

# Asiatic Division Mission News

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No.

## Out of Touch

Only a word, yes, only a word,  
That the Spirit's small voice  
Whispered, "Speak;"  
But the worker passed onward!  
Unblessed and weak,  
Whom you were meant to have stirred  
To courage, devotion, and love anew;  
Because when the message came to you,  
You were out of touch with your Lord.  
Only a note, yes, only a note  
To a friend in a distant land;  
The Spirit said "Write," but then you had planned  
Some different work, and you thought,  
"It matters little."  
You did not know it would have saved  
A soul from sin and woe;  
You were out of touch with your Lord.  
Only a day, yes, only a day,  
But oh! can you guess, my friend,  
Where the influence reached, and  
Where it will end,  
Of the hours you frittered away?  
The Master's command is,  
"Abide in Me,"  
And fruitless and vain will your service be  
If out of touch with your Lord.

—Selected.

## War Difficulties Do Not Hinder the Message

To our Friends in the Asiatic Division, Greeting:—

It is with feelings of the deepest interest that we look forward to the weekly mail from our Division. We are not often disappointed in getting good, cheery letters from our loyal workers. Nine such came by the last mail. This makes it easier for us to be content on this side, but we look forward with glad anticipation to the time when we can set sail again for Asia. Daily we are with you in spirit, and would be in body if the Japanese would run an extra ship for the accommodation of those they are not able to accommodate on their regular scheduled vessels. We now have their promise that by the first of March or earlier they can assign us quarters on board.

In the meantime we are working here for Asia's interests. The week of prayer was spent at College View. Our time was divided between the students of the college, the sanitarium, and the church. Meetings

were held daily and in the evening. At each service a number either took their stand for Christ for the first time, or were reclaimed from a backslidden condition, until when the week closed more than threescore were rejoicing in a deep spiritual experience.

Leaving College View en route to Washington, D. C., we held services at Nevada, Des Moines, and Davenport, Iowa. Two services were held in Chicago, one in the Swedish Seminary and one in a union service with our churches there. We then visited Berrien Springs, Battle Creek, Holly, and Detroit. At all these places the interest in our work in the Far East is certainly commendable, and all that one could ask is being done for us by way of men and means, prayer and appreciation. It is most cheering to visit and speak, to see responsive a people. It is nothing short of the day of God's power when such a willingness is manifest to give and be given for mission work in all the world, especially in fields outside the States. We will give you a more full report of these rich experiences when we meet you again face to face. Our little sheet is far too small to hold all the good things we might tell you.

We can not refrain from mentioning a few of the many interesting items given at the Council.

From the statistical report we learn that our total membership is 125,844, a gain of 11,287 during the last year. The amount given in tithes and offerings for the year 1914 reached the sum of \$3,090,484. This was \$24.56 per capita. The sum given for both institutional and evangelistic work during the year amounted to \$1,461,202.86, an average of \$35.45 per capita for every member throughout the world. This is a wonderfully good report, and is made possible only by the blessing of the Lord.

Since the organization of our work there has been given for evangelistic work alone the grand sum of \$31,675,894.76.

The Educational Secretary's report showed 31,896 students enrolled in our denominational schools, an increase of 3,517 the last year. We have 248 mission schools and out-schools, with an enrolment of 11,156.

The Sabbath school report was most encouraging. We have 4,936 schools with a membership of 133,815. Of these schools 2,169 are outside of North America.

In 1914, \$344,390 was given to missions by the Sabbath schools.

Brother N. Z. Town, secretary of the Publishing Department, showed that sales of our good literature to the amount of \$2,109,000 were made last year.

Prof. M. E. Kern, head of the Missionary Department, reported a working army of young people numbering 19,605.

We have all heard it said that figures are dry, uninteresting reading, but it can not be so said of these figures. They are most inspiring.

When we learn that it took twenty-five years to get the first million dollars from our Sabbath schools for missions, and three years for the second million, we can easily see how the third million will be raised in less than two years. It does not take any great stretch of faith to believe that a million a year will soon be raised for missions,—of course it will! and our loyal people will be none the poorer for it, but richer.

