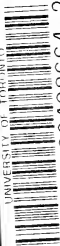


UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO



3 1761 00498664 2



Digitized by the Internet Archive  
in 2008 with funding from  
Microsoft Corporation







42

# Jubilee History

of the

## Ontario Woman's Christian Temperance Union

1877—1927



AUTHOR :

Mrs. S. G. E. McKee, North Bay

APR 21 1967



## Foreword

It is no part of a good historian to begin his work by making apologies, but I feel there is one due my readers because of the meagreness of data which will handicap me in this effort. It is a pity that more care has not been taken by officers of this organization—myself among the rest—to preserve the history of the Ontario Woman's Christian Temperance Union from the very beginning of its life. Its trials and triumphs; its dogged perseverance and struggles after higher and better kinds of restrictive and prohibitive measures against the common foe; its determination to hold what it had, and press on to the ultimate goal—the total prohibition of the Liquor Traffic—were well worth recording.

*S. G. M. Kee*

# CONTENTS

---

Beginnings—Page 5.

**Constitutional Changes**—12, 27, 29, 37, 43, 59, 69, 90, 94, 125, 126, 128, 140, 144, 150, 157, 158.

**Junior Work**—14, 17, 21, 24, 25, 27, 33, 90, 109, 125, 132, 138, 140, 146, 150, 159, 161, 176.

**LEGISLATION**—30, 37, 45, 47, 51, 87, 91, 93, 97, 129, 130, 136, 162.

License—6, 33, 42, 52, 68, 75, 82, 86, 99, 102, 104, 120.

Local Option—6, 8, 9, 12, 70, 81, 121.

Plebiscite and Referendum—32, 38, 40, 44, 48, 56, 59, 62, 117, 146.

Ontario Temperance Act—102, 104, 105, 107, 112, 154.

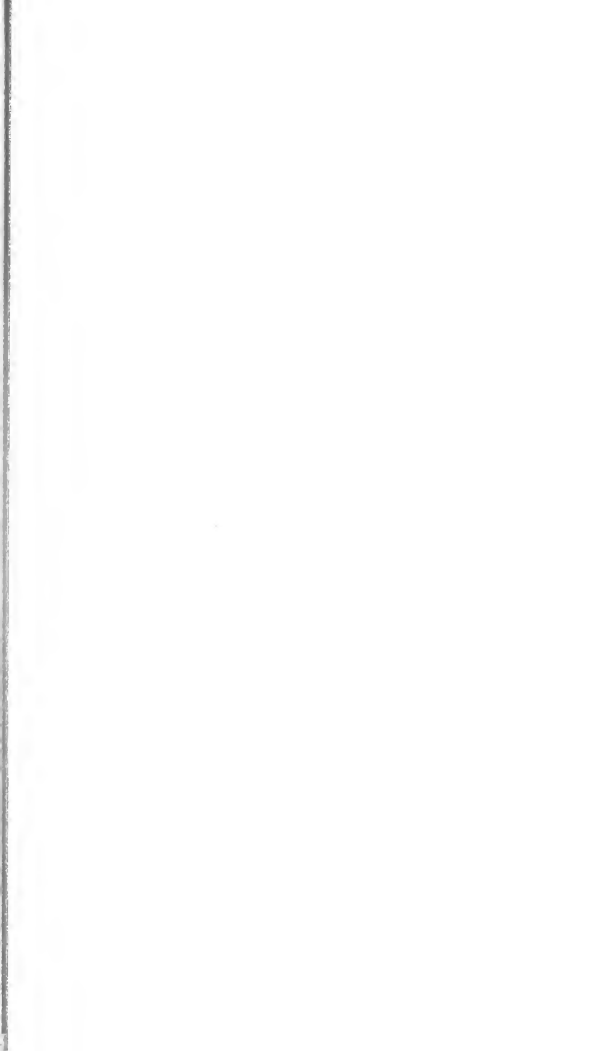
Liquor Control—66, 78, 155.

**Official Publications**—11, 13, 18, 19, 24, 47, 56, 58, 61, 69, 74, 81, 94, 103, 122, 124, 128, 137, 138, 139, 145, 146, 147, 156, 157, 160, 165, 166.

**Scientific Temperance**—12, 15, 17, 19, 21, 22, 24, 32, 51, 53, 67, 127, 131, 139, 146, 151, 156, 161, 162.

**Missionary and Patriotic**—21, 23, 77, 95, 115, 121, 128, 131, 134, 148, 149, 165.

**Woman's Franchise**—19, 26, 35, 45, 52, 59, 61, 107, 113.





MRS. J. R. DOYLE  
(nee Mary Stephens)

*Organizer of the first Woman's Temperance Society  
in Ontario, The Owen Sound Woman's League.*

## Beginnings

On May 27, 1874, Mrs. R. J. Doyle, of Owen Sound, moved to action by the drink tragedies of that lake port town and inspired by the thrilling press accounts of the Crusades in Ohio and other States called together her townswomen. The outcome was the formation of a "Prohibition Woman's League"—the little groups organized in those days took many different names—with a charter membership of 40. Its contribution not only to the well-being of Owen Sound, but to the whole movement in Ontario was invaluable.

This little band went to work at once. They induced the Council to reduce the number of licenses; secured the closing of the billiard saloons where there was much gambling. They gathered and taught the children. When the Dunkin Act was submitted in October, 1876, it was freely conceded that the Owen Sound Woman's League was the very heart of the movement which attained success, but was subsequently repealed because almost impossible of enforcement. To this day, however, the Dunkin Act (passed in 1875) is in force in Sarawak Township, the old home of Mrs. Doyle.

Mrs. Doyle was at the first Provincial rally, when Mrs. Youmans referred to her as the "Mother of the W.C.T.U. in Ontario." For 35 years Mrs. Doyle was the "life and soul" of Prohibition in Owen Sound and the County of Grey. The Editor of "The Owen Sound Advance," in chronicling her death, Feb. 16, 1892, said:—"In the words of Sir Christopher Wren's memorial inscription in St. Paul's, 'If you seek her monument, look around.'"

### An Heroic Example

Owen Sound's especial contribution to Prohibition in Ontario arose through her magnificent fight to attain, and retain, Local Option. It was the only city in the Province under this measure when Prohibition was enacted in 1916. They first carried the By-law in 1906, when they had over ten thousand of a population, though they were not yet incorporated as a City.

Seeing the danger of such an example, the liquor forces of Ontario set themselves to over-throw the By-law. A Temperance Council had been elected. The liquorites attempted to disqualify the Mayor and unseat six of the Aldermen. Failing in this, they attacked the By-law vote. The motion to quash it was granted by Justice Maybee at Osgoode Hall, and the town was ordered to pay the costs. The Town appealed before Chief Justice Mulock and Justices Magee and Clute, who gave judgment in favor of the town, and ordered the liquor people to pay the costs!

### Repeal Contests

In 1909 a Repeal contest resulted in another victory, though (so important did this strategic point seem to liquordom) the Antis established a paper of their own, "The Owen Sound Herald," which fought the Temperance people with every weapon known to the liquor fraternity—and that means hell turned inside out.

Again in January, 1912, the Wets turned their detestable artillery on the By-law. They failed, but claiming technical irregularities in the submission of the vote, brought on another contest in January, 1913, which resulted in their Seventh Defeat. Evidently they thought this an unlucky number, for they sold out "The Herald,"

folded their tents, and left the heroic Owen Sounders in possession of the field.

### Why They Won

It would not be right to fail to lay the emphasis for success where it belongs—and that is with the Lord. From the first the men and the women who formed the Local Prohibition Committee, recognized that "the battle was the Lord's." The W. C. T. U. organized the town for prayer. Literally hundreds upon hundreds of cottage prayer meetings were held during these years of stress and storm. What wonder is it that God made that city an example of His power, as no other in Ontario?

Miss Winnie Doyle has been the worthy successor of a noble Mother.

But we must hark back again to "the beginning," which will now introduce us to a lady whose name is known far outside the borders of Ontario.

### U. S. A. Activities

In 1873 Dr. Dio. Lewis so aroused the women of U.S.A., that organizations of the temperance forces followed under various names.

In Fredonia, N.Y., the women formed a Woman's Christian Temperance Union, on Dec. 14th, '73, and twelve days later, the women of Hillsboro, O., lighted the Crusade torch, that set the world aflame.

"The Torch Bearers," by Eliz. P. Gordor, says "On that eventful date, Dec. 14, '73, cultured home women, with prayer and song, 208 in number, marched two and two into the saloons and hotel bar-rooms of Fredonia, N.Y., and what is more they organized, the following day, under the name of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union."

This town adjoins Chautauqua, where in the following August at a rally of S. S. workers, the women met and decided to call a Convention to organize the American society. This took place in Cleveland, O., Nov. 18-20, 1874, when the name chosen by the women of Fredonia became the National choice.

### A Powerful Personality

Mrs. Letitia Youmans, of Picton, Ont., was present at both of these meetings and came home full of zeal and enthusiasm.

### Picton Organized

Mrs. Youmans organized a Union in her home town in December, 1874. ~~An old record tells us, the work laid out for the first week was to ascertain what families were suffering through intemperance; and that the disclosures were so numerous and terrible, there was not time at the next meeting to hear the reports! There were nine liquor licenses for a population of less than two thousand.~~

Mrs. Youmans worked in Prince Edward County with heroic courage (in spite of many discouragements and wilful opposition) for the carrying on of the "Dunkin" Act—a measure enacted in 1864 by the Parliament of Upper and Lower Canada, and which authorized the qualified electors of any municipality, township or county to prohibit the retail sale of liquors within their boundaries. On October 25th, 1875, Mrs. Youmans formed the first Toronto Union. How little she guessed the growth to which that tiny plant would attain!





MRS. THOMAS YOUNANS  
(*nee Letitia Creighton*)  
Baltimore, Northumberland  
Ontario President, 1877-1882



1877

## Ontario Provincial Union Organized

From this time Unions were founded here and there. But there was no affiliation between them; no Provincial Society until 1877. On October 23rd and 24th of that year, a conference of existing Unions was held in Toronto—twenty-five delegates present—when it was decided to form a Provincial Women's Christian Temperance Union. Mrs. Youmans was elected President, the rest of the officers being:

Rec. Secretary—Miss Lillian M. Phelps, St. Catharines.

Cor. Secretary—Miss Dora Allen, Kingston.

Treasurer—Mrs. (Judge) Jones, Brantford.

### A Fighting Leader

For five years Mrs. Youmans was the beloved Leader of the Provincial Union. During this time she travelled extensively through Ontario, Quebec and the Maritime Provinces, organizing societies, and doing very much by her earnest and eloquent addresses to convince the public mind of the unrighteousness of the Liquor Traffic. Since then, the Ontario Woman's Christian Temperance Union has gone on increasing in numbers, and sharing largely in the promotion of the growth of temperance sentiment. It has secured a warm place in the hearts of the people as an influence for good, wherever the White Ribbon is found; and is a power in the domestic and political life of the country.

### Following Pioneers

The Woman's Christian Temperance Union of Ontario was moulded on the same plan as that of the United States organization, and rightly so, for the same hand that fashioned the one, helped to fashion the other, since Miss Willard's im-

primature is the insignia on each. The lines followed were and are the same. The first Provincial Union adopted the same kind of departments. They were superintended by the best women of the time, who faithfully carried on the tasks committed to them, and which we inherit as their executors—working for God and Home and Native Land.



Baptist Church, Fredonia, N.Y., near Chautauqua, where the first Woman's Christian Temperance Union was organized, Dec. 15, 1873.

## First Provincial Convention, Toronto 1878

In 1878 the Provincial Union met in Toronto. Of this meeting we were unable to obtain any record. From subsequent data we are led to believe that very definite lines of work were outlined and the work conscientiously carried on. The following officers were elected:

Pres.—Mrs. L. Youmans.

1st Vice Pres.—Mrs. Tilton, Ottawa.

2nd Vice Pres.—Mrs. D. Cowan, Toronto.

Cor. Secretary—Mrs. M. Fawcett, Maple.

Rec. Secretary—Miss Lillian M. Phelps, St. Catharines.

Treasurer—Mrs. Jenny K. Trout, M.D., Toronto.

## 1879—2nd Convention, Brantford

On invitation, it was agreed to meet in Brantford in 1879. We have been told that this Convention was fully reported in the newspapers, but there is no official record.

## 1880—3rd Convention, St. Catharines

In 1880 the Annual Rally was held in St. Catharines, and we believe in that year a Provincial Report was published. The writer has been unable to secure a copy, so we are obliged to pass on to 1881 when London was the place of meeting. The record that follows is taken from an old paper contributed by Mrs. Somerville, of Dundas, wife of the Editor of "The Dundas Banner."

## 1881—4th Convention, London

In 1881 the Provincial Union met in London, Ontario. President Mrs. Letitia Youmans was in the chair. There were present 39 delegates, representing 15 unions. Seventeen counties had Vice-Presidents appointed over them as "Captains over Fifties," to promote interest; but it was felt that a more personal touch was needed, and Mrs. Youmans was engaged to take the field as Organizer for the Province. Mrs. Addie Chisholm, of Hamilton, Mrs. Emma F. Pratt, Hamilton, and Mrs. J. B. Keagey, Dundas, were the committee making this recommendation.

### Temperance Teaching in Schools

Another important business transaction was the petition to Hon. Adam Crooks, asking for the introduction of Temperance teaching, with text books, in the Public School. His reply was of the usual character of the politician—vague and unsatisfactory—so the women, with the customary tactics of the W. C. T. U., declared by resolution that they differed from the Minister of Education, and reaffirmed their request.

These were the days of the Canada Temperance Act (Scott Act), and much was said and done to help on the passage of this measure.

(NOTE)—The Dunkin Act of 1864 applied only to Ontario and Quebec. Confederation in 1867 completely changed the conditions of legislation so that the Scott Act, enacted in 1878, was applicable to all Canada. The Act passed was the outcome of a Commission appointed to enquire into the working of Prohibition in Maine and other American States. The Scott Act covered a county, and was a great improvement on the Dunkin Act. Its passage opened up a new and notable line of effort for the W.C. T.U. which lasted, roughly speaking, from May 1, 1885, to May 1, 1889. During that time 25 counties and two cities adopted the Act. It was later repealed in all of them.

While it was not what was wanted by the Temperance people, they had to gnaw the bone thrown to them and do their best. The full report of the Convention may be found in the "Crusade" of 1881, a Temperance paper published in London, Ontario, and edited for the Woman's Christian Temperance Union by Mrs. Somerville, of Dundas, a very close friend of the writer.

### Official Changes

Owing to illness Dr. Trout was not present and her Treasurer's report was read by Mrs. (Rev.) D. Cowan, of Toronto, who was elected to fill the vacant office. Miss Lillian M. Phelps (Minnie) was appointed Organizer and Miss Annie Orchard, of Brantford, was elected Rec. Secretary. She filled this office until 1893, when she became Vice President of Ontario. In 1895 she was succeeded by Mrs. Cavers, and a few months later was elected President of the Dominion Union. In January, 1886, Miss Orchard was married to Mr. Peter Rutherford, of Toronto, so is better known as our Annie O. Rutherford.

#### DO EVERYTHING POLICY

"Everything is not in the temperance reform but the temperance reform should be in everything."

—Frances E. Willard

## 1882—5th Convention, Milton

In 1882 the Provincial Rally was held in Milton. There were 34 delegates. Mrs. Youmans presided, but as she had been appointed Organizer, and had served five years as President, she retired, much regretted, as Chief Executive Officer. The lines of operation were increased and monthly meetings for prayer were recommended. A sale of needle work was advised for the Annual Convention. A "Finance and Plan of Work Committee" was of practical benefit and help. A Mass Meeting of children was held, addressed by prominent workers. The Resolutions passed were suggestive of the spirit of love for the children, the cause of Prohibition, and the best means to that end. Many of these objectives have been attained in subsequent years. However, it gladdens our hearts to recall that though the Provincial Treasurer, Mrs. D. Cowan, of Toronto, was only able to report thirty-one members in that city, she can now rejoice, and does rejoice, to know that in 1927 there were 3825 members in Toronto.

Even in the early days of W. C. T. U. activities there were ups and downs. At the Milton Convention some 20 Unions out of the 36 failed to report—a black eye for the Provincial Corresponding Secretary. But she adds "No department of our special work has been neglected".

### County Unions Organized

It was at this gathering that each county was asked to organize a *County Union*. The chief county officer was appointed at the Provincial Convention until 1889 when a County Constitution was adopted. The *elected* County Presidents took their seats in the Provincial Convention for the first time in 1890, as *ex-officio* Vice-Presidents of the Provincial Union.



### Growing in Numbers

During the last few years, Ontario had shared in the general growth of Temperance sentiment. In common with other Temperance organizations, the W.C.T.U. had increased in membership, and had obtained a surer and warmer place in the hearts of the people. Owing, no doubt, to the Scott Act contests in many counties, and the earnest work of the women, the membership of the Unions had doubled; so that in 1882 the Ontario Provincial Union comprised 96 societies with a membership of 2500.

Scientific Temperance in Schools was again the subject of a petition to the Legislature.

Medical Conventions and Assemblies were to be approached on the use of alcohol as a medicine.

Church denominations were implored to forbid fermented wine as a commemorative element at the Lord's Table.

All these, with other activities as important, are contained in that year's "Chronicle".

### Frances Willard

Ottawa invited the Provincial Union to meet there the next year. Ottawa was organized September 20, 1881, by Miss Frances Willard. Miss Willard had addressed a meeting of which Sir Leonard Tilley was chairman. At its conclusion, the ladies of the City were invited to meet Miss Willard the next afternoon. Twenty-one of them became charter members, with Mrs. Roberta Tilton as President.

### A New President

Mrs. Addie Chisholm, of Hamilton, was elected President. The Treasurer, Mrs. D. Cowan, Toronto, was elected Vice-President, and Mrs. D. L. Brethour became Treasurer, which office she held for many years.

## 1883—6th Convention, Ottawa

Your feeble historian has no record of the year 1883, but, as intimated, the Provincial Convention met in Ottawa. Mrs. Shortreed was the delegate of the Barrie Union and Miss Frances Willard was the high light of the gathering.

### The Dominion Union Organized

During the year the work had been running successfully in all lines laid down by the *Milton Convention*, and a correspondence had been carried on among the leading women of the organization, looking to the formation of a Dominion Union. All were in favor of taking this step. By Miss Willard's advice, the Ontario Provincial appointed a committee, consisting of Mrs. Addie C. Chisholm, of Ottawa, and Mrs. Strachan, of Hamilton, to confer with the Quebec Provincial Executive. It was agreed not to meet until 1885 as some of the Provincial Unions were so recently formed they needed to get upon their feet. At the meeting of the Committee, a constitution was drawn up similar to that of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union of the United States, and the following officers nominated:—

President—Mrs. Letitia Youmans, Picton.

Vice-President—Mrs. Addie Chisholm, Ottawa.

“ “ Mrs. Middleton, Richmond, Que.

“ “ Mrs. (Dr.) Todd, St. Stephen, N.B.

“ “ Mrs. Pollard, British Columbia.

Corres. Secy.—Mrs. Roberta Tilton, Ottawa.

Rec. Secy.—Miss Renaud, Montreal.

Treas.—Mrs. (Judge) Steadman Fredericton, N.B.

Two copies of that year's Provincial Report were beautifully bound in morocco and sent, one to the wife of the Governor-General, the Marchioness of Lansdowne; and the other to Mrs. Beverly Robinson, wife of the Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario.

104



MRS. CHISHOLM  
LATER LADY FOSTER  
(*née* Adelaide Milton Davis)  
Hamilton, Wentworth, Ont.  
President, 1882-1888



## 1884—7th Convention, Toronto

The Seventh Annual Meeting of the Ontario Provincial was held in Shaftsbury Hall, Toronto, Oct. 14th-16th, over 100 delegates present.

The President's address touched on the work of the Departments during the year, and congratulated the Society on its success. The Scott Act was being vigorously pushed—ten Counties being in the dry column at that time—thus paving the way for general Prohibition. In the seven years of organized life, the Society had grown from a scattered few into thousands, and was a part of a still greater organization in the United States whose members wore the White Ribbon. A pleasant incident of this Convention was the presentation of a banner by the "Young Woman's Christian Temperance Union" of Ottawa. Mrs. Roberta Tilton, of Ottawa, gave the "Lecture and Plan of Work" report. Mrs. E. W. Rutherford, of Toronto, reported for Prison and Gaol Work, and declared "I can safely say that 75% of commitments to gaols and prisons are the result of drink, directly or indirectly." Miss Minnie Phelps, of St. Catharines, read a paper on "The Influence of the Press," in which she stated that 52 papers had W.C.T.U. columns; indeed that there were "more Editors willing to grant space than workers able to fill it." Mrs. (Rev.) M. S. Fawcett, of Maple, the Provincial Corresponding Secretary, reported a membership of over 2000; 30 Bands of Hope with 2,425 children.

### Scientific Temperance

Miss Annie Orchard of Galt, Provincial Recording Secretary, reported on the Department of Scientific Temperance. The petitions, memorials and deputations had at last made a real impression. The Minister of Education—Hon. G. W.

Ross—had promised to place this topic on the School Curriculum once a week, and make it a subject for examination in the Model Schools. This was a great victory. But the question of a text book was still unsettled. Miss Mary Scott of Ottawa, reported four "Y" Unions in active operation. Mrs. T. H. Pratt of Hamilton, showed that \$34.92 had been spent on literature, and four thousand papers were distributed free. The Treasurer, Mrs. P. C. Brethour, of Milton, had received \$584.95. It was the day of small things.

### An Official Paper

"The Woman's Journal," an unofficial paper that had been ably edited by Miss Mary Scott, of Ottawa, was endorsed as the official organ. The speakers at the Public Meetings were:—Mrs. J. Harvie, Toronto; Hon. S. H. Blake, Q. C., Hon. G. W. Ross, Mr. J. J. McLaren, Q.C., Mr. W. H. Howland, and others—certainly a notable array! The Convention voted to meet in London, which was organized in 1878 by Mrs. Youmans.

### The W. W. C. T. U.

The World's Woman's Christian Temperance Union was formed this year.

The World's Presidents have been:

Margaret Bright Lucas, Eng., 1884-1890.

Frances E. Willard, U.S.A., 1891-1898.

Lady Henry Somerset, Eng., 1900-1906.

Rosalind, Countess of Carlisle, Eng., 1906-1921.

Anna Adams Gordon, U.S.A., 1921.

## 1885—8th Convention, London

The London Convention of 1885 saw a vast improvement in numbers, in plans of work and also aggressiveness of spirit, due to the able management of the President, Mrs. Chisholm, and her staff. Miss Annie Orchard was still Recording Secretary, and Mrs. M. S. Fawcett, Corresponding Secretary. There was real history for the Corresponding Secretary and Treasurer to report—162 Unions with 4,060 members, and over \$1,000.00 in affiliated members' fees. County Conventions were arranged for instead of summer meetings, and a constitution was adopted.

At this Convention the first "douceur" in the shape of \$100.00 was given the President, who had, at a personal venture, financed the launching of the official paper "The Woman's Journal," and made a success of it. Mrs. Mary Wylie, of Richmond Hill, was appointed Assistant Corresponding Secretary and continued on the Executive for many years.

### Partial Municipal Ballot

The municipal vote for property-owning widows and spinsters was counted a real concession, and members were urged to use it, and to promote its use in their localities. It had been secured that year. In 1883 the Officers of the Toronto Union waited on the City Council, and asked for the enfranchisement of women. The matter was referred to the Government, and resulted in the grant two years later of this meagre voting privilege.

### Scientific Temperance

The old fight was still on for Temperance text books in the schools, and for unfermented wine at the Lord's Table. In several places this latter fight was won through a secret agreement that all members of the Union would pass "The

Cup" untasted until their plea that the Blood of Christ should not be represented by that which was one of the world's greatest curses, was heeded.

It makes intensely interesting reading to look over the County reports and note the names of those we have known. Just now as I write I see before me a request from Mrs. (Dr.) Ferguson, of Grenville County, to hold a County Convention in Kemptville. We wonder if G. Howard Ferguson, Premier of Ontario, will remember that his Mother wore a White Ribbon!

At this time, the work had become so widespread, that Mrs. Chisholme saw it must become stabilized, if it were to become enduring.

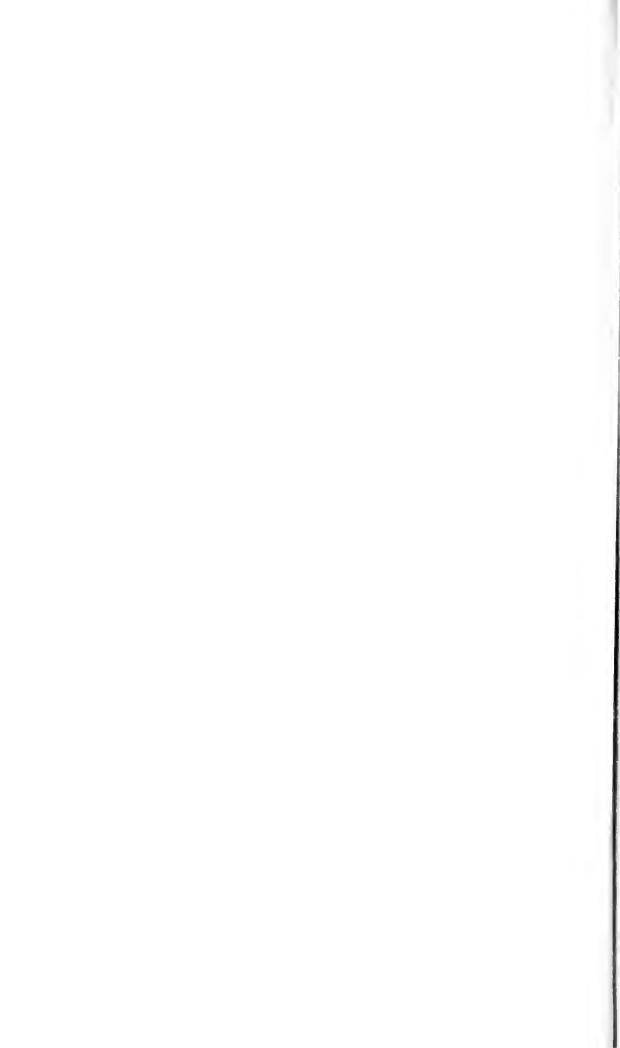
It had been customary to hold summer rallies, for which notable speakers were secured, and at which the women received inspiration for the more definite work. Notable among these was the one held annually at Grimsby Camp.

These were replaced by County Conventions.





MRS. (REV.) DAVID L. BRETHOUR  
(*nee* Phoebe C. Price)  
Newburg, Addington, Ont.  
President, 1888-1889.



## 1886—9th Convention, Owen Sound

On October 12, 1886, the Provincial Union met in Owen Sound. There were 96 delegates. The personnel of the Sub-Executive remained the same, except that the Recording Secretary, who was Miss Annie Orchard, became Mrs. Annie O. Rutherford; but new conditions only made our valuable Secretary a more devoted officer. Condolence was extended Mrs. M. S. Fawcett, the retiring Cor. Secy. in her bereavement—with thanks for her efficient work.

The White Cross movement was outlined by Mrs. Roberta Tilton, of Ottawa, and was adopted. The Government was thanked for introducing a Temperance text book (Sir Benjamin Ward Richardson's) in the schools. It was resolved that the Ontario W.C.T.U. should become incorporated and that a paid Lumber Camp Missionary be employed for a couple of months; that 2000 copies of the Provincial Report be printed; that the affiliation fee to the Dominion Union be five cents. The President was appointed to go to the National Convention at Minneapolis, U.S.A. Men were made honorary members for the first time.

