

tral, Auckland City Prohibition and Temperance League.

Reports Considered.—Maori: Still no Organiser. Good work done through distribution of Maori leaflets. Short account given of progress made by Fanny Thompson, being trained at Turakina for mission work among her own people, now 16, an earnest follower of Jesus Christ.—Adopted.

Evangelistic: Persistent effort should be made to lead others to Christ. Mothers' Meetings, Home Meetings: Might be combined with patriotic meetings. Narcotics: Smoking habit increasing among women. Unfermented Wine: Adopted.

Resolutions: 1. That all Unions be urged to join in a prayer campaign against the common foe—Strong Drink. 2. That the time has arrived when, in order to check the spread of venereal diseases, all men and women should produce a clean certificate of health in this matter from a doctor before a marriage certificate can be issued. Considerable discussion. Amendment moved: That Government be urged to introduce a Bill protecting doctors in replying truthfully to questions from an engaged person or from parent or guardian of same, as to health of fiancée in the matter of venereal disease. Amendment lost. Original motion carried.

Moved that work of N.Z. Department Work Among Sailors and Seamen be divided, and a N.Z. Superintendent appointed for each Island. Considerable discussion. Motion lost.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Devotions (Mrs Walker). Roll call, 101. Minutes.

Mrs Evans moved notice of motion re payment of Vice-President's travelling expenses to Convention from N.Z. Treasury.—Lost.

Resolutions.—3. That the Government be asked to take effective action to check the rapid increase in the cost of living, which is placing such a very heavy burden on those least able to bear it. We would point out—(1) That according to the Government Statistician's latest computation, it now costs £1 7s 2d to purchase food commodities which could be obtained for £1 in 1909-1913, and that as a consequence the old age pensioners have had the purchasing power of their pensions so reduced that the weekly allowance of 10s will now only purchase what could have been purchased for 7s 4d. (2) That other sections of the community are suffering great and unnecessary deprivations because of the ineffective means taken by the Government to cope with the cost of living problem. (3) That while some sections of the community are being thus penalised, other sections have been permitted to take advantage of their country's stress and suffering to pile up millions of war profits. (4) That as the principal and greatest increases have taken place on necessary commodities which are pro-

duced within the Dominion, it is within the power and province of the Government to prevent the exploitation of the dependents of the soldiers by the less patriotic sections of the community.

Mrs Lee-Cowie presented her report of the Patriotic Fund, showing sum total amounted to £2333 11s.

Rigid economy had been exercised, expenditure being only £8 odd. Minister for Internal Affairs warmly complimented the women on result of their efforts. Mrs Chittenden was warmly thanked for her good work in collecting over £115. Mrs Cowie referred also to the excellent service of Mr McKenney, who had taken charge of fund during her absence in New South Wales. Hearty vote of thanks passed to Mrs Cowie.

After the afternoon tea adjournment, following remit from Christchurch Union was moved:—That as the Government has found ways and means to exempt ministers of religion from the operation of the Conscription Act, we strongly urge that it should consider the claims of those who have conscientious and religious objections to military service, and we suggest that Cabinet should instruct the Minister of Munitions to send certificates of exemption in these cases on the ground of "public interest," as is done in the case of ministers whose churches have no doctrines opposed to war. Discussion showed that delegates felt strongly on both sides, and eventually, following the principle of avoiding, when fundamental principles are not involved, that which tends to produce cleavage in the ranks of the W.C.T.U., the motion was withdrawn.

Reports.—Cradle Roll, L.T.L., and Band of Mercy: This work most valuable, spreading rapidly, capitation fee of 3d a year suggested for L.T.L., and monthly magazine, "Young Crusader," highly recommended. Scientific Temperance Instruction: Suggested request more articles on the subject in "School Journal," and again urge Minister for Education to make teaching of it compulsory. Work Among Seamen: Adopted.

Hearty welcome given to Mrs Napier, well known Temperance worker in Dunedin in early days, recently returned from Scotland

MARCH 24th.—SATURDAY MORNING.

Devotions (Mrs J. Wright). Roll call, 94. Minutes.

Greetings from Ashburton and N.E. Valley.

Reports.—Good Citizenship: Greater co-operation of Unions asked for. During past year little or no notice taken of appeals and suggestions made through "White Ribbon" or by circular as to election of School Committees and Education Boards. Proportional Representation. Discussion as to various work included in Good Citizenship department. Purity and Moral Education: Similar failure to respond to suggestions and circular.

Sets of books on Sex Hygiene for lending. Prison and Reformatory Work. Sabbath Observance: Adopted. In reference to latter, statement made as to referendum to be taken in Ohakune re keeping picture shows open on Sunday, and decision passed that Organiser should proceed to Ohakune to assist in working up public opinion against this secularisation of the Sabbath. Unanimously carried: That this Convention views with uneasiness the growing desire of picture proprietors to run their shows on Sunday. It protests emphatically, on physical, moral, and spiritual grounds, against this extension of Sunday labour and of the secularisation of the Day of Rest.

Referring to failure of Unions to respond to appeals from Dominion Superintendents, the President emphasised the point that every letter or leaflet received from the National Office **must** be brought before the Union, and that if there is no local Superintendent for the particular department concerned, it is the duty of the Secretary to attend to the matter.

MARCH 26th.—MONDAY MORNING.

Devotions (Mrs Upton). Roll Call, 101. Minutes.

Greetings from Matakana, Tuatapere, Mrs Barton of Sydney.

"White Ribbon" Editor presented her report. 2215 subscribers, increase of 93; credit balance of £10 9s 9d, satisfactory, considering increased cost of paper and postage. Thanks accorded to Mr Lynneberg, the Auditor. Balance-sheet showed receipts £308 4s 3d, expenditure, £297 14s 7d; certain amounts due for advertisements, chiefly from Unions, and a large amount, nearly £140, due for subscriptions. Price of printing and publishing would be raised from April 1st by 2s per 100, involving increased expenditure of £26 per annum. Four ways suggested for meeting difficulty: increase subscriptions or reduce size of paper, or use inferior paper, or obtain more subscribers—450 more required. Unions urged to appoint "W.R." agents, if not already done, and endeavour to gain more subscribers, especially among non-Union members, thus paving way for increased membership.

Considerable discussion ensued. High tributes paid to splendid work of Editor. Disapproval expressed of Executive's recommendation to use cheaper paper. Finally decided to defer use of cheaper paper for two months, members to try meantime to obtain more subscribers, and also more advertisements. Report and balance-sheet adopted. Orders given for Convention number amounted to over 1100.

Reports.—Medical Temperance, Bible in Schools, Flower Mission and Relief Work, including Patriotic Work. Adopted after short discussion. The President reminded delegates that while Unions and members were quite at liberty to work for organisations outside W.C.T.U., e.g.,