

retary, conveying greetings. Mrs Devonport read a letter from Canon Garland requesting that a vote be taken by the members on the question of Bible Reading in Schools, as advocated by the Bible in Schools League, which, on being put to the meeting, was carried. Mrs James Miller was appointed delegate to Convention. Proposed that the next meeting be a home meeting, and that the Secretary read a paper of an educational character.

#### HAWERA.

Meeting held on Thursday, January 20th, in the parsonage garden, at the invitation of the President, Mrs Blamires, who hoped thereby to get a large gathering. Five new names were proposed. Mrs Blamires and Messrs Halliwell and Dixon gave addresses urging each member to renewed effort in Prohibition work, and speaking hopefully of our prospects. Mrs Patterson, of Manaia, again asked for the co-operation of Hawera in engaging an Organiser. No discussion followed, but at a meeting some months ago it was resolved that we could not see our way to accede to the request, as we felt all our help should be given to the local No-License League, who at that time were talking of trying to get a lady organiser for our own electorate.

#### BLENHEIM.

The annual meeting of the W.C.T.U. was held in Wesley Hall on December 8th, 1913. Mrs Grace presided. The Secretary's annual report was read by Mrs Grace, who also gave an excellent encouraging address. The balance-sheet was read by Mrs Hay (Treasurer), and it is gratifying to know that the Union is in a healthy state financially. It was resolved that a letter of sympathy be sent to Mrs D. Sinclair, our retiring Secretary, who has been bereft of her father. After a good deal of business had been gone through, the election of officers took place. Pres., Mrs Grace; Vice-Pres., Mesdames A. J. Litchfield, J. Rose, A. Jackson, Brewer, Law, and Hancock; Sec., Mrs Gordon Litchfield, "Glenalvon," Rose Street; Assis.-Sec., Mrs D. Sinclair; Mothers' Meetings, Mesdames Brewer and Hancock; Drawing Room Meetings, Mesdames Fisher and T. Pike; Agent for "White Ribbon," Mrs W. Parker; Good Citizenship, Mesdames McNab and E. H. Penny; Literature and Medical, Temperance, Mesdames Meade, Martin, and Miss Davies; Agricultural, Mesdames A. Jackson and W. Parker; Reporter to "Express" and "White Ribbon," Mrs Fisher. Afternoon tea was served at the close of the meeting, and the President pronounced the Benediction.

#### OPOTIKI.

Dec. 11. Annual meeting held, fair attendance. Election of officers resulted as follows:—Pres., Mrs J. G. Murray; Vice-Pres., Mrs Goodall and

Mrs T. Thompson, and Mrs W. Morice; Sec., Mrs Sinclair; Treas., Mrs Holman; Supt. Cradle Roll, Mrs Pearson; Supt. Electoral Roll, Mrs J. B. Gow. Votes of thanks were passed to the retiring President and Secretary.

Jan. 8. Usual monthly meeting, Mrs Murray presiding. After general business, Miss Smith, from Christchurch, gave a short instructive address on some of the branches of W.C.T.U. work, which was very much appreciated by the members.

#### PICTON.

The postponed annual meeting was held on Friday, December 18th, Mrs Arthur (President) occupying the chair. Several apologies for absence were received. The attendance of members was good. The report of the year's work was read, and a very interesting discussion followed, when many suggestions for useful work in the coming year were considered. The Treasurer read her report, and the balance-sheet was considered very satisfactory. The officers for the coming year were elected as follows:—Pres., Mrs Arthur; Vice-Pres., Miss Jennings; Sec., Mrs Millen; Treas., Mrs Burrough; Mrs Jennings was elected Supt. of Cradle Roll. Decided to meet again the second week in March, when the Union will hold a public meeting in the evening. Decided to resume Band of Hope meetings in March. The thanks of the W.C.T.U. were extended to all those who have helped to make the Band of Hope meetings so interesting and profitable, and especially to those ministers, Revs. Dickson, Adams, Smith, and Cooke, who have each given such excellent addresses through the session.

#### INVERCARGILL.

Meeting on the 3rd, Mrs MacKenzie presiding, attendance good. Liquor advertisements in tram cars was discussed. Last month a large deputation of representative citizens interviewed the Town Council to protest against these, but the Council decided to continue the advertisements. The meeting placed on record its disappointment at this decision. Mrs Hunter and Mrs Hamilton reported on the success of the rest and tea tents at the recent Summer Show. Sister Moody Bell and Mrs Lee-Cowie were appointed delegates to the coming Convention. Two new members were admitted. During the meeting Mrs Baird made reference to the jubilee of the local Band of Hope. It was founded in 1864 by Mrs Bonthorn, who still resides in Invercargill with her daughter, Mrs Walker. Many of its early members are active Temperance workers amongst us.

#### DUNEDIN.

Opening meeting for the year held on Tuesday afternoon. The President was in the chair, and spoke in terms of appreciation of the earnest

and faithful work of the retiring President (Mrs Peter Dick). Satisfactory report from the Sailors' Rest was received from Mr R. Robertson, missionary. A hearty welcome was extended to Miss Weymouth, Financial Secretary to the United Temperance Reform Council, who gave a report of her work on behalf of the W.C.T.U. in the Wanganui district, and asked for the continued assistance of the members in distributing and collecting Democratic Vote cards. It was reported that two thousand pledges had already been received. Mrs Don reported visiting Mosgiel Union. Mrs Driver spoke impressively on "Ezekiel," who in Babylon was a "sign" unto the people of obedience and resignation to God's will. Earnest prayers were offered for strength and guidance through the present year.

#### KAIAPOI.

The twenty-fourth anniversary of this Union was celebrated on 28th January, when there was a large attendance of members and friends. Miss Roberts, from Christchurch, gave an address, tracing the history of the Temperance movement. The Secretary's annual report showed that good work had been done during the year in the following departments:—Educational, Relief, Band of Hope, Scientific Temperance, Press, Cradle Roll, Literature, and Refreshment Booth. Good reports were also read from the auxiliaries, Rangiora, Oxford, Kaikoura, and Belfast. It was decided to hold a business meeting in a fortnight's time, when a deputation would be received from the No-License League with regard to the Democratic Vote Campaign. Musical items were given by Mrs Wylee and Miss Wadey.

#### ASHBURTON.

At our meeting, held on December 9th, Mrs W. K. Watson presided over a large attendance. Superintendents were urged to forward reports to heads of departments without delay. The President referred at length to the protest made by the Editor of the local paper, in that a license was granted for a publican's booth to be held on Boxing Day, and the following resolution was carried unanimously:—"Recognising the unique value of the newspaper press, and its singular opportunities for educating and influencing public opinion, this meeting desires to express its appreciation of the leading article in last Friday's issue of the 'Ashburton Guardian' commenting on the action of the Selwyn Licensing Committee in granting a license for a publican's booth at the Trotting Club meeting to be held on Boxing Day. This Branch of the W.C.T.U. is thankful that the blunder of the Licensing Bench was not allowed to pass without a protest from the local journal. The trust is expressed that 'The Guardian' will ever be what its name implies—a sentinel ever alert to safeguard the people's