Mrs. Mary Wiley was elected Cor. Secy.

### Kitchen Garden

It was about this time that the Central "Y," Toronto, introduced as a Department, Kitchen Garden work, under the Presidency of Miss Tilley. This line of instruction was borrowed from the U S. W.C.T.U.

With toy furniture and household utensils, the children of the poor were taught, to the accompaniment of song, to perform household duties. This was the forerunner of our Domestic Science teaching in the schools of Ontario, which was introduced in this Province by Mrs. A. Hoodless, of Hamilton, about the year 1909.

22

## 1887—10th Convention, Napanee

The 1887 Provincial Convention was held in Napanee. It was very exciting, for I was there and can testify to the fact. A heated discussion took place over the position given the Temperance text book, and telegrams to the Minister of Education, Hon. G. W. Ross, brought a reply which was not satisfactory. Further messages were sent. We heard afterwards the Minister averred that W.C.T.U. meant the "Women Constantly Troubling Us". But our cause was in the hands of women of brains and power, and that was demonstrated at the Mass Meeting when Mrs. Youmans, metaphorically, took her slipper to Hon. Geo. Foster—who had been elected as a Prohibitionist, but who for a while proved a disappointing representative. Mr. Foster's critic certainly left her mark, if not on his body, at least on his spirit. We rejoice to know that Sir George came back to his old love, and has now rendered for many years noble service to the Cause. The delegates numbered 137, and reports showed good advance made along parliamentary and business lines. Our women were learning how to do things. The formation of a number of County Unions brought good cheer. The organization was becoming well systematized.

### A Patriotic Event

This year, historic in the annals of our Empire, was marked by the sending of an illuminated address to Her Gracious Majesty Queen Victoria, this being the year of her Golden Jubilee.

## 1888—11th Convention, Sarnia

Sarnia was the next place of meeting.

During the year Mrs. Youmans had been stricken with severe rheumatism and became a helpless invalid. This was a blow to the workers who had enjoyed her leadership. Greetings and messages of sympathy were exchanged.

Mrs. Addie Chisholm presided, but in her annual address intimation was given that she would not be eligible for re-election. Her untiring energy and zeal had been deeply appreciated but the women faced the future with true courage and hope. The Corresponding Secretary reported 107 delegates. The lists of Departments included Scientific Temperance, Press, Unfermented Wine, Lumbermen, Fair Work, Prison and Police, Legislation, Railroad Work, Hygiene and Heredity, Work among Soldiers, Purity, Sabbath Observance, Juvenile, Flower Mission, Kitchen-Garden, and Conference with Influential Bodies. The reader will see that a great advance had been made. Many of the above Departments had found a permanent place in the life and history of our Society.

During Mrs. Chisholm's time of office the work was stabilized and many important methods adopted.

Practically all our present departments of work were introduced.

The Constitutions, Provincial, County and Local, were revised, and rectified.

The minutes are replete with evidence of clear thinking and wise guidance.

### **New President**

Mrs. (Rev.) D. L. Brethour, then of Thorold, was chosen President.

Mrs. J. R. Cavers, of Galt, was elected Treasurer.

## 1889—12th Convention, Galt

The Twelfth Annual Meeting of the Provincial W.C.T. U. met in Galt, Mrs. (Rev.) D. L. Brethour in the chair. There were present 192 delegates and officers. The increased delegation and increased lines of work argued increased wisdom, for the Provincial Union had by this time gathered into its fold many wise and good women. The appeal of Toronto White-ribboners to be allowed to form a District was defeated by a vote of 48 to 29, on the ground that it would set an unwise precedent. Some stormy resolutions were read, amended and adopted.

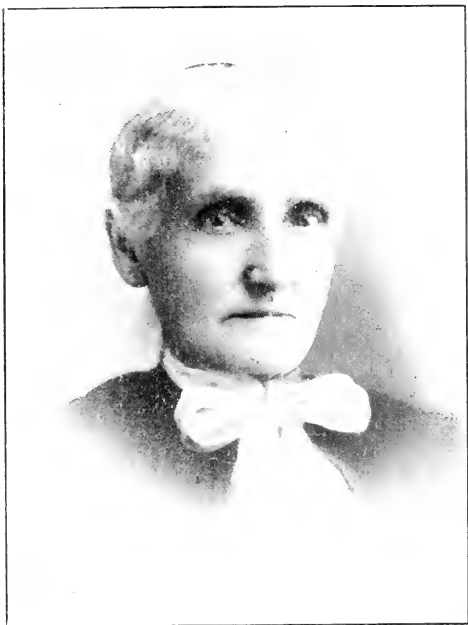
Delegates to the Dominion Convention were to be named by the Sub-Executive, and delegates to the Ontario Branch of the Alliance were appointed.

County Presidents were to be considered as Organizers. This was and is still a dream unfulfilled. It is really the best way of working the Counties; but since then we have found it necessary to employ Provincial Organizers, and until we secure as County Presidents those who can give the time and who have the ability to organize the Counties, they will be needed.

This Convention was remarkable for its strong resolutions, its plain speaking from a political aspect and its loyal, spiritual tone. Specialties were made of Scientific Temperance, Social Purity and Sabbath Observance. Juvenile Work also appealed most strongly to the Convention. All the departments were well directed, and helpful intelligent reports given.

### **Educational Work**

Scientific Temperance had a very definite place on this programme, and plans were made to get up-to-date information in the hands of the teachers, and to call their attention to the Department Regulations.



MRS. (REV.) MICHAEL FAWCETT  
(*nee Mary Sarah Peart*)  
Nelson, Halton, Ontario.  
*President, 1889-1890*





The Literature Depository was moved to Toronto.

The Cor. Secretary's report forms were to be sent out annually instead of semi-annually.

### **World's W.C.T.U. Petition**

In 1884 Frances E. Willard wrote the first clarion call for World Prohibition, Purity and Peace. The Polyglot Petition was sent to the women of all nations for signatures from 1884-1895.

This convention gave Ontario's final word on this matter and thousands of signatures were obtained.

### **New President**

Mrs. Brethour was obliged to retire because of physical inability.

The election of officers resulted as follows:—

President—Mrs. M. S. Fawcett, Toronto.

Vice-President—Mrs. Huldah Rockwell, Kingston.

Corresponding Secy.—Mrs. Mary Wiley, Richmond Hill,

Recording Secy.—Mrs. A. O. Rutherford, Toronto.

Treasurer—Mrs. J. R. Cavers, Galt.

Convention Speaker was Mr. John Nichols.

26

## 1890—13th Convention, Kingston

Our women met in the Limestone City of Kingston, President Mrs. M. S. Fawcett in the chair. Important items of business on the first day were the instituting of a yearly "Day of Prayer", and a "Crusade Day".

### District Legislation

A Memorial was presented from the Toronto District Union asking for separation from York County, and declaring its belief that for each to be affiliated with the Provincial, but under separate organization, would be for the best interests of the work. This request was conceded, with this recommendation:—Moved by Miss Mary Scott, Ottawa, seconded by Miss Jennie McArthur, Cornwall,

"That any City having an affiliated membership of "Four Hundred", be recognized as a County Union, by adopting the County Union Constitution of the Provincial Union."

Toronto had that year affiliated for 211 members—so this longed for "District" looked afar off.

The Literature Department being in an unsatisfactory state, it was resolved to sell our stock to the Dominion Union.

The public evening meeting was to have been addressed by Rev. W. F. Wilson of Toronto. His enforced absence through illness threw the responsibility on the delegates, and they chose three women to fill this gap—Mrs. Judge Foster, of Knowlton, P.Q., a visitor; Mrs. Maddock, of Guelph, President of Wellington County; and Mrs. Alexander, President of the Ottawa Union. Greetings, a Medal Contest, the Reports of "Plan of Work" and "Resolution" Committees, filled the closing day.

### Women's Franchise

Among the resolutions sent to the Resolution Committee was one urging that the Provincial Government be petitioned

to allow all tax-paying women the Provincial ballot. Much legislation affecting them was enacted, and they had no voice for or against it. The Resolutions Committee had not the courage to pronounce on this prickly question, so passed it on to Convention; and Convention passed it on to the Dominion Union. There were "pros" and "antis" in those days even in our Convention!

We find history repeating itself in the 9th resolution, whereby the women were urged to patronize Temperance grocery stores—just as we did in 1926, under the reign of "4.4."

The County Presidents took their seats on the Executive for the first time.

Greater emphasis was laid on the Band of Hope work with good results, and a Convention Medal Contest was held.

An important step was taken by appointing a committee to more closely co-operate with the Prisoner's Aid Association of Ontario. A greater interest in the welfare of the oft-times victims of the liquor traffic and other unfortunate families was thus established.

### Official Changes

The election of officers resulted in two changes, as follows:—President, Mrs. J. R. Cavers, Galt; Treasurer, Miss Jennie McArthur, Cornwall, who held this office until her death in 1899.

## 1891—14th Convention, Toronto

The Convention was held in the Hall of the Christian Institute, Toronto. The Convention speaker was Rev. Dr. Anna Shaw, Boston, and her marvellous address alternately rocked the audience with laughter and reduced it to tears. Her theme was the enfranchisement of women as a weapon for home defence. The next day the Convention endorsed woman's franchise without any attached tags.

### District Legislation

At this gathering a strong effort was made by the Toronto delegation to have the legislation adopted at Kingston, re "Districts", revised, so that any city, regardless of affiliated membership, could sever its County relationship by adopting the County Union Constitution. The delegates stood by the Kingston pronouncement, and urged the Toronto friends to push on to the required 400 membership.

From the Dominion Report we learn that the special difficulty Ontario was contending with was partyism. Ontario stands first in point of age and numbers. The members acknowledge some severe drawbacks to the work; but are still in the field to fight against the common foe. The Provincial Secretary states that the special difficulty which they have to contend with lies in the lack of interest and the unwillingness of the Temperance People in general to commit themselves to any definite line of action, in the cause of Prohibition. Politics first, politics last, politics every time; each party afraid of the Temperance question.

But passing from difficulties, we must look at the encouragements in the W.C.T.U. reports. Ontario had 16 organized Counties, four added since last report; 175 Unions with a membership of 4,318; 80 Bands of Hope and Loyal Legions with 10,613 members. Literature had been distributed by 75



MRS. JAS. R. CAVERS  
(*nee Jennie Wiggington, England*)  
President, 1890-1893.



Unions. Much had been supplied in Railroad Stations, at Halls, Lumber Camps, Shops, Steamboats, Sunday Schools, Hospitals, Gaols, Exhibition Grounds and among soldiers. Temperance books were given to Free Libraries.

A little note on that year's program says:—"Messrs. T. Eaton & Co. have kindly intimated that one of their elegant busses will meet all trains on the 27th, and convey delegates to place of meeting."

Your humble historian being unable to secure a copy of this year's Provincial Report has had to depend for her facts on the Dominion Report, an old program, and the memory of a friend.

LATER—An old minute book says "This Convention introduced printed credential forms for the delegates, appointed an appropriation committee, and recommended that 'Y' Work be made a Department; that each County endeavour to appoint a Superintendent—a 'Y' President if possible—whose duty shall be to organize new 'Y's'".

A full revision of the Constitution resulted in—the adoption of a 25 cent Provincial and a 5 cent County affiliation fee for each member. The manner of the election of County Officers was also defined.

A press notice says in part:—"Mrs. L. Youmans, the veteran Temperance worker, was brought to the reception. She spoke from her wheel chair, near the platform, with her old time strength of voice and energy; and rejoiced her many friends who were stimulated to further efforts by her earnest words."

This apparently was the last time she attended a Convention.

"This revenue question is an old, old story. It began in the days of Nehemiah, and men in their hours of weakness have been echoing it ever since."—Mrs. L. Youmans.

## 1892—15th Convention, Belleville

The Provincial Convention was held in Belleville, Mrs. Cavers presiding over a gathering of 95 delegates and officers.

### Settled By Prayer

At the opening Executive meeting, the Toronto delegation again presented its appeal for a revision of the Kingston "District" regulation. After an hour of discussion, some of it rather tempestuous, it was proposed that the meeting go to prayer. A prolonged and very tender season of waiting on God brought a settlement of this vexatious question in ten minutes, by the lowering of the prescribed District membership from 400 to 300. Toronto had at that time six "W's" and a "Y" with a total affiliated membership of 204. The Toronto women said, "Give us the year and we'll reach the standard". They did, with nine "W's" and a "Y" and exactly 300 of a membership. The new departments adopted were as follows:—Coffee Houses, Schools of Method, Work among Indians and Work among Colored People. Many plans of Work set forth growing courage. Aggressive action against the politicians showed their metal, although they lacked the power of the ballot to enforce their demands.

### Women Inspectors

Among these resolutions is found one asking the Unions in the different ridings to appeal to their Provincial representatives to have appointed woman Inspectors of such factories and shops as employed women. There were men factory inspectors, but no provision at all for mercantile places other than factories, and no women inspectors. This was the first Provincial step in an important move that resulted in far-reaching changes in these business places.



The facts that started this ball rolling came to light in London in 1889, and disclosed shocking neglect of hygienic arrangements, both where women alone, and women and men together were employed. Mrs. May R. Thornley, London, was asked in 1891 to correspond with other cities and large towns and secure further data. This was done, and the revelations were so amazingly bad that a deputation from the Executive waited during the following year on the Ontario Government, and presented their budget of facts. In 1892, "An act to protect those employed in places of business other than factories" was passed.

Another Society, not then in existence provincially, later claimed credit for this measure.

Other strong resolutions made good reading for the newspapers and advertised the work.

Convention speaker was Rev. W. Patterson, Pastor Cooke's Church, Toronto. We had two delightful visitors—Mrs. Ella F. M. Williams, Montreal, beloved Dominion President, and Mrs. Edith Archibald, Cow Bay, C.B., President Maritime Union.

---

"We need—each and all—to be needed,  
To feel we have something to give  
Towards soothing the moan of earth's hunger;  
We know that then only we live  
When we feed one another, as we have been fed,  
From the hand that gives body and spirit their bread."

—Selected.

## 1893—16th Convention, Chatham

The Sixteenth Annual Convention was held in Chatham, Mrs. Cavers presiding. There were 100 delegates and officers present.

### A Text Book at Last

The chief item of outside interest was the fact that the Minister of Education had authorized a text book on Temperance Physiology. He was requested to send a copy to each S.T.I. County Superintendent.

Mrs. Hunter on behalf of the Lumbermen urged the need of a Missionary. Convention agreed to engage one for four months of the year.

January 3rd, Mrs. Youmans' birthday, was designated as "*Crusade Day and Day of Prayer*", and her book "*Campaign Echoes*" was heartily commended. School Savings Banks were discussed and approved, and a very profitable Convention closed in the usual way.

### The Mowat Plebiscite

During this year the women were preparing for Sir Oliver Mowat's Plebiscite—the first ever taken in Ontario—and which was to culminate Jan. 1, 1894. There was another "first thing" about this vote too. Never before had any provincial issue been voted upon by the municipally enfranchised women, i.e. the widows and spinsters with property qualifications. It was in this vote that the women were provided with yellow ballots, thus enabling the Returning Officers to quickly separate the sheep from the goats. The Convention urged the women who could vote to do so, and pledged the organization to take "Systematic and vigorous action" in this campaign. 12,402 women voted for Prohibition and 2,226 against.



MRS. JOS. H. THORNLEY  
(*nee* May Rowland Dickson)  
Drummondville, Welland, Ontario.  
President 1893-1900.  
1910-1912



### Changes of Leadership

Mrs. Cavers said she could not allow her name to be considered for the Presidency, and Mrs. Mary R. Thornley, of London, was elected. Other changes placed Mrs. A. O. Rutherford, Toronto, as Vice-President, and Miss Ella S. Cosford, of London, as Recording Secretary.

### A Rousing Majority

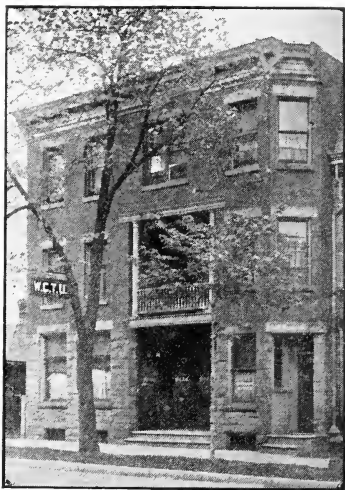
On Feb. 2nd of 1894, the Sub-Executive met at Toronto Headquarters, 56 Elm St., by courtesy of Toronto District, Mrs. Thornley presiding. There was great rejoicing over the results of the January 1st Plebiscite on the question "Are you in favor of the immediate Prohibition by Law, of the importation, manufacture and sale of intoxicating liquors, as a beverage?" Out of the total votes cast of 303,209 the Prohibitionists obtained a majority of 81,769.

Since the liquor jurisdiction of Provincial and Dominion Governments had never been settled, the Ontario Legislature and the National Government had agreed to submit the whole question to the Privy Council. Should the Privy Council so permit, the Ontario Government was pledged (in the words of its leader, Sir Oliver Mowat) "to pass a prohibitory liquor law as respects the sale of intoxicating liquor."

Arrangements were made to carry out the behest of the Chatham Convention, and memorialize the British Government, asking that it cease to flood India with liquor and China with opium. Our own Ontario Legislature was urged to grant Woman's Suffrage.

Dr. Leila Davis, of Toronto, asked for a larger allowance for educational literature on the subject of Dress Reform. This was in the heyday of the corset and trailing gowns. Dr. Davis was allowed 3,600 leaflets and circulars through which to plead for saner attire. A Reception Service for new members, prepared by Mrs. Thornley, was adopted. Mrs. Huldah

Rockwell, of Picton, resigned the Dept. of Franchise which she had ably filled, and Mrs. F. S. Spence, of Toronto, accepted it.





FRANCES E. WILLARD

*First Secretary and Organizer of the W.C.T.U., U. S.*

*President U. S. A. W.C.T.U. 1879-1898*

*World's W.C.T.U. President 1883-1898*





## 1894—17th Convention, Cornwall

October 29th, the Annual Convention was held in the Baptist Church, Cornwall.

This Rally included some most unusual happenings. Months before all the local clergy had been notified that from Oct. 30th to Nov. 2nd. Cornwall would entertain, for the first time in its history, the Ontario Provincial W.C.T.U. Miss Jennie MacArthur, of that town (Prov. Treas.), was Chairman of the Entertainment Committee.

On the night the Executive arrived, Miss MacArthur met them at the train in great distress. One of the churches had started Evangelistic meetings with an outside speaker. Reminded of the Convention, the Church Committee had agreed to call off their service on the Thursday public meeting night, the delegates being invited to attend the Wednesday evening Revival Services. Thus much we knew before the program was printed, and on it the Wednesday night Evangelistic Service was duly announced. But our Treasurer's doleful news was that "the Church Committee had reconsidered, and would make no break in the meetings". In a place the size of Cornwall where the town is sharply divided between Protestants and Catholics, this meant disaster to one or other of the gatherings.

### A Dilemma

The Provincial speaker was Dr. Anna Shaw, of Boston, and the Music Hall had been engaged. The expense involved was heavy, and no change could be made.

To be in any sort of rivalry, however unintentional, with any effort to win souls, was in itself a distress. There was no recourse but prayer, so the Sub-Executive met, and laid their case before the Lord.

Just how we did not know, but the news of our dilemma

took wings. Sympathy was general. Without solicitation, the Town Band offered its services, and suggested a parade through the streets to the Music Hall. When the officers arrived on the platform, behind the curtain, and peeked through, they could scarcely believe their eyes—*every seat full and very little standing room left.*

Dr. Shaw held that audience breathless, and the Provincial Union got the largest (to date) collection of its Seventeen Annual Meetings. But let us take the Convention in detail.

### Convention Session

The Convention opened Tuesday morning as usual. On motion of Mrs. S. G. E. McKee, of Barrie, ten minutes discussion was allowed after each report. We took things with more deliberation then than now. Press, Sailors, Soldiers, R. R. Employees, Prisoners' Aid, etc., reports were read by women whose names stand out as leaders in our organization, and are dear to us, for they left precious memories behind them.

The address of the President, Mrs. Thornley, was full of valuable suggestions and was warmly received and adopted. The report of the Cor. Secy., Mrs. Mary Wiley, was highly commended. There were now 211 Unions with 5,549 Active and 704 Honorary Members; 2,756 regular and 748 public meetings had been held, and there were 94 Bands of Hope. The Treasurer, Miss MacArthur, reported an income of \$3,044.86—an improvement on the Treasurer's \$589.95 in 1884. This year the local unions reported raising over \$10,000.

The Tuesday night "Welcome Meeting" was presided over by Mrs. Annie O. Rutherford, Vice-President. Mrs. (Judge) Pringle's greetings for the local union were read by

another, owing to her illness. The Town Council, etc., etc., were presented and they were responded to by Mrs. Gibbs, of Port Arthur. These exercises were followed by a delightful reception to the delegates.

Mr. J. J. Kelso, of Toronto, presented the claims of the Children's Aid at one of the afternoon meetings.

### Constitutional Change

The Constitution was altered so that any candidate for office, who receives on the Informal Ballot, three quarters of the vote cast, can, on motion, be declared elected. The same officers were chosen.

Not only had the Plebiscite of Jan. 1st carried, but the election that followed it had returned to power Sir Oliver Mowat. We close this year's record with one of the resolutions that carried the Convention with a swing. (After congratulating Sir Oliver, and reminding him of his pledges).

**RESOLVED**—That we ask immediate relief from some of the more burdensome features of the present license system, such as the misnumbering of 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 laws they were appointed to enforce; together with other needed reforms;

**RESOLVED**—That a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Sir Oliver Mowat.

## 1895—18th Convention, Hamilton

Our Eighteenth Annual Meeting was held Oct. 29th, Nov. 1st, in Hamilton, Mrs. Thornley presiding. A greeting to Mrs. Youmans was an annual act, she being held in loving remembrance. There were now 202 Unions and nearly 5,000 members. The Convention disclosed one regretted failure. From two thousand Reports as printed at first, there were now only one thousand printed, and fifty were still on hand; this in spite of the increased membership and fifteen new Unions.

Mrs. Ella Boole, of Staten Island, New York, (now National U.S.A. President), was Convention speaker, and a very spiritual atmosphere prevailed throughout the session. There were eight notices of motion re the constitution, one of which was that the "Y" Dept. be elevated to a "Y" Branch, and an elected Provincial Secretary be placed in charge.

### A Provincial School

The School of Methods, the first Provincial one ever held, opened with a beautiful Bible reading by Miss Dougall, of "The Montreal Witness", who proved a delightful visitor. It was a real "School." "The Formation of a County Union" by Mrs. S. G. E. McKee; "The Needs of a County Union" by Miss Kate Fisher, Wiarnton; "The Duties of a County President" by Mrs. Kate Maxwell, Amherstburg, (all of these women being County Presidents); "The "Y" Union", Miss Braden, Ottawa, and "Treasurers' Mistakes", Miss Jennie MacArthur, Cornwall, made a lively, helpful program.

### Marking Time

There was no advance Prohibition step that could be taken. The Privy Council decision had not arrived, and the Government, despite the splendid Plebiscite majority, refused

to do anything in the way of amending the License Act. Confidence was expressed in the good faith of the Government—a confidence that later events proved to be sadly misplaced.

The officers were all re-elected, except that Mrs. J. R. Cavers, of Galt, became Vice-President.

### Superintendents' Reports

Some notable pronouncements were made at this meeting which are worth putting into practice.

That details of local work be not given. That in compiling reports this order be followed viz.:—"That the summary be given first, suggestions second, and the report by committees third." This order has since been reversed and an inspirational idea is given first place.

That a time-keeper be appointed and that the name of the speaker and the minute of the clock be registered on paper. That there be a time limit for discussion.

That plans of work be sent the Union through department circulars.

## 1896—19th Convention, Pembroke

In October, 1896, we met in the Methodist Church of Pembroke, Mrs. May R. Thornley in the chair.

### Our Promoted Leader

This year was made memorable by the death of Mrs. L. Youmans, who passed away July 18, 1896. Mourned and honored as the best known pioneer of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union work in Canada, her memory is still revered among White Ribboners.

### Convention Conferences

This was the first Provincial Rally that featured "Conferences." We find by the program that the following Superintendents gathered interested audiences to consider their Departments—"Flower Mission," Mrs. Alice Reede, of Teeswater; "Lumber Camp," Mrs. Agnes Hunter, of Pembroke; "The Y", Miss Mary Scott, of Ottawa, and "Curfew Bell," by Mrs. McKee, of Barrie.

The Plan of Work Committee had written Hon. Mr. Dryden, Minister of Agriculture, asking that the Public Health Act prohibit the employment, in the preparation of foods, of persons having infectious diseases. Dr. Bryce, head of the Health Board, said such an addition was not needed as the Act covered it. But the women pointed out that the clauses to which he referred dealt with materials used in food production and not employees. The Provincial Superintendent of this Department was Miss Edith Murray, Presbyterian College, Toronto.

### Another Fight Coming

Mr. F. S. Spence, Secretary Alliance, was present to discuss with the women the coming "Laurier" (Dominion) Plebiscite. The Privy Council decision had arrived, but its

meeting was so shrouded in mystifying expressions no one had yet puzzled it out. However, in response to monster petitions, and importunate appeals, the Dominion Government had agreed to submit Prohibition to a vote of the whole country. We were getting ready to meet the Liquor Hosts.

Convention Speaker was Miss Agnes Slack, of England, Secretary World's Union, who was in Canada to make preparation for the Toronto World's Convention of 1897. There was no change in the Provincial official staff.

### Legislation

The President in a concise way outlined the legislative situation, from which we quote extracts.

"The Privy Council's decision has come."

"This gives the Prohibition forces the right to expect that the Government would enact at once the legislation within its power, viz.:—

1. Seven o'clock closing.
2. Reduction of licenses.
3. Elimination of local revenue.
4. Local Option by majority.
5. That new licenses be more difficult to obtain.
6. That saloons pure and simple be abolished.

Someone has said: "Blessed is she that expecteth nothing for she shall not be disappointed."

## 1897—20th Convention, Brantford

The Annual Meeting was held in Brantford. There were present 150 delegates and officers.

The Convention fairly sizzled with indignation over the poor little misfit of a Bill sponsored by Premier Hardy's Government which was offered to the Temperance forces as a *quid pro quo* for the great Plebiscite Victory of 1894. The promise of Premier Mowat had been "All the Provincial Prohibition the Privy Council decision would permit." Premier Hardy made no pretence of fulfilling that pledge, but said his Bill was all the Prohibition his supporters would allow him to give.

### Disappointed

The Temperance forces had asked for 23 License Law amendments which, if enacted, would have driven the Traffic almost into its grave. They were granted 130 fewer licenses, the raising of the age limit from 18 to 21 years (with a \$10 fine attached for infraction), and a few other trifles. The mountain had labored and brought forth a mouse! Mrs. Thornley was requested to send out a letter to the Unions explaining the situation.

### Neal Dow of Maine

By act of Convention a page devoted to the memory of Neal Dow, recently deceased, was ordered to be printed in Provincial Report. By persistent effort he succeeded, away back in 1846, in effecting the passage of the Maine Law, which stands today as a memorial of this stalwart Prohibition advocate. He died at the age of ninety-three.

### Needed Legislation

In this year the Ontario White Ribboners worked for franchise, asking the Municipal Councils to vote in favor of



the ballot for married women. They had only the School Board ballot., The women used up a good deal of energy to stop, under the Social Purity Department (Supt. Mrs. D. V. Lucas, Grimsby), the Veriscope and Kinetoscope reproductions of Prize Fights in our Opera Houses; to raise "the age of consent" from 16 to 18 years; to back up the anti-lottery and race gambling Bills in the Dominion House. Some of our Senators declared Prize Fights to be good athletics.

