UNION CONFERENCE SPECIAL NO. 2 Cake Union Herald

"In due season we shall reap, if we faint not"

Vol. VIII

Berrien Springs, Mich., Wednesday, March 15, 1916

No. 11

Biennial Report of the East Michigan Conference

To the Officers, Delegates, and Brethren of the Lake Union Conference, the East Michigan Conference sends greetings and prays for the triumph of the message in all the world.

Since our last meeting a little less than two years ago, the social, commercial, and political aspect of the whole world has greatly changed. For years we have salt of the earth. We are grateful that the famine that usually follows war is not devastating our homes and snatching our loved ones from our sides in the bloom of health and returning them to us after a few months or weeks sick and emaciated, with death written in every word, look, and action.

Progress

Believing the canvassing work to be an important part of our work, special effort has been put forth to



LAKE UNION CONFERENCE COMMITTEE AND GENERAL WORKERS

admonished men and women to beware of the peace advocates, and they have laughed us to scorn, saying, "We see no signs of war." But now they turn to us for a testimony and ask, "Is this Armageddon?" This is the harvest time of the gospel in America, but the laborers are indeed few.

Gratitude

Situated, as we are, in a land of peace, while a large portion of the world is in the deadly grasp of the war-god, calls forth the heart-felt gratitude of the East Michigan Conference for the wonderful way in which the Lord has, thus far, kept our nation from entering into this titanic struggle. The continuance of this reign of peace will depend on our continuing to be the bring this branch of the work into more prominence.

I am unable to give comparative statement for 1912-13 and 1914-15, but can say that while we experienced a falling off of 22 per cent in 1914 as compared with 1913, we have had a gain of 62 per cent in 1915 over 1914. It thus appears that we have started up the incline, and with the strong leadership reposing in Brother H. W. Johnson we look forward to more aggressive work for 1916-17.

School

The educational work has received much attention under the careful and aggressive supervision of Miss Lotta E. Bell and Prof. T. W. Steen.

A very strong growth has been witnessed both in

church schools and in the academy. The church schools have increased from 16 to 26 and the increase in attendance is much greater in proportion than the increase in number of schools. A deep interest is also taken to increase the efficiency of the teachers in these schools. Detroit and Jackson each have a school in which they employ two teachers.

In the academy we see the same growth; the present enrolment being the largest in the history of the school. This growth has been steady for the past three years, and is due to the untiring efforts of the faculty and the general co-operation of all the workers in the conference. Two years ago we had a debt of about \$14,000, which has been cleared off since July, 1914. For the past two years the school has operated without loss. Now that the debt is canceled and the interest stopped, there are better days before our school.

Every effort is being put forth to close all leaks in operation and bring the benefits of the school within the reach of the largest possible number of our young people. Special care is being taken to give the boys and girls the largest amount of personal attention possible in the hope of sending on to Emmanuel Missionary College a noble and devoted class of young people to take up their college work. We do not expect to build larger, but we do expect to increase our attendance until every foot of available room is occupied.

Financial

It will be of interest to take a survey of the financial growth during the past two years, as compared with the previous period of 1912-13. For 1912-13 our tithe was \$74,684.39; for 1914-15 it was \$85,442.01, giving a net increase of \$10,757.62 for the two years. In the line of missions the increase has been even more marked. For 1912-13 our mission offerings amounted to \$20,998.41 and for 1914-15, \$34,542.72, giving a net increase of \$13,544.32. For the same periods 1912-13, our two-per-cent was \$2,863.58, but for 1914-15 it was \$4,220.79, giving a net increase of \$13,357.21 or nearly 50 per cent. The total increase of \$11,357.21 or the biennial period 1914-15 above 1912-13 is \$25,-659.15, besides several thousand that was raised and applied on the academy debt.

The first time our conference ever raised the full quota for missions, came contemporaneously with a strong effort to clear the conference of debt. During the same year the conference broke all previous records in the number of souls baptized.

The past two years have been the best in the history of the conference in souls saved, nearly 500 souls having been baptized. A strong effort has also been made to bring the whole people up to a higher plane of living. We believe our efforts in this line have been blessed of God. About \$2,000 worth of equipment has been added to our evangelistic outfit so that all companies can be well provided for the summer efforts.

• Our Needs

Our needs are more, well-prepared, fully consecrated young people coming from our schools to take up the different lines of work. We should have scores in the field with our books and magazines, who as they work in the different cities, would inspire our people in the lines of home missionary work. Our ministers who have done such faithful work both publicly and from house to house should also be members of the King's Pocket League.

Then we need five or six strong college graduates whose love for lost souls would take them from home to home with the printed page, into the family circle in humble prayer, and to the pulpit with a message that would stir men's hearts as only a message from God can stir them.

Our Plan

We need men who are alive on the Temperance Question, who for humanity's sake would throw their best effort into the field on the side of total abstinence, happy homes, and a pure religion. We ought to place 50,000 temperance *Instructors* in the homes of the people of East Michigan before November 7. We are negotiating with one man to spend five weeks in a special campaign in our cities, and another to stump the field from August 1 to November 7 in order to set before the people of our territory the principles of Seventh-day Adventists on this great question and give all our strength on the side of a dry state.

We look to the homes and our schools to give us the young men and women with strength of character and special preparation to meet these needs.

We are to have a June camp-meeting this year, and plan for a strong, soul-saving campaign to the close of the year. We expect to carry forward strong efforts in Detroit, Saginaw, Bay City, and Lansing, besides other advance moves in smaller places. We expect that our strong evangelistic efforts will so encourage our people that a healthy interest in home missionary work will spring up, and a splendid increase in our tithe will also follow. A converted people will do all in their power for the finishing of this work, hence we plan to give strong help to our churches while pushing our evangelistic campaign.

Wm. Guthrie

^a Biennial Report of the Indiana Conference

During the last biennial period, Providence has truly smiled on the people of the Indiana Conference. God has indeed blessed them in basket and store. The Lord is full of compassion and gracious; slow to anger and plenteous in mercy. Eternity will reveal how fully we manifested our gratitude to God for His bountiful gifts. With deep gratitude we acknowledge His blessings, both temporal and spiritual.

Membership

The Indiana Conference is composed of 63 churches, with a membership of 1,735. During the last two years, 407 have been baptized and united with the churches. We have endeavored to impress upon our church officers the importance of making an exact record of their membership and removing from the church clerk's books those who have moved away, apostatized or died. Much has been accomplished along these lines, yet, however, there are other names which should be taken from our church records, which would reduce our membership considerably.

Finances

The tithe received during the last biennial period amounted to \$53,781.10, showing a strong growth over the previous two years. The tithe for 1915 was about \$2,000 in excess of that for 1914. In 1914 there was tithe sent outside of Indiana amounting to \$7,786.73, and in 1915 it was \$9,452.05. Altogether there has been sent to fields outside the Indiana Conference in tithe and mission funds, \$50,449.81.

Laborers

The conference employs eighteen laborers, besides our loyal colporteurs, sanitarium workers, teachers in Beechwood Academy, and our faithful church school teachers.

Evangelical Work

The greater portion of our ministerial work has been for unbelievers, except when it has been necessary to go to our people and place before them the needs of the mission fields, and aid them in raising funds for our foreign work. Our brethren have sacrificed, and been willing that the ministers should work for others apart from those who compose the church membership. There have been two strong efforts put forth in the past two years in Terre Haute and Indianapolis. About sixty were added to the church in Terre Haute and one hundred and thirty-seven to the Indianapolis churches as a result of these tent efforts. Besides these, strong companies have been brought out at Jasonville, Maxwell, Fortville; and various other churches have been strengthened by added members. In the work we have endeavored to unite the medical with the evangelical and have had fairly good success. The Lord has blessed our brethren as they have gone out with the idea of ministering to the people's temporal wants, as well as to the spiritual.

Sanitarium

We are glad to report that our people are looking with increased favor upon our medical and sanitarium work. It was voted last year that \$30,000 be raised toward liquidating the indebtedness of the Sanitarium. During 1915 part of the churches were visited and about \$12,000 secured in cash and pledges. Adding to this amount the \$6,000 given us by the Union, leaves a balance of approximately \$12,000 which we hope to raise this year.

The past year has shown an increased patronage at the Sanitarium. At the present time it is full of patients. While the institution has not been blessed spiritually or financially as much as we should like, yet we thank the Lord for what we have seen accomplished. Patients have been converted to the truth, others are interested, and some are requesting Bible readings.

There is a splendid spirit manifested among the workers. They are willing to work many hours each day in order to keep up the work and save in the matter of expense. They seem to sense the importance of the work in which they are engaged, and the times in which we are living, seeking God earnestly for wisdom to guide them in their work. The training school is doing a splendid work.

The financial report of the institution will be an encouragement to our brethren. The operating sheet of 1915 shows a gain of several thousand dollars over that of 1914. The net loss for 1915 was \$171.17. Had it not had such a large interest to pay, the Sanitarium would have shown quite a fair gain. The decrease of insolvency for 1915 was \$6,660.49. This is certainly encouraging, and we are glad for the assistance which has been rendered by the management of the institution.

