

## SUPERINTENDENTS' ANNUAL REPORTS.

### MAORI.

Superintendent: Mrs Walker.

A very difficult year, every effort to secure an Organiser having failed. Unions have been kept in touch with by means of correspondence and distribution of literature. Thanks of the Union are due to Miss Woodhead and Miss Keiha for visiting Unions in their own districts, also Rev. F. Paikea and Rev. F. Chatterton, and Mr Tamati, of Te Rau Native College, for advice and help; also to Mrs Hewett, of Wanganui, and others for help given. Being unable to procure health pamphlets from the Government, Miss Woodhead prepared five, entitled "The Evils of Alcoholic Liquors," "Advice to Mothers," "Care of the Babies," "Small Sicknesses and Their Remedies," and "Food for Sick People." These are in Maori, and we are thoroughly distributing them. In June I issued a circular letter to the Native Unions explaining to them the reason of the long delay in a visit from an Organiser.

Invercargill, Winchmore, Wanganui, East, Urenui, Ngaere, collected money. Winchmore read a paper on the Maori work. Palmerston North and Devonport distributed literature. Palmerston North invited the Turakina Maori Girls' College to compete in the essay competition, and received four good essays from them. Lyttelton visits the sick. Several of the Maori Unions have had sickness and death amongst them, and many have lost relatives at the Front, and to these the Union extends its deepest sympathy. We hope a suitable Organiser may soon be found for this department.

### ANTI-GAMBLING.

Superintendent: Miss Henderson.

Owing to the fact that Parliament has dealt with no gambling legislation during the year, little or no work has been done in this department by the Unions. Communications have been received from only two, Pahiatua and Palmerston North, and yet raffling in connection with patriotic efforts is still common, and the gambling at race meetings constitutes a record. The following report from Palmerston North shows that it is still possible for our Unions to find work in this department:—

1. "Hearing that the school children were being asked to sell tickets for a gigantic Art Union we had here, a protest was made at one of our meetings, and commented upon in the newspaper report.

2. "At our stalls at patriotic fairs and fetes have stood alone as against all raffling and Art Unions, though all others have adopted this mode of procedure.

3. "Several of our members receiving requests to take tickets in an Art

Union promoted by an invalid artist of Wanganui, who has to do his painting while lying on his back. We refused to do so, but a letter was written explaining our position and enclosing £1, asking him to paint us a picture to that value."

With regard to gambling in connection with the races, matters go from bad to worse. No comment is needed to emphasise the seriousness of the gambling evil as shown by the following table, which is a record of the betting at nineteen race meetings held in Christmas and New Year holidays:—

	1916-17.	1915-16
	£	£
Auckland R.C. ...	257,928	230,182
Auckland T.C. ...	48,946	45,389
Taranaki J.C. ...	38,500	36,348
Stratford R.C. ...	43,328	38,862
Hawke's Bay J.C. ...	19,361	17,540
Marton J.C. ...	41,045	41,494
Manawatu R.C. ...	105,700	76,576
Wairarapa R.C. ...	36,808	39,293
Greymouth J.C. ...	17,515	9,925
Greymouth T.C. ...	16,127	16,780
Reefton J.C. ...	11,013	9,294
Westport T.C. ...	11,706	11,621
Cant'by Park T.C. ...	40,855	47,647
Ashburton T.C. ...	18,451	18,262
North Otago J.C. ...	19,737	24,420
Dunedin J.C. ...	33,556	35,706
Southeast R.C. ...	30,710	25,690
Gore T.C. ...	9,257	10,102
Wyndham R.C. ...	11,259	11,109
<b>Totals</b> ...	<b>£815,111</b>	<b>£747,240</b>

### WORK AMONG SEAMEN.

Superintendent: Mrs Hatchwell.

I wish to thank the Unions who have helped us so splendidly in this department of our work during the past year.

At Greymouth the Rest has been visited as usual, and a very successful entertainment given.

Timaru Rest has done good work under the supervision of Mr and Mrs Good; 889 men made 1079 visits during the year. Sunday services have been held. 100 Bibles and Testaments and 70 bundles of literature have been given to the men leaving port. The men take full advantage of the facility for letter-writing, reading, and games, and many pleasant social evenings have been given at the Rest by members of the Union and friends.

At Lyttelton, the members of the Union assist at Sailors' Institute with Sunday teas, social evenings, and picnics.

Dunedin reports having handed over their building and its work to a new committee, who are doing good work among the seamen, both in Dunedin and Port Chalmers.

The following Unions have sent parcels for the mine-sweepers:—Blenheim, Masterton, Dannevirke, Waipukurau, Wanganui, Normanby, Palmerston North, Cambridge, Ox-

ford, Feilding, Ponsonby, Bluff, Christchurch, Waipawa, Hastings, and Lyttelton.

The following sent comfort bags:—Christchurch, Pahiatua (50 bags and 50s), Ngaere (12 bags and 12s), and Lyttelton.

Donations of money for mine-sweepers:—Normanby, 12s 6d; Palmerston North, 7s 6d; Dannevirke, 5s; Waipawa, 13s. Hastings gave an afternoon in aid of the dependents of those seamen who perished in North Sea battle; and Gore sent literature to Seamen's Rest.

### REST AND REFRESHMENT BOOTHS.

Superintendent: Mrs Upton.

Christchurch, Oxford, Ashburton, and Palmerston North had refreshment booths at A. and P. Shows. Rest Tents were attended at Summer, and Spring Shows by Hawera (collection for soldiers' comforts), Oxford, Wanganui, Invercargill (also refreshment booth), Ashburton (also refreshment booth at patriotic functions). Palmerston North supervises the Skating Rink supper room.

### HOME MEETINGS.

No Superintendent.

Probably the fact that there is no Superintendent of this department this year may account for the fact that only two Unions have sent in reports of work done. Palmerston North reports that home meetings have been held every month at Fitzherbert West. Mrs Crabb has conducted the meetings, which have been much appreciated.

Wellington Central has held three Home Meetings, one at the residence of Mrs Huffman, Oriental Bay, addressed by Mrs Adjutant Green, and one new member gained. One at Mrs Evans', Abel Smith Street, addressed by Rev. Archer, and seven new members gained. One at Mrs Kershaw's, addressed by Mrs Cobb, of Palmerston North, when three new members were gained.

### PRISON AND REFORM WORK.

Superintendent: Sister Moody-Bell.

When in Wellington I secured a personal interview with Dr. McNab, Minister of Justice, to hand over special literature and data as to method of Court work in America, which he promised to pass on to a colleague.

The lamented death of Mrs Cunningham removed from us one of the most devoted and effective workers amongst prisoners in New Zealand. Christchurch reports that the appointment of Mrs Miller (member of Lyttelton W.C.T.U.) as Government official visitor to the gaol, the other visitors being Miss Guise and Miss Cunningham. Women are not allowed to visit the men's prisons in New Zealand, but Mrs Barney, World's Superintendent for this department, considers the New Zealand women should agitate for this.