Not one of these reforms went through. The franchise for women was being fought by inches. Women were getting tired of signing petitions and writing letters to Members of Parliament, without a ballot to back them up; and nobody understands the value of the ballot in the hands of women as do the liquor men. It is their *bete noir*, and we are praying they may always find it so.

Being in the days before autos, Mr. Thos. Elliott, the Mayor of Brantford, graciously invited the Convention to view the City by way of a street car ride. The delegates were charmed.

By a constitutional amendment our present \$10.00 County Life Membership arrived. Miss Ella S. Cosford, Prov. Rec. Secy., being minded to change her name, refused re-election, and her sister Mrs. Alice Saunby, of London, was voted into that office.

When Convention closed many delegates went on to Toronto to attend the Dominion Convention, which was followed by the World's. Mrs. (Dr.) Amelia Youmans, of Winnipeg, was Convention speaker. Her topic was, "When Mother Comes Home," an address on Franchise.

## 1898—21st Convention, Ottawa

This year found women gathered in Ottawa for their Twenty-First Convention. There were 182 delegates and officers—a most interesting and enthusiastic meeting, Mrs. Thornley presiding.

### A Vital Loss

The first subject of the President's address was the home-going of Frances E. Willard, who was called hence, on February 17th, of this year. The Provincial Union sent a message of sympathy to Miss Gordon, the faithful friend and Secretary. An epitome of Miss Willard's life was given by Mrs. Thornley, as follows:—

“The limit of life is brief,  
’Tis the red in the red rose leaf,  
’Tis the gold in the sunset sky,  
’Tis the flight of a bird on high,  
Yet we may fill the space  
With such an infinite grace  
That the red will vein all time,  
The gold through the ages shine,  
And the bird fly swift and straight  
To the lilies of God's own gate.”

It was fitting indeed that Frances Willard presided in these last days of her labour of love over the World's W.C. T.U. in Toronto and the U.S. National Convention in Buffalo.

Her farewell message will ever be enshrined in the hearts of our women—“How beautiful to be with God”.

### The Dominion Plebiscite

On the 29th of September of this year, the long looked-for Plebiscite was submitted by the Dominion Government. It had taken three years to mature, and in spite of every trick that was known to politicians, instigated by the liquor party, and every handicap possible—unsuitable months, change of polling places (these doubled in number so as to make con-

fusion, and much perjury and fraud)—Prohibition won. Ghosts of buried electors registered their votes, and that to the knowledge of Scrutineers and Returning Officers. Men in business broke their pledges under threat of boycott. Employers of labor shortened the dinner hour to prevent voting. The cry of increased taxes (\$5.00 a year or more), daunted many; yet all the tricks of the tricksters failed, and Prohibition carried. But worst of all was the lack of votes for women. That fact was burned into the hearts of the patriotic women of Ontario.

How the women worked!—And won! But political manipulation again frustrated our efforts.

Counting in the Territories, we carried seven out of the eight Provinces, by constituencies 125 for and 87 against. And, leaving out Quebec, the country went dry by over 108,000 majority. Quebec's 94,000 adverse vote pulled down the total majority to 13,687.

“The French people, whose admiration and affection for Sir Wilfrid Laurier were great, were told that a majority for Prohibition would injure his position and influence. It was certain that the Quebec vote was largely influenced by this political consideration”. Extract from “Prohibition in Canada.”

### Advanced Legislation Asked

At this 21st Convention the first steps were taken to influence the Military Colleges against the issue of beer rations to their students. Strong resolutions were sent to the Government protesting against the outrage of a disfranchised womanhood, and demanding that woman be given her proper place as man's equal in the political life of the Country. Women School Trustees were endorsed. “A White Life For Two” was depicted as the goal of social purity. The tobacco evil was condemned, and the sanctity of the Sabbath urged.

### A Trio of Provincial Workers

Mr. John Leckie was engaged as Lumber Camp Missionary. For six years he carried the flag of Christ and the cause of the W.C.T.U. into the Camps of Northern Ontario—and royal service did he give.

This year, also, Miss Agnes Sproule, of Fort William, began her eighteen years of self-effacing and much blessed ministry to Camps of all kinds and to lonely settlers. Miss Charlotte Wiggins, of Toronto, became (at the sumptuous salary of \$250), Provincial Organizer under the direction of Mrs. Mary Brownell, of the same City, Supt. of the Lecture Bureau. Miss Wiggins pioneered for the W.C.T.U. for six or seven years, and fine work she did, with an indifference to personal comfort that almost shipwrecked her health.

### A New Leader

Mrs. Gordon Wright's name appeared earlier as Supt. of Anti-Narcotics. This year she made her first public address, and the Report denominates it as "eloquent". Thus began the platform career of the one who has just completed her twenty-second year as Dominion President.

Our speakers, Hon. John G. Woolley, the world renowned champion of Christian Citizenship, spoke Thursday night; and Dr. Anna Shaw, of Boston, the inimitable Franchise lecturer, on Friday night, and both to crowded houses. The Convention almost reached the 300 limit that would have entitled the delegates to free return tickets.

The Cor. Secy. reported 6,560 members in 256 unions.

## 1899—22nd Convention, Guelph

This year found our women in Guelph, the Royal City, with an attendance of 205 delegates and officers and 45 visitors. Hon. S. Dickie, of Albion, Mich., was Convention Speaker. Miss Sproule and Mr. Leckie, our Missionaries, were present. The Provincial organizer, Miss Wiggins, who had been provisionally engaged at the Ottawa Convention, had worked so splendidly, the arrangement was renewed. A S. S. Temperance Quarterly Leaflet was proposed in Sub-Executive and later ratified by Convention. Thus began a publication that ran for nine years under Provincial auspices, and was then taken over as one of its Departments by the Dominion Union, with Mrs. Blanche Read Johnson, Barrie, as Editor. It was issued until 1919. Franchise for women was pursued vigorously with Miss Wiggins as Supt.

### Enforcing Military Law

Beer at Military Camps was a live subject. Notwithstanding military regulations forbidding all sale of intoxicants, the Summer Camps were often orgies of drunkenness. At London Camp there were nine canteens pouring out liquor of all sorts and each run by a Saloon Keeper. The Unions were asked to write Hon. Frederick Borden, Minister of Militia, and other means were taken to secure the attention of the public to this gross violation of the law of the Country. Thus began a long struggle that ended in victory.

Convention gave expression to its regard for that Prohibition stalwart, Mrs. Paton, of Peterborough, who was leaving the Province.

### The President's Address

In her Annual Address the President scored, as with a double blade, the miserable tricks of the politicians.

“For seven years—from 1893—we have been marching towards the Prohibition goal along Plebescite highways. The first of these took a straight course for the Provincial Legislature and ended in a License-amendment blind-alley, choked with unredeemed pledges and marked “NO Thoroughfare.” The second wended its way towards Ottawa . . . . It was a veritable Jericho Road. If we did not quite share the fate of that ancient unfortunate, who was left for dead, it was not the fault of the thugs, who swarmed out of the drink shops, and political caucuses, ambushing themselves behind every mean political dodge and corrupt and dishonest method, known to the machinist of “the machine.” Nevertheless—we asked the representatives . . . to give the cause right of way through Legislative Halls.

“What followed? A lengthy Parliamentary Session crowded with party bickerings and unsavory discussions. A few hours at the fag end of a session were all that could be obtained for the discussion of an issue, greater in the eyes of the people of Canada, according to ballot box returns, than was the election of the present Liberal Government. The spiritless discussion . . . ended in nothing, not even . . . a high-sounding resolution of sympathy with the policy.”

From a scathing rebuke of “disgraceful election tactics” we quote viz.: “The dishonest and shameless abuse of the means by which popular government is secured, cannot be too vigorously condemned or rigorously punished. The man, who gives or takes any consideration for a vote ought to be imprisoned or disfranchised. The man who corruptly manipulates an election ought to be as severely dealt with as his less prominent accomplice, or subordinate, to whom he has delegated the actual fraud and bribery. The nation has no greater enemy than the political boss. We might well wish that one, or other party, had a monopoly of him, in which case he could be cornered and dispatched. Unfortunately such is not the case.”

First the Ontario Legislature, in face of a large majority, gave only insignificant amendments to the License Act, while the Dominion Plebiscite which Prohibitionists carried by 13,000 of a majority despite Quebec's 94,000 adverse majority, was treated as a nonentity by the Dominion Government,



MRS. THOMAS MCKEE  
(*nee Sarah Galt Elwood*)  
*Dundas, Wentworth, Ont.*  
*President, 1900-1910*





which took power upon a large minority of the whole vote cast. Such an outrage on Democratic Government had no equal up to that date. We've seen worse since! Consequently, the year's work ended in gloom and depression of spirit. Three years of heart-breaking toil had resulted in nothing tangible, because of the casuistry of political double dealers.

Strong resolutions were passed re bar maids as seen in a Hamilton saloon. Scientific Temperance in schools, and Medical Temperance for the homes were exploited.

### Official Change.

Mrs. Alice Saunby, who was leaving Canada for California, dropped out, and Mrs. Gordon Wright became Prov. Rec. Secretary.

### A Deep Felt Loss

On December 3rd of this year our valued Treasurer, Miss Jennie MacArthur, was called Home, deeply regretted by all who knew her. Her memory is held in great respect. Mrs. Jennie Waters, of Hamilton, better known to our women as the implacable foe of the Cigarette, filled Miss MacArthur's place temporarily till the close of the year.

“What makes a nation full of power?  
Not wealth, display or tilted names;  
Not fashion's loudly boasted claims;  
But women, rich in virtue's dower,  
Whose homes, though humble, still are great,  
Because of service to the state.”

## 1900—23rd Convention, Smith's Falls

The 23rd Convention met in Smith's Falls. There were 112 delegates and officers. Katherine Lente Stevenson, of Boston, was the Convention Speaker. Mrs. Stevenson has long since gone Home, but we still sing her song, "Some Glad Day", and read many things, wise and helpful, which she wrote. The membership stood at 5,383 (with 859 Honoraries) gathered into 223 Unions. The total income was \$4,104.63.

### A Literature Campaign

During the year 1899-1900, there went out from Provincial Headquarters (apart from Depository sales) 269,548 circulars, exercises and leaflets, 1,303 letters, 700 cards and 29 press articles.

The Cigarette Evil by this time had become a dire menace. Petitions, memorials and deputations besieged the Dominion House of Parliament, but the Tobacco Trust of Montreal was before us, and the writer was told by a Montreal Member of Parliament that twenty thousand dollars had already been spent by the Trust on a campaign. We had no money to spend, nor did we ever dream that money was needed to secure the passage of a Bill which was for the benefit of children and the saving of the race from this evil. One learns a lot when lobbying!

### S. T. I. & The Canteens, Etc.

This year saw a backward step on the subject of Scientific Temperance. A committee of the Provincial Teachers' Association was appointed to consider how the Public School curriculum could be lightened. They advocated the dropping of Scientific Temperance and the substitution of Hygiene, which might be taught "if the teacher chose." Later "Agriculture" took the leading place and Hygiene was still further

crowded into the background. The Educational Department of the Legislature has been a familiar point of attack ever since; and the history of Scientific Temperance has been one of continued and persevering combat with the powers that be, whose glaring obtuseness and blind ignorance, where this moral issue is concerned, has always been inexplicable to us.

Looking back from the vantage point of 1927, our ire rises as we recall the recent charges made against Temperance people by the Premier and his followers, of neglect to educate the public. We have not done all we might, but the opportunities of the Schools as compared to those of the Temperance organizations are as a ten thousand power electric light to a candle. We never ceased to do our little bit, and as citizens we tried to make sure that all the children would be fortified in the schools against an evil legally permitted by the Government, and from which it reaped so large a share of its revenue.

The Government failed lamentably and is in no position to throw stones.

Woman's Franchise being still a burning issue, the Ontario Union had for two years past been securing the names to petitions, under the able direction of our Prov. Supt., Miss Lottie Wiggins. We looked forward to the hope that a better day was coming bye and bye.

The liquor canteens in Military Camps of Instruction, which cost Mrs. Thornley so much time and energy, so much talent and work to expose, were still a black spot in military life, though much improved. Succeeding years have shown the wisdom of this crusade in behalf of the young recruit.

### **A New President**

The Convention saw some important changes in the officer of the Provincial Union. Mrs. Thornley, who had

served seven years in the office of President and who had intimated her desire to be relieved, was presented with a purse of gold as a very slight appreciation of her valuable services. Mrs. McKee, of Barrie, was elected in her place. Mrs. McKee entered into her office with some trepidation, because of the gifted lady who preceeded her. But Mrs. Thornley took the Vice-Presidency, and so assumed the care of the Departments and the burden of clerical work, leaving Mrs. McKee the platform work and official functions as her share. And this testimony is true that the work suffered none, and for ten years this pact was carried out and borne faithfully in God's Name.

### An Official Shake-Up

After 15 years of service as Prov. Cor. Secy. Mrs. Mary Wiley, of Richmond Hill, retired. Mrs. Gordon Wright was changed from Rec. Secy. to Cor. Secy. and Mrs. Ella S. Acheson, of Goderich (nee Ella S. Cosford) filled Mrs. Wright's position, while Mrs. B. O. Britton, of Gananoque, stepped into the vacancy left by the lamented death of Miss Jennie MacArthur, who had ably served the province for nine years.

Mrs. C. B. Bigelow, of Cornwall, fittingly conducted the memorial service. The gates seemed ajar and the beloved worker one with us.

The membership of the Cornwall hall erected a beautiful memorial drinking fountain in her honor.

"She being dead yet speaketh."

## 1901—24th Convention, Stratford

Stratford was our next Provincial camping ground. There were 143 delegates and officers. Mrs. Mabel Conklin, Brooklyn, N.Y., was the speaker. Her difficult subject was "Purity" and it was handled with power and discretion.

But before touching on Convention we must refer to an Executive meeting.

Organization claimed close attention. Miss Wiggins had been offered very flattering terms to go elsewhere. It was decided that Sub-Executive should not stand in the way of her advancement, especially in view of the hard and heroic work she had accomplished and the small remuneration we were able to give.

### An Unforgettable Incident

It was during this Executive that the Provincial Teachers' Association met in Toronto, and in preparation for it the Executive had brought to Canada Mrs. Mary Hunt, of Boston, National & International Superintendent of Scientific Temperance for the U.S.A. and World's Unions and a well known philanthropic worker, that she might speak on the subject of her Department before the teachers. The result is told in the Memorial volume of F. S. Spence, and which I am permitted to quote as the writer of this wrote that also It is as follows:

"Then began the earnest effort for a suitable book or books, for we found that while our friends over the line were fully equipped with a graded set of books, thanks to the untiring diligence of Mrs. Mary J. Hunt, we had only one text book and that not of a kind to make the study attractive. The result was that only those teachers personally alive to the importance of the topic, made it of any real benefit to the children."

In process of time a new book was introduced which, while similar in style and not so scientific, was more adapted

to the study of Physiology, but devoted small space to "Temperance" as we call it. We were far from satisfied, and we verified the well known adage that women are hard to please, but it was because we knew that "no difficulty is settled until it is settled right." Our interviews, memorials and petitions have kept the Department of Education in waste basket literature, while we tried to reach the condition and position of the schools in the United States, where every State in the Union has S.T.I. legislation.

### Enemies in The Camp

In 1901 our Provincial Sub-Executive was made aware of a plan to make a vigorous onslaught on the Public School curriculum by some of the Provincial Educational leaders. At the Provincial Teachers' Association resolutions asking for the cutting off of the subjects of Temperance and Hygiene were introduced; and while the Teachers' Section and the Inspectors' Section turned them down, the public meeting in the evening, where only a few (but those determined on the change) were present and carried them.

### Amazing Discourtesy

The Provincial Executive had brought Mrs. Mary Hunt from Boston to speak on the subject. By vote, this distinguished woman was allowed only fifteen minutes, the presiding officer sitting, watch in hand, during the address, which was made amid a good deal of noise and disorder.

To this hour the Provincial Union has never discovered the motive for that night's discourtesy.

### Another Book

In 1902 or 1903 a book was produced by Professor Knight of Queen's University which was of immense value to students and teachers, being lectures given to adults, but was too technical for young children. A later work by the same author was adopted by the Minister of Education and was a more suitable book.

This subject of Temperance was required to be taught in grades two, three and four, but was not made an examinational test for entrance to the High Schools. Now we are still agitating, this time it is for the re-establishment of the subject as an examinational test. Be it understood that while the Government paid no attention to the resolution of the Toronto educationalists at the time, later it did, and one of its last acts was the dropping of Scientific Temperance from Entrance Examinations, and the substitution of Agriculture."

The President, Mrs. McKee, in her annual address at the Convention, scored the Toronto Educationalists who treated Mrs. Hunt so badly, and justified Carrie Nation in rebelling against the saloon (which in Kansas was an outlaw), and in accomplishing so much by methods which not many would follow, but which proved exceedingly effective. Government Control was exposed as a fallacy, and the liquor scheme of the Governor General, Earl Grey, utterly disfavored.

The usual departments had been earnestly worked during the year. Encouraging items from pulpits and press, from organizations and those in authority, led our Provincial women to believe that the influence of the Women's Christian Temperance Union was increasing. We thanked God and took courage.

Earl Grey's Public House Trust Scheme was modelled after the "Tied House" place.

In England a "Tied House" was owned and furnished by a Brewery Co. or by the municipality.

The innkeeper was paid a straight salary.

## 1902—25th Convention, Toronto

Toronto welcomed the 25th Annual Convention. It was a memorable occasion. There were 218 in attendance. The Dominion Sub-Executive was meeting, and **Lady Henry Somerset, of England**, was in the City. She was well known in her own land and had been accorded the honor of addressing a score of State legislatures. She was the speaker on Friday night and her address was much enjoyed. The Convention speakers were W. P. F. Ferguson, of Chicago, and C. N. Howard, of Rochester. They eloquently pleaded for the extermination of the liquor evil.

This year the Temperance forces were called on to prepare for another trial of strength. It was not to be a Plebiscite but a Referendum, the difference being that the former is just an expression of opinion, while the latter is a vote on a law, that will go into operation, if the vote is favorable. The law in this case was the Manitoba Bill; an excellent measure; giving the limit of Prohibition that it was then supposed could be enacted under Confederation.

An unsuccessful attempt was made to purchase the *Woman's Journal* to use in the campaign. Failing that, a Campaign paper called "The Bulletin," was published for use of Prohibitionists. Much praise was given Miss Wiggins for her fearless denunciations of evil, which had called down on her the opprobrium of unprincipled politicians.

### The Ross Referendum

When the terms of the vote were made public it was discovered that the dice had been loaded against Prohibition, and success would be almost impossible. A meeting of protest was held in the Pavilion in Allan Gardens, Toronto. Some 1,500 men and women (more men than women) were there, representing all parts of Ontario, eager and zealous to





MRS. GORDON WRIGHT  
(*nee Sara Rowell, Middlesex*)  
*Secretary Ontario W.C.T.U.,*  
*President Canadian W.C.T.U.*



give Prohibition an onward push. But party whips, too, were there. They stood shoulder to shoulder, without realizing it, with the paid agents of the liquor trade, to see to it that no drastic action was taken; nothing that would hurt the party in power or compromise the party out of power. So the old Jack-in-the-box was made to move once more to the pull of the magic wires. Resolutions of scathing rebuke were passed, but they accomplished nothing, because they fell on shoulders padded in anticipation by the soft and comfortable dollar bills which the Brewer's Association, and hotel men from Cornwall to Fort William, had promised to contribute to the election funds, as the price for a loaded Referendum, doubtfully constitutional, and unquestionably unjust,—and the Premier was a Vice-President of the Ontario Alliance, and a life-long, professed Prohibitionist! Peace to his ashes.

The balloting came off December 4th, and resulted as follows:

For the Liquor Act .....	199,749
Against the Liquor Act .....	103,548
	<hr/>
Majority for the Act .....	96,201

That was a most significant majority, and should have meant a challenging victory. But the Government's unjust and unreasonable conditions demanded 13,974 more Prohibition ballots, or the liquor men won. And the liquor men won!

But the women kept pegging away, I won't say with the old enthusiasm, because you cannot make a servant with a ball and chain on his foot work as well as one with free foot; but we still held our own.

### An Official Organ

Failing in 1902 to secure a paper for use in the Referendum campaign, a few of the more advanced workers started "The Liberator," which was invaluable as an exponent of independence in politics. It had its day. It was conducted by W. W. Buchanan, assisted by Miss Wiggins, who was detailed from her Provincial work for that purpose. In April of this year, at the Sub-Executive, it was resolved to publish one more number of the "W.C.T.U. Bulletin" which had been issued occasionally and then at Convention throw open the question of making it the Ontario Official organ. This was a momentous step—far more so than its sponsors knew.

In February of 1903 the Dominion Premier declared he would not introduce any Temperance legislation that year. A Bill was prepared, but for lack of time would not be presented.



## 1903—26th Convention, St. Thomas

At the public meeting on Tuesday night, short addresses were given by Mrs. Rutherford, President of Dominion W. C.T.U., Mrs. Gordon Wright, Miss Wiggins and Rev. Joseph Oliver, of Listowel. Mr. Oliver Stewart, Chairman National U.S. Prohibition Executive Committee, mightily stirred the large Thursday night audience with an eloquent and forceful address.

At this Convention favorable action was taken on a notice of motion of the year before, re elevating the "Y" dept. to a Branch, and Miss Sadie Bowes, of Hamilton, was elected "Y" Secretary, and entitled to a seat on the Sub-Executive.

Mrs. McKee, Provincial President, in her annual address says, "We must educate, agitate, legislate. The first leads to the last named; and the last is the outcome of the other two. Now we claim that we have carefully carried out these standards. We believe that the large vote of December fourth, (which was never honestly returned), was the outcome of the education of the last 21 years among the boys. This education is still going on; in the Public Schools, on the scientific side of the alcohol question; in the Sunday schools by the Temperance Army and our own incomparable "Temperance Quarterly". We educate also by Loyal Legions and Anti-Cigarette Leagues; by seeing to it there are Temperance books in Sunday School and Bible Class and Public School libraries. We agitate, but not as much as we might. We should watch that the liquor laws are enforced, and if not we should trouble the Inspector, the Commissioners, or the Council. Follow and strike the traffic wherever it shows its poisoned head."

### The "Yellow Ballot"

When it comes to legislating we are met by the main obstacle to our work, the lack of the franchise. It would not have mattered one iota if five hundred thousand yellow ballots, (used in the Referendum by women voters) had been cast, so long as the same yellow ballots were not potent to elect men to the Legislature. Our vote will be respected when it can

put in the M.P.P.'s at Queen's Park, or keep them out.

The department which occupied the most of our time after December fourth, 1902, was that of Anti-Narcotics. That battle had to be fought at Ottawa. I cannot stop to tell you of the anxiety, the journeys, the expense and self-sacrifice of our women, in their effort to put the Cigarette under a ban. The stalwart in this fight was the late Mrs. Jennie Waters, of Hamilton, Dominion and Prov. Supt. of this Dept.

The trend of this convention was to further the juvenile and Y work. The plea of the Supts., the Plan of Work, and the President in her annual address all stressed the power and the possibility of winning our way through the youth of our land. The three fold agency of S. T. I., pledged S. S. and L.T.S. boys and girls from a three-fold agency that will smite the foe intemperance and hasten the day of victory." No. of Unions 200, Hon. Members 960 members affiliated 5142.



## 1904—27th Convention, Bowmanville

Bowmanville was the 1904 Mecca for our White Ribbon pilgrims—152 in number. Miss Dunhill, of India, was a visitor and contributed much to the proceedings.

The great event of this Convention was the launching of our much-planned-for official organ, "The Tidings." Its first number appeared in January. Mrs. Gordon Wright, of London, was the Editor, Proof-reader and Business Mgr., all rolled in one. Mrs. Thornley, London, assisted. The paper was received with a chorus of approval. The Dominion space was edited by Mrs. F. H. Waycott, Westmount, P.Q.

It may be said, in passing, that Mrs. Wright gave to this service twelve hectic months, and managed successfully her three roles.

The Provincial "School of Methods," which for nine years had, under the supervision of Mrs. Thornley, been a part of each year's program, was especially fine at this Convention. Symposia on "Shall we establish permanently the week of Prayer," and "Mothers' Meetings" were taken part in by six Women—Mrs. Lawrence, Sarnia; Mrs. Joy, Tillsonburg; Miss Winnie Doyle, Owen Sound; Mrs. L. Bryan, Lucknow; Mrs. C. B. Bigelow, Cornwall, and Miss Mabee, Picton. Mrs. Emma Pugsley, Prov. Supt. of Law Enforcement since 1898, gave a lively presentation of her Department; Mrs. Helen S. M. Detlor, of North Bay, Prov. Franchise Supt. for three years, made "The Ballot For Women" look very enticing, and Mrs. Capt. McLeod, of Owen Sound, appealed for a campaign of organization.

The cry of disability for want of votes was still heard. The President in her address said, "Why must we always be singing the same old song? If we dropped every other De-

partment in our organization, and worked for woman's enfranchisement, we should be farther ahead in ten years than we will be in fifty years without it. Let us rise to this question of privilege and not rest until it is settled right."

This program contains the first Department Demonstration we had ever held. Nineteen Superintendents represented, in two or three minute addresses (illustrated by song, recitation or symbol), the work they were undertaking. This occupied Thursday evening, and was a pronounced success.

Seventeen new Unions had been organized. The old cry of lack of leaders was heard everywhere.

Miss Charlotte E. Wiggins was elected Prov. Rec. Secretary; Miss Lottie Harris, of Toronto, Prov. "Y" Secretary. Mr. John Leckie resigned as Lumbercamp Missionary.

### "The Judgment Day"

There have been a few very dramatic and epoch-making Convention episodes. One of these took place at the Bowmanville Rally.

As has been stated, the failure on the part of the Mowat, Hardy and Ross Governments to give any adequate recognition to the Prohibition issue, with its fine majorities in the Mowat and Laurier Plebiscites; and the insistence on a third vote in the form of a Referendum, so loaded it was impossible (even with 96,000 of a majority) to carry it; had so incensed the Temperance forces they were up in arms against the Ross Administration.

An election was coming on. The swing towards the Conservative party was everywhere in evidence. Not that any Temperance legislation was expected of them; but that the common thought was—"The party in power has earn-



ed a defeat. To re-elect them is to say 'no matter how you trample our Cause under foot, we will still support you.' "

A few days before Convention opened, a Prohibitionist whose complete independence none doubted, had a long interview with the head of the Government. He reported to an Officer of the Provincial Union (she to the Executive), that the outlook had changed; that at the Liberal Convention, to be held in Toronto Nov. 23rd, a Prohibition plank would be inserted in the platform; and that the party would sink or swim with it. "They are fighting with backs to the wall, at last" said our informant.

### Standing By The Issue

"Then what is our duty?" said the Officers. "If they really do endorse Prohibition, they will lose every liquor vote. Can we punish them for past failures, while they are carrying our banner?"

After a season of prayer the justifiable resentment for broken pledges, melted away, and the Officer said—"If they do what they say they will, we will cast our influence (all we have to give) on their side." This decision was made in Bowmanville, before Convention opened.

Next, the full Executive, of whom there were 30 present, was called into private session. The Spirit of Christ, for whose presence the officers had pleaded, was very manifest. All agreed to sink party preferences, and to forget their righteous indignation.

The next move was the most dreaded—the appeal to the Convention. A statement was prepared, re-affirming our principles, and reciting the wrong and unjust treatment the great moral issue of Prohibition had received. It concluded thus:

**RESOLVED:** That we, the Ontario Woman's Christian Temperance Union, do hereby affirm that

should either party declare, in clear and unmistakable terms, that they, if elected, will enact such prohibitive legislation as will reduce the liquor traffic to a minimum, it will be not only our duty, but our pleasure, to promote, by every means within our power, the election of such party.

