

# Columbia Union Visitor

"THEY REHEARSED ALL THINGS THAT GOD HAD DONE WITH THEM"

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## President's Annual Address at the Fifty-fourth Ohio Conference held at Newark, Ohio

August 17-27, 1916

Departing from his usual practice, Elder E. K. Slade, president of the conference, gave a brief unwritten report, in which he said in part as follows:

As we are permitted to assemble as delegates of the Ohio Conference on this occasion, we should be profoundly grateful to God for His mercies of the past and for peace and liberty in a land of prosperity and plenty in these times of great peril. While we are peaceably assembled here, many millions in the old world are deprived of nearly all things that go to make life enjoyable and worth living. The Lord's blessing has been upon us in our work. None of the Ohio workers have been stricken down by death. The labors of our ministers and Bible workers have been especially blessed of God, and the result has been the bringing in of a large number of new converts to our churches.

A few years ago, we usually conducted three or four, and sometimes five, tent efforts with a small outlay of means. In recent years, the larger and more expensive efforts have been conducted with usually only one in the conference during any one season. During this season, we have conducted three large efforts, each of which involve three or four times the expense of the former smaller efforts; and three more similar efforts are to be conducted following camp-meeting.

In this larger and stronger evangelistic endeavor, we are carrying out the recommendation of the Division and Union Conferences, and responding to the urgent call of our time to hasten the sounding of the message in our large cities.

During 1915, 267 were baptized, which is a considerable gain over the preceding year. It is our hope to add to our church membership at least four hundred during the present year. I am pleased to report that three new churches have been organized, and they will petition to be admitted into the Ohio Conference at this time.

In all of our departmental work, it has been our purpose to make advancement. Our medical and religious liberty secre-

taries have devoted their time to evangelistic work, giving attention to the needs of their departments only at the rising of special issues.

Most earnest attention has been given to our Missionary Volunteer department and we are pleased to report progress in the amount of work done, funds raised, and general interest awakened in this department. I am pleased to be permitted to say that our Sabbath school work is not lessening in interest and efficiency, and that there is a decided gain in the amount of funds contributed by the Sabbath schools to Foreign Missions.

Perhaps the most remarkable gain in all of our departments is indicated in connection with the subscription book work. For a large portion of the year, Ohio has stood at the head of the list of conferences in America, and, in fact, the world, for that matter, in the amount of business done in the distribution of our literature. Surely this is a cause for gratitude and it should stimulate us to more earnest endeavors in this line in the future.

The Tract Society business for 1910 amounted to \$17,893.00. It is expected to reach the \$40,000 mark in 1916. It is difficult to comprehend what this means to the cause in Ohio.

In the tithe receipts, we have cause for encouragement. I would not convey the idea that we have reached the high mark of perfection in this, for, no doubt, there are many who are yet unfaithful in the payment of tithes. We are glad, however, that we are able to report a most favorable gain. The amount of tithes paid by Ohio believers in 1910 was \$32,337. In 1915, the receipts were \$44,137. We have set our hearts on the amount of \$50,000 as tithe receipts for 1916, and the present indications are that we will not come far short of that mark.

Our offerings for missions in 1910 amounted to \$10,602. In 1915 they amounted to \$23,993. This gain of 126 percent indicates much for the advancement of the cause. We hope to see results far in advance of this in 1916.

While we are thus permitted to speak of the advancement made in these endeavors, we should be aware of the danger there is of our congratulating ourselves on how well we are doing, forgetting our need of the Lord's blessing and our constant dependence upon Him, in order to properly

carry forward the work and make the advancement in our own personal experience that we need. There should be manifested greater liberality and earnestness in our relation to the work committed to our hands as the years pass by. To this end, your committee has planned and prayed, and we feel that we have had the co-operation of our people throughout the state in a large measure.

We should make our aim higher for the future. We should be dedicated more fully to the Lord and His work for the accomplishment of that which lies before us in the year to come, and we bespeak for those who have the responsibility of leading out and planning in connection with the future work, the earnest spirit and faithful co-operation of every church and every church member in the state of Ohio.

### Note

As an illustration of the spirit of liberality that characterizes our people and the efforts of this cause, I refer to the case of one man, who is not a Seventh-day Adventist, who telephoned in to one of the brethren at the camp-meeting, saying, in anticipation of the call that would be made for mission funds, "Put me down for one hundred dollars." We, who were present and heard of this man's interest, were made to think of many of our people, members of our churches, who did not get to the camp-meeting. If the same interest had been felt on the part of all others that was manifested by this outsider, no doubt many similar words would have come in, requesting that they be listed for certain sums in the efforts to raise means for the mission fields.

The liberality of this man was really touching. Shall it not be a means of stirring our own people to greater faithfulness and thoughtfulness concerning the interest of the cause?

Judging from many favorable comments, those in camp were treated to a most interesting lecture on "Creation and Astronomy" by Elder J. H. Behrens, the last Thursday evening. This was made the more interesting by a splendid selection of slides used throughout the lecture.

In the consecration service the following Sabbath a man and his wife from the city came forward, testifying that the above lecture had convinced them of the truth which they now decided to obey.

## Resolutions Adopted in the Conference Session at Newark, Ohio,

August 17-27, 1916

1. *Whereas*, The hand of God has been manifest in the advancement of our work during the past year, and

*Whereas*, In the providence of God, our workers have been blessed with life and a reasonable degree of health, and

*Whereas*, Our nation is still privileged to enjoy an interval of peace, though the nations of Europe are plunged in war, therefore be it,

*Resolved*, That we express our gratitude to God for His mercies and pledge ourselves by His help to be more faithful in the promulgation of the work He has placed in our trust.

