

Maoris. It seemed to me, as I thought of the little we have done for our own Indians, that they are putting us quite to shame. But the New Zealand Union itself is small in numbers, and they can hardly extend their missionary activities beyond their own people. Indeed, if the World's Missionary Fund were what it ought to be, a contribution from it might very well be given to this very interesting and promising work among native races.

### ORGANISER'S REPORT.

On January 20th I went to Kaiapoi and worked for a week, at the end of which time the annual social of the District Union took place, at which I spoke. I also gave a talk on "Girls and their Lovers," to a large audience. Dunedin was reached on 27th, and I broke the journey to interview the South Dunedin president. Arrived at Gore on the 28th. No meetings have been held for three or four years, though the Union has not disbanded. I spent a couple of days in working the friends up to the point of sending representatives to the Convention, and there is every prospect of a good branch being formed when I return. I also preached in the Methodist Church on the Sunday night to a very fine audience, a large number of whom remained for a while after the service to hear about our work. On February 1st I passed on to Invercargill, where the friends are displaying much energy and putting in a great deal of work in preparation for the Convention. I took a run over to Riverton on the Wednesday to work up the Convention, and shall do the same for Bluff, as well as assisting the Invercargill friends in their arduous undertaking.

### An Ostrich Story.

We don't vouch for this story, but it's a pity if it's not true. A trained ostrich recently disconcerted its exhibitor at a vaudeville house by continually endeavouring to break away from all restraints and to climb over the footlights into the orchestra. The widely-advertised act came to a sudden end, and Professor Smart emerged from behind the curtain and apologised for the action of his pet in these words:—"Lydies and gentlemen, hi ham very sorry to disappoint you this hevening. We are compelled to cease our engagement until the theatre management engages a new horchestra leader. The one at present employed here has no air on the top of his head, and my bird takes it for a hegg."

## Our Workers.

Readers will be interested to learn that Sister Moody Bell has accepted the appointment of a "Sister of the People," in connection with the Primitive Methodist Church in Shannon via Palmerston North. She takes up her duties on the 13th inst. Our prayers and sympathy will go with our sister in her new sphere of labour.

We are always pleased to hear of the doings of our workers who are labouring in other lands, and the following extract from a letter received from Mrs Swiney, author of the "Awakening of Women," and President of the Woman's Suffrage Society of Cheltenham, will be of interest to many in the Dominion:—

"I was very glad to receive your letter and acted upon the advice at once with such success that we have had Miss Roberts, of Christchurch, N.Z. with us to speak on the Suffrage movement, and gave us an account of how it was won in New Zealand. Unfortunately we had not a very large audience which her splendid address deserved, but all who heard her were much delighted and interested. She has written to me since advising us to approach the B.W.T.A. and work together for the franchise, as it was certainly the *Great Temperance Reform Party* that won it in New Zealand."

The following tribute from Mrs Lee Cowie speaks for itself.—

"Miss Anderson Hughes is winning all hearts; wherever she goes she is first favourite. I am told that at the great Alliance meeting her speech was the finest of the morning's session. I feel so proud we are helping the country with something better than murderous "Dreadnoughts." If we could send over to the Mother Country a few score of glorious men and women to fight the liquor foe, workers who would "dreadnought," we should do them tremendous service in that drink cursed land"

### A Brave Woman.

The Royal Humane Society awarded Mrs Kennedy, wife of a line-repairer, a gold medal for conspicuous bravery in snatching a child from almost under the wheels of an engine. This is the first time the society has awarded its gold medal to a woman.

### 12,704 LESS SALOONS.

THE detailed report of the Internal Revenue Department for the month of October which has just been issued reveals unmistakably the advances made by Prohibitionists throughout the United States during the past year. While the report shows a sudden increase in the internal revenue receipts from spirits for the first four months of the fiscal year 1910 as compared with 1909, the items showing the payment of special taxes by rectifiers, wholesale liquor dealers, retail liquor dealers, and those paid by brewers, wholesale dealers in malt liquors, and retail beer sellers, all show a significant drop from the similar figures of last year.

According to the internal revenue report up to November 1, 1909, there were 11,273 less retail liquor dealers in the United States, paying a "federal license" then for the first third of the fiscal year 1909. At the same time there were 1,431 retail dealers in malt liquors exclusively. In other words there were no less than 12,704 less saloon-keepers holding federal tax receipts than last year during the same period.

At the same time there was a drop of 680 in the number of wholesale dealers in malt and other liquors, 579 of whom were dealers in beer exclusively. The same report shows that during the first four months of the present fiscal year from 75 to 100 distillers have gone out of business, and over 100 brewers, making a total of more than 13,500 liquor sellers and makers who have dropped from the ranks of the liquor trade during the last twelve months.

While the total receipts from spirits shows a net gain of over 3,000,000 dollars so far this year, the astonishing shrinkage in the number of distributing centres for these wares promises almost certain decrease from this record before the end of the present fiscal year.

As regards beer, the month of October showed an actual decrease in receipts from the "barrel tax" of brewers' product withdrawn from consumption of £194,869, or in other words, nearly 200,000 barrels of beer less during the month of October, 1909. While the first three months of the present fiscal year showed an apparent increase in the production of beer, the period of shrinkage which has now begun will, at the same rate, wipe out all the increase recorded so far by December 1st.

Compared with 1908, therefore, the liquor traffic is undeniably losing ground, and, as compared with 1907, the high-water mark of the drink trade in recent years, all indications point to an extraordinary loss before the end of the present fiscal year, July 1, 1910.