**FURTHER RESOLVED:** That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Leader of the Government, and the Leader of the Opposition.

Mrs. Thornley, and Miss Winnie Doyle, of Owen Sound, were asked to present it to the delegates.

What followed was a sort of W.C.T.U. Judgment Day. The atmosphere was tense with excitement. At first there was a perfect outcry—"They had had their day and misused it—so far as we were concerned." But gradually the significance of the occasion beat its way into the minds of the delegates; and one by one they sensed the wrong that would be done, should they turn down this declaration of an attitude that has been ours ever since Prohibition became a party issue. When the vote was taken there was **but one dissenting voice.**

The Reform Convention met on the appointed date—and **did not endorse Prohibition or any serious measure of relief from the Liquor Traffic.** At once the Provincial Union sent out a manifesto of repudiation, as did other Temperance and Church bodies. The election came off January 25th, 1905, and resulted in the return of the Conservative Government, with a majority of 42.

## 1905—28th Convention, Brockville

There was a smaller delegation than usual, meeting so far East. We missed many of the Western women, but a bright enthusiasm pervaded the gathering.

At a meeting of Executive held in Toronto the previous March, several items of business, which are historic, were considered. Mr. Beall, our Purity Missionary, was granted leave of absence to visit Manitoba and Nova Scotia. Dr. Knight, of Queen's University, met with Executive, and a book on Physiology and Temperance, of which he was the author, and copies of which had been sent previously to Sub-Executive, was thoroughly discussed. It was deemed unsuitable for children, as I have previously intimated.

### Meeting This Government

During this Executive a deputation waited on the Government. Let me quote from the Provincial Report.

"On Wednesday morning the Ontario Cabinet received a representative deputation of ladies and gentlemen, who presented a petition for the full municipal ballot for all properly qualified women. There were delegates from Hamilton, Stratford, Milton, London, Barrie, Pembroke and other parts of the Province, as well as a good number of Toronto women. Hon. Mr. St. John, Speaker of the Legislature, introduced the deputation. Addresses were delivered by Mesdames McKee, Thornley, Wright, Rutherford and Miss Wiggins; also Dr. Stowe Gullen, Chancellor Burwash, Mayor Urquhart, of Toronto; Dr. Courtice, Editor "The Christian Guardian," and the Hon. Adam Beck. The Premier, Hon. J. P. Whitney, gave the deputation a most cordial reception; spoke most favorably of "Women's Influence," and promised the proper attention to the petition so ably presented."

### On Our Own

The attitude of the Dominion Union towards the Ontario Official Organ, the "White Ribbon Tidings," not being sat-

isfactory, it was recommended to the consideration of "Tidings" Board, that, failing to receive adequate support from the Dominion Union, "we edit the paper in the interest of Ontario and any other Province that will guarantee sufficient financial assistance." Sixty cents had been the constitutional fee for years. With the advent of "Tidings" the need of a fee that would include the paper became evident. This was a live issue at Bowmanville, and was again warmly discussed at Brockville; but decision was staved off for another year.

Dr. Amelia Youmans, of Winnipeg, was the chosen speaker for Tuesday night, and proved a very useful member of Convention, helping at all the sessions.

On account of illness our valiant organizer, Miss Wiggins, was laid aside. A message of loving sympathy was sent and a very affectionate reply was received. Mrs. H. E. Irwin, of Weston, was appointed Secretary pro tem.

For many years there were just four Provincial Life Members. Their names concluded the list of Provincial Officers and Superintendents in each Report. These brave pioneers, who contributed their \$25 apiece, were: Mr. James H. Beatty, Thorold; Miss Jennie MacArthur, Cornwall; Mrs. (Judge) Pringle, Cornwall; Mr. J. Hale Ramsey, Westmount, P.Q.

But in 1904 the list began to grow; and at the 1905 Convention seven women were invested with our Life Member's pin. Today it takes more than two double-column pages to record the Life Members names.

### The President's Message

I would like to conclude the story of the Brockville Annual Meeting by a quotation from the President's address relating to the agitation for Liquor Control of some sort:—

After dealing with the subject of Government Control, a message as follows, was read from Marion, South Carolina, dated September 20th, 1905:

"The returns coming in from the Dispensary election in Marion County, indicate an overwhelming majority and victory for the Prohibitionists. The vote will be four or five to one against the State groggery."

But a more crafty and insidious scheme is openly advocated for Canada, viz. by Earl Grey's Public House Trust method. It is affirmed by advocates of this plan that drunkenness is largely the result of adulteration, forgetting that intoxication is not due to adulterants, but to alcohol; and the Trust does not propose to take that out of their mixtures. They claim these Trusts are most respectable, but we dread the respectable hotel bar far more than the disreputable one. Indeed the new plan is a "tied-house" system, in which the drink shops are "tied," in England, to a noblemen's company, or to a Dean's instead of a Distiller's, or to a Bishop's instead of a brewer's organization.

The exercises on department work were much appreciated by the Unions, and were used at social gatherings as well as at regular meetings.

### "No Discharge In This War"

In the interim Sub-Executive minutes of this year there are some items worth recalling. The World's veteran champion of Scientific Temperance had died, and a letter of sympathy was sent to the S.T.I. Bureau in Boston. But no words could express our sense of loss over the passing of Mrs. Mary Hunt, whose slogan—**The Star of Hope hangs over the School House**,—has become a W.C.T.U. world motto.

Our 1905 Convention closed Oct. 27th. The Dominion Rally opened in Hamilton a few days later. At it our Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. Gordon Wright, became Dominion President and resigned her Provincial position. According to constitution the Sub-Executive filled her place, choosing Mrs. Flora York Miller, of London.

Mr. Munt was engaged by the Missionary Board for work in mining, railway, and construction camps. He remained with us for two years.

A protest was sent the Ontario Government against the establishment of a licensed hotel at Petawawa, where there is a military encampment each summer.

## 1906—29th Convention, London

Mrs. Flora Y. Miller was introduced to Convention as Prov. Cor. Secretary. Our former Cor. Secretary, Mrs. Gordon Wright, was introduced as Dominion President, and both were cordially received. Mrs. Charlotte Wiggins-Chittick, of Canso, Nova Scotia, sent greetings.

In Mrs. McKee's annual address, which was adopted by a standing vote, she made note of the fact that commercialism is doing the work that philanthropists aim to do. Scientists have come to the help of the Lord, and have made pronouncement that as a beverage, alcohol is a poison, and as a medicine it is not needed. All the old theories of its use as a stimulant are flung to the winds, or left to the secret tippler, who wants an excuse for indulgence.

A very concise report of the Traveller's Aid of the Toronto District Union was given, proving its necessity as a safeguard for young girls and a help to strangers. Mrs. Helen Detlor, Franchise Supt., was asked to correspond with other societies and religious bodies that might be interested, looking to the extension of municipal franchise to married women.

The "Quarterly Temperance S.S. Leaflet" reported a sound financial basis, over 61,000 having been sold during the year. The Mailing and General Business Manager was Miss Alice R. Yeates, of London.

### The \$1.00 Fee

"Tidings" report was listened to with absorbed interest, and some anxiety. As intimated, the relation between the Province and Dominion had terminated, thus dropping about 400 outside subscriptions. Total paid up names on mailing list stood at a little less than 3,500. We were in debt to the printer and others, \$677.25. Ninety two unions had anticipated action of Convention, and adopted the \$1.00 fee; yet as only 40 cents of this amount came to "Tidings," and the

paper cost, per subscriber, over 50 cents, there was no relief in sight, except by increasing our mailing lists so as to attract advertisers. Therefore again the need for a Constitutional change in the fee was debated, and this time carried. Mrs. Wright resigned the Editorship, owing to her new Dominion duties. Mrs. Flora York Miller was made Business Manager and Mailing Clerk; Mrs. Lottie McAlister, Editor, and Mrs. Mary R. Thornley assumed responsibility for the Evangelistic pages. These two last workers have held their positions for 20 years.

The officers remained as they were, except that Miss Lottie Harris, of Toronto, succeeded Miss Sadie Bowes, of Hamilton, as "Y" Secretary.

At this Convention a report was given of the Toronto "Frances Willard" Home, which was then located at 56 Elm Street, Mrs. Crawford, Matron. This Home, purchased in 1891, was the Headquarters of the Toronto Unions, the first of which was organized by Mrs. Youmans, Oct. 25th, 1875.

### A Local Option Boom

The Local Option Law had had so many defects the people were rather discouraged about it. A 25% petition must precede a vote, but the Council need not submit the By-law, no matter what the size of the petition. If they did allow the vote, they were under no obligation to enact the law, no matter what the size of the majority—and the quashing of an enacted law on mere technicalities was very common. Appeals for a remedy had found no response until the Whitney Government in 1906 amended the Act to cover these defects. Sad to say, they added a most unjust requirement in the clause that made it necessary to secure three fifths of all the votes cast, or the voting counted for nothing.



Nevertheless, the removal of the three disabilities referred to above brought a Local Option boom which lasted till the war began. The delegates rejoiced over this door of opportunity, and in passing we may add that by 1916 there were in this Province 851 dry municipalities.

Mrs. McKee was appointed a delegate to the Dominion Convention in Winnipeg.

### Laying Down Burdens

The Sub-Executive held May 1st was a spiritual treat. Mrs. Miller writes in her Minutes:

“The bleak winds and lowering skies of May 1st gave little promise of the floods of sunshine and the balmy atmosphere of May 2nd, the opening day of the annual session of the Provincial Sub-Executive which, through the kindness of Toronto District W. C.T.U., held its five meetings at Headquarters, 56 Elm Street. Most gatherings that have any life at all possess some prevailing feature. That of 1907 Sub-Executive was, pronouncedly, a sense of dependence on God. As each member of the Committee laid her load of care before her comrades, the first thought was “Let us pray about it.” Conclusions were reached after an honest, earnest attempt to find “the mind of the Master.”

Need we add that all the business was conducted with a happy accord that blended the different opinions into harmonious decisions?

One item we note is the arrival by phone of the news that the disputed Weston Local Option By-law—over which there were two Court cases, and in behalf of which much prayer had ascended—was finally settled in our favor. The credit for this happy conclusion of a long drawn out fight, must, humanly speaking, be given to Mr. H. E. Irwin, K.C., of that town, now of Toronto. The Officers paused in their work for a thanksgiving service.

December 28th was set apart for prayer for Local Option

contests. All through this session we find references to united prayer over this or that question.

A resolution was ordered sent Sir James Whitney, thanking his Government for refusing to grant licenses where Local Option had carried by the obnoxious three fifths majority and then been held up by some quibbling technicality; also that no licenses were being granted in New Ontario.

Canada, Canada, land of the maple,  
Queen of the forest, and river and lake,  
Open thy soul to the voice of thy people,  
Close not thy heart to the music they make.  
Bells, chime out merrily,  
Trumpets, call cheerily,  
Silence is vocal, and sleep is awake!

Canada, Canada, land of the bravest,  
Sons of the war-path, and sons of the sea;  
Land of no slave lash,  
To-day thou enslavest  
Millions of hearts with affection for thee.  
Bells, ring out merrily,  
Trumpets, call cheerily,  
Let the sky ring with the shouts of the free.

1907  
1905—30th Convention, Cornwall

The public session of this year's Convention opened in St. John's Presbyterian Church, Cornwall, Nov. 4th. The President was in the chair and led in opening devotions, finding many encouraging promises in the life of Nehemiah.

#### Notable Visitors

Miss Belle Kearney, of Louisville, Kentucky, was presented and conveyed kind greetings from sisters across the line. She asked Mrs. McKee to accept a flag of her country to place alongside the Union Jack.

Miss Mary Jamieson, Rochester, N.Y., was cordially received, and conducted a "favorite verse" service. These two ladies were Convention speakers.

The Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. Miller, made facts and figures very interesting. It was ordered that the President's address be printed in the public press. In it she said:

"To undertake to give a synopsis of the Temperance reform during the past year would require the pen of a ready writer. So much has transpired, and so many actualities in these history-making times brought before us, we simply wonder at the rapid advance of the temperance tone in science, legislation and commercialism. The Church is not leading in this reform against the corruption and vice for which the liquor traffic is responsible; nor is she doing her full share in this battle against her greatest foe. 'Shall I not visit for these things, saith the Lord? Shall not my soul be avenged on such a Nation as this? The Prophets prophecy falsely and the Priests bear rule by their means, and my people love to have it so'. Jeremiah 5:31".

Mrs. McKee was again elected President, and Mrs. E. A. Stevens, of Toronto, and Mrs. L. Bryan, of Lucknow, were made associates to Mrs. Thornley as Vice-President. Word was received of the death of Mr. J. Hale Ramsey, of Montreal, (our staunch and true friend), with profound regret

and a keen sense of our personal loss. An invitation was received from Barrie to entertain the Annual Meeting in 1908.

At the post-Convention Executive Mrs. McKee deplored the pronouncement of the Social and Moral Reform Committee of the Presbyterian Church in favor of Government Control. She explained this was only the view of the Committee and did not voice the mind of this grand old church of the Covenanters.

Before leaving this year we must recount a great deliverance that was first publicly referred to at this Convention in connection with "The Tidings" report. A little back history is necessary to get the setting.

### A Prayer Answer

In January 1904, "Tidings" made its bow to the public. Its welcome and its continued appreciation were undoubted; but each annual report showed it a little further sunk into the mire of indebtedness, until there were dire prophesies of ruin ahead, and suggestions of abandonment. In the early summer of 1907 the prospect was so hopeless, the Editor, Business Manager and Board Secretary (Mesdames McAllister, Miller and Thornley) agreed to spend an afternoon in prayer. Up in the third storey of Mrs. Thornley's home, where telephone and door bell would ring unheeded, with Bibles in hand this waiting on God began.

Faith rose as the hours sped. Finally, definite petition that some one would leave "Tidings" a bequest and that the Advertising Department—to date a failure—would receive God's blessing and guidance, concluded the service. All felt and said, "We have met the Lord."

### The Sequel

That very week, with no knowledge of the desperate need (for his wife had been out of Provincial work for some years), Mr. George Acheson, of Goderich, added to his will a codicil leaving the Ontario W.C.T.U. another \$1000. (They were already down, unknown to them, for a similar amount), and within a few weeks, this faithful friend of our sisterhood

had cut the earthly shore lines. It was at once unquestionably conceded by the Provincial Officers that the second \$1000 belonged to "Tidings." The first must go to the General Fund.

Some time during the Summer the idea of the "Exclusive Advertising Scheme" was born. It was presented at the Cornwall Convention and heartily endorsed. The \$1,000 did not reach us for three years but it silenced the clamours of our creditors until the Exclusive Scheme got under way, which scheme lifted "Tidings" clear out of the bog of debt. Without the bequest, the more than \$1,200 we owed, would have swamped us. God hears prayer.

### Cigarette Legislation

In May of this year the Sub-Executive met in Toronto and because of matters dealt with there, which we think of value to our record, we must refer to it. It was during this Executive that a message came from Ottawa where some favorable M.P.'s. had introduced a Bill prohibiting the manufacture and importation of the cigarette, asking if an age-limit law would satisfy us, as they feared that was all they could get through the House.

That this should be the outcome of our hard work with petitions, memorials, etc., was very disappointing. And at that we were told the proposed age under which cigarettes could not be sold would be put at 16 years, for the whole Dominion; while already Ontario and New Brunswick had laws setting the age at 18, and some of the other Provinces 16, and all of these enactments had proved utterly ineffective. If cigarettes were allowed to be sold they could not be controlled. Our answer was emphatically NO.

As brandied candies were becoming a menace, Mrs. Will Pugsley, Supt. Legislation, with a committee, was requested to interview the License Department.

### A Change Forecasted

The Full Executive met in St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Barrie, Nov. 2, 1908, the President in the chair. After the usual business the President, Mrs. McKee, announced that the time had come when it was necessary for her to gratefully decline to allow her name to be again considered for the office of President. Mrs. Thornley, who had been so long associated with the clerical end of the work, followed with a similar statement. Both ladies explained that they had thus early in the Convention acquainted their comrades with their decisions in order that much prayer might be made about their successors. The Minutes declare that these notices "were received with genuine regret and consternation, and many hearts felt as never before the need to seek wisdom and guidance at this crisis."

From November, 1908, to July, 1909, the business was carried on by correspondence. It was felt that our Sub-Executive would be handicapped if Mrs. Thornley should not meet with them, so by unanimous vote it was decided to ask her to do so, giving her voting privileges. In May, 1909, Mrs. Thornley found it impossible to continue publishing the S.S. Quarterlies. Subsequently it was decided to offer them to the Dominion Union.

At the National meeting at Sherbrooke, Que., this offer was accepted with Mrs. Blanche Read Johnston, of Barrie, as Editor.

## 1908—31st Convention, Barrie

The Thirty-first Annual Convention met the next morning at the Collier Street Methodist Church, Mrs. McKee presided and conducted devotions, giving an impressive Bible reading. Mrs. J. K. Barney, of Rhode Island, U.S.A., our Convention speaker, was introduced. Mrs. Gordon Wright, Dominion President, and Mrs. Hyslop, Dominion Organizer, were made members of Convention.

The President's address was endorsed by a standing vote and enthusiastically carried. (This is copied from the Secretary's minutes).

Looking over that address now we are struck with the forecasts which it shows. Some have been fulfilled, and some we are yet to see, but it breathed a spirit of hope and optimism that should and did inspire our workers. There were 150 delegates present and our Life Members list had risen to thirty-seven.

### Election of Officers

The election of officers resulted as follows: Mrs. Thornley, Honorary President; Mrs. McKee, President; Mrs. Hattie Stevens, Vice-President; Mrs. F. Y. Miller, London, Cor. Secretary; Mrs. H. E. Irwin, Weston, Recording Secretary; Mrs. B. O. Britton, Gananoque, Treasurer, and Miss Lottie Harris, Toronto, "Y" Secretary.

### Our Missionary Work

During intervals in election, various reports were read, among the more important was the Missionary enterprise conducted by the Provincial Union. Under the able management of Mrs. Helen Detlor, of North Bay, Treasurer of the Missionary Board, there was a balance which showed a flourishing condition in the funds, and the reports of the three Missionaries were very encouraging, Mr. Beall for

Purity, Miss Sproule and Mr. Munt for Lumbermen and Railroad Construction Camps. Between them they had made 645 addresses, and Miss Sproule and Mr. Munt had travelled by almost every kind of then known vehicle, 10,700 miles. Mr. Beall does not give mileage.

Mrs. Hyslop, Dominion Organizer, was engaged as Organizer for Ontario, her tours to be arranged by Mrs. Detlor and Mrs. Kate Maxwell.

As a little memento of their affection the women presented Mrs. Thornley with a handbag and a bouquet of mums, and also voted her appointment as delegate to the Dominion Convention to be held in St. John, N.B.

### Refusing A Liquor Alliance

At the Sub-Executive in Toronto, January 13th, the Officers learned that another consignment of Government Control literature had been received from Mr. Joseph Mallins, of England. A very cordial vote of thanks was sent to this friend, who for two years had favored us with help of this kind.

Perhaps that is the point at which we can best pause in our narrative to recount an episode in our story that merits special mention.

### Disagreeing With Friends

Of the many services rendered by our organization, there is one about which we have not done much boasting, but which undoubtedly saved the whole Temperance movement from an alliance with the Liquor Traffic, that would have been an everlasting discredit and shame.

South Carolina had adopted Government Control. The Gothenburg System of Norway was in full swing. Earl Grey's Public House Trusts were doing business in England. Rosy stories of the temperance triumphs of these methods of Control were being circulated in Ontario. So long as approval was



confined to anti-Prohibitionists, we were not much concerned. But when this enemy propaganda invaded the Alliance, and leader after leader—men of prominence in the Church and in reform work—pronounced its favor, then we took fright. Our steady background was the Word of God, "Avoid the very appearance of evil." "Ye may not do evil that good may come." These and many other texts were to us an absolute prohibition of any such association with the death-dealing Drink Trade. The whole teaching of the Scriptures was separation from, not alliance with, or permission of, evil.

### Calling A Halt

We remonstrated, declaring that "we would fight any such policy to the last ditch"—and how would it look to see the men and the women of the Temperance forces in opposing camps? This certainly called a halt; but fearing it was only a "halt", we raised money by voluntary contributions to send a representative to South Carolina, and we let it be widely known that we had done so. Representative Temperance men and women of that State were written to. Mr. Joseph Mallins, Secretary of the General Temperance Federation of the British Isles (including over twenty-five Societies), was communicated with. The replies from these sources were overwhelmingly against every form of State or Municipal Control, in either the Old World or the New. Vast quantities of leaflets re the English, Swedish and Norwegian systems were sent us. These were distributed to Educationalists, Ministers and the professional classes; while exercises were prepared for our Unions, to be given at public and parlor meetings; material was sent out to our Press Superintendents.

### Glad We Did It

Meeting one of our Provincial Officers on the train about this time, a prominent Prohibitionist said most bitterly, "If it hadn't been for you women, we might have had Government Control!" "Thank the Lord" was the fervent reply, and that gentleman, and every other real Prohibitionist, readily echoed that sentiment by the time the true inwardness of these various Control Systems become known. That we today live under one, is deplorable—but the light in our cloud is that we did "fight it to the last ditch" and that ours was a united camp.

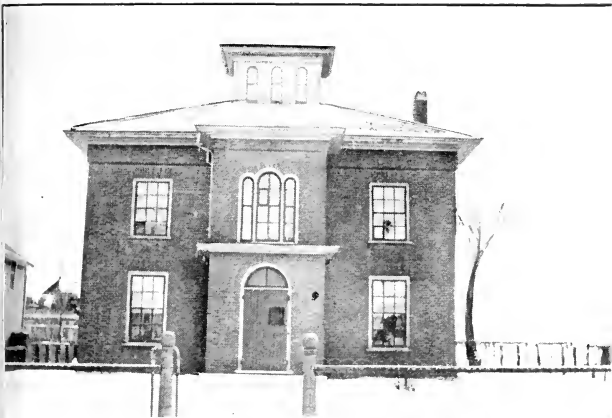
### Executive

To return to that January 13th Executive, Mrs. Pugsley brought to notice many deplorable facts as to License Law violations in Armouries and at Sergeants' Messes. It was determined to consult with the License Department. Mrs. McKee was asked to write Mr. MacKenzie King, thanking him for his interest in exposing the opium evil. A very kind and courteous reply was received.

#### **GOVERNMENT SALE FAILED IN U.S.A.**

Government sale of intoxicants was introduced into N. Carolina by Gov. Benj. R. Tillman, himself a clever lawyer, who said the license system is a failure and prohibition impossible.

He framed the Bill, allowed no importation or sale except by the government, and in seven and one-half years he headed the dry forces and drove the traffic out of the state forever.



SCHOOL AT PICTON WHERE MRS. YOUMANS TAUGHT.



HOME OF MRS. YOUMANS, PICTON, ONT.



## 1909—32nd Convention, Belleville

Tuesday morning, October 19th, Convention opened in the usual way, in the Bridge St. Methodist Church, Belleville.

At the School of Methods there was a menu of good things. A Symposium on Tidings brought the gratifying news that our advertising income had totalled \$770; our debt had been reduced from \$1200 to \$303; our circulation had passed the 7,000 mark. An Evangelistic Conference, led by Mrs. McKee, was next in order, and many helpful thoughts and plans were elicited for the benefit of Local Evangelistic Superintendents. A Local Option Round Table, led by Mr. Ben. H. Spence, was a feature of the School. It dealt in a most practical manner with questions and problems in Local Option campaigns. There were many representatives present from territories where the Act was in operation or in contemplation, and there ensued a lively discussion. Mrs. Agnes Straith, of Owen Sound, (later and for years our Provincial Superintendent of Work amongst Canadian Colored People) represented the courageous warriors of that never-say-die burg. Of course the program wound up with a Franchise message. That was as much an integral part of every Convention in those days as the opening and closing exercises.

At the Friday morning session a surprise was given Mrs. McKee in the presentation of a Dominion Life Membership pin. Mrs. McKee expressed her grateful appreciation.

### **Tidings Finances**

The price of labor, of ink and of paper had been steadily mounting so that printing "The Tidings" was becoming increasingly expensive. The forty cents per member out of the \$1.00 fee, plus the advertising income, was barely covering

expenses, and left nothing for emergencies. The management asked and received \$100 from Provincial funds. Twenty-seven Unions had been added to the list during the year. The President said that:

"The small band of women, who for over forty years had held its own and forged its way to a position of influence in this Country, had been permitted in the Providence of God, to see a marked change in the sentiment of the Country in regard to the liquor evil. We know no other Women's Society which has been consulted by a Cabinet Council, or to whom a Bill has been subjected for approval. We do not know a society which could, or would, frighten the Tobacco Trust into spending the sum of \$20,000 to win an Anti-cigarette Campaign. We have been accused of helping, materially, to turn out a Government; and certainly we are working hard for the power to do it when occasion requires. These are some of our pardonable boasts. The praying and watching and working, which for all these years was leading us up to this point, is beyond your very mortal and very human Chief Officer. But they are recorded where they will be made manifest some day, and will prove that 'through God we waxed valiant in fight' and shall soon, we hope, 'put to flight the armies of the aliens!'"

### Liquor and Military Canteens

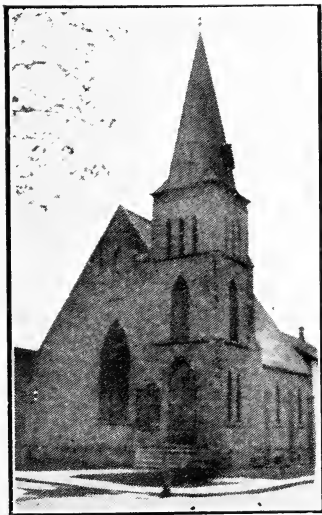
For ten years a crusade had been going on against liquor in canteens in military instruction camps. Through ten years of protest and adverse criticism and even unmanly reference in the House of Commons, Mrs. McKee, Mrs. Thornley and co-workers had fought this baneful practise against the law of the land, and against the material and spiritual well-being of our citizen-soldiers. The result was stated in the daily papers of June 19, 1909, following the order of the Militia Department of April 23rd. From Ottawa a standing order was sent to the London, Kingston, Niagara and Petawawa Camps, and all others in the Domin-

ion, against the sale of liquor in Military Camps of Instruction.

### Official Changes

Mrs. McKee was again elected President, and in thanking the women for their continued confidence, intimated in no uncertain terms that this must be the last year for her as presiding officer.

Convention lost its poetic Corresponding Secretary, as Mrs. Miller had become Business Manager of "Tidings." Mrs. H. M. S. Detlor, of North Bay, was elected to fill that office. She remarked that she was past the age when Dr. Osler said "we should be asphyxiated", but would do her best. Miss Ada Jackes, of Toronto, was chosen "Y" Secretary in place of Miss Harris who resigned.



OWEN  
SOUND  
W.C.T.U.  
HALL

# 1910—<sup>31</sup>32nd Convention, Owen Sound

## At The Home Base

One Hundred and Sixty White Ribboners met in the birth place of the Ontario W.C.T.U., Owen Sound. This meeting was made memorable by the introduction of the "Old Guard", the seven remaining charter members of the first Union formed in Canada, thirty-six years before.

At this Convention Mrs. McKee gave up the reins of Chief Officer, and was made Honorary President; and by vote of Convention was given the right to a seat on the Provincial Sub-Executive. Mrs. Thornley, of London, was elected President, and Mrs. E. A. Stevens, of Toronto, Vice-President; the other officers remained the same except that Miss Minnie Hester Garrett, of Toronto, became "Y" Secretary, Miss Ada Jackes of the same city having resigned. A cordial invitation was extended to meet in Winchester next year.