It is now known by all in our Division of the re-organization that was perfected for our field at the Council, taking in Australia and India. This gives us a population of almost nine hundred million people, largely in heathen darkness. Our forces are being increased by a score or more of willing workers, so that it is not too much to expect that the next year of our work in Asia will see our ranks doubled or tripled, and this without anyone working beyond his strength. May God hold the winds of strife yet a little longer, and we will do our best to finish the work in Asia.

We will come to our field at the first opportunity and join you in your labor of love for lost souls.

R. C. and MRS. PORTER.

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### How to Economize Housekeeping for War Time ONE-COURSE MEALS

When the European war started, one of the London daily papers published an article under the above heading, on the importance of economizing in view of the conditions which the war would bring. Among other things it says:

"It has become a patriotic duty as well as a wise precaution to reduce expenditure all round, to jettison luxury in money, food, fuel, and the rest. It immediately becomes a scientific problem and it will be one of increasing difficulty.

#### Importance of Scraps

"The vegetable saits thrown away in the water from the saucepan, the good nutriment that escapes from potatoes if not cooked in their skins, the outer part of the wheat disregarded in making white flour, the wastage of bread scraps and vegetable scraps now disregarded, all acquire new importance. So out of doors it now becomes a crime for the gardener to practise his usual habit of throwing away tiny carrots and potatoes, or pulling up peas and beans while they still have pods, even though the pods be old. It is to

be remembered that peas and beans, even when dried, are as close and satisfying a food as meat.

"As to meals in general, the advice give by a famous doctor in the Franco-German War is worth remembering. He recommended one-course meals, especially for children and those over forty, and his advice may especially touch those who have now a houseful of children.

"The one-course meal, conservative cookery which throws nothing away and keeps a full stock pot, and an eagle eye for all waste, will in many households reduce expenses beyond all expectation. And housekeepers will find, perhaps to their surprise, that economy and simple meals become a game into which the whole household enters with zest, and from which it is likely to emerge with improved health.

"Bread should not be served when fresh, but be kept until stale, when it will be more digestible and less wasteful, and every scrap can be utilized for nursery puddings. Jam and butter should not be served on the children's tea table together. Soup made of lentils and dried peas will be a resource, and in every case great care should be taken over the flavoring of it and of other dishes. Vegetables dressed in different ways are an excellent resource and very good for the health. Every effort should be made to save fuel.

"The forgotten art of walking is a fruitful way of economy for a very large part of the community. The absence of ready money in the pocket is already teaching this lesson."

In another paper we read "that since the war began, the authorities in Paris have forbidden the making of all cakes, pastries, and candies in Paris, allowing only the making of the plainest white and brown bread."

From correspondence received from some of our workers we learn how they also are having to face this problem. Pastor J. T. Boettcher sends the following word from Russia:

"Formerly we received appropriations from the division conference for Siberia, Turkestan, and Transcaucasia; but since the war began, we are cut off from our head office, and have to look after our own affairs. We cannot get so much as a letter from headquarters. Owing to these conditions, we have been obliged to cut down the wages of all the ministers and licentiates one-third. If our income keeps up to what it has been in time of peace, we can carry ourselves in this way; but you know how hard it is to come down one-third with the winter before the door; but we did not know what else to do. We did not like to discharge some of our workers at the expense of others, so we shall suffer together like good Christian soldiers. A number of our workers have been taken into the army, and not a few of the brethren are in the war. We have to help their families as much as possible, as they all look to us for help. You may know, my brother, that we have to count the pennies as never before. I do not know how the tithe will come in this quarter. If it should be very much short, our brethren in the

States would have to help us out; but I am in hopes we can pull through."

Although not directly involved in the war, our brethren in the South American fields are feeling very keenly its effects. Those who had deposits of money in the banks have been allowed to draw only from five to ten per cent of their deposits monthly. Pastor E. L. Maxwell writes as follows from Peru:

"Financial matters here are in a terrible way. Peru has been placed on an unguaranteed paper money basis as a result of the war. As a direct result, goods have advanced 150 per cent, so that reasonable living is now out of the question for us missionaries. We are compelled to buy third-class food, and are patching our clothes to make them last as long as possible. I do not know what we shall do when those we have are gone.

"The government has closed all the primary schools, and reduced the salaries of all the inferior public employees.

