

W. C. T. U. Department.

All contributions to this department should be sent addressed to HOME GUARD Office, London, Ont. Postcard items are desired from every Union throughout the Dominion.

Ontario Convention — Continued.

(Special to the HOME GUARD.)

CORNWALL, Nov. 2.—The fact that there are a very large number of "heads of departments" in the W. C. T. U. work has been referred to before in these notes. That came out pretty strongly to notice in the second day's proceedings. The entire day was taken up in receiving and disposing of the reports of these superintendents of departments and all of them were not received then. There are separate and independent departments, for unfermented wines, for provincial and county fair, for work among lumbermen, for young women's work, literature, schools of method, parlor meetings, scientific temperance, legislation, franchise and petitions, evangelistic work, hygiene, heredity and social purity, the Woman's Journal, purity in literature, art and fashion, narcotics, flower mission work, and some others. Of course, in order to the best success of the superintendents, each of them requires to communicate with all of the hundreds of unions and to receive replies and reports from all. The amount of work thus involved is by no means small and the work required of every individual union in this sending in such a variety of reports to such a variety of officers is very great. No wonder a number of superintendents have such limited data at their disposal for making up their reports.

SUPERINTENDENTS' REPORTS.

It would not be possible, even in double the space afforded, to give even a fair synopsis of the dozen or more superintendents' reports presented, many of which were able documents, and prepared by workers who have given a good deal of thought and attention to their respective subjects.

Mrs. Gilchrist, of Toronto Junction, presented a report on unfermented wines. She reported that the number of churches using such wines is increasing, and none who have made the change go back again. She enthusiastically advocated the importance of this movement. A discussion arose about the difficulty of obtaining such wines and Mrs. Rutherford recommended their home manufacture, giving a formula, which the HOME GUARD may give later on. Wherever raisins or fresh grapes can be obtained such home manufactured wines are quite practicable.

Mrs. Rutherford presented the reports on exhibitions and fairs. At a considerable number of these W. C. T. U. tents, refreshment and reading rooms have now become established. They have resulted, in many cases, in quite an addition to the funds, and in an excellent opportunity of distributing literature and in awakening an interest in the work and also in dispensing with any necessity of going to places where intoxicants are sold.

Mrs. W. A. Hunter, of Pembroke, whose name has become so familiar with workers all over the Province in connection with work among lumbermen, sent in her report. It indicates what real practical work the organization has done in this direction. During each winter there are some 15,000 to 20,000 men engaged in our various Ontario lumber shanties, where they are cut off for months together from home influences and comforts, and from nearly all regular church and other religious influences. During the year two men were employed for a time in visiting many of their outlying shanties, where they held religious services and distributed literature and "comfort bags" and the like. These have been very much appreciated by the men. Nearly all the unions can easily assist by preparing during the year neat and convenient small scrap books—not large and bulky ones—filling them in with such sketches, poetry, tales, facts and the like as may interest and benefit these hardy sons of toil during their long winter evenings.

Miss W. A. Douglass, of St. Catharines, reported on young woman's work. This particular class of work has been largely taken up by various church organizations—Christian Endeavors, Epworth and other leagues, King's Daughters, and the like. Still the "Ys" in many places are doing a splendid work.

Miss Scott, of Ottawa, reported on the literature depository, which is not now so necessary as at one time, because much of the needed literature is now being supplied through the regular booksellers all over the country. The receipts during the year were \$677 and the expenditure \$576, with nearly \$500 worth of stock on hand. These transactions seem small for so large a body, but it must be remembered that only a few unions depend on it for their supplies, getting them now readily near at home.

THE AFTERNOON SESSION.

The first business of the afternoon was considering Mrs. Thornley's report on schools of method. This work does not consist merely of parliamentary drill, or the best methods of conducting meetings, which of itself is important and an excellent educator. The number of schools of method in the various counties increased during the year and its importance is more

generally recognized. Among the special subjects, she urged, which should come under the scope of this work are: 1. Scientific temperance, including the watching and encouraging the temperance teaching now required in our public schools. 2. The tobacco habit, which needs increased attention, because of its increased spread, especially among young boys. A good deal of training is needed just here. 3. The woman's franchise movement. 4. Reform in dress.

Mrs. Emma Wheeler, of Paris, reported on parlor meetings, which in many places have become a popular and profitable branch of the work. Fourteen unions report holding such and in two of them about \$60 were thus raised to aid in the work. Increased attention was recommended to that branch of the work during the coming year.