Here is an item quoted from the retiring President's farewell address:—

"As a rule we may be considered brainy women; at least we have evidenced a wisdom in the carrying on of our organization which merits approval of our business methods. This is seen in the management of our Missionary Fund; our official organ, "Tidings"; our departments with their inspiring exercises and their various methods; our constant and successful efforts to keep our scattered units in fighting trim through our Provincial workers and our County organizations. These last suffer sometimes from the want of women with both time and ability. County Presidents should lean hard on the Divine arm, and go on trusting for the fulfilment of their obligations."

After reviewing the Prohibition situation at home and abroad, in a concise, forceful way, the retiring President took leave of her constituency in these words:—



“And now just a word of grateful love and thanks for the years of confidence you have placed in me. I may not have fulfilled all your expectations. I know I have disappointed myself, but I leave my office with the feeling that your interests have always been first, and that I was led by the Divine Spirit, else there might have been disaster many a time, so humanly erring are we in our own conceit. But we have been led by a Power higher than our own wills, and the results are manifest in a progressive, strong society, well equipped and full of vigorous life. And so I leave you with flags flying and our ship in port, our prayer being that for further voyaging she may have a tried crew and a safe pilot.”

“The Lord bless thee and keep thee.

“The Lord make His face to shine upon thee and be gracious unto thee.”

“The Lord lift His countenance upon thee and give thee peace.”

We note that Mrs. McKee laid down the reins of office in the county where she so long served as County President.

## 1911—34th Convention, Winchester

One Hundred and twenty-four delegates assembled in the hospitable town of Winchester. Mrs. Thornley, the President, had been for weeks at death's door with pneumonia, and could not be present. The Rec. Secy., Mrs. H. E. Irwin, was also too ill to attend. Mrs. Stevens, Vice-Pres., occupied the chair, and in conjunction with Mrs. McKee, conducted proceedings.

The report of Mrs. Deltor, Prov. Cor. Secy., contained letters from the Private Secretaries of His Majesty, King George V. and of Sir Wilfrid Laurier. The former had been appealed to, to prohibit the use of his name and likeness in the advertising of liquor. The reply was (as we expected) very gracious, but all it said was that the King had seen it; nevertheless a wave of patriotic fervor swept over the Convention, and as an outlet a telegram of greeting was dispatched to the new Governor-General, the Duke of Connaught, who was one of the patrons of the "Royal (military) Temperance Army".

Mrs. Detlor showed us that we had at last rounded 7,000 with our membership (to be exact 7,128 in 215 Unions). These raised \$21,486.

The consensus of opinion was that this Convention was distinguished by unusual spiritual power. The address of Rev. C. T. Scott (then of Brantford) fired the hearts of the women with a deeper love for Christ.

### Consecration Services

The morning Consecration meetings (led by Miss Agnes Sproule, Mrs. Robt. Webster, of London, and Miss Minnie Garrett, of Toronto), were full of real soul food.

We have not previously mentioned these morning half-hour preparatory services. As far as we can ascertain, they

began in 1895, and for years were under the care of Mrs. Asa Gordon, of Ottawa, Evangelistic Superintendent from 1893 to 1907. The late Mrs. Blanche Read Johnson, of Barrie, accepted the Evangelistic Department in 1909, and held it till 1922, when Mrs. Morrison, of Markdale, and Mrs. Gully, of Uxbridge, were appointed. Mrs. Gully, retiring for a few years, is our present Superintendent.

But while these leaders were expected to give a message at each Convention, they also had the happy task of choosing the spiritual cream of our organization for these brief pre-Convention services, that have often lent a spiritual tone to the whole session.

There were some striking things in the report of the Plan of Work Committee. One urged women to act on School Boards; another covered the White Slave Traffic and amendments to the Criminal Code re the lash for wife-beaters. (These legal amendments were recommended in the report of Legislation & Law Enforcement by Mrs. Will Pugsley). It was in the old license days when wife-beaters were figuring in every court. The cycle of events was—"drunk, beat up wife (maybe the children too); hailed into court; fined". The only dint made was in the man's pocket book, and he soon forgot that and repeated the offence. So the exasperated women concluded that a dint in his anatomy might be more effectual, and passed the following:

**WHEREAS** It has been found that no wife-beater, drunk or sober, has repeated his offence after once having felt the lash; and that this form of punishment is the most effectual in preventing criminal assaults on women and girls; and—

**WHEREAS** the penalties for these crimes are, in the opinion of our judges, inadequate, therefore—

**RECOMMEND**, That the use of the lash be made a penalty for the first offence in both of these inhuman crimes, and that such punishment be followed by disenfranchisement.

This recommendation, with a covering letter, was sent the Hon. Mr. Bickersdike, of Montreal, who was a staunch supporter of all good causes. When this Bill was submitted to the House it passed without a dissenting vote. Less than a month later the penalty was administered in Toronto. Mrs. Pugsley, who has supplied us with these reminiscences) says she interviewed the Morality Department before the next Convention and was told that only two had received this punishment during the year, instead of there being two or three per month as formerly, so salutary had the dread of it proved. The Police Officer gave this incident:—

“A husky, bullying fellow with a pale, frail, harrowed-looking wife was the third, after this law was enacted, to be hailed to Court. He had struck his wife a blow and threatened a beating. When interrogated he said “I am a Britisher, and I will have you know that in England a man has a right to beat his wife and his dog, if he uses a stick no bigger than his thumb”.

The Officer, a noble Irishman, with a delicious brogue when roused, replied—“And I’ll have ye to know that now ye’re living in a civilized country, and if ye don’t behave like a human being ought, ye’ll be getting a taste av yer own medicine. Byes, take him below”. “Ye could hear him two blocks”, said the Officer, who added, as the man was departing “Ye can go this toime, but ye’ll be watched, and if ye as much as raise a finger to that little woman, it’s double ye’ll be getting.”—He never came back.

Miss Garrett, Miss Ada Jackes and Miss Maud McKee, were heartily applauded for their “Y” work during the year. The place of meeting next year was left to the Sub-Executive.

On November 11th of this year the Corner Stone of the Toronto W.C.T.U. Headquarters, 20 Gerrard Street, was laid.

The members of the Ontario Sub-Executive were invited to be present.

Several of the officers were able to attend and heartily congratulated the women of Toronto on their enterprise.

This year the City of St. Catharines made an initial step forward. The Y.M.C.A. provided for boys who were strangers in the city but there was no provision for girls.

One of the beautiful residences for which the city is noted was purchased and on June 14th, 1911, was opened as The Alexandra Hall for girls.

The Hall accommodates 32 girls and is under the able management of Mrs. Byron Smith. It has proved to be a most successful venture.



ALEXANDRA HALL, ST. CATHERINES

## 1912—35th Convention, Renfrew

The Convention was held in the beautiful town of Renfrew and 120 delegates were welcomed to its hospitable homes.

It had become the custom, during the annual gatherings, to receive greetings from other Societies, and friends at the luncheons. Mrs. McKee was in charge Tuesday noon; Mrs. Stevens, Wednesday; Mrs. Detlor, Thursday, and Mrs. Britton, Friday.

### Constitutional Amendments

There is no record of it, but the Constitution shows it was further amended in two important particulars. 1. The L.T.L. Department became a Branch, with an elected Secretary—Mrs. Adah McLachlan, of Hamilton. Mrs. McLachlan had been our most satisfactory L.T.L. Supt. 2. For some time the "Ys" had objected to the \$1.00 fee. This problem was settled by the adoption of the following:—

"In the "Y" Unions the fee is 50c.—except for married women who shall pay \$1.00 and receive the paper as though members of the "W" Each "Y" member shall be duly affiliated for, as per the Constitution, and in every "Y" Society the five officers and not less than three of the Superintendents shall be upon the subscribers' list of Tidings".

### Official Changes

To the Sub-Executive and later to Convention, Mrs. Thornley declined re-election on the ground of her health. The elections resulted *vis*: Hon. Pres., Mrs. McKee; Pres., Mrs. E. A. Stevens, Toronto; Vice-Pres., Mrs. H. E. Irwin, Toronto; Rec. Secy., Mrs. J. Edwards-Cole, Ottawa. The other officers were re-elected. The desire to retain Mrs. Thornley on the Sub-Executive led to the creation of the office of Advisory President to which office she has been annually appointed.

Mrs. Pugsley, Supt. of Legislation & Law Enforcement, related particulars of some shamefully mismanaged cases that showed the crying need for Women's Courts; and also for private hearings for unfortunate "Domestic Relations Cases". Both of these reforms are now well established. The Minister of Justice, Ottawa, was appealed to. We asked for the amendment of the Criminal Code, to extend the protection, now given factory workers, to domestics.

This Convention was unique in that it received greetings from representatives of the Public, Separate and High Schools; and also from the Police and Municipal Council.

After ten years of faithful service as W.C.T.U. Purity Missionary in the Public Schools, Mr. Arthur Beall resigned to enter the employ of the Education Department.

The wife of the Speaker of the House of Commons, Mrs. Sproule, was made a Life Member of the Provincial Union, to show our appreciation of her stand in not allowing the use of intoxicants at functions at which she presided.

### **The President's Address**

Mrs. E. A. Stevens, who has really been Acting President, during the past year, and, who was a tower of strength to Mrs. Thornley, read the annual address. It is characterized in the minutes as a "Statesmanlike, comprehensive review of W.C.T.U. endeavor; and of temperance work at home and at large."

### **"Banish The Bar Policy"**

The great event of the year, from our view-point, was the adoption, by the Liberal Party—Hon. Newton Rowell, Leader—of a "Banish the Bar" policy. Mrs. Stevens voiced the joy of our organization that both parties had come to realize they could not ignore this issue. One was even carrying our banner! And, "though this was the Party of many promises and little fulfilment", our hope was in the Leader, whom she believed sincere enough and

strong enough to throw down the reins of office, should his followers desire to play fast and loose with this question. The Convention carried a rousing resolution of approval of Mr. Rowell's policy—and there was deep regret that it later failed to carry the Country.

Mrs. Stevens—and the Convention, by resolution—expressed their delight at the attitude of Sir Sam Hughes upon the military canteen problem. Under Sir Sam's predecessor this institution had, for years, successfully defied the law—the officers turning a blind eye on these liquor selling operations.

Sir Sam sent orders to the heads of the Camps that it would be useless for them to say they did not know liquor was sold. It was their business to know it was not sold. And if they could not stop it they must give way to those who could.

#### Many "First Steps"

At this year's Sub-Executive besides routine business, the following decisions were made;

The first steps were taken to find a basis on which there could be L.T.L. representation at Provincial and County Conventions.

#### A New Organization

Mrs. Stevens called attention to a "Seven Weeks' Temperance Course" in the Chicago Training School to be had at a nominal figure. This greatly interested the Officers, since they had been discussing the call for workers amongst the young. It was decided to look about for a bright young woman who should take the course, and then work under the Provincial. By ballot it was later decided to send Miss Berta McLeod, of Cainsville. She accepted the offer, and was subsequently appointed by Convention, and became our pioneer Y.P. Temperance worker, making a specialty of S.T.I. in the Public Schools. Miss McLeod amply justified the trifling expenditure incurred, and was for four years a most telling exponent of our principles.





MRS. E. A. STEVENS  
(*nee* Hattie Amelia Reynolds)  
Forester's Falls, Renfrew, Ont.  
President, 1912-1921.



## 1913—36th Convention, Stratford

In Stratford, on October 6th, Convention opened with a Bible reading by Mrs. McKee, on "Fellowship", emphasizing the fact that it is in the power of God's people to sweep the liquor traffic off the face of the earth.

Mrs. Stevens' Annual Address contained many encouraging indications of world progress toward Prohibition. The United States had finally passed the long prayed-for Kenyon Webb Inter-state Liquor Law (against bringing liquor into Prohibition States) and did it over President Taft's Veto. Sweden had elected a dry Government, with the hearty approval of the Royal Family. The German Emperor had adopted total abstinence, and was advocating less liquor for the Army. Scotland, after years of fighting for it, had secured its Local Veto Act. Ireland had just stepped into the Dry Column. Ontario had only enacted two License Law Amendments, shortening morning sale by two hours; the other prohibiting sale by the bottle over the bar, to be consumed off the premises, (the very thing that we have legalized). Mrs. Stevens noted the need for "Train Matrons" (an innovation now introduced for new settlers) and referred to the loss, on the trains between New York and Chicago, in 1912, of 1,500 girls!

The Curfew-bell By-law was passed by the Ontario Legislature.

During the election of officers, and while ballots were being counted, a deputation from Simcoe County called Mrs. McKee to the platform and presented her with a purse of gold and a bouquet of flowers. Mrs. McKee, (who was for years Simcoe's County President), was surprised and deeply touched.

Mrs. Hyslop was with us again as Organizer, doing her work in her usual efficient manner.

### Some Important Decisions

The Plan of Work sounded an effective note, by stating

that life would be put into many a weak or inefficient union, if the officers exchanged offices or if new blood were introduced . . . and that no officer elected on open vote or by acclamation is legally an officer.

Four Notices of Motion were brought in. (1) Entitling the L.T.L's. to send delegates to County and Provincial Conventions; (2) Providing for the affiliation fee for L.T.L's. These were confirmed at the next Convention in Toronto in 1914, also one making the basis of representation for County Annual Meetings, one delegate for every 20 members.

A notice was also made that Provincial Missionaries, Organizers and Field Workers, provided such workers be women members of a Union in our Province, become members of the Executive Board. This was not ratified, by vote of next Convention, according to the minutes.

Membership reported, 8179; Unions, 479; Delegates, 198.

The affiliated L.T.L's. could be, and were, represented at the World's W.C.T.U. in Brooklyn, but had to wait a year longer for Ontario Constitutional changes before they could send delegates to Provincial and County Annuals. Among the Resolutions we find one deploring "the present styles of dress, as immodest and tending to immorality". (What would that Committee have said about the styles of 1927?)

### Tidings Shower

"Tidings" had just moved into new and much nicer quarters and, by vote of the Tidings' Board, was allowed to have a "Tidings Shower" wherewith to furnish. This netted nearly \$300. How the Staff did revel in the new tables, chairs, desk, carpet, filing cabinet, etc., etc.! Mrs. Flora Yorke Miller, Associate Editor & Business Manager, comments:--

"When we recall the room in which Miss Tidings was domiciled when we first came to bear her company in 1905, (she was then something over a year old), with its lack of conveniences, not to mention comforts, we rub our eyes and say "surely, fairies, brownies, kewpies or some other friendly magical visitors have been at work"; and if they knew the happiness they have brought, how their little feet would skip for joy.

"Again, when we remember that the mailing sheet at that time contained exactly 2,875 names, while today we hover around the 10,000 mark, even at this the ebb-tide of the year. we can only sing a song of thanksgiving for the good hand of our God which has been upon us."

The Cor. Secy., Mrs. Helen Detlor, reports nearly 9,000 members, with over \$25,000 raised, locally, for all purposes.

Mr. H. E. Irwin, K.C., Toronto, was Convention speaker and dealt with the underlying principles of the Temperance reform.

Mrs. M. E. Edwards Cole was elected Prov. Sec., but later had to decline the office, and Mrs. H. E. Irwin, of Toronto, Vice-President, undertook the duties of this position.

### Clouds and Storms

If the Officers, who met in happy conclave, Feb. 23, 1914, could have visioned the blood-drenched years ahead, and that in five months the storm would burst upon an unsuspecting world, how different would have been their deliberations! One can but be thankful for the mercy of God that gives us life but a day at a time. As it was, the discussions involved the raising of the Dominion Fee from five cents to eight cents; what should be done re the MacKenzie estate—a gracious gift to the Provincial from a Goderich friend, that could not at once be realized upon; The Travellers' Aid badge, the consideration of which had involved several meetings with the Y.W.C.A. and resulted in the W.C.T.U. continuing to use the International badge introduced by the U.S.

A. until 1924, when a new International badge was adopted by all the units doing Travellers' Aid work, under the National Travellers' Aid Committee.

Mrs. M. E. Coles' resignation of the Provincial Recording Secretaryship, to accept the position of Editor of "The Bulletin"—Dominion official organ—made it necessary to appoint her successor. Mrs. W. H. Kearney, of Renfrew, was chosen, and telephoned acceptance. These and many other items of business, filled out the three days of Sub-Executive deliberations.

---

Your King and  
Country  
Need You

---

## 1914—37th Convention, Toronto

The Thirty-seventh Provincial Convention met in the Queen City, Toronto, October 5th-10th. There were 326 delegates. These were surely historic days for husbands, fathers, brothers, sons had gone to face death on French and Belgian fields. All hearts were heavy.

The address of the President was a fine picture of conditions at home and abroad. It opened with this verse:

"I hear the clear note of the bugle,  
And the roar of the calling drum;  
And I feel the swing of the marching men,  
And a deep, deep voice says, 'come.'  
For the arrow of duty points forward,  
Though the heart-strings quiver and break;  
Yet the voice of my calling country  
Is one I may not forsake."

It took notice of the fact that while we on the North American Continent were celebrating a century of peace, the Nations of the world were embroiled in a war more terrible than any in human history.

Referring to our own Temperance warfare, Mrs. Stevens said:

"But this war, terrible as it is, has a gigantic rival in the inhuman traffic we are banded together to fight. Listen! During the Boer War it has been estimated that 21,942 British Soldiers died in action, of wounds or from climatic conditions; while during the same time 320,000 British people died from the effects of strong drink—14 from liquor to one in battle—think of it—in Christian England!"

Reference was made to the death, largely due to her efforts to maintain the Maine Law, of the National President of the U.S.A., Mrs. L. M. N. Stevens. That England had at last purged herself of her share in the Opium Curse was welcome news.

### The Cigarette

In the Plan of Work report we find that five M.P.'s. headed by Mr. Andrew Broder, of Morrisburg, were looking after our Anti-Cigarette Bill at Ottawa. Little did they or

we know what a body blow the war would give to the struggling reform! It fairly asphyxiated the public conscience, where tobacco was concerned, and it levelled the one-time barrier between the cigarette and women.

But the decision that moved the Convention to its depths was an outcome of the recommendations of the Missionary Board as given by its Secretary, Mrs. May R. Thornley. The results accruing from this action run like a living stream through the war-torn years that follow.

### Our War Work

After explaining that while the work of Miss Sproule with the scattered Northern settlers; that of Miss McLeod in the Schools, and that of Mrs. Hyslop amongst the Unions need not be discontinued, the report recited that the services held by Mr. Pethick in the Lumber Camps were no longer possible, since most of the Camps were either closed or running with a handful of workers. The Lumberjacks had gone to France! The proposal was that we still minister to them. How? These excerpts from the report make an answer:—

“The very night of the day war was proclaimed (Aug. 4th) our National Y.M.C.A. Council began preparations to meet the spiritual needs of the men for whose enlistment the Government had sent out a call. Some of you know of the splendid work done by this Organization at Valcartier amongst the 32,000 who heard the Motherland’s cry for help.

“Six Y.M.C.A. men offered to go with the Overseas Contingent. After considerable negotiation, they were accepted by the English War Office. Now the way was open, so far as the authorities were concerned, but the problem of support still faced the home Y.M.C.A. Council. When the W.C.T.U. Missionary Board made tentative inquiries as to whether they might be permitted to assume responsibility for one of the six out-going Secretaries, there was an instant and cordial reply in the affirmative. The W.C.T.U. might have its representative at the Front



—working under Y.M.C.A. control but for the W.C.T.U.

“Now, my sisters, shall we take advantage of this chance to go to the war—not to aid in destroying the Germans and Austrians, but to minister to the sick and dying; to lift up the Redeemer of the World before the eyes of His perplexed children, many of whom have only begun to trust in Him, and to tell the tempted lost ones that He can save and keep?”

“It will cost \$1,200, to assume the support of such a man.

“The matter is now before you. The question the Board asks, is—Shall we follow our men to the firing line? Shall the W.C.T.U. be represented at the Front?”

There were two or three pessimistic Thomases who knew “we could not do it”, but the Mother-hearts brushed aside these doubts and fears and said “We can, and we will.”

The Minutes give the decision as follows:

“Moved by Mrs. Blanche Read Johnson and Mrs. A. B. Ormsby, and unanimously and enthusiastically carried, that the Ontario W.C.T.U. assume the financial support of one of the six Y.M.C.A. workers now ready to go to the Front with the First Contingent.”

Thus began the War service of the W.C.T.U.

Ottawa was given recognition as a District. There were 326 delegates; 290 Unions were reported with a membership of 8958.

Mrs. W. H. Kearney, of Renfrew, became Prov. Rec. Secy., and Miss Florence Edwards, of Carleton Place, Prov. “Y” Secy., Miss Minnie Garrett having asked to be relieved.

Our membership stood at over 8,500 Regulars, 559 Honoraries, and 468 “Ys”. About \$24,000 was raised by the Unions during the year. Thus reported the Cor. Secy.

### Breaking Faith

The Sub-Executive, which met in February of 1915, took strong exception to the action of the British War Office which, with the endorsement of the Canadian Government,

so they said, had re-established the wet canteen among the Canadian soldiers overseas. We believed this to be a distinct breach of faith with the Mothers of Canada. It was learned, subsequently, that Sir Robert Borden said "His Government had not been consulted".

All we know was that the Government had not protested.

It was decided that, in so serious an emergency, we ought not to act alone. Therefore, the Secretaries of the Moral Reform Societies of the Churches were asked to meet the Executive. Five of them responded. As the minutes of that meeting declare:—

"The paradox of declining to accept for enlistment men who are victims of the drink habit, and then proceeding to make drunkards of the sober ones who go to serve the Empire" was not understandable.

### Appealing To God

Dr. Silcox suggested prayer. Canon Green seconded the thought and added that "we should ask God to change the hearts of the men in the British Parliament, who have about a Three Billion interest in the Liquor Traffic."

### The Mothers' Petition

Prayer was made, and then came the decision to circulate a petition, to be signed by the Mothers of Canada, against the wet canteen at Salisbury. This was unanimously agreed to. Thus was inaugurated a campaign of protest that mightily moved the women of this Province. As Provincial Superintendent of Legislation, Mrs. Will Pugsley took charge. An office was opened and a stenographer engaged. Literature was printed, "Tidings" rang with appeals and incitements to action, and in ten days, despite almost insurmountable obstacles such as exceptionally bad roads, the signatures of the mothers, wives and sisters of our soldier

sons in Ontario alone piled up to 66,186. These were presented (personally) to the Premier, Sir Robert Borden, and he was given many, many instances of the destruction and debauchery that had already resulted from the wet canteens in England. He received the deputation graciously, and there the matter ended, so far as human action is concerned. But surely the God of Heaven took note and would visit with His displeasure those guilty of so great a wrong!

### Ontario Honor Roll

Mrs. George B. Toye, of Toronto, instituted this permanent war record.

In a beautiful book are enrolled the names of our soldier sons, together with the names of their mothers, wives, sisters and daughters who are members of our W.C.T.U. in Ontario.

106 Unions

2073 Names of Soldier Sons

280 Paid the Supreme Sacrifice

17 Decorations were received

V.C.—1

D.S.O.—2

M.C.—8

D.F.C.—1

B.S.C.—1

D.P.H.—1

Croix de Guerre—1

Others—2

## 1915—38th Convention, Ottawa

The opening of the Thirty-Eighth Convention took place in Knox Church, Ottawa, on Oct. 18th.

While commending the reports of Superintendents, the enthusiasm of the speakers, and the general tone of progress, it must be said that a feeling of anxiety was apparent, and a sombre spirit possessed our women. But this was not in evidence Thursday night, when Mrs. Nellie McClung, of Manitoba, addressed a packed house in one of Ottawa's largest auditoriums. She swayed that audience into an enthusiastic approval of a dry Canada.

### The Committee of One Hundred

The most noteworthy transaction of the Session occurred on Thursday afternoon, when Mr. J. O. McCarthy and Mr. Newton Wylie, Secy. of the "Citizen's Committee of One Hundred," addressed the delegates, and asked for their financial assistance in putting over "a campaign for a Dry Ontario". To this end it had been determined to circulate a petition for a referendum on the drink question, and funds were needed to "Banish the Bar".

After full discussion the Provincial Union pledged its support to the extent of a contribution averaging One Dollar per member, Mrs. Sara J. Odell, of Ottawa, to be the Treasurer.

### War Activities

The endorsement, by the 1914 Convention, of the proposal that our Missionary Board should support one of the Six War Secretaries of the Y.M.C.A., resulted in the choice, as our representative, of Mr. Oscar Irwin, of Collingwood, a Knox College student.

“Mr. Irwin went right down into the trenches where the fire was hottest, carrying physical comforts and the Message of Eternal Life. At that awful Battle of Langemark, April 23rd, he was with his men of the 10th Battalion, and must have fallen in the second attack. Thus passed a brave man of God”.

By April 9th, the Government had decided to assume the salaries of the Y.M.C.A. Secretaries, and we were asked to undertake the work allowance, \$900, of one or more of these men. Our bulging bank account made this a joyful duty. We took on first, Mr. Albert Pequegnat, of Stratford, shortly disabled by sickness, and later Capts. Harry Whiteman, of Quebec, and Edward B. Archibald, of Toronto.

Since the women were so enthusiastically supporting our patriotic work, it was decided to raise and administer, through these men, a “Cocoa and Chocolate Fund” which should be our gift to the Canadian soldiers. It was decided that amounts up to \$5 be given toward defraying the railway fare of County Presidents attending Convention.

### Interesting Announcements

“Tidings” circulation was heading for 10,000. During the eight years the Exclusive Advertising Scheme had been in operation, it had paid off a debt of \$1,200, contributed to “Tidings” expenses \$4,636, and had a balance in the bank of over \$1,000. The women did not forget that this “Scheme” came in answer to that afternoon of Prayer, in 1907, when financial prospects were at their blackest. Number of Unions, 239; members, 10239; delegates, 193.

The Officers remained the same, except that Mrs. Will Pugsley, of Toronto, was elected Vice-President.

Sir Sam Hughes visited the Convention, and assured us that everything in his power had been done to banish drinking from the camps. The address of the President, Mrs.

Stevens, was a careful review of the situation in Ontario and the Dominion, with tender reference to the Boys at the Front, and to the prayers of the women which are following them. Again and again the Convention delegates voiced their demand for a dry Canada, declaring that to urge the home-makers to all kinds of economies, in support of the War, while the Government permitted the Brewers and Distillers to destroy millions of bushels of grain, was an outrage!

### A Challenge!

At the Convention in October, 1915, when Mr. Newton Wylie and Mr. J. O. McCarthy appealed to the women to aid in supplying the sinews of war for the "Committee of One Hundred", the delegates were assured that due representation would be accorded the W.C.T.U. on "The Committee." Before the Sub-Committee met, (Dec. 28, 1915), "The Committee" had declined to implement Mr. Wylie's promise, and the Executive was bidden—just three weeks before the close of the Campaign—to organize a Woman's Committee of their own.

Lack of both money and time made this (in any large sense) impossible, so the Sub-Executive told Mr. G. A. Warburton, Chairman of "The Committee of One Hundred", who met with them. Nevertheless, plans were rushed through, and an attempt was made to organize. Needless to say, in hundreds of localities the women were already carrying a good share of the petitions—for this was neither a Plebiscite, nor a Referendum, but a Petition Campaign. To our great joy, and to the credit of "The Committee" the plan was a success, and men workers were enlisted as never before in the history of the reform.

The Petition Campaign ended in February, and the huge rolls, containing over 850,000 names, were presented

to the Government by a monster delegation, March, 1916. The Legislature, without a division without demanding a referendum, and with the unqualified support of Premier Hearst and the Opposition Leader, Mr. N. W. Rowell, enacted the **Ontario Temperance Act**—a War Measure that was to remain law until 1919, when it would be confirmed or repealed by vote of the people.