Educational

Standing at the head of our educational work in Indiana is the Beechwood Academy. This school is beautifully located in one of the richest farming districts of Indiana, in the central part of the state, and easily accessible from Indianapolis, being about twenty miles distant. During the past two years a strong effort has been made to bring this school up to the highest standard set for our academic work, and we believe we have been to a large extent successful. Improvements have been made in almost every department. Some of these will bear notice. The dormitories have been remodeled and painted on the inside. The chapel has been seated with chairs instead of desks. Maps and charts have been purchased. Hypo-plate blackboards have been put in some of the classrooms. Many other facilities have been added to make the work more efficient. The principal improvement of late has been our pneumatic water system and power plant. A small cement block building has been erected to contain this plant and also makes an excellent room for our wood-working class. This room is being gradually equipped with tools and benches for class work.

We have an efficient corps of trained teachers in the school. Four of them have a college training and the others have a special training along the lines which they are teaching. The enrolment for this year is fifty. Our attendance is somewhat lower, as our dormitories have a capacity for less than forty. At present the boys' dormitory is crowded. We have had to use one of our classrooms for some of them. One of the great needs now is a place to house our students when they come. We are glad to report that despite. thet small attendance for the past five years, our indebtedness has not increased. We have done much better than merely to keep our heads above water, as we have made many needed improvements. This has been possible because of the loyal cooperation of teachers and students. We wish to urge upon our Indiana delegation, especially, that they go home to their work and boost for a "bigger, better, busier Beechwood."

There are eighteen church schools and nineteen teachers, with a total enrolment of 245; an increased attendance of twenty-two and one-half per cent over last report. Two new church schools were organized this year, and they are among our strongest schools.

Our church school work has progressed encouragingly, and we feel that better schools will result from the efforts being put forth. A marked increase in efficiency of the teachers may be noticed. While there are many children who, on account of being scattered, do not have church school privileges, the general interest in educational matters is increasing and teachers of experience and professional training are much needed. A successful teachers' institute has been held each year, where several of our educational workers came and gave us appreciated instruction.

Y. P. M. V.

Our Young People's department has thirty societies, with a membership of 325. The juniors reached all their goals for 1914 and 1915. During 1915 the M. V. Societies raised \$504.02 for foreign missions.

M. V. Conventions have been held during the past two years, which have helped to build up the work.

Tract Society

We are glad to note the increased interest taken by our people in the distribution of our literature. The following figures tell but a small portion of the real work accomplished by the faithful ones, as eternity alone will reveal the true results of their efforts.

Our book and periodical sales amounted to \$50,632.21, with a net gain of \$927.49. During the last year the Tract Society office has paid the salaries of the Secretary and office help.

Canvassing

During the past two years the colporteur work in our conference has made a healthy growth. We have been able to secure a number of mature men who are devoting their entire time and energy to it, thus building the work upon a permanent and staple basis. At present we have a loyal band of workers in the field, and we are encouraged by their success. Our book and magazine sales for the biennial period were over \$45,000, thus showing a gain of about 300 per cent as compared with the previous biennial period.

Last year was our banner year in the circulation of literature. We expect to see much fruit in souls that have been warned by the seed sown along the wayside by our faithful colporteurs. Prospects this year are favorable for another prosperous season.

Religious Liberty

While some drastic measures have been brought before the Legislatures in some states to force the people to honor the child of the papacy, we have been favored in this respect in the good old "Hoosier" state during the biennial period.

In some of the cities there have been steps taken to close the theaters and moving picture shows on Sunday.

In the city of Indianapolis there was a hard struggle put forth by the Ministerial Association to close the movies and theaters; but to the credit of the city government, aided no doubt by the efforts of the department and the blessing of God, the measure was defeated.

At the last session of the Legislature there was a strong Sunday law introduced. A hearing was arranged for before the committee having the bill in charge, yet, through the effort put forth by the department, the chairman, who was a lover of religious liberty, prevailed upon the committee so that it was never reported from the committee.

There have been a number of religious liberty institutes held during the biennial period, and there was an excellent spirit of cooperation shown, as well as a desire upon the part of the brethren and sisters to become more proficient along this line of work. The conference has furnished all our state officials with the good magazine, *Liberty*, during the biennial period, and are continuing to do so.

When the measure was before the sixty-third session of the National Congress to destroy the freedom of the press, Indiana took 27,000 of *Protestant Extra*. In fact, our brethren and sisters in Indiana stand ready to cooperate in every line which tends to forward the message and thus hasten the coming of the Lord.

Sabbath School

Turning to the Sabbath school work, we see that the prospering hand of God has been over it. Like all other branches of this great message, it began in weakness; but today its power is felt throughout the world.

We are glad to note the increasing interest in this branch of the cause in our conference during the biennial period. The first quarter of 1914 the number of schools was 64 with a membership of 1,329, and offerings amounting to \$1,234; while the last quarter of 1915 the number of schools was 74 with a membership of 1,833, and an offering of \$2,176.

It is pleasing also to note the increase in the special offering on the thirteenth Sabbath. The fourth quarter of 1913, the thirteenth Sabbath offering was \$232, while on the thirteenth Sabbath of the last quarter of 1915 it was \$767.

The figures that tell the best story are those that point to the number of persons baptized during this period. The number reported from the schools was 200.

The total offerings for the two years were \$14,120. It might be of interest to compare the offerings of the biennial period 1910 and 1911 with these figures. The offerings for 1910 and 1911 were \$4,293.

We are grateful to God for what has been accomplished through this medium. I am glad to report that a spirit of cooperation has existed among the workers, and we are thankful to God for the degree of prosperity that has attended our efforts in Indiana, and pledge ourselves to renewed consecration and devotion to His closing work.

E. A. Bristol

Biennial Report of the Southern Illinois Conference

To the Delegates Assembled in the Eighth Biennial Session of the Lake Union Conference, the brethren and sisters of Southern Illinois send greeting!

Never in the history of our message have God's people faced such momentous times and never have they faced greater perplexities. Yet our Heavenly Father has encouraged us with precious promises, and our Captain leads the way to certain victory. With you, we pray that the present occasion may broaden our plans and bring to the constituency of this Union a power that will enhance the finishing of this work.

The Southern Illinois Conference comprises twothirds of the state of Illinois with an approximate population of 2,000,000 people. Sixty-nine counties comprise our territory and only thirty-one of these have ever been reached with a public effort. Through the faithfulness of our colporteurs, however, every county has been touched at least, and we feel is now ready for an aggressive effort to carry this message of salvation to our field as it has never been carried before. Unlike some of the other conferences in the Lake Union, Southern Illinois is nearly all virgin soil, for many of the counties which have received some labor, have only been entered in two or three places. We have today at least two dozen places that are crying for help. Owing to a small constituency, it makes it very difficult to fill these calls and do justice to the territory that has been given us. It is only because of the faithfulness of the loyal people that comprise our field that we have made the gains that we have since our last biennial report. God has blessed us and while our efforts have by no means accomplished what we should like to have accomplished, yet every branch of our work has made some gain.

Membership

The membership of our conference, as reported two years ago, was 696, but this was not a true representation of the standing, for a little later, after a general revising of our lists, we had but 661 members, which was a far more accurate representation. At the close of the biennial period, our membership was 754, or a gain of 14 per cent. During this time, we have organized three churches, and 129 have been baptized.

Laborers

At the beginning of this term, we had two ordained ministers, three licentiates, and six missionaries, while we now have four ordained ministers, two licentiates, and seven missionaries

Finances

In a financial way, we have been especially blessed. On Jan. 1, 1914, or the beginning of this biennial period, our tithe fund was \$500 overdrawn, while at the close of this period, Dec. 31, 1915, we had more than \$1,000 on hand. The tithe of the preceding biennial term, 1912-1913, for our conference was \$21,-286.54, and for the term just closed was \$24,005.17, or a gain of \$2,718.63. The amount of money raised for missions has made a similar gain. We received in 1912-1913, \$9,327.53, and in 1914-1915, \$14,296.59, or a gain of \$4,969.06. This gain more than equals the entire sum received either in 1912 or 1913. Our conference owns its own office building, a neat little bungalow of six rooms, conveniently arranged for our work. This building was erected seven years ago, and while it is not paid for as yet, has saved many dollars in rent during this time.

At our last session, we voted to assume \$2,500 of the Fox River Academy debt and to receive for this a part ownership in the property. The office indebtedness and the academy indebtedness, together with about a thousand dollars which has been borrowed and loaned to the churches, comprises the association indebtedness. Our aim for the biennial term commencing is, "Southern Illinois out of debt by the close of 1917."

Educational Work

This branch of our work also shows a very substantial gain, and represents faithful work on the part of our educational secretaries. During the school year 1913-1914, there were five church schools conducted in the conference, while this year we have nine, and

the prospects are that we shall have two more by the time school opens next fall.

Sabbath School Work

I will only take time in reporting this branch of the work to give some figures. The membership of the Sabbath schools at the beginning of 1913 was 579. A year later it was 625. In 1915 we had reached 706, while at the beginning of this year our membership was 836. This means a gain during the present term of over 24 per cent. The donations during 1912-1913 were \$5,359.25 and during 1914-1915 they were \$6,512.22, a gain of \$1,152.97, or about 20 per cent more than the amount received during the term previous to the last Union Conference session. This shows that the gain in donations has been about the same as the gain in membership.

