

Thirty-First Annual Convention

OF THE

N.Z. W.C.T.U.

HELD IN

St. Paul's Hall, Nixon Street, Wanganui, March 15th to 23rd, 1916.

Convention was called to order at 9 a.m. by the Dominion President. The Crusade Hymn was sung, Crusade Psalm read, and prayers offered by several. The President gave a short address, based on Eccles. 9:14-16: "The poor, wise woman saving the city."

Roll call: 71 responded.

Proxies appointed for Pahiatua, Norsewood, and Greymouth; others deferred to afternoon.

New Zealand officers.—Mrs Don, Dominion President; Miss Henderson, Dominion Corresponding Secretary; Mrs Evans, Dominion Recording Secretary; Mrs Bendely, Dominion Treasurer; Mrs Peryman, Editor "White Ribbon"; Miss Powell, Dominion Organiser; Mrs Walker, Maori Organising Treasurer; Mrs Taylor, Dominion Organising Treasurer.

District Presidents.—Mrs Gaskin (Greymouth), Mrs Jones (Hamilton), Mrs Venables (Napier), Mrs Douglas (New Plymouth), Mrs Crabb (Palmerston North), Mrs Lule (Timaru), Mrs Houlder (Wellington), Mrs Bone (Hawera).

District Secretaries.—Miss N. Dewar (Auckland), Mrs Sinclair (Blenheim), Mrs Macartney (Dunedin), Mrs Bruce (New Plymouth), Mrs Spearman (Wellington), Mrs Freeman (Napier), Mrs McKenzie (Wanganui), Mrs Hodder (Palmerston North) (Recording), Mrs Hills (Palmerston North) (Corresponding), Miss Bischof (Hawera).

District Treasurers.—Mrs Lill (Ashburton), Mrs Goffe (Gisborne), Miss Taunt (New Plymouth), Mrs Clausen (Palmerston North).

Dominion Superintendents.—Sister Moody-Bell, Prison and Reformatory Work; Mrs Dearlove, Literature; Mrs Duxfield, Press; Mrs Judson, Good Citizenship; Mrs Neal, Medical Temperance, Cradle Roll, and L.T.L.; Mrs Macdonald, Domestic Science; Mrs Upton, Evangelistic; Mrs Young, Educational Bureau; Mrs Lee-Cowie, Peace and Arbitration; Miss Maunder, Scientific Temperance.

Delegates.—Mrs T. E. Taylor (Christchurch), Mrs Little (Devonport), Mrs Griffiths (Hastings), Mrs Jameson (Kaiapoi), Mrs Whincop (Greytown), Mrs Nelson (Hikurangi), Mrs Frethy (Lower Hutt), Mrs Hunter

(Invercargill), Mrs Smart (South Invercargill), Mrs Phillips (Ngaere), Mrs Witten (Matakana), Miss Ambury (New Plymouth), Mrs Field (Nelson), Mrs Watson (Nelson), Mrs Saunders (Normanby), Mrs Sanson (Palmerston North), Mrs Ritchie (Palmerston North), Mrs Plummer (Ponsonby), Mrs Morrison (Warkworth), Mrs Knuckey (Wanganui), Mrs Grant (Wanganui), Mrs James (Wanganui East), Mrs White (Waipukurau), Mrs Johnson-Wright (Wellington District), Mrs Brierley (Wellington District), Mrs McLeod (Whangarei), Mrs Jones (Feilding), Mrs Perkins (Woodville), Miss Cody (Patea), Mrs Reeve (Stratford), Mrs Burd (Petone), Mrs Galloway (Auckland), Mrs Goodall (Opotiki), Mrs Ryde (Oxford), Mrs Ross (Masterton), Miss Macarthy (Waimate), Mrs Hall (New Brighton), Mrs Johnstone (Port Chalmers), Mrs Hunt (Mania), Mrs Clark (Ngaio), Mrs Bott (Waipawa), Miss Phillips (Nelson Y Branch).

Proxies.—Miss Weymouth (for Pahiatua), Mrs Nicholson (for Norsewood), Mrs Brown (for Greymouth), Mrs Hewitt (for Winchmore-Greenstreet), Mrs Murray (for Tinwald), Miss Tucker (for Okaiawa), Miss Austen (for N.E. Valley), Mrs Bischof (for Lyttelton), Miss Gausted (for Kai-korai).

