

District Convention News

OTAGO

In her opening address to the District Convention held in the Salvation Army Hall, South Dunedin, the district president, Mrs Flett welcomed delegates and gave a short historical account of the W.C.T.U. Throughout its existence the union has fought steadily against all forms of legalised or tolerated vice and has supported legislation designed to protect the home.

The Rev J. C. McFadyen told the Convention in his address that "only an Alcoholic can understand an alcoholic" when he gave an insight into the working of Alcoholics Anonymous. Mr McFadyen said "the first and hardest thing to do is to convince him that he is an alcoholic." He listed the twelve steps an A.A. has to take before he can be considered "dried out." He also spoke of the signs and symptoms, which "at first are unrecognisable, because they appear only as a habit." The Society is an interdenominational one where everyone is welcome to come for help.

In the afternoon, the election of officers, remits, vocal items and general business were discussed. Office-bearers were: President, Mrs J. Flett, Hon. Vice President, Mrs J. Hiatt, V. Pres. Mesdames J. Gardner, F. Jones, V. Hill, Sec. Mrs W. Iles, Treas. Mrs W. Dickenson, W. R. Agent Mrs F. Jones, L.W.R. Supt. Mrs D. Mooney, L.T.L. Supt. Mrs V. Gill, Evangelistic Supt. Mrs L. Jamieson.

Mrs W. J. C. Daniels, President Oamaru Union, moved the remit, which was passed unanimously, that "In view of the recent shocking disturbances at Hastings and Christchurch, we strongly protest at the flagrant violation of existing liquor laws, and demand, in the name of humanity, strict control of an adequate supervision of licensed premises."

Two remits brought forward by Dunedin Central Union were passed unanimously: "The Otago Convention of the W.C.T.U. views with deep concern, any suggestion that the law prohibiting drink at dances or in the vicinity of dance halls, be rescinded, and drink allowed in those places. Many accidents occur through drink and these would be considerably increased, if such restrictions were removed. Furthermore, as drink is a contributing factor in immoral behaviour, drink at such places would be a definite menace." The second remit read, "that the W.C.T.U. strongly protest against any proposal to re-instate barmaids into hotel bars."

AUCKLAND

The Convention commenced with a Church Parade and Communion Service held in the Pitt St. Methodist Church, with the Rev R. F. Clement giving the address. At the Reception on Monday afternoon, several guest artists provided an enjoyable programme. The guest speaker was Brigadier J. Mahaffie of the Salvation Army, who paid tribute to the foresight and wide vision of the founder of the W.C.T.U., Miss Francis Willard. "What the world needs today," he said, "is the Christian approach to the many problems confronting it . . . May God bless all your efforts of your organisation and your attempts to save this lovely country from the evil effects of intemperance."

To mark the 75th anniversary of the commencement of the Union in N.Z. the Dominion President Mrs Richards cut the birthday cake.

Mrs A. G. Sherman, Dist. President, presided over the business of Convention, which commenced on Tuesday morning with a large number of delegates attending. In the afternoon, the Rev G. Trebilco gave a fine temperance address and he said that the greatest force against the evil of drink is the message of complete salvation through the Lord Jesus Christ.

Departmental Reports were given and several remits passed to go forward to 1961 Dominion Convention, Onehunga and Henderson Unions gained first and second places respectively, for the Five-Fold Plan.

At the final session on Wednesday, further remits were discussed and framed and remaining reports received. One of our guests, Mrs E. Atkins, Dom. Recording secretary, of New Plymouth reported on the present position concerning the New Plymouth W.C.T.U. Seaman's Rest, which has to be moved from its present site, as the Harbour Board require the land. By a large majority it was decided to commence next Dist. Convention with the Reception as usual on Monday and with a Communion Service on the Tuesday, so that a larger number of delegates could be present. Mrs Mountjoy and Miss E. Appleby, each a former Dist. President, were made Life Vice Presidents of Auckland Dist. Executive.

Convention closed with Francis Willard's Order of Closing service.

SOUTH AUCKLAND

The 38th Convention was held in the Methodist Church, Hamilton, on October 20th. The President, Mrs L. Eastwood presided and welcomed delegates from Tauranga, Cambridge, Te Awamutu, Te Kuiti Maori, Hamilton and Whakatane, also two members from Te Aroha. District Officers met for Executive earlier. Devotions were led by Pastor Buick of the Church of Christ.

The Secretary's report showed that the district membership was 248, White Ribbon subscribers 230, and Whakatane Union had been formed in the year.

Mrs Moore gave the N.C.W. report with some facts from a talk about **Tokanui Mental Hospital**. There was one patient who had not enjoyed natural sleep for 17 years. At Tokanui, she was taught to sleep without drugs. There were boys who had never had any other meat than liver — they needed a physical adjustment. **N.C.W. was concerned** about the number of advertisements in an Auckland paper offering homes with pocket money to unmarried expectant mothers. This pocket money never exceeded £1. It was felt that these girls should not be exploited.

Noontide hymn and prayers were conducted by Mrs Eastwood. There was one remit only and this it was agreed, should go back to Unions for discussion. Adjournment was then made for lunch which was served in the S.S. Hall.