

NORTH MICHIGAN CONFERENCE

NEWS SHEET.

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PETOSKEY, MICH., JANUARY 7, 1908.

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"We can all do more than we have done,  
And not be a whit the worse,  
It never was loving that emptied the heart,  
Nor giving that emptied the purse.  
--L. D. Santee.

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ORGANIZATION.

ALLEN MOON.

When deliverance came to the Israelites in Egypt, it was a vast throng that went up from thence, under the leadership of Moses. It is said there were six hundred three thousand five hundred fifty men of war, besides those of the tribe of Levi. Num. 1:32. It is variously estimated that this army of able-bodied men represented from three and a half to five millions of people. If we accept this as a literal relation of facts, and not a mythical story, we must conclude that some form of organization was absolutely necessary in order to make any progress with such a multitude.

Moses had a military training, and it is only natural to look for something like military order in his leadership; especially in the absence of instructions from heaven on the subject. So we read, "And the children of Israel went up harnessed out of the land of Egypt." Ex. 15:18. By reference to the marginal reading of this text, we find that by "harnessed" is meant, in military order, "five in a rank". This, perhaps, was the best that could be done in the haste of being thrust out of Egypt, and until they arrived where time could be devoted to the matter of organizing after God's order. The opportunity for this occurred early in the travels of the children of Israel after crossing the Red Sea. It came about in the following manner:-

While encamped at Rephidim, Jethro, Moses' father-in-law, paid a visit to the Israelites, and found Moses bearing the burdens of this mighty throng; for up to this time, no provision had been made for Moses to share the labor of acting as officer, judge, and ruler of this multitude that God had led out of the house of bondage by his hand.

When Jethro saw the unorganized condition of the people, and learned of the burdens borne by Moses in consequence, he said to his son-in-law, "The thing that thou doest is not good." So he proceeded to advise Moses to provide for the selection of "able men, such as fear God, men of truth, hating . . . unjust gain," to be made "rulers of thousands, rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens," to take part in the work of government and judgment. Ex. 18:1-24.

God placed his approval upon the plan suggested by Jethro and accepted by Moses, for he gave command, "Thou shalt not revile the judges nor curse the ruler of thy people." Ex. 22:28. Also the congregation was not slow to see the wisdom in an arrangement that brought order out of chaos, and rendered it unnecessary for each individual to look to Moses for every detail; for it is written: "And I spake unto you at that time saying, I am not able to bear you myself alone: take you wise men, and understanding, and known among your tribes, and I will make them rulers over you. And ye answered me and said, The thing which thou has spoken is good for us to do." Deut. 1:9-14.

(To be continued)

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"If you want to be wretched, look within; if you want to be distracted, look around; if you want to have peace, look up."

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## REPORT OF ELDERS' MEETING.

At 3 P. M., Dec. 25th the Conference Committee met in Petoskey for the first time since camp-meeting, and a continuous meeting was held until late that evening. The next morning at 9 o'clock the Auditing Committee met and worked all day finishing the work about night. At 7:50 that evening Elder Geo. G. Johnson gave us a very interesting discourse on the importance of being fully the Lord's.

The elders' meeting convened at 8:30 Friday morning, Dec. 27th and was introduced by a short talk from the president of the conference. This meeting was conducted in a different way than most meetings. Each one who had questions relative to church work wrote them out on slips of paper and they were taken up, one by one, and answered by any who had ideas respecting the question, everyone present taking part in the discussion. In this way the real needs of the conference and of the individuals were ascertained and no time was lost. With the exception of Sabbath, and one hour given daily to the study of Organization by Elder Moon, the entire time during each day was taken up with this line of work. Preaching services were held each evening.

We were glad for the counsel of Elder Allen Moon at this meeting and also that Brother J. B. Blosser, Lake Union Field Sec'y, could be with us a part of the time.

It is not necessary for the NEWS SHEET to say anything of the good interest manifested for the results will be seen throughout the conference. Nearly all the churches were represented. We wish to say, however, that the Petoskey church feel well paid for the effort put forth and language will not express their gratitude to God for its benefits.

There was no effort made whatever during the meeting in the way of a revival, but an earnest study of the principles underlying this work and it is certain that nearly everyone present was revived.

On Sabbath morning a devotion meeting was held at 8:30 A. M., Sabbath-school at 10 A. M., and Elder Moon spoke at 11 A. M. At 2:30 in the afternoon a Religious Liberty program was given by the young people of the Petoskey church.

