

## SOUTHLAND ANNUAL CONVENTION

## A YEAR OF ENDEAVOUR.

The Annual District Convention met on November 17th. The President (Mrs R. R. Macgregor) presided. About 20 delegates present.

Dominion President, Mrs T. E. Taylor, expressed her regret at being prevented by illness from attending, and it was decided to send a message of sympathy to her.

Devotions led by Mrs Richards. Pledge was repeated, and messages delivered by the Branch delegates. Annual reports presented by the Recording Secretary (Miss Birss).

The District Union report stated:—The year 1934 has been a year of quiet and steady endeavour to help Branches and consolidate our position. At the end of 1933 we parted with our Organiser, Miss Douglas, and it is hoped that by 1935 another worker will have been obtained. The Southland Branches responded loyally to the appeal for a stall at the Jubilee Convention in Wellington, and sent a splendid equipment for a babies' stall. During the year Mrs Richards was appointed Evangelistic Supt.; Mrs J. J. Wesley, Cradle Roll Supt.; and Miss Langskaill, "White Ribbon" Supt.

Miss V. Jamieson represented the District Union at Convention, and on return furnished a full and comprehensive report to the Executive. Miss Jamieson also reported Convention to different Branches, being ably assisted by Mrs B. Walker, Miss Langskaill, and Miss H. Jamieson.

An anonymous donor presented a beautiful banner to the District Union.

A well-known member of our circle, Mrs Niven, of Edendale Branch, passed away during the year. Mrs Niven had always proved herself a loyal and conscientious worker, and a source of inspiration to her Union.

In July our annual peace meeting was held in Everybody's. The address was given by Mrs Low, of Timaru, who had made a special study of the world's organisation for peace. A few weeks after Mrs Low was called to higher service, and laid to rest.

Fifty years ago the first meeting of the W.C.T.U. was held in the Don Street Methodist Church at Invercargill. A Jubilee tea to celebrate the event was held in the Federal Tea Rooms, which was taxed to its utmost capacity.

As W.C.T.U. members were instrumental in getting St. Helen's Maternity Hospital started, they presented the 1000th baby with a silver mug. A pleasant afternoon was spent at St. Helen's in October, when the mother of the 3000th baby born at St. Helen's was presented with a silver mug.

Branch reports were received from 16 Branches: Invercargill South, Winton, Waianiwa, Ryal Bush, Orepuki, River-ton, Invercargill North, Edendale, Gore, Bluff, Otautau, Wyndham, Balfour, Waikiwi, Invercargill Central, and Ohai.

The Y Branch reported five Unions: Bluff, Invercargill, South, North and Central, and Waikiwi. The meetings

have been held regularly each month, and the young officers have developed much in leadership and knowledge of the Temperance question.

The Treasurer's report was presented by Mrs Potts, and adopted, a vote of thanks being accorded to the Honorary Auditor, Mr J. S. Haywood.

The Cradle Roll Banner was won by Gore, with 114 new names, and the tablecloth won by the Central Union, for the largest increase in membership, 14, were presented by Mrs Pasley.

The Rest Room Committee reported that the rooms are still much appreciated by the public; 12,335 visits were registered during the year.

The Central Branch, being without a President, applied to the Executive to allow Mrs R. R. Macgregor, District President, to take charge of their Union, and this was cordially agreed to.

Election of officers: Pres., Mrs R. R. Macgregor; Vice-Pres., Mrs B. Walker; Sec., Miss V. Jamieson; Treas. Mrs H. Potts. Superintendents: District Y's, Mrs Pasley; North Y's, Mrs G. Macartney; Evangelistic, Mrs Richards; Rest and Refreshment, Mrs Fairbairn; "White Ribbon," Miss Langskaill; Cradle Roll, Miss J. J. Wesley; Legal and Parliamentary, Mrs W. Ott; Membership, Mrs B. Walker; Good Citizenship, Miss L. Birss.

A vote of thanks was accorded Miss Birss, who retired from the position of Secretary. Mrs Pasley paid a tribute to Miss Birss' devoted work in the interest of public service.

Major Schroder was congratulated on her appointment as Woman Probation Officer.

Mr Waite, of Bluff, delivered a forceful address in the afternoon, and stirred his hearers to a realisation of the necessity for continued and increased activity in their work. He was warmly thanked for his message.

Two beautiful songs were contributed by Mrs McAhan.

Several new members were initiated, and various votes of thanks were accorded.

Sunday evening a church parade was held in First Church, there being an attendance of nearly 100 members. The Rev. A. G. Macintosh Carter, who spoke, took for his subject the Union's motto, "For God, Home and Humanity."

## Jubilee Social.

On Saturday evening the Jubilee Convention was brought to a close with a social in the Rosewood. Mrs R. R. Macgregor presided over a large gathering, including some 30 members of the Y.P.C.T.U.

Letters of greeting and congratulations from former members of the Invercargill Branch read by Mrs Walker.

Miss Birss, Mrs Macgregor, and Mrs L. B. Mackenzie (present President, and a past-President respectively) were each presented with a bouquet. Mrs Macgregor's was of lavender coloured flowers, and tied with lavender ribbons, in harmony with the organisation's banner; while Mrs Mackenzie's was tied with a blue ribbon in memory of the days when the W.C.T.U. badge was a blue ribbon, instead

of a white one, and members were known as "sisters of the Blue Ribbon Army."

A feature of the evening was a short address given by Mrs Mackenzie on the early days of the W.C.T.U. and its work in Invercargill. In the course of her talk, she traced the early history of Invercargill in connection with the beginning and growth of W.C.T.U.

It is of interest to note that the branch formed in Invercargill in 1884 was the first in the Dominion, and of the seventy (70) women who attended the first meeting, only one, Mrs Daniel Dutton, of Dunedin, is alive to-day. In conclusion, Mrs Mackenzie spoke of the fine work done by the foundation members, and mentioned many names of those to whom present members are deeply indebted for hard work and perseverance, which kept the organisation alive through difficult times and under adverse circumstances. At the close of her talk, Mrs Mackenzie placed a laurel wreath on the W.C.T.U. banner in honour of our pioneer members, and those present stood in silence for a minute as a mark of respect to their memory. Mrs Mackenzie then read a list of the names of those members of the Invercargill Branch who had passed to higher service.

Mrs W. Pasley, in presenting the Y.P.C.T.U. banner, explained the origin of the banner, which had been donated by Mrs J. Wesley three years ago as an incentive to the young people and for competitive purposes. This year the North Y's proved the winners, with an increase of 10 new members, and Mrs Pasley called upon Mr Frank McLean (President) to accept the banner.

Mrs Chambers and her party were responsible for the entertainment of the evening, which took the form of an excellent old English concert. By request, Miss Simon sang "My Task." Mrs D. Wesley accompanied, and both this item and the concert added considerably to the enjoyment of the evening. A beautiful birthday cake, adorned with 50 candles, occupied a prominent place at the centre table, and the ceremony of lighting and blowing out the candles was given to Mesdames Perry, Lindsay, McGruer, Knuckey, Garret, and Miss Birss, and the honour of cutting the cake to our District President, Mrs Macgregor.

## Resolutions.

1. That No-License districts be not subdivided and merged into Licensed districts, as was done at Ashburton.
2. To urge upon the Government that the consumption of intoxicating liquor by any person in charge of a motor car be deemed an offence.
3. That hotels should have only one bar, and that it should be the only place from which liquor can be supplied.
4. That golf, bowling, and similar clubs and all cabarets and dance halls should be subject to inspection in the same manner as licensed premises, with a view to eliminating the illegal sale and consumption of liquor.