

DUNEDIN PROVINCIAL CONVENTION, 1912.

The Convention met on Tuesday, Oct. 1st., Mrs. P. Dick presiding. Delegates were welcomed at the morning session from Port Chalmers, North-East Valley, South Dunedin "Y" Branch, and Alexandra. A hearty welcome was also accorded Miss Powell, who is about to start organising work in the South Island. The morning was occupied with reports from all the auxiliary Unions and local Superintendents of Departments, followed by a short discussion on "Organising," and also "How to Increase the Membership of the 'Y' Union."

At the afternoon session a paper was read by Mrs. Don on the question of "Tobacco," and the following resolution was carried, "That this meeting deprecates the growth of the cigarette habit among young boys, because it is affecting their health, stunting their growth, and rendering them inefficient for their work. Also that the Union would like to see the law that makes cigarette smoking by lads under 16 years of age punishable, more rigidly enforced."

The matter of Sabbath observance was also discussed at some length, and a motion was passed protesting against the increasing Sunday desecration consequent upon the exodus from the cities. Sunday trains, ferry-boats, excursions, and all similar contrivances were condemned as a means of taking people away from the churches, and of assisting them in using Sunday as a holiday.

The resolutions that were sent to Parliament on the Domestic Science problem were endorsed by the Convention. It was reported that the House had received them favourably.

An address on "The Beginning and Growth of Temperance Work" was given by Mrs. Monson (Port Chalmers). The speaker referred to the work of the early pioneers, who paved the way for the present-day workers by forming a Band of Hope, which was followed later by the Sons and Daughters Temperance Lodge. This was followed in turn by the W.C.T.U., which was one of the first Unions organised in the Dominion. Mrs. Monson made feeling reference to their President (Mrs. Johnson), who had

kept the Union going all these years.

Afternoon tea was served at the close of the session, and an opportunity given for social intercourse between country and town members. Mrs. Rule (Timaru) was welcomed, and gave a brief address in reply.

The hall was well filled in the evening, when four short addresses were given on four well-known women. The papers were all bright and interesting, and portrayed examples which were set forth as worthy of the emulation of all interested in any kind of noble work. Mrs. Elliot (President of the North-East Valley Union) spoke on "Unknown Heroines." Mrs. South (President of the South Dunedin Union) chose for her subject, "Florence Nightingale." Miss G. Adams (representing the "Y" Union) gave an excellent address on "The Life of Harriet Beecher Stowe," followed by Mrs. Don, who gave "The Life of Mrs. Booth as a child, a mother, an organiser, a missionary, a preacher, and finally as Salvation Army mother."

A solo and recitation was sandwiched in between the addresses, and all present pronounced the meeting both entertaining and inspiring.

HAMILTON PROVINCIAL CONVENTION.

The second annual District Convention was held in the Methodist Church. Delegates were present from all parts of the Waikato, including Morrinsville, Cambridge, Kihikihi, Huntley, and Hamilton. When the Hamilton friends took out their tickets, the clerk at the ticket-box said, "What's on today?" Evidently business in that quarter was unusually brisk, for they attended in goodly numbers, and the numbers of white badges attracted attention in the train. The District President (Mrs. Auld) occupied the chair, and in her usual gracious and dignified manner welcomed the delegates, and gave an enthusiastic address to workers, commending them for the splendid work achieved at the last election, in spite of the iniquitous handicap of the three-fifths majority, which is opposed to democracy, and a disgrace to our Statute-Book.

A letter of sympathy was placed on record of the great work done by the late General Booth, all the members standing.

Reports were received from:—
Morrinsville (Mrs. Brown), 27 members.

Kihikihi (Mrs. Sutherland), membership started with 6, present membership 17.

Cambridge (Mrs. Bycroft), 42 members.

Huntly (Mrs. Sutton), Union suffered through many removals.

Ngaruawahia (Mrs. Pattison), roll 21, Cradle roll 50.

Hamilton (Mrs. Jones), membership 86, Cradle roll 56. Especially would we commend the small Unions who are working so valiantly. The Cradle Roll Superintendents are very much alive. Mothers enrolling and bringing up their babies in total abstinence principles. Bands of Hope are well sustained. The Ngaruawahia Union collected £6 for Dr. Barnardo's Homes. Hamilton reported Educational, Medical, and other addresses given by Dr. Rogers, Mrs. Col. Fisher, and Nurse Burridge. Literature had been sent to the "back blocks," while fruit, flowers, and magazines had been distributed by our visitor at the Hospital. Scrap-books were being made by some little girls for sick children. Also 5081 wrappers had been addressed for the "Home Journal."

Many Unions reported splendid meetings in connection with Mr. Bligh's Social Purity work, which has been much appreciated.

The "Y" Branch formed in Hamilton recently promises well. They commenced with a membership of 17, and are full of youthful enthusiasm.

After the reports were received, business was proceeded with.

"The Sports Protection League" was discussed, also "The Repeal of the Territorials." It was decided to send a copy to all the District Branches, to be discussed at their next meeting.

There was a lengthy and interesting discussion on "The Bible in Schools," and a resolution was passed by a large majority in favour of its restoration.

In the evening a well-attended meeting was held in the Methodist Church. Short papers were contributed, Mrs. Cochrane reading one on "Influence," and Mrs. Wrigley one on "The Democratic Vote," recommending women to vote only for men who will pledge themselves to the bare majority." This was followed by a most earnest and magnificent appeal by Mrs. Brown on "The Bare Ma-