Mrs. G. D. Platt, of Picton, a well-known worker and writer, presented an excellent report on scientific temperance work, which seems now too much overlooked by temperance organizations, now that the political phase of the question is being so much considered. She made special reference to the importance of temperance education now in our schools, and very wisely remarked that it would be well to cease the agitation for further legal enactments and to give more attention to the details of home work. The popular cry with too many has been "more law" and constant amendments, and then allowing such laws, when obtained, to take care of themselves. The importance of having school teachers and trustees where practicable, who are total abstainers not only from alcoholics, but from tobacco and profanity, was duly urged.

THE FRANCHISE MOVEMENT.

Mrs. Huldah McMullen Rockwell, of Picton, a real stalwart in that reform, reported on woman's franchise and petitions. Hers was an able and exhaustive document. She referred to the plebiscite during the year and its results, the cheering indication of the selection of Mr. Marter as leader in the Opposition, in view of his temperance position, the shame of the adoption of the French treaty by our Dominion Parliament, in spite of hundreds and hundreds of protests and appeals, and its hindrance to the future of prohibition, to the franchise agitation in the Ontario Legislature, in which she paid a very fitting tribute to Mr. Waters, who had been its constant friend, and the loss the movement has sustained by his retirement, and several other matters. There was quite a discussion over the various points raised, indicating that the members have a lively interest in what is now being done in the political world of this Province.

CRIME, HEREDITY, ETC.

The report on evangelistic work was important and interesting. Many of the unions have made a specialty of visiting the jails that may exist in their localities, and some excellent results have followed in the conversion and reformation of the men thus remembered when in prison. The report emphasized the great fact, too much overlooked by many, that drunkenness is the great cause of crime and debasement—among women especially. The fact that there is less drinking among women than men accounts also for the fact that there is far less crime. One delegate showed from the published Ontario prison returns that while there were 32,150 men in our various prisons, there were but 3,500 women.

Dr. Lelia Davis, of Toronto, made an excellent report on hygiene, heredity and social purity, which will be dealt with more fully in future in these columns.

Miss Scott, of Ottawa, who has for years published the Woman's Journal, as an organ, reported the probabilities of its being changed from a monthly into a semi-monthly. Its subscription list continues very small—only about 1,500, with a circulation of 3,500, which is very small for so large and intelligent an organization. The fact that so many weeklies, including of course the HOME GUARD, are constantly supplying the news regarding the work of this and other temperance organizations, has dispensed with the necessity of a small monthly organ for that special work.

Mrs. Jennie Cavers, of Galt, who has for years taken such a prominent part in the work, reported on purity in literature, etc. She urged that every member should do her best to see to the observance of the law regarding the importation, publication and sale of impure and obscene literature. The many half nude posters and play bills that are too often posted up, the new "living picture" rage and several other similar matters were well dealt with.

Mrs. Sara Wright, of South London, gave an excellent report on narcotics, to which subject she has evidently given study and thought. A much larger number of unions are giving attention to this important question. The "Children's Tobacco Act," she urged, ought to be amended so as to make it more workable and efficient. As it is, it is not amounting to much. In a discussion the fact was mentioned that opium-using is becoming more prevalent among women. In some

cases it is now incorporated with chewing-gum and is being thus quite considerably introduced.

Miss Anning, of Belleville, a zealous young member, presented an excellent report on Flower Mission work, showing how much good has been, and can be done in this kindly way, especially to the sick and the invalid poor. A very interesting and valuable paper was read by Miss Bessie Ross on the same subject.

A very kindly message was received from Mrs. Letitia Younan's, whom all cheerfully acknowledge as a veritable mother in Israel in this grand movement. Though confined to her invalid room at Metcalf street, Toronto, because of physical weakness, her heart goes out, as of old, to all such meetings. Her prayers and benedictions follow them.

NOTES.

Mrs. Fawcett, of Toronto, whose presence and counsel added so much to the work in former years, is no more present. She now rests from her labors, having received the great message to "Come Up Higher," but a kindly remembrance will long be entertained of the noble work she did. Few entered more heartily and ably in the spirit of the great work in past years.

Miss Dougall, of Montreal, a worthy daughter of a worthy sire, the late John Dougall, founder of the Montreal Witness, is in attendance and has been constituted an honorary member. She is a life long temperance worker, and a member of the Witness staff, in which she ably seconds her excellent brother, Mr. J. R. Dougall, in the promotion of great moral and social reforms.

Third Day.