In aid of this great victory the W.C.T.U. not only assisted locally, in a multitude of ways, but contributed over \$9,000. to the campaign finances—this being, practically, one third of the money required to put over the undertaking.

The O.T.A. went into force Sept. 16, 1916, and wiped out 1,450 bars.

## 1916—39th Convention, Hamilton

The 39th Prov. Convention met in Hamilton, October 30th to Nov. 3rd. Despite the clouds of anxiety and sorrow that shrouded so many homes (for already 50,000 Canadian men were either wounded, or prisoners, or were "sleeping somewhere in France") the Session brimmed with hope, and rang with songs of rejoicing; for not only had Ontario freed herself from the clutches of the Liquor Traffic, but so had Alberta, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Manitoba and British Columbia. Prince Edward Island had been dry since 1901, and Saskatchewan had tightened up its Government Control law.

Mrs. Stevens' address set forth these, and many other hopeful portents and was a store house of notable facts.

### Worth Repeating

The following striking quotations occur in the 1916 Annual Address of the President, Mrs. Stevens. This record is very full, yet these are some quotations that ought to be preserved.

Mr. Arthur Mees, a prominent Englishman, writes:—

"While England must depend on outside sources for her food, she sets aside as much land for beer culture in her vast hop fields as for bread, and if the enemy could blockade her ports, her children would in two months go hungry, while their fathers would have beer enough for a year or longer. Beer is the King of England. It has beaten the King and Lord Kitchener, Premier Asquith and Lloyd George. It has beaten the Board of Trade, the War Office and the Admiralty. You may take a man's home in England, now, and his motor car, or his workshop, or his business, which has taken fifty years to build up, or the money he has put away for old age. You may take his liberty or his only son, but you must not take his beer".

Sir Victor Horseley, one of England's greatest medical authorities, said:—



"The traffic in strong drink sends 60,000 victims every year to drunkards graves, and unfits many thousands more for military service. England could wipe out her entire war debt in three years with the money the nation spends in drink. All this, in spite of a petition signed by over two millions of people, in six weeks' time, measuring over eleven miles in length, and weighing a ton".

Another historical quotation and one which will bear repeating while time shall last, is that of Sir William Hearst, Premier of Ontario, who said during the O.T.A. debate:—

"In this day of national peril, in this day when the future of the British Empire, the freedom of the world and the blessings of democratic Government, hang in the balance, if I should fail to listen to what I believe to be the call of duty; if I should neglect to take every action that to my judgment will help to conserve the financial strength and power and manhood of this Province, for the greater struggle in which we are engaged, I would be a traitor to my Country, a traitor to my own conscience, and unworthy of the brave sons of Canada who are fighting, bleeding and dying for freedom and for us".

### Woman's Enfranchisement

One issue dominated this gathering and was set forth in resolutions, addresses, and a Demonstration. This was the need for the enfranchisement of women.

Judging the average woman by themselves, the delegates were sure that the O.T.A. would be as secure as Gibraltar, if only their sex had the power to support it.

On Wednesday night Mrs. A. B. Ormsby, of Mimico, and Mrs. Ada Courtice, of Toronto, Prov. Supts. of Franchise, presented the most telling Demonstration.

War time has developed our women, and shown men the power of womanhood in the world. The years 1915-1916 had been most fruitful in Women's Suffrage. Four of the Provinces had given the women the vote. These days saw the Walker Brewery closed down for a year.

Three other Breweries in Ontario have been turned into canning factories, and two distilleries are making denatured Alcohol.

The Government Commission from its 5 per cent. Excise Tax on Imported Liquor has fallen off nearly half in two years, which all goes to prove that **Prohibition does Prohibit**.

The speaker for Thursday night was Mrs. Mary Harris Armor, of Georgia, U.S.A., who quite captivated the Convention with her story of How Georgia got rid of Government Sale.

### More War Work

Each year of the War, Mrs. Asa Gordon, Supt. of the "Soldiers Department", reported the ceaseless work of the local unions in preparing countless comforts for our overseas men. Under the "Patriotic and Missionary Board", Provincial activities—all depending on local gifts—were reported. In this latter connection the activities of our Representatives at the Front were recorded. When the year began, these were Capts. Ed. Archibald and Harry Whiteman. In a few months the latter laid down his worn-out body in a French grave. Then we added to our little staff, Capt. Charters Sharpe. These two men continued with us until the War closed. We supplied each with \$88.00 per month as a work allowance, and gave an additional \$50.00 per month for Capt. Archibald's "Soup Pots". Noticing that great piles of beef bones were thrown away, Capt. Archibald bought vegetables, barley, etc., secured large iron pots and made nourishing soup that the men loved.

So generously had the women rolled in their gifts, the year closed with a balance in the Patriotic treasury of \$3,390.28—and the Convention was assured we would soon launch out into still deeper water.

"Tidings" circulation was 9,254; our membership, 8,365; money raised by the local unions, \$40,709. The Officers were all re-elected. The Convention declared;

"That despite the great volume of appeal that has poured out from the mother hearts of this country to the military authorities across the water, our men are still subject to the fierce temptation of alcohol, sold or administered under the most habit-forming conditions imaginable".

And they "protested against this wanton injury" done to our Canadian boys.

Miss Sproule, who had been ill for a year, was again back in service. Mrs. Hyslop resigned to enter other work. Miss McLeod was still a most helpful factor amongst our young people.

### **Borrowed From Bonnie Scotland**

The Star of Honor pin to be awarded to those securing ten new members in a year, was adopted.

Mrs. Gordon Murray, of Hamilton—a Scotswoman—had suggested this plan to the "B.W.T.A." and when she made Canada the land of her adoption brought the suggestion to us.

In this land of great expansion we have enlarged on this idea and give a three Star for securing 30 members in two years and a five Star pin for securing 50 members in 3 years.

To Mrs. Murray the world also owes the idea of enlisting the babies as "Little White Ribboners".

### **Interim Business**

The Corresponding Secretary reported 248 Unions, 9450 members, \$40,709.46 raised by local Unions.

The year nineteen hundred and seventeen was a memorable one in the history of the Ontario Woman's Christian Temperance Union. The Sub-Executive met January 29th,

in Willard Hall, Toronto, two members absent, Mrs. McKee, (for the first time in seventeen years), and Miss Florence Edwards, "Y" Secretary.

After a long and animated discussion in the Sub-Executive meeting the status of the Local "Y" Secretary, and Local L.T.L. Secretary was established. The former holds office only until a Local "Y" is formed, and officers elected according to Constitution. The latter is desirable only where there is an L.T.L. or the possibility of organizing one. An explanatory footnote was drafted and ordered to be appended to Article 3 of the Local Constitution; but one looks in vain to find it in the Annual Report.

The moral status of the overseas Canadian Camps was the subject of much prayer and some severe criticism of the British Military authorities, on the distressing wrongs permitted in England. A pleasant conference with Mr. Warburton showed the work done by our Representatives, Messrs. Sharpe and Archibald, in the French Camps. He also brought greetings from the Woman's Christian Temperance Union of Japan. Toronto District was gratefully and cordially thanked for the many kindnesses shown to the Provincial Sub-Executive. It was resolved to accept the invitation to meet in Cornwall for the 40th Annual Convention.

## 1917—40th Convention, Cornwall

On September 24th, 1917, the delegates to the number of 115 met in St. John's Presbyterian Church in Cornwall. A very cordial and hospitable reception was given. At the full Executive meeting Mrs. McKee spoke of the difficulty of working the District of Nipissing, and asked that it be divided. It was so ordered. A resolution to consider the situation of other large districts by a competent committee, was carried.

The Tuesday morning meeting opened with the usual Consecration service led by Mrs. Blanche Read Johnson. Mrs. McKee, Mrs. Thornley, Mrs. Bigelow and Mrs. Courtice, assisting. A very interesting School of Methods was held on Tuesday afternoon. Mrs. Lang gave an instructive talk on the qualifications of women voters in towns and villages. A deputation was appointed to attend the Health Convention in Ottawa, and the following resolution was ordered to be sent with the Committee:

"Whereas the manhood, the womanhood and the childhood of this Country are suffering from a menace to the health and happiness of this generation, and of generations to come, and whereas because of immoral condions and the physical unfitness of so large a percentage of our men, women and children, through venereal disease, Therefore be it resolved that this Ontario Convention Meeting in Cornwall, earnestly appeals to the Public Health Convention to do everything possible to secure legislation and promote education which will stamp out this baneful blight."

The various departmental reports were good, and the business of Convention was carried on with commendable despatch and profit.

### A New Field Worker

Mrs. C. B. Bigelow was engaged as an Organizer. Her wide experience in working with children was a valuable asset.

The Government was memorialized to so amend the Marriage Act that licenses could only be issued by special appointees. This matter was afterwards brought to the attention of the Social Service Council and a few years later became law.

The Corresponding Secretary reported 132 delegates present; membership, 8503, and 235 unions; money raised, \$33,624.

### The Trinket Fund

At an evening meeting, a plan, outlined by Mrs. Thornley, for the Ontario W.C.T.U. to raise a fund for the good of our soldiers, was heartily endorsed, by a public audience.

This endorsement was given before Convention had had an opportunity, through its Executive or Plan of Work, to draft plans for the working out of this splendid idea.

Appeals were later made through the Pulpits and Press. Receptacles were placed in the churches into which, rich and poor, Jew and Gentile alike, placed trinkets and treasures. Never did an appeal receive a greater response, and the sum of nearly \$50,000 was realized. The address of the President, Mrs. Stevens, was of historic value, as giving indisputable evidence of the fact that Prohibition does prohibit. The Law enacted in 1916, was a blessed boon to the Country. Colonel Grasset, Police Magistrate of Toronto, gave unqualified testimony to its efficiency. Toronto gaol must hire help to work its prison farm and the Provincial Central Prison had to be closed for lack of inmates. Both sides of House of Commons have pronounced favorably, wonderful figures show the waste of good grain which should be used for food, while we are asked to conserve our supplies in every way. Whatever excuse the British Public have overseas, there is no excuse for Canada. British Columbia has Prohibition, and Saskatchewan has voted out its saloons. The

United States seems determined to avoid the danger of mistakes through drunken officers, who may be unfit to command, and may, therefore, sacrifice the lives of their soldiers because they were "not normal". Comparison between Canada and the United States was greatly to our shame in all precautionary measures. Reference is made to the Military Act, which gives the ballot to wives, mothers and sisters of soldiers, a very wise measure and one which did not hurt those of us left out, because of the danger of giving the Franchise to foreign women who could not understand the value or importance of the vote. Another reference must not be overlooked—that is the books of Mr. Arthur Mee, who gives some startling facts about England's Criminal weakness in regard to the liquor traffic. Mr. Mee says "we want 9,000,000 loaves of bread per day and the brewers destroy 450,000 of them per day. If waste be a crime, who is the Criminal?"

In this year of 1917 we mourn the death of Mr. F. S. Spence, a man who gave the best years of his life to the cause of Prohibition, and who suffered criticism and obloquy, and counted it nothing, that he might further the cause he espoused. The Corresponding Secretary still complained of an unfinished report, so many Counties do not send in returns. Total money raised, \$33,624.

## 1918—41st Convention, Toronto

The annual meeting for Ontario took the form of a full Executive. This was held in Toronto, Dec. 3rd, 4th and 5th. It was thought at that date not advisable to spend money and time on a Provincial Rally, so we met in Executive to hear reports and plan to carry on for another year. There was a meeting held in Willard Hall at this time, of the Dominion Prohibition Committee and several speakers addressed our women on the Dominion situation. Mr. Harkness, Winnipeg; Mrs. McKinney, Alberta, and Mrs. Duff Smith, Manitoba. A very profitable two days was spent in studying the work. Resolutions were passed on Indian Work and plans laid for aggressive work among our native compatriots. A gift of \$10 was given to the Blind Institute, after hearing a message on their behalf. Dr. Cody, Minister of Education, was interviewed by a committee, asking for amendments to the Scientific Temperance Law. The sum of \$6,000 was given to the Christian Soldiers' Association, which was gratefully acknowledged. The report of the Plan of Work Committee was very shadowy, although a whole afternoon was occupied with department plans and much help and information given. The plans had evidently been lost.

### New Officers Appointed

At a post Sub-Executive held at the home of Mrs. Stevens, Miss Maud McKee was appointed Recording Secretary, Mrs. T. R. White, "Y" Secretary, and Mrs. Etta Pugsley Lancefield, L.T.L. Secretary. The President stated that Guelph had sent an invitation to hold the next annual meeting there. Accepted.

The President's address was called a masterpiece of oratory. It certainly was full of points of historic interest to all White Ribboners. On November 11th of this year the



Armistice was signed and Germany declared beaten. We rejoiced, but oh, at what a cost to the world of blood and money, wrecked business, broken Empires, and sorrowful homes bereft of loved ones.

### War Work

It was a busy and anxious time for our organization. The Trinket Fund scheme was successful in point of money and a very liberal donation had been put in the hands of the Y.M.C.A. to dispose of for the benefit of our soldiers. Some returned men declared there were faults in its administration while others believed the Y.M.C.A. a valuable help in time of war. The intention of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union was a good one, of that we are sure, let the service be what it may. The men employed by the Woman's Christian Temperance Union in France, as Missionaries, whose names are emblazoned on the hearts of the soldiers, as well as on the hearts of the W.C.T.U. will be recalled by many with a tear, for remembrance and love. These are Captain Oscar Irwin, Captain Ed. Archibald, Captain Whitman, Captain Charters Sharp, and Captain Euston. They all served gladly.

### After the War

In 1919, after the war, the Sub-Executive met in Willard Hall, Toronto. Much time was taken up with a discussion on various kinds of literature. It was determined by resolution

"That while our attitude towards the cigarette and rum ration remains unchanged, that in the present crisis, we keep total prohibition as the main issue before the public".

This slump in our effort has not yet (in 1927) recovered its former force and enthusiasm. Certainly, our **chief objective is the total prohibition of the liquor traffic**; but the tobacco evil is the twin of the liquor evil, and, while, as the Historian of the W.C.T.U., I am bound to record this de-

flection in our morals, I am also bound to say that it was done believing that we should not divide our public efforts. The Local Unions were admonished to carry on their crusade against the cigarette.

### Toronto Tag Day

During the year a very trying situation came to the Toronto women, when they instituted a Tag Day, and a band of rough characters, believed to have been organized by the liquor men, made matters very disagreeable by their rowdyism.

Our Sub-Executive sent the following resolution to Mrs. Ward, the President of Toronto District:

"In the bonds of Christian fellowship, and, with sincere sympathy for, and appreciation of the trying situation, in which our sisters of the Toronto District find themselves, on account of the disorderly mob, on Tag Day, we desire to convey to your District, the warmest love and sympathy, of your Co-adjutors in the Provincial Sub-Executive, and pray that your courage and trust may not fail in this time of petty persecution and annoyance, and also that you may come out more than conquerors over this additional trial of your faith and patience."

A deputation was introduced who spoke on War Savings and Thrift Stamps, which was endorsed, also a letter was read from the Canadian Trade Commission urging the purchase of Canadian made goods, which was also endorsed, but with suggestions to the Government to make reforms to relieve burdens borne by homemakers. Another important motion prevailed, namely, that we ask the Government to appoint a woman to go among the girls of the Schools in the interest of morality. During the year 1919, on October 20th, the people of Ontario, by referendum vote gave a majority of nearly 1,000,000, that is, counting the majority on all four questions, put to the electors. Ontario has always said "NO" to the whiskey business. May she always stand true to this record!

### Prohibition Legislation

War Time Prohibition was enacted by an Order in Council under the Defence of the Realm Act, in 1916, by the Federal Government; who promised it should remain in force for one year after the Peace Treaty was signed. Contrary to this promise it was repealed in 1920. Appeals to the Dominion resulted in Federal permission being given to the Provinces to submit the question to a Referendum vote.

Ontario did this, in 1919, the questions being:—The Repeal of the O.T.A.; The Sale of Light Beer by the Glass in Hotels; The Government Sale of Beer and Spirits, and Government Sale of Light Beer. All these proposals were rejected.

In 1922, a Federal Plebiscite was submitted on the Question of Importation, when the Prohibition Forces were again victorious. Still another was voted on in 1924, the question being the Maintenance of the O.T.A. and Government Sale in Sealed Packages. Again overwhelming majorities were enrolled by the Dry forces.

Notwithstanding these expressions of the will of the people, 1927 sees our Province under the well-named **Liquor Control Act**. One of the greatest blots in the annals of our Country has been unearthed by a Commission, showing defiance of Federal Law, non-payment of taxes, acknowledged payments of huge sums to both parties for election purposes, and an open disregard for the Prohibition Law of a friendly nation by vested interests. These things the traffic openly acknowledged.

## 1919—42nd Convention, Guelph

The work of this Convention was marked by the gathering up of the duties left undone under pressure of War Work. As was the case in our Sub-Executive meetings during the year, we centralized on improving our departmental work, with good results.

### Our Field Work

Miss Kathleen Morton, of Toronto, who had been engaged during the campaign was retained for further work.

Convention presented through our President, Star of Honor Pins to her and to Mrs. C. B. Bigelow, both of whom had given yeoman service during the year.

Some very drastic items of business were set on foot relating to the well being of humanity. Some of these were: first, a Memorial to the Dominion Government re Hearst Publications; second, a resolution advising that all municipalities censor all travelling or itinerant shows; third, that Convention appeals to the Premier to appoint moral Christian Temperance men to the Senate and that we ask other social units to take similar action. A resolution of sympathy to Rev. J. C. Spracklin, because of the persecution of the liquor party, in his endeavor to enforce the Ontario Temperance Act, also a letter of commendation to the Attorney-General for his conduct in the circumstances.

The President, Mrs. Stevens, in her annual address, very cleverly outlined the situation and showed by facts and figures that Ontario was a Province to be proud of.

“Measures for Prohibition which were brought through the House of Commons, are turned down by our ‘unprogressive Senate.’ ‘It is an outrage on the people’s liberty that when eight Provinces declare for Prohibition a bill is ‘bucked’ because one Province is not willing and that same Province is by three-fourths of its municipalities under Local Option. Truly the dollars of the liquor trade are

potent obstructionists, and a lesson is taught us that old men should not make or unmake the laws which govern us. Our young Country has been greatly repressed by our unprogressive Senate”.

### An Historic Rally

In July 19th, 1919, a commemorative meeting was held in Hillsboro, Ohio, U.S.A., by the twenty surviving Crusaders. They marched through the Town and stopped to pray at the identical places they knelt on in December 24th, 1873. This was touchingly referred to by our President, Mrs. Stevens at this Convention.

### Official Change

Mrs. H. M. S. Detlor, who had acted as Cor. Secy., for 10 years resigned. Mrs. W. T. G. Brown, of Kingston, was elected in her place.

Mrs. Detlor spoke briefly on the difficulties of the Corresponding Secretary's work, and asked help and co-operation for her successor.

Mrs. McKee, on behalf of Nipissing and Sudbury, presented her with a life membership pin.

A similar honor was conferred by Convention on Mrs. J. Waters, of Hamilton, who had served so long and faithfully in the department of Anti-Narcotics.

The invitation from Smith's Falls to hold our next Convention there was accepted.

A vote of thanks to the Recording Secretary was on motion adopted by a standing vote and Convention adjourned.

From the report of the Corresponding Secretary we find 29 new unions were organized that year—many, alas! were born, but to die. There are 296 Unions with 14,462 members. Total money raised \$52,989.94, with 108 delegates in attendance at Guelph.

## 1920—43rd Convention, Smith's Falls

The next milestone in the history of our Ontario W.C. T.U. was reached at Smith's Falls, Oct. 4th, 1920. National events worthy of note had transpired during the year. The settlement of Peace conditions with our enemy. The recent enactment of War Time Prohibition by the Dominion Government. The Prohibition of Beverage Sale in the Province, and the granting of Woman's Suffrage, by both Legislatures had brought us to a place we had longed to be and gave us joy to praise God for our wonderful possibilities. On account of some flaw or discrepancy or oversight, whether wilful or otherwise, on the part of our lawmakers, the Referendum by which we hoped to make permanent the existing Prohibitory law was postponed and as we stood appalled at the breaking loose of the powers of evil after the war. We needed, oh how much, the strength of a **protective law** against this wily agent of the powers of darkness in our National reconstruction.

The Corresponding Secretary reported 11,412 members, a decrease of 3,050. Number of Unions, 217, a decrease of 49. Total money, \$62,021.98, an increase of \$36,032.14. The lesson is all too patent. The women had spent themselves in the campaign and neglected to look after the new Unions and to gather in the fees—a case of "These ye ought to have done and not to have left the other undone".

In the address of Mrs. Stevens very caustic reference is made to the persistent opposition of the Senate to all moral reform movements as only a few amendments of minor importance were gained. Special notice is taken of our Mercantile Marine and its valuable aid to betterment in the lives of boys as wholesome and of great value in determining a straight life. The new department of Canadianization whose Superintendent is Mrs. E. Craw, of Fergus, and who



MRS. (REV.) WILLIAM PUGSLEY  
(*nee Emma DeCow Fawell*)

*North Cayuga, Haldimand Co., Ontario.  
President, 1921-1927.*





is eminently qualified to conduct it is a much needed work if we would make of our foreign emigrants loyal Canadian citizens.

### One Prohibition Result

A pleasant item of historic interest is the fact that the Corby distillery in Belleville was now an industrial plant and was found to be **six hundred per cent. greater in output** as it costs less to make denatured alcohol than for beverage purposes. The Gooderham works also turned into **munition plants** during the War and worked night and day. This should stop the cry as to what or how can they make a **living if Prohibition carries**. The Y.M.C.A. had during this year (though better late than never), acknowledged the \$52,526 sent by the Ontario W.C.T.U. for use for Canadian soldiers. The Soldiers' Christian Association early gave thanks for the \$6000 sent them for a hut for Canadians, so we are getting our due, but no account has been kept of socks, hospital supplies and comforts of all kinds, which the women of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union sent to the soldiers. We rejoice that records are kept though, and are counted like Abraham's faith for righteousness.

The proceedings of the Smith's Falls Convention were exceedingly interesting. Important plans and resolutions, reports and suggestions were voiced and a very satisfactory report was given in the local press. A very carefully prepared report of the whole Convention was compiled by Mrs. McKee and Miss Maud McKee and sent in good shape to the printer, but by some twist in the making the printed report was spoiled and while all was there, it was in the utmost confusion.

### Transfer of White Ribbon Tidings

We come now to a very important move in the history of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union effort in Ontario and, indeed, for the Dominion, namely, the giving over of our official organ, The White Ribbon Tidings to the Dominion Woman's Christian Temperance Union to be known as the National organ of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union in Canada. Special meetings of joint Executives and meetings for Conferences by both negotiating parties were held and a tentative consummation effected at the meeting of Sub-Executive held in Willard Hall Toronto, on November 17th, 1920. Previous to this date, ballots were sent out to the Ontario Executive and a favorable reply received. Suggestions precedent to the transfer were read and agreed to by the Ontario Sub-Executive.

At this meeting, the "Tidings" Contract was read as a preliminary to a free discussion, which resulted in an agreement which was ratified by the Canadian W.C.T.U. Convention in November, 1922. Mrs. McKee, President of Tidings Board, read the minutes on the subject of transfer.

On November 18th, 1920, a joint meeting of Dominion and Ontario Sub-Executives was held and after discussion an agreement was arrived at briefly as follows:—"that all the Provinces give up any publication and pay a fee large enough to include the paper." As long as the above conditions are complied with Ontario relinquished her right to publish a paper, otherwise the agreement falls through. It was resolved that a complete inventory of the possessions in "Tidings" office be compiled by Mesdames Thornley and McAllister and kept. By motion it was agreed that the office furniture be rented for \$25.00 a year to the Dominion

On Wednesday afternoon, December 14th, 1920, the

joint Executives met (Dominion and Provincial) to make final arrangements re "Tidings." On behalf of the Dominion Union there were present, Mrs. Wright, President; Mesdames Mabon, Cushing, Brown and Ward. The Dominion Executive was asked to state the attitude of the Provinces towards transfer of Tidings. Quebec was the only Province averse. Resolved that the fee for the new paper be fifty cents. Record was made of the appreciation of Ontario's action in placing their plant for the use of the Dominion. The vote on the staff was unanimous to retain the staff at present in office. Five pages were allotted to Ontario, to be fifty dollars per page. "Ys" and "L.T.Ls." a page each, to be paid for. That Quebec pay two hundred dollars a year for her page. Some other minor matters were arranged and the Dominion Executive withdrew.

## 1921—44th Convention, London

In London, on October 17th, 1921, the full Executive of the Ontario Woman's Christian Temperance Union met at the home of Mrs. Ashplant, whose hospitality will not soon be forgotten. Necessary alterations in the programme were made and Committees appointed. On Tuesday a.m. Convention opened. There were 400 delegates, and the Presbyterian Lecture Hall was filled to capacity. Much interesting matter was handled by the Convention, and the business conducted in a satisfactory manner. The Corresponding Secretary, Miss M. McKee, had a complete report, the first time in the history of the Ontario Provincial Union. A discussion on the wisdom of our women taking the platform on behalf of Parliamentary candidates evoked a spirited interchange of thought, and brought the decision from the chair that nothing should be done to lower our ideals. We were left to infer that we should not politically espouse the candidature of anyone, and it must be understood that we must never lose sight of the aim and purpose of the Women's Christian Temperance Union.

A Memorial Service was held for Lady Henry Somerset and Lady Carlisle and also for 136 W.C.T.U. Members who had passed away during the year. Mrs. McKee paid tribute to Lady Henry Somerset, and Mrs. Blanche Reade Johnston spoke on the life of Lady Carlisle. Wednesday afternoon was devoted chiefly to Mrs. Stevens' Presidential Address and "White Ribbon Tidings." The address was an able display of the President's research in the field of Prohibition knowledge. This was the President's last year of office and she took leave of her constituency in a few well chosen words, as to the cordiality and good fellowship existing among the Executive, and prayers for a happy future.

October 21st, 1921, at the London Convention the fol-

lowing contract was submitted and carried on motion without a dissenting vote:

We, the representatives of the Canadian W.C.T.U., as authorized by our recent Convention in Windsor, N.S., do agree, provisionally (that is, should the Provincial and Auxiliary Unions ratify the terms of amalgamation) to take over the Canadian White Ribbon Tidings, official organ of the Ontario Provincial Union and combine it with Canada's White Ribbon Bulletin, thus inaugurating a publication that shall stand for the varied interests of our White Ribboners from ocean to ocean and from the southern bounds to the far north.

We understand that, should the above consolidation take place, Ontario relinquishes her right to a separate publication so long as the agreements arrived at between us are carried out in good faith.

Signed on behalf of the Dominion by Mrs. Wright, Mrs. Ward, Mrs. Mabon, Mrs. Cushing, Mrs. Brown.

Signed on behalf of Ontario by Mrs. Stevens, Mrs. McKee, Mrs. Britton.

### Constitutional Changes

The immense delegation—400—which would have swamped any other than our hospitable "City of Homes", led to a renewal of the discussion re lowering the ratio of delegates allowed. A notice of motion was given regarding this, although our London sisters reported that they had homes to spare "where the latch string was out".

At Smith's Falls, enlarged plans for Juvenile work were introduced by Mrs. Lancefield, in order to co-ordinate the work with the children. A notice of motion was given at London, which was carried at Oshawa, 1922, that all Juvenile work should be listed under the "**Junior Citizens' Temperance Union.**" This will include societies carrying on the

Temperance Work in L.T.L., Bands of Hope, Church, or other Clubs, S. S. Classes, or any other Junior Church Society. Each may operate under its own Constitution, with regular Temperance lessons taught periodically.