Young People's Work

The young people's work has held its own as far as membership is concerned but has made a good gain in the personal work that has been done. Some of the items on the report blanks are double what they were four years ago, and nearly all show a gain. We are glad to be able to report that Southern Illinois Conference last year reached its goal in every item.

The Colporteur Work

For a number of years, the Union has looked to Southern Illinois as a leader in this branch of work, and the work which our faithful colporteurs have done is gratifying indeed. But we feel that the success attained has been due to the fact that the conference as a whole believes in the work, and its officers, and workers, and elders and all are taking an interest in it and pushing it. We have today nineteen regular colporteurs and of these, twelve are married men with families to support. Of these twelve, we have six who have been with the work without a break during the present biennial term. None of these six have done anything toward their support in other lines of work. We feel that it is because of these tried, faithful workers that we stand where we do in the list today.

In 1912, we sold \$11,934.50; in 1913, \$19,499.73; in 1914, \$23,530.58; and in 1915, \$24,073.25. So, the last year, we sold more than twice as many books as were sold four years ago. Our sales for the two years, 1912-1913, were \$31,434.23 and for the last two years, \$47,603.83, a gain of \$16,169.60, which is almost 50 per cent.

There is one item connected with our work last year that I believe would be of interest to this conference. There were ten of our men who sold over \$1,000 worth of books, and two of these sold over \$2,000 worth. From the goals that our men have set for this year, I feel sure that Southern Illinois will not fall behind in the year that is before us.

We are glad to be able to bring this report from our field, and solicit your prayers that our Heavenly Father will make the next biennial term one of still greater progress for Southern Illinois than we have seen the two years just closed.

A J. Clark

"He truly lives, to whom the world is like a house immense, with no day passing by in which some new apartment is not visited."

Biennial Report of the West Michigan Conference

To the Delegates of the Lake Union Conference Assembled at Battle Creek, 1916, Greeting.

The West Michigan Conference embraces eighteen counties in the southwest part of the lower peninsula of Michigan. Probably no other territory of the same size has so many monuments of the early struggles and sacrifices in connection with the establishment of the organized work of the Seventh-day Adventist denomination. In our cemeteries rest the precious dust of Elder James White, Mrs. E. G. White, Joseph Bates, and many others of the pioneers of the movement. Battle Creek, long the world headquarters of the denomination and the location of our first institutions, still has the largest Seventh-day Adventist church in the world, and in the seventy churches of the conference are found many white-haired saints who saw the beginning of the movement and who, like Caleb and Joshua, are still confidently waiting to share in the glory of its triumph. But after all, if we had only memories of past activity to bring, it would not be worth while to present a report here, or for this delegation to take time to receive it.

When I came to this conference four years ago this spring, I was encouraged to read from the servant of the Lord that to the very closing days of the work, Michigan would be a fruitful field. And so I have found it, never having labored in a field where the same effort would produce better visible results. We have here a loyal, faithful constituency, who by their splendid cooperation have made my work pleasant and, under God, an increasing measure of success has attended our efforts. Two years ago the conference headquarters was moved from Otsego to Grand Rapids, the largest and most central city in the conference. At present, we have as workers in the conference nine active, ordained ministers, seven superannuated ordained ministers, two licentiates, six Bible workers, four office helpers, four departmental field secretaries, twelve colporteurs, and twenty-six church-school teachers, including teachers in our academies. Within our boundaries we have the union college, Emmanuel Missionary College and two ten-grade academies, Cedar Lake and Battle Creek. During the biennial term, we have held two general camp-meetings, two elders' and workers' meetings, ten tent efforts, besides numerous church and hall meetings and general and union meetings of groups of churches. In 1914 our laborers baptized 222; in 1915, 323, making a total of 545 The net increase in membership as reported is 238 for the biennial term. During the term, we have disbanded one church, organized two and purchased one church building. Our reported membership at the close of 1915 was 2,684. Many of our churches have made earnest efforts to revise their rolls in harmony with present conditions, but I greatly fear that some churches are still reporting an inflated membership. The people generally are of good courage, working unitedly with the aim and plans of the general body. We have a larger proportion of old people and naturally lose a larger proportion by death than many other conferences. While we have had no large payments of back tithe, or "wind-fall" as it is sometimes called, the tithe has steadily increased from year to year for the last three years. A few figures by way of comparison may be of interest.

In 1913 the total tithe was \$38,347.98, an average per capita of \$15.69. The 1914 total was \$44,227.71; a per capita of \$17.23. The 1915 total was \$48,156.65; a per capita of \$17.91, a gain of nearly \$10,000 in tithe and a gain of \$2.22 per capita in the last three years. The total tithe for the biennial term was \$92,384.36, an average per capita of \$17.57 as compared with a total of \$77,284.37, with an average per capita of \$15.81 in the preceding biennial term. This shows a gain of \$15,099.89 in tithe and a gain in the average per capita of \$1.76.

Comparing the mission offerings in the same way, we sent forward in 1913 \$15,752; in 1914, \$21,637.46; in 1915, \$30,205.62. The total conference funds for the biennial term were \$50,594.91, as compared with \$30,501.89 in the preceding term, an increase of \$21,-341.19, or an increase from 12 cents a week per capita to 23 cents a week per capita. Of the mission funds, the Sabbath school contributed for 1913, \$6,295.99; for 1914, \$7,805.40; for 1915, \$9,175.47. For the biennial term there was a total of \$16,980.97, as compared with \$12,904.15 in the previous one, a gain of \$4,076.72. During 1915 the young people and children contributed \$1,843 to missions, a little over their financial goal. The Tract Society sales show increased activity on the part of our members in colporteur and home missionary work, the sales of literature being as follows: in 1913, \$7,669.56; in 1914, \$12,704.15; in 1915, \$15,-767.24. The gross business for 1915 was \$17,767.24. The total business for the biennial term was \$30,222.07, a gain of \$12,540.81 over the preceding term. The Tract Society net gain for the biennial term was \$2,-272.10 as compared with \$1,388.23 net gain for the preceding term.

There were fourteen church schools in 1913 as compared with twenty in 1915-16. The enrolment rose from 303 to 459. While this is still belaw what it should be, we are grateful for progress toward our ideal.

The Young People's Missionary Volunteer also shows advancement, both in number of societies and in work done. The addition of Junior societies during the last two years accounts in a measure for the increase in number of societies and membership, but the work done indicates real progress in this important branch of our organized work. The number of societies increased over the preceding biennial term from 23-45, and the membership rose from 308 to 940. Missionary visits reported increased from 4,594 to 6,142. Papers distributed increased from 28,449 to 45,751; tracts, 43,422 to 71,643; hours of Christian help work, 3,533 to 6,039. Offerings to missions on twenty-centsa-week rose from \$711.89 to \$2,720; for home missions from \$145.55 to \$245.41. Local society work reported has decreased from \$467.63 to \$362.35.

During the biennial term the Lord has blessed us in making nearly \$15,000 decrease in our indebtedness, and this year we confidently expect to see the conference free from debt. Our people and laborers are seeking God for power and entering with courage into a still stronger campaign for soul-winning.

C. F. McVagh

Biennial Report of the Wisconsin Conference

Greeting. We esteen it a privilege in accordance with the prospering hand of Providence, to render our report of the progress of the work in the Wisconsin Conference during the biennial period ending Dec. 31, 1916.

Our territory is the old "Badger State," Wisconsin, comprising 54,450 square miles, with a population of 2,333,860, averaging about forty-three inhabitants to the square mile. They are, however, not evenly distributed, an undue proportion clustering together in the cities, leaving large tracts of fertile lands unworked, thus robbing the state of a large portion of its most valuable assets.

Wisconsin has gradually been developing its resources. For a long period the lumber industry has afforded a livelihood for many a sturdy pioneer; has furnished building material both at home and abroad, and filled the coffers of many a lumber king. The dairyman has followed close after the forester, and is taking an annually increasing harvest from the soil. Mining, while not operated on so extensive a scale as in mountainous districts, yet has afforded a consistent income to the industrious wielder of the shovel and pick. And it is only to be expected that a state like Wisconsin, teeming with natural resources, would also build up extensive manufacturing industries. A visit to any of our cities would soon convince the unbiased observer of the great possibilities in this line.

Our Churches

We have at present one hundred churches with an aggregate membership of 2,567. During the biennial period 369 people have been baptized by our regular workers; churches have been organized at Bashaw Lake, Fond du Lac, Polar, and Sheboygan. There have also been substantial additions in many other places.

Church Buildings

Church buildings have been erected at Hines, Jim Falls, and Oneida, and a very commodious and well located building purchased from the Baptist people at Superior.

Our Conference Home

During this period it was found necessary to change our office location. The city of Fond du Lac, which afforded superior railroad advantages, was chosen and a convenient suite of rooms rented in which the departments of the conference have their offices. We hope ere long to be established in quarters owned by the conference.

From twenty-eight to thirty faithful men and women have been employed as ministers, licentiates, Bible workers, principals of schools, departmental secretaries, and office staff. These with unity of heart and purpose have proved efficient in leading our faithful and devoted people in the churches throughout the conference, the result of which may be seen in the general view of the work outlined in this report; and

we believe that by the grace of God, many from Wisconsin will be ready to meet their Lord with joy when He shall appear to claim His own.

