

MY IMPRESSIONS OF W.C.T.U. DOMINION CONVENTION, INVERCARGILL, 1955

(By Mrs. N. G. Dalley, Oxford, Canterbury.)

Though I had attended a Dominion Convention of the Women's Christian Temperance Union once before, I went to Invercargill this year as virtually a "first-timer". On the former occasion my chief interest had been the "Y" Branch, but this time I was a new local Union President, deeply conscious of all that I did not know.

Because of this new status and responsibility, I found that Convention was, in effect, a very thorough "School of Methods", with many illustrations of both the success and the failure in administration and in active work, of Union officers, put before us daily. Thus one of my strongest impressions of Convention is that it is a **must** for every local officer.

Hitherto, "Reports" of the Departments have held little interest for me; now that little booklet of Reports has become a really helpful tool to me, as a President, and, in due course, to our Secretary, also, I hope.

It is rather like coming back to drive a car again, after having had a course of instruction on the engine under its bonnet. There is a new confidence and a new zest, born of a new knowledge.

Remits, too, have taken on a new significance—or is it, because most of the remits presented to us were not to be classified as "hardy annuals", but were expressive of a vital Christian concern about current happenings in the life of society around us? Whatever the reason, it was evident that these remits contained the power to put evil on the defensive, for it is the first time since I can remember, that the Dominion's newspapers have taken so much notice of a W.C.T.U. Convention. We have made an impression surely, and have stirred up a certain amount of opposition and that is something in which to rejoice—for opposition is better and easier to fight than indifference. When we pressed for more publicity, however, were we prepared for that opposition, which it inevitably brings?

Then, what of ourselves? Firstly, because so much of our work involves looking at others, we need to beware lest we are trapped by the sin of self-righteousness; we need to be always ready to look at ourselves. We must be walking so closely with Jesus, that, having seen into the depths of our own hearts through His pure eyes, we are not shocked by the sin of others, but like Him, we are moved by a great compassionate love and longing to see them restored to wholeness of life and purity of desire. Surely this was something of what the preacher was endeavouring to impress upon us, when, in our Church Parade service, he spoke **to** us and not **about** us! We

AN IDEAL W.C.T.U. DISTRICT

(Five Minute paper given at Invercargill Convention by Miss V. Jackson, Wellington District President.)

A District W.C.T.U. is only as strong as its Unions and the support given to it by them.

My first point in an ideal District is for the Unions to be "Praying Unions," remembering the significance of our Motto, "For God, for Home and for Humanity," and our aim, as Christian women, "Peace, Purity and Prohibition."

District Officers should set the example and be "Praying Officers."

(2) To have Unions that will help each other. We all have sister Unions who have various difficulties in running their W.C.T.U. unions. To the stronger Unions, I would say, **Do** help them.

(3) Members, who are determined to make their Union a **live** one, and who lose no opportunity to gain new members, following the rule of each one gain one or more each year.

(4) District Officers, be business-like in running your meetings. Be punctual at meetings; be prepared for your leadership, when in the chair. Be ready to do your bit, however unfitted for the position you feel yourself to be; seek strength from God, and His guidance at all times.

(5) Ideals are good—but remember—we are judged by our works. Be practical; be ready as District Unions to make a stand against public wrongs. Be wise in your judgments.

(6) Be alive to open new Unions in new city housing areas, seeking the help of Organizers or Dominion Officers in this work. Everywhere these new areas should be explored for the possibility of Temperance work. Be prepared to assist the existing unions under your care. They should be visited annually, at least, by the President or other District Officers, whenever this is possible.

ALCOHOL AND DIVORCE

Liquor is one of the greatest contributing factors to the dissolution of the bonds of matrimony. This, of course, results in the breakdown of the home and the division of families, and certain as the night follows the day, in time, will result in securing recruits for the criminal division of the courts.

—William R. McKay (Supreme Court Judge).

need to remember his words and keep them ever before us in humility and in obedience to the spirit of Jesus Christ.

Then, what a difference it makes when our Dominion Officers become real people, instead of just names. By the time Convention finishes, we feel as though we know them so well. It is hard to realise that it is almost humanly impossible for them to feel the same about us. But, nevertheless, we offer to them our loyalty and our best wishes for a fruitful term of office,