### Decrease In Membership

The need for Scientific Temperance Instruction was increasingly apparent. Women weary with years of war work, a fancied security under improved legislation, and the usual aftermath of the campaign for votes, combined to reduce the numbers of Unions, and effect our membership. 227 Unions reported 11,383 regular members, a decrease of 287; money raised, \$44,390.43. The Plan of Work recommended that this be offset by more active work among our young people, and the securing of a "Y" Field Worker.

The election resulted as follows:—

Honorary Presidents—Mesdames McKee and Stevens.

Advisory President—Mrs. Mary R. Thornley.

President—Mrs. Will Pugsley.

Vice-President—Mrs. W. T. G. Brown.

Cor. Sec.—Miss Maud McKee.

Rec. Sec.—Mrs. Geo. B. Edgecombe.

Treasurer—Mrs. B. O. Britton.

"Y" Secretary—Miss Luella Lowry.

L.T.L. Secretary—Mrs. Allan Lancefield.

### Important Constitutional Changes

Notice of motion given at Smith's Falls Convention carried re-adjusting the dates on which County and Local Annual Meetings may be held.

Also a motion re tenure of office was amended and carried as follows:—**That officers of Local and County Unions do not continue in the same office longer than three years,**

and Provincial Officers not longer than five years if practicable.

There were three voted negative.

### Our "Y" Organizer

During this year two important meetings were held at Willard Hall, the first December 12, 1921. The Executive made it their first charge to carry out the plans outlined by Convention. The first of these was to engage an organizer, and we were fortunate enough to secure as "Y" Field Secretary the services of Miss Rosamond C. Duff, who had been a leader among the Toronto "Y's." Six years of earnest, efficient service have proven that we were led aright in our choice. Her untiring zeal, her love for the cause, and her winning personality have given a new impetus to our work, and won many a recruit.

### Department Plans

The work of the Travellers' Aid was unified and enlarged. It was resolved to appeal to the Provincial Government to establish a Bureau of missing persons, to be based on data supplied by Dr. Detweiler, Superintendent of Travellers' Aid. It was recommended that the word National be crossed out on the cards in Railroad Stations, and the word International be inserted.

Scientific Temperance Instruction received much attention. Dr. Waugh recommended a deputation to discuss this subject with the Red Cross Executive. As Poster Contests had been successfully held in four counties, the Executive recommended that Provincial prizes be offered, and details worked out. These have been successful under the faithful leadership of Mrs. Denyes, of Milton, and her worthy successor, Mrs. P. Mulholland, of Lynden.

The Executive outlined the duties of the Plan of Work

and Resolutions Committees—arranged a definite time and method for receiving reports, compiling and printing the Report Book. This has resulted in more efficient work. To assist new workers, it was decided to insert a page of Special Information in the Annual Report.

All Superintendents were requested (1) to submit an outline plan for any radical changes in their departments, to the Plan of Work Committee who would thus be enabled to bring the endorsed plan to the Convention; (2) They were requested if at all possible, to previously permit the Sub-Executive to consider these. This was done because some had maintained that when a report was received by Convention, the plans contained therein were ratified.

The duties of the Missionary Board were discussed. As they had become overburdened with extra work, it was decided that the Board should revert to the original purpose for which it was organized, viz: **The Direct Gospel Temperance work done by Missionary representatives.** This purpose has been steadfastly carried out in Lumber Camps among new settlers, Native Indians, and New Canadians. [See Addenda No. 1].

### Jubilee History

The matter of the Jubilee was considered, and initial plans for its celebration were made. Mrs. S. G. E. McKee was asked to compile a memorial volume of the fifty years of our organization.

Mrs. Thornley was asked to prepare a set of Budget leaflets to aid Referendum workers. Mrs. Lancefield was asked to prepare a sample bulletin outlining Methods of Work, Business Procedure, and helpful lessons for the L. T.L. This filled a long felt need. Mrs. Pugsley, assisted by Mrs. Lancefield, prepared a pageant on Canadianization



work, from data gathered by Mrs. Craw. This was used effectively at the Oshawa Convention, and in many places during the Referendum campaign. Mrs. E. A. Stevens prepared a programme "An Answer to the Moderation League" for the use of the Unions. 5,000 copies of this were later issued for distribution among other societies and clergymen.

### Legislation

Ontario Sub-Executive resumed business and we note important items acted upon. 1st, that we stand opposed to granting property rights to illegitimate children; 2nd, that information be obtained re appointment of Juries and that Mrs. Haskett, of Ottawa, our Superintendent of Law Enforcement, memorialize the Government re appointing women on Juries. Mrs. McKee's prayer closed a long and important session of the Ontario Sub-Executive.

### Spring Executive

On April 18th, 1922, there was convened a meeting of Ontario Sub-Committee at Willard Hall. After usual devotions, it was resolved to send Dr. Margaret Patterson as our representative to the National League of Women Voters to be held at Baltimore, U.S.A.

### Departmental Matters

A deputation consisting of Messrs. Ben Spence, Buchanan and Mrs. McLaren, with Mrs. Denyes, Superintendent of Scientific Temperance, was received, and a full discussion on that subject ensued. It was reported that Toronto District had consented to provide space for a Safety Deposit Box at Willard Hall. This was greatly appreciated. Communications between the Corresponding Secretary, Miss McKee, and the Attorney General, Mr.

Raney, re sale of Tobacco to Minors was read and ordered to be printed.

Action was taken against the misuse of Narcotic drugs. Thanks were tendered Mr. H. E. Irwin for his untiring interest in legal matters effecting our work. The motion passed at a previous meeting to pay over five hundred dollars to the Dominion Union was referred to the Provincial Convention.

### Mormon Menace

In consideration of the Mormon menace the following resolution was passed:—

Whereas—It is shown that in the cities of Toronto, Hamilton, London and Ottawa, and also in many towns and villages of Ontario, a very pronounced propaganda on Mormonism is being carried on by so called missionaries of that cult, and whereas we believe this error to be subversive of purity in the home, and inimical to the best interests of home life, and leads to disloyalty to God and the laws of man, and is in every way a menace to the peace and prosperity of the Country, be it resolved that we enjoin our legislators and all in authority, to watch for infractions of our marriage laws among our citizens, and also see to it that our communities are kept clean from the defilement of those who seek to undermine the faith, and lure from their homes those who come under the influence and sophistry of the agents of this nefarious creed, and further we believe it incumbent on our Legislature to debar all literature containing the teaching of Mormonism from being published or distributed under penalties, and that this resolution be sent to Mr. Raney, Attorney-General of Ontario.

A very pleasant episode and surprise was given Mrs. McKee, when it was announced that two members of the Sub-Executive had named a room in Willard Hall, Toronto, for her and had paid the necessary fee.

## 1922—45th Convention, Oshawa

The Oshawa Convention confirmed these plans. The billeting fee was raised, but the ratio of delegation was not changed. Oshawa hospitably met the increased attendance by making the County the entertaining unit, and this plan was suggested for future consideration and used effectively.

Routine business occupied the first forenoon. The only item of historic interest was the report of Indian work. The Superintendent, Mrs. B. C. Ashcroft, told that the second Indian girl was in training in the Western Hospital, Toronto. This is a tribute to the energy of the veteran Superintendent, and is a credit to the W.C.T.U. At the Canadian W.C.T.U. Convention in Toronto in November of this year, the Ontario gold medal was presented to Miss Agnes Sampson, the first Indian girl to graduate in Canada as a nurse. The Indian Department had given her a post graduate course, and selected her to fill a position on her home reserve.

### Departmental Reports

Departmental grouping of reports was inaugurated by the President, and proved such a success, that the system was heartily endorsed, and accepted as an excellent means of increased efficiency. There are five divisions—Evangelistic, Educational, Philanthropic, Preventive, and Publicity.

### Scientific Temperance Instruction

The Drug situation and S.T.I. books were discussed, and plans laid to widen this work. Greater emphasis was placed on the prayer side of the battle, and the Unions urged to carefully include the work of this Department in their programme, and lay particular stress on all the distinctly spiritual phases of our work.

### Loyal Temperance Legion

Our L.T.L. work has taken on a renewed interest. Dr. S. Detweiler, of Kitchener, reported on her interesting L.T.L. work in the public schools. Mrs. Shultis, of Brantford, reported a "Civic Club" among new Canadians, where good work was being shown. 400 affiliated members were reported by Mrs. Lancefield.

New leaflets for distribution at fairs, railway boxes, etc., were arranged for, and 10,000 ordered with up-to-date temperance and religious facts. Mesdames Thornley, McAllister and H. E. Irwin were the committee appointed. The editing of these fell into the hands of Mrs. Thornley, who has ever since cheerfully accepted the task, and more than fulfilled our expectations.

### A Unique Situation

Dr. Margaret Patterson, who gave a splendid address on "The Menace of the Feeble Minded", was obliged to take an early train home because of her official duties at the Domestic Relations Court next morning. We were told this after coming to the platform. At 8.45, the Convention found itself with a full house, an expectant audience, and the speaker of the evening, having finished her address, about to leave. Mrs. McKee was asked to speak of the growth of our work, and cheerfully consented. Everyone was delighted and instructed by this address.

Further decrease in membership led to the adoption of more aggressive plans. We were shocked at a reported decrease of nearly one thousand members, but were glad to learn that when the Treasurer reported some belated fees and some wrong calculations this number was materially reduced—yet we felt that any loss was too much. Number of Unions, 221; affiliated members, 10,878; delegates, 219; money raised, \$44,671.18.

### Officers

Mrs. B. O. Britton, of Gananoque, who had been Treasurer for twenty-one years, signified her intention of retiring. Mrs. A. J. Stalter, of Oshawa, was elected in her place. Miss Zella Shaver, of Toronto, was elected "Y" Secretary, and did excellent work.

### The World's League Congress

In the year 1922, on November 29th, there met in Toronto a concourse of the most devoted Prohibitionists in all the world. Representatives from 63 countries of the world told of their struggles against the liquor curse. The most eloquent speakers, both men and women, from the ends of the earth faced the audience to hold conference as to methods and plans for the suppression of the liquor evil. Our Woman's Christian Temperance Union was well forward, and had a place among the "seats of the mighty" on that occasion. It is not possible for your historian to present even a glimpse of the interest which that meeting held for all who attended, but the names of Dr. Howard Russell, U.S.A.; Dr. Hammond, Australia; Dr. Cherrington, U.S.A.; Bishop Cannon U.S.A.; Dr. Salebee, England; Dr. Hercod, Switzerland; Miss Cora Frances Stoddardt, and Miss Anna A. Gordon, U.S.A.; Larsen Ledet, Denmark; Mrs. Gordon Wright, Rev. Ben Spence, Mr. Raney, and others from Canada, will not soon be forgotten. At this time the Ontario Sub-Executive was called to meet at Willard Hall, Toronto. Scientific Temperance occupied some time, settling amount of prizes for pupils in Public and High Schools. The readjustment of group departments was made. Convention plans for next year's meeting and an earnest discussion on money appropriations occupied Executive.

### The Story of Willard Hall, Toronto

March 15th, 1910, marked an epoch in the history of the Toronto W.C.T.U. The 20 Unions with their 1,000 members found the Headquarters too small to meet the need of their share of the work of caring for the strangers—girls in business and schools who flocked to our institutions. This was moving day when we left the old home and found temporary shelter at 618 Ontario St.

Early in the year we received an offer from Mr. Chester Massey and Mrs. Massey Treble that they would donate \$25,000, if we raised a like amount to erect a building to cost not less than \$50,000, to be known as Willard Hall.

We had sold 56 Elm for \$15,000 and invested the proceeds, our little all, in a lot on Gerrard St. E.

The corner stone of the new building was laid on October 11th, 1911, by H.R.H. the Duchess of Connaught, and opened for occupation in the spring of 1912.

The cost of erection and furnishing was all met by 1914 and our plant, costing \$125,000, was our own. It contained ample Public Halls, Business, Reception, and Board rooms for the W.C.T.U., and housed 100 girls. It is fully equipped with dining and sitting rooms, and a large gymnasium. This, all too soon, proved inadequate, so notwithstanding four years of unceasing war work, interspersed with expensive **Plebiscites and Referendums**, our women decided in July, 1921, on further extension.

The campaign for funds was opened August 23rd. Another story was added to the building, and an addition of four stories built, the basement containing one of the finest swimming tanks in the city.

On September 14th Mr. John MacDonald, a life-long friend of our work, turned the first sod. The corner stone was laid by Lady Flavelle on November 3rd, and in Janu-

ary the extra story was completed and 40 girls were added to our family.

The formal opening took place May 26th, 1922. On April 28th, 1926, a thanksgiving service was held because the mortgage loan of \$75,000 was all repaid. Autumn, of the same year, saw all indebtedness for building and furnishing fully paid.

We now can accommodate 240 and builders say a moderate estimate of the site and residence is now \$450,000.

Thus "The impractical, irresponsible, W.C.T.U. women who had the temerity to undertake the so-called impossible task" had made their dream an accomplished fact. They won many tributes from some of the hard-headed business men, who had scoffed at the idea, and looked askance at the undertaking, when it was launched. Meantime the membership loyally maintained all the local and special work. The six Travellers' Aid workers guarded the lone travellers. The 20 Unions have increased to 35, and the membership to 4,000. Nearly \$2,000 was given to Educational and Missionary work. Over \$12,000.00 was expended in campaigns that were never needed to voice the sentiments of the people on the question of Prohibition. Over \$3,000 was donated to patriotic work. Countless gifts were showered on our heroes, while some of this money provided two ambulances and a field kitchen, which were sent to France, for the use of our boys overseas. Another worthy gift was made to blind heroes, a book-binding machine, the result of the Trinket Fund. How was this accomplished? Through the ceaseless activity of our devoted President, Mrs. F. C. Ward, and her co-workers, sustained by the prayers, the loyalty, and the untiring energy and devotion of the women. Were they asked to ex-

plain the secret, the reply would be faith, prayer, and hard work.

May I give one instance that can be multiplied many times. One morning the treasurer said, "A bill has come in that must be met to-morrow morning and I haven't one cent, what will I do? The Unions have given all they had to pay the bills to-day. The President said we will have it. How can we? I do not know **how** but never mind we will pray, for the Lord has never failed us yet."

Almost before the prayer was voiced, a telephone message came, from an almost unknown woman, asking for a business interview, which was granted.

She said she had expected to leave the city, but had been detained and wondered if we would like to borrow \$1,000—exactly the amount needed, for a few weeks, until she was read to go. The crisis, like many another, passed. A sister who accompanied the lender, when she heard the story, gave \$100, so we were left with a balance. Every bill was met when it fell due, every workman paid on the dot. He honored His word, and gave us "good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over."

### The Spring Executive

May 10, 1923, there convened another meeting at which Dr. Detwiler was deputed to attend the International Travelers' Aid Conference in Washington. It was agreed that the Corresponding Secretary follow up legislation re Right Names Act. A piece of legislation very much needed, as persons travelling as man and wife, but registering under fictitious names, were a menace to the general public and hotelmen were asking for redress or help from the Government. For once we agreed with them, and were pressing for legislation along with the hotelmen. The subject of a Jubilee





BOARD ROOM, WILLARD HALL



SWIMMING POOL, WILLARD HALL



Memorial was opened, and it was felt that the time had arrived for a commemoration. On motion of Mrs. McKee, seconded by Mrs. Stevens, it was recommended that we hold our Jubilee, fifty years from the organization of the first Provincial Union. It was agreed that Mrs. McKee record all valuable information for the Memorial Volume.

With reference to the Budget Fund of the National Union, a resolution was moved by Mesdames Thornley and McKee, which in substance was as follows:—

“Because of the responsibility resting on the Province of Ontario, we are under a great strain to fulfill the obligations already assumed. We have therefore come to the conclusion that we cannot recommend to our Unions the Dominion Budget Scheme. If the funds warrant it, we do recommend that we endeavor to cover (between now and the next National Convention) the Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) that the National understood our delegates promised at the Windsor, N.S. Convention”.

A suggestion came from Miss Duff that the Tobacco Clause be inserted in the “Y” pledge. This was to be embodied in a Notice of Motion at the coming Convention. Mrs. Kerr, Ottawa, Superintendent of Citizenship, suggested that a book be prepared on laws relating to women and children. On motion it was recommended that we use Mrs. Lang’s “Handy Guide to Laws of Ontario”, and Allan Dymond’s “Laws of Ontario relating to women and children”.

## 1923—46th Convention, Brantford

On Oct. 16th, 1923, the Convention opened at Brantford. The Full Executive meeting was held on the previous evening at the home of Mrs. Shultis, President of the Brantford Union.

The Superintendents reported group by group. Miss McKee, the corresponding secretary, gave an excellent report which was well received, and a pledge was given to ensure a larger membership. Mrs. Lancefield gave an inspiring and enthusiastic report announcing an increase in membership of 1620 for this year, in the L.T.L's. Miss Duff, Field Secretary, showed a vast amount of work accomplished by her faithful and untiring effort.

### White Ribbon Tidings

The Vice-President, Mrs. Brown, occupied the chair during a School of Methods. White Ribbon Tidings had the platform. Mrs. McKee and Mrs. Thornley gave a resume of the conditions of amalgamation or transfer. On motion, it was agreed to transfer a bond of the Government of Great Britain and Ireland for \$1,000 to the Ontario Treasury. This bond has accrued interest for two years and now amounts to \$1,112.79. At this juncture Miss Maud McKee and Mrs. Lancefield were presented with life membership pins.

A Model Union meeting was held by members of the Sub-Executive, which was much enjoyed. Some of us heard for the first time the new "Y" yell:

“Canada, Canada, fight shall we,  
Canada, Canada, dry shall be,  
Canada, Canada doth reply  
We will hold till the world goes dry.  
Till the world goes dry”.

The report of the Provincial Treasurer, Mrs. A. J. Stalter, was accepted by a standing vote, and expressions of appreciation. The oldest and youngest delegates were here introduced—Mrs. McKee, aged 83, and little Miss Marriott, aged 4.

### **Educational Work**

The educational phases of our work had been emphasized throughout the year in Tidings, by letter and circular. The campaign for the teaching of S.T.I. was furthered.

This Department had received a great deal of attention during the year, with the result that under the able leadership of Mrs. J. M. Denyes, of Milton, 13,425 leaflets bearing directly on alcohol and tobacco were distributed. The Hon. G. Howard Ferguson graciously gave permission for us to place Miss Stoddard's book "Alcohol in Experience and Experiment", in the Public School Libraries. We were grateful for this favour, 5,000 copies were distributed. Rules for prize essay and poster contests were outlined, and Local, County and Provincial prizes given to teachers, High and Public School pupils. The Convention felt that this phase of the work was placed on a permanent basis.

The Lecture Bureau was established in charge of Mrs. L. L. Reddick, Toronto.

### **The Budget Leaflets**

It was recommended by the plan of work that under the budget scheme, clip-sheets will be published monthly, that our County and Local Press Supt. might effectively use the space they are able to secure in the newspapers. Later this scheme was enlarged to provide material for the use of the Unions, and under the able direction of Mrs. May R. Thornley is still being carried out successfully.

### Junior Work

Having completed her five year term of office, Mrs. Lancefield resigned, and Mrs. B. F. Denison, of Selby, was appointed as L.T.L. Secretary. A brief extract from Mrs. Lancefield's report explains the L.T.L. situation:—

"In 1914, there were 60 Loyal Temperance Legions, with a membership of nearly 3,500. The war broke out. The coal shortage became acute. Our women were overwhelmed with the war work. The climax came in 1918, when no convention was held. The influenza epidemic forbade the children from attending public meetings. The L.T.L. work dropped gradually, until at the close of the war only 18 L.T.L.'s. had survived".

"Last year we had 32 L.T.L.'s., and the membership showed an increase of 729 members in four years, and this in a period when other branches were losing ground, or struggling to maintain their membership".

The summary for the years 1922-23 is very gratifying. We have doubled the number of Legions—68 reporting. The total Church Societies reported 176 meetings. Besides these, 18 new Legions organized by Miss Duff did not send in statistics for this year.

This report was received with enthusiasm, and appreciation was expressed for Mrs. Lancefield's willing assistance in preparing programmes and pageants relative to our work. At this later date we are indebted to her for dramatizing Mrs. Pugsley's historical pageant for the Jubilee Convention, and arranging the "Daisy Chain" and "Footfalls of Little Feet" demonstrations.

The Gold Medal Contest was won by little Miss Laura Newcombe, in a competition with five silver medalists from different parts of the Province.

Before closing, a Notice of Motion was made by Mrs. Thornley "that I or some one in my place will move that Section Four of the Provincial Constitution be changed to read: 'and one additional delegate for every fifty paying members'; this because of the difficulty of billeting delegates and

finding accommodation. It is not agreeable to anybody, but seems a necessity, but we believe it will not lessen the representation. Our "Y" Field Secretary, Miss Duff, moved her motion re the Tobacco Clause and it was agreed that the new pledge be optional for this year.

### Executive

At the Post-Executive it was agreed that in view of a coming campaign we should work steadfastly on the distribution of literature and that 100,000 of 20 varieties of leaflets be put up in parcels of one hundred each, and sold for fifteen cents per hundred.

The Missionary Board was elected. The Ontario representatives on Tidings Board were appointed. A recognition of the work of the entertaining Union was shown by the presentation of a copy of "Prohibition in Ontario", a memorial volume to Mr. F. S. Spence, to Mrs. S. C. Reade, County President, of Brant. A recommendation of Mrs. Denyes that 1,000 copies of "Experience and Experiment" be ordered for Ministers and Unions. A letter of approval was ordered sent to Attorney-General Nickle approving of Legislation regarding Provincial Police on Highways. The Executive adjourned. The evening meetings were well attended and collections good. A gold medal contest, interesting address and appreciative audiences are always helpful and inspiring.

The President's address was full of appropriate, poetic quotations and good advice, stirring appeals to our women and rigid denunciation of all forms of Government Control as opposed to any form of Prohibition, such as the Ontario Temperance Act. The address was much appreciated. The Corresponding Secretary reports 299 Unions, 11,348 members, "Ys" and "Ws". The total amount of money raised

during the year was \$46,358.52. There were 312 present at Brantford Convention.

### **Interim Business**

Before the next Convention, which was to be held at St. Catharines, the Premier of Ontario had issued a mandate for the taking of a Plebiscite, to hear the voice of the people on the subject upon which they had spoken so often and so decisively. However, it became us to get ready, and as we had foreseen this trial coming we were prepared, for we felt most keenly that Ontario must never lose what she had of Prohibition, and be placed in the list of liquor Provinces.

### **The Women's Federated Committee**

At the December meeting of the Sub-Executive there was nothing of historic interest except that Mrs. Thornley was authorized by motion to oversee the compiling of Ontario's Pages in "Tidings." In view of the coming Plebiscite, a plan outlined by Mrs. Thornley was adopted for the Federation of Women's Societies, to push a strenuous propaganda all over Ontario, and influence public opinion in favor of retaining the Ontario Temperance Act, and as far as possible, denounce Government Sale of Liquor.

Mr. Bailey, Secretary of the Prohibition Union, addressed the Sub-Executive, and asked for five members to meet with the Union to discuss the subject of unifying the forces in the coming election.

At the March meeting of the Sub-Executive in 1924, it was reported that this Federation of Women's Societies was successfully launched, there being 14 societies represented, and 152 committees. Mrs. Thornley explained the object of the Federation. Mrs. R. G. Smythe, of Toronto, accepted the Chairmanship of the Federated Women's Societies.



### Prayer League

A Prayer League was formed by the Provincial Evangelistic Superintendent, and a prayer letter went out, also a programme for a Week of Prayer was published in "Tidings." There was never a wider response in our history for such a request. In many cases prayer services were held once a week, for weeks before the Plebiscite vote, and in almost every case, there was an all day prayer meeting on voting day, October 23rd, 1924.

## 1924—47th Convention, St. Catharines

The Annual Rally saw us at St. Catharines, with beautiful weather and pleasant surroundings. The Sub-Executive met on Sept. 29th, seven members present. In the absence of the President from this session, Mrs. Brown, the Vice-President, took the chair. Mrs. McKee reported progress in compiling the Memorial Volume. On motion, it was agreed that as soon as possible, the copy be reviewed by Mrs. Thornley and Mrs. Stevens before being printed.

### Another Perplexing Question

The status of salaried workers as members of the Executive Board was brought up by a delegate at Brantford through the question box, and the President, Mrs. Pugsley, replied that it was not Constitutional. This ruling was questioned in the Post-Executive. On motion, the ruling was sustained by vote, Mrs. Thornley and Mrs. Maxwell voting negatively.

The question was re-opened in the Sub-Executive meeting held in Toronto in December, 1923. On motion of Mrs. McKee and Mrs. Thornley it was recommended that the full Executive reconsider the question, and that "all woman field-workers have a place on the Full Executive". "Ballots were cast which resulted in six for the motion and three against—the President not voting". The matter was presented at the pre-convention meeting of the Full Executive at St. Catharines, on Sept. 29th, 1924. The action of the previous year was sustained by a standing majority vote.

The decision arrived at was that salaried woman workers who are affiliated members of a "Y" or "W" in Ontario shall be eligible to sit as Corresponding Members on our Executive Boards. Some of us deplored the action and feared for the result.



POLYGLOT PETITION, 1884--PLACE 1897



### Temperance Song Book

Our W.C.T.U. Song Book, compiled by Mrs. Pugsley, was used for the first time at this Convention, and a special campaign song written by Mrs. McKee, was also used. During the afternoon, Miss A. A. Gordon's song "Work For Enforcement" was sung, and Miss Gordon was made a Life Member of the Ontario W.C.T.U. Miss Gordon invited Convention to meet in Chicago on the occasion of their National Jubilee.

The coming Plebiscite had prevented many of our regular delegates from attending, and we missed Mrs. Thornley and others very much. We had some distinguished visitors, Miss Anna Adams Gordon, President of the World's W.C.T.U., and Dr. Cherrington, D.D., Litt.D., Secretary of the World's League Against Alcoholism, both from U.S.A. Our Canadian visitors included Mrs. Gordon Wright, Dominion W. C.T.U. President; Father Minehan, of Toronto; Mr. Frank, of British Columbia, and Mrs. R. G. Smythe, of the Ontario Branch of the National Council of Women, and Acting Chairman of the Federated Women's Societies.

Ontario had agreed to co-operate with the U.S.A. in their W.C.T.U. plans for a Jubilee Year Celebration, which resulted in making this Provincial Convention at St. Catharines a Border Conference on ways and means of holding what we had mutually gained. There was a good deal of enthusiasm due to the presence of the strangers, and the women were very responsive to debate. Mrs. McKee presided at the Round Table Conference, which was particularly interesting because of the lively discussion. Mrs. McKee elicited the following suggestions:—

1. Educating our neighbours in the principles we stand for.

2. Inculcating ideals of good citizenship.
3. A study of literature to be able to answer questions.
4. Distribution of literature.

Under these headings, Mrs. Thornley's report showed our clip-sheets a success. 92 editors and 55 ministers or laymen in places where we have no unions, as well as 120 press superintendents had been supplied regularly—267 in all.

We joyfully hailed the presence of Mrs. Flora Yorke Miller, and rejoiced that her health permitted her to return to the work. We appointed her as Campaign Secretary to assist Mrs. Thornley.

Mrs. Mulholland conducted a Quiz on Scientific Temperance. The Corresponding Secretary reported 11,288 members "Ys" and "Ws" and the amount of money raised during the year for all purposes was \$44,434.32. 210 delegates, number of Unions, 205; L.L., 50; members, \$1,314.

Miss Violet Ashbourne, of Toronto, was elected "Y" Secy. upon Miss Zella Shaver resigning.

