

EARNEST WOMEN WHO WILL BE IN OMAHA THIS WEEK

Leaders of the National and State Work of the Women's Christian Temperance Union Who Will Be at the Great National Convention at the Omaha Auditorium



anston, to use during her lifetime. There Miss Gordon receives hundreds of pilgrims yearly, and there, too, she has a large part in carrying on the work of the national organization, whose headquarters are under the same roof.

Foremost among these state presidents is the national president herself, Mrs. Lillian M. N. Stevens of Portland, Me. For nearly forty years, ever since Maine has had a Women's Christian Temperance Union in fact, Mrs. Stevens has been its president, and under her able leadership that union has become a pattern, and has had an important part in securing and maintaining the prohibition law in its own state. During the years since Mrs. Stevens succeeded Miss Frances Willard as executive head of the national organization her efforts and her interest in her own state work have never flagged. Her intimate knowledge of conditions, laws and prospects in the various states regarding the liquor traffic is remarkable and has been of inestimable value in the councils of the association.

To those in touch with temperance work in Nebraska it would be superfluous to tell who Mrs. Frances Beveridge Heald is or what part she has had in it. During the last summer thousands of others who had previously no interest have been won over as cordial supporters through the tactful, earnest solicitation of this gifted woman. It was when the constitutional amendment was up in 1890 that Mrs. Heald first came to be known over the state. At that time she and her husband traveled the length and breadth of Nebraska as singing evangelists in the interest of temperance, and there were few who had not heard "The Beveridges." But the disappointment of that campaign only served to strengthen her devotion to the cause and redoubled her efforts through the Women's Christian Temperance union. When, a few years ago, the president of the state union resigned to move to Canada, Mrs. Heald was chosen to take up the work she had so ably directed for so many years, and under her tactful direction it has grown in strength and numbers to be one of the recognized strong state unions in this country. A score or more of organizers have, been put into the field, the educational work in all its branches has been emphasized, the union has given its active support to many movements for

progress and for good that have helped to spread Nebraska's fair name abroad. The work of the union has been distinctly active. One of those gifted women who can be aggressive without being obtrusive, Mrs. Heald has assumed personal direction of every campaign the organization has undertaken, and where the ultimate object has failed, without exception, she and her co-workers have retired with the respect and the admiration of those who opposed them and with the satisfaction of knowing that they have acquired fresh strength through public opinion.

When the National Women's Christian Temperance union accepted Nebraska's invitation to hold its convention at Omaha this month Mrs. Heald at once set to work planning the financial side of the obligation, and on the first of July came to Omaha from her home at Osceola and personally took charge of the headquarters opened in the Young Men's Christian association building. There she has remained ever since, excepting during the month of August, when it was necessary for her to return to her home. Upon her has fallen the brunt of the preparation for the convention's entertainment, though she has had much assistance from the corps of local workers.

Mrs. Silena Holman, president of the Tennessee union, will come to the Omaha convention with fresh laurels, as her state is the most recent among the states of the south to adopt prohibition. The women of Tennessee had an important and a recognized part in the campaign that resulted so victoriously, and Mrs. Holman was in the thick of their activity, directing and encouraging. Genial and attractive, she is also a gifted speaker, combining wit, wisdom and logic in a way that wins people to her way of thinking.

When the National Women's Christian Temperance union went to Denver last year for its annual convention the hostess body was the Colorado Women's Christian Temperance union, with Mrs. Adrianna Hungerford at its head. Mrs. Hungerford is a woman of more than ordinarily attractive personality, and ability that is unusual, and under her direction the great convention had a most hospitable setting, and its work went on under most auspicious conditions. Like so many women of her state, Mrs. Hungerford is a speaker of ability and is much in demand.

An orator and a general is Mrs. Frances Beauchamp, president of the Kentucky union, who is recognized as one of the ablest of the state leaders. For a number of years she served in the office of recording secretary of the national organization, but when a leader seemed needed at her home she gave up that work to devote herself and her efforts to her own state. It is said of her in the National that she does not know the meaning of the word "discouragement" and that once having undertaken anything she does not give up until she accomplishes it.

Mrs. Howard Hoge, who leads the white ribbons of Virginia, is another strong and gentle woman who knows how to win friends and plan campaigns. Although her social position in her home city makes many demands upon her, she has not allowed it to interfere with her work for temperance; in fact, she has turned it to good account in advancing the interests of her chosen work. She is equally at home in a drawing room, upon the rostrum, or directing the affairs of a big convention, and her counsels are highly valued in the national body.

