

Cradle Roll, L.T.L., Band of Mercy, Narcotics, Y's Report, Social and Moral Hygiene: Reports adopted.

Attention drawn to pamphlets and other literature in connection with some of these departments.

Legal and Parliamentary: Report adopted.

Session closed as usual.

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON, MARCH 29th.

Devotions, conducted by Mrs Keene and Miss Cocke (Nelson).

Roll call, 101.

Greetings from Dunedin District and Mrs Dick (Dunedin).

Resolutions from Resolutions Committee:

5. This Convention supports the request now being made for a Commission to enquire into the prevalence of venereal disease in New Zealand, and the best means of combating it.—Carried.

6. This Convention urges Parliament to make such amendments of the Crimes Act as are necessary to give effect to the proposals of the Prisons Board (appended below) in regard to sexual offences.

Resolution of Prisons Board.

"Whereas an increasing number of sexual offences has been the subject of frequent and serious judicial comment, especially in cases where young children were the victims, or the very serious nature of the charge connoted a perversion dangerous to the moral well-being of society, and as the experience of the Board in dealing with prisoners of this class accords, as far as it goes, with the now generally accepted opinion that, with certain exceptions, persons committing unnatural offences labour under physical disease or disability, or mental deficiency or disorder, or both, which accounts for the sexual perversion and the morbid character of the offence charged, it is resolved by the Prisons Board to strongly recommend to the Government an amendment of the Crimes Act under which such offenders could be dealt with scientifically: (1) Before sentence is pronounced by furnishing expert medical or surgical reports or evidence; (2) by sanctioning an indeterminate sentence; (3) by segregating persons so sentenced, and subjecting them, under proper safeguard, to any medical or surgical treatment which may be deemed necessary or expedient, either for their own good or in the public interest."

Resolution carried.

7. That Unions be urged to give their earnest support to the efforts that are being made to secure: (1) The raising of the age of consent; (2) the increase of the time limit during which all information of criminal assault must be made, from 6 months to 12 months; (3) the abolition of the power now allowed to a person accused of a sexual offence against a girl to plead that he believed

the girl to be "of or over the age of sixteen."

Carried.

Presentation of Banners.

Membership Banners presented as under:—

(1) Adult Unions—Absolute Increase: Timaru, 62 increase.

(2) Adult Unions—Percentage of Increase: Devonport, 141 per cent.

(3) Y Unions—Absolute Increase and Percentage: Nelson Y's, 22 per cent. Congratulations to Presidents of winning Unions.

Question Box: Many questions answered by President or other officers. Chief points, besides those already dealt with in Convention: (1) Union President always occupies the chair, unless she requests Evangelistic Supt. to take her place during devotions. (2) New Unions cannot be organised except by Organiser, Dominion officers, or District Superintendents, but any member can do preliminary work in preparation for organising. (3) When Prohibition has been carried, Unions will have plenty of work in law enforcement and in working other departments. (4) T. E. Taylor Day might well be extended to be Memorial Day for all Temperance workers that have passed away. (5) Annual increase of members reckoned by Dominion Treasurer from December 31st to following December 31st; Unions from end of their financial year to same ending next year; (6) Executive minutes are not read at Union meeting, only recommendations from Executive brought up for acceptance or otherwise. (7) Voting for officers at Union annual meeting must be personal, not by envelopes from absentees (see Constitution "Local Union," p. 16, Art. II). (8) "Shouting" is not now illegal. (9) It would not be wise for Convention to ask Government to give only two issues on licensing ballot paper; in such matters it is better to act with the N.Z. Alliance. (10) Better to choose delegates for Convention by ballot in Union meeting rather than by nomination from Executive.

In accordance with expressed wish of Convention, collection taken up for starving children of Russia, and sum of £5 5s raised and handed to the Mayoress.

Initiation Service held. Six new members admitted.

Invitation for 1923 Convention: Dunedin and Invercargill invited. Invercargill accepted.

Recommendations from Executive:

(1) That all funds contributed to the national schemes of the W.C.T.U. shall be paid in to the Dominion Treasurer, and the amounts to be expended on departmental work be allocated by Convention to Superintendents concerned.—Adopted.

(2) That grants to Superintendents of Departments be increased as may be necessary, £1 to be maximum, and Superintendents to make application to

Dominion Treasurer for amount required.—Adopted.

(3) That a new booklet of information on points that are apt to puzzle Unions be prepared, and the old booklet on Work of Departments be brought up-to-date, and a fresh supply be printed with the new booklet.—Adopted.

(4) That usual grants be made for telephones for the use of the President and the Corresponding Secretary respectively.—Adopted.

5. That a new Department of Libraries be created, to give the Dominion Librarian the status of a Superintendent of Department.—Adopted.

Dominion Superintendents were re-appointed en bloc, except the Press Supt., to which Mrs Densen, of Hamilton Union, was appointed. Owing to the departure of Miss Helyer on a long holiday trip, department of Scientific Temperance Instruction was left vacant, for Executive to fill up.

Session closed with the Benediction.

THURSDAY MORNING, MARCH 30th.

Devotions. Mrs Don, who gave a farewell message of encouragement based on the faith of Abraham, as described in the "Chapter of Faith," Hebrews 11.

Roll call, 101. Minutes of two previous sessions read and confirmed.

In reply to question, it was stated that 38 new members, including 10 gentlemen, had been admitted during the Convention.

Election of Officers: Mrs Peryman and Miss Earnshaw were appointed tellers.

The election, which in every case was unanimous, resulted as follows:—

President: Mrs Don.

Corresponding Secretary: Miss Henderson.

Recording Secretary: Mrs Evans.

Treasurer: Mrs Bendely.

Each one was accorded an enthusiastic greeting, which was responded to with a few words from each.

An appreciative farewell was given to the Maori delegates, who were compelled to leave early to catch their train.

A message of loving greeting was received from Mrs Bendely, to whom, in her illness, her work as N.Z. Treasurer was one of the most powerful influences in keeping up her courage and hopefulness.

A small presentation was made, on behalf of some of the members of Convention, to Mr and Mrs Densen, Mrs Morton, and Mrs Jones (convener of Homes Committee), as a slight token of their unflinching kindness and attention to delegates, in spite of great difficulties arising from the housing problem and the want of trams.

The President nominated Mrs Crabb as Vice-President-in-Chief.

Convention appointed Mrs Evans as Custodian of Records.

Miss Henderson gave notice of the following motions:—