

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Devotions, conducted by Mrs Blamires.

Roll call, 107. Minutes read and confirmed.

Miss Dewar (Auckland) appointed proxy for Woodville.

Resolved that a letter of appreciation be sent to Mrs Hewett for Maori work done by her in past years.

Mrs Fulljames gave short account of her visit to Batley, and spoke of the pleasure she had felt in being in a Maori home permeated with the spirit of prayer.

Maori Report adopted.

Greetings received from Petone, Christchurch, N.E. Valley Band of Hope, Rakaia.

Reports:

Work Among Seamen: President explained origin of £200 that Superintendent has in hand for her work. Convention was to decide how it should be spent. Correspondence was read between Mrs Nimmo and Lady Dimsdale, showing that the money was intended for use in work among seamen, preferably for helping Sailors' Rests established by W.C.T.U. Of these, only two at present in Dominion, at Timaru and at Greymouth, but establishment of a third contemplated at New Plymouth.

On motion of Mrs Peryman, a small committee, consisting of Mrs Wright and the mover, appointed to confer with Mrs Nimmo, and report to Executive before finally taking action.

Report adopted.

Good Citizenship: In connection with this report, Mrs Judson drew attention to a small pamphlet, "The Child's Code of Morals," one of the best handbooks for inculcating into children the spirit of good citizenship and true patriotism. A notice of it had appeared in the "White Ribbon," and she was ready to supply one copy to each Union that wished to have it.

Report adopted.

Educational Bureau.—Supt. urged Unions to make all meetings educative, for which Educational Bureau gave excellent opportunities. She appealed to members to send her suitable papers whenever possible.

Report adopted.

Miss Henderson brought forward a proposal re abolition of District Unions as at present constituted.

After full discussion and explanation, it was evident that Convention sympathised with the proposal, and on motion of Mrs Peryman, it was resolved the N.Z. officers should be a committee to divide the Dominion into districts and draw up a suggested Constitution embodying the proposed scheme, to be presented at next Convention.

In consequence, Mrs Wright, with consent of Convention, withdrew her notice of motion.

Session closed in usual way.

SATURDAY MORNING, MARCH 25th.

Devotions, conducted by Mrs Peryman. "Elijah under the juniper tree."

Roll call, 105. Minutes read and confirmed.

Letter read from World's Supt. of Food Reform. Handed to Mrs Neal to be answered.

Reports:

Bible in Schools and Sabbath Observance: Discussion as to powers of School Committees and Education Boards respectively to permit Bible reading in schools according to Nelson system. A demand made by Rotorua School Committee, and supported by 25 other School Committees and two Church Councils, and a numerous signed petition had been refused by Auckland Education Board, the legality of whose action was questioned. Delegates, also members of School Committees, not unanimous. "White Ribbon" Editor promised to obtain legal opinion in Wellington, and publish same in "White Ribbon."

Resolved: That recommendation go forth from Convention to all Unions to nominate for School Committees and for Education Boards men and women sympathetic with adoption of Nelson system in all schools.

Report adopted.

Flower Missions and Philanthropic Work: Report adopted.

Scientific Temperance Instruction: Reference made to two leaflets obtained from America by Supt., and sent to Convention for free distribution, one in particular being suitable for reading at Union meetings. Also to Government Report No. 13, and to scheme of prizes inaugurated by N.Z. Alliance for essays on its subject matter, for junior and senior school children and for adults. Report No. 13 suitable for teachers and parents rather than children, and arrangements being made in all districts of the Dominion for a house to house distribution of report.

Report adopted.

Prison and Reformatory Work: No report, owing to misunderstanding, but on invitation of President, Mrs Cole addressed Convention on educational work among women prisoners in Addington Gaol. She reported condition of women prisoners greatly improved some years ago through efforts of women like Mrs Cunningham and Mrs Gardiner, backed by influence of Comptroller-General. But more needed. Prisoners occupied all day with heavy washing from men's side, and from 5.30 p.m. till morning condemned to solitary confinement. Several months ago Mrs Cole appointed Government Instructor to these girls, and authorised to visit them at any time and under any circumstances. Tactfully overcoming difficulties that arose at first, she succeeded before long in establishing right relations between the girls

and herself, and winning their love and confidence. Her basic principle to secure the natural evolution of each girl on natural lines, and refrain from undue emphasis on lapses of discipline. Now, in addition to favourable external surroundings, there was regular instruction from Mrs Cole on two afternoons a week, from 2 to 4, in reading, writing, arithmetic, essay writing, and accountancy, according to the requirements or desires of the girls. These are mostly State girls, whose opportunities have been small, and who in many cases have not committed flagrant offences. With the humane treatment secured through Mrs Cole's work, they were already making good. Mrs Cole told pathetic stories of some, stressed necessity for better classification, and appealed to members to help with love and sympathy these girls, "who are really our own girls." They had now been removed to Point Halswell, where their environment was still more favourable to right development.

Miss Henderson endorsed all that had been said, and pleaded for the older women—mostly ruined by drink—who now occupied Addington Gaol, whose chief hope lay in the carrying of Prohibition.

Mrs Peryman called attention to difference between sentences passed on the girls, often for comparatively minor offences, and those passed on men for brutal assaults on little children.

Session closed with prayer.

MONDAY MORNING, MARCH 27th.

Devotions, conducted by Maori delegates, led by Mrs Noda and Mrs Pouramati.

Roll Call, 106. Minutes read and confirmed.

Mrs Auld, once President of Hamilton Union, welcomed as visitor to Convention.

Mrs Bennett appointed proxy for Turakina.

Resolved to send telegram of welcome to Mr Tomlinson, High Chief Ruler of Rechabites, just arrived in Auckland to attend Quinquennial Council.

Greetings from Feilding, Hope of Dundee, Good Templars, Normanby, and an old member (Hamilton).

Mrs Cowie, leaving Convention for important Temperance work, spoke a few words of encouragement and advice.

Mrs Peryman, "White Ribbon" Editor, presented report and balance-sheet. In spite of heavy expenses, year's operations showed debit balance of only about £2, thanks to certain donations. Last year's debit balance of £32 17s would probably be wiped off during coming year, as expense of paper and printing already coming down. Subscribers, 3698. Over 600 copies distributed free by Organisers.

Many tributes of appreciation to Mrs Peryman's work, and excellent tone and great value of "White Ribbon."