

**WORLD'S CONVENTION.**

Interesting items from Reports of the Ninth Triennial Convention of the World's Women's Christian Temperance Union.

This epoch-marking and history-making Convention was held in Brooklyn, New York, on October 23-28, 1913.

The delegates were formally welcomed on the evening of the 23rd at the Hotel Astor, when some 2000 were present. The Countess of Carlisle (World's President) had been unable to cross the Atlantic, so the World's Vice-President, Mrs Lillian M. N. Stevens, was the presiding officer.

Lady Aurea Howard responded on behalf of her mother to the gracious words spoken concerning the Countess by the acting-President, and said that the Countess would be with them in spirit.

In welcoming the delegates to the country where the W.C.T.U. was born, and to the home country of Frances E. Willard, Mrs Stevens pointed with pride to the nine States of Maine, Kansas, North Dakota, Georgia, Oklahoma, Mississippi, North Carolina, Tennessee, and West Virginia, which contain one-sixth of the population of the United States, and which have outlived both the sale and manufacture of intoxicating liquor. She also stated that one-half of the population lived in territory which had voted out the saloon, and that seven-tenths of the territory of the States rejoiced in freedom from the legalised sale of intoxicating liquor.

Mrs Ella A. Boole, President New York W.C.T.U., extended a hearty welcome to the visitors on behalf of the New York officers, and of 34,000 White Ribboners in the State.

Greetings were also given to the delegates by other leaders of the Temperance cause, including men and women.

Amongst those who replied were Miss Agnes E. Slack, Baroness de Lavelege, of Belgium, and Mrs Anderson Hughes Drew (on behalf of New Zealand).

The next morning (Friday) the Convention was opened in the spacious Academy of Music, which had been appropriately draped with flags representing many nations, inters-

persed with W.C.T.U. banners from all parts of the world.

Lady Aurea Howard, on behalf of the English and Welsh delegations, presented Mrs Stevens with a token of their love—a silver case containing a beautiful "American Beauty" rose.

After reading a heartfelt greeting from the World's President, Mrs Stevens read the following extract from a letter which she had received from Countess Carlisle:—

"Will you tell the Convention, if you think fit, that I shall presently, when I get back from Germany to England, send a thousand pounds to be spent on White Ribbon mission work in far countries, where our work as yet has not fully reached?"

Enthusiastic applause and White Ribbon cheers followed this announcement.

The Convention was then further welcomed by General Horatio C. King, Mr William A. Marble (President of the Merchants' Association of New York), Mayor Ardolph Kline (who presented the "keys of the city" to the White Ribboners present), Mr Lewis R. Pound (Borough President), and Mrs Boole (President of the hostess State).

As Mr Pound left the platform the Ohio delegates greeted him with their State rally cry—

"Watch the Buckeyes,  
See us grow,  
O-hi-o-hi-o-hi-o."

The speaker responded, "Hurrah for the Buckeye State."

Miss Slack presented a report of work in various countries. This showed an increase since last Convention of 46,036 members.

Concerning New Zealand, the report said:—"A wonderful system of house-to-house canvassing is in operation here. Practically every house has been visited by the women. Prohibition almost won in New Zealand, and would have done so had it not been handicapped by the provision requiring a three-fifths majority."

On Saturday morning Mrs Stevens announced, amidst great applause, that the Congregational Council meeting in Kansas City had, by a majority of 517 to 14, decided in favour of National Constitutional Prohibition.

Following on this the Convention, and also the onlookers in the gallery, by a standing vote decided that a

declaration or proclamation should go out from the Convention for total abstinence for the individual and prohibition for the world.

An "In Memoriam" service was held at noon, when comrades and sympathisers who rest from earthly labours were lovingly remembered. Amongst those thus honoured were Mrs H. Cole (late N.Z. President), the Earl of Carlisle, and W. T. Stead.

A great children's pageant occupied the larger part of Saturday afternoon.

Nearly 100 pulpits of Brooklyn and New York were filled on Sunday by W.C.T.U. speakers.

Monday, the last day of the Convention, was a very busy one. Amidst great enthusiasm the Countess of Carlisle was again elected World's President, and Mrs Stevens Vice-President.

To the tune of "Auld Lang Syne," the delegates, clasping hands, from floor to platform, sang the following farewell:—

"We fondly love you, comrades dear,  
Your coming made us glad,  
The bond of love has stronger grown,  
Your going makes us sad.

Come back again, White Ribboners,  
Come back again, we pray;  
Come back again, White Ribboners,  
Come back again to stay."

The Aaronic Benediction was then repeated in concert, and this great Triennial Convention became a matter of history, but a source of inspiration for many days to come.

**ORGANISING FUND.**

The following amounts have been received for the Organising Fund during December, 1913:—

- 5th, Dunedin District Union, £6;
- 8th, Wellington S. District Union, £5;
- 8th, Kaiapoi District Union, £1;
- 11th, Kihikihi Union, 11s;
- 11th, Invercargill District Union, £7 7s;
- 19th, Auckland District Union, £1;
- 23rd, Otautau Union, £1 7s.

ALICE R. C. TAYLOR,  
Treas. Organising Fund.

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