2. *Whereas*, The Harvest Ingathering for missions has proved a great blessing both in acquainting the world with this great movement, and in raising funds with which to extend the work, therefore,

*Resolved*, That we undertake to raise an average of \$5.00 a member during 1916, and that we use the pledge cards prepared for this special campaign.

3. *Whereas*, The colporteur or evangelistic canvassing work is ordained of God as a means of reaching thousands of people who would not otherwise be reached with the message, and

*Whereas*, There are not sufficient funds to employ a large number of salaried laborers, thus emphasizing the need of self-supporting workers, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That a strong continuous effort be put forth by the officers and laborers of the conference in co-operating with the Union and Division leaders in this work,

(a) In the selection and training of God-fearing men and women who shall devote their entire time to this work:

(b) That when faithful they be regarded highly for their work's sake, and

(c) That they be encouraged in every consistent way to continue in the service to which they are called.

4. *Whereas*, The Review and Herald Publishing Association has offered to give a premium of \$50.00 to each colporteur who will put in 1800 hours in field work in any consecutive twelve months in selling and delivering the publications issued by that house, therefore,

*Resolved*, That we express our appreciation of this offer and urge our colporteurs to adopt this amount of time as their yearly goal, thus availing themselves of this opportunity.

5. *Whereas*, There has been no uniform system of paying the railroad fare of student colporteurs to and from their field, we, therefore,

*Recommend*, That the maximum inducement offered to accepted student colporteurs who return to their home conference be,

(a) Their fare to the field on condition of agreement to put eleven weeks of faithful work during the season, including delivery, the fare not to be allowed in case the colporteur fails to carry out the agreement.

(b) That where paragraph "a" is complied with and a scholarship is earned during this time, and settlement made for all books received, his return fare to the school be paid.

(c) That where conditions are such that it seems advisable for the student to work in a field other than his home conference, arrangements be made for such transfer with a committee consisting of the principal of the school, the Union Conference president, and the general missionary secretary of the fields concerned, in which case the courtesies mentioned in above paragraphs "a" and "b" shall apply.

6. We in conference assembled approve of city effort work and other aggressive plans put forth during the past year and recommend the adoption of such plans as will strengthen further such progress, both by strong evangelistic work and all necessary accompanying preparation.

7. *Whereas*, The Division Conference has organized and is operating a Home Missionary Department, the work of which is to enlist the co-operation of every Seventh-day Adventist in some definite line of missionary work in the spread of the Third Angel's Message, we recommend:—

1. That this conference appoint a home missionary secretary of such ability and experience as will enable him to help organize our churches so that the strength and ability of each individual may be utilized to the best advantage in the spread of the Third Angel's Message.

2. That our churches be organized into one or more working bands, according to size and ability, with suitable leaders for each band, and that the bands be organized for the following purposes:—

a. The distribution of periodicals, magazines, tracts, pamphlets, and forty percent books;

b. For holding Bible readings and cottage meetings;

c. For medical missionary work;

d. For missionary correspondence.

3. That we urge our church officers to give special attention to the encouraging and fostering of the missionary spirit among the church membership.

4. That companies of believers who have recently been brought into the truth be organized to carry on this missionary work.

5. That each family of Sabbath keepers supply themselves with a full set of the Testimonies. If this is not possible, each should secure Volumes one and six to nine, undertake to read them this fall and winter.

6. That the service on each fourth Sabbath in the month be given to the consideration of plans and methods of home missionary work by using the programs in the *Church Officers' Gazette*.

8. *Whereas*, Both the many opening doors in the non-Christian lands and the many calls at home demand that strong corps of well trained workers be hastened into the field to follow the manifest leading of the Spirit of God, and

*Whereas*, The voice of Providence clearly indicates that these calls will soon be multiplied, bringing a crisis in our work, caused as much by the demand for workers as by the demand for means, therefore,

*We recommend*, 1. That all our church officers, conference workers, and church members everywhere use their influence to encourage our young people to enter our schools to obtain the training necessary to meet this situation;

2. That we endorse the action of the Columbia Union Conference Committee, together with members of the General Conference Committee, increasing the amount to be raised in this Union to provide adequate facilities for Washington Missionary College and Mount Vernon Academy from \$27,000 to \$45,000;

3. That we request the Columbia Union Conference Committee to apportion \$4,000 for industries for Mount Vernon Academy, making a total of \$47,000;

4. That Ohio's share of this fund be \$15,000.

9. *Whereas*, The Review and Herald has, since the beginning of its publication, been a true guide, and a faithful minister to this people, and

*Whereas*, none can afford to do without its weekly visits, its counsels, admonitions, helps, and reports of the progress of this movement,

*Resolved*, That we attempt to place the Review in the home of every believer.

10. *Whereas*, The distribution of the Present Truth Series is a most effective way of getting the truth before the people at small expense, and

*Whereas*, beginning September 1, the publishers will begin mailing one copy each week for six months at 24 cents, to names and addresses furnished them,

*We recommend*, This plan to our people in Ohio as an admirable way to bring

the truth to the attention of relatives and friends.

11. In harmony with the recommendation of the North American Division and Columbia Union Conference, that state conferences hold their conferences biennially, instead of annually,

*We recommend,* That article three of the constitution be amended by substituting the word "biennial" for "annual," that article six, section "b" be amended by substituting the words "two years" for "one year," that article nine be amended by substitution of the word "biennial" for "annual."

12. Recognizing the great value of the work which is being done for our young people by the Missionary Volunteer Department,

*We recommend,* That all our ministers church elders, and other workers make a special effort to co-operate with the department in making the various phases of the Missionary Volunteer work a blessing to our young people,—such as the Morning Watch, the Bible Year, the Standard of Attainment, the Reading Courses, and plans for organized missionary effort.

