

have been made to impress upon members of the Union the duty of upholding the resolution passed at the Auckland Dominion Convention against gambling practices in connection with patriotic work, and of giving no support to such practices. At the District Convention, in November, the following resolution was passed, and copies sent to the Premier and other Ministers, the Mayor of Nelson, and the secretaries of patriotic societies:—

"This Convention, believing that a high moral sense is the most valuable asset of any community, and that the spirit of gambling, in whatever form, tends to deteriorate and eventually to destroy that moral sense, protests emphatically against the introduction of such methods of raising money for patriotic purposes, as spinning jennies, art unions, or raffles of any description, which are having an incalculably evil effect on the young people of the community. It would therefore respectfully, but earnestly, request the Government to make such methods illegal, and to undertake the raising of such necessary funds by taxation, in co-operation with direct voluntary effort."

Wellington Provincial Convention passed resolutions protesting against the gambling introduced into patriotic work, etc., and urging Government to refuse racing and totalisator permits during the war.

Port Chalmers Union reports resolutions expressing strong disapproval of racing in war time, and of the great waste of money by gambling when so much is required for patriotic purposes.

SCIENTIFIC TEMPERANCE.

Supt.: Miss Maunder.

A deputation waited on the Minister of Education during last Convention, urging the need of Temperance teaching in the schools. One result has been that many of the schools have been supplied with new up-to-date wall sheets. The Minister said the question would be considered by his Department to introduce more definite teaching.

I have supplied Auckland and Wellington Training Colleges with teachers' leaflets, but notwithstanding several letters, I have been unable to get a reply from Dunedin. I have also interviewed a good many headmasters, leaving literature, and was courteously received, some of them showing interest in the work. I have also written to the Minister of Education and the Editor of the School Journal urging that articles on the effects of alcohol should be more often inserted in the Journal, and some very useful reading lessons have appeared.

The following Unions gave prizes for Temperance essays:—Tinwald and Willowby, Waimate, Bluff, Oxford, Palmerston N., and Hawera (prizes offered, but headmaster failed at the last moment).

The following report Temperance teaching in Schools, Bands of Hope, and L.T.L.'s:—Kaiapoi, Christchurch (charts used by Rev. Patterson in

many addresses), Bluff, Palmerston N. (charts used, many Boy Scouts attend L.T.L. meetings), Dunedin, and Hawera.

Timaru sent Temperance pamphlet to headmaster.

REST AND REFRESHMENT BOOTHS.

Supt.: Mrs Upton.

My report will be very short, owing to so few Unions sending me their reports.

New Plymouth provided refreshments for workers at Agricultural Show Grounds for patriotic purposes.

Ashburton.—Refreshments were provided for soldiers on leave or passing through the town, and farewelling the boys going into camp. At the A. and P. Show a rest tent was provided for the use of mothers and children. The rest room in the Borough is widely known and appreciated more each year.

Oxford catered for local Show, clearing about £30.

Christchurch.—Refreshment rooms were held as usual at the A. and P. Show. A lot of work was put in by Union members, some thousands of people partaking of refreshments provided. Members of Oxford and New Brighton Unions assisted.

Palmerston North.—The rest room is a boon to country visitors.

Wanganui.—The rest stand at the Agricultural Show was occupied by a crowd of women and children, who appreciated the chance of a rest on a hot day. In addition, the Union had a stall, which brought in £20 for Red Cross work.

PEACE AND ARBITRATION.

Supt.: Mrs Judson.

It is with some sadness that I write my first report of this department, not only from the thought of the war of nations still raging, as it seems, as fiercely as ever, and our ideals of peace and brotherhood apparently no nearer attainment, but also that we have been able to do so little to bring them nearer. Yet there is some hope in the gradual increase of the number of those who believe that a true and lasting peace can never be won by the sword, but only by the silent and steady growth of the spirit of love; and to foster this growth in ourselves and in the world is perhaps the most effective work that can now be done by those who desire to work for peace. Definite work under this department is not easy during this time of war; there are many, and some in our Union, who think that the time is not opportune for such work, hence the difficulty of united action. But many of us feel that now, when the spirit of war is so strong, it is more than ever necessary to do all that is possible to inculcate principles of peace in the minds of the young, who will be the builders of the civilisation of the future; and it is along this line that the work of the department has been carried on by the distribution amongst our public schools of a circular embodying the resolution unanimously passed at our last Convention. With reference to the

teaching of children on international lines. This work was taken in hand immediately on our return from Convention, and has been carried out with a fair amount of success, an appeal being sent to every Union to take part in it. This was responded to by the following Unions:—Ashburton, Cambridge, S. Dunedin, Gisborne, Greymouth, Greytown, Hastings, Lower Hutt, Morrinsville, Napier, Nelson, New Plymouth, Otautau, Ponsonby, Pakiri, Richmond, Timaru, Waimate, Wakefield, Wanganui, Wanganui E., and Wakapuaka, to all of which thanks are due. In Otago, Napier, Greymouth, Wanganui, Wellington, and Nelson Districts circulars have been sent to every school, and I wish to thank specially Miss McCarthy and Sister Moody-Bell, who worked Otago and Grey Districts respectively, and Mrs Neal, who, with the approval of the Wellington District Convention, sent to every school in that District. No report of any other work has been received from any Union except S. Dunedin, where a branch of the Woman's International League has been established, and a Study Circle formed. Nelson has also had a fortnightly Study Class, and a small amount of literature has been distributed; and attempt was made to form a branch of the W.I.L., but has not so far been successful. I am very conscious that the work done has been very far short of what I should have liked to see, but some good seed at least may have been sown, which we trust will bring forth its harvest in the future.

Since the above was written, I have heard that a lady in Auckland, who is not a member of the W.C.T.U., has undertaken to send circulars to the headmasters of the Auckland schools.

EVANGELISTIC.

(Supt.: Mrs Johnson Wright.)

The Call to Prayer has been most earnestly responded to by most, if not all, of our Unions, and a spirit of devotion seems to be in our midst.

The following Unions report prayer meetings in connection with 6 o'clock closing petitions:—Ashburton, Auckland, and Hastings; and Hastings and Port Chalmers a thanksgiving meeting for its success.

Following report regular weekly or monthly prayer meetings:—Hawera, Fitzroy (dispense with afternoon tea, and devote the time to prayer), Christchurch, Wellington District, Hastings, Waipawa, and Stratford. Auckland and Wanganui each arranged a week of prayer.

Timaru and Ashburton report visiting Old Men's Homes, Hospitals, and Sailors' Rests, leaflets and flowers distributed.

Following report cottage prayer meetings:—Port Chalmers (3), Hastings (weekly), Hamilton (7), Feilding (1).

Wellington District reports public service in Trinity Church.

Dunedin distributed Earl Roberts' prayer to soldiers, testaments to sailors, and every Sunday afternoon gives tracts on wharf, and Scripture cards to children.