

distributes literature to the sailors every Sunday morning, as a result of which many attend church and are otherwise benefited. The Feilding branch, re-organised last Easter, has also been instrumental in establishing a club for young men and boys, with reading-rooms, gymnasiums, etc. Blenheim conducted a refreshment booth at the A. and P. Show. Palmerston North has commenced a work amongst friendless girls. Several Unions supply literature to the railway stations. This is a most important branch of our work, as many persons will read when travelling pamphlets upon which under other circumstances, they would not spend their time. The same remark applies to the work of supplying literature to ships and hospitals. Brunner stands alone, having doubled its membership during the year. God brings good out of evil, and the sympathy shown by White Ribboners during the great calamity which overtook the district proved very helpful. The history of this Union should prove stimulating and encouraging to other branches which are now so disheartened as to be tempted to give up. Last year Brunner seemed, through smallness of numbers and lack of interest, to be on the very verge of extinction, but it bravely determined to hold on, and is now prospering. To the disheartened ones I would say, dear sisters, remember that almost every society has to pass through a similar experience to yours. The tide has its ebb as well as its flow. After the first enthusiasm has passed members begin to fall off and interest to fail. Now is the time to show what you are made of. If there is any grit in you, you will say, it is right to have a Union here, and if no one else will make it go, I will. "One on the side of God is a majority," said Wendell Phillips, and you are not yet reduced to that number. Take heart, hold on, keep at it, and next year your

report will gladden our hearts as that of Brunner has done.

Yours in the Work,
MARY S. POWELL.

Report of the Annual Convention of the New Zealand Women's Christian Temperance Union,

HELD IN THE
ART GALLERY, CHRISTCHURCH,
FEBRUARY, 1897.

MEMBERS OF CONVENTION.

Mrs Schnackenberg, Auckland, President; Mrs Ballantyne, Christchurch, Treasurer; Miss Powell, Palmerston North, Corresponding Secretary; Mrs Sheppard, Christchurch (Parliamentary); Mrs Kirkland, West Taieri (Evangelistic); Mrs Venables, Christchurch (Literature); Mrs Blackwell (Relief), and Mrs Soulby, Kaiapoi; Mrs Seed, Feilding; Mrs Arthur and Miss Barnett, Leeston; Mrs Adams, Dunedin; Mrs Cole and Mrs W. S. Smith (Business Manager WHITE RIBBON), Christchurch; Miss Gordon, Napier; Mrs Keir, Rangiora; Mrs Evans, Hokitika; Mrs Rose, Blenheim; Mrs Boxall, Wellington; Miss Chamberlain, Amberley; Miss Maunder, Hawera; Mrs Whitby, Lyttelton; Mrs Webb, Gisborne; Mrs Widdowson, Auckland.

A short Executive meeting was held on the morning of Feb. 24th, when a programme of business was arranged.

The following notices of motion were received:—1. "To amend Article IV. of the Constitution."—Mrs Sheppard. 2. "To urge upon Christian Endeavour Societies to form a department for Temperance work."—Miss Powell.

On motion of Mrs W. Smith it was resolved—"That a Committee be formed to receive report of WHITE RIBBON, and to prepare resolutions for Convention." The President then read an interesting letter from Headquarters, Chicago, in which Miss Willard urged upon all White Ribboners the duty of sending assistance to the Armenian refugees. She also intimated that the W.W.C.T.U. intend to establish refuges at various points along the Turkish frontier. Miss Powell suggested that all subscriptions to various funds, such as the Indian Famine Relief Fund, be forwarded through the N.Z.W.C.T.U., instead of passing through the hands of other societies.

A reception meeting was held in the Art Gallery on Feb. 25th at 2 p.m., when addresses were delivered by Mrs Sheppard, Mrs Schnackenberg, Miss Powell, Mrs Webb, Mrs Squires, Mrs McKee, Mrs Grossman, and Mrs Cole. Afternoon tea was served, and a very pleasant afternoon was spent.

After the reception the members of Convention remained for preliminary business. The credentials of delegates were received, and members of committees appointed.

MORNING SESSION—FEB. 26TH.

The session opened with prayer-meeting, conducted by Mrs Schnackenberg. The President's address was then read and received. Mrs Schnackenberg then reported that New Plymouth desired the establishment of a central depot for literature. This, however, was thought impracticable, and it would be better

for each centre to order through local book-sellers. Pamphlets by Lady Henry Somerset, Canons Hicks and Wilberforce, Drs Ridge and Richardson, and others, could be obtained from the United Kingdom Alliance at a low rate.

On the motion of Miss Powell, it was resolved—"That Palmerston North be created a District Union."

AFTERNOON SESSION.

A letter was received from the Secretary of the Brisbane Union, inviting a delegate from New Zealand to the Triennial Convention, commencing April 26th.

The Corresponding Secretary's report was then read and adopted.

The banner offered by Mrs Packe to the Union which could show the largest number of new members for 1893 was presented to the Kaiapoi Union.

Mrs Ballantyne then read the New Zealand Treasurer's report, showing cash balances held by local Unions to be £388 10s 6½d, and the income for the year £199 5s 10½d. Twenty-two of the Unions had not yet sent in Treasurer's report. Reports of District Unions were then read by Miss Powell.

MORNING SESSION.

The reports of the following departments were read:—Juvenile Work, Rescue, Relief, and Mission Work. In connection with the latter report Mrs Whitby gave an account of Mission work in Lyttelton, and Mrs Schnackenberg impressed upon the Unions the importance of holding missionary prayer meetings at least once a month.

Discussion followed upon Preventive and Rescue Work; also upon the evils of smoking and the desirability of appointing a superintendent of narcotics.

MORNING SESSION.—MARCH 1.

The reading of departmental reports was continued.

Mrs Rose gave an interesting account of Maori work in Blenheim, and suggested the opening of a W.C.T.U. among the Maori women there. Mrs Schnackenberg referred to the evasion of prohibitory laws in the King country.

The President then read a paper upon Scientific Temperance Instruction in schools, and urged that the work be taken up throughout the colony.

On behalf of the Napier Union Miss Gordon asked Convention to recommend another book on Scientific Instruction, Dr. Richardson's being thought too advanced for children. A long discussion ensued, and suggestions were made upon carrying out this work through Bands of Hope.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Mrs Sheppard read the Parliamentary Report, after which the following resolutions were carried:—

"That this Convention thanks the Premier for his efforts to repeal the C.D. Acts during the last session of Parliament, and urges that a Bill be introduced whereby the wish of the people (already twice expressed through their representatives) to sweep these Acts from the Statute books of the colony, shall become law."

"That this Convention strongly urges that a Bill be introduced into Parliament whereby the wish of the people, expressed last year, to equalise the conditions of Divorce for men and women, may be carried into effect, and that