13. Believing that the fundamental principles of civil and religious liberty are being overridden through the enactment of compulsory Sunday observance laws, and that they abridge the free exercise of the individual conscience in religious matters; therefore,

*Resolved,* That we continue to defend the inalienable rights of man, and protest against the enactment of laws by civil government for the compulsory observance of Sunday or any other religious enactment which tends to unite church and state, and places the different sects on an inequality before the law, as being subversion of the Gospel plan of free choice and a departure from the fundamental principles upon which the American Republic was founded.

14. *Resolved,* That we continue to protest against the enactment of laws by Congress for the abridgment of free speech, a free press, and the freedom of the mails beyond existing statutes, and that the following Memorial be sent to the Hon. Wm. A. Ashbrook, Representative of the State of Ohio:—

To the Honorable, the Senate, and House of Representatives of the United States:—

The ministers and lay delegates of the Seventh-day Adventist denomination of the Ohio Conference, assembled in annual convention at Newark, on August 17-27, 1916, beg leave to address the following Memorial to you concerning certain un-American bills now pending before Congress:

As citizens of the United States, who have the general welfare of the nation at

heart, we are exceedingly jealous that the fundamental principles of civil and religious liberty guaranteed to each individual by the federal Constitution be not jeopardized and overridden by the enactment of statutes which are in direct opposition to these sacred guaranties and immunities.

Three press bills—H. R. 491, H. R. 6468, and H. R. 13778—are now pending before Congress which, if enacted into law, would create a one-man censorship of the press, and might result in the complete destruction of the freedom of the press, without recourse to our courts.

Four religious measures are also pending; viz., S. 645, S. 5677, S. J. Res. 42, and H. R. 652, which, if enacted, would commit Congress to the subject of religious legislation, would establish the Christian religion and some of its religious institutions as the legal religion of the government, and would penalize every dissenter and nonconformist because of his faith and practice.

We regret that Congress has ever been asked to legislate in favor of a religious institution concerning which there is so divergent a religious sentiment as the Sunday and Sabbath questions. We are in harmony with the following sentiments expressed in the Senate Report on Sunday Mails, by Mr. Richard Johnson, of Kentucky, who was Chairman of the Senate Committee on the Post Office and Post Roads, Jan. 19, 1829:—

"The proper object of government is to protect all persons in the enjoyment of their religious as well as civil rights, and not to determine for any whether they shall esteem one day above another, or esteem all days alike holy. . . . It is not the legitimate province of the legislature to determine what religion is true, or what false. Our government is a civil, and not a religious, institution. Our Constitution recognizes in every person the right to choose his own religion, and to enjoy it freely without molestation. . . ."

"Among all the religious persecutions with which almost every page of modern history is stained, no victim ever suffered but for the violation of what government denominated the law of God. To prevent a similar train of evils in this country, the Constitution has wisely withheld from our government the power of defining the divine law. . . . If the principles are once established that religion, or religious observances, shall be interwoven with our legislative acts, we must pursue it to its ultimatum."

We believe that the Sabbath ought to be observed with piety and due respect to God, but we do not believe that any man should be compelled to observe Sunday or any other day, as long as he is a free moral creature and has the liberty

to be religious or non-religious by choice. Enforced religion can only engender hypocrisy instead of true piety. It makes slaves out of free men. Congress has no more right to prohibit legitimate and honorable business on Sunday because the church demands it than it has to prohibit the church services on show day because the show demands it.

We believe that Sunday laws are not only un-American, but un-Christian. Neither Christ nor His apostles sought at any time to enforce their teachings by the force of civil statutes and penalties.

We, as Seventh-day Adventists, feel that we have a just reason to remonstrate against these compulsory Sunday bills. The enactment into law of Sunday legislation has subjected many of our members to hardships and cruel persecutions. A revival of the Sunday Blue Laws always opens the way for religious bigotry to stir the smoldering embers of persecution; and it is impossible to set a bound beyond the limits which it dare not go.

We, therefore, ask your Honorable Body to refrain from any course which may lead again to the persecution of individuals or sects who have the divine and Constitutional right to differ on points of religious dogmas, and to enjoy the free exercise of their religious functions in such a manner and at such a time as they may choose, provided the exercise of that choice respects the same and equal rights of their neighbors.

And we, your memorialists, beg leave to assure you that we are kindly disposed to support the government of our country and to maintain a due submission to the lawful exercise of its authority in purely civil matters.

Signed by order of the Convention:

-----, President.

-----, Secretary.

15. *Whereas,* The *Liberty* magazine is doing a very effective work among state legislators, executive officers, and judges of state supreme courts, in molding sentiment against religious legislation and the enforcement of Sunday laws; therefore,

*Resolved,* That our conference continue to supply the *Liberty* magazine to the members of the state legislature, the governor and his cabinet, and the state supreme and circuit court judges, and that the necessary expense involved in this item be taken out of the annual collection for the local religious liberty work.

16. *Resolved,* That we put forth an effort at our camp-meeting to get our people to subscribe for *Liberty* at the club rate of 20 cents per subscription, when ordered in clubs of five subscriptions, to

be sent to one address; or, at 25 cents per yearly subscription, in club orders of four or more subscriptions, to one or more addresses.

17. *Whereas*, "The advocates of temperance fail to do their whole duty unless they exert their influence, by precept and example, by voice and pen and vote, in behalf of prohibition and total abstinence;" therefore,

*Resolved*, That our people prepare for united and effective action whenever the opportunity is granted to vote against the liquor traffic, and that our people be encouraged to circulate our splendid temperance literature upon this subject.

18. *Resolved*, That we place ourselves on record as favoring the national prohibition of the liquor traffic as the most effective measure for the elimination of this national curse.