The Finance

During the years of 1914-15, \$78,124.41 tithe was received into the conference treasury, which is an increase over the former period of \$8,124.27. The mission offerings were \$37,406.23, or \$12,358.01 more than in 1912-13. In addition to the above, many thousands of dollars have been given to the local work, such as the building of meeting houses and schoolhouses, the education of our youth and children, and the diminishing of the sanitarium liabilities by thousands of dollars.

Our Sabbath School Work

In speaking of the Sabbath-school work, figures are entirely inadequate to express the results. By them we can tell the growth in numbers and the liberality in dollars and cents, but they do not show the comfort and blessing that have come to the members by way of encouragement and spiritual uplift; the establishing of souls in the truth by the systematic study of God's Word, nor the agonizing prayers offered for their class or school by faithful teachers and officers.

We have at present one hundred-forty Sabbath schools, with a total membership of 2,983. The offerings have been steadily increasing. The total offerings received during 1914-15 amounted to \$16,695.51, an increase over the preceding biennial period of \$4,-814.30.

Book and Periodical Work

The book and periodical sales of the conference for the biennial period amounted to \$42,207.63, which is a very gratifying increase over 1912-13. The subscription part of this work has very largely been accomplished by students. Wisconsin affords splendid possibilities for the faithful canvasser, and there should be many making this their lifework. Brother Belding has labored faithfully and hard, and the Lord always blesses unselfish, diligent effort. May the bookwork continue to grow and receive a full share of God's blessing.

Educational Church Schools

We have at present 30 church schools with an enrolment of 289, employing 30 teachers. While this branch of the work has been put on a much firmer basis than formerly, it still needs strengthening. The two principal difficulties we encounter are inadequate support and the scattered rural membership. The Wisconsin brethren would much appreciate having this conference suggest plans whereby these problems might be solved.

Intermediate Schools

The Bethel Academy, located in the central part of the conference, under the tutorship of Professor Elliott and his faithful staff of teachers, has been and is doing a splendid work. A new interest has been revived in the industrial features, and all, both teachers and students, are enthusiastic about improving the place and increasing its income, as well as in giving a most thorough training in academic and spiritual lines. A strong missionary spirit pervades almost the entire student body, which if properly fostered will soon become a blessing both in the home and foreign fields.

The Walderly School, located in the extreme northwestern part of the state, has enjoyed a good patronage considering its meager accommodations and isolated location. In the past this school has been operated differently from our regular departmental work, but recently it has been thought wise to conform its work to that outlined by the denomination through its Educational Department.

For several years a school has been in operation at Clearwater Lake. At present this is being operated by the local church as a church school, the patronage not warranting three schools of that grade in the conference.

Young People's Work

Every organization that is interested in its own future, must give attention to its youth and children. The pioneers in this message recognized that fact, and progressive steps were taken to bind our youth and children to this cause.

At present this line of endeavor is well organized and actively at work. In Wisconsin we have 52 societies with a membership of 312, showing an increase in membership over 1914 of 150. Marked advancement has also been made in the efficiency of the work done. However, with the large rural constituency with which we have to deal, many perplexing problems are constantly confronting us. We are sure that much remains to be developed in this branch of work, and we are looking to this assembly for counsel that when followed out will greatly promote the work of the department in the future.

Medical Work

The Madison Sanitarium

Last, but not least, stands the Madison Sanitarium on the shore of beautiful Lake Mendota, a monument of health, inviting all who are diseased, both in soul and body, to come and be restored. While this institution has been passing through a real struggle and financial crisis, we are glad to report a strong pulse and normal respiration, which of course indicate a good heart.

So we feel encouraged and believe that it will in the future develop a strong, active body that will do its full share of work in the finishing of this advent message to the world.

As it will be very difficult for you to remember figures, I will only say that the Madison Sanitarium has greatly decreased its liabilities and is more than holding its own in operation, and we hope before another biennial report is due that we may have sung our jubilee song.

In conclusion we wish to express our thanks to our Heavenly Father who has made it possible to give the above report, and to reconsecrate our lives to His service, pledging ourselves to use our entire strength in giving this glorious message to the world now in darkness. Under the blessing of God, and by much prayer, union, and diligent effort, we aim to come behind in no good work in the future.

P. A. HANSON

Biennial Report of the North Michigan Conference

In giving the report of a conference one must of necessity deal very largely with figures which ordinarily constitute dry reading. But when we consider the growth of a movement that brings eternal life to souls, it makes it one of intense interest. This report deals with just such a movement.

Our conference is small, the membership being 967. Among these people we find ten different languages spoken, and two churches where the services are carried on entirely separate from the English language. I refer now to the Swedish people at Iron River, and also to the Ojibway people, commonly called Chippewas, at Zeba, on the shores of Keweenaw Bay. This church, as far as I am able to understand, is the first one organized in this language. They have a small church building and are doing a good work. There is still another church that has its services divided between English and the French. This church, however, has a large number who understand only the English, so most of the services are carried on in that tongue.

Financial

We are glad to report, in common with the other conferences, that there has been a gain on all lines in the matter of finances during the past two years. The increase has not been abnormal, but each year a steady gain is made. Two years ago, in my report, I find that the tithe for the two years preceding was \$21,951.73, while for this period it is \$24,118.96, or, in other words, a gain in tithe of \$2,167.13. The two-per-cent did not make a corresponding gain, but yet there was a slight increase of \$107.88, the total amount received during the past two years being \$1,777.07.

In the matter of offerings to missions we find the growth is much more noticeable. In the years 1912 and 1913 the offerings were \$7,431.01; while during 1914 and 1915 the total amount was \$11,699.95, or a gain of \$4,268.94. We have never succeeded in raising our twenty-cents-a-week for missions, but we hope to do so this year. Definite plans are being pushed forward in the churches and I find the people are responding heartily and gladly to the call for raising mission funds, and I find a willingness on the part of all to do their full share in this good work. We are trying to make the Sabbath school our principal means of carrying our missionary offerings. We do not mean by this to say that we purpose to neglect the other offerings, such as Midsummer, Harvest Ingathering, and Annual Offerings, but we feel that a steady, week-by-week donation is the thing that will count in the long run.

Cedar Lake Academy

As all are aware, this academy is controlled by the North and West Conferences of Michigan, and it is one of the oldest schools in the Union Conference. It first opened it doors in February, 1899, and since that time quite a large number of men and women have gone out into active service for the Master, some in foreign fields and some in the homeland, carrying heavy burdens for the Lord's work. We do not have the figures at hand showing just how many students have been graduated from this school, so will not attempt to give it. This year we expect to graduate a class of

fifteen. We have a splendid body of teachers for our faculty and an excellent work is being done. A spiritual influence is being felt in the work of the school, and as a result many of the students are led to a knowledge of their Saviour. Several have been baptized this year, and we look for more definite results. The dormitory has been filled with a fine class of boys and girls. This school, with many of its sister institutions, has been burdened with debt for a number of years, but there is being set on foot by the committees in both conferences a plan by which we expect to have all these debts paid during the year 1916. The present worth of the institution is \$16,692.91. To those who attended the school in the beginning it would present quite a marked contrast now. The rooms are fitted up nicely with electric lights in every room. We were unable to secure light from the corporations that furnish light to the surrounding villages, so have put in a plant of our own, which is giving excellent satisfaction.

Church Schools

In our last report to the Union Conference. we could report 111 of our boys and girls in the church schools, but this year we have a few more schools established, and as a result 41 more children are receiving a training in the things of God. In other words, 152 of our children are now in the church schools. Satan seems to be aware that when a church establishes a school, his kingdom is in danger, and he does all he can to make the work difficult for those who are carrying it forward. But the work is steadily going forward and I trust that next year we will have more schools.

Missionary Volunteers

We have five junior and seven senior societies, with a total membership of 195. This seems to be one of the difficult problems of our work, getting our young people organized into societies. Wherever this is being done, however, it is meeting with success. Constantly the leaders in this work are holding the idea of doing definite service for the Master and an effort is being made to enroll all of our young people as Missionary Volunteers.

Sabbath School

This is one of the most important branches of the work, for here every Sabbath our people gather together to make a definite study of a certain portion of God's Word. At 48 places our people gather, and we have in all an enrolment of 1,031.

Publishing

This department has also made decided gains in the last two years. In the years 1912 and 1913 the total number of colporteurs was 23; the number of hours worked, 11,055; the total sales being \$6,657.58. In the years 1914 and 1915 the total number of colporteurs was 32; hours worked 15,704, or a gain of 4,649 hours. The total sales were \$10,347.60, or a gain of \$3,690.02. I think all the delegates understand when we say that a certain number of colporteurs worked during the year we do not mean by this that there were that many at work all the time, for only a comparatively few work during the entire year. The largest part of our work was done during the summer months, while the students were out earning their scholarships. This win-

ter the prospects are better and we have quite a number of devoted colporteurs putting in faithful time and setting their aim high to accomplish the task of putting in a definite number of hours. Somehow, I look at the hours put in on the report before I notice what the dollars are. I think this gives us a little better idea.

The year 1915 records the largest sales in the history of our conference, and 1916 is starting out in a way that leads us to hope that this will be still better. The month of February of this year records the largest sales we have ever had for that month.

