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CONFERENCE DIRECTORY.

President—W. J. STONE,
3735 N. Capitol ave., Indianapolis.
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ANNUAL ADDRESS

It gives me pleasure to be with you in this annual gathering, and I am exceedingly gratified to see so large an attendance at this meeting, although so far removed from the center of our churches in the state. This to me is a good omen and an indication of a missionary spirit, which shows that the first love is returning to God's people.

In the few remarks that I may be expected to make at the opening of this conference, I desire to be brief, yet place before you the true condition of our work and present some matters that should receive our careful attention at this session of the conference.

My connection with the work in Indiana is limited to one year; although I was chosen by your committee to take charge of the work in the conference a year ago last May. On account of sickness, my coming to the field and taking up active work was delayed until about September 1, 1903.

My experiences in the work have been varied, but upon the whole, very pleasant, as we have been conscious of the direct leading of Pro-

vidence in many of the moves that have been made and plans that have been adopted in our work.

I was not present at your camp-meeting one year ago and had nothing to do in the selection of the men who have been associated with me most intimately on the conference committee, but am pleased to say that our associations have been pleasant and that in all our plans there has been perfect harmony and concert of action, and not a discordant word as far as my knowledge goes. God has blessed the plans adopted, and as a result, scores of souls are rejoicing in the message today who were not with us one year ago, and God has greatly blessed us in the matter of finances.

We have endeavored during the last year, with the limited means at our command, to do aggressive work, entering new fields where the message had never been preached. We also endeavored to visit as many of our churches as possible, holding a few meetings and trying to encourage and strengthen those already in the faith. I think that fully three-fourths of the churches in the conference were visited during the winter by one or more members of the conference committee, and several general meetings have been held. As a result, a number of souls are to-day rejoicing in the message.

I have gleaned from different reports that I have received, the following new converts: At New Albany, 2; Tell City, 15; Vincennes and Princeton, 3; Manual Training School, 7; the total number at Indianapolis, 16; Peru, 18; Muncie, 1; West Lebanon, 2; Gas City, 10; Linton, 2; Elwood, 4; Fair Oaks, 1; Unionville, 6; Windfall, 4; Michaels, 4; Legonier, 2; Wolf Lake, 1; Dana, 1; Boggs town, 11; Williamsport, 8; Bedford, 2; Hartford City, 1; making a total of 113 converts to the faith during the past year; but this does not cover the whole field. Four new churches have been or-

ganized and will ask for admittance into this conference.

Last fall, when the special forward movement was inaugurated, our people engaged heartily in the missionary campaign, over 20,000 of the special Signs were ordered and nearly all sold. We had about 500 left, which have been distributed in this city since the workers' meeting began.

We believe that a greater missionary spirit has been manifested since that time in the sale and distribution of our other literature, from which we expect good results. Many of our churches are using the Family Bible Teacher, and souls are becoming interested in the truth.

While we have had a number of accessions to the faith, we have been pruning our church records so that a large number have been dropped from the records. In our visits to the churches we have tried to assist them in getting their church records in better condition, and by doing this, in some instances, have greatly lessened the church membership. We found that in many places where we formerly had a large enrollment of church members, their numbers have been greatly reduced through removals and apostasy; but the reports have remained about the same, and therefore do not show the real membership of the conference at the present time. If our membership was properly pruned, I feel certain that our numbers would be reduced about 20 per cent. below the report last published; or, in other words, instead of a membership of 2,000 we would not have over 1,600. Because of our inflated membership we have a large number of Object Lessons yet unsold, although our brethren in Indiana, that is, our active membership, have taken much interest in this work. This matter I will speak of further before I am through.

THE SCHOOL WORK.