19. *Resolved*, That we here in conference assembled extend a vote of thanks to the Agricultural Association of Licking County for the use of their grounds;

(a) Especially, Mr. Lake, Sup.; Mr. Dudgeon, Sec'y, and Mr. Moxley, caretaker:

To the Y. M. C. A. for courtesies extended to the delegates; to the Chamber of Commerce for their hearty co-operation and assistance in securing the Fair grounds:

(b) To the Interurban Street Car Company and the Electric Light Company.

And that a copy of this resolution be presented to each for these courtesies.

20. *Resolved*, That a hearty vote of thanks be extended to the "Newark American Tribune" and the "Newark Advocate" for the kindness shown in the publishing of the news of the conference and camp-meeting, and that a copy of this resolution be sent to Mr. C. L. H. Long and Mr. Frank A. Woolson, the editors of the same.

It was noticed by those who had best opportunity to observe that there was a good spirit pervading the camp, which was not even disturbed by the unpleasant experiences which followed the two storm periods each Sabbath. This will undoubtedly prove a great resource individually and for the work as we strive to effect greater progress and draw closer to the great Leader of this movement.

### Treasurer's Annual Report

Dear Brethren and Sisters:

The yearly report of finances is herewith submitted to you who are assembled in the 54th session of the Ohio Conference.

You have read about and heard of the steady progress of the work of this last

message and will gain much satisfaction in knowing that Ohio contributed to that progress in the increase of finances as well as supplying volunteers, those two essential factors, men and means.

You will gather other details from the printed reports supplied, but a few of the most important groups of figures are here given:

Balance on hand Jan. 1, 1915	1,095 37
Tithe receipts for 1915	44,137 19
Refund to operating fund	1,938 78
Total	47,171 34

#### EXPENDITURES:

Paid in support of home work	27,783 07
C. U. C. tithe	4,413 70
Sustentation	2,648 19
Missions—20 percent	9,793 48
	44,638 44

Balance of operating fund 2,532 90

Our financial statement indicates that with resources of \$2,778.35 (Cash \$2,566.62 and Accts. Rec. \$211.73) and liabilities of \$87.72 (Accts. Pay. \$54.00, Y. P. S. Bal. \$33.72), our present worth is \$2,690.63 to the close of 1915. This includes a gain of \$46,000.07, tithe, etc., and losses in salary, expense, and percent of money outside the conference of \$43,879.13,—a net gain of \$2,120.94.

With the exception of \$33.72, the Missionary Volunteer Society balance, all trust funds have been passed on for use in the several lines of work and are here listed in groups:

Local Trust Funds	605 87
Home Mission "	180 24
Educational "	238 06
Foreign Mission "	23993 12
Total	25017 29

#### RECEIPTS, ALL SOURCES

Tithe	44,137 19
Refund Operating	1,938 78
Miscellaneous	25,017 29
Total	71,093 26

Should we add to this total \$9,835.33, the amount of local church expense, and \$1,618.61, the estimated amount of literature ordered for missionary use, we have a total of \$82,547.20, which represents the total amount contributed in support of the work in every phase. This is \$10,363.93 more than for 1914 and 18.7 percent of the income indicated by tithe receipts. A per capita of \$37.02,—92 cents increase 1915 over 1914 with membership increase of 130. By the same comparison, the \$23,993.12 for missions is 5.4 percent of our income. (Chart 81.3 percent for self and 18.7 percent for the work.)

In order to bring results up to date, the records for the first six months of 1916 need to be reviewed, thus giving the most definite evidence of progress. Tithe receipts for that period total \$24,559.96, an increase over the first six months last year of \$4,194.43 or 13 per

cent. To better illustrate what that means in reaching our \$50,000 goal of this year, note the detail of this chart. The upper blocks represent the conference comparisons and the balance the churches. (The chart by the use of red and black lines showed the comparative receipts 1915 and 1916 and a general increase in the latter, first six months.) If receipts in the first six months are duplicated in the last six months, then it would require but 2¼ percent increase besides by all to reach our goal. With 36 percent sent outside the conference, the opposite diagram shows the urgency of larger receipts to answer the calls throughout the state. (Receipts and expense compared by months showing an excess in the latter part of the time.) We also solicit your continued efforts to eliminate that black section in the circle, which represents the non-tithe payers in our membership. Though it has shrunk from 18 to about 14 percent, the influence is far reaching and according to our hope, every one should have an active part in the advancement of the work by faithful stewardship.

In further reviewing our progress and possibilities by earnest united efforts, the mission funds should claim some attention, that we may demonstrate our determination to speed "this message to all the world" in such a substantial way that more messengers be sent to the needy fields.

The success of the 1914 campaign finishing with an average of 21 cents a member per week and a surplus of \$1,485.72 over our quota seemed to give greater impetus, for the close of 1915 showed an average of 23 cents and a surplus of \$3,121.00. One way of giving equivalent of what our total of \$23,993.12 would accomplish in foreign fields is that it would support 26 foreign ministers in China, or 260 native evangelists, or 670 Bible women. And remember then that some provinces are not yet entered, and in others, calls are beyond the ability of the working force. This chart is offered to explain the detail of our 20 cent campaign. (The chart showing zigzag lines which mark the progress of the churches black for 1915 and red for 1916) To physicians, it might seem a chart of one's heart condition, and it is not so unlike it, for in proportion the message is circulated to regions beyond. The majority, though would be reminded of a European war map with the battle line marked. The straight line, twenty cents, shows how some have advanced while others have fallen back. Do you think there is any similarity in the importance of straightening out our line for more speedy advancement? Results through your efforts and the Lord's guidance and blessing are indeed gratifying, but such as this report would

fail in its purpose if past results and future plans are not merged to advantage for advancement.

