. Schnackenberg. By invitation of the President Miss McGuinness made some interesting remarks on the subject. Miss Filleul gave an account of work among the boys and girls in Oamaru.

On the motion of Mrs. Sheppard, it was resolved—"That this convention thanks Dr. Newman, for his action in introducing the Political Disabilities of Women Bill, and trusts that he will re-introduce it during next session."

It was also resolved—"That this Convention, deploring the terrible prevalence of gambling in this colony, and earnestly requests the Government to suppress the totalisator, and thus remove the disgrace of deriving revenue from the vices of the people."

FOURTH DAY.

At the morning session of April 8, the Report of Maori work was read with much interest, and a letter of apology from the superintendent, Mrs. Hewitt for non-attendance.

The following resolutions were carried:—"That the Repeal of the C. D. Acts being necessary in the interests of Hygiene, Social Purity, and ordinary decency, this Convention expresses its regret at the action of the Legislative Council in throwing out the Repeal Bill passed by the Lower House."

"That this Convention urges the members of the Legislative Council to make themselves acquainted with the most recent information as to the uselessness of the C.D. Acts, and unites with the House of Representatives in removing these infamous blots on our Statute Book."

"That this Convention thanks the Premier for his action *re* the C.D. Acts in the House of Representatives, and earnestly requests that the Repeal Bill of 1895 for the removal of these Acts be re-introduced."

"That the Convention of the W.C.T.U., now sitting in Dunedin, tender a hearty vote of thanks to the Presbytery of Dunedin for their action *re* their appeal for the removal of the C.D. Acts from the Statute Book of the Colony."