

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 EAST.

Social afternoon held in the Presbyterian Chapel, on April 30th, Mrs Andrew presiding. Resolved that "our next meeting be an open one, and that local ministers and the public be invited to join us in prayer for peace and guidance in regard to the present war." One new member was initiated. Owing to our delegate, (Miss Weymouth) not having returned from Conference, the Secretary was instructed to read her excellent report, which was enjoyed by all. Mrs Upton gave a short helpful address.

GREYMOUTH.

April 8th. Meeting was held. President in the chair. Mrs Sweetman, delegate, gave a report of the work done at Convention, which was most inspiring.

April 28th. Attendance very good. Mrs Hansen welcomed back. Some new departments of work were arranged, and superintendents appointed. Four new members joined the Union. Lately in our local paper some sailors published an appreciation of the kindness and interest taken in them, and comfort provided at our Sailors' Rest.

NGARUAWAHIA.

April 6th. Meeting held in the Presbyterian Church. Mrs French (President) in the chair. Mrs Bell gave a very interesting paper on "Sincerity." A letter of sympathy was sent to Mrs W. Bycroft in the loss of her husband. Decided to take 1 doz. "White Ribbon" (Convention number) for distribution. Our next meeting to take the form of a Quotation Afternoon; Tennyson and Mrs Hemans being the chosen subjects.

WHANGAREI.

Our monthly meeting was held on April 6th. 7 members present. The President, Mrs Williams, occupied the chair. Reports were read, and correspondence dealt with, and hospital visits arranged for. A resolution was passed, "That members urge the Band of Hope committee to recommence their monthly meetings, as an inducement to the young people to take an interest in temperance matters."

Meeting Baptist Church, nine members and one visitor present. Mrs Williams (President) in chair. Decided to hold a special prayer meeting in regard to the present war on the first Tuesday in June. Decided,

in the interests of starving Belgians and British, to insert in local paper the resolution protesting against the destruction of grain in the manufacture of alcohol. Hospital visiting was arranged for the month, two visits per week. Decided to appoint Miss Griffen as delegate to the Auckland Province No-License Council. Resolved to do our best in the "Win One" campaign.

GISBORNE.

Monthly meeting held on March 30 in St. Andrew's Schoolroom, the President, Mrs Graham, occupying the chair. 18 members present. Decided to offer the support of the Union to the Women's Branch of the Teachers' Institute (newly formed in Gisborne); to invite Miss Glanville to give a short address at our next monthly meeting on their aims and objects. Decided to nominate Mrs Walker for a seat on the Hospital and Charitable Aid Board. Members were urged to attend the householders' meeting for the election of the school committee, one fresh nomination being sent in. The Patriotic Pledge discussed and Mrs Day spoke of the good that might be done if kind motherly letters were written to those in camp who had no personal friends interested in them.

Meeting held April 27th, 17 present. The open letter of Mrs Don to the Moderate League was read and inserted in the local papers. The "Win One" campaign was discussed, and five new members received. Mrs Walker's candidature for the Hospital and Charitable Aid Board was spoken of. Though defeated, she polled very well. One of our members read an interesting letter from her son in Egypt.

Special meeting held on May 6th to hear our delegate's report. Attendance good; several new members present. Afternoon tea and a song from Miss McLeod opened proceedings. Mrs Goffe then gave us the most interesting items from Convention. Mr Bligh spoke on how best we could help our boys and girls to grow up to ideal manhood and womanhood. Mrs Walker, our late Secretary, was then presented with a very nice hand-bag as a small return for her valuable services during the last nine years. Mrs Walker expressed her thanks for the kindly feeling shown.

PETONE.

Meeting held, Mrs Rowse presiding. Secretary reported letters of condolence sent to Mrs McPherson on the death of her daughter, and Mrs Doneghue on the death of her father. Mrs Corner (delegate) gave a very good report. Decided to donate £1 to No-License League.

On March 31st a very pleasant afternoon was spent with the Cradle Roll mothers and babies. Several musical items and a very spirited and helpful address given by Mrs Peryman. Afternoon tea was handed round.

R. S. Gray. An appreciative resolution of gratitude was unanimously passed for the retiring President, and after the customary votes of thank the Congress closed.

Looking back over the proceedings one is glad to note the unanimity with which it was agreed that work for a Licensing Poll must begin immediately after the last poll, not three months before the next one, and that the time had come for active work in a pledge-signing campaign. May the inspiration that springs from such a gathering of earnest workers and the enthusiasm that it evokes be passed on to the thousands of men and women in our Dominion who are pledged to the Temperance cause, and may three years of steady, faithful service be finally crowned with success in the poll of 1917!

FOR SHE'S A JOLLY GOOD FELLOW.

We recommend the following letter to our youthful poets, and hope they will enter for this competition. All replies to be sent to Mrs Lee-Cowie, Amethyst Hall, Invercargill, by June 30th, 1915.—(Ed. W.R.)

(To the Editor).

Madam,—Is it not time we had something better than the old tap-room chorus to honour our friends with.

"He's a jolly good fellow" has such low associations, that no minister or christian worker could possibly feel honoured by having his name linked with it.

I will give 5s for the best substitute. The four lines must suit lady or gentleman, singular or plural, and fit in to the old tune. Here is a sample:—

For he is our comrade for ever,
No parting our friendship can sever,
Forget him we'll never, no never
And so say all of us, etc., etc.

Yours for everything that uplifts,
B. L. COWIE.

The "White Ribbon" will be posted to any address on receipt of 2s 6d, payable to Mrs Peryman, Johnsonville.