

ONTARIO W.C.T.U. SEVENTH ANNUAL MEETING.

FIRST DAY.

TORONTO, OCT. 14TH, 1884.

The Seventh Annual Meeting of the Ontario Women's Christian Temperance Union was held in Shaftesbury Hall, commencing at 2 p.m.

Devotional exercises were conducted by Mrs. J. C. Budd, of Guelph.

The Recording Secretary then called the roll of officers, when the following responded:—President, Mrs. Chisholm; First Vice-President, Mrs. Tilton; Second Vice-President, Mrs. Cowan; Recording-Secretary, Miss Orchard; Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. Fawcett; Treasurer, Mrs. Brethour; County Superintendents, Mesdames Chrysler, Lawrence, Coates, Hocking, Andrews, Rutherford, Keagey, Youmans, Graham, Budd, Freeman, and Miss Meir.

The Recording Secretary then read minutes of a meeting of the Executive Board held that morning.

Moved by Mrs. Rutherford, seconded by Mrs. Hoking, "That the minutes just read be adopted." Carried.

The President then read her annual address (see page 222).

Mrs. Fawcett moved, and Miss Bowes seconded, "That the address be adopted." Carried.

Miss Russell, on behalf of the Young Ladies Union, Ottawa, presented the Ontario Union with a very handsome hand-painted banner, which was received by the Convention with much applause. The President asked, "What shall be done with it?" On a motion it was resolved to leave it to the care of the donors—they to send it to the annual meeting of the Provincial Union wherever they may be held.

Reports from County Superintendents were then called for, and those from the following counties were read:—Essex, Kent, Huron, Brant, York, Waterloo and Grenville. The Superintendents from the following reported verbally, all showing some work done:—Lambton, Elgin, Bruce, Grey, Wellington, Perth, Wentworth and Halton.

Moved by Miss Orchard, seconded by Mrs. Brethour, and carried, "That the reports be adopted as given."

Mrs. Tilton then presented the following

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON PLAN OF WORK.

Your committee in present their annual report for 1883-84, beg to say, that in accordance with the recommendations of Plan of Work Committee at convention of 1883, the province was divided into three parts, Mrs. Chrysler taking eleven counties, Mrs. Youmans, fourteen, and Mrs. Tilton, 17; that county superintendents were communicated with. In many of the counties very effectual service was done by these ladies. The Secretary's reports will give you the number of new unions formed during the year.

Mrs. Andrews, of the County of Bruce, did very faithful work, organizing twenty-nine unions; her collections amounting to \$117.54, expenses \$94.44, leaving a balance of \$23.10 on hand for future work. Mrs. Hunt and Mrs. McLaughlin, of Boston, together delivered twenty lectures before different unions. Your committee were grateful to Mr. Clapp, School Inspector of N. Wellington Co., for his very great interest, and for the arrangements made by him for Mrs. Hunt's lecture at the Teachers' Association meeting in Fergus, when over 300 teachers of our public schools had the pleasure of testimony to Mrs. Hunt's clear and definite views upon scientific instruction in our public school. 350 cards, and 1,704 envelopes were sent to different unions, for which \$5.99 was received.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

Plan of Work—1883-84.

DR.		CR.	
Cards and envelopes.			
Cash—Morrisburg Union.....	\$ 60	Paid—Mrs. Youman's postage.....	\$ 2 50
" Ottawa ".....	1 00	" Mrs. Tilton's ".....	65
" Guelph ".....	1 00	Telegrams.....	2 78
" Prescott ".....	25	Paid—Mrs. Hunt.....	5 00
" Listowel ".....	1 00	" Mrs. McLaughlin.....	21 70
" Guelph ".....	50	" Gananoque.....	5 00
" Grafton ".....	24	" Printing.....	2 50
" Perth ".....	25	" Postal order.....	30
" Almonte ".....	1 15		
" Donation.....	5 00		
" Prescott Union.....	3 00		
" Brockville ".....	4 00		
	\$17 99		\$40 43
Due Plan of Work.....	22 44		
Total.....	\$40 43		

R. E. TILTON,  
Convention Com

Mrs. Tilton moved, seconded by Miss Phelps, that "that part of the report relating to work done be adopted. Carried."

