

of their action in refusing all licenses to the Exhibition, and for closing licensed bars at 10 p.m., such action being in the very best interests of the community."

Invitations for the Convention of 1908 were received from Kaiapoi, Wellington, Auckland, and Invercargill, that of Auckland being accepted with thanks.

The Convention decided that Mrs Lill's scheme as to the equalization of delegates' expenses be considered at the next Convention.

Resolved—(a) "That this Convention strongly protests against Sir Joseph Ward's latest proposal to devote funds obtained through the totalisator to benevolent and charitable purposes. The Convention considers the application of money obtained through legalised vice most pernicious in principle."

(b) "That grants of 5/- each be made to Superintendents of departments."

(c) "That £10 for 1906, and £10 for this year (1907) be handed by the New Zealand Treasurer to the "White Ribbon" in payment for Convention numbers."

#### FEBRUARY 20th, Morning.

Miss Maunder led the Convention in prayer.

The Treasurer was called upon to state the condition of funds up to date.

Resolved—"That accounts be paid from the balance of £16 at present in the N.Z. treasury.

The following notices of motion (re amendments to the Constitution) were sent in for next Convention:—

"That the Convention may appoint a Vice-President-at-Large to sit upon the N.Z. Executive."—M. S. Powell.

"That it is desirable that the position of the N.Z. officers should be held for only five consecutive years, and that the same officer should not be eligible for re-election to that particular office for two years."—Phæbe Seed.

Mrs A. R. Atkinson was appointed representative on the Executive of the N.Z. Alliance.

The President emphasized the duty of the local branches to advertise their meetings in the columns of the "White Ribbon."

The Secretary was instructed to write to Miss Minchin, Feilding.

Miss Sarah Smith was asked to state her method of organising branches desiring a visit from her being requested to communicate with Miss Powell, who will organise her plan of travelling. Greetings from the Convention were sent by Miss Smith to the B.W.T.A.

Resolved—"That the Literature Department be occasionally allowed free space in the "White Ribbon."

"That a committee consisting of the President, Mrs Sheppard, Miss Roberts, and Miss McCarthy be appointed to arrange for the printing and publishing of a leaflet containing the N.Z. Constitution, list of World's and N.Z. officers, and other details, which the Committee may approve.

"That all matters relating to the

W.C.T.U. Bay at the Exhibition be left in the hands of the local committee."

Votes of thanks were passed to the hostesses who had so kindly entertained the members of the Convention, to the local Press, the vocalists and speakers at the public meetings, and to the Christchurch District Union.

Mrs Sheppard, in a felicitous speech, proposed a loving vote of thanks to Mrs Cole, which was carried by acclamation. Mrs Cole having suitably responded the Convention concluded with the singing of "God be with you till we meet again."

(Copied by M. S. Powell.)

### PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

My Dear Comrades,—

In coming before you for the first time as President of the N.Z. Union, I offer to you each my heartfelt thanks for the great honour conferred upon me, and the confidence placed in me. The responsibility of the position has weighed heavily but I have experienced every consideration from the New Zealand officers, and my Christchurch comrades have strengthened my hands by their kindly help and advice. For all this I would express my deepest gratitude. The work has been arduous, yet with improved health and strength I have been enabled to meet the demands made upon me. Owing to a large amount of correspondence having fallen to my share, and also to the local conditions having made it necessary for me to give up much time to work in Christchurch, I have not been able to visit many of the Unions. In the spring I met the members of the Ashburton, Timaru, and Dunedin Unions, and last April my first visit as N.Z. President was made to the Kaiapoi Union. I have been most happy in my work, and have realised how good our Heavenly Father is to those who call upon Him, and who look to Him for daily strength and guidance.

#### In Memoriam.

At the commencement of my address it is fitting that I should mention the passing of the Hon. R. J. Seddon, late Premier of the colony. In the midst of activities and of plans of work for the future, he was suddenly called away, his death coming as a great shock to the people of this land, which he loved so well. To his sorrowing wife and family your President, on behalf of the N.Z. Union, tendered a message of heartfelt sympathy. Two members of our Union in New Zealand—Mrs Dick and Miss Dalrymple—have also since last Convention passed beyond the veil. The Great Reaper has likewise been busy amongst many of the notable men and women of our day in other lands. First among these I would mention Sir Wilfred Lawson, that brave, bright spirit who stood as the leader for many years of that apparently forlorn hope, the band of men and women who in England clung through evil and good report to the great principle of Local Veto. We thank God that before he closed his eyes to this world's light he saw that principle receive

the affirmation of a large majority of the British House of Commons. Josephine Butler—at this name every woman's heart should throb with gratitude, for this noble spirit stood, in spite of fierce persecution and ridicule, for the abolition of all legalised vice. Her strenuous labours on behalf of the downtrodden and outcast, and her fearless advocacy of a "White Life for Two" will never be forgotten while our organisation exists. The Baroness Burdett Coutts, while not identified with our organisation, must be mentioned. She carried on for many years a great work for the amelioration of the distressed and the destitute. She dispensed with lavish hand the great wealth entrusted to her, and now, after a long and well-spent life, she has passed away mourned by thousands. No woman in the British Empire ever before exercised for so many years such an influence for good by the distribution of wealth.

Our sisters in the United States have lost through the past year four notable women, who have proved by their lives how much may be done by those who have courage and faith to sustain them in the fight against prejudice, apathy, and licensed evil. Susan B. Anthony and Mary Livermore—what stirring strenuous times their names bring to our remembrance! How they stood for the emancipation of woman from the disabilities under which she has been placed by long usage and prejudice, is an oft told tale. Is it not sad that two women of such towering intellect should in their own land be thought only worthy to rank with idiots, criminals, and lunatics? Both passed away without enjoying the right for which they spent themselves. But others have entered into their labours, and to-day, in Australia and New Zealand, the women are reaping the harvest which was sown by these earnest, large-hearted, big-brained pioneers. Mrs Elizabeth J. Thompson—is there one in this audience who does not know how this woman, laying aside the nervous shrinking from publicity which many true souls have to overcome, placed herself at the head of that noble band of women who went out to endeavour, by their prayers and supplications, to close the saloons, which were proving death-traps to the husbands and sons of their countrywomen? May we never forget that it was from these beginnings that our organisation sprang, and that we owe it to this small band of brave souls that we are a power in the world to-day. Truly, they did not "know to what these things might grow."

Mary H. Hunt, whose work for the young in the United States to-day is showing such wonderful results, has also passed to a life of larger activities. She laboured for twenty-five years for the introduction of scientific temperance teaching in the public schools of the United States, and succeeded in her efforts. 22,000,000 are to-day being taught the nature and effects of alcohol. What her work will ultimately mean to that country we cannot to-day judge, but we know that her efforts for the instruction