"We have had no sickness thus far, and we are hoping to be spared the experience, for there will be nothing with which to pay the doctor. The fact is, having broken my glasses, I am getting along without them; and my wife, whose teeth are sadly wrecked, is doing the best she can, as we cannot get the money to pay for new teeth. However we mean to 'fight it out on this line, if it takes all summer.'"

Should not these extracts from the daily press, showing how people of the world plan to economize to meet the war situation, and the experiences of our own workers showing how keenly some of them are feeling the financial restrictions which the war has brought, lead us who are more favorably situated to curtail all unnecessary expense and to save in every way possible in order to help liberally in the finishing of God's work in the earth? If we would learn to live as simply in this country as our brethren do in Europe even in times of peace, we might save thousands of dollars and be better off healthwise than we now are. By giving a little careful thought to the matter, we shall find we are able to dispense with many things which are not necessary to our comfort or happiness. If we learn to economize now, it will not come so hard a little later when troublesome times reach this country.

N. Z. TOWN.

A note from Brother W. E. Gillis from Glendale, California, announces their arrival at destination. He says his wife was to be operated on in about two weeks, and while the operation was a serious one, yet they were assured that it would be successful. We hope therefore to hear shortly that she is well on the road to recovery. Brother Gillis says, "We are already anxious for the time to come when we may return. I can not rest for thinking of the stress of work resting upon some of our workers over there. This is a lovely place, and with the hills to climb, no doubt I will be a giant by the time we return."

## East China Mission

Another year has passed, and as we review the progress of the work, we are led to praise Him who continually has a tender care over His work. During the last few months the progress of the work in the East China Mission has exceeded that of the past. At the time of the general meeting held in Shanghai twenty-one from the Kiangsu mission were baptized, and in November another twenty-one followed their Lord in this step, making forty-two from that Province who have thus united with the church this year. In the Anhwei Province following the Ying Shang Hsien meeting twenty-three were baptized, and at the close of the Nanking meeting held at the end of the year, twenty-one went forward in this sacred rite. Nineteen of these were from the Anhwei mission, making the total for this mission also forty-two. The other two were the first-fruits of the work in the Shantung Province, Djang Si Mien and wife, who became interested in the truth at the time of Brother Stafford's visit there two years ago, and who took a firm stand for the truth at the time Brother Lillie opened work in Chefoo.

The evangelistic effort held in the city of Nanking December 8 to January 8 was fairly well attended, although the attendance was somewhat hindered by the close guard held over the city at this time. During the holidays a very successful colporteurs' institute was held by Brother Blunden at which all our colporteurs from the three provinces of East China were present. Following this, January 8 to 15, the second biennial council of the East China Mission was held. The colporteurs were invited to remain to this meeting, and all the evangelistic workers except two were present. Brethren Wood and Lillie were in attendance from the Kiangsu and Shantung missions. This was the first union meeting that has been held for the entire corps of laborers in the East China Mission, and each gained a broader view of the work than he had before. In the closing meeting the feeling was expressed that it had been the best meeting they had attended, and all went to their fields with a firm resolution to do more effective work during the year to come.

The reports rendered at the meeting showed that the membership during the biennial period had more than doubled, a number of new stations had been opened, and our corps of workers had grown from nineteen to fifty-five. A number of resolutions were passed by the council tending to strengthen the different departments of the work. Much time was given to the question of how to increase our tithes and offerings, and a definite aim was set before the mission for the coming year. The Sabbath school work showed good advancement, and they have set their aim this year to raise a definite amount in donations toward the support of the mission work. But most of all, we hope to see even greater numbers led to the saving knowledge of the truth this year than ever before.

O. A. HALL.

# ASIATIC DIVISION MISSION NEWS

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EDITOR: MRS. R. C. PORTER; ASSOC: FLORENCE SHULL  
ADDRESS: U. S. BOX 523, SHANGHAI, CHINA

## Harvest Ingathering Fruits

It may be interesting to the workers of the Asiatic Division to know how the Lord has blessed our efforts to gather funds with the Harvest Ingathering *Signs*. Not without experiencing many internal struggles did our workers take up this campaign this year, for all know that during these war times money is scarce, labor cheap, food high, and there are many calls being made for funds to help those whom the war has reduced to poverty and need. But we took these things to God in prayer until the assurance came that He would go with us.

