

unusual activity in the organising of public meetings, and in the distribution of literature.

Work amongst the young people is a strong feature in the programme of most Unions. Increasing interest seems to be shown in the Cradle Roll Department, and the organisation of L.T.L.'s proceeds apace. One Branch—Palmerston North—has no fewer than five L.T.L.'s under its care. A very large number of Unions endeavour by giving prizes for temperance essays, to ensure the teaching of Scientific Temperance Teaching in the public schools.

A better organised effort was made this year to secure the appointments of women police patrols. All the Unions supported the demand, but though the majority of the Members of Parliament are in favour of this reform, the demand was refused by the Government.

The most interesting special efforts made during the year are those reported by Invercargill and Palmerston North. Invercargill District Union collected the funds to equip the St. Helen's Hospital, which has been opened in that city, and Palmerston North has established "Willard Hostel" for the wives and friends of soldiers.

Three Unions have lapsed; these are Brightwater, Sheffield, and Alexandra. Five new adult Unions have been formed, of these four, viz., Avondale, Eden, Leigh and Pakiri are in the Auckland District, while the fifth—Ryal Bush—is an auxiliary of Invercargill. The number of active adult Unions is 95, and three others maintain their financial standing but hold no meetings. The total membership, as recorded by the Treasurer, is 4327, an increase of 688 on the previous year. These returns do not include the "Y" Branches, of which there are eleven, an increase of six during the year. The new Branches are Auckland (with 109 members), Avondale, Hawera, Palmerston North (104 members), Aramoho and Wellington. The total membership is about 500.

It must be clear from this summary that our position is stronger than it has ever been before, and we should be able to look forward with hope and confidence to our next campaign. Unfortunately, there is more than a hint that the life of Parliament will be again prolonged, and we shall be robbed of our poll for Prohibition. But if such a proposal does come before Parliament, every Union, and every individual member, should make the strongest possible protest against any attempt to rob the people of their rights.

C. HENDERSON,

Hon. Corresponding Secretary.

### TREASURER'S REPORT.

For the Year ended 28th February, 1918.

Madam President and Dear Sisters.—  
On the 1st March, 1917, when the year covered by this report commenc-

ed, the credit balance of the New Zealand Fund was £86 8s 7d, and of the Organising Fund £138 18s 9d, making a total of £225 7s 4d. The total revenue for the year has been £402 14s 3d, and the expenditure, £313 15s 1d, and the year closed with a total credit balance of £314 6s 6d. In making up the balance sheet this year, I have, with the approval of the Auditor, included the whole of the funds in one balance sheet, for the reason that the whole of the accounts are kept in one set of books, and operated from one banking account. There seemed, therefore, no sufficient reason for making a separate balance sheet for the Organising Fund. The usual statements shewing the details of all the accounts will be submitted for your inspection.

The capitation fee shewn in last year's report represented a membership of 3569, included in 86 Unions. The fees received this year represent 96 adult Unions, with a membership of 4327, and 10 "Y" Unions, with a membership of 507, making a total of 4834 members. The total amount of capitation fees received is £30 8s more than the previous year.

As regards the other items of revenue, I am pleased to report that the donations to the World's Missionary Fund, totalling £13 3s, are the largest amount that has been received for some year's past. While this is very satisfactory, the fact remains that this amount was contributed by only 12 Unions. I feel sure that interest in missionary work is much more widely distributed amongst our members than this would appear to indicate, and it appears to me that our own missionary work, with its special appeal to, and assistance for, women, should lie very near to the hearts of our members.

The combined receipts from Franchise Day Fund, and donations to the New Zealand Fund amount to £32 2s 5d, as against £32 9s the previous year. In connection with the "Strength of the Nation Fund," only the receipts shewn have passed through my hands, and these were paid over direct to Mrs Lee-Cowie for disbursement by her.

The items of expenditure do not call for any special remarks, except that what may be termed actual working expenses, are about £15 less than the previous year.

Before closing the books, I remitted to the World's Treasurer, as usual, the amounts collected for the World's Missionary Fund, and the capitation fees at the rate of 1/4d per member on the 4834 members for 1917, also 147 members' arrears from 1916, and 171 members of native Unions, the latter being their membership as shewn in the last Convention number of the "White Ribbon." The remainder of the capitation fees collected, £7 6s 3d, was forwarded as a donation from the N.Z. Union to the World's Funds.

I have prepared from the balance sheets furnished by Unions the usual statement of membership and finance, which will be exhibited for your information. I am in some doubt whe-

ther these completely represent all the funds that have passed through the hands of Unions, as I find that in some cases, for instance, the amounts dealt with in connection with the Mine Sweeper's Collection, have been included in separate statements.

In the Banner Contest, the result is a complete victory for the Auckland District Union, which is entitled to hold both banners for the year, having secured an actual increase of 97 members, representing 202 per cent. on its previous number; the next highest numerical increases were Auckland, 74 members, and Dunedin, 53 members, while good percentages were secured by Onehunga, 182 per cent., Dannevirke, 167 per cent., and Norsewood, 120 per cent.

No returns have been received from the Brightwater, Sheffield, and Alexander Unions, and the fees from Mautaurau came to hand after the books were closed.

It will be seen from the balance sheet that the Organising Fund commenced the year with a credit balance of £138 18s 9d. The receipts were £185 2s 5d, and the expenditure, £139 16s 7d, and the credit balance at the end of the year was £184 4s 7d. The position of the fund is satisfactory, but if any extension of the organising work is contemplated, it will be necessary to consider ways and means for increasing the revenue.

The whole of the accounts have again been kindly audited for me by Mr George Plummer, and I would ask Convention to record and convey to him our thanks for his assistance. I also wish to thank all the Branch Treasurers with whom I have been in communication, for the manner in which their returns have been supplied.

NELLIE BENDELY,

N.Z. Treasurer.

Auckland,

9th March, 1918.

### REPORT OF DOMINION ORGANISER.

During the past year I have visited forty different Unions, including every European Branch in the Hawkes Bay Province, also Auckland, except in three or four cases, where dates could not be arranged. Many of these were repeatedly visited, while in others I stayed a week or so working up the interest. The year has been a somewhat strenuous one, as in April I met with an accident, which for six months incapacitated me for using my bicycle—a serious handicap. Furthermore, coastal steamers are not famed for luxury, nor do they always arrive and depart at convenient hours, while country roads in a winter such as the last, when the rainfall in Auckland was almost double the average, furnish more mud than is at all desirable. Experiences of this kind lead one to appreciate the difficulties of the back-block settlers, to whom it is pretty well a normal condition. Such surroundings militate against the success of meetings, and are a real hindrance to many Branches, some of which are holding on heroically. It is absolute-