

MAORI ORGANISER'S REPORT.

Since I once more started work I have visited quite a number of old Unions. On my arrival in the Hawke's Bay district I was sorry to find my visit inopportune, but was invited by all to return there after Convention. Strange to say, I find that most of our Hawke's Bay Maori Unions have been transformed into Mothers' Unions instead. On my return there I hope to have a full investigation into the why and wherefore of this alteration. I visited some of the Maoris around Palmerston, but though the individuals were greatly impressed with our Union principles, I was unable to form a Union, as these people are scattered and too far apart. I next visited Otaki, where I stayed a few days, going from house to house, speaking to the women, and arranging for a future meeting. This has been definitely arranged, and is to be held on April the 4th. This place has never before been visited by the Maori Organiser, and needs help badly. I then came down to Wellington, where I received hospitality from Mrs Curmins, of Newtown W.C.T.U., and her kind friend, Mrs Wills, of Hitopi Street. During the time spent here I was able to get my correspondence finished. Then we all proceeded to Christchurch to Convention, where we were entertained by most kind and generous hostesses. The last day of Convention, after Mrs Walker read our Maori report, that is to be sent to the Australasian Convention, I spoke to Convention about my work, and read also a letter I received from Neta Paraone, Secretary of the Rau-mate-Parenga Union. I explained the difficulties these good people have in procuring medical assistance, and asked that we might make an effort to move the Government to send them a trained nurse. It was then decided that Mrs A. R. Atkinson, Mrs Walker and myself should be a deputation to Dr. Valentine, Government Health Superintendent and Inspector. We met him the following morning, and he gave us a long interview, and was most sympathetic, and promised to do his utmost to help us.

On the evening of March 25th twenty-one of us, delegates and friends, went out by train to Lyttelton. We were there met by Miss Smith, who took us to a launch, which was waiting to take us up to the Maori

settlement at Raupaki. We were put ashore in a punt, and then ensued a merry scramble over the rocks. When all were landed safely, we proceeded to the hall, where Mrs Smith, of the Lyttelton Union, who had kindly arranged everything for the meeting, was waiting for us. With her was Te Kao, the chief of this place. He extended a hearty welcome to us all, and the meeting was opened by the singing of the well-known children's hymn, "Come to the Saviour," and I led them in Maori prayer. Then I was introduced to the people by Te Kao, and gave the Maoris an address on W.C.T.U. work amongst the Maoris. After my address, a young Lyttelton lady sang very sweetly to us all. Then some of the Maori young men and girls sang us a very pretty Maori song, and immediately afterwards three girls gave us a short "poi" dance, which was much enjoyed. Mrs Atkinson gave an encouraging and touching address to these young people, telling them of the harmfulness of alcohol to the human body, and said that though years ago the Maoris fought against us, now, in the great war in Europe, the Maori men have gone out to fight side by side with the British, to help defend the British Empire, and through this Maori and pakeha are now bound together closer by a great bond of sympathy. So, even here in New Zealand may the Maori people and the white join together in fighting another enemy—drink. The young people enjoyed her address very much. Te Kao thanked us all for a very enjoyable evening, and also expressed a wish for another visit some day. Most of the young people here belong to the Band of Hope.

FLORENCE WOODHEAD.

WOMEN'S SOCIETIES.

During Convention a deputation from other women's societies waited upon the W.C.T.U. Convention. Their aim was to get united action from all women's societies on subjects which concern all.

Mrs Wells urged all to work for peace and for such education and settlement that war would be abolished for the future. She spoke of the necessity of Government owning all places for the manufacture of arms and ammunition. Mrs Lissamon spoke on the care of neglected child-

ren. She urged that when children are boarded out by State, sufficient allowance should be made, and the exploiting of the children's labour be firmly forbidden. Young children to be sent to Kindergartens. She also urged the establishment of Cottage Homes.

Mrs Cunningham spoke strongly and eloquently in favour of the abolition of Capital Punishment. The reasons against Capital Punishment are: (1) Scientific; (2) Social; (3) Christian. (1) Scientific: We should not kill a criminal because, (a) we know too little about him. No chemist gives the constituents of a new subject without careful analysis. We know nothing of the criminals' antecedents, and to kill him is unscientific, clumsy, inadequate and slapdash. Then (b) we know too much about him. Some criminals are born or inherent criminals. From conception doomed to commit crime. This number is small and will be reduced by civilization. Others are criminals who are made criminals. This class is women's responsibility. Some are made criminals by drink traffic, or by neglect. This class of criminals are so made by bad social conditions. Then there are the insane criminals. They are always insane, but show it most when provoked. Have we the right to hang any of these criminals. A human being is most difficult to analyse and comprehend.

(2) Social:—Capital Punishment is not a deterrent. Since the Mayfield murderer was hanged, we have had four murders in this Dominion. Is it not better to have a deterrent factor than the death penalty.

Capital Punishment is brutalising to the people. Society gets rid of its criminals by Capital Punishment, but it has the hangman, and all his gruesome paraphernalia. Head gaoler of large goal, says, "It makes me sick weeks before and weeks after an execution."

Capital Punishment is suggestive of crime. It stimulates to other crimes of a similar nature. Criminals long to be hanged for the notoriety of it.

Capital Punishment is wasteful. It wastes a man. It is irretrievable.

(3) Christian:—There is no sin that is unforgivable. Criminals should be forgiven, but not placed back in society, forgiven because he is either irresponsible or wicked. "The more brutal the crime, the greater the demand upon us to forgive."