Following the close of the meeting at 8:30 Monday evening, Dec. 30th, the congregation spent some time at the church visiting and saying good-bye because many were going to leave that night and early the next morning before day-light. This made us think of the parting of Paul and the elders assembled at Miletus.

S. E. Wight .

## REPORTS FROM BATTLE CREEK.

No doubt all have heard more or less concerning the situation in Battle Creek of late and many have been exercised over certain rumors which have come from that place through the press. All will be glad to learn the truth concerning this.

It has been rumored that Sister White has predicted the obliteration of Battle Creek in the immediate future, and that all Adventists should sell their homes and leave the place.

The pastor of the Battle Creek church, Elder M. N. Campbell, received a communication from Sister White relative to matters in the church which he read at the mid-week prayer and missionary meeting. In the Testimony she reminded the church of former warnings concerning judgments to fall upon the place.

The next day one of the newspapers came out with an article declaring that fearful denunciations had arrived from Sister White, warning the people to flee at once. This was a fabrication but was copied all over the United States.

## WORK IN THE COPPER COUNTRY.

Knowing you all have a special interest in the Copper Country I am sure you will be glad to hear from us often. The work is still onward and the interest is growing both with the Finnish and English people.

Another one my readers has begun to keep the Sabbath. Sometime ago Brother J. O. Stedman sold her a Great Controversy and last summer he received from her a six month's subscription for the SIGNS of THE TIMES. She had read Great Controversy thru once and started to read it again. I called on her in October and made an appointment

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to give her Bible readings. She told me my coming was an answer to prayer. She seemed to have a hungering for the truth. We often took up more than one subject in our study hour.

The second Sabbath she kept she observed the fast with us as a people, and she seems like an old Sabbath keeper. She has one son, a Congregational minister.

I write of this experience to encourage other canvassers. Many precious jewels will be the canvassers' reward.

Several other readers are much interested. Pray for the work here that it may be a success, both spiritually and financially. We need your aid in a real practical way.

Isabella B. Campbell.

### \$150,000 FUND.

The share for North Michigan is \$2,074.60. Taking from this the amount in this week's REVIEW it leaves \$671.46 yet to be raised on this fund. There are several unpaid pledges which, if paid, would make the amount still to be raised quite low.

Several weeks ago one hundred fifty cards were sent out asking for \$2.55 each. If the brethren and sisters throughout the conference will ask the elders of the churches for these cards and the money on these is sent into the office with the pledges already due, we will have the entire amount paid and a star opposite our name in the REVIEW. I am sure if this is done a shout of victory will go up from North Michigan.

S. B. Wight.

### SABBATH-SCHOOL NOTES.

The Sabbath-school Report Blanks have been sent out to each school and Lillie Sherwood of Rapid River is the first on the list to send in her report. Susan Hubbard of Scottville comes second on the list. These are both Home Department schools and are to be commended for their promptness.

The Sabbath-school Report given in the December WORKER has outgrown the one page limit. This summary shows the largest number of Sabbath-schools, the largest membership, the largest Home Department membership, the largest contributions, the largest amount given to missions of any quarterly Sabbath-school Report in the history of our work.

In the United States and Canadian Union Conferences, four reports show all the Sabbath-schools contributions given to missions. These four are Vermont, Alberta, Saskatchewan and Hawaii.

#### Our Own Conference.

Coming down to our own conference we find that our financial Report shows quite an increase over the former report. The total contributions are better, the expenses less. Fifteen schools followed the example of the four in the Canadian Union Conferences and sent all their donations to missions. Twenty used only a small part for home expenses. The remaining seventeen used all or nearly all for home expenses and sent very little away to missions.

I have been wondering if the twenty schools who gave nearly all to missions, would not like to make a little effort and raise themselves to the standard of the fifteen who supplied themselves in some other way? Some schools set aside the donations of the first or second Sabbaths, or more, if need be for home expenses. It can be announced before, so all will understand. This is only suggestive and I trust that the Lord will lead as seems best in each particular school. We are glad tho, to see the tide setting in so strongly in favor of sending all the contributions to the fields abroad. This is consistent, in view of the shortness of time and the needs of the cause everywhere.

I trust that our Sabbath-schools are getting much benefit from the use of the Test Questions and more frequent reviews. Some of our schools already report very

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good results, and others are getting an inspiration for more thorough work. One little fellow said, "I didn't know it was coming, Next time I'll be prepared." This is a good resolution and we hope many others will make the same resolve.

Some, also report good results, from using the hints given in the "Report of the Convention". They add interest and help to break up monotony.