THE ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

The early part of the forenoon session of the third day was taken up with routine and some changes of the constitution, which were not of much general interest. These were followed by the election of officers for the coming year. The union has learned by experience that very much of the success of its work depends on the officers in whose hands the work has been committed. When good officers have been secured there is little tendency to change, for the sake of change, and to "divide honors round," which is a too frequent mistake. The general feeling was that the present officers had done well their duties, and though there were ballots in each case, the results were practically unanimous re-elections. The list, therefore, stands as follows for this year:

President, Mrs. May Thornley, London.

Vice-president, Mrs. A. O. Rutherford, Toronto.

Corresponding secretary, Mrs. M. Wiley, Richmond Hill.

Recording secretary, Miss Ella Cosford, London.

Treasurer, Miss Jennie McArthur, Cornwall.

Later on the superintendents of departments were appointed and the list may as well be given here. They are: Scientific temperance, Mrs. G. D. Platt, Picton; literature department, Miss Scott, Ottawa; press, Mrs. Livingston, Tilsonburg; evangelistic, Mrs. A. Gordon, Ottawa; railroad men, Mrs. A. P. Morrison, Owen Sound; sailors, Mrs. (Capt.) Davies, Gananoque; unfermented wine, Mrs. Campbell, Colborneville; lumbermen, Mrs. Hunter, Pembroke; lumbermen, Mrs. C. Mickle, Gravenhurst; exhibitions, Mrs. Hilburn, Toronto; legislation, etc., Mrs. F. S. Spence, Toronto; Parliamentary, etc., Miss L. Phelps, St. Catharines; hygiene, etc., Mrs. Dr. Jamieson, London; literature, etc., Mrs. J. R. Cavers, Galt; Sunday observance, Mrs. McCallum; young women's work, Miss Z. Rae, Ottawa; young women's work, Miss Huff, St. Catharines; juvenile, Mrs. T. H. Pratt, Hamilton; parlor meetings, Mrs. E. A. Wheeler, Paris; Flower Mission, Miss Anning, Belleville; Woman's Journal, Miss Scott, Ottawa; narcotics, Mrs. Wright, South London; methods, etc., Mrs. M. Thornley, London; Indians, Mrs. Tennant, Cornwall; colored, Miss Phelps, St. Catharines.

There is also a plan of work committee, consisting of Mrs. Wheeler, Paris; Miss McArthur, Cornwall; Mrs. Cavers, Galt; Mrs. Livingston, Tilsonburg; and Mrs. Gordon Wright, London.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The first interesting feature of the afternoon session was a very valuable and practical address by Miss Dougall, of Montreal, who has been a member of the Witness staff for years and has had a life-long training in temperance work. Among other things she gave some valuable statistics, founded on official reports and calculations, which may seem startling to those who have not given the subject study. Among others are these: There are now in Canada about 75,000 habitual drunkards, and 70,000 deaths occurring annually, directly and indirectly, from alcoholism. From 80 to 90 per cent of the crime of our country is traceable to intemperance. There is one conviction and imprisonment for crime to every 331 of the population. There are four times as many licensed liquor shops of some kind as churches, and nine times as many liquor sellers as ministers, and twelve times as much money paid for liquor each year in Canada as for the Gospel. The cost of liquor directly and indirectly is estimated at \$55,000,000 and tobacco \$20,000,000.

Mrs. Gordon, of Ottawa gave an

earnest and practical address on evangelistic work, in which she urged more attention and more fervency in such work, greater attention to Band of Hope work, the visiting of the poor, the sick and the afflicted, bringing comfort to soul and body and relief from temptations to vice and sin.

Mrs. Bigelow, of Aultsville, gave a practical address on scientific temperance. Among other valuable points she stated that, notwithstanding remedies, "cures," and the like, now so much talked of, about 5 in every 100 inebriates who attempted reform accomplished it. The importance of more thorough instruction in the true nature and results of alcohol was urged. There should be an amending of the school temperance text books so that some part of such instruction should be given in every grade, instead of in the fourth class merely, as now. Both the above mentioned addresses drew out some valuable discussion which will result in good in the work of the year.

THE BALLOT REFORM.

There was an interesting discussion also on the woman's franchise question. Mrs. Dr. Edwards gave a first address, giving a series of practical suggestions of what may be done to further this movement. It was to be regretted that, so far, so few women who have the franchise exercise it. This brought out the fact that the women to whom it is now granted are those least likely to use it, being spinsters and widows, which includes among the former a large proportion without families or homes, and therefore least interested; and among the latter of old and feeble persons who are not likely to be active on that account. The wives and mothers, yet disfranchised, are the very ones most likely to desire and use such a right, whenever legally conferred. The feeling expressed by all present was general for an extension of the franchise as early as practicable. In this connection Dr. Anna Shaw, of Boston, who has done so much to ably champion the franchise reform, gave a telling address. To her the question is not whether women wanted the franchise, but whether she ought not to have it as a matter of right and justice, just as many men now have it, as a matter of right, who do not exercise it.

