

News of the Unions.

(The Editor cannot promise to insert anything in the next issue that does not reach her by the 8th of the month. Correspondents are requested to write their Reports as concisely as possible, on one side of the paper only. Newspaper cuttings are unsuitable.)

WANGANUI.

Meeting held August 7th. Mrs Siddells read report of District Convention, recently held at Manaia. Mrs T. C. Taylor and Mrs Bruce are giving a Doll Afternoon on Thursday, 13th inst., in aid of forthcoming W.C.T.U. Sale of Work; also the ladies of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church are holding a gift afternoon for the same purpose on August 20th. Mrs Herbert Taylor appointed delegate to the Palmerston Provincial Convention. Letter was read from Miss Roberts re venereal diseases. Resolutions passed as read. Also one from the United Women's Societies of Christchurch. Agreed to pass all resolutions except the one affecting the girls.

Meeting held in Trinity Parlour on Friday, 4th inst., Mrs J. Smith presiding. Resolved to send letters of condolence to Mrs Peter Bell and family and Mrs Spurdle and family, owing to recent bereavements in their families. A leaflet was read on "The White Slave Traffic." Decided to purchase five hundred copies for distribution to the men in camp at Palmerston North. Resolved: "That we hold our W.C.T.U. Sale of Work the second week in October. Three nominations were received for the position of President. A very successful Doll Afternoon was held in St. Paul's Hall on Thursday afternoon, August 13th. The hostesses were Mrs T. C. Taylor, Mrs Bird, and Mrs Bruce. Attendance of the public was good. Fine musical programme, and dainty afternoon tea were provided.

NELSON.

Aug. 11. Miss Atkinson presided, and reported that the Temperance Hall would be ready for use by the end of the month, and that the Trustees had offered it for the use of all Temperance bodies till the end of the year for the sum of £4. Vote of thanks passed. Resolved: "That we support recommendation of Wellington and C.A. Board, with the exception of No. 11, which provides for the compulsory detention of persons suffering from these diseases." Resolution was passed strongly dissenting from the clause in the Age of Consent Bill, making it necessary to obtain the consent of the Attorney-General before prosecutions for offences against girls from 12 to 18 can be proceeded with. Decided that copies of Mrs Field's leaflet should be forwarded to the Nelson men leaving to

take part in the war. The Union has also presented Testaments to all the men belonging to the Nelson contingent.

Good Citizenship meeting held on July 24th, when Miss Atkinson gave an address upon "The Economic Aspect of Prohibition," showing that on financial and economic grounds the liquor traffic should be abolished from the country.

SHEFFIELD.

July 15. Present, five members and one visitor. Mrs Colthart welcomed back from the North Island. A paper on "Venereal Diseases" from Miss Roberts was received, but held over until next meeting. A letter from Mrs Lill re delegates for Provincial Convention was also held over. Christchurch invited us to attend the Taylor Memorial Service in Christchurch on July 22nd. Decided to write to the Premier, also member for Selwyn, protesting against the proposed attempt to increase the number of racing days and racing permits. Letter of congratulation to our absent member, Mrs Gillanders, be sent. Afternoon tea provided.

Aug. 5. Present, 14 members and one visitor, Mrs McIlraith presiding. Paper from Miss Powell received; also a reply from the Premier and the member for Selwyn re the Gaming Amendment Bill, and letter of thanks from Mrs Gillanders. Miss Powell's paper was read and discussed. Miss Roberts's paper was partly discussed. Agreed unanimously: "That we protest against clause 11," Secretary to write asking Miss Roberts for further information on the amendment to the Crimes Act. Mesdames McIlraith and Neutze were appointed delegates to Convention.

Sept. 2. Nine members present, Mrs McIlraith presiding. Mrs Colthart (one of our oldest members) presented the local Union with a W.C.T.U. banner, made of white satin, with scroll and letters in blue, hand-painted by Mrs McMillan (another of our members). A hearty vote of thanks was accorded Mrs Colthart for her much appreciated gift. Replies from Miss Roberts re the Crimes Amendment Bill, from the Premier and Minister of Public Health re venereal diseases received. Memorandum from Mr J. McCombs on Legislature Amendment Bill received. Secretary to write a letter of condolence to Mrs Bloor (another member), sympathising with her in her illness. Miss Powell's paper on "Citizenship" was then read, and was much appreciated.

NORTH-EAST VALLEY.

August. Mrs Elliot presided over good attendance. The Scripture reading was Psalm 33, from verse 18 to end. Solo was sung during afternoon. Two members read extracts from "White Ribbon." Meeting closed with singing of the National Anthem.

INVERCARGILL.

A well attended educational meeting held on August 18th. Mrs Lee-Cowie (Peace Supt.) gave an address suited to the circumstances of the present time. The Rev. Archer also gave a review of part of Sir Benjamin Ward Richardson's book, "Vitae Medica," which was very instructive, and much appreciated. It is the intention of our Union to give prizes at the end of the year to the scholars who write the best essays on the temperance wall sheets. One new member was initiated.

MANAIA.

July 28. Meeting held, 17 members present and one visitor. Final arrangements made for Convention on 5th August. Decided that Mesdames Patterson, Parkinson, and Craig visit Otakeho with Mrs Mowlem, and try to reorganise Union there. Decided that efforts to form "Y" branch be postponed for the present.

Aug. 11. Fifteen members present. Welcome extended to Mrs Boase, of Hawera. Sympathy expressed with Mr Carson in his serious illness. President read condemnation by Gumland's Commission of Wine Shops on the gumfields, as they are conducive to great immorality. Meeting held earlier in month than usual owing to Lady Liverpool's appeal. Unanimously decided to begin sewing at once, and a large roll of flannel for shirts was soon distributed among members.

WELLINGTON CENTRAL.

Aug. 21. Mrs A. R. Atkinson presided. Mrs Griffin and Mrs Ritson were appointed delegates to the Provincial Convention. Miss Roberts' resolutions were read, and the following resolutions were unanimously carried:—"That this Union strongly objects to the provision in the Crimes Act Amendment Bill that no prosecution for defiling girls between 12 and 18 years of age shall be commenced without the leave in writing of the Attorney-General, on the ground that justice should not depend in any way upon the pleasure of any official whatever. That copy of this resolution be sent to the Premier and members of Parliament for the district." "This Union trusts, in any attempts to combat venereal diseases, all ideas of detention will be abandoned, and that no notification, save that of numbers, shall be called for." Touching reference was made to the personality and work of the late Mrs Costall by Mrs A. R. Atkinson and Mrs Peryman. The following resolution was passed, members standing:—"That this Union places on record its deep sense of the high Christian character and sterling work of the late Mrs Costall, and respectfully offers its sincere sympathy to her husband and relations." Letter of thanks received for contribution of £1 6s to Maori Fund. Mrs Palk gave an account of her visit to Victoria, and related her