

Singers" (Mackenzie), and the "Hallelujah" chorus (*Messiah*), and, aided by the eloquence of the speakers, roused the audience to a high pitch of enthusiasm.

Mr Deakin received a splendid welcome. He said the W.C.T.U. had immense claims upon the consideration of the community, as it represented a great army of half a million souls. Besides that, it represented them in 40 nations—in fact, all the world over. (Cheers.) And yet the origin of the movement was not more than 30 years old:—Its organisation as a world's force was only 20 years old, while as an Australian federal union it was no more than 12 years old. In that short space of time it had become one of those great modern social and religious growths which was doing so much to shape the history of this time, and perhaps the history of the times that are to come. When speaking of such unions there was one name which never would be and never ought to be forgotten—the name of that grand and noble woman Frances Willard. (Cheers). Tens of thousands of people were entering into that woman's labours, the result of her genius for organisation. The chief and primary objects of the W.C.T.U. were to wage incessant warfare against the drink traffic and abuses of opium, tobacco, and drugs of a similar nature, and to preach the gospel of abstinence from gambling and other pernicious dissipations. Its motto was a noble one. Two-thirds of it was the motto of one of the greatest and best political saints that the last century had seen—Joseph Mazzini—whose watchword was "God and Humanity." But as a woman's union they had added the source of women's power, and chosen for their motto, "God, Home, and Humanity." (Cheers). The home was where the best reforms must be centred, and in beginning there they had begun at the tap-root of all possible advance. They had now entered into the field of politics, and had put forward proposals for the enfranchisement of women. He was proud to say that the Federal Parliament had in its first year recognised the justice of that claim, and by granting adult franchise it had established over a greater single area than any other portion of the world the joint citizenship of men with women. (Cheers). He hoped that the union based upon home would prove one of the most potent factors for converting each state into a home, each nation into a family, and finally

uniting the universal families of mankind.

Other speakers were Mrs Nicholls, Mrs Nolan (New South Wales president), the Rev. Canon Boyce (Sydney), and the Rev. S. P. Carey, of the Collins street Baptist Church.

At the conclusion of the meeting the "membership banner" for the state union which had made the biggest increase in its membership during the past three years was handed over to Mrs M'Lean (Victorian president) by the president of the New South Wales Union, the previous holder. "We in New South Wales," said Mrs Nolan in making the presentation, "have been so accustomed to handing over things to Victoria that this proceeding seems quite natural."

RESOLUTIONS AND PETITION.

The following two days were occupied in dealing with the various reports, and on the last day several resolutions brought forward by the resolution committee, advocating temperance teaching in state schools and a renewal of the union's efforts to secure the extension of the franchise, were carried unanimously, while a congratulatory vote was accorded Mr Hickford, M.L.A., for his remarks in support of the abolition of the Parliamentary bar. The principles of the W.C.T.U., which embrace, among other things, a demand for the recognition of an equal standard of morals for both sexes and the payment of equal wages to both sexes for the same work, were also most enthusiastically carried.

Mrs Rooke (Tasmania) was elected Australasian President in succession to Mrs Nicholls, who had held that position for eight years.

Before separating, the Convention decided to petition the Federal Parliament, praying that the federal capital should be a prohibition city; and it also fixed the place of meeting for the next triennial convention at Hobart.

PUBLIC AND SOCIAL FUNCTIONS.

The public functions included a Christian Citizenship and White Cross meeting, at which Mr Ramsay, M.L.A., presided, and an "Elocutionary Contest." The social element was provided by a Garden Party, held at the residence of Mr and Mrs James Ballantyne, Malvern, and three luncheons, the entertainers being the Melbourne Total Abstinence Society, the Victorian Alliance, and the Sons and Daughters of Temperance.



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

Kaipoi.

Our last meeting was held on 27th May, when there was a large attendance. The secretary read correspondence from Miss Powell re organising agent, but it was decided to adhere to resolution passed at last meeting—that this union, although sympathising with and realising the need in some parts of New Zealand for an organising agent, could not see its way clear to find the 30s necessary every quarter towards the expenses.

Mrs Ritchie, our delegate, gave an interesting report of Convention, dealing more particularly with the different points brought forward in Mrs Atkinson's paper. Mrs Soulby thanked all those members who had made her trip to Hanmer possible. She had greatly benefited by the change. (This was done as a small recognition of our secretary's long and devoted service to the union.) It was decided to hold a sale of work on July 3rd and 4th. Mrs Ritchie handed in her resignation as president, saying she exceedingly regretted that circumstances had arisen which compelled her to do so. Several members expressed their regret at losing Mrs Ritchie. Mrs Blackwell was elected president for the remainder of the year.

Christchurch

The usual meeting of the union was held on May 27th. It was reported that on May 7th an entertainment, followed by a tea, was given by members and a few friends to the inmates of the Jubilee Home, Woolston. Mrs West presided, and also gave a very amusing reading. Miss Roberts also gave a reading. A good musical programme was contributed by lady and gentleman friends.

Auckland.

At our last meeting two new members were enrolled. Our president, Mrs Dewar, has gone to Canada, and will probably be away for three months. In her absence the chair was taken by Mrs Johnston, vice-president. A short discussion on the claims of the WHITE RIBBON took place, and another pound was voted towards it. It was decided that a public meeting be held the first