The school work in our conference is in a prosperous condition. Our

Manual Training School building at Boggstown was completed last fall, and a very successful school with an enrollment of over 50 students has been conducted there during the past year. There have been quite a number of conversions, and we believe that we have a school second to no other in the Lake Union Conference. The work of the school will receive attention, and others will give a full report of it during this conference, so I will not take up your time to speak of it further at this meeting. We also conducted 15 church schools during the past year. In almost every instance these schools have been a success, and have been a great benefit to our churches as well as to our children. Most of these schools will be continued the coming year, and we hope to establish others.

FINANCES.

I feel that I could not give a true report of the work and condition of affairs in the conference without mentioning the matter of finances. As soon as I was able to give this matter some attention after coming into the conference, having a desire to know the exact condition of the conference financially, we arranged for the auditing of our laborers' accounts, which were audited up to the first of last September. We found that the audit of 1902 had not been settled, and that we were owing our laborers all the way from five to one hundred dollars each, making a total of about \$1,000. There had been no tithe paid to the Lake Union Conference since 1902, and \$1,300 had been borrowed with which to pay our laborers,—this with the amount already due them on their audit, made a sum total of about \$4,000 that we were behind on our tithe fund. We at once began to reduce this indebtedness, and God greatly blessed our efforts.

We reduced somewhat our force of laborers, and have endeavored to increase the flow of tithe into our treasury, and as a result of our united efforts upon the part of our workers and our faithful brethren and sisters, we have succeeded in paying off the tithe indebtedness of the conference, and when our tithe is received for the month of August, if as large as it was in June and July, we will be able to settle up with every laborer in full up to the first of September, and enter upon the coming year with our

tithe treasury free from debt; and, we trust, with the hearts and minds of our brethren and sisters filled with courage and renewed energy and zeal, to do more aggressive work and carry the message into new fields where it has never been preached, during the coming winter.

Bedside paying off our tithe indebtedness of \$4,000, we have been enabled in the past year to pay on our Object Lesson obligations \$692.02, and \$1,058.72 on the indebtedness of our Manual Training School, making a total of \$1,750.74 that has been paid on other indebtedness during the past year.

While this is very gratifying and encouraging to our brethren throughout the State, it leaves us with a debt still upon our hands in the Indiana Conference of at least \$15,000; however, we are not discouraged, as the Lord who has abundantly blessed us in the past year, is able, if we are faithful to Him, to still assist us in reducing this indebtedness, and we are confident there are better days for the work in Indiana. From the many expressions that I have heard, and from the letters that I have received, I am certain that confidence and courage are being restored in the hearts and minds of our brethren and sisters throughout the conference, and the future looks hopeful.

When our treasurer's report is presented, the different items that go to make up our present indebtedness will be given and all will be given an opportunity to ask questions. I might say, however, that two of these greatest obligations are the assuming of between four and five thousand dollars of the indebtedness of the General Conference Association which cannot be counted as a debt of this conference; then there is about the same amount owing the Berrien Springs school upon Object Lessons. This in a certain sense need not be counted as a debt as we have the books on hand, which, if sold, would nearly liquidate the debt; however, as it will cost us about that amount to sell the books and obtain the money to pay off this indebtedness, it amounts to the same thing as a debt resting upon us. Then we are owing in round number \$5,000 upon the Manual Training School property, and about \$2,600.00 to our publishing houses, besides other small amounts, making the sum total of

about fifteen or sixteen thousand dollars. As the most of the money owing our publishing houses is due the old Review and Herald Publishing Company, and this association has been placed in the hands of a receiver, and they wish to close up their business, we feel that the debt to the Review office demands our first attention.

We have many outstanding accounts against our different societies and individuals, and we trust that they will do all in their power to pay up these obligations to our Tract Society, that we may be enabled to settle as rapidly as possible with the Review and Herald Pub.Co. You need not be surprised, and we trust that you will not be offended, if soon after this camp-meeting those who are owing the Society receive an earnest request to settle these accounts.

MISSIONARY CAMP-MEETING.

