

discussions would result in material good, and he trusted they would find their visit to Dannevirke pleasant as well as profitable. He asked that the welcome should be endorsed by acclamation, a request which was heartily acceded to.

Rev. J. H. Richards gave a splendid rendering of Edgar Allen Poe's well-known poem, "The Bells," and in response to an encore, recited "Say, Hullo."

Mrs Peryman, from Carterton, who is an interesting speaker, took as the subject of her address the work of the W.C.T.U. in regard to the Prohibition movement. The W.C.T.U., she said, was one of the largest women's organisations in the world, and numbers over a million members, and when they said that "all round the world the ribbon white was twined," they made no idle boast. She urged that all should combine to fight the evil which was destroying the life and efficiency of the nation, and concluded a telling address amid applause.

Mrs Venables (Napier), speaking of the letters of the title—W.C.T.U.—said it was a women's organisation. Men were admitted to honorary membership, but not to vote, only to assist in a financial way. Every woman should be a member, if only to help fight against the traffic from which so many women suffered.

At the conclusion of the speeches, the Chairman congratulated the speakers on their addresses. He thought there was good work for the women here in Dannevirke, in view of the fact that he knew there would be an agitation to get another license granted to the town. When he had been approached on the matter he had assured those concerned that there was no hope of such a thing. Public opinion was too strong against it, and in this attitude he recognised the work of the W.C.T.U. He urged the women to take heart and carry on, and they would go ahead to the ultimate success which he felt sure awaited them.

At the concluding session of the District Convention of the W.C.T.U. in Dannevirke, various plans were suggested for the extension of activities, including the formation of young people's branches. The election of officers for the next District Convention resulted: Pres., Mrs Venables; Sec. (pro tem.), Mrs Nicholson; Treas., Mrs Hopkirk. Wai-pukurau was selected as the place for holding the next Convention.

ON THE WING.

London, August 19th, 1920.

Mr Dear Comrades,—

The long season of wet weather ended the beginning of this month, and glorious sunshine prevails; if it only lasts it will mean salvation for the farmers, for hay has been cut for weeks, but never gathered. Crops have been flattened, potatoes diseased, and fruit spoilt. Butter is to be 5/- per lb this winter, eggs are that price per dozen now and likely to soar until the undeveloped chicken as a breakfast dish will be a thing unknown, except to the wealthy. I have waited in vain for a reduction in the price of fruit, for although markets are full nothing is cheap. Taking advantage of the warm weather we have been doing some sight-seeing, and began with the Scout Jamboree that met every day for a week at the Olympia. There were representatives from every European state, save Germany. A group came all the way from Australia, our Dominion having delegates from boys who happened to be visiting England. Besides a varied programme of sports pageants and Scout work, there was an exhibition of Scout craft, embracing numerous trades, including the publication of their own "Daily News," which was the entire work of the boys themselves. The culinary department interested me greatly, it being in the charge of the deaf and dumb Scouts, who deftly kneaded the dough, rolled the pastry, and made buns and cakes, tarts and sausage rolls, baked them in the long row of gas cookers, and then sold them to the waiting crowds who had watched through the whole proceedings. For 16 days Scouts swarmed over London. They camped in its parks, and on the Commons as well as in the gardens of gentlemen's residences. To see those thousands and thousands of boys of all nationalities, so well disciplined and trained to do every thing for themselves, and to give unquestionable obedience, made one understand why their own leader, Sir Baden-Powell and Lord Beresford said: "The Scout organisation is the biggest thing of its kind in this generation."

We had one day at Hampton Court, going to Richmond on top of a bus, the rest of the journey down the river by ferry, past the house boats one has so frequently read about in fiction, and landing at the Court, which is said to be the finest of all the Royal palaces in

England, and comprises about one thousand rooms. The park surrounding the palace consists of about 750 acres, containing avenues of the most beautiful trees I have ever seen. The great vine, which all visitors to England are urged to see, is still in a flourishing condition; it was planted in the year 1768, and is spoken of as the largest in the world, it producing as many as 2,200 bunches of grapes in one year. The famous tapestries in the Court have been the admiration of every visitor to the palace for three and a-half centuries. In 1649 they were valued at £8,260, and as they are not faded, and because of the preservatives in the silks, immune from moths, one wonders what their value would be in this century.

From the palace to Ye Olde Curiosity Shop is a big drop, but we were quite as interested in the latter place and several spots made notorious by Dickens' works. I'm afraid I shall weary you if I attempt to tell half of all we have seen and heard. I went to the reception given to Sir James and Lady Allen and their family; it was a brilliant gathering, but among the many guests our shipmates and many well-known countrymen now in England were conspicuous by their absence, and so I looked at but did not speak to Bishop Julius, Dean Fitchett, Sir Joseph and Lady Ward, Mr Hurst Seager, and others. To-day the first steps will be taken under statutory authority to enable the electors of Scotland to decide whether the country shall go "dry," and England will watch with keen interest the campaign, which will continue until the end of the year. The present Requisition Ballot is only a preliminary one to decide whether a vote should be taken on the three options of No-Licenses, Fewer Licenses, No Change, but feverish excitement prevails among our forces, for though they have little hope of carrying Local Option in the thousand voting areas in Scotland, they fully believe that in many districts open bars and grocers' licenses will be practically wiped out next April. To this end I hope all our Unions will remember to plead for Scotland's freedom from the Liquor Traffic at their meetings, and every White Ribboner help the work by their prayers. Any letters addressed to c/o General Post Office, Melbourne, will find us. We expect to leave for home early in September. With loving greetings to all from yours in White Ribbon bonds.

RACHEL DON,