Miss Frances Ensign, president of the Ohio state union, began her public work as secretary of the Ohio State Young Women's Christian Temperance union. After serving in this office for several years she came into prominence in the national work as an organizer. Later she became secretary of the Ohio union, and then its president, which office she still holds. She gave up a good salary as a successful teacher when she decided to devote herself to temperance work, and under her able direction Ohio has made great gains in membership and in securing local option. Her home is at Columbus, but her gift as a speaker and her tact and pleasing personality have gained her a popularity that keeps her away from home much of the time.

And then there are many others, the majority of whom will attend the Omaha convention next week, and each of whom has had an important part in what has been accomplished in their respective states.



MRS. E. PRESTON ANDERSON, Recording Secretary.

ONE of the important agencies that has aided to bring the National Women's Christian Temperance union from an unpopular reform movement with a scattering membership of "strong-minded" women to the largest organization of women in America today, is the corps of workers who have served as its executive officers and who have directed the work for forty states that hold membership in the national body.

With scarcely an exception they are speakers and parliamentarians of ability and possessed of those other qualities that make leaders and inspire others to trust them with large responsibilities. Lillian M. N. Stevens of Portland, Me., is the national president, and associated with her in the executive committee of this organization are: Miss Anna Gordon of Evanston, Ill., vice president at large; Mrs. Frances Pride Parks, also of Evanston, corresponding secretary; Mrs. Elizabeth P. Anderson of Valley City, N. D., recording secretary; Mrs. Sarah H. Hoge of Lincoln, Va., assistant recording secretary, and Mrs. Elizabeth P. Hutchinson of Evanston, Ill., treasurer.

All are women whose accomplishments in their own states have fitted them for the national work and each has her important part in the councils of the big association.

Miss Anna Gordon of Evanston, Ill., vice president-at-large of the National Women's Christian Temperance union, needs no introduction in Nebraska. During Frances Willard's lifetime she visited the state with her, and has visited here since. Last spring she accompanied Mrs. Stevens, and with her, arranged the preliminary details incidental to locating the convention. At the head of the world's organization for the children in the temperance cause, she counts her friends by the thousands and she has been honored in many countries besides her own. Cultured, gifted and able she typifies all that is most admirable in a woman. Her life she has consecrated to the temperance cause and her devotion to it is unsurpassed by even that of Frances Willard, who was her friend and who gave into her keeping her own home, "Rest Cottage," at Ev-

ANTWERP, England, Oct. 6.—No, not one word about the cathedral. But why do not more visitors from the United States turn a few steps aside from the tourist route and look in when in this city upon one of the most interesting spots the ancient town has to show, at once old and most modern, the home of the Canterbury weavers? Old, because its foundations go back to the fourth Norman ruler of England; old, too, because it housed nearly four centuries ago an industry then new in England and destined to reach an important place in the life of the nation; and new and distinctly modern in that it marks a notable achievement by and for women in this feminist century. Romance and business, the picturesque and the prosaic and material blend in the ancient fabric on the King's bridge over the River Stour.

Two women have revived here the weaving industry which was brought to Potestant England by the refugees from Roman Catholic persecution on the continent in the sixteenth century, and from a workshop in one room where they began their labors they have developed their occupation until they keep busy now some thirty looms and require a whole building to house the business. They employ at the looms only women and girls. Everything is hand work.

A few years ago Miss Clive Bayley established in London a weaving school with the idea of furnishing an occupation and some measure of livelihood for gentlewomen in reduced circumstances. It was, of course, somewhat chimerical, for there could be no considerable output and therefore no real market. Though two women who studied there, however, has been brought about the institution of the Canterbury weavers. Miss C. F. Phillpotts and Miss K. Holmes having learned the weaving craft, which is also an art, set about the task of making real use of their acquirement. They had the best of incentives to success—enthusiasm.

Looms Are Busily at Work Again in the Old King's Mill

They familiarized themselves so far as possible with the history of the Walloons and the Flemings, who in the mid-sixteenth century fled from Lisle, Turcoing, Waterloo and Nuelle to the Kentish coast of England, and with that of the Huguenots who followed them after the revocation of the edict of Nantes, and all of whom had set to work in their new homes industriously and thriftily as weavers. Queen Elizabeth protected them as the champion of Protestantism. Canterbury encouraged them because they brought business to the city. Incidentally the brigands of the high roads robbed them at timely leisure when they forwarded their products to London by foot and horse post.

They were forbidden to make such fabrics as the London weavers made, a restriction which only heightened the individuality of their already admirable craftsmanship. Their products were in high demand for a long time, but eventually with the development of machine weaving the craft languished, ceased and scarcely survived as a tradition even. At the end of the eighteenth century only ten weavers lived in Canterbury; after them none, said Miss Phillpotts and Miss Holmes:

"If there is a place where hand weaving can be re-established, now that hand-woven materials are highly valued once more, it surely is Canterbury."