We view the problem at these various angles that the importance of a definite goal, united effort and needs of the work, may be emphasized, and means suggested whereby the resources of the work may all become working capital for the greatest possible progress of the message. Here is another chart which shows the extent of the Review circulation in Ohio on a basis of one copy to every three members. (Comparison of the membership-black line and the Review circulation-the red line) What difference does it make to the work if the Review does not reach the homes of the members; or if taken, is not more than slipped from the wrapper, compared with its regular visits where its good counsel, and its interesting reports from workers at home and abroad are carefully read? Which class will make greater effort to speed the message forward through every plan and campaign? Every member can help in "the Review in every home" by soliciting subscriptions, taking the Review when opportunity affords in telling others what they miss, and in helping to place the Review where it would not otherwise be ordered.

Your attention is again called to the close relation and importance of systematic giving to this world-wide movement. Many signed the goal cards, making a total of nearly \$4,000.00 they aim to regularly pay during the year in the several ways or funds; others are also contributing regularly. The total to July 31 shows \$9666.41 paid on a quota of \$23,264.80. According to the calls from the front, our aim of \$30,000.00 should be reached, that we prove of the same aggressive attitude. Were you to count the workers in foreign lands from the Buckeye State, you would find twenty-two, not including the families. In the military program, the folks at home would be especially interested in the Ohio boys,—recruits and supplies and the part they have in the success of the American forces. Past response indicates our folks at home are willing to sacrifice and are anxious that the Ohio brigade be kept supplied in men and means assisting the forces under the leadership of Prince Immanuel to plant His banner in every land, carrying the good tidings to those who are anxiously waiting the conquest. Thus will Ohio help to hasten the time of triumph by a long advance stride in 1916.

Respectfully submitted,  
H. D. HOLTM.

The baptismal class at the close of camp numbered over twenty with others deferred.

## Ohio Tract Society Sales

### Report for 1915

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace; that publisheth salvation, that saith unto Zion thy God reigneth. Isa. 52 : 7.

An inspired commentation on the above scripture reads as follows: "How then shall they call on Him in Whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of Whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach except they be sent? As it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace and bring glad tidings of good things. Rom. 10:14, 15.

We have chosen these texts for the introduction of our report because we believe that they have a special application to the work of our department. We are engaged in the publication of the Gospel of peace to those within our borders. Our literature work occupies no small place in this work. Of the several agencies for making known the unsearchable riches of Christ none are more important than "the Trumpet-tongued Press." If we look back over history, we can come to no other conclusion than that the Master Mind of an Infinite God lead man to bring into use this mighty weapon just at the time most needed. As early as 1423 A. D., Lawrence Coster conceived the idea of printing from wooden blocks, and although kept a secret for a time, yet, we find the first book to be actually printed was off the press and ready for distribution as early as 1456 A. D. This was the Holy Bible. The art soon developed and the power of the printing press in the Reformation of the fifteenth century can hardly be overestimated. The mighty pen of Luther was so large that its end reached to Rome, where it pierced the ears of the lion that was couching there, and caused the triple crown of the pope to shake. The day on which the monk of Wittenberg posted up his theses, occupies a distinguished place among the great days of history. They contained truth, and truth is light, and light must necessarily diffuse itself and penetrate the darkness on every hand. The theses were just as applicable to Christendom as to Wittenberg, and as hostile to the great indulgence market at Rome as to the little one at Juterbock. Now was seen the power of that instrumentality which God had prepared beforehand for this emergency—the printing press. Copied with the hand, how slowly would these propositions have traveled, and how limited their influence would have been, but the printing press, multiplying copies, sowed them like snow flakes over Saxony.

Other printing presses were set at work, till speedily there was no country in Europe where the theses of the monk of Wittenberg were not, as well known as in Saxony. In a fortnight these propositions were circulated all over Germany. They were soon translated into other languages and within one brief month they had made the tour of Europe. It seemed to use the words of Myconius, 'as if angels had been carriers.' None valued more than Luther did, the invention of printing. "Printing," said he, "is the latest and greatest gift by which God enables us to advance the things of the Gospel." Thus you can see that printing was indeed, one of the prime agents of the Reformation. The ideas had long been born, but printing gave them wings.

History repeats itself. To us has been committed even a greater work than that of Luther. We are to complete that which he so nobly began, and while we are not in the infant stage of printing, yet we can use nothing so effectively as the printed page. A certain writer has said that "a good book will go anywhere, sea or land; goes into cabin or palace, reaches those otherwise unreachable; waits its time to be heard, is never tired of speaking; can travel farther and cheaper than any, and is unaffected by climate and untouched by fever; once started off, calls for no salary; costs nothing to feed or clothe; never changes its voice and lasts forever."

The spirit of prophecy has told us that, "The Holy Spirit will impress minds as they read the books, just as He impresses the minds of those who listen to the preaching of the word. The same ministry of angels attends the books that contain the truth as attends the work of the minister. Man. for C. p. 9. This being true then how beautiful are the feet of him (minister, colporteur, or lay-member) who bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace etc." And, Paul by inspiration could have just as truly interrogated by saying, "How then shall they read the Third Angel's Message without our literature?" And how shall they read our literature except we distribute it? And how can we distribute it except you and I get to work? Again the spirit of prophecy has told us that "the work can never be finished until the men and women comprising our church membership rally to the work." That every sanctified heart will be pressed into service. Vol. 9, p. 117, 47. This is the work of the hour and a clarion call to you and me "to go work in my vineyard today." We can never find a better time than today. Shall we not now, at this important meeting, renew our vows and reconsecrate ourselves for definite service and say, "Here am I Lord send me?" I am glad that "there is a

going in the tops of the mulberry trees' and that God's people shall be willing in the day of His visitation. I trust we may get a new vision of our work and responsibilities at this time and all go forth with renewed determination to make the year to come the best in the history of the Third Angel's Message in Ohio.