Tract Society

We cannot report the large amount of business done by the tract society that some of the other conferences do, but still, we are glad to say that our gross business increases each year. In the year 1914 our total earnings were 5,713.73, and for the year 1915, 6,643.42, a gain of nearly 1,000. The largest amount of this business necessarily is attributed to the canvassing work, and yet our people are taking hold of the work in earnest. We are making a steady gain in this line, and we are endeavoring to arouse our people to the importance of carrying forward this branch of the work in circulating small books and periodicals.

Evangelistic

We have six ministers in the field, in addition to the departmental heads, and the prospering hand of our Lord has been with them. Work has been done in a number of new places, as well as trying to build up some of the old churches. As a result of the efforts put forth we have baptized in the last two years 263, organized six new churches, built two new church buildings, and bought one.

Our field is just a little different from some of the other conferences in one respect. The churches are so widely separated that it is very difficult to get many of them together for general meetings. We have felt this very seriously as we have attempted to gather our people together and secure help from the outside to carry forward a definite work. The best we can do is to meet with one church at a time. This makes it slow work in reaching all our people, but we are not discouraged in this. They are continually reaching out for new victories.

We find a large number of towns that are more than villages, where we do not have any Sabbath-keepers. In the Upper Peninsula are some splendid cities that have only one or two Sabbath-keepers in them. As I go through these cities and large towns I often wish that we had more workers to establish the work in these important places; but then, our finances are not sufficient to attempt more than we are doing, so we have to get along the best we can. As we have often said, our principal difficulty in North Michigan is lack of means, but this is not an unmixed evil. There are blessings in it also, although we are slow to recognize them.

There is a splendid feeling of cooperation on the part of all the workers and we are pressing forward, hoping that the time will soon come when the people of God can be gathered home and we can see the fruits of our labors.

Biennial Report of the Northern Illinois Conference

To the Delegates of the Lake Union Conference Assembled, Greeting.

The Northern Illinois Conference would acknowledge with heartfelt gratitude the goodness of God and the loving care which has been over our work since last we gathered in Union Conference session.

Our conference was organized in 1871, the territory including the entire state of Illinois. In 1909, however, approximately two-thirds of the lower portion of the state was organized as the Southern Illinois Conference, leaving by far the smaller part of the state in the territory of the Northern Illinois Conference. We have, however, a large population, numbering considerably over four millions. We have a constituency of about 1,650 souls, who are organized into 35 churches, with 38 Sabbath schools, having a membership of 1,678. During the biennial term, 371 have been baptized and there is a net increase of 200.

We are not able to make a very detailed report of the growth of our work, or of the conditions that have prevailed in the conference, as our connection with the conference dates only from May, 1915. But we are surely pleased to know the growth which has attended the work during the past year, and we praise God for the victories that He has given to the efforts that are being made to advance His precious cause.

Our work is going forward with rapid strides and on every hand are indications that souls are waiting for the message which God has entrusted to our care. During the last seven months thirteen new workers have been added to our conference list, besides supplying vacancies which have been occasioned by workers leaving for other fields. Three church buildings have been provided during the term, and active work has greatly strengthened the companies in these places. Work is being carried on in six different languages, as follows: English, German, Danish-Norwegian, Swedish, Italian and Bohemian, and God has added His blessing in each of these lines of endeavor. The work for our colored brethren has also been greatly blessed of God, and we are facing a problem of a much larger church building to accommodate this group of believers in the third angel's message.

We are glad to report that a school for the training of Bible workers has been in operation and we believe that the results to be obtained from this endeavor will be large, if we can at all measure results by the testimony given by those who have taken part in this work. We are at the present time earnestly endeavoring to secure larger and better quarters to accommodate those who desire to attend this school for the development of Bible workers.

Our educational work has shown many tokens of success. Some unfortunate and unforeseen difficulties have marred the work at Fox River Academy, but steps are being taken to place this institution in the very front rank of our intermediate schools. We are happy to report that, after paying our part in the liquidation of the E. M. College debt, we have in hand a goodly sum with which to begin the liquidation of the Fox River Academy indebtedness. Our union with the Southern Illinois Conference recently effected to bring about a greater degree of prosperity for the Fox River Academy, warants us in believing that the future will see a marked growth in the usefulness of the school, and the combined conferences have set as their goal the entire liquidation of debts of Fox River Academy in 1916.

Our church school work shows a steady growth and marked success. There are only two places in the conference where a school would be in any way possible where one is not being conducted at the present time.

Our medical work as reported by the Tri-City Sanitarium at Moline also presents most encouraging features. The institution has been built up, many added improvements have been made and at the writing of this report, the institution is enjoyng a very healthy patronage. It was indeed an omen full of good cheer and portent for the future when the Tri-City Sanitarium was able to give \$1,000 of its earnings to help liquidate the indebtedness of the Fox River Academy. This, perhaps, is a new feature in the Sanitarium work, but we are convinced that the blessing of God will follow our institutions as they show that they are really a part of the conference work by getting under the loads of the various conference enterprises. The erection of a fine church building, now going on at Moline, will greatly strengthen our work there.

Financially, the blessing of God has followed the efforts made during the past term. During 1915 an increase of about \$2,000 was made in our tithe receipts, and our growth in mission funds was most encouraging, almost \$18,000 having been raised during 1915. The total for the biennial term was \$33,240. The total amount of receipts from all sources during 1915 was \$61,725 and for the biennial term \$118,634.

At the present time 37 laborers are regularly employed in the work of the conference, besides the workers who are supported by the Foreign Department. Those engaged in our medical and educational institutions bring up the total to 109, including 44 colporteurs who have been engaged for all or part of the time during the past year. God has greatly blessed the labors of these, their total sales amounting to \$11,-498.

Speaking of the material gains of our conference, we are glad to mention the marked increase in the offerings of our Sabbath schools—\$4,400 was gained during the biennial term above the previous term. Our Young People's societies also report a gain in their offerings of about \$2,589.75 more in 1914-15 than in 1912-13, so we see that God has been greatly blessing all lines of our work.

Our Tract Society has also showed the guidance of the Master's hand. The total amount of book sales for 1912-13 was \$41,611, while for 1914-15 it was \$47,942, or a net gain for the biennial term of \$6,331.

There are still some heavy liabilities resting over our conference in connection with our institutional work, amounting to approximately \$30,000. However, our resources are such as to give us a present worth which is quite wholesome, and the plans now on foot will, we believe, place our conference strongly on the safe side of the ledger, there being between twelve and thirteen thousand dollars advance in our resources above our liabilities.

We are glad to report that, after a long and somewhat disappointing experience, we have been enabled to secure efficient help for the Chicago work and we believe that with the hearty co-operation of all concerned and the blessing which we believe will come to us from our Heavenly Father, we shall see many advance steps taken in the city of Chicago during 1916. At the present time, besides the efforts that are being made by the various workers in foreign tongues, two efforts are being made to carry the third angel's message to the people of Chicago, besides the strong effort which is being conducted in behalf of the colored race. We look forward with great anticipation to the time when the population of 3,000,000 souls in greater Chicago will have efforts put forth to bring them to the light of God's truth. We cannot but express our appreciation of what has been done by the Union Conference to help along in our city campaign, but we yet feel that there is a marvelous opportunity, coupled with a tremendous responsibility, whch must be met in the fear of God.

There are in Chicago approximately two million souls of foreign birth or parentage among the white nationalities for whom but comparatively little has been done in giving the message. The few foreign laborers we have at the present time engaged in our work have more than a million people to whom they must carry the message, and another full million have not yet had the first stroke of work done to give them the light of this last gospel. There are 400,000 Poles in Chicago, or more than any other city in the world, excepting the capital of their own country, and as yet this tremendous field is untouched. One lone lady Bible worker is wrestling with a problem of 150,000 Bohemians. Almost 150,000 Austro-Hungarians are without a worker. We might speak of 30,000 Lithuanians or 25,000 Danes. We might speak of 15,000 Greeks; but these are figures, the mere contemplation of which brings heartache to us as we think we are doing nothing to give to them the gospel. When I make the statement that among the Bohemians there are said to be not less than 300 regularly conducted Sunday schools, which have for their sole purpose, not the teaching of the gospel of Jesus Christ, but a determined effort to teach open, flagrant, and blatant infidelity, we can see that the enemy of souls is hard at work; and to us who profess to believe this gospel of the kingdom must go to every nation, kindred, tongue, and people comes this glorious call to awake and put on our strength.

These problems which come to the Northern Illinois Conference, as the result of the conditions found in Chicago, are giving us deep anxiety, and there is a tremendous longing of souls for something to be done that we may finish our portion of the work assigned to this remnant people.

•One of the greatest needs of the city of Chicago is a central, prominent, and commodious headquarters which will give us prestige in the eyes of the people and enable us to carry on an effective work from a

good center, instead of trying, in a feeble way, to administer our work from widely scattered points. The cosmopolitan nature of our work demands that our needs be considered more in the light of a general responsibility than confined to a local field, and we long for the time to come when we will be able to give the truth in such a strong way that in the second city in the United States we shall have a better opportunity to prepare for the coming of the Master. We confidently believe that Chicago is as fruitful a place for labor as any other city in the world, and while from this great center a babel of voices are heard preaching every imaginable phase of heresy, still the hearts of God's people are full of cheer and courage, because we are constantly seeing advance steps taken and precious souls accepting the message. We solicit the earnest prayers and cooperation of our brethren and sisters all over the Union that the mighty task given to us will be so effectively attacked that a great fruitage will be seen to the glory of God, and that many souls will eventually be garnered with us all in the kingdom of His love.