Hither they came and set about preparing the way by opening in a second-floor room a branch of Miss Clive Bayley's school.

The new weavers, like the old ones, brought work to the city and found a welcome. The older weavers did their own weaving, to be sure, but they needed help in wool combing, sorting, etc., and thus offered employment to the townspeople. The new ones had to instruct the townspeople in search of employment in the art and craft of weaving itself. Just

here the Misses Phillpotts and Holmes discovered a condition which threw a welcome illumination upon their happy choice of Canterbury as a working spot.

The girls and women of the place, many of them descendants of the ancient weavers, took naturally to the new calling notwithstanding that even the traditions of the ancient practice had practically died out under the conditions of the latter day struggle for life. In a short time the second-story room ceased to be a branch school and the weaving industry was started anew on its feet, as it were, in the cathedral city. The directors, constantly studying the conditions that could conduce to the success and development of the enterprise, sought a means of making use of the Kentish wool, the product of the vicinage, which previously had not been used in weaving, being too light to compete with the famous English wools. They found the way.

Plain dress materials, serges, woollens and flannels at first were woven, also a finely finished linen. They have now begun to make tweeds. Appreciation revealed itself in purchases. People awakened to the charm and value of the hand-woven materials and were willing to pay the price, for in price these products cannot compete with those of the power looms. The weavers had to move to larger quarters.

They also gave themselves a part of the time to the production of articles of a higher artistic merit, and successfully reproduced, after their own method, old Italian weaves and motives and designs of the Bayeux tapestries. They made chair coverings, rugs and carpets of attractive patterns and agreeable color tones.

The same good fortune which led the originators of the enterprise to Canterbury helped them in the selection of their new quarters on King's Bridge, where they now are. They moved there because they found the building available. They learned later that they

were in the first home of the old Canterbury weavers. They found themselves in the ancient King's mill, the mill which was the king's away back in early Norman times.

It was King Stephen's mill, Stephen of Blois, and the foundations on which the building rests today are Stephen's foundations, rugged, masterly stonework that at this spot now confines the waters of the modest Stour as in the days following the Conquest. An aerial trip may be made today lying flat in a rowboat in ramifications of the river circumscribed by these foundations under the streets and under more modern neighboring buildings. The mill in the elder days spanned the stream. The building which the weavers now occupy and that the earlier weavers occupied—a part of the old mill—is on one side only of the river, another and more modern building constructed upon the same foundations standing on the other side.

In the early days only the people who ate white bread could have their floor ground at the king's mill. So valuable was the mill that Henry of Anjou, when he had murdered Beckett in the neighboring cathedral and compunction and remorse drove him to contrition, wishing to make some amends to the archbishop's family, regarded the mill as of sufficient value to give it as a royal present to Beckett's sister Rowena. It passed to the ownership of the church and the Augustines made good and profitable use of it. The crown later acquired it again with other church lands in the realm and finally it passed to other ownership.

Miss Phillpotts and Miss Holmes found that in Queen Elizabeth's time the very rooms in which they had set up their looms were occupied by the weavers who had come over from the continent. The Flemings had found the building with a flat roof. They immediately proceeded to construct gables, both to serve in the hauling up and storing of their materials and to be in keeping with the architectural ideas they

were accustomed to. Their modern followers in ripping out later interior alterations in the old building came across the very apparatus, neglected in one of the gables over the river, by which the early weavers hoisted the boats' cargoes to their lofts.

On the advice of antiquaries and local historians they searched the floor and ceiling spaces of the building and found old bobbins and shuttles which show surprisingly little difference in form from the corresponding articles used with the hand looms of today, together with coins and arms of the period hidden in the walls. An oaken china closet that had been boarded up by some later occupants was revealed in one wall.

In the wall of one room is a King John beam. The antiquaries have passed upon it and pronounced it indubitably by its marks a log hewn in the reign of the Great Charter. To gratify one of these assiduous searchers of antiquities the weavers withdrew a nail from a fine antique latch on one of the doors of this room.

"Ah, as I expected," he exclaimed, beaming, "blunt at both ends; one of the earliest forms of English nails!"

The same room has in its embrasured windows, with their iron sashes and small panes of glass, a few of the original colored panes, of great softness and attraction of color quality. These, however, in spite of care, go to wreck one by one, as they've been doing slowly through the years. Here, also, is a fine specimen of the old powder closet—occupied solely by the barber, and into which the fine lady or gentleman could thrust her or his head to be powdered without danger of having the powder blown about the bed room.

The delight of the weavers at finding themselves in this building and at being able to purchase it may readily be divined. Had inspiration been necessary this pile and its revelations would surely have sup-