We are very glad for what was accomplished in 1915, yet we believe that much more could have been done to the glory of God and for the good of the work. Ohio is a great field, and while we are heading the list of all the conferences in the North American Division Conference and perhaps the whole world, so far as subscription book work is concerned, yet our territory is just as good as ever, and much more remains to be done ere our Lord returns.

### Notice

All having the home workers prospectus and desire to use them this fall, will please return the same to us at once for reconstruction and proper prices, bringing them up to date. We will gladly do this free of charge and return them to you as soon as possible.

OHIO TRACT SOCIETY.  
(J. I. CASSELL.)

### Subscription Book Sales

Despite the fact that we passed through a financial crisis early in 1915, and regardless of the wet summer season, our faithful band of colporteurs sold the magnificent sum of \$23,528.55 worth of books or an average of nearly \$2,000 per month. This was practically the same as the previous year and indicates faithful work on the part of field secretary, assistant, and their co-laborers. These laborers, as they go from door to door merit and we know crave our prayers. There is no class of laborers more worthy our hearty support than they. We have endeavored to do all in our power to make their work a success. We have watched their reports from week to week with a great deal of interest. We are convinced that faithful time in the field will solve largely most difficulties along financial lines. I am glad to say that there has been a gradual improvement along this line the past year and the results are self-evident. Our total business for the present year up to July 31, amounts to \$21,948.96. If we are able to continue this splendid record the balance of the year our total sales including periodicals and Bibles will go beyond the fifty thousand dollar mark.

The following is a comparative report for 1914 and 1915.

	1915	1914
Sub. Books	\$23,528.55	\$24,141.20
Trade Books	1,716.12	1,413.90
H. W. Books	569.45	1,203.10
Tracts	962.51	1,226.37
Miscellaneous	1,050.19	596.41
Periodicals	8,346.03	10,743.99
Whole Total	38,854.90	42,023.77

Thus we rounded up the year 1915 with a total business from all sources amounting to \$38,854.90. Our cash sales amounted to \$22,960.34.

I have thus given you a brief view into our records for 1915 and I believe that you will agree that it has been one of progress in many lines. Its record has been made in the books of Heaven, and if we have neglected to do our part in making it what it ought to have been, surely God will hold us responsible for such neglect. On the other hand, if we have done all we could, or what God demanded of us, the record will witness for us when the final retribution is made. However this may be, let us press together unitedly in the work and do all in our power to make 1916 what it ought to be. I wish to express my appreciation for the part each has performed in making the record of the Ohio Tract Society what it has been; for the hearty co-operation of both the conference committee and my co-laborers both in the office and in the field. I feel that I owe them much for the prayers and hearty support during my affliction the past year. As many of you know I was on the verge of the grave one year ago. God in His infinite mercy has seen fit to restore my health to a remarkable degree. I give Him all the glory, and I humbly ask your continued prayers that God may give me strength to humbly perform my part in this fast closing work and ever be ready to do and to go where duty calls. J. I. CASSELL.

Owing to the good interest shown by people from the city, it was decided to hold a tent effort following the camp-meeting. This is well located down in the city in charge of Elders Weaver and Miller, assisted by several of our young people, from Academia, who will strengthen the musical part especially.

### Field Secretary's Report

Year Ending December 31, 1915

"The Lord gave the word; great was the company that published it. Ps. 68:11. This company was great in two ways. It was great in numbers, and great because of the work it was doing. This text applies to the publishing work as a whole, and we have seen its remarkable fulfillment in the wonderful progress of the work in the earth. Ohio has done her share in helping to fulfill this prophecy as our report will show.

1915 has been a wonderful year to those who believe this message. Prophecy has been crowding into history at a rapid rate. We are rapidly traveling toward the end. One of the best indications of its approaching is the wonderful progress that is being made in the sale of our large books.

1915 was a year of perplexity in the earth. Men's hearts have been failing them for fear. The farmer was discouraged because of the heavy rains. In many places business was at a standstill. But the colporteur knows the source of his power. He does not look at outward conditions. He must lean upon the strong arm of God if success is obtained. Success is not secured "By might nor by power, but by My spirit saith the Lord of Hosts." This power has never failed. While we have had to face adverse conditions from without and from within, we can give a report of large sales.

Our sales for the year totaled \$24,966.10. In 1914 we sold \$25,520.23. This gives us a slight loss of \$54.13. But with our large sales of the year before, we were glad to even come so near the 1914 figure. However, we feel it proper to show why we had even this slight loss.

First, the colporteur work trains men for other lines. It is one of our greatest training schools. This being true we expect to be called upon from time to time to release men for other work, or to fill positions elsewhere. Ohio seems to be an exceptionally good field in which to train men. During the year 1915, and the first half of 1916 we have been called upon to furnish the following from our force.

Two for the ministry.  
Three Field Secretaries.  
One assistant Field Secretary.  
One church school teacher.

The ones selected always being our experienced workers, and so many being called in such a short time it naturally cuts into our reports. We are glad, however, that Ohio has a class of workers in the field that are capable of filling these positions. It might be of interest to state that every conference in this Union, except one, during the past year has been or is being manned by a former Ohio colporteur and doing it successfully. Also the Union Secretary was one of our number.

Second, our reports were cut considerably because of a loss in students. The mature student goes to Washington, and it being so far we are unable to compete with our closer conferences. At first we felt this keenly, but in many respects it proved a blessing in disguise. While we appreciate the work of our students, yet the work that is of most value to us is done by the regulars, who work permanently. Our

not being loaded so heavily with students, we turned our attention to securing regulars. Our report for the first seven months of 1916 will show with what result.

A report of the work in 1915 is interesting, but as we are now on the last half of 1916 we will now turn to what is being done at the present time. I am sure this will be of greater interest to this conference. The balance of this report will be devoted to what we have been doing the past seven months, and of our policy for the future.

