The demand for kindergartens continues throughout the country and there are now 72 associations in the New Zealand Free Kindergarten Union, some administering as many as 30 free kindergartens, while others in outlying districts have only one under their control.

This was stated by the president of the New Zealand Free Kindergarten Union, Mrs. H. McCreanor, Christchurch, who will preside over the three-day conference which opens in the Assembly Hall, Hastings, late this afternoon.

It is the first time the conference has been held in this way, and about 140 delegates from the North and South Islands will attend.

The conference is to be opened by the Director of Education, Mr. J. A. Johnson, and Mr. T. E. Hedges, President.

Mrs. McCreanor said at present there are 190 free kindergartens recognized by the Department of Education giving pre-school education to about 12 per cent of New Zealand's children in the ages of three and five years.

She declared that this year's work is the renewed interest and keenness of the mothers in their children's clubs, discussion groups, festivals and many and varied programmes of interest educational work, and Coo coo, she said.

"It is fundamental to the free kindergarten movement that par-" "It is fundamental to the free kindergarten movement that par-" "It is fundamental to the free kindergarten movement that par-" "It is fundamental to the free kindergarten movement that par-" "It is fundamental to the free kindergarten movement that par-" ""It is fundamental to the free kindergarten movement that par-" ""It is fundamental to the free kindergarten movement that par-" ""It is fundamental to the free kindergarten movement that par-" ""It is fundamental to the free kindergarten movement that par-" ""It is fundamental to the free kindergarten movement that par-" ""It is fundamental to the free kindergarten movement that par-" "It is fundamental to the free kindergarten movement that par-" "It is fundamental to the free kindergarten movement that par-" "It is fundamental to the free kindergarten movement that par-" "It is fundamental to the free kindergarten movement that par-" "It is fundamental to the free kindergarten movement that par-" "It is fundamental to the free kindergarten movement that par-" "It is fundamental to the free kindergarten movement that par-" "It is fundamental to the free kindergarten movement that par-" "It is fundamental to the free kindergarten movement that par-" "It is fundamental to the free kindergarten movement that par-" "It is fundamental to the free kindergarten movement that par-" "It is fundamental to the free kindergarten movement that par-

The Kindergarten Union considers it an absolute essential and fundamental to its philosophy that children of these tender and form-ative years, when the emotional and social patterns of their very being are being formed, should be placed in the hands of professional kindergartners, specially trained to understand and cope with the psychological needs of small children, Mrs. McCreanor said.
140 Women Attend Conference

About 140 delegates from all parts of New Zealand gathered in the Hastings Assembly Hall yesterday afternoon for the first conference held in Hawke's Bay of the New Zealand Free Kindergarten Union.

This was the start of a three-day conference. Yesterday's gathering was arranged by Greater Hastings, on behalf of the president, Mr. H. R. Poppelwell, who extended a welcome to the delegates.

The conference was formally opened by the mayor, Mr. A. Kipkirk, who also welcomed the visitors. Other speakers were Mr. T. B. Macrae, chairman of the Hawke's Bay Education Board; Mr. E. J. Keating, M.P., and Mrs. Stevenson (president of the Hastings Association).

Presiding over the conference was Mrs. H. McClean, Dominion president, of Christchurch, who expressed appreciation of the welcome and for the organisation by the Hastings association.

Dr. C. E. Beeby, Director of Education, who wishes the conference every success, in a brief talk mentioned that in 1947 the government had spent £31 million on free kindergartens, but today the cost to the country was now roughly £300,000. He said that it was not realised how much primary schools owed to the Kindergarten movement.

72 ASSOCIATIONS

In her presidential report, Mrs. McClean said that there were now 72 associations affiliated to the union, and an administrative committee had been set up to look after the interests of the whole movement.

She said that during the past two or three years there had been closer co-operation with the Kindergarten Teachers' Association, and shortage of trained staff was now the only hindrance to further expansion. "The Kindergarten Union considers it an absolute essential, and fundamental to its philosophy, that children of tender and formative years, when the emotional and social patterns of their very personalities are being laid, should be placed in the hands of professionally trained and specially trained to understand children and cope with the psychological needs of small children," she said.

The conference last night was given over to discussion of the executive's report and the financial statement. Dr. Beeby also addressed the meeting before a social hour was held at which delegates were the guests of the Hastings Association and members of the Rotary Clubs.

London Undergoes N.Z. Butter Price Inflation

The New Zealand Exporters' Association, in a statement issued in London, said that a high price of butter was charged to the United Kingdom.

The statement said that the price of butter was now more than double what it was a few years ago, and that this was causing considerable hardship to consumers in that country.

The statement stressed the need for a more equitable distribution of the world's butter supplies, and for the establishment of a world butter bureau to ensure fair prices for all producers.

The association also called for stricter controls on the production and sale of butter to prevent speculative buying and selling.

In conclusion, the association urged the government to take immediate action to alleviate the situation and to ensure that fair prices were paid to all producers.
Kindergartens Urged to Avoid State Control

A warning to the New Zealand Press Kindergartens Union to make its own organizational units as strong as possible to avoid getting into trouble was given by the Director of Education, Mr. A. E. O. C. Stevenson, at the union's annual conference in Hastings last night.

It went to avoid the department getting the upper hand. The union would sue professional advice and help solve their problems, but they didn't want to control your show, said Mr. Stevenson.

In an address on the theme of "The Importance of Preserving Kindergarten Life," Mr. Stevenson told the conference that there were no better ways of passing on the love of learning and the capacity of the fastest learner to the slowest.

Mr. Stevenson said that if the state were to take charge of kindergartens, they would lose most of the life in them. He called for the union to organize itself properly and become a strong force in the education of children.

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Greater Rights for Teachers Granted

The opportunity of the New Zealand Kindergarten Union to have increased membership has been granted by the government. This was announced by Mr. E. W. W. Jones, the Minister of Education, at the union's annual conference in Hastings last night.

Mr. Jones said that the government had decided to give the union the opportunity to increase its membership and that this would be in line with the wishes of the majority of the union's members.

Mr. Jones said that the union had a strong voice in the education of children and that it was important that they were given the opportunity to have increased membership.

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