

with her departments, L.T.L., Cradle Roll, etc., and Medical Temperance.

Session closed with prayer.

#### AFTERNOON SESSION, MARCH 28th.

Devotions. Mrs Field and Mrs Wright.

Roll call, 105. Minutes read and confirmed.

Greetings from Oamaru No License Association annual meeting, and from Auckland Rechabites in reply to telegram.

#### Reports:

**Rest and Refreshment Booths.**—Adopted.

**Back Blocks and Work Among Railwaymen.**—Adopted.

At tea recess, interesting ceremony took place, presenting a New Testament to Jean Donaldson Ewan, baby girl baptised and admitted to N.Z. W.C.T.U. Cradle Roll during Convention service on Sunday morning. Initiatory service was held, admitting Mrs Ewan to membership, and a small boy, Eric S. L. Brown, to N.Z. W.C.T.U. Cradle Roll.

**Report re Headquarters:** Miss Henderson reported that enquiries had been made re suitable sites, that headquarters was to be memorial to Mrs A. R. Atkinson, but nothing definite could be done till more funds were available. Treasurer had already over £200, raised by various Unions. Wellington had £89 in view, Dunedin £20, N.E. Valley £60, Christchurch about £100, raised as a memorial to Mrs Fanny Cole, and to be donated to Headquarters on condition some part of the building be dedicated to memory of Mrs Cole.

Recommendation, from Executive in connection with Organising Fund, that all Unions be asked to pay up the assessment of 1/- a year per member. Financial position of Organising Fund serious. Credit balances were: February, 1920, £605; February, 1921, £492; February, 1922, £244. Current expenses not being met by receipts from Unions, and at present rate Fund would be exhausted by next November. With two Organisers working, annual expenses were £400, which could scarcely be met, even with full payments from all Unions. Evidently some Unions have not understood their responsibility, but President appealed to all to make an effort to raise the assessment, which should not be paid from ordinary Union income. An Organiser's life was very arduous, and Unions should try and see that suitable board and lodging was available at a reasonable price.

Recommendation carried.

#### Reports:

**Press and Literature.**—Adopted.

**Peace and Arbitration:** With consent of President, the Supt. addressed Convention at some length, dwelling on the power of thought to influence either for good or evil, the consequent duty of all, especially women, to check

thoughts of dislike and hatred, and to radiate love and peace around. She pointed out that some advance had been made, as proved by the Washington Conference and the League of Nations, but spirit of war was still rampant, and she made several practical suggestions. (1) Union appoint local superintendent to note anything tending to peace, bring it before others, and so raise the standard of thought. (2) Introduce into schools greater love for spirit of peace, and more international spirit, striving for union of all nations, instead of the narrower patriotism that thinks only of one's own country. (3) Discourage toys and games of warlike character. (4) Union form itself into a League for promotion of peace, that when war threatens or disruption occurs, members might send out thoughts of love and peace to those ruling the destinies of the world. If this done all over the world, a force would be produced that nothing could withstand, and war would be impossible.

Reference was made by various members, in following discussion, (1) to Japanese old lady that carried to America her petition for peace so that Unions there were stirred to make a "Proclamation" in favour of disarmament; (2) to wonderful movement among the teachers of U.S.A. to foster spirit of peace among the children, as described in Ph. Gibbs's book, "Destiny of Nations"; (3) to the fact that Germany had for 40 years impressed on her children the idea of war, and if such action were reversed throughout the world, universal peace must follow; (4) to proposed essay competition in Auckland, where a suggestion was carried at public meeting to make subject of essays, not "Battles of the War," but what the children thought would do most to raise the Empire for which the boys had died; (5) to desirability of pressing for the establishment of International Courts.

President suggested that a "Proclamation" on the subject should be drawn up and submitted to Convention. Mrs Judson asked to prepare this.

Report adopted.

**Resolved** (by silent vote): That this Convention desires to express its loving appreciation of the late Mrs A. R. Atkinson's long and loyal service for the W.C.T.U. Convention deploras the loss of one whose clear judgment, great ability, and wide knowledge made her a valuable leader, while her gentle courtesy and loving consideration for others endeared her to all.

**Resolved:** That a letter of sympathy be sent from Convention to the family of the late Countess of Carlisle.

Session closed with the Benediction.

#### WEDNESDAY MORNING, MARCH 29.

Devotions, conducted by Mrs Cook (Auckland). Favourite hymns.

Roll call, 105. Minutes read and confirmed.

Mrs Blamires, on behalf of Convention, presented lovely bouquet to the President and other platform officers, with a few words of affectionate greeting.

Suitable replies were made.

Greetings from Opoliki.

Letters of appreciation received from two newly admitted members, expressing gratitude for help received from Convention meetings, and determination to promote the work of the Union.

On motion of Mrs Judson, seconded by Mrs Peryman, following Proclamation was carried unanimously:—

#### Proclamation.

This Convention of the W.C.T.U. declares its firm and unalterable conviction that some better method should be found for settling international disputes—one more in keeping with the principles of Christianity, and especially with its central teaching of the universal brotherhood of mankind. With deep gratitude we note that by the calling of a Conference the leading statesmen of great nations have declared their belief that world disarmament is within the region of practical politics, and that by pledging themselves to the reduction of armaments, the leading nations have already taken the first step in that direction. We, members of the Convention, therefore pledge ourselves, individually and collectively, to strive unceasingly for the removal of all causes of war, and to work for the establishment of a new social order, based on love and co-operation for the common good. And we urge our members, by using their influence, and by the training of their children in the principles of Christian love and goodwill to all, to help to create such a public sentiment as will lead to the setting up of International Courts of Arbitration and thus hasten the coming of the time when "the nations shall beat their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning hooks, and there shall be no more war."

Mrs Judson asked delegates to bring this before their Unions for ratification as soon as possible, and send her word at once, that she might report to the World's Superintendent.

#### Reports:

**Medical Temperance:** Work still needed for education on this subject, though several testified that doctors in increasing numbers were ceasing to prescribe alcohol.

Report adopted.

**Anti-Gambling:** Most urgent need for this work. Betting far worse than in America or Canada. Protests against increase of racing permits had no effect, and a motion in Parliament to abolish the totalisator was treated as a joke. Attention drawn to an excellent pamphlet on gambling prepared by Rev. J. J. North, of Christchurch.

Report adopted.