

NORTH CANTERBURY PROVINCIAL CONVENTION.

The 16th Annual Provincial Convention was held at New Brighton on Tuesday and Wednesday, September 7th and 8th, in the Methodist Sunday School. Delegates met on the Tuesday afternoon at 2.30 to arrange the order of business for the next day. The President, Mrs T. E. Taylor, occupied the chair. The hall had been very prettily decorated for the occasion. Afternoon tea was provided by the local Union. The public reception to delegates was held in the evening at 7.30. The Mayor occupied the chair, and extended a hearty welcome to the members of the Convention. The Rev. J. Tennent (Presbyterian), the Rev. H. Matthias (Anglican), and Mrs Hall (President of the New Brighton Union) also welcomed the delegates. Mrs Taylor replied, and read her address, in which she stressed woman's position, influence, experience, and opportunity. The address was truly inspiring and optimistic in tone. Four solos were rendered during the evening, and the meeting closed with the singing of the National Anthem.

Convention opened at 9.30 on Wednesday morning, Mrs Hawke, of Oxford, conducted the opening exercise. After the roll call, Mrs Kippenberger, Secretary and Treasurer, presented her report, in which she stated that the membership now numbered 615 against 595 last year. The balance-sheet showed an income of £4/5/2, expenditure, £3/0/2, leaving a balance of £1/5/-. The report was adopted.

Votes of sympathy to four bereaved families.

Reports from the various Unions were presented as follows: Christchurch, Ashburton, Rakaia, Waimate, Lyttelton, Tinwald, Oxford, Winchmore-Greenstreet, Timaru, Kaiapoi, and New Brighton. The reports showed steady progress in the work and that Unions had not lost heart, faith or hope.

The afternoon session commenced at 1.30, Mrs Lill, of Ashburton, conducting the opening exercises. Some of the members responded to the roll call by repeating a favourite motto or verse of Scripture according to suggestion.

The following resolutions were passed:—"That a message of congratulation be sent to the Minister of Education on having instituted a Child Welfare De-

partment, and on his decision to introduce scientific temperance teaching into the schools." "That women should be appointed on the Board of Public Health." "The raising of the age of marriage to eighteen years." "That the age of consent be raised to twenty-one years." "That in view of the recurrence of epidemics among school children, greater attention should be given to the frequent fumigation and the greater cleanliness of school buildings." "That there should be an extension of the time during which an information can be laid for criminal assault." "That separate Courts of Justice be instituted to deal with cases where offenders are women." "That women Justices of the Peace should be appointed to assist in Court cases where women and children are concerned." "That provision be made for women members of the police force, the duties of these women to be mainly the protection of young people of both sexes, the police duties connected with young female offenders, and with children brought before the Juvenile Courts; that some women should be appointed on juries dealing with cases of offence against women or children, and cases where the offender is a woman." "That the number of racing permits be not increased." "That this Convention is emphatically of the opinion that any system of notification of venereal diseases would tend to defeat the object which measures for dealing with these diseases must aim at, namely, the securing of accurate diagnosis and adequate treatment at the earliest possible moment for the largest number of sufferers; and further, the convention urges upon the Minister that much greater facilities should be provided in all parts of the Dominion for the free adequate treatment of venereal diseases."

Miss Henderson then spoke on "Social Hygiene," dealing with the subject in the very able and forceful manner which ever characterises her addresses. She dealt with the question of compulsory notification of venereal disease, and clearly showed that it would be decidedly inadvisable.

Mrs Walker read a paper by Mrs Opie (New Plymouth) on "Picture Shows—Their Influence."

Votes of thanks were passed to speakers.

Three questions were received from Oxford Union and answered.

It was agreed to hold the next Convention in Kaiapoi in September, 1921.

Mrs T. E. Taylor was re-elected President, and Mrs Kippenberger Secretary and Treasurer.

The journal was adopted as read, and the meeting closed with Temperance Doxology, and the Benediction.

Another public meeting was held in the evening, over which Mrs Taylor presided. Mrs Smith, of Waimate, conducted the opening exercises. Miss Henderson again addressed the gathering, her subject being: "Women in the Administration of the Law." This also was very interesting and instructive. In speaking of Juvenile Courts, she referred to and deprecated the fact that babies in arms were actually brought before the Court as destitute children. She advocated women as probation officers, as Magistrates, Justices of the Peace, and as police. Separate Courts for women's and girls' cases were favoured, and we were also informed that America has special Courts of Domestic Relations.

Miss Mackay, of Winchmore, recited, and votes of thanks were passed to the hostesses of visiting delegates and others. Supper was dispensed.

THE WILY WEED.

I have walked in summer meadows,
Where the sunbeams flashed and
broke,
But I never saw the cattle nor the
Sheep nor horses smoke.

I have watched the birds with wonder
When the world with dew is wet,
But I never saw a robin puffing
At a cigarette.

I have fished in many rivers
When the sucker crop was ripe,
But I never saw a catfish
Puffing at a briar pipe.

Man's the only living creature that
Parades this vale of tears,
Like a blooming traction engine,
Puffing smoke from nose and ears.

If Dame Nature had intended, when
She first invented man (that he'd
smoke),
She would have built him on a
Widely different plan.

She'd have fixed him with a stove-pipe,
And a damper and a grate,
And he'd be a smoke consumer that
Was strictly up-to-date.