The WORKER for January starts in with many good suggestions in the Art of Teaching, and the illustrations will be a great help to those of us who desire to become more proficient in the work of teaching.

But with all our helps, let us not forget that the one thing most needful, is the Spirit of God,--power from on high to convert souls. May the coming year be fraught with great blessings for our Sabbath-schools both in the study of the Word and also in helping to send the message to the ends of the earth.

One More Sabbath-school.

Brother Frank Catlin writes that a Sabbath-school has been organized at Frederic. Attendance for the quarter 100%; donations all sent to missions.

Mrs. Jennie M. Willaman.

#### HAVE YOU FOUND YOUR PLACE ?

One of the thoughts which impressed itself on my mind during the recent elders' meeting here in Petoskey, was the importance of everyone being in just the place the Lord wanted them to fill in this closing work of the message and also being so united that when the trumpet sounds an advance we may all move together and quickly finish the work.

Placing the literature, that God has caused to be written, into the hands of the people is one of the best ways of calling their attention to these precious truths.

One brother, who has not been working for some time, but who recently started, wrote that he felt greatly relieved the first day as he never felt right when not doing active work for the Lord. Others are planning on taking up work in the near future.

It has been decided that the Canvassers' Institute for North Michigan will begin Apr. 22nd and now is the time to begin to plan on attending. A few days spent in studying the methods of work will be a great help to anyone starting out.

We are nearing the time when this branch of the work will be finished and if we ever expect to do anything to bring souls to a knowledge of the Third Angel's Message now is the time to begin.

In a letter just received from Brother Lowry who is canvassing in Clare Co., we learn that he took sixteen dollars worth of orders during the Holidays. This shows that our books can be sold during all seasons of the year.

I would be glad to hear from all who have thoughts of taking up work with the printed page.

H. W. Johnson.

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#### NOTICE !

There is one "Ball" who lives near Rose City, Mich., going about among our people in the east part of the Conference looking for a chance to preach and hold meetings who should not be encouraged or helped by our people. He is not what he should be.

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"We are nearing the close of this earth's history; soon we shall stand before the great white throne. Soon your time for work will be forever past. Watch for opportunities to speak in season to those with whom you come in contact. Do not wait to become acquainted before you offer them the priceless treasures of truth. Go to work, and ways will open before you."-- Test. Vol. 7, Pages 15, 16.

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TITHE RECEIPTS FOR DECEMBER, 1907.

Alden - - - - - \$11.00	Frankfort - - - - - \$270.12	Onaway - - - - - \$ 4.00
Baldwin - - - - - 18.31	Gaylord - - - - - 23.56	Petoskey - - - - - 147.56
Bear Lake - - - - - 5.00	Hancock - - - - - 28.23	Rose City - - - - - 33.50
Chase - - - - - 8.57	Iron River - - - - - 25.00	Scottville - - - - - 5.85
Colfax - - - - - 33.10	Leetsville - - - - - 25.38	Stephenson - - - - - 7.13
Cadillac - - - - - 28.98	Miscellaneous - - - - - 14.75	Traverse City - - - - - 27.92
Cedar Run - - - - - 30.00	McMillan - - - - - 7.98	West Branch - - - - - 2.75
Clarence - - - - - 1.97	Menominee - - - - - 26.76	Whittemore - - - - - 13.00
Eastport - - - - - 32.28	Mosick - - - - - 112.67	Wildwood - - - - - 9.12
Ensign - - - - - 30.75	Omer - - - - - 6.00	Total - - - - - \$991.04

ELDERS ! NOTICE !

The minutes of the Elders' Meeting have been prepared and sent to Elder Moon for approval and as soon as they are returned will be put in mimeograph form and sent to all the elders.

TRACT SOCIETY NOTES..

When the books at the Tract Society were closed Dec. 31st, the tract and missionary societies of the following named churches had their accounts paid up to date: Baldwin, Cedar Run, Cleon, Dighton, Eastport, Ensign, Ewart, Gaylord, Grant, Iron River, Leetsville, Menominee, Onaway, Petoskey, Stephenson, Sault Ste. Marie, Scottville, and Whittemore.

Some of our people in West Branch recently sent a rush order to the Tract Society for a quantity of the special SIGNS to sell there the evening after the Sabbath. We sent them to them and they report that they sold everyone tho the night was a stormy one. A short time before this they had said they tho it impossible to sell religious literature in that place. Altogether they have sold about two hundred copies of the special SIGNS. It pays to try anyway.

