

The South African MISSIONARY

"Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest."

VOLUME IX.

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Song for Canvassers.

LIVES of canvassers remind us
We may make our lives sublime,
And departing leave behind us
Books of truth in every clime.
Over hill and dusty roadway,
Fetters and from men alone,
Truth more precious than earth's millions
Carries them to every home.
Lonely they, but God is keeping;
Angels' footsteps go beside;
And while many souls are sleeping,
They, awake, in God abide.
Speed ye then to every household;
Hold aloft the light so clear.
Fruit of heaven crown your labours
Throughout all the coming year.

—Selected.

Grahamstown Camp-Meeting.

THIS meeting was held according to appointment in the beautiful little city of Grahamstown. This city, of about seven thousand inhabitants, is located in the centre of a very fertile agricultural district. There are five colleges in the city, and as the place is largely supported by the farming industry, it is still quite prosperous in spite of the financial embarrassment that is causing much distress in many places.

It was a novel sight to see the brethren coming to the meeting in great waggons drawn by sixteen oxen. The parents came with their children, and provision to last through the meeting. Almost every family of Sabbath-keepers from Rokeby Park, and Maranatha Mission and vicinity, were encamped on the ground. About one hundred and twenty-five were in attendance at the meeting.

From the very first the sweet spirit of God came into the meeting, and day by day as the meetings progressed new victories were gained, and refreshing showers of blessing visited the entire encampment. Especially were the early morning meetings seasons of spiritual refreshing; a number of those from the outside meeting with us and joining in prayer and testimony.

The business meetings were very harmonious, and especially blessed from session to session, as plans were laid for aggressive city and conference work. It was planned to follow the camp-meeting with a strong tent effort. £150 was contributed by our people present toward a fund for city and conference work, and in addition to this the good citizens of Grahamstown have contributed £20 toward meeting the expense of the tent meeting, and they hope to raise this amount to £50.

Our own people were greatly blessed, and it was the universal testimony that this was one of the best meetings ever held in the Cape Conference. Those who could not attend missed much. Let us begin now to lay plans to attend the camp-meeting another year. We hope to see a number of the people of Grahamstown rejoicing in the light of truth before the tent meetings close.

From the very first evening the outside attendance was good. Rain did not prevent the people from coming, and the attendance has continued fully as strong since the close of the camp-meeting as before.

To meet the needs of a call for

more workers a canvassers' institute has been arranged for, and Brother Clark now has a good class in training for self-supporting work.

A field day was taken during the meeting, and a goodly number participated in the work of selling our good papers and magazines throughout the city. Over four hundred were sold in about four hours. It was a good experience for the camp and we believe will result in many taking up the work of selling our magazines and small books at their homes.

One gentleman from Cradock, a lawyer, hearing of the meetings came on purpose to attend. He gave a good testimony as to his impressions of the work at the camp-ground. God is certainly going before us to impress hearts with the truth.

During the past year over seventy souls have been baptised, and others are waiting an opportunity. On the last Sabbath of the meeting Brother D. C. Theunissen was ordained to the gospel ministry. He goes from the meeting with a new consecration of his life to the work for the coloured people of South Africa.

Let us all pray for and expect great things of God during the coming year.

E. R. WILLIAMS.

THE regular report of the good camp-meeting which has just closed at Grahamstown has been written by Elder Williams. I wish to add a word however in testimony of my appreciation of the great blessings which came to the Cape Conference in that meeting. There was from the first an earnest seeking of God.

Backsliders were reclaimed, and sinners converted. There was no confederating to carry points in the election of officers or in any of the proceedings of the conference. There was an humble seeking of God on the part of committees that they might know God's will, and God verified His promise that the meek would He guide in judgment and teach His way.

Some of the social meetings were most precious seasons of refreshing. The sick were healed in answer to prayer, and in many ways God came very near to his people. One of the best things that came to us in the meeting was the effort on the part of parents to send the young people to the college for training that they might enter the work. Others gave themselves to the canvassing and medical missionary work. I have great joy in my soul as I recall the victories gained by individuals and the spirit of unity that prevails among the workers.

