

slightest character. If there are substantial advantages to be obtained by affiliation, they are miraculously cheap. And there are advantages, some of them of much importance. It is true that there are local interests and local peculiarities which can best be dealt with by people resident in the localities; but

IT IS ALSO TRUE

that there are many interests which all Temperance reformers have in common, that can be best dealt with by a great and powerful organisation which can concentrate knowledge, ability, information, and funds for a few great objects. The World's W.C.T.U. combines in an ideal manner the advantages of centralisation with those of decentralisation. Local self-government has the greatest possible scope in the free action of the local society for local purposes, and the World's W.C.T.U., as a body, combines and coordinates the powers and advantages belonging to the whole organisation in a manner possible only to a strong centralised government.

Departments of Work are classified under the following heads:—Preventive, Educational, Evangelistic, Social, and Legal.

NEWS OF THE UNIONS

[We rely on our local Unions to send us news for this column. We cannot evolve it out of our inner consciousness.]

Hawera.

Since the election our meetings are in danger of getting flat, so we have decided to hold a social shortly, thinking it would bring the members more together, and perhaps interest some who have held aloof from us, and at the same time celebrate our anniversary. At our meeting yesterday, balance-sheet and Secretary's report were read, and the old officers re-elected. It was thought advisable not to change, as all were so new to the work.

Hitherto we have given our attention wholly to Temperance work, but I do hope we shall now take up some other branches of work.

Wellington.

The annual meeting was held on Feb. 4. The year's report was read and approved, the *personnel* of the Executive remaining almost as last year, the only changes being—Mrs Hoby, Treasurer (*vice* Mrs Gibson, retired), Miss C. E. Kirk, Secretary (*vice* Mrs Hoby, retired), Miss Firth, WHITE RIBBON Correspondent and agent. It was unanimously resolved to obtain leaflets and other literature bearing on temperance for distribution at Mothers' meetings, Bands of Hope, &c., so that at the next election the painful ignorance in respect to the evils of drink in evidence in December last, may be largely overcome by education and moral suasion. It was also decided to ask our delegate to Convention to get all information *re* coffee-rooms and other work carried on by Christchurch and kindred Unions. It is hoped we may be able to extend our work and influence during the present year. It was also decided to alter the date of annual meeting, the present date being found to press too closely on Convention. The first Thursday in December will in future be the date.

Kaiapoi.

Our annual meeting was held on January 27, when we had a very good attendance of members and friends from Rangiora and Woodend. The report for the year showed an increase of members, our numbers being 48. We have lost 3 during the year, who have removed to the North Island, amongst whom we are sorry to count Mrs Smalley, her place not being easily filled. If all members had paid their fees we should count more than 60. The President spoke a few words of cheer and encouragement, asking us to take for our motto for this year, "Go forward." We had not done perhaps as much as we ought to have done in the past, but still to take courage and go forward determined to conquer in the name of the Lord of Hosts. Rev W. P. Fairclough then gave us good stirring words of advice, not to be cast down because of past failures, but to go forward quietly and earnestly in our work, and we shall succeed. A social was then held and a very pleasant time was passed. Two new members were enrolled.

Palmerston North.

The Legal and Parliamentary Department reports as follow:—The

Union displayed a fair amount of activity in connection with the recent election. A public meeting for women only was held and—in connection with the Prohibition League—another for both sexes, with a view to influencing the voting. For several weeks our members were busy enrolling the women, while on election day many of them were in attendance at the polling-booths. We also sent a letter to Mr Pirani, M.H.R., requesting an answer to certain questions.

Amberley.

The Christmas holidays have somewhat interfered with our usual meetings. We resumed work again on January 6th, with a fair attendance. Readings were given from the *Union Signal*, and it was decided that members should contribute papers, one at each meeting, on subjects pertaining to the Union or on other topics of general interest. Also, resolved that for the future our meetings be held monthly, on the first Wednesday in each month. Our next meeting was held on February 3rd. Little business was done. A paper was read by the Secretary entitled "Our Pledge," after which our Treasurer read an article bearing on woman's position in the political world.

West Taieri.

The annual meeting of the West Taieri W.C.T.U. was held on Jan. 28th. The appointments were as follows:—President, Mrs Kirkland; Secretary, Mrs Welch; Treasurer, Mrs Neill. There was a good attendance of members. The annual report and balance-sheet were read and adopted. Two new members were enrolled.

Port Chalmers.

The annual meeting was held on Jan 14, Mrs Porteous presiding. It was proposed to hold a cottage-meeting in the house of Mrs Gibb, Carey's Bay, to be conducted by Mrs A. Thomson. The election of officers for the ensuing year was held, and resulted as follows:—President, Mrs Porteous; vice-presidents, Mesdames Monson, and Johnstone; secretary, Mrs Hodge; treasurer, Mrs Bauchop. The secretary's report was adopted, also the treasurer's, the latter showing a credit balance of £4 2s 1d. A vote of sympathy was passed to Mrs Sutcliffe on the loss of her mother a few days before.

Lyttelton.

The annual meeting was held, and officers elected as follows:—Mrs Whitley, president; Mrs Clark, treasurer; Miss E. Kenner, secretary. Our members go to the Seamen's Rest