

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY'S REPORT.

We rejoice to-day to be able to report that although a few amongst us may have relaxed their efforts to beat back the enemy encamped against our homes, yet we have been enabled not only to strengthen our lines of fortifications, but also to lengthen them, and we are led to rejoice that while our work has been done under difficulties, the Lord has blessed our labors, and as we stand and see the battle that is coming we feel that we need to rally and increase our forces for the conflict.

We thankfully report three Unions organized during the year just closed, thus doubling the number in the Province. We feel confident that we could have still further increased our numbers if it had been possible to make our workers understand that any Christian woman that ever organized a missionary society can organize a Woman's Christian Temperance Union. New Unions require help and encouragement. We would suggest that new Unions and workers everywhere be supplied with the leaflets on Organization, Finance, Rural Work, Young Women's Work and Band of Hope pamphlets.

Last year we reported two Bands of Hope—this, eight. This, one of the most important branches of our work (the education of the young) requires that we give special attention to this feature of it during the coming year. Although the improvement is so much greater than that of last year, we cannot feel comfortable, under the state of affairs, for a look at the map of British Columbia will convince any one that our work is only just commencing and that much greater effort will be needed for the coming year. The reports from the various Unions indicate a good deal of activity. There are 529 members in the province, 371 are paying members. One Union holds regular weekly, two semi-monthly, and three monthly meetings. The Y. W. C. T. U. of Victoria have held their social and business meetings combined semi-monthly. Altogether last year 127 business and 54 public meetings were held.

Eleven lectures were delivered by Miss W. G. Moore, of Ohio, who rendered such efficient aid in organizing at Nanaimo, Maple Ridge and Burrard Inlet. Petitions were circulated throughout the Province and were presented to the Legislative Assembly at the commencement of the present year, for the closing of the saloons, and for the amendment of the franchise act, so as to enable women of legal age to vote.