W. A. Westworth

Educational and Missionary Volunteer Notes

Pursuant to call the educational superintendents and Missionary Volunteer secretaries met in Battle Creek Friday afternoon, March 3, 1916. Prof. M. E. Kern was with us and occupied the hour Sabbath foremoon. In the afternoon a symposium was conducted. Elder Christian was chairman and in a few appropriate remarks introduced the speakers of the hour. Professor Kern led out with a few appropriate remarks on the growth and development of the Missionary Volunteer work. Professor Russell followed with a few words concerning the work in the Lake Union Conference. Several of the Missionary Volunteer secretaries from the local conferences followed.

The first regular session of the convention was held the evening after the Sabbath. This was a joint meeting of all departmental workers in the various conferences representing the missionary work, book work, the Publishing Department and Educational and Missionary Volunteer Departments. Elder L. H. Christian presided. Brother I. A. Ford of the Review and Herald led in prayer. This was followed by several earnest prayers invoking the blessing of God, not only upon our convention but upon the sessions of the conference to follow. Miss Lotta Bell was elected secretary of the Educational and Missionary Volunteer section, and Brother H. E. Moon was elected to fill a similar position in the Missionary, Publishing and Bookmen's Convention.

The first topic of the evening was a paper presented by Brother E. E. Franklin, field agent of Indiana. The subject of Brother Franklin's paper was "Securing the Best Material for the Work." He emphasized the importance of soliciting the cooperation of the president and workers in his conference in seeking to develop recruits for the work and to encourage those already engaged in it.

Professor Russell opened the discussion on Mis-

sionary Volunteer work most appropriately in the following sentence: "This is an age of activity and our work is to inspire both senior and junior volunteers by directing their activities in the line of missionary endeavor."

Miss Edith Shepherd, Educational and Missionary Secretary from Northern Illinois, presented a paper entitled, "How Can We Get All Our Young People to Engage in Definite Missionary Work?" The secret of success in answering this question was embraced in the following statement: "Give them a Conference Missionary Volunteer Secretary who loves young people and will put every part of his being—brain, life, will, character, circumstances, and personal presence into the work of leading and guilding and saving the young people under his charge."

Several important steps were suggested leading to the best possible understanding of the work of our Missionary Volunteers, that heartiest cooperation might thus be secured. These were followed by some very definite suggestions as to lines of work to be carried out by the Missionary Volunteer Secretary in placing before the young people in the conference specific plans of work. Professor Kern followed in a short discussion, making prominent such points as, One line of work can never be built up by tearing down another; we have a better class of workers coming into our conference work than in bygone times; this is the fruitage of our seed-sowing in Christian education.

Elder Christian followed, speaking of the earnest devotion and consecration to the work by those who led out in it in the earlier history of our cause, and emphasized the importance of enlisting in service the talent God has given us.

A splendid paper by Brother Frank Hiner, secretary of the Wisconsin Tract Society, was next listened to with interest. This pertained to the duties of the Tract Society Secretary in seeking to encourage the circulation of our spirit-filled literature.

An earnest prayer by Professor Kern closed the service.

The work of the Missionary Volunteer and Educational Departments was continued in convention form Sunday morning. The first forty-five minutes was spent in devotional service and general instruction. This was led by Elder Christian and all the Departments were united together.

The first topic of the Convention proper was "What Can We Do to Develop Greater Spirituality in Our Schools?" Miss Cora Hicks of Southern Illinois presented this topic. Some points gleaned from the subject were the following: The school that can meet and successfully pass a crisis is the spiritual school. Teach the children God has a place for each one of them. Never disparage any school that God has planted. Personal work on the part of the teacher was especially emphasized.

In the discussions which followed emphasis was placed upon the importance of teaching the children to pray, not merely to say some formal prayers which have been committed to memory. There must be genuineness in the life of the teacher. Children are quick to detect shams. The spiritual qualification of the teacher stands first. "One might better take an earnest, consecrated, spiritual teacher, with less education than one who has gone farther in literary attainments with little spiritual development."

The importance of mingling in a close, comradelike way with the children was emphasized. "Obedience may be demanded, but respect is not obtained that way."

The next paper presented was by Miss Blosser of North Michigan. Her topic was, "How Can We Best Reach and Build up Our Missionary Volunteer Work among the Isolated?" This topic being especially a live one in the North Michigan Conference, with its broad extent of territory and comparatively small constituency, made the paper and the discussion which followed doubly interesting. Personal visits, where possible, and correspondence; the earnest solicitation of the cooperation from all field workers, and the placing before the isolated our various missionary volunteer educational features and goals were emphasized.

Miss Myrta Kellogg from the College followed with an interesting discussion, in which she stated some of the means by which she was enabled to carry on a personal correspondence with about seventy-five of the isolated young people of the North Michigan Conference several years ago when she was engaged in the work in that field. Where circular letters are used in this correspondence, emphasis was placed upon bringing into these letters as much of the personal as possible.

Miss Blosser also presented another paper on the topic, "What Can We as Secretaries Do to Solve the Social Problem?" This topic elicited much earnest discussion and brought forth many helpful suggestions. We have really only touched, as it were, with the tips of our fingers this great social problem. Professor Kern emphasized the need of something definite, positive being brought out in this regard. It is hoped that the General Missionary Volunteer Department may soon bring out something on this subject.

Professor Russell made an appeal on behalf of the isolated young people. The only socal life possible for these, it would seem, would be the social life of the community, and in almost every instance our young people cannot participate in these things. The question will be solved for such of our young people as can be brought into our schools for training. We are glad to note that at our schools an effort is being put forth to meet the social needs of the young people gathered into these institutional centers.

A topic very closely akin to the preceding one was presented by Miss Hicks: "What Can We Do to Improve Social Conditions in the Church and Community?" The "Social Helpers' Corner" in the Ladies' Home Journal; Amos R. Wells' Missionary Programs; A. Flanigan's books on Games; and clippings from many magazines and journals were suggested.

The next topic considered was "Suggestions for Making Young People's Conventions Interesting and Instructive." This was presented by Miss Lotta Bell of East Michigan. Great emphasis was placed upon preparedness. One should begin early to plan these conventions, and then follow the plan closely. It is well to have the conference president, if possible, join in the conducting of such conventions. Another worker in the conference could with profit unite his labors with president and M. V. Secretary. Considerable discussion of a very profitable character followed this excellent talk.

Miss Edith Shepard of Northern Illinois presented the topic, "Plans for Reaching Our Missionary Volunteer Goals." Some of the points presented were, Secret prayer on the part of the secretary; "Presenting plans alone to the Father is the stepping-stone to success;" collect information concerning the goals and pass this on to the young people; express appreciation for work already done; encourage the young people to take hold of special enterprises, as Harvest Ingathering, Circulation of Temperance Instructor, etc. An appeal was made to get the secretaries to place constantly before the leaders of local societies the importance of getting the individual members to report missionary work done.

The subject of reporting was presented as a separate topic by Mrs. Flora Williams of West Michigan. A lively discussion followed, and we trust our secretaries will return to the field with a greater determination to secure in some way reasonably full reports of the work done in their respective conferences.

Prof. G. R. Fattic of Wisconsin presented the topic, "Plans for Awakening an Interest in Our Educational Work and Establishing New Schools." Among other things he said, "We must build for permanency. Not only must we visit, but revisit. It is not enough to create a sentiment in favor of Christian education; we must stay by until the school is properly financed and put on a permanent basis. The importance of enlisting the Missionary Volunteer Department and the Sabbath school in seeking to build up new schools was emphasized. The two regular educational Sabbaths and Educational Day at camp-meetings should be laid hold upon to create an interest in educational work.

A committee of three was appointed by the Chair to formulate plans to be submitted later. This committee embraced the following: G. R. Fattic, Mrs. F. H. Williams, Miss Edith Shepard.

At 8.30 A. M. Monday morning a very earnest devotional service was held, at the close of which the convention continued its work. The first subject presented was given by Mrs. Williams, in which she gave suggestions for improving our summer schools and increasing the attendance. The following suggestions were brought out, either in the paper or the discussions which followed:

There should be careful attention given to the health of our teachers, and conditions should be such that at least eight hours of sleep be secured each one.

That a letter addressed to each teacher be prepared by the Union Secretary, calling attention to the importance of the summer school and to its advantages.

That steps be taken to plan special work for normal graduates and advanced school teachers.

That definite instruction be given in the Palmer system of penmanship.

That very definite instruction be given in music and drawing.

That an institute of two or three days' duration be planned, the same to be held about the middle of the summer school session.

That we favor a six weeks' summer school. That definite instruction be given in Missionary Volunteer methods.

That definite instruction and demonstrations in physical culture be given by some capable person.

Following this topic plans for increasing the efficiency of our midwinter institutes and suggestions as to length and time for holding the same were given by Miss Blosser.