Dr. Anna Shaw gave a public address in the evening in the large music hall, which was crowded with citizens of all classes. The address was listened to with great interest. There was also a good programme presented.

Fourth and Last Day.

One of the first orders of the fourth and last day was selecting the next place of meeting. It was decided to hold it at Hamilton, which being central, of easy and convenient access, and affording many local attractions, may be considered an excellent choice.

SUNDAY VISITING.

There was quite an interesting discussion on Sunday visiting, a number deploring that the day is made too much one of social visiting and too little a day of religious worship. Here again Dr. Anna Shaw came in with some very practical suggestions. She said she desires to make her home as happy as it can be made and as far as possible a comfort to others as well as to herself. With that view she often on Saturday visited some of the large shops in Boston and invited half a dozen or so of the most tired and dispirited young women to come to tea with her on Sunday and tried to make it pleasant to them.

The HOME GUARD may here remark that there are some Christian ladies among its readers who are in the habit of inviting young men, who are boarders in towns and cities, away from home, to dine with them on Sunday and spend some afternoon hours in religious and literary conversation, interesting them in local temperance and religious work, and others in to spend an hour or two in music and the like in the evening, after church services. These experiments have resulted in much good, and can be almost everywhere practiced to good advantage.

SOME PLANS OF WORK.

An important committee report on plans of work was presented making a number of recommendations, which were adopted, among which were the following: That physicians be asked to give health talks to unions and bands of hope. That unions should co-operate with Mr. Kelso, Provincial officer, regarding neglected children work where practicable. That attempts be made to have the Tobacco Act amended so as to make it more workable and render the buyer as well as the seller subject to penalty. That special efforts be made regarding holding parlor meetings during the winter. That special efforts be made towards having Sunday school libraries well supplied with temperance books. That more women should be elected to our various school boards. That the Provincial license inspector be asked to see to the better enforcement of the license law in regard to prohibited hours, selling to minors, to intoxicated persons and to gambling. That anti-tobacco literature be more widely distributed and more warnings regarding the growing use of opium and morphine, especially among women. That the Dominion Government be petitioned to prohibit the importation of opium. That action be taken towards helping in the employment of police matrons where female prisoners are incarcerated, and in the

establishment of poorhouses and inebriate asylums.

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED.

The resolution committee submitted a report, which was adopted, embodying the findings and conclusions of the convention regarding most subjects presented. These are abbreviated here, the fifth of each being given:

1. Re-affirms the former policy and platform as to moral suasion for the individual and prohibition for the State; also the fact that "the saloon issue is not only a moral fight, but a political warfare and the only consistent position is to support that individual or party that stands as the exponent of the policy and platform of the W. C. T. U.

2. Commends the brave stand of Bishop Watterson and calls the attention of the Canadian hierarchy to the large proportion of liquor-sellers and manufacturers who are amongst their communicants. Also calls the attention of Roman Catholic women to extracts of the bishop's circular, in which he says: "Also to endeavor to engage women in the cause; the influence and prayers of wives, mothers, daughters and sisters will be of much avail."

3. Protests against lowering of the press by giving the disgusting and revolting details of prize fights, seductions, outrages and the like, and asking that such should be omitted.

4. Protests against living figures, displayed as "living pictures," unless arrayed in proper garb, and the show bills now becoming too common in many places, bordering as near as the law will permit on obscenity, and asking that our laws be amended so as to prevent such to a much greater extent.

5. Deprecates the publication in published police case reports of the names of women inmates in houses of ill-fame, and withholding the names of equally guilty men; such discrimination being degrading to women and unjust to society.

6. Recommends reform in women's dress in the interests of health and mental vigor, and urging women to give more time and thought to that important question.

7. Urging that the laws regarding the sanitary and other inspection of workshops be extended to mercantile houses, in which so many women are now employed, and to remedy many conditions inimical to health and morality, and also to provide for Provincial women inspectors, and that copies of the resolution be sent to the Premier and leader of the Opposition.

8. Thanks extended to John Waters, ex-M.P., for his years of faithful championship of woman's franchise in the Legislature, and to Judge Chesley, of Nova Scotia, for his move in the late General Methodist Conference to include women equally with men as eligible for delegates in that body.

