

## CAMPAIGN NOTES.

(By M. S. Powell.)

On Saturday, July 5th, I travelled to Nightcaps, where I was the guest of Mrs Barclay. I found the Union greatly discouraged, the attendance having dwindled down almost to vanishing point, and indeed "the stars in their courses" appear to fight against meetings in Nightcaps. At this time of year the roads in the township are almost like a swamp, the feet of the horses keeping up a musical (?) squish-squash, while outside locomotion is all but impossible. The hours of trains and mails are all unpropitious, and the miners arrive home to dinner at four o'clock. After a couple of days spent in visiting, we held a meeting on the Tuesday at 2.15, when five new members were received, including two White Ribboners only just arrived from Scotland, who were delighted to find their beloved work near at hand, one of them, Mrs Wilson, taking the secretaryship, in place of Miss Gibbon, who felt unequal to the task.

On Wednesday of the following week I returned for a second meeting, hoping for a better attendance, but we numbered only five. As the human race has developed through fighting and overcoming difficulties, we should raise a fine type of White Ribboners in Nightcaps. The members undertook to work the Cradle Roll and try what they could do with the democratic pledges.

On Wednesday, 9th, went on to Otautau, and was present at the monthly meeting, which was small, as a soaking rain was coming down. Friday and Saturday were spent in visiting Colac and Orepuki, the prospects being hopeful at the latter place. Here I called upon Mrs Bonthron, who entertained me with the story of the formation of the first Band of Hope in Southland in the early sixties, when she and her husband worked away alone, not a minister standing by them nor a church open to their meeting. In spite of her 87 years, the old lady retains all her faculties, her intellect being as clear as ever, and her interest in the temperance cause unabated. She could remind me of the circumstances under which we last met, though the incident had quite escaped my memory. Several calls were paid in

Riverton, but there seems no possibility of organising at present.

On Friday evening, 18th, a talk on Maori work was given in the Presbyterian Church, Otautau, at the close of which four new members were initiated. Nine years ago I visited around this township and gathered the women together with a view to organising, when they said, "If we form a branch, it will be to do something for the children." This programme was adhered to, and on Monday, 21st, I had the pleasure of speaking in the fine new Town Hall to the Band of Hope, which has all along been a conspicuous success. The President of the Union is ex officio President of the Band of Hope, although a gentleman frequently takes the chair, and the members are appointed (not asked!) in turn, two and two, to provide the programme.

I had a conversation with Mr Fisher, President of the Wallace No-License Council, on the Democratic Pledge Campaign, which I have no doubt will be thoroughly worked in Otautau by the Union and other workers.

This western campaign proved somewhat trying, as trains are infrequent, and several times they must be reached by 8 a.m., and even 7.20, if the next meeting is to be attended, so that I was very glad to get a quiet week-end in Invercargill.

On Wednesday, 23rd, Gore was reached, and I again found myself in the home of old friends, Mr E. C. Smith having belonged to Leet Street Church, Invercargill, while Mrs Smith is a daughter of Mrs Every, late of Oamaru.

Thursday I took the 7.45 train for Edendale, where we have had a branch for almost two years, though that fact appears to be unknown to the District Union, and this auxiliary does not figure in the official list. A morning spent in visiting revealed the fact that the little township possesses some fine women, but cows in summer and mud in winter render meetings difficult to carry on. Having failed in making any arrangement with Mataura, I spent the afternoon tramping around that township in the mud and rain preparatory to returning for a campaign later.

On Friday, 25th, in spite of weather, we had a fine drawing-room meeting at Mrs Blackie's residence, Gore, when the Union was well re-

presented, and two members joined. This town is truly remarkable for the way in which it has recovered from the flood of three months ago. The damage done was estimated at from £75,000 to £100,000, and yet outside assistance was declined as unnecessary, the residents cheerfully taking up the burden. Most of them, I am told, had money saved, there being, before that period, only one case receiving charitable aid—a very fine testimony to the results of No-License. On the Tuesday we had a good meeting in the Temperance Hall, when superintendents were appointed for various departments, and three new members initiated.

Next day Edendale was visited, and a number of calls made. On the Thursday (31st) a meeting was held in the Methodist Church, when the attendance was good. The Union has been labouring under great difficulties, no one understanding the work, and having no connection with any other Union but Gore, which organised them in 1911. The President has battled bravely along with very little help, and in the dark as to what to do. However, now they have got better organised and got an insight into the work, I hope they will do well.

On Friday an early start was made for Bluff, which was reached in time for the ordinary meeting at 3 p.m., when a talk on Maori work was given to a good audience. The following days were spent in visiting, and on Tuesday, August 5th, at the monthly meeting in Invercargill, I urged the claims of the Democratic Vote Campaign. There was a fine attendance, the room being crowded out. A new member was received, a quantity of purity literature sold, and those who had not signed the democratic pledge did so.

## MISS POWELL'S ADDRESS.

Dear Madam,—Kindly allow me to state that my address for the present will be St. Clair, Dunedin. Will correspondents kindly remember that when I write them privately, asking for an immediate reply, the address at the head of my letter will find me, provided that request is complied with. Otherwise, the last issue of the "White Ribbon" must be referred to. For instance, in April I sent out a number of enquiries, asking for a