We have every reason to expect that a church will be raised up in Grahamstown as the result of the tent-meeting that is now being held. I expect to see this one of the most prosperous years in the history of the Cape Conference.

R. C. PORTER.

Cape Colony Conference Proceedings.

THE sixteenth annual session of the Cape Colony Conference convened at Grahamstown, January 12-22, 1910. At the first meeting of the conference thirty-five delegates were seated, representing eleven churches, six churches not being represented. The President, Elder E. R. Williams, gave a brief review of the work done in the conference during the last year. Three churches were admitted into the conference; Salt River, Parow, and Bloemfontein.

The Sanitarium has had a prosperous year, and at present the institution is full of patients. The annex for the coloured people has been completed and is now ready for use.

£300 was raised in the conference during the year for sanitarium and college work. There has been seventy additions to the membership. A good healthy growth in the canvassing work has been manifest, and a gratifying amount of sales made. All lines considered we have much to encourage us and praise God for.

The chair was authorised to appoint the usual committees which were as follows:—

Plans and Resolutions,—H. J. Edmed, G. H. Clark, C. P. Crager, J. V. Willson, I. J. Hankins.

Nominations,—W. S. Hyatt, R. C. Porter, O. O. Fortner, E. W. Willmore, C. Sparrow.

Credentials and Licenses,—E. R. Williams, D. F. Tarr, R. C. Porter, G. W. Shone, W. S. Hyatt.

Auditing,—W. S. Hyatt, H. J. Edmed, A. W. Stapples, T. J. Davis, A. Willmore, M. E. Emmerson.

Believing that all will be interested in the resolutions passed at the conference, we give them entire.

1. *Whereas*, The Lord in His infinite love and kindness has been pleased to sustain and prosper His work and people during the past year, and

Whereas, The ever increasing responsibilities of this solemn work and the nearness of the end of all earthly things demand a deeper consecration and more earnest diligence in our work, therefore

Resolved, That we place on record this expression of our gratefulness to God for what He has done for us, and yield our hearts anew to Him in solemn pledge to lay our all upon the altar of sacrifice to be consumed in His service, and to do all that the exigencies of His work may demand and His providence direct.

2. *Whereas*, The Lord has emphasised the importance of our working to give the third angel's message in the cities, and

Whereas, Present experiences indicate that the cities of South Africa will give a successful response to such work when unitedly conducted, therefore.

(a) *Resolved*, That a strong effort

be made in this direction during the coming year by the formation of a city mission in Grahamstown at the close of this conference.

(b) That every person available and suitable from among our churches be pressed into this work as far as possible on the basis of self-supporting co-operation.

3. *Whereas*, The churches of South Africa are demanding Sunday legislation, and are federating to petition the forthcoming Union Parliament, therefore,

Resolved, That suitable literature be at once provided to meet the issue.

4. *Whereas*, The *Sentinel*, and quarterly *Signs*, and *Wachter*, are among our more effectual agencies in giving light to the people, therefore,

Resolved, That we make renewed efforts to give these papers a wider circulation.

5. *Whereas*, A very successful work can be done by selling our magazines and periodicals when suitable persons engage in this work, therefore,

Resolved, That such persons be encouraged to give themselves wholly to this work, and that they be assigned definite territory, embracing a sufficient number of cities, to afford them complete scope for their sales.

6. *Whereas*, The Lord calls for an awakening of our churches in the matter of organised missionary work which shall embrace the employment of every church member in some kind of church missionary work, therefore,

Resolved, That we co-operate with the Natal-Transvaal Conference in a special effort for such a revival, and that we unite with all the South African churches in setting apart certain Sabbath days as may be directed by the South African Union Conference Committee, for the free consideration of this matter.

7. *Recommended*, Wherever and whenever it may seem expedient in the interest of Sabbath-school work, conventions be held and programmes arranged which can be carried out in each church and home school.

Resolved, That in order to have harmony in Sabbath-school finances, we urge our local secretaries to send their quarterly reports to the general secretary *at the same time* they send their money to the treasurer, in order to make it possible for the accounts of these officers reports to agree, and thus also to guard the Sabbath-school contributions.