It has been our plan to follow the instruction God has given us to build up this branch of the work. We have been told, "As much care and wisdom must be used in selecting men for this work as for the ministry." In harmony with this instruction our conference a year ago passed a resolution that the conference committee should pass upon all the names of persons desiring to take up this line of work. This has been of great help to us and has lifted the standard higher than ever before. Our aim is to have only such workers in the field as will rightly represent the truth. The day when everybody and anybody can sell books is past. As a result of this policy you have before you this noble company of self-sacrificing men and women. These workers I am sure are worthy and have the moral support of this conference. As a result of this careful selecting our sales have grown beyond our fondest hopes. At the beginning of the year we set a goal of \$1,000 per week for this year. We are glad to report that we are now averaging that amount each week and have been for some time. Ohio according to published reports is now selling, and during the entire year of 1915, sell more books than any other conference in the denomination.

There are at the present time 28 regular colporteurs devoting their entire time to this work. In addition to these we have 10 who are working for the summer, or devoting part of their time to the work.

We will now study the chart for a few moments, and it will show the progress of our work by years since 1908.

*Chart*—(Here a chart comparing sales by years was used.)

This chart has shown you the results of our work in dollars, but there is another side that gives us greater joy. It is not often that a colporteur has the privilege of seeing people accept the truth as a direct result of his work. But this past year God has given us results that have greatly encouraged our workers. Throughout the conference 17 have accepted the truth as a direct result of the work done by the colporteurs. You will note this is as many as often come in through an entire

series of meetings. We rejoice to see such results from our labors.

Truly our hearts have been made to rejoice to see how God has blessed the work this past year. The credit for this success must first be given to Christ, our mighty Captain, who lead against the foe. It has been His guiding hand that has led us on to victory. Again, this good report was made possible by the faithfulness of this company of colporteurs who were willing to face the cold winds of winter, and the scorching sun of summer in order to carry our truth filled literature to the people of this state. The figures give us only the visible results, the invisible report is written in the records above.

No doubt many ask why this company is out doing this line of work when it means such a sacrifice, and there are so many opportunities for them in other lines. Is it for money?—No because they do not see much of that.

Is it for honor?—No for there is very little honor given to the one who sells books. Then what is our reward? That will be given to us when we get in the new earth. Here is an illustration of what will be our joy at that time.

*Illustration*:—(Here the Field Sec'y showed an illustration of a colporteur's reward. This illustrated the colporteur in the new earth and meeting an individual who was there as a result of the colporteur selling him a book.)

## Home Missionary Report

Year Ending Dec. 31, 1915

"Go ye therefore and teach all nations." Matt. 24; 19. This is the commission given to every believer in the message. The command was not given to some special class, but Christ gave it to all His followers. The duty to go and tell to others the Gospel story, is just as much our obligation today as it was Christ's followers at that time. And where were they to begin? Luke gives definite instructions. He says, "That repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His (Christ's) name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem." Luke 24:47. Jerusalem was the home of the early believers. I believe that in that day missionary work began at home; and I believe that it should begin at home today. Christ's followers of that early time had a message to carry to the world. The obligation was laid upon all. There is a message due the world today and the responsibility of giving it to the world is resting upon us. The same instruction has been given us. I read in Vol. 9, page 117.

"The work of God in the earth can never be finished until the men and women comprising our church-membership rally to the work, and unite their efforts

with those of ministers and church officers."

This department of the conference has been organized, to give instructions, so that our church membership might know how to do effective service for the Master. This department is the youngest in the conference, but not the least in its work. Its laboring force embraces every individual who believes the message. Our report for the year's work shows the results from the labors of our church members. Here are some of the special items of work done by our people during the year.

Missionary visits	4,561
Bible readings and cottage meetings held	1,520
Papers sold	17,800
Papers lent or given away	57,561
Books sold	2,749
Books lent or given away	4,286
Tracts sold	1,077
Tracts lent or given away	38,615

This seed that is being sown is now bearing fruit and souls are being saved. Our missionary societies report 72 having been converted during the year.

These figures are encouraging, but in view of the times in which we are living is it enough? Our church members number a little over 2,000. We would like to see that many working. This chart gives an idea of the proportion of our members reporting work done this past year.

The time has come when this department should be placed on a good strong basis. Every individual should be enlisted for service. Your present secretary has been unable to devote as much attention to this department in the past few months as he would like owing to the heavy demands upon his time from the growing book work. The colporteur work has enlarged until at the present time it is taking the entire time of two men, so that we have been unable to carry out detailed plans along home missionary lines.

As far as possible we have endeavored to give practical instruction on how to do home missionary work. In the larger centers we have held missionary conventions. At these meetings studies were given on various lines of service. The results were most gratifying. The members were stirred to greater activity, and where there were no societies we aimed to organize one. When we took up this work a little over a year ago there were 17 societies in the conference. At the close of 1915 there were 43 working societies. As the societies have increased so have the working members.

As to future work we do not know what will be done, but we hope that every individual member will do the work that God has for him to do. There is a

place for all. We need the Lord and He needs us. We trust that no one will shirk. The words of the Negro poet very strikingly illustrates this point.

The following poem is by Paul Lawrence Dunbar the Negro poet, who died recently:

"The Lord had a job for me, but I had so much to do,  
I said, 'You get somebody else—or, wait till I get through.'  
I don't know how the Lord came out, but He seemed to get along—  
But I felt kind-a sneakin' like, 'cause I knowed I done Him wrong.  
One day I needed the Lord—needed Him myself—needed Him right away—  
And He never answered me at all—but I could hear Him say  
Down in my accusin' heart: Brother,  
I've got too much to do;  
You get somebody else, or wait till I get through.'  
Now when the Lord He have a job for me, I never tries to shirk;  
I drops what I have on hand and does the good Lord's work:  
And my affairs an run along, or wait, till I get through.  
Nobody else can do the job that God's marked out for you."