Something over one thousand papers had been ordered, and when they came the burden seemed heavy, but they must be carried to the people, and our forces where the work was carried on were soon organized, and all hands who volunteered service were laden with the beautiful paper.

From the start success seemed to crown our efforts and we are so glad to say that this has been our best year in this campaign. For three years we have gone to the people, and in some cases they are beginning to expect us every year and are laying money aside for this work. Some who first refused to give have donated liberally this year. Others have doubled their gifts this time. In every place where the papers have been used there has been a demand for more papers than were to be had. Out of a thousand papers we have received about \$600 gold. We feel that the good which the paper will do is not the least to be accomplished.

All classes have been visited and we get support from Hindoos, Mohammedans, Christians, and all religions alike. May it not be that this first investment on the part of some of these poor heathen may be their first instalment to secure a mansion in the new earth? Personally, I feel glad for the small part I have had in this undertaking, and trust that a greater effort may be put forth next year.

F. A. DETAMORE.

## NOTES

The new Sabbath school financial goal is, "The third million dollars to missions by the close of 1916."

It has been recommended that our leaders in theporteur work be known as Union Field Missionary Secretaries, instead of Field Missionary Agents.

It was voted that the union conferences in the North American Division hold their sessions every four years, and the local conferences every two years.

It has been recommended by the General Conference that ten thousand dollars be raised for the erection of a church in the metropolis of the world—London.

Letters from Pastor and Mrs. Porter received on last mail from the States tell us that they are returning to China by way of Seattle, leaving there on January 22.

Brethren O. A. Hall and H. M. Biunden spent several days in Shanghai last week attending committee meetings and looking after other business.

The third Sabbath in April is Health and Temperance day. The medical department will arrange a suitable program for that day and a collection to be taken for the needy sick.

A quarterly Russian magazine of thirty-two pages, and a monthly of four to eight pages, in the same language, has been recommended. The monthly will contain the Sabbath school lessons.

Pastor R. C. Porter is at this writing (Dec. 31) in Washington, D. C., in consultation with the Mission Board in the interests of the Asiatic Division. He spoke twice a day on an average en route from College View to Washington. Stops were made in different places in Iowa, Illinois and Michigan. December 23 to 25 he was at Battle Creek. At every place where he spoke a loyal interest was manifest in mission work.

In addition to the report from Pastor Detamore in this issue, we extract an item or two from a letter received from him on his return from Java and Sumatra: "Brother and Sister Wood have had a good experience in Soerabaya in the work of the Ingathering. They dreaded to go out this year on account of the many calls that are being made for donations, and they feared that they would not get much this year. But the Lord has blessed them beyond their highest hope. They had received some \$300 (\$120.00) from about 200 papers. They have their hearts set on getting \$500 in all this year. Brother I. C. Schmidt has organized his forces in Batavia, and they had received \$220 (\$88.00) out of 170 papers. They are working for \$400 in all. One man gave Brother Schmidt \$26 (\$10.40) for the work. Another paid \$150 tithe before he was baptized. Funds are coming in beautifully as the brethren go after them, and this is encouraging to all. Our tithe for the whole field is going way above what we received last year." He says that a splendid work is being done in Soerabaya, and people are taking their stand for the truth from time to time. "When I was there last March," he says, "I baptized five, and this time I baptized three others, and two more are practically ready now. Others, too, are keeping the Sabbath." "Brother Everett is doing well in the canvassing work. He has got Brother Matthews started, and in a month he sold some \$250 (gold) worth of books. This is a splendid start, and I look for large things to be done in this line as we follow it up. New ones are coming to the school for training, and we are going to be taxed to know where to put them. Some have come into the truth in Singapore as the result of the labor of the students who are in training with their teachers, and two of these want to enter the school to prepare for the work. The call for workers is great, and these natives when well trained will be the channel for carrying the message to the people of the various islands of the field. I have been talking with some of our brethren in Batavia who came from the Celebes. One man told me that he had been back there since he received the truth. The people are most all Protestants, and they are very susceptible to the truth. I think we should plan to get our work started over there at the very earliest moment possible. I shall be glad to get to Singapore for a short visit with my wife and children after being away for six weeks. Shall have my hands full there at headquarters for some little time, and then must go to other places again."