We have been talking to our brethren through our conference paper, the Reporter, about making this a missionary camp-meeting. As you are well aware, we are publishing a Camp-meeting Daily Bulletin. This is a new departure for this conference, but after trying it in other conferences, I am satisfied that if the work is entered into heartily it will be a great blessing, not only in spreading the truth to the people of this city, but it will be a great spiritual blessing to those who engage in the work. I trust there will be a willingness upon the part of all our brethren and sisters, and a hearty response to the invitations given to engage in this work. We wish to make this camp-meeting a real missionary camp-meeting, not only to this city, but we desire that it may result in greater missionary activity in our work throughout the State; and also that we may get our eyes even beyond the border of our own conference, and I shall be glad to favor this conference sending one-half of its laborers to more destitute fields and support them with our means the coming year. I believe that this matter should be considered by our committee upon plans and recommendations.

THE FUTURE OF THE WORK IN THIS CONFERENCE.

There are some matters which I believe this conference should consider very carefully at this session. I

trust that the committee on plans will bring in a recommendation that will assist us in solving the question as to the best means of liquidating the debt upon our Manual Training School, and my heart would be rejoiced to see such an enthusiasm awakened at this conference that the debt upon this institution would be entirely liquidated, or at least be provided for. I would suggest also that this committee consider the matter of a more suitable name for our Manual Training Academy. I am satisfied in my own mind that a name could be selected much more appropriate and which would serve the cause at large to a better purpose than the name Boggstown Manual Training Academy. I shall be glad at least to know the minds of our brethren and sisters in regard to this matter.

Another matter that should demand the attention of this conference, is that of giving more attention to the canvassing work and the matter of circulating our literature throughout this state and especially in fields yet unentered. I hope to see some recommendations along this line, and trust that there will be a number of new volunteers who will take up this line of work.

There is another very important matter which I trust this body will consider and make some recommendation, that our future conference committee may know better its duty and what is desired upon the part of our brethren and sisters who compose this conference. Since listening to Elder Daniells' earnest discourse yesterday forenoon, we must be impressed that greater carefulness should be manifested, and more prayerful thought given by the committee upon credentials and licenses in reporting names of those who should be encouraged as workers in this state. What we need is burden bearers and those who are filled with the spirit and know what it is to wrestle with God and with souls until God gives fruit as the result of our labors.

I shall also be pleased to have this conference settle upon some plan by which we may quickly finish the Object Lesson work, and settle our obligations to the Berrien Springs school so that we may turn our attention to other lines of work.

There are other points which

should come up for our consideration and undoubtedly will be brought forth by our committee upon plans for our consideration, and I will here mention but one other point, and that is that of the medical missionary work.

I believe the time has fully come, when God would have the medical missionary work, which is the right arm of the message, planted upon a more substantial basis here in this conference. I believe that we should have a representative institution centrally located in this state where those who are afflicted can seek refuge and rational treatment. When I speak of an institution of this kind, I do not mean that we should attempt to establish a large institution and ask our brethren and sisters for pledges, but I believe that we should have a competent physician located perhaps in the city of Indianapolis and begin our work by simple treatment rooms, and let this grow and develop by the blessing of God into a sanitarium located in the suburbs or country in harmony with the instruction that has lately been given by the Lord. I would be glad to see a recommendation brought into this conference authorizing the incoming conference committee to consider this matter and to encourage this line of work and receive cash contributions to help build up an institution of this kind; but I would not be in favor of going into debt one dollar to establish an institution of this kind, *or any other*. I believe that we should firmly take a stand against piling up any more debts, but should resolve that we shall free ourselves from debt and hereafter pay as we go.

I have already made my remarks much longer than I had anticipated, and I will leave other matters that should come before this conference, for the committee which will be appointed for that work. We are here assembled to transact the business of this conference and lay plans for another year. The burdens which have rested upon the conference committee during the past year, we now turn over to you. We shall be glad to have your advice and counsel and help in planning the work for the coming year, and shall earnestly pray that God will be with us and bless us in all our deliberations.

