

UNION NEWS

Beach Haven. This new Union meets on the 4th Tuesday. Mrs. Sweeny, President, presided. Mrs. Bunker is the Sec. and Mrs. Mears, the Vice-Pres. A very pleasant afternoon held with three new members and three to take White Ribbon and babies on C.R. Prospects for the Union are good.

Kohi—St. Heliers. Opening devotions led by Mrs. Pearson. President warmly welcomed members. A talk on Franchise Day given by Mrs. Kasper. A strong protest against the reinstatement of barmaids was passed. Afternoon tea served by Mrs. Phillips.

Levin, July. Devotions led by Mrs. Kennerley. Arrangements for Quiz. Re the probability of a further liquor licence in Levin, it was agreed to put weekly advertisements in local papers—expenses defrayed by special collection. Tributes paid to past great temperance Leaders. **August.** Pay-up social. Good attendance and visitors from Foxton. Mrs. Kaine gave most interesting talk on English Cathedrals, visited recently. Solos by Mrs. Miller much appreciated. Beautiful violets presented to these ladies. Cake and work competitions and Sales' Table successful.

Marlborough District Executive. Mrs. Underhill presided. Good attendance and two Picton members present. Reports of local N.Z. Alliance and N.C.W. Great regret felt at the license granted to the "City Private" the only private hotel in Blenheim. Arrangements made to celebrate Women's Franchise Diamond Jubilee, also to invite Dominion President for District Convention guest speaker. Three classes held for the Temperance Quiz.

Springlands, July. Mr. and Mrs. Kessel, Temperance stalwarts, welcomed. Fine quotations in response to the Roll Call. Mrs. Eyles reported on N.C.W. matters and on Health Dept. Film. Mrs. Eyles read two stories of notable women—Mrs. Carrie Nation and Mrs. Carrie Jacobs-Bond. **August.** Mrs. Underhill presiding and devotions given from Matthew 22 by Mrs. Leslie. Mrs. Brooks, Supt. Evangelistic and Christian Education, gave informative address under these headings with instances of the value of Bible instruction. Arrangements for District Convention and Franchise Jubilee meeting.

World Workers (continued from page 4).

Coast, she was welcomed and found the established work in centres in good heart.

This intrepid worker visits in native homes and has found much encouragement among the coloured W.C.T.U. women.

6. **Miss Elsie Gainham** (Germany) is not new to Germany, having served for six and a half years as a welfare worker and is now a W.C.T.U. organiser. Miss Gainham's previous experience is most valuable, for she knows their language, their home and community life. She is received as a speaker in their schools, and is a tower of strength to Frau Klara Fischer, the W.C.T.U. President of Germany. Her earnest plea is for licensing of the Liquor Traffic. In some zones in Germany, at the present time, every grocer, baker, chemist, in fact everyone who likes can sell liquor without a license. This leads to drunkenness among young and old, with its trail of crime, and broken homes and broken lives.

Both the President, Frau Fischer, and Miss Gainham pleaded that the World Convention do their utmost and pray without ceasing that this terrible state of affairs be stopped.

Of the other four organisers, two are working in India and their report is of great progress in Temperance work. One of them is in Greece and though a newly formed Union exists, a delegate came to the Convention and brought an excellent display of literature and work. The last of the ten organisers has been appointed to Argentine—this is a new appointment. Argentine is not a new field but it is a difficult one and needs assistance. There is much more to tell and work, also to be done, here in our own New Zealand. I will close with one stanza from "The Psalm of Life," "Let us all be up and doing," in the service of the Women's Christian Temperance Union.

King Country Question (continued from page 5).

"And what will be thought of us if the future historian of New Zealand has to record that we made a solemn pact with the Natives, and that we afterwards repudiated it? I feel sure we will not agree to that repudiation," said Sir Robert.

"Sir Robert Stout's historic speech was in 1923 and in 1924, he submitted himself, as a witness, in the capacity of a private citizen, before the second Hockley Parliamentary Committee. He said:—'Mr. Ballance met the Natives and said there would be no liquor. They said, "Very well, the line is to be opened, there is no liquor to be sold in this district."'

Question: 'Did you give, at that time, any assurance on behalf of the Government, that the arrangement would hold good for all time—that is the point?'

Answer: 'I understood that it was to hold good for all time.'

"It is difficult to understand how and why Sir Davis Smith should try to sweep the Rt. Hon. Sir Robert Stout, K.C.M.G., aside and treat him as an unreliable witness. Even if he were the sole witness, it is unthinkable, but his statements are fully corroborated by others.

"... The Maoris, themselves firmly believe that there was a Pact, which they deemed sacred. Princess Te Pua in her lifetime and the descendants of such well-known chiefs as Rewi Maniapoto and Wahanui have fought to keep liquor out of the area.

"The Hon. T. C. Webb said in the House:—'But in any event, even if it were conceded that there was a pact, and that the understanding was to remain for all time, there is nothing ever to debar two parties to a bargain from agreeing to cancel it.' (Hansard p. 4,218.)

"But that is entirely different to one of the parties being in the box seat (for the time being), imposing a combined vote in which the said party in the box seat has 19,500 voters and the other party which desires to maintain the Pact, has only 3,500 voters. There is something repugnant to the British mind in such coercion.

"I suggest that, in the face of the vast amount of historical evidence (of which this is but a very small part) that the Government either:—

"(1) Drop their unjust proposal and strengthen the hands of the Maori leaders or

"(2) Immediately appoint an Arbitrator—the King Country Maoris to appoint another, and the two to appoint a third (as convener) to investigate the whole question thoroughly and publicly, and make a pronouncement.

"Facing these things being done, I suggest that we ascertain from the Maoris, whether they are going on with the proposal to petition the Queen on the occasion of her Royal visit to this country. And, this being the case, we give them our full support."

As W.C.T.U. members, the King Country question concerns us. By prayer and protest, let us be whole hearted in our efforts to prevent this iniquitous treatment against our Maori people.

M. LONG (Auckland),

(Formerly Matron, W.C.T.U. Maori Girls' Hostel.)