It was suggested that every teacher be required to attend such institute. That painstaking care be used in preparing programs. Emphasis was placed upon an exhibit of school work. It was advised that school boards be urged to attend and that matters pertaining to school board problems find a place upon the program.

Two important topics having a bearing upon manual mental education were next presented by Miss Bell. These were, "What Lines of Manual Mental Work Can be Most Effectively Carried on in Schools Where Practically All of the Grades are Represented?" and "School Missionary Gardens—How May They be Planned and Successfully Carried On."

It was suggested that better results would be obtained by specializing upon one or two lines of manual training rather than to attempt too many things at once. Definite time must be planned for this work in the school program. This should include at least one hour per week. The teachers should be encouraged to procure and study literature upon this subject. The superintendent should help the teachers in selecting the best literature upon the subject, and may even lend to the teacher from her private library.

The credit plan for teaching domestic science was discussed and recommended. A large list of helpful books and bulletins bearing on the subject were presented.

The Home Project Plan of carrying on a school missionary garden was suggested. A demonstration garden only was advised for the school under ordinary conditions. The teacher should plan with the pupils concerning their gardens, the vegetables and flowers to be raised, selection of seeds, testing the same, time of planting, care of crop, etc. The teacher should plan to visit these home gardens as often as consistent.

At 2.00 P. M. occurred a joint meeting of the Missionary Volunteer and Educational Departments with the Bookmen and Tract Society Secretaries. The Scholarship Plan was presented by Elder McVagh and quite thoroughly discussed by several present. The sentiment was expressed that the plan was a heaven-born idea and was bearing abundant fruitage in the development of character upon the part of those who participate, as well as being the means of bringing many in touch with our Christian schools who otherwise could not obtain such a training.

Several other important questions were considered, among these being the best means for placing our text books the most quickly in the hands of the pupils in our schools. The following resolution was passed: "Resolved, That it is the sense of this body that school books be handled the same as other supplies; the librarian of the church ordering from the tract society." This was interpreted to apply in cases where cash does not accompany the order. It was thought best that the entire volume of business be handled by the librarian as far as consistent.

The question of the cost of blanks and other school and missionary volunteer supplies was next discussed and a committee to take under advisement this matter was appointed.

The secretaries were again called together in separate session and the following topic was presented by Miss Rasmussen: "Suggestive Plans for Conducting Children's and Young People's Meetings on the Camp Ground."

Suggestions were made for illustrated lessons for juniors; nature trips for juniors in woods or field; make the most of the Missionary Volunteer hour, presenting definite lines of our organized work.

The discussion revealed the fact that we favor the Sabbath School Department looking after the kindergarten and the Missionary Volunteer Department the children and young people. That the secretary be personally responsible for this work upon the campground; that academy principals and teachers, as well as church school teachers, be encouraged to take an active part in young people's work on the camp ground. That more attention should be paid to recreative plans for the children at camp-meeting.

A general discussion followed the presentation of this topic, "Shall Parents' Meetings Be Conducted on the Camp-Ground?—If So, When, and by Whom?" It was suggested that the time for holding such meeting or meetings be during the time of the children's meetings, and that the conference president assume the responsibility of planning help for such meetings.

A topic of great interest was presented by Miss Blosser, as follows: "What Can We Do to Encourage Our Young People to Attend the Camp-Meeting?" It was suggested that first of all the parents be solicited with a view to encouraging the young people to attend. That correspondence be taken up directly with the young people themselves, in which not only the importance of the meeting be placed before them, but some of the features which would more directly appeal to the young people. Emphasis was placed upon the importance of planning for the meetings and the prayer band leaders and other helpers before the meeting convenes.

A topic not often considered in such conventions was next presented by Mrs. Williams: "Shall Social Purity Meetings Be Conducted Upon the Camp Ground? If So, When, and By Whom?" This subject elicited a great deal of discussion. There was quite a diversity of opinion as to the time for presenting such subjects, and the one who should do this work. It was the concensus of opinion that instruction along the line of social purity was greatly needed. The general department was asked to prepare literature upon this subject, and it seemed to be the opinion of those present that one or two such meetings could very profitably be held upon the camp-ground, provided suitable persons could be found to conduct the same, the young men and the young women, of course, having their meetings separate.

Other departmental meetings will be held during the progress of the conference as opportunity affords.

Notes from the Conference

Each day's work is opened with a devotional meeting at 8.30 A. M. The exercises at these services consist of seasons of prayer, short studies of the Word of God and general testimonies.

The first of these meetings, held on Tuesday morning, was conducted by Elder G. B. Thompson, who took for the basis of his remarks Galatians 2:20.

We are living in a time when we need not a reformation of life only, but an absolute transformation; not a continuation of the old life, but a new birth and a new life developed within. There are altogether too many people who are striving simply for an improvement in their old life. They try to modify some of their evil traits and to develop some changes in their life which they think will fill the demand.

The plan that some people follow in their Christian experience is like patching up an old house. They change a pier or a sill or they put on a beautiful front veranda and cover the whole thing with a new coat of paint, but after all, it is the same old house. It has been fixed up and looks a little better on the outside but its timbers are old,—many of them rotten; its construction is weak and its arrangement altogether out of date.

So in the new life. We do not want anything patched up or covered over, but we want an entire new life,—Christ in us the hope of glory. We must not be satisfied with an old fixed-up experience. We must have God in us working to win and to do of His own good pleasure. A striking reference to the fact is found in "Desire of Ages," pages 142-3, where we are told the need of having a new being in the image of God,—a death to self and to sin which can only be effected by work of the Holy Spirit.

Besides quite a complete list of delegates from all of the conferences there are a large number of visitors from the various parts of the field. Many of these are laborers engaged in the work and who have come to the conference for the benefits which will be derived from the institute held in connection with the conference sessions. Among those who have registered are the following:

East Michigan.—Beatrice Harter, Agnes Webber, Ira J. Woodman, C. Dudley, Vara Lynch, Dora Patton, Marie P. Harriman, Mary E. Lamson, F. J. Rowland, Anil L. Arnold, Clare Wood, H. B. Westcott, W. G. Ripley, Mr. and Mrs. T. M. Summerville, Mrs. O. M. Kittle.

West Michigan.—Mrs. L. Whitgrove, Mrs. C. A. Russell, May Kegebein, Myrta M. Kellogg, Mable Dacons, Grace Evans, Lois Carmichael, Lyle Shepard, Jennie De Young, Beatrice Smalley, Mrs. Bertha Jorgensen, Edna L. Walker, Mrs. J. Irwin, W. T. Elliott, C. M. Elliott, Ella Clark, Clara B. Turner, Carry Powers, John W. Colvert, Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Hebner, F. A. Wright and wife. Northern Illinois.—George Leffler, J. H. Miller, Flora Colvert, J. Sonsonetti, Anna Johnson, Alfreda Johnson, Hannah Swanson, Gladys Seely, Mrs. K. Williams, Wilhelmina Miller, Rosa Kozel, Anna Soukop, Lydia Henke, Anna Hibben, Mary Seautor, Vesta Cash, Johanne Henricksen, Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Webster, Gertrude Merriner, Mrs. W. A. Westworth, Steen Rasmussen, Mr. and Mrs. H. W. Sherrig.

Southern Illinois.—Cora B. Hicks, Rika Wohlers, George M. Hicks, Frank Hicks, Minnie Hokard, P. C. Hansen.

North Michigan.-Mrs. B. F. Williams, Augusta Blosser, Mr. and Mrs. R. W. Hamilton, Opal Willard.

Indiana.—Mrs. E. E. Franklin, Mrs. J. W. Mace, Mr. and Mrs. H. H. Raus, Mrs. E. T. Peterson, C. Garnesy, E. R. Lauda, Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Rader, R. J. Stureman.

Wisconsin.-Mrs. Wm. Lewsadder.

Notes from Southern Illinois

On Sabbath morning, February 26, a fire started in our church at Peoria and a hole was burned in the floor and some damage done to the side wall. The loss has been estimated at \$150, but this was covered by insurance. The Peoria Fire Department did excellent work and it is only because of this that the church was saved. The fire was caused by a furnace which had been overheated. We feel, with the Peoria brethren and sisters, to thank the Lord that the damage was not more serious. A meeting was held in the church after the fire was put out.

All the workers and officers of this conference are attending the session of the Lake Union Conference being held in Battle Creek.

A convention was held in Peoria, Sabbath and Sunday, February 26 and 27, in the interest of the educational and Sabbath school work. A good interest was shown in the papers presented and the discussions that followed.

Professor C. A. Russell spent some time in our conference following the teachers' institute which was held at Du Quoin. He visited the churches at Martinsville, Danville, Decatur, and Springfield.

A. J. Clark

West Michigan News Notes

Elder Reefman visited the Sabbath keepers near Portland, Muir, Lyons, and Ionia. He found them of good courage in the Lord though isolated. They did well in contributing to the liquidation of the conference debt.

There is a good company at Ionia which we trust will prove to be the nucleus of a strong church. We hope to hold a tent effort there next summer.

We have calls for labor in several places this spring, and hope to answer some of them immediately after the close of the Lake Union Conference.

All of our laborers will be in attendance at the Union meeting in Battle Creek. We hope this will be a great encouragement and inspiration to them and that they will return to the field better prepared for their work.