W. J. STONE.

STRENGTHEN THE HANDS OF THE BUILDERS

Let the work in Washington move forward. Let every one act his part in self-denial and self-sacrifice. Our people are not to wait for more appeals, but are to lay right hold of the work, making those things which appear impossibilities, possibilities. Let each one ask himself, Has not the Lord entrusted me with means for the advancement of His cause? Has he not bidden His servants in Washington arise and build? Shall I, at this time of great importance, withhold my means, which God asks me to invest in raising up materials for Him? Let us be honest with the Lord. All the blessings that we enjoy come from Him; and if He has entrusted us with the talent of means that we may help to do His work, shall we hold back? Shall we say, No, Lord; my children would not be pleased, and therefore I shall venture to disobey God, burying His talent in the earth?

There should be no delay. The cause of God demands your assistance. We ask you, as the Lord's stewards, to put His means in circulation, to provide facilities by which many will have the opportunity of learning what is truth.

The temptation may come to you to invest your money in land. Perhaps your friends will advise you to do this. But is there not a better way of investing your means? Have you not been bought with a price? Has not your money been entrusted to you to be traded upon for Him? Can you not see that He wants you to use your means in helping to build meeting-houses, in helping to establish sanitariums, where the sick shall receive physical and spiritual healing, and in helping to start schools, in which the youth shall be trained for service, that workers may be sent to all parts of the world?

If they will be faithful in bringing to His treasury the means lent them, His work will make rapid advancement—many souls will be won to the truth, and the day of Christ's coming will be hastened.

God will prepare the way before His faithful people, and will greatly bless them. The righteousness of Christ will go before them, and the glory of God will be their reward. There will be joy in the heavenly courts, and joy, pure, holy joy, will

fill the hearts of the workers. To save perishing souls, they are willing to spend and be spent. Their hearts are filled with gratitude and thanksgiving. The consciousness of God's love purifies and ennobles their experience, enriching and strengthening them. The grace of heaven is revealed in the conquests achieved in winning souls to Christ.

So God's work in this world is to be carried forward. The church here below is to serve the Lord with self-denial and self-sacrifice and the most glorious triumphs are to be won.

ELLEN G. WHITE.

MINISTERS AND WORKERS

In the deliberations of the Conference, the following list of accredited workers were chosen:

CREDENTIALS—W. J. Stone, W. D. Curtis, C. H. Bliss, J. C. Harris, J. W. Covert, F. M. Roberts, W. A. Young, C. J. Buhaltz, Dr. Wm. Hill, J. M. Ellis, Byron Hagle.

MINISTERIAL LICENSES—U. S. Anderson, Jesse E. Dunn, J. E. Collins.

MISSIONARY CREDENTIALS—B. F. Machlan, W. C. McCuaig, A. C. Ford, H. S. Browning, J. F. Steele, J. F. Olmstead, E. C. Swartz, J. Theresa Thompson, Florence Niehaus, Mrs. R. W. McMahan, Inez A. E. Lay, G. A. Roberts, Robert Leach, John Niehaus, Mrs. Iva R. Stewart, Ella Leach.

OFFICERS OF THE CONFERENCE

The following is a list of the officers of the Indiana Conference, as elected at this meeting:

President, W. J. Stone, Indianapolis; Vice-Pres. W. D. Curtis, Fairland; Secy. and Treas. W. A. Young, Indianapolis.

Executive Committee: W. J. Stone, W. D. Curtis, W. A. Young, J. W. Moore, C. J. Buhalts.

Missionary Department: Missionary Secy., W. A. Young; Field Secretaries: A. C. Ford, W. C. McCuaig, H. S. Browning, Byron Hagle.

Sabbath School and Educational Dept: Supt., W. D. Curtis; Secy., Mrs. R. W. McMahan.