Miss Powell was appointed Convention Letter-writer.

Reporters arranged as follows for papers and districts named:—Local press, Mrs Walker; Press Association, Mrs Peryman; Christchurch and Nelson, Mrs Judson; "Outlook" and Hawera, Miss Maunder; "Methodist Times" and "White Ribbon" (English), Sister Moody-Bell; "Maoriland Worker," Miss Macarthy; Napier, Mrs Venables; "War Cry" and "Vanguard," Mrs Spearman; Otautau, Bluff, and Invercargill, Mrs Lee-Cowie; Dunedin, Mrs McArtney; Wellington, Mrs Houlder; Timaru, Mrs Rule; New Plymouth, Mrs Douglas; Auckland, Mrs Morrison; Palmerston North, Mrs Crabb; Pahiatua, Mrs Young; Waikato, Mrs Jones (Hamilton), Baptist, Mrs Freeman; Waimate, Miss Macarthy; Gisborne, Mrs Goffe; Waipukurau, Mrs Nicholson; Stratford, Mrs Reeve; "Rodney Times" and "Oamaru Mail," Mrs Witten; "Clutha Leader," Mrs Houlder; Masterton, Mrs Duxfield; Patea, Miss Cody; Hutt Valley, Mrs Burd; Whangarei, Mrs McLeod.

Suggested that at future Conventions work of arranging for reporters might be attended to by Dominion Press Superintendents, and time of Convention be thus saved.

Letters of sympathy directed to be sent to Mrs Crump (Nelson), Mrs A. R. Atkinson (Wellington), Mrs Driver (Dunedin), Mrs F. Brown (Wanganui East), the family of the late Mrs Boase (Hawera), Mrs Davis (Blenheim), Mr Cameron (Napier), Mrs Webb (Ormondville), Mrs Oldham (Napier), Mrs Ward (Kaiapoi).

On the motion of the President, it was unanimously carried by standing silent vote that this Convention desires to express its deep sympathy with all those members of the Union who have lost husbands, sons, or brothers during the war.

Greetings were received from Mr E. Smith (Auckland), Mrs Webb (Ormondville), and the Dunedin, Palmerston North, and Masterton Unions.

Letter read from Rev. Jas. Wilson, Turakina, re petition sent there for signature, urging 6 o'clock closing, and re introduction of wet canteens. Members warned against similar petitions said to be in circulation.

The Corresponding Secretary read her report on the year's work, showing financial membership to be 3333, increase of 128 over last year. Adopted after short discussion, in which Sister Moody-Bell proposed letter of thanks be sent to Minister of Education for his favourable attitude towards Temperance teaching in schools and other work for the benefit of school children.

To the President's call for show of new members to Convention, 27 responded, and were heartily welcomed; also the Dominion Treasurer, whose ill-health had threatened to prevent her attendance at Convention.

The Treasurer's report showed total receipts for year, £149 10s 11d; credit balance from last year, £96 1s 2d; total expenditure, £163 3s 3d; present credit balance, £82 8s 6d. The banner was won by Patea Union, with increase in membership of 166 per cent; next came Winchmore-Greenstreet, 143 per cent.; Normanby and Dannevirke, each 125 per cent.; Lower Hutt, 120 per cent.

Miss Powell spoke of the necessity for local Treasurers being persistent in collecting subscriptions, so that the true membership of the Union might always be seen, otherwise its influence was weakened, as financial members alone could be counted, and members of Parliament and public men always judged the power of an organisation by its membership. Suggestions made by Treasurers as to methods employed for getting in subscriptions. On the recommendation of the Executive, it was resolved Treasurers' slips should be printed, to be sent to members whose subscriptions were unpaid, such slips to be supplied to local Treasurers at cost price.—Report adopted.

Mrs Hunter was appointed Press Agent for sale of local papers.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Convention resumed at 2 p.m., Mrs Upton leading the devotions.

Greetings received from Auckland District, Pahiatua, and Petone Unions.

Resolved that Rev. J. Dawson, who wrote he would arrive in Wanganui on Friday afternoon, should be requested to address Convention the same day, immediately after afternoon tea.

Letter received from Wanganui Y.M.C.A., conveying their greetings