

UNION NEWS

Would Union reporters please PRINT the NAMES of persons mentioned in reports?

Auckland District Executive, 7th May. Mrs. J. W. Long conducted devotions, 14 Unions represented. Mrs. Mountjoy reported for the Maori Girls' Hostel that a new Matron and Master had been appointed to replace Mrs. Kennedy, who had resigned owing to ill-health. A welcome social afternoon to the former and to farewell Mrs. Kennedy would be arranged later. A letter of congratulation to be sent to the Headmaster of the Edendale School on the stand he had taken regarding raffles in connection with their new Assembly Hall, recently opened.

A "Mothers' Day" gathering was held by the Auckland District W.C.T.U. in May, the guest speaker being Rev. E. C. Walsh, who spoke on "Mother Love." A fine programme of musical and elocutionary items was presented by Mesdames H. Reece Williams, R. A. Moore, and Miss Ray Broadhurst. Two lovely little girls, Sylvia and Glenice Wood, recited and sang respectively. The accompanist was Mrs. A. A. Hambly, M.B.E. Thanks expressed by Mrs. Mountjoy to all taking part.

Kohi-St. Heliers, April meeting at Mrs. Phillips' home. Mrs. Pearson led devotions. Mrs. Kasper gave some Convention reminders. A vote to N.Z. Fund. Mrs. Kasper read "Liquor and the Maori," and resolutions of Convention. At the March meeting, at the home of Mrs. Jones, an interesting report of Tauranga Convention was given by Mrs. Kasper.

Takapuna, May. Mrs. Petchell presided, and Miss Cullen and Mrs. Parsons led devotions. Our speaker was Mr. Downard, who gave a most helpful talk on "What do you know about the evils of strong drink?" Among these were neglect of home, humiliation of the innocent, and accidents and deaths. We were urged to instruct the young, render sympathetic help, not forgetting the weapon of prayer. Various Bible warnings were quoted.

Tauranga, May. Mrs. Christian presided. Silent prayers. Thanks to be sent to Baptist Church for cheque for £5, part of offering received on Convention Sunday. Mrs. Christian spoke on a short study of our organisation, its methods, our local, district, and Dominion conventions. Ours is the longest district in the Dominion. What the W.C.T.U. really does, and how, and, above everything else, the wonderful spiritual uplift it gives. Short discussion on Youth Supplements.

June 5th. Mrs. Williamson gave the Evangelistic address. A circular from Mrs. Green (Dom. Evangelistic Supt.) read, resulting in a decision to hold half-hour's prayer session before the meeting once a quarter. Report of the N.C.W. meeting dealing with raffles and Community Chest. This was "White Ribbon" Day, and various articles read from old numbers of the papers. Mrs. Delk, a visitor from Feilding, welcomed, and greetings exchanged. Miss Churchward initiated. Roster arranged for afternoon teas. Gifts brought for Seamen's Rest parcel.

New Plymouth, May. Mrs. Brown, vice-president, presided and opened with devotions. Reports received from Seamen's Rest, Childhaven, and N.C.W., whose reports were discussed. Arrangements discussed for Seamen's Rest Street Day and Mart in July. A travel talk of U.S.A. by Mrs. V. C. Davies was much appreciated. A recitation was given by Mrs. Brown. Benediction and afternoon tea closed a happy meeting.

Hastings. Most meetings of our Union are attended well. Devotions taken by Mrs. Thorp most helpful. On her return from the Baptist World Convention Mrs. Thorp spoke of the Baptist Church at Colombo, where the friendliness and singing of the members would long be remembered. Members' afternoon was most enjoyable and instructive, all members taking part. Tauranga Convention report made members wish all could have attended. Selling 5 "W.R.s" at monthly meeting. Working to form a young married women's group. Our Union sends greetings to all.

Nelson District Executive, May, at Nelson, and presided over by Mrs. C. V. Knapp (dist. pres.), Nelson, Motueka, and Richmond represented. Nelson reported 6 new members and 3 new L.W.R.s. A letter from the Dom. Evangelistic Supt., Mrs. Green, was read and discussed. The Executive was gratified to hear that Mrs. Toomer had been elected president and Mrs. C. V. Knapp vice-president of the recently formed local N.C.W. Preliminary arrangements are well in hand for 1957 Dominion Convention of the W.C.T.U. in Nelson. Sub Committees set up to deal with hospitality, transport, and entertainment.

Christchurch 70th Birthday Party. Mrs. Hunt presided over a large attendance. Items were given by Mesdames Wilson, Woodcock and Miss Kathleen Mangels, with Mrs. Reeve as accompanist, and sprays were presented to them. A beautiful cake, presented by Mrs. Lennon, was cut by Miss M. M. Thomas, who joined the Union in 1922. Miss M. B. Lovell-Smith was warmly welcomed. Mrs. Angus appointed delegate to N.C.W. Good wishes were brought from the Executive, and from Opawa, Spreydon, Kaiapoi, New Brighton, St. Albans, Linwood, Riccarton, and Lyttelton-Heathcote.