Directors of Indiana Association: President, W. J. Stone; vice-president, W. D. Curtis; secretary, T. A. Goodwin; treasurer, W. A. Young; auditor, W. H. Edwards; counselmen, A. L. Chew, C. J. Buhaltz.

Educational Board—Manual Training Academy; W. J. Stone, W. D. Curtis, B. F. Machlan, William Applegate, A. L. Strickler. Secretary and treasurer, H. H. Howard.

CAMP-MEETING NEWS AND NOTES

[From Camp-Meeting Daily Bulletin.]

Our Camp—The White City—Is also styled "Sunny Side."

Many of the people of Martinsville are attending the meetings at the camp.

Prof. E. A. Sutherland, of Berrien Springs, Michigan, arrived in the camp yesterday.

Mr. J. B. Blosser, of Berrien Springs, the Field Secretary of the Lake Union Conference, is with us.

Elder A. G. Daniells, of Washington, D. C., President of the General Conference, arrived Sabbath morning.

Monday afternoon, Elder A. G. Daniells gave a missionary talk, which greatly moved the congregation.

Prof. W. W. Prescott, of Washington, D. C., editor-in-chief of the "Review and Herald," arrived last Friday.

Last Friday evening, Elder John W. Covert was summoned to conduct the funeral service of Brother I. B. Marqueses, of Denver, Ind.

Our little children have sold all the "Life Boats" the department furnished them, and are pleading for more. The little ones are enthusiastic canvassers.

The early morning meeting was spent in listening to Elder Daniells giving a history of the establishment of our denominational headquarters in Washington, D. C.

The electric lights and decorations of the pavilion at the White City have been replaced, and the tent looks as cheerful as before the storm. Come and hear the truths being presented.

Late Tuesday afternoon, Miss M. Bessie DeGraw, of Berrien Springs, Mich., the educational secretary of the Lake Union Conference, arrived at the White City. She was welcomed by her many friends.

We greatly appreciate the hospitality of the citizens of Martinsville, who came to our rescue at the time of the tornado of the 14th inst., and offered our campers the comforts of their homes; we thank them for their kindness.

Thirty-seven persons were baptized Sunday in White River, Elders Harris and Covert administering the ordinance.

There were 100 tents pitched. Each tent was numbered for convenience, making it possible to find the various campers without difficulty.

Elder E. W. Farnsworth and wife, who recently returned from Australia, arrived at the camp Monday afternoon. They had hardly entered the White City when they were met by their many warm friends from whom they were separated several years.

It was very interesting to see Mrs. Lou Kirby-Curtis, who has charge of the work of the children, and her co-workers getting the little people ready and starting them out, under the direction of their teachers, on a tour of selling "Life Boats," a missionary paper, published in Chicago. They sold many copies.

It has been quite impossible to obtain the exact number in attendance at this meeting, as many rented rooms in the homes adjacent to the camp-grounds. There were 436 tented on the ground, according to the census; while the number rooming would most likely raise the number quite a little above the 600 mark.

There was a new and quite interesting feature added to the program for the children's meeting yesterday morning. The representative of the Central Passenger Association, who had come upon the ground to sign the railway certificates, attended the children's meeting and gave them a very interesting talk. The children and those in charge of them, greatly enjoyed the talk.

OUR LITTLE FOLK'S BIBLE NATURE

Is the title of a new book just issued by the Review & Herald Publishing Co. The author is Mrs. Ella King Sanders who wrote the "Easy Lessons For Children" in the "Best Stories." Mrs. Sanders is one of the most experienced primary church school teachers in the denomination, and having had extended observation and preparation in lesson writing for children, she is thoroughly competent to produce a primary book adapted to the needs of the children in the home and the school.

The book is the same size, and contains the same number of pages as "Our Paradise Home." Beautifully bound in board and cloth with an appropriately colored design cover. Retail prices 25 and 40 cents.