Hereafter Sabbath-school Quarterlies will be mailed from the Tract Society office the last Tuesday preceding the last Sabbath of the old quarter. All orders should be in a week before that time. The librarians and Sabbath-school secretaries should bear this in mind. Those sending in orders after that time will be disappointed in not receiving the quarterlies in time for the first Sabbath of the new quarter.

As I read the encouraging letters and hear the reports of the progress of the message as it is being carried to the world, through the different channels of diffusing light, I cannot help but feel thankful to the Lord for a knowledge of this message and of the humble part I have of giving this glorious truth to others.

In the REVIEW & HERALD of Jan. 2nd our attention is called to the growth in our periodical work, comparing the four page journal published semi-monthly in 1849 with the many papers and journals of to-day. "Our publishing houses are God's appointed centers, and through them is to be accomplished a work the magnitude of which is yet unrealized." This shows us that the message is going and if we would have a place in it we must do our part in circulating the printed page.

The Lord encourages us to work by showing us the magnitude of the work also that doors are thrown open to receive the message. "Recently in visions during the night season, a representation passed before me. Among God's people there seemed to be a great reformatory movement. Many were praising God. The sick were healed, and other miracles were wrought. A spirit of intercession was seen, even as was manifested before the great day of Pentecost. Hundreds and thousands were seen visiting families, and opening before them the Word of God. Hearts were convicted by the power of the Holy Spirit, and a spirit of genuine conversion was manifest. On every side,

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doors were thrown open to the proclamation of the truth." "Among the members of our churches, there should be more house-to-house labor, in giving Bible readings, and in distributing literature."

The following shows how honest people of the world appreciate our literature:

"Last Monday I was in Lebanon and someone put a paper, SIGNS of the TIMES, in our buggy. I said when I saw it that it was God-given. It is so sweet to receive this good paper. I am in a neighborhood where they simply know nothing about these new papers, and I would like to have some tracts or sample papers to distribute in the neighborhood." Lebanon, Ind.

"I can't give you up, You must come on. I thot I would rest a while but you are too good. I must have you. I thot I would rest for a while but this Missions Number has roused me so I can't give it up and then as I went on my rounds with the last of the series I got so many good compliments on the SIGNS hat it encouraged me; so I will have to keep them up. I went into one office and I saw Collier's Weekly and other papers lying around and I asked the lady that stayed in there why she didn't let my good papers lie around where people could read them. She said, "They are crazy about your papers. They steal them away from here."

E. A. Bristol.

NEWS AND NOTES.

A Happy New Year to all our readers.

We were very glad to have Elder Allen Moon and Brother J. B. Blossor with us at our Elders' Meeting.

Sister Inez Lay expects to join Elder Hansen in his work at Traverse City.

Elder S. E. Wight expects to attend the Lake Union Conference Committee meeting called at South Bend at 9 A. M., Jan. 8th. He expects to visit Berrien Springs returning home via Menominee and the Soo.

Last Friday was mailed to all the elders a copy of the Testimonies on Sabbath keeping which was read at the sun-down service Friday evening during the Elders' meeting. If any elder fails to receive the same send to the office for a copy.

Recently Brother H. W. Johnson received the sad news that his father, I. N. Johnson died in Omaha, Neb. Dec. 23, 1907. He accepted the Third Angel's Message many years ago and we rejoice that the time is so near at hand when the Life-giver will come to call forth His sleeping saints and take them, with those who are looking for Him, to that beautiful place where sorrow and separation will be over.

The following are the names of the elders present at the Elders' Meeting: O. P. Smalley, D. B. Voorheis, Morten Stephens, Herman McConnell, T. W. Starkoy, George Kitson, Thos. De Moulpied, R. J. Bellows, Henry Seath, J. B. Goffar, Samuel Bracebridge, O. Montgomery, John Benson, T. W. Bogar, J. C. Jorgensen, Geo. G. Johnson, Ernest Peterson, Robert Strong, James O'Reilly, E. A. Bristol, J. B. Mathewson, Samuel Midgley, C. A. Hansen, David Millor, and H. F. States.

When Moses wanted Israel to go forward the trumpet was sounded. The Israel of to-day is commanded to advance and the progress of this advancement towards the Kingdom is noted in the REVIEW. This is the trumpet which gives the call to go forward. Those who do not have it fall behind and remain in the dark. Are you a subscriber .

Recently a Sabbath-school of thirteen members was organized among the Swedish people at Skanee.

"Nothing makes a man strong like a call upon him for help."