Elder McVagh visited Charlotte and Potterville, Sabbath, Feb. 26. The Charlotte church took 400 copies

of the *Liberty* Free Press Extra and gave a liberal offering for Religious Liberty work. The people at Potterville are of good courage in the Lord. The Elder, John Carmen, is nearly eighty-nine years of age. Thank God for those who have been with this people from the begining of the movement.

The Grand Rapids church is enjoying a good degree of prosperity. The attendance at both Sabbath and Sunday night meetings is exceptionally good. Elder Lamson presents the message with vigor.

The church school work shows progress in the West Michigan conference. While we are still far from our ideal, we are glad to note that the number of schools has increased from 14 to 20 during the last four years, and the enrollment from 303 to 459.

The Young Peoples' Missionary Volunteer Society is rapidly becoming a very important factor in our work in West Michigan. The number of societies has grown from 22 to 45 during the last four years, the membership from 308 to 940. The missionary visits reported are from 4594 in 1912 and 1913 to 6142 in 1914 and 1915, the papers distributed from 28,449 to 45,751, and the mission offerings for the Twenty-centsa-week Fund from \$711.89 to 2,720.

Bethel Wisconsin News Notes

Myrtle Ebert of Merrill has enrolled in our academy, and will do stenographic work.

Mrs. H. T. Elliott and baby Florence are spending the week in Antigo.

Mr. and Mrs. Will Galbraith spent Sabbath and Sunday with their son Julius at the school.

Leslie and Esther Janke enjoyed a visit from Miss Lillian and Master Arthur Janke of Oxford.

Imo Albee spent a day at the school recently.

Mabel Van Gorder is back in school after a week's illness.

The logs have been hauled to the mill and twelve thousand feet of lumber has been brought back. A car load of bolts for lath is being taken to the mill this week. The clearing on the west side of the farm gives the school a wider view and adds materially to the value of the farm.

The purchase of a Ford automobile, which is to be rebuilt for carrying our freight, trunks, etc., adds much to the equipment of our school.

The Bible

The first book printed from movable metal types was the Latin Bible in the year 1455.

The King James, or Authorized Version of the Bible, was first printed in 1611, by Robert Barker.

The first Bible printed in this country was in the Indian language in 1663, by John Eliot.

The first Bible printed in New York City was in 1792. George Washington owned a copy.

The first Bible printed on India paper was published by Bagster in 1828.

The Cambridge University Press—the earliest of existing presses to produce a Bible—issued the King James or Authorized Version first in 1629.—Selected.

"If ye love Me, keep My commandments."

LAKE UNION HERALD

ISSUED WEEKLY BY THE

Lake Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

PRICE, FIFTY CENTS A YEAR.

Printed by Emmanuel Missionary College Press. Berrien Springs, Michigan.

Entered as second-class matter, November 3, 1908, at the post-office of Berrien Springs, Michigan.

All subscriptions should be sent to your local conference tract society

All matter intended for publication should be sent to the Editor, Lake Union Herald, Berrien Springs, Michigan.

Approved advertisements will be published in the HERALD at the follow-ing rates: Forty words or less, fifty cents for each insertion, and one cent per word for each additional word. Each group of initials or figures counts as one word. Cash must accompany copy for all advertisements.

Mrs. Lou Kirby Curtis E	ditor
-------------------------	-------

In the April number the editor of The Watchman will begin a series of articles on "The True Sabbath" in which he reviews a tract being widely circulated in some parts of the country by Sabbath opponents.

Don't fail to read the April Watchman. It has a message for you, your neighbors, and your friends. Try it in your missionary work and watch results.

New Studies by Correspondence

The Fireside Correspondence School, Takoma Park, D. C., desires to announce lessons in the following new subjects: Logic, Geology, Reporting and Punctuation, and Bible for grades four to seven. Those interested should write to the foregoing address for further information and for our booklet entitled "The Fireside Correspondence School in a Nutshell." Address C. C. Lewis, Principal.

College

G. H. Simpson left on the seventh for Brantford, Ontario, to attend the funeral of his mother.

Elder R. J. Nethery, Prof. H. T. Elliott, and Prof. E. A. von Pohle visited friends and relatives at the College, on their way to the Conference.

Miss Romana Holmes has again returned to take up work in the College.

The committee which has charge of raising money for the new Grand piano reports one hundred thirtynine dollars twelve cents in cash on the three hundred dollar goal.

The College orchestra is working hard. The first concert will be given April 1.

Mr. Glen Kewley left on the ninth for his home in Battle Creek.

Mr. J. Raymond Smoker, of Cincinnati, Ohio, is visiting his brother J. Eugene.

Business Notices

WANTED.-A reliable, energetic, Seventh.day Adventist man to work on farm for the summer. State age, exper. ience, and wages desired in first letter. Could also use a good boy from twelve to fifteen years of age during summer months. Address G. L. Specht, R. F. D. 6, Stoughton, Wis.

WANTED.-A single man, Sabbath keeper, to work on a farm. Please state wages desired and experience with the first letter. Address Robert Warren, Box 331, Memphis, Mich.

WANTED.-A man handy with team and machinery to do general farm work. State age, weight, and experience. Must furnish reference. Single man prefered. Steady employment to the right man. Address W. J. Collard, Lakeview. Mich.

STUDY AT HOME.-The Fireside Correspondence School will show you how. Agents wanted. Send for our "Nutshell'' Calendar. Address, C. C. Lewis, Principal, Takoma Park, D. C.

WANTED .- A man to work on a farm by month or year. One who can do good, hard work, who can milk cows, work with team and care for stock. Address D. E. Dean, R. F. D. 2, Milford, Mich.

WE TOLD YOU So! The expected rise in the price of cooking oil is here. We have to get \$6 a can, or \$11 for two cans now for Wesson oil. Adelphian Mercantile Co., Holly, Mich.

	+		_					
Canvassers' Report for Week Ending								
March 3, 1916								
Southern Illinois								
Canvasser Book			Value	Helps	Total	Dei.		
C. F. WoertzBR	27	2	6.00		6 00	32 00		
C. W. SaundersHM	29	19	38 00	1 50	39 50	CO 75		
A. P. LagerBR Hugh StearnsBR	35 [.] 36	14 19	42 00 61 00	450 150	46 50 62 50	62 75 98 50		
R. J. Watson BR	41	4	12 00	. 1 .00	12 00	89 50		
Earl TwomblyBR	32 .	1	3 00		3 00			
G. W. KimberlinBR	40	8	28 00		28 00			
A. D. Kaufman BF	41	6	11 00	2 25	13 25	47 25		
Edwin Drury BR	35	13	41 00		41 00			
Katherine DruryBF	26	4	13 00	18 0 0	31 00			
W. B. MarisBR	14					57 25		
	356	90	255 00	27 75	282 75	387 25		
We		ichiga	ເກ					
E. M. Phillips	41	19	38 00	8 60	46 60	1 50		
J. H. Mann	34	10	33 00	60	33 60	60		
H. Kent NelsonPG	45 28	7	21 00	5 25	26 25 18 00	5 25		
I. D. WatersBR C. F. SwisherBR	28 40	5 3	18 00 9 00	75	9 75	3 50		
L. E. Fisher	40	8	24 00	4 85	28 85	4 50		
C. A. Roose	31	4	12 00	7 35	19 35	3 85		
W. H. RooseBR	28	10	30 00	3 45	33 45	1 95		
	28	66	185 00	30 85	215 85	21 15		
Northern Illinois								
G. F. AngellPG	24	3	12 00	1 50	13 50	! 50		
Gilbert BarberBR	29	6	21 25	1 25	22 50			
J. W. HofstraBR	34	10	35 00		35 00			
E. A. Rideout	28	8	25 00	9 50	34 50	50		
Eugene DavisPG	21 27	4	$12 \ 00 \\ 12 \ 00$		12'00 12'00	26 75		
Roy Van VurenBR Ruby McWilliamsHM	24	4	8 00	3 75	11 75	36 75		
Ruby me williams HM	•							
	187	. 39	125 25	16 00	141 25	38 75		
East Michigan								
C. B. GrahamGC	33	12	39 00	50	39 50	4 50		
F. E. NurnbergerGC	40	22	71 00	5 85	76 85			
Dan De LongBR Mrs. L. L. OtisHM	22 36	10 2	32 00 4 00	4 40	32 00 8 40	38 00		
Mrs. D. D. Otis	_	<u> </u>			<u> </u>			
	131	46	146 00	10 75	156 75	42 50		
Wisconsin								
Claude Morris	44	14	46 00	7 85	53 85			
Henry Bernitt	48	10	30 00	11 75	41 75			
W. A. GriffithBR	35	13	42 00		42 00			
	127	37	118 00	19 60	137 60			
33 Agents	1088	278	829 25	104 95	934 20	489 65		

Notice

"The Man in the Scarlet Cloak." This is a thrilling narrative of the Reformation under Martin Luther; just the book to help us meet the present Romish crisis. By Mrs. L. D. Avery-Stuttle. It will be published in book form, if sufficient number of advanced subscribers are obtained to warrant it. The book teaches that justification through faith is God's way of salvation. About 300 pages; cloth bound; price, \$1. Those desiring a copy if published, please address Mrs. L. D. Avery-Stuttle, 1215 Vermont Ave., Lansing, Mich.