Spreydon, April. Mrs. Woodcock presided and devotions were taken by Mrs. Hecc. Mrs. Bowden reported on mental hospital visiting. Mrs. Murry gave the temperance fact. Mrs. Denzie of Nelson welcomed. Our president gave a very interesting talk on the Tauranga Convention. **May meeting** with Mrs. Woodcock in the chair. Good report given by Mrs. Ansell on visiting at the mental hospital. Our guest speaker was Mrs. E. R. Clark, who gave an interesting talk on impressions of her trip overseas. Mrs. Clark also had much pleasure in pinning 30 year service badges on our president and secretary, Mrs. Bowden.

New Brighton, April. Mrs. Edmond led devotions and Mrs. Wrighton presided. Mesdames Wrighton and Edmond represented us at Anzac Day Parade, and a wreath was placed on Cenotaph. Mrs. Burgess thanked for making wreath. Report of Dominion Convention prepared by our delegate, Mrs. Wilson, was read by Mrs. Woodcock and much appreciated. **May meeting**. Very wet day with only five present. Invitations to Christchurch and Riccarton birthdays accepted. Arrangements made for our birthday in June. Mental hospital patients had been visited. Mrs. Wrighton read an article on "Peacemakers."

Riccarton. Mrs. H. Griffiths presided. Miss L. Hughes opened with "Peace" devotions. One new member initiated. Constable Steritt gave a long, interesting, and instructive talk on "Maintaining peace, law and order, in Christchurch, and the duties of a police woman." Vote of thanks for interesting address.

Papanui, May 23rd. Attendance only moderate as weather poor. Mrs. W. T. Blight presided and conducted devotions. Guest speaker, Mrs. Griffiths, of Riccarton, was welcomed. Report of mental hospital visiting given. The temperance fact was given by Mrs. Karst. Enjoyable talk by Mrs. Griffiths on a Continental tour during her trip abroad. Thanked by members and Mrs. Blight thanked for her hospitality.

Timaru Cradle Roll Party. Mrs. A. Wood, vice-president, presided, and welcomed a good attendance of mothers and children. Pleasant time spent in singing, games, and competitions, with Mrs. J. Sutherland as accompanist. Mrs. Wood, assisted by Pastor Salisbury, entertained the adults with coloured slides of Tauranga and Convention. Afternoon tea served and children received a TT2 and bag of sweets each. Pastor Salisbury closed with prayer.

Timaru, Feb. to May. Our president, Mrs. Smith, has been in hospital, though much improved now. Mrs. Wood, vice-president, has been acting for her. Excellent reports of Convention. Very successful Cradle Roll party. **Five members joined Union**, making total of 7 new members this year. In February Mrs. R. L. Fursdon gave impressions of her trip abroad.

Dunedin Central, April. Mrs. Hiatt (vice-president) presided in absence of Mrs. Garden, in hospital as result of accident, but who is now improving. Scripture lesson read by Mrs. Hinchcliff, and short devotional talk from Mrs. Hiatt. One new member welcomed. Tea-concert for May 30th discussed. Excellent report of Dominion Convention given by Miss Farquhar. **May meeting** conducted by Mrs. Hiatt. Letter of sympathy to Mrs. Garden in her continued illness. Mrs. I. Graham and Mrs. Lingoe delegates to N.C.W. Mrs. I. Graham, as speaker, gave interesting sidelights on her recent visit to Gt. Britain. Christian work as she saw it in England very encouraging. Mention was made of a temperance hostel for university students.

Dunedin South, April meeting. Mrs. Kennedy gave a detailed report of Tauranga Convention, and Mrs. Flett, District president, also was present. At the **May meeting** we entertained church women of South Dunedin, the speaker being Major Hanafof of the Salvation Army, women's probation officer in Dunedin, who spoke on her work. Mrs. Beamish entertained with solos, and at both meetings Mrs. Creighton conducted devotions and Mrs. Jones presided.

Note.—The name of the late Mrs. Heazlewood, of South Dunedin Union, was inadvertently placed in the Dunedin Central list in the Convention memorial service.

Balclutha, April. Mrs. Gardiner presided in Mrs. Gill's absence. Rev. A. Cowie, of South Clutha parish, spoke on the word temperance, showing how it had come to mean total prohibition in the use of alcoholic liquors as beverages. From the Bible our speaker quoted several interesting passages where drunkenness was severely condemned. He emphasised that "we are our brother's keeper," and therefore must remove everything that is detrimental to their well-being. At the **May meeting**, Mrs. Gill presided. Two Dunedin ladies present, Mrs. Kennedy, Tauranga Convention delegate, and Mrs. Iles, district sec. Mrs. Kennedy reported on Convention, and members were interested in the prayer meetings preceding the daily sessions, and also the emphasis placed on education of youth to abhor liquor in all forms of beverage.

Mataura, May. Miss Muir presided and welcomed Mrs. Holmes, visiting from Invercargill Union. Devotions conducted. It was agreed to provide Beacons for local Bible Classes. Article read on results of six o'clock closing in Victoria. Pastor L. Lowe spoke on need for Christian living in the home to combat world problems of delinquency, drink, and gambling.