9. Congratulating Sir Oliver Mowat upon his return to power at the last Provincial election, "not because we are a unit upon his policy and methods, but because we consider the temperance issue, upon which he is pledged to act, as the foremost now before the country." Asking for as rapid a redemption of his temperance promises as legal procedure will permit. Also asking for immediate relief from some of the more burdensome features of the licensed system, such as misnumbering offences, long the source of flagrant abuse; the lack of legal provision for relief in cases where licensed bars exist in sections where public sentiment does not sustain them, and the continuance in office of men out of sympathy with the law they are appointed to enforce.

10. Congratulating the Ontario Opposition on its choice of a leader in the staunch temperance advocate, Mr. G. F. Marter, and congratulating Mr. Marter.

11. Deprecating military and society parades on Sunday and the circulation and encouragement of Sunday papers.

The session, on the whole, was pleasant, practical and harmonious. The union enters on its new year with excellent prospects of a good year's work.

Y's Hallowe'en in Toronto.

"You must be sure to come to our Hallowe'en party, and tell us a story," said my good friend Miss H., principal of Elizabeth street school, to me last week. I accepted the invitation with pleasure, and on Wednesday evening, in company with a friend, arrived at Mission Hall sharp on time, which was 7 o'clock. The doors of the hall were fairly packed with a crowd of excited children, eager to begin proceedings. As the children are of the poorest class found in St. John's ward, this party is of immense importance, in their opinion, while Misses H. and S. regard it as a means to an end, for it keeps the girls and boys off the street, and so prevents all possibility of any one of them being led into trouble by the older and more hardened dwellers in the ward.

Once in the hall, the party was begun by the singing of several motion songs; then a march round in good style to the accompaniment of a mouth-organ, and after a story about a cat who lost eight of its lives in a vain attempt to celebrate Hallowe'en, the audience was divided into groups each one of which was under the charge of two or three workers, who were responsible for the entertainment of their small guests during the evening. The girls seemed to find solid enjoyment in such games as "Lazy Mary," "Rachael and Jacob," "The farmer sows his seed," etc. While

down stairs, the boys ducked for apples, played "Tug-of-War," and similar games. At 8:45 the whole party reassembled, and were treated to snow-apples, grapes and taffy, all of which were fully appreciated by the recipients. The order throughout the evening was first-class, almost the whole company being pledged Band of Hope and Band of Mercy girls and boys. After another march round and the singing of several hymns, the merry gathering regrettably separated, wishing that Hallowe'en came, at the very least, three times a year, and in a very short time the Hallowe'en party had become a thing of the past.—[W. M. Wills.

Caledonia W. C. T. U.

The following are the new executive committee: Honorary president, Mrs. T. W. Jackson; president, Miss MacKinnon; vice-presidents, Mesdames Street and Conning; recording secretary, Miss Wilson; corresponding secretary, Mrs. G. H. Hewson; treasurer, Mrs. Ruth Seldon.

The parlor meeting at the manse the other evening was a decided success. Some excellent solos were given by Miss Hull, Rev. J. S. Conning, Miss M. Kennedy, Miss McGregor and Mr. Wm. Brierley, and a very fine piano selection by Mr. P. Hayes. Several young people gave a rousing anthem, "Wine is a Mockery," and after Miss Wills' splendid reading there was a good quartet. Mrs. Day Smith, of Hamilton, was invited to explain the aim of the union and the great necessity of their efforts. Her unaffected manner and sweet womanly face won her hearers at once, and her visit to Caledonia has added a number to her many admirers.

The intellectual part of the programme, over which Mrs. Street modestly and gracefully presided, was closed with a chorus, "Sign Our Pledge," after which all partook of a lunch.

—Just when the other countries are beginning to talk of the Gottenburg system as a "remedy," the countries who have tried it for years and years are adopting the Local Veto—something like our Canadian Scott Act. Recently both Houses of the Norwegian Parliament have enacted a bill which transfers to imperial control the sale of liquors, which has hitherto been regulated by the various municipalities, and the proceeds are to pass into the National Exchequer. But it provides that each community shall have the power of absolute prohibition within its own district, and this is to be determined by a vote of a bare majority, not of those who vote, but of the registered voters. The voters are to include every man and woman above 21 years of age.

The readers of the HOME GUARD are directed to the advertisement of the Temperance and General Life Assurance Company, Toronto, in this issue. Insurance secured at the rates quoted by this company is guaranteed to be lower than any issued by rival companies. The prominence of the low rates of this company has gained them an extra large number of policyholders in the western district. Send to H. Sutherland, manager, Toronto, or apply to a local agent for rates.

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