

SOUTHLAND DISTRICT W.C.T.U. QUARTERLY MEETING.

MRS. HIETT'S ADDRESS.

Before an interested audience Mrs. Hiett, Dominion Vice-President of the W.C.T.U., delivered an inspiring address in the Gore Methodist Hall on Wednesday afternoon on the aims and ideals of the organisation in New Zealand.

Mrs. Hiett was introduced by the President of the district, Mrs. R. R. Macgregor, who referred to the amount of work accomplished by the speaker in the interests of the Union.

Mrs. Hiett chose as her subject the motto of the organisation—"For God, Home and Humanity." For God, as high as Heaven; for Home, as deep as a mother's love; for Humanity, as wide as the earth's bounds. There are no limitations. We pledge ourselves to abstain from strong drink. This evil thing dishonours God, wrecks home, and destroys humanity.

"My desire," said the speaker, "is to stir up your pure minds, not only to hold fast to your pledge, but to progress, to achieve, to advance in this God-given work for the emancipation of our race from the thralldom of the liquor traffic." Mrs. Hiett launched an appeal to the members never to rest till the evil was wrested from the land. Going on to speak of the brewers' manifesto, she stated that Sir Edgar Saunders, President of the British Brewers' Association, in the most callous speech she had ever read, said: "We must attract and secure the younger customer, who in turn will become the mainstay of the public-house." And again, "We want to get the beer drinking habit instilled into thousands, almost millions of young men who do not at present know the taste of beer." Later in the manifesto he said: "We must put bottled beer in the home for regular use in the domestic circle, to appeal specially to women to use beer as a domestic beverage." Australian Brewers, and doubtless, New Zealand Brewers, were taking up this plan and commencing with insidious advertisements; and the temperance organisations were just marking time, owing perhaps, as Mrs. Taylor said, to the fact that they had had no poll for seven years. They had settled down instead of being on the war path, by teaching the young, by resolutions to the Churches and by keeping the work and the need before the people. The liquor trade was ever awake, and its desire was for the degradation of the race.

Referring to the motto, "For God," the speaker said strong drink ever caused man to dishonour God. Man's chief end was to glorify God and to enjoy Him for ever. There was no glory to God in the drunken man, woman, youth or maiden. Lawlessness, impurity, cruelty, and crime were the accompaniments to the taking of alcohol, and the product of strong drink was inferior quality and goodness in the descendants of its addicts, God-dishonouring all along the line. The God-honouring way was the highway of the soul. The

speaker went on to ask if strong drink had ever contributed one iota to the highest and best in the human soul. It was obvious that the drinkers were travelling the low and sordid way, the way that led from God, and causing them who came after to lose the way of true liberty. The speaker went on to quote personal experiences of men who came of drunken parents. They themselves were not addicted, but their children were physical and mental weaklings. Mrs. Hiett asked her hearers if they desired the God-dishonouring custom to come back. Some would say to them that there were sly grog and keg-parties here. But if the open saloon came back these evils would still exist. "It is the drink traffic that is the cause of these evils. It is the drink traffic we are fighting." Before No-License came to Oamaru they had sly grog selling to a greater extent than now. At Dunedin it also existed. "We have after-hour trading. We have all the evils intensified that uninformed folk think are found only in the No-License towns. To allow the open bar to come back is not the remedy. The only remedy is the end of the liquor traffic." It was for them to be alert, ever praying, and teaching the young. Even with sly grog selling, they did not see the revolting sights common in licensed cities—drunken men and women and young girls. These were sights to appal the stoutest hearted. Thank God for every woman and girl who had given her pledge, "Till death or Victory," to remove the stumbling-block out of the way.

The speaker deprecated the use of alcohol at marriage ceremonies, where the foundations of a home were laid. Sir George Paish had said, "Abolish drink from the world and there will be no unemployment." Sir Murray Hislop, of England, said recently, "If the sum spent on drink to-day were turned to the cotton trade, there would be no talk of lock-outs, work would be found for all, and a market for the goods."

"May I quote," continued the speaker, "our Dominion President? 'Can we women not make some attempt to discover where civilisation has gone wrong and where national life has lost the path to happiness—and lost the key to life?'" The speaker asked if women had honestly set out to discover what is wrong with a world that can produce for man's needs far more than he can consume and yet cannot provide him with the work and the means to use this overflowing abundance. She believed that if with full purpose of heart in the name of their Saviour they would go steadily forward, educating the young people and seeking to break down the fabrication of lies as to the merits of drink, they would do much towards solving some of the problems that seem so vast.

Delegates were present from Invercargill North, South and Central, Wai-kaka Valley and Gore.

A discussion on the abolition of the liquor traffic then took place, several members voicing their opinions. Mrs. Sired gave impressions of the Conven-

tion, and later a recitation. Both items enjoyed by all present.

Resolution: "That this convention reaffirms its conviction that the liquor traffic is a menace to the best interests and welfare of the citizens of New Zealand, and that its abolition would be beneficial to the individual, the home and the nation. It therefore urges every Christian congregation to unite in a moral crusade of education in order to create a national conscience that will render continuance of the liquor traffic impossible."

Decided to send a letter of congratulation to Miss C. E. Kirk, who has been elected Dominion President of the National Council of Women.

DISTRICT EXECUTIVES.

NORTH CANTERBURY.

April 3. (Held over for lack of space.) 20 present. Miss Henderson spoke of need for organising fresh Unions and deepening interest in the District. Mrs. Lowery to be Honorary Organiser. Mrs. Barrell presented report of Jubilee Convention. Congratulations to Mr. Cliff Deans, new President of Dominion Y Conference.

CORRECTIONS.

In the second paragraph of School of Methods report from Hastings a line was omitted. It should have read as follows:—our apologies to reporter and Union.

This was followed by Miss McLay with a survey of the fundamental departments, i.e., L.W.R. L.T.L. or Band of Hope and Y's, and a short outline of the Brewers' Campaign, and the qualities of leadership wanted to combat this by the W.C.T.U. of New Zealand.

UNION REPORT.

In the South Invercargill report last month Miss Langskail was stated as delegate for North Invercargill Union. She was delegate for Winton Union.

WHITE RIBBONER HONOURED.

At the recent break-up in connection with Trinity Methodist Sunday School Mrs. Emily H. Orr was presented with the certificate of honour awarded by the British Sunday School Union for fifty years' continuous service in one Sunday School. In making the presentation the Rev. H. E. Beilhouse referred to Mrs. Orr's splendid record as a Sunday School worker, and spoke of the high esteem in which she was held by the staff.

Mrs. Orr is a member of the Kaikorai W.C.T.U. and was for some time its President.