### Plebiscite Vote

Many phases of this coming contest were discussed. Mrs. E. T. Kerr, Supt. of Citizenship, stated:—

"Ontario had 1,800,000 voters—of these 850,000 were women. At the last election 743,000 did not vote".

### Work

The "Y" work was progressing under the leadership of Miss Shaver. Every Department showed a lively interest. Oratorical Contests at Fairs had been introduced. The Medal Contest had taken a new lease of life. The Field-Workers, Miss Duff and Dr. Detwiler, together with Mrs. Reddick, as Superintendent of Methods of Work and Lecture Bureau, gave encouraging reports. Impure publications were attacked, and investigations ordered. The Budget had more

than sustained our Missionary and Educational efforts and the Budget Leaflets resulted in over 50,000 distributed.

### Thanksgiving

The Sub-Executive met Nov. 19th, 1924, in Willard Hall. It was a time of thanksgiving for victory, and the making of future plans. Questions of equipment for service in the various lines of work occupied the Sub-Executive, resulting in notification forms for Superintendents. Vigorous action was taken along the lines of legislation and general Campaign work. The work of the Clip-Sheets was extended. The Referendum Campaign had proven the value of the Leaflets as an Educational factor, and Mrs. Thornley was requested to continue keeping these up-to-date. 3,574 clip-sheets were issued this year.

### "Y" Work

The need of an advance movement among young people rested heavily on the hearts of the officers. The need for better helps was emphasized. A Conference was called, led by Mrs. Flora Yorke Miller. Misses Ashbourne, Smith, Duff, McKee, and Mesdames Lancefield and Drummond attended. As a result of their consultations, an up-to-date Manual with lesson outlines was issued by Mrs. Miller. We owe a great debt of gratitude to this committee, especially to Mrs. Miller, "The Little Mother of our Y's." for placing this Branch on a working basis.

The effective work of Miss Duff among the "Y's." led Convention to look about for a helper for the "W's". We were indeed fortunate in securing Mrs. T. T. George in January of this year. To quote from her first report;

"In the eight Counties I have visited the women gave a ready response when a meeting was called to explain the work of the W.C.T.U. To know this work is to love it. . . . One of the greatest prob-

lems I have met is how to enthuse a Union that has been gradually slipping until there is only a remnant left, and these few are hopeless of arousing interest in their work. They have allowed other societies to overshadow them; they have not taken up Y. or L.T.L. work and they have not attracted to their ranks the young energetic women of their town—the only thing that will arrest attention and awaken interest in a dying union.”

### A New Missionary Endeavor

The balance of our Trinket Fund was invested in a life. After months of correspondence with Dr. and Mrs. Grenfell, of Labrador, the Board arranged to train the sister of a Veteran for missionary work among her people. This young girl was given two years' training at the Toronto Technical and Bible Schools, and was also given a beginners' course in music. This longer training was made possible by the generous assistance of the Toronto District who gave her a home in Willard Hall, and mothered her during this time of training.





## 1925—48th Convention, Pembroke

The 48th Annual Convention met in Pembroke, October 5th, 1925. How at home we all felt in Pembroke! Hospitality was the key note from our entrance to the close of Convention, and after, for some of us could not get away for one day more, and we were just glad it was so. Mrs. Schroeder, Local President, was the pivot and the wheel and the power to make the wheel go round, while everybody helped to carry it through. We hope we left pleasant memories for we certainly carried many away with us. The Sub-Executive had met in Kingston on their way to the Convention town and were entertained by our beloved worker, Mrs. W. T. G. Brown, a Pembroke lady transplanted by marriage, but who carries the traditions of her home town with her. The Full Executive was late, and not much business was done, but we "warmed one another and sharpened faces together" and were getting ready for work on the morrow.

Convention opened with a Bible reading and consecration service by Mrs. McKee, subject, "Courage and Sacrifice and Dependence Upon God". Miss McKee called the roll. The minutes of Full Executive were read and approved and on motion the business in the interim minutes were passed on to the various committees. The group system of reporting was followed as usual.

Mrs. Stevens offered noontide prayer. In the afternoon Miss McKee gave her annual Corresponding Secretary's report, and a standing vote of appreciation was tendered her. The Treasurer's report, when given, was a chance to express our gratitude to the painstaking Treasurer for her work during the year. Mrs. Stalter is one of our most valued officers.

### **Our Pioneer Worker Among Lumbermen**

Mrs. Agnes Hunter, our veteran Lumbermen's Superin-

tendent, was introduced and gave us an address of welcome. A gift of a purse and flowers was presented to Mrs. Hunter. The President, Mrs. Pugsley, then gave the annual address—a most comprehensive and illuminative description of the progress of prohibition in all lands.

### L. T. L.

Mrs. Dennison taught a unique lesson by organizing an L.T.L. in open Convention. She had also prepared and sent out a lesson bulletin this year.

Both Y's and L.T.L. showed an increase in number of societies, membership and lines of work during the year.

Miss McKee reported an increase in our total membership of 1,108. Total membership, 12,398.

The attendance was the smallest in recent years, 132, but the work of Convention was well done.

### Constitutional Changes

The Notice of Motion to change the form of the "Y" Pledge was carried and an optional pledge with a narcotic clause adopted.

Notice of Motion was given by Mrs. Dinwoodie, of Ottawa, that our "Y" Work be enlarged to admit men as active members by forming Young People's Branches where desirable.

A Notice of Motion carried, advising that half yearly remittance of fees to County and Provincial Treasurers be made to prevent funds running low.

A Notice of Motion was given by Mrs. Dennison that the words "if desired" be deleted from the L.T.L. Clause in the Local Constitution.

Blank forms for the notification of Superintendents of their appointments were ready for Convention, and sold at

cost that there may be no excuse for any one not being notified of her appointment.

Mrs. Dennison, Dr. Detwiler, Miss Duff and Mrs. George all submitted reports which were well appreciated by Convention. Mrs. Thornley conducted a School of Methods and explained the Elector's League. On Thursday morning a consecration service by Mrs. Asa Gordon was helpful. An invitation from Hamilton District was accepted for next Convention. Several notices of motion were given. Miss Duff's motion to include the narcotic clause in the Constitution of the "Y's" was carried and it was left to the Sub-Executive to formulate. Mrs. Pugsley was appointed delegate to the Dominion Convention. An invitation to attend the U.S.A. Convention in Detroit was extended. Mrs. Mulholland was appointed. The only change in officers was Mrs. Asa Gordon, Ottawa, was elected Vice-President.

The evening meetings were all held in Calvin United Church. Rev. Mr. McIntosh, Pastor, cordially welcomed the Convention, seconded by Mrs. Schroeder on behalf of Pembroke Union. An open meeting was held and several people voiced their views on different subjects.

### **An Australian Visitor**

At this Convention Miss Isobel McCorkindale, of Australia, was our speaker, which led to Ontario engaging her for the Plebiscite Campaign, and to edit a book on S.T.I.—Temperance and Health. We owe a debt of gratitude to Miss McCorkindale, and always will hold in our memories pleasant recollections of our associations.

On Thursday evening the chair was occupied by Mrs. McKee. Dr. Wilson conducted devotions. "At home and abroad" was the theme. Mrs. Schroeder, Mrs. Mulholland, Mrs. McAllister, Mrs. Thornley and Mrs. McKee all spoke

of home problems, and Miss Duff, Miss McCorkindale and Miss Jackson spoke of things abroad. With the benediction a very enjoyable meeting was closed.

Convention Credential Committee reported 9 officers; 11 Superintendents; 13 County Presidents; 99 delegates and two guests, making a voting delegation at Convention of 132. Our Provincial report shows total of "W" and "Y" members as 12,396. Amount of money raised during the year was \$39,810.57.

### **The New Year**

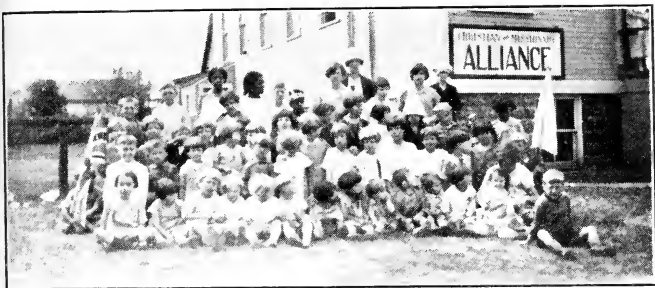
The Sub-Executive met in Willard Hall, Toronto, on November 17th. All present except the Vice-President, Mrs. Gordon.

### **"Y" Report**

It was decided that the Provincial "Y" Secretary give the full statistical report of the year's work, and the District Superintendents give an inspirational report, at the Provincial Convention. Greetings were sent from this Sub-Executive to the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario then in session in Toronto. One evening session was given to conference with Rev. W. W. Peck, Educational Secretary of the Prohibition Federation of Canada, in an endeavor to coordinate, if possible, the work of our respective organizations. The officers of Toronto District Sub-Executive invited our Sub-Executive to an enjoyable luncheon, an annual function tendered by them. The President, Mrs. Ward, extended a warm welcome. Short appreciative addresses were given by members of Ontario Sub-Executive.

### **Spring Executive**

On April 13th, another meeting of Sub-Executive was held. All the members present except the Vice-President, Mrs. Gordon, and the Recording Secretary, Mrs. Edgecombe.



LONDON, 1928—NEW CANADIANS



LONDON, 1928—NEW CANADIANS



Sympathetic reference was made to the death of Miss Edna Farley, of Belleville, a "Y" leader and a faithful worker in the Provincial Department of Medal Contests.

At the Interim meetings it was decided to urge the responsibility of follow up work for new unions on the County Presidents, and that where possible an Organization committee be appointed to assist in this. Plans were laid for the coming fight with the liquor forces in the expected Government Sale plan.

### Memorial Members

It was recommended that we have a Memorial Members List printed in the Annual Report. These names may be entered by friends of deceased members, upon the payment of twenty-five dollars.

A request from Alberta was received for the services of Miss Duff, our Provincial "Y" and "L.T.L." Field Secretary, for one month, Ontario paying her salary and Alberta to defray her travelling and other expenses.

### 4.4 Beer

It was in June of this year that the O.T.A. was amended—or made stronger—by increasing the alcoholic content of Beer from 2.5 to 4.4 per cent.

One of the M.P.P's who was among those who clamored longest and loudest for this measure is reported to have boasted that this was the thin edge of the wedge and so it seems. **Just two years later the regime of Liquor Control began.**

## 1926—49th Convention, Hamilton

The 49th Annual Convention was held in Hamilton, on October 11th to 15th, 1926. There was an enthusiastic gathering. The Consecration Service was led by Mrs. Thornley, of London. Hamilton was easy of access from all points, and we found a ready welcome in the Ambitious City.

### Liquor Legislation

Notwithstanding the fact that a cloud hung over us, the women showed a courage and faith that spoke well for the coming fight—if fight there was to be—which loomed in the cloud overhanging us. For be it here recorded as a dark page in the political history of Ontario, the Premier who had promised fair, and always prated loudly of his determination to uphold and enforce the Ontario Temperance Act, had manifested signs of deliberate propaganda to weaken the existing Prohibition law, (the best we ever had in the Province), and to bend to the will of the Liquor interests. The dry ridings were broken up and added to, or subtracted from, and so gerrymandered that they returned wet candidates.

### Whispering Campaign

A system of false stories of the inefficiency of the Ontario Temperance Act were put in circulation for which he is held responsible, though he may not personally have propagated them. The Law was not always upheld by the authorities in cases of appeal, the date of the election was set for a time of year when roads and weather were usually bad. The Premier took the Department of Minister of Education, and this influence in some cases helped to add to his score. When we add to all these tricks of the tricksters, the unlimited money supplied by the Brewers and Distillers, we wonder there was even a show of opposition allowed.



The private opinion of your historian is that our Prohibition friends made a serious tactical mistake in bringing out in many constituencies candidates who stood for Prohibition. The surer and safer way to have beaten the liquor Premier and his Government would have been to centre on the Liberal and Progressive Opposition. We would at least have gained a stronger offset to the present Government, and perhaps have prevented the introduction of a Government Sale Bill. The news reached us as we travelled home from Convention of the certainty of an election, the main issue being the Government Control of the Liquor Traffic and this dampened the inspiration received there. However, we met in Executive in Toronto at the call of the President, and formulated a policy to be sent out immediately to the Unions, setting forth the duty of the hour; namely, to oppose the present Government, and defeat it if possible. If this policy had been carried out we believe there might have been a different story for your historian to chronicle. Needless to say we were beaten, and now we may prepare for ruin and shame, though the Government papers declare it to be our duty to co-operate with them in teaching the people sobriety, by their method of supplying those desiring alcoholic beverages with unlimited quantities of beer, wine and spirits.

Gratitude was expressed for the arduous work of Mrs. Gordon Wright during the campaign.

### Successful Year

1926 has been a very successful year for the Ontario W. C.T.U. A net increase of 1,000 was added to the roll. The Budget Fund reached its objective. Our Departments were fairly well worked. In some cases extra well, and an efficient class of women are appointed as Superintendents. We were greatly favored by the presence, during the year, of

Miss McCorkindale, a talented worker and writer from Australia. The Prohibition Union did noble work under Rev. W. W. Peck for the men and Mrs. Alexander Walker for the women, in the Electoral Campaign. Ontario will be the better and wiser for these friends. The old officers are over Ontario for another year, to see the Jubilee year through, when we meet in Ottawa to celebrate. It is my pleasure and privilege to give some figures which show the prosperity of the organization. The money raised for all purposes was \$38,474.19. The total number of members, "W's" and "Y's" was 13,319. 121,000 leaflets were sent out during the campaign. Clip-Sheets sent out, 3,313. Our official organ, "The Ribbon Tidings", is out of debt and has a circulation of 16,220. Ontario has 12,300. Loyal Temperance Legion, affiliated members, 1,639. Little White Ribboners, 1,936.

The 49th year saw some important changes, some of which were borrowed from our U.S.A. sisters. Mrs. Mulholland, Mrs. Flora Yorke Miller, and Mrs. Allan Lancefield went as our special representatives to the National Convention in Detroit. They came home full of enthusiasm for new plans of work. Mrs. Mulholland's resulted in strengthening our excellent Scientific Temperance Instruction plans; Mrs. Miller brought us the idea of the Patriotic Roll—a plan of pledged enrolment for the Young People's Branch, which is being carried forward with enthusiasm. Mrs. Lancefield told of demonstrations for members—the Daisy Chain for the "W's" and "Y's," and Footfalls of Little Feet for the Juniors. We gave this demonstration in Hamilton as an object lesson, under the supervision of Mrs. Lancefield and Mrs. Ambrose. So enthusiastic were the members of the march past by counties, that it was repeated at the Jubilee Convention, thus beginning membership demonstrations in adult work.

### Medal Contests

This year saw the Medal Contest Department on a firm basis both in the Province and the Dominion. Mrs. Pugsley and Mrs. Lancefield compiled and edited two Junior reciters for Ontario, and Mrs. Cottan revised No. 3. These were accepted for Dominion use. Upon the request of the Canadian W.C.T.U., our committee acted in conjunction with Miss Fry, Canadian Superintendent of Medal Contests, Mrs. G. E. McLachlan, Canadian L.T.L. Secretary, and Mrs. George to amend the rules, and to arrange the medals suitable for the class standing of the contestants. This has all been accomplished.

### "Y" Shield

Our "Y" Secretary, Miss Ashbourne, offered a shield to the "Y" which did the most perfect work for the year. This shield was first presented at the Jubilee Convention in Ottawa. It was won by the Sunshine "Y", Ottawa, and presented by Miss Ashbourne. Our Y.P.B. solves the problem of having temperance societies for young men as well as young women. This notice of motion was carried with enthusiasm.

During the year we underwrote the S.T.I. book to the extent of one-third the original cost, thus making it available for work with our young people.

We assisted our neighbors by loaning Miss Duff to Alberta. We also helped mother the newly formed societies in Bermuda, where Mrs. Gordon Wright had given such yeoman service.

### Five Year Term of Office

A noticeable fact faces us in the change in the personnel of the leaders. Our President's comment explains the situation.

"In County leadership, and also in our departments of work, younger women are at the helm (only about six are continuing their uninterrupted work in 1927) . . . . In almost every case we still have our experienced workers standing by in Honorary positions, ever ready to aid and guide. This we feel is as it should be—youth bearing the burden, experience removing the obstacles".

The changed policy introduced at London limiting the term of office, doubtless is showing its good effect. An exception was made in the year's extension for the President's term of office, Mrs. Pugsley consented to serve another year because of the Jubilee, and the stress of the coming campaign against Government Control.

### Representation

For the fifth consecutive year, this question was introduced in Convention. A Notice of Motion was made which carried at our Jubilee Convention. The Constitution was thus altered by a unanimous standing vote to permit "one delegate for each Union, and one in addition for each fifty, or one additional delegate for a major fraction thereof." Surely this was a worthy Jubilee decision. Other notices of motion passed without comment.

### Registration of Voters

Mrs. Pugsley called our attention to the fact that we can never hope to make real progress with any reform, as long as the voter's lists are at the mercy of petty politicians, and can be manipulated by the party in power. There is an apparent need of chief electoral officers, who will be as free as our Judges are from party domination, and who will be chosen by the whole House, and not by party. Their duty should be to enrol every legitimate voter and keep these lists up-to-date, so that a complete, correct list shall be available at all times. These should cover Municipal,

**Provincial and Federal Lists.** The Plan of Work authorized such action as may be necessary until this legislation is obtained.

### **Star of Honor Pins**

Another fact should be noted—in recent years our numbers have been depleted by the home-going of many of our older members. So noticeable is this fact that we see from the report that nearly 1,000 members have entered the higher service in the past six years. To offset this loss in membership, Mrs. Gordon Murray's plan of Star of Honor Pins was inaugurated with great success in 1917. Mrs. Murray also originated the Little White Ribboner plan, and was given an enthusiastic welcome when introduced to the Convention, and complimented on her work.

Another interesting touch was during the march of the "Footfalls of Little Feet." The L.T.L.'s marched past carrying their banners and scrolls, followed by the New Canadians in costume. The Little White Ribboners followed, and the tiniest presented the President, Mrs. Pugsley, with a beautiful bouquet of sweetheart roses, the presentation speech being made by another L.W.R.—the President's grandson, Teddy Lancefield, representing the fourth generation of W.C.T.U. workers—Mrs. Pugsley's mother, Mrs. Thos. Fawell, having been a President of the Port Dover Union.

The Ottawa workers presented this March of prohibition at the Jubilee Convention under the able and painstaking direction of Mrs. Lester Albright, and are to be congratulated on its educational results.

### **Jubilee Year**

At a meeting of Sub-Executive held in January 25th, 1927, some discussion took place regarding the appointment of a Superintendent of Organization. It was recommended

that names be sent in to Sub-Executive by members present, suggesting those suitable for that office. Much discussion was given to a plan by Mrs. Thornley re Outpost Workers. This was recommended on motion of Mesdames McKee and Stevens to be adopted and tried for this year.

This plan deals with subscribers to White Ribbon Tidings numbering thirty-eight not affiliated with any Union because of distance. It was hoped these might form Unions eventually but in the meantime to pay \$1.00 fee—50 cents to Tidings, 25 cents for affiliation and the balance to Budget Fund towards supplying these members with Clip-Sheets and other literature. Their names to be Outpost Workers. Health survey among Indians was considered and on motion, the Corresponding Secretary was asked to confer with the Indian Department of the Federal Government, Mrs. Pugsley and Miss Ashcroft to be added. This was done, and assistance promised by the Hon. Mr. Scott, deputy minister, who is intensely interested in the native race.

Wednesday afternoon was given over to plans for Jubilee Convention. The following are to be guests of Convention: Anna Gordon, World's President; Mrs. Boole, National President, U.S.A., and Mrs. Gordon Wright, Dominion President. Mrs. Maud Perkins to give an address. Jubilee pins to be sold names of charter members to be secured, and honor done the memory of those deceased, high lights in County histories be given by County Presidents in one minute addresses. Jubilee Programmes and Jubilee Post Cards to be a special feature. It was recommended that the Fifty Years History of the Provincial Union prepared by Mrs. McKee be revised and published by Mrs. Thornley, Mrs. Stevens and Mrs. McKee. It was recommended that we take outright the 1,000 copies of Miss McCorkindale's book, "Temperance and Life," and sell them for \$1.00 per copy.

A letter was read suggesting that notice be taken of the motto of George Young re "no drink or tobacco in athletics". Appreciation was expressed of the excellent work done by our L.T.L. branch, believing it to be deserving of great praise. A letter was read from the Young People's Department asking for co-operation in furthering the cause of Prohibition among young people. The Corresponding Secretary, Miss McKee was instructed to write and get information from the yearly gatherings of the various denominations re Young People's Camps and Schools, and that this be forwarded to the Students' Temperance Committees, which on motion was gratefully received. A recommendation was sent on to Mrs. Dooley, Superintendent of Railway Work, re the new kind of literature boxes for stations in Railway centres.

On motion it was agreed that Mrs. Thornley be authorized to provide new leaflets after the announcement of the new Liquor Legislation and that all leaflets on hand be donated to the Depository for use in other Provinces.

At the spring meeting of Sub-Executive which was held in April further plans for Jubilee Convention at Ottawa were outlined.

### **Constitutional Changes**

The oft-debated ratio of delegation was settled. The plan of appointing District "Y" Secretaries was discontinued. L. T. L. representation at Provincial Convention by Counties was ratified after correction.

### **Department Plans**

It was felt that everything that could be done should be done to instruct the young in Scientific Temperance, and on motion of Mesdames McKee and Thornley, it was recommended that Mrs. Pugsley interview the Minister of Education re allowing Miss McCorkindale's book and charts on

"Temperance and Life" a place in the School libraries. At night, the members of Sub-Executive were invited to attend a banquet of suffrage workers and several members attended. A letter was read from Dr. Detwiler, who was touring in Northern Ontario, who suggested that literature be sent to outlying Districts, on motion the sum of \$25,000 was appropriated for the purpose. The Corresponding Secretary read a letter from Dr. Bell re a Health Survey adopted by Hamilton Convention. Regret was expressed at the abolition of the Provincial Health Board. Miss McKee reported the activities of other organizations. It was agreed that we adopt the plan of the Red Cross. The following pronouncement was submitted and on motion was adopted.

"Resolved, that the abolition of the Public Health Board at this particular juncture in the affairs of Ontario is both significant and regrettable. It is but another indication of a growing trend towards the undemocratic centralization of power. It also removes a body whose facts and statistics might have proved inconvenient to political sponsors of Government Control, for the free sale of liquor has, and always will increase, not only crime and misery, but disease."

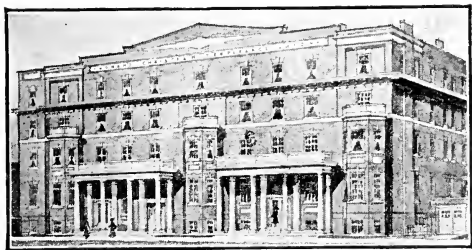
It was agreed on motion of Mesdames McKee and Thornley that the resolution passed yesterday dealing with the Health Board, be sent to the Provincial Secretary and on receipt of his reply, be given to the press. The advantage of permanent voting election lists was emphasized by our President, and acted on at Convention.

The foregoing is as far as your historian can go in the history of the Ontario Provincial Union. This little book must be ready for sale at the Ottawa Convention, and whether acceptable or not is sent forth with the loving thought that you will read it with care, study its record with forbearance because of any discrepancies, and a belief that you will think



tenderly of your old friend and comrade who with her latest breath will pray for your advancement and prosperity, and for the day when Ontario will be free from the legalized liquor traffic.

S. G. E. McKee.



WILLARD HALL, TORONTO

# THE JUBILEE CONVENTION

## 50th Convention, Ottawa

The setting for this notable event in our history was in our capital city, Ottawa, in all the glory of a Canadian October. The Ottawa Unions tendered a banquet on the opening night. His Worship, Mayor Balhawie extended the city's greetings to the delegates, and presented a beautiful birthday cake. Mrs. S. G. E. McKee and Mrs. Thornley were given the honor of cutting it. Greetings were received from many sources, and baskets of flowers presented to the officers.

Routine business was set aside as far as possible, to make way for a review of the past and a forecast of the future. Former leaders were introduced, and letters of greeting were read from those pioneers who were unable to attend. The spiritual tone was high, and augured well for the future. The sessions were well attended, and the discussions were spirited and interesting.

### Our Guests

The visitors, who were also our speakers, were Dr. Gishbourne, President of Ontario Provincial Union, Ottawa; Mrs. Gordon Wright, President of the Canadian W.C.T.U.; Mrs. Maude B. Perkins, Secretary of Y.P.B. work in the U.S.A.; and Mrs. M. M. Munns, Evanston Ill., Treasurer of the World's W.C.T.U. and also Treasurer for the W.C.T.U. in the U.S.A. Greetings came from near and far, too add to our joy.

An instructive feature was the Historical W. C. T. U. pageant compiled by Mrs. Pugsley and dramatized by her daughter, Mrs. Allan Lancefield.

## MISSIONARY WORK—1884-1927

We started our Missionary Department 43 years ago, beginning with the lumbermen on the Ottawa river, a class of people never previously touched by Protestant effort. The priests, and sometimes groups of nuns, went through these camps collecting money. Indeed in some of them the Catholic foremen just docked the men so much apiece and handed it over. We sent magazines and newspapers, leaflets and Testaments and Comfort Bags—Tons



MISS AGNES SPROULE  
*W. C. T. U. Missionary*

upon tons of literature in boxes, bags and barrels, were shipped to the nearest railway station and carted into the camps by the tote-teams. That went on for years.

Then we began to hear two things. 1st, that some foremen refused, or neglected to distribute our literature. 2nd, that a few of them sold to the men the contents of the Comfort Bags. So we decided to send our Gospel messages by personal word and the first missionary went out a little over 30 years ago.

When the lumbering industry shifted to Northern Ontario we followed it and appointed a permanent missionary, Miss Agnes Sproule, a wonderful Scotch woman, who went into those camps and mining and construction settlements for 16 years. The men called her "St. Agnes." Often she would be the only woman in a camp of hundreds of men.

The class of people then employed was largely the derelicts of society—men who had failed to make good by reason of wrong doing—or who had suffered, perhaps, through the wrong-doing of others. How often her reports recorded something like: "I asked at the conclusion of my address: 'are there any servants of Christ here?' and up went two or three hands. Later I would find these men had been Church members, even active workers, in their old home towns. They had been unfortunate; had drifted to the camps; had failed to acknowledge Christ at the start and never had the courage later."

Song sheets and Gospels were distributed, and later we added another missionary—a man—sometimes even had three of them.

In these camps there were nearly always Frenchmen. Gospels in French were all we could do for them, if they

could not speak English. But after the war the whole complexion of these camps changed. They became almost a replica of world nationalities. The Shantyman's Christian Association was a direct outcome of our work so Mr. William Henderson, its founder, told me. His wife was one of our Provincial Superintendents and in this way Mr. Henderson came into touch with Miss Sproule and was so inspired by the need of the lumberjacks that he founded the S.C.A., which today has over 40 missionaries.

So we decided to leave the Camp work to the S.C.A., and do our part with the women and children.

### New Canadians

The scene has shifted and in London Mrs. Flora Yorke Miller has founded a work for women and children that is far-reaching in results. This work is now co-ordinated with that of the missionary society of the United Church, who own a splendid property and is thus put on a permanent basis.















48

PLEASE DO NOT REMOVE  
CARDS OR SLIPS FROM THIS POCKET

---

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO LIBRARY

---

HV  
5303  
W6M3

McKee, S. G. E. .  
Jubilee history of the  
Ontario Woman's Christian  
Temperance Union

