

# AMONG THE DEPARTMENTS

## "SAILORS' REST" AT TIMARU

### Marking Of Twenty-first Anniversary Alterations Have Been Made Recently

To mark the 21st anniversary of the erection of the Sailors' Rest in Timaru and to allow friends and benefactors opportunity to inspect recent alterations, a social function was held there recently, Miss M. W. Fyfe presiding. The Mayor, Mr. A. E. S. Hanan, and Mrs. Hanan, and Mesdames Cave, Minnie, Norrie, Messrs. J. P. Newman, F. J. Rolleston and G. T. Dawson, all members of the first committee, were present, also representatives of the various organisations in South Canterbury who support the Rest.

The function was opened with a dedication service, with prayers by the Rev. J. Richards, Captain Wilks, a Scripture reading by the Rev. M. A. McDowall and an address by the Rev. I. G. Borrie. Expressing his pleasure to be associated with the band of women who had accomplished so much for the comfort of seamen, the Mayor congratulated the Women's Christian Temperance Union on their work during the years in the management of the Sailors' Rest. He was sure it was the desire of every citizen to thank them for their work and to wish them continued success.

Mr. G. T. Dawson, a member of the committee elected at the public meeting called to decide on the building of the Rest, assured the W.C.T.U., as trustees of the Timaru Sailors' Rest, that their effort to provide home comforts for seamen during their stay in the port of Timaru were appreciated by those men. He wished the Rest continued success as the home away from home for sailors from overseas.

Miss Fyfe briefly described the history of the Sailors' Rest, which began in 1887 in the Assembly Rooms, then in upper George street. This accommodation soon proved too small for the number of the sailing ships who were anxious to accept the hospitality offered and what had been the first Harbour Board office became the new quarters. Although additions were made from time to time this also became inadequate and in March, 1923, a public meeting decided on the building of new premises. The present Sailors' Rest was opened by the Governor-General, Lord Jellicoe, on October 15, 1924, more than £3,000 having been contributed toward the cost.

No appeal had been made for funds during the war, Miss Fyfe said, and it was only possible to make the recent alterations through the receipt of a bequest from the estate of the late Mr. T. B. Garrick. The verandah along the front of the building had been glassed in to provide extra lounge room and necessary renovations have been finished in the large recreation room and to the outside of the build-

ing. The Rest committee were short of funds, she said, and it was only through the generosity of the custodian, Mrs. W. R. Woodward, that they had been able to continue to provide the traditional hospitality. Mrs. Woodward has been in charge since the building was opened and tributes to her services were paid by several speakers.

The Sailors' Rest was dependent on the generosity of the public of South Canterbury, Miss Fyfe continued, appealing to those organisations represented at the function to continue their support and inviting citizens to take a share in the responsibility of the care of visiting seamen. Books and magazines for the ships were always appreciated, she added, suggesting that these could be contributed as well as cash.

—From Timaru.

## GOOD CITIZENSHIP

Among the many activities which add to the record of our "Good Citizenship" is that of Street Collections. Almost every Union reports some work done in this connection in their Good Citizenship annual report (if they remember to send it in). It is not always a popular piece of work. Some people have a strong dislike for it. Others find it interesting and congenial, and do it successfully whenever they are asked to help in this way.

By assisting with these many appeals to the public, we identify ourselves and our work with a wider field. We make contacts which are valuable to us, and which broaden and deepen our own vision in regard to the work of organisations of which we would know very little otherwise. Obviously, we do a real service to these various organisations also.

One organisation which is helped by several of our Unions is the "Crippled Children Society." As the time is coming for making an appeal for this Society, a few words regarding the aims and work may not be out of place. A good deal of misapprehension is noted as to the need for the Society at all; in a land where the invalid and afflicted are cared for by a Social Security scheme, and where large sums are allocated to caring for them. A little explanation should remove all doubt as to the need for what is done by it.

By a system of Welfare Officers, who work in well defined areas, contact is made with many hundreds of children. Many of them would in the ordinary course of things be given every chance of medical and educational help by their parents. But the numbers of loving parents who have given up hope for the future of their afflicted children, and who have settled down to the belief that nothing more can be done for them, is surprising. It is to stimulate such parents, and to

awaken in the child a desire for something more, that the Welfare Officer directs her efforts. Wherever the slightest hope of help exists, the officer makes it available. Sometimes the mother is harassed with the cares of her family, and the father has no time to go into the matter, and the officer can step in here and make everything easy for them. Many and many a child who has lived under conditions of suffering and disability unnecessarily has been brought to normal living by the work thus done.

But it is for the child whose condition is practically outside the possibility of improvement that the most valuable work is done. By special teachers, correspondence lessons and other agencies, hand-crafts and trades are taught to those who are fit to undertake them. Wonderful stories could be told of boys and girls who have become able to earn good livings for themselves even though confined to bed, or to an invalid chair. The difference in the mental outlook, and general development of character, in these cases is very marked as the result of the training and personal endeavour brought into action by it. Much more could be said, but this will suffice to give some idea of our reasons for helping the society.

## TREASURER'S REPORT

### February 1st to May 31st, 1946

**N.Z. Fund:** Picton, North Auckland District, Pukehuia, Styx, Kaikorai, Invercargill North, Karori, each 10/-; Temuka, Napier, Oamaru, Feilding, Mrs. H. Paterson, Tinwald, Hamilton, Glenheim, Wellington Central, each £1; Manawatu District, £1/1/-; Linwood, £2/2/-; Christchurch, £5; Miss C. E. Kirk, £1/19/6; Nuie Island, Sale of Baskets, £1/10/-; Dunedin, £3/3/-; Point Chevalier, 7/6; Belfast "White Ribboner," 5/-; Collection, Convention Reception, £3/9/6.

**N.Z. Headquarters Fund:** Christchurch, £5; Tinwald, £1; North Brighton, 3/6.

**Organising Fund:** Hawera, £2/11/-; Picton "Y's," 5/-; Point Chevalier, 18/-; Christchurch, 19/6; Wellington Central, £3/13/6; Oamaru, £7/10/-.

**World's Missionary Fund:** Ashburton, 17/-; Riccarton, 10/-; Gisborne, 10/-; Feilding, 8/9; Oxford, 9/6; Levin, 10/-; Mount Eden, 6/6; Auckland, 16/-; Pahiatua, 9/-; Balclutha, 7/6; Point Chevalier, 7/6; Reefton, 10/-; Warkworth, 10/-; Shirley-Richmond, 7/9.

**Maori Fund:** Point Chevalier, 7/-.

**Publicity Fund:** Miss Kirk, donation, £2.

**Y.P.T.C.U. Fund:** Sale of stamps (Miss Appleby), £3/1/9; donation, Miss Matheson, 10/-; Miss Christie, 10/-.

M. B. LOVELL-SMITH,  
Dominion Treasurer.