*In Western Canadian Tidings.*

### Notes

Elder G. F. Enoch gave one of his interesting lectures on conditions in the mission fields and progress of our work there on Tuesday evening, August 22, using a large number of slides. This with the talk at the early meeting next morning enabled those who heard to understand the needs of the field much better so that when an appeal was made at eleven o'clock in support of the \$45,000 Fund, \$2112.75 was pledged that the Washington Missionary College might maintain its place in preparing recruits for the foreign field.

It was thought that with the many calls made upon our people during the first part of the year and those already made at camp, that we could not expect so large a response when the final call came for the support of foreign missions on the last Sunday morning. However, in reviewing the needs and our responsibility, pledges were given to the amount of about \$1600, and in addition, about \$1700 conditioned on sale of property, etc. Surely this indicates a willingness to sacrifice, should we bear in mind the other items \$1 on \$5 to the tent fund, \$2,112 to the W. M. C. fund, \$800 in the two Sabbath schools, and \$150 by the young people for India. Thus we are given opportunity to measure up to our true stewardship and more definitely plan to answer the Macedonian call essential to the progress of this great movement.

The young people's meetings were well attended this year, and the program greatly strengthened by assistance from Professors M. E. Kern, C. P. Crager, B. F. Machlan, and C. L. Stone. Their pledging of \$150 for the work in India is but one item of how they can and are assisting in the progress of the message.

The book tent sales were about fifteen hundred dollars which proves it maintained its place as a busy corner of the camp and as effectual means of further circulating our literature.

In discussion of the resolution relative to the religious liberty work, the memorial presented by Elder Weaver and endorsed by the conference assembled was forwarded to Hon. Wm. A. Ashbrook, the Congressman from Ohio. In his acknowledgment of the same, he says in part, "I will be very glad to present the same to the House today, and have it referred to the proper committee for its consideration." Thus the above may prove effectual in the further endorsement of the important principle involved.

### Minutes of the Meetings of the Fifty-fourth Annual Conference Session Held at Newark, Ohio

August 17-27, 1916

The first session of the fifty-fourth annual conference was opened with a scripture reading by Doctor W. J. Venen, after which Elder A. G. Haughey invoked God's blessing upon the deliberations of the hour. The roll call of delegates was then responded to by seventy from the churches and thirty of the workers. On the suggestion of the chair and a motion by H. A. Weaver, the general workers were invited to join in the delegate privileges. Those thus included were Elder W. W. Prescott, Professor M. E. Kern, B. G. Wilkinson, Dr. D. H. Kress, Professor Crager, C. V. Leach, E. L. Richman, of the Review and Herald, Takoma Park, D. C., J. W. Mace, of the South Bend Branch, and J. L. McConaughy, of the Southern Publishing Association.

The next in order was the consideration of selecting working committees for the conference session. On motion by Dr. G. T. Harding, seconded by Elder D. E. Lindsey, it was voted to choose the large committee, by which others are to be selected, from the floor, the chairman of the session to be chairman of the committee. The nominations made the committee read as follows: E. K. Slade, J. F. Olmsted, R. E. French, W. W. Miller, F. R. Jaynes, F. M. Fairchild, F. H. Henderson, W. J. Venen, A. G. Haughey, A. R. Bell, R. S. Lindsay, H. A. Weaver, J. J. Marietta, R. I. Francis, Doctor V. L. Fisher.

Supported by a motion to that effect, the chair appointed F. M. Fairchild and the secretary as the committee on seating of delegates. The president of the conference then addressed the delegation by pointing out the many evidences of progress, earnest efforts and urgent needs in the work of the conference during the past year. Among the items mentioned are that several churches have been organized, and would be admitted later; while many places in the conference have been given much attention, the results above mentioned indicate possibilities in following up urgent calls elsewhere in the state; three hundred have been baptized, which indicates that our aim of five hundred for the present year is within reach: various needs in the several lines show that in carrying out the above aim, greater efforts and greater efficiency is needed on the part of worker and lay member the leading position of our book work by its results have shown earnest effort and large possibilities through the placing of this truthfilled literature; the steady increase of our tithe and offerings is another evidence of deep interest in the work and its progress; attention was called to the need of provision for home missionary work which would become most effective by placing a secretary in charge of that department, whereby we might more certainly realize the aim of every member being a more active worker; the city effort held in many places at a large expense have brought gratifying results, indicating more plainly our need in and responsibility to this phase of the work; in quoting a number of statistics for comparison, significant conclusion was drawn by stating that in all a gain of 45 percent was shown: thus we were urged to prove by current results that we desire to be God's instruments in the work to be performed in Ohio.

Adjournment was then in order until Sunday.

The second meeting was opened by prayer by Elder F. H. Henderson, after which the minutes were read. The call by the chair for the seating of other delegates showed twenty-two additional. The chair then announced the selection of the several committees: Nominating committee: B. G. Wilkinson, J. F. Olmsted, W. W. Miller, A. R. Bell, R. R. Hilborn, C. C. Webster, R. H. Patterson. Committee on Credentials and Licenses: D. H. Kress, J. J. Marietta, R. S. Lindsay, F. M. Fairchild, A. G. Haughey. Committee on Plans and Resolutions: W. J. Venen, N. S. Ashton, Bessie E. Acton, V. O. Panches, H. A. Weaver, J. D. Montgomery, R. I. Francis, J. I. Cassell, B. F. Machlan.

Next in order was the admission of new churches to the conference. The first was Bucyrus presented by Brother F. Herman,  
(Continued in the regular issue)