Mrs. Rutherford then read the following

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON PRISON AND GAOL WORK.

As one of the committee on Prison and Gaol work for the year, I would submit the following: Have written to eighteen unions—having shared the work with Miss Wheeler, of Ottawa, one of the said committee—and have had replies from thirteen out of the eighteen unions written to for statistics and other information. The unions written to were Windsor, Exeter, Chatham, Bothwell, London, Galt, St. George, Brantford, Burford, Dundas, Hamilton, Fonthill, St. Catharines, Burlington.

Miss Wheeler, of Ottawa, has gathered the needed information from the following places and sent them to me—Prescott, Picton, Cornwall, and from the County of Carleton. Morrisburg and Sarnia not heard from.

Milton, St. Thomas, Ridgetown, Stouffville, and Toronto I have made enquiries about.

I can safely say that at least seventy-five per cent. of commitments to gaols and prisons are through drink, directly or indirectly.

The report was adopted on motion of Mrs. Rutherford, seconded by Mrs. Crosby.

Miss Minnie Phelps then read a paper on the Press and its influence on reforms; after which she presented the following

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE PRESS.

When the Press Committee of the Provincial Union went into office they immediately wrote personal letters to every local union in the Province and to every County Superintendent. By the aid of Geo. P. Rowell's Newspaper Directory we were able to tell how many papers were published in each county; what was their united circulation as well as the individual circulation of each paper, and what was the population of each county; and with the circulation of the papers, and the population of the county, the average number of papers read could be estimated. We then sent 150 double postal cards to editors of the Province with the following:—

"THE ONTARIO W. C. T. U.

To the Editor of the

DEAR SIR,—In the interest of good citizenship and morality we are banded together to suppress the traffic in strong drink, and to train the young in principles and habits of sobriety. We expect to succeed and invite you to share in the honor and profit of the undertaking by devoting space to temperance matter. If your engagements prevent personal attention to the subject we will supply items from week to week."

In reply to the above we received 69 answers, all favorable, 56 offering space, 13 choosing to make their own selection. A circular letter was then addressed to all W. C. T. U. temperance workers, clergymen, etc., personally and through the press. Accompanying the circular letter was a little bill to be filled and mailed us. We have gathered the following in reply from County Superintendents and local Unions:—

	PAPERS SUPPLIED,
Prince Edward County.....	2
Barrie, Simcoe ".....	3
Orillia ".....	2
Ottawa, Carleton ".....	2
Brantford, Brant ".....	3
Sarnia, Lambton ".....	1
Ridgetown, ".....	2
Galt, Waterloo ".....	4
Brockville, Leeds ".....	2
Listowel, Perth ".....	2
Cornwall, Stormont ".....	2
Tiverton, Bruce ".....	1
Kincardine, ".....	1
St. Thomas, Elgin ".....	3
Gananoque, Leeds ".....	2
Niagara Falls, Welland ".....	1
Hamilton, Wentworth ".....	2
Owen Sound, Grey ".....	2
Milton, Halton ".....	4
Goderich, Huron ".....	12
Chatham, Kent ".....	2
Prescott, Grenville ".....	2
Mitchel, Perth ".....	3
St. Catharines, Lincoln ".....	1
Tilsnburg, Oxford ".....	1

52

Supplied by W. C. T. U. and reported to the Committee. We are assured that other Unions have taken up this line of work but have neglected to fill out the circular sent them. To the hundreds of letters sent a very small average have replied. This ought not to be. Ahead of us there is a fact that the local press of this Province is in advance of the W. C. T. U. workers, for we find more papers willing to give space than we can find workers to fill them. In this march of progress the press is in the van and if we, as workers, are to be successful we must keep up to the times. This work is before you with grand possibilities. Will you not see to it, that as God gave the word, may the company of women be great who publish it?

MINNIE PHELPS, Ch. Com.  
HENRIETTA FOSTER.

The report was adopted on motion of Miss Phelps, seconded by Miss Orchard.