

PROVINCIAL CONVENTIONS.

SOUTHLAND DISTRICT CONVENTION,

Held at Gore, June 27th, 1922.

Delegates and members assembled in numbers in the Gore Town Hall at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, June 27th.

Mrs Smith, the President of the Gore Branch, gave a very warm welcome to delegates, and the following Branches responded to the roll call:—Gore, Mataura, Edendale, Bluff, Orepuki, Otautau, Ryal Bush, Invercargill Central, South, North, and Y Branches. In the afternoon delegates from the newly-formed Temperance Society at Wendon arrived.

Excellent reports were given by the Secretaries of the various Branches, and Mrs Don congratulated them on the work done.

Rev. Eccersall, in welcoming the delegates in the name of the Alliance, emphasised the fact that the weapons used to gain the victory at the next poll must be God and prayer. Mr Rogers, from the Mataura Council, also spoke words of welcome.

A delegation from the Ministers' Association welcomed delegates to Gore. For the first time the Anglican Church publicly ranged itself with the W.C.T.U., and general pleasure was expressed at Mr Hamlet's action, and also at his words of welcome.

Mrs Don then addressed Convention, and spoke of the work among the Maoris, and exhibited the tiki given at Convention, also on the prayer cards, showing that in two months 5000 had already been distributed among Unions, and 5000 more were being printed. Cards had been sent to Unions all over the world, asking for their prayers for New Zealand at the next poll. All Unions were urged to begin work for the visit of Mary Harris Armor, committees to organise and publish reports about her. Committees to interest every Union in their district should be formed.

Every District Union and every Branch, and every member of a branch was urged to remember the noontide hour of prayer. The Organisation Fund was spoken of. The splendid work of the two Organisers, Misses Earnshaw and Mayo, was referred to, and Branches were reminded that it was their duty to conserve their funds for their own work. It was necessary

to have Organisers, and it was a sacred duty laid upon Branches to support them.

In the afternoon session, at which there was a large attendance, the devotional exercises were taken by the South Invercargill Branch. Mrs Garrett gave particulars in regard to an assault case, and the following motion was passed:—

"That the Southland District Convention, assembled at Gore, request the National Union of New Zealand to see if the law can be amended to protect children from parents who have proved themselves absolutely unfit to have the care of children. A father convicted of assault upon his little child should never again have control of that child."

It was agreed to send a message of appreciation to Mr Parr for his straightforward reply to the Moderate League in regard to the pamphlet "Alcohol."

A large gathering of citizens was present at the evening meeting, held in the Town Hall. Rev. Mr Carlisle, from Invercargill, gave a telling and forcible address, and Mrs Don spoke for the latter part of the evening.

Altogether Gore Convention was a great success, and we feel sure the Branch will benefit by the work done. At the afternoon session the Gore ladies supplied afternoon tea, and saw that the hall was kept warm by heaters. All delegates wish to express their appreciation of the great kindness shown to them.

TARANAKI AND WANGANUI PROVINCIAL CONVENTION,

Held at New Plymouth.

The Convention opened with the reception of delegates on the evening of the 4th July. The meeting was held in the Presbyterian Schoolroom, the chair being occupied by Mrs Griffen, President of the Union, who welcomed the visitors on behalf of her Union. Speeches of welcome were also given by the Mayor and the Venerable Archdeacon Evans. Mrs Phillips, Provincial Convention President, suitably responded. Musical and elocutionary items were rendered.

The business session opened in the Methodist Hall on 5th July with a devotional service conducted by Mrs Phillips, who gave a message to Convention on "The Power of Prayer."

About 50 delegates answered to the roll call.

After the appointment of a Committee of Courtesies, Convention Letter-Writer, and Press Reporters, the Secretary read greetings.

Reports of the Unions took up most of the morning. The Secretary's summary showed the state of the Branches to be highly satisfactory. Two new Unions have been formed—or rather resuscitated—namely, Waitara and Inglewood; while the membership throughout the Taranaki district has increased by 362, owing to the splendid work of Miss Mayo, Dominion Organiser.

Resolved: "That a letter be sent to the Dominion Secretary expressing appreciation of Miss Mayo's efforts."

Summary of Reports.

Active membership, 841; honorary, 52; L.T.L., 109; "W.R." subscribers, 102; Cradle Roll, 951 (increase 156). New Plymouth has the honour of holding premier place for the Dominion, with a Cradle Roll membership of 313—increase for year 40; Band of Mercy, 34; Band of Hope, 32. New Plymouth and Ngaere held picnics.

White Ribbon.—New Plymouth increase 12 subscribers—Manaia and New Plymouth supply the Public Library with a copy. Hawera supplies railway station with literature.

School Committees.

Manaia has two members (1 acting as Secretary and Treasurer), New Plymouth has one member.

Meetings.

New Plymouth held five special home meetings; Ngaere an "American" tea, and an honorary members' social evening.

L.T.L.

Manaia membership 50. Held competitions in speech-making, poetry and essays. Entertainment given. Xmas tree laden with prizes.

New Plymouth membership 25.

Press.

Hawera, Manaia, and Normanby report meetings to newspapers.

Maori.

New Plymouth and Hawera gave donations to this fund.

Donations.

Ngaere and Eltham sent away bundles of clothing. Manaia gave £3 towards the "Armor" Fund. New Plymouth donated £2 15s for Maori work, £6 7s to Atkinson Memorial Fund, and £1 16s to World's Missionary Fund.