Whereas, The *Sabbath School Worker* is a moulding factor in our Sabbath-schools, and it being the medium whereby Sabbath-school labourers are kept in touch with progressive methods; therefore, we

Recommend, That earnest efforts be made to place this journal in the hands of every officer and teacher in our Sabbath-schools, arranging if possible for club rates to subscriptions for the single copies of the *Sabbath School Worker* and *Youth's Instructor*.

We *Recommend*, That the conference be urged to co-operate with our secretaries in strengthening this work by securing the names of all isolated Sabbath-keepers within their territory, that they may be brought in touch with the progress of the message. That we urge the carrying forward of this work more fully in our local schools, thus bringing the vitalising power of the Sabbath-school lessons to the whole denomination.

We *Recommend*, That our Sabbath-schools give all their donations to missions, providing for the expense of the Sabbath-school departmental work without drawing upon the Sabbath-school offerings given by the schools for missions.

8. *Whereas*, Experience has shown that the cash basis is the only right way to deal, and we are taught to avoid debt, and

Whereas, The tract society is sorely in need of the proceeds from its sales of literature to meet pressing obligations, therefore,

Resolved, That as a conference we adopt the cash basis of dealing, and that the canvassers will be expected to pay for one lot of books delivered before another lot is sent them, leaving it discretionary with the secretary

to make allowance for books the canvasser has left on hand. That the local tract societies work to the point of keeping out of debt to the International Tract Society. That all papers and books ordered by the librarians for private individuals be paid for by such individuals to the librarian before the end of the quarter, and all such money be promptly forwarded by the librarians to the office at the close of each quarter. That the labourers in the employ of the conference settle their tract society accounts at the end of each month.

9. *Whereas*, There is a great need in the field for consecrated and trained workers in the various branches of the work, and that God has said, "We have an army of youth who can do much if they are properly directed and encouraged," therefore,

Resolved, That we urge our ministers, workers, and church members, to send out young persons in our churches and encourage and help them to procure the training offered in our Union College.

10. *Whereas*, It has been demonstrated in other fields that many young persons can do efficient missionary work, and at the same time earn a scholarship by canvassing for our books and papers during the summer holidays, and

Whereas, Proper training is needed for this work in order to insure success, therefore,

Resolved, That we recommend to the conference committee that a canvassers' institute be held at Union College during the ensuing year.

11. *Whereas*, The Spirit of Prophecy has plainly revealed the necessity for thorough instruction and preparation for the canvassing work, therefore,

Resolved, That at least one canvassers' institute be held each year, preferably at the close of the annual conference, and that free entertainment during the institute be provided by the conference for all who will immediately enter the canvassing field.

12. *Whereas*, Our conference

workers, and church elders especially, are in a position to influence those who love the third angel's message, and

Whereas, The Lord has said that there should be one hundred in the field where there is now one, therefore

Resolved, That we urge these workers to seek out persons whom they consider capable of being developed into successful canvassers, and forward their names to the conference president, who will in turn pass them on to the field missionary agent for further development.

13. *Whereas*, The Lord has urged the importance of faithfully reporting our work with our literature, and

Whereas, The General Conference requires a full report of all work done with our literature, therefore

Resolved, That we urge all our people whether regular canvassers or not, to faithfully and promptly report through the proper channel as follows:—

(a) All work done with our books or papers by our local church-members to be reported to the church librarian, who in return will report to the state secretary, and he to the field missionary agent.

(b) All regular canvassers, both with our books and periodicals, promptly report to the state secretary and field agent.

14. *Whereas*, The active missionary work in the local churches depends in a large degree upon aggressive leadership and systematic plans, therefore

Resolved, That we urge all our churches in the selection of church librarians, to choose those who are aggressive in missionary work, and will devise plans for enlisting all in the work.

15. *Resolved*, That we urge all our young people to become connected with a young people's society, and that we adopt the principles and plans of the general organisation.

16. *Whereas*, There has sometime been delay and confusion occasioned by the church treasurers money being paid to others than the confer-

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ence treasurer, and whereas this is contrary to our organisation, therefore

Resolved, That the conference hereby instruct its church treasurer to send their remittances direct to the conference treasurer at the office, by deposit slip, cheque, or post office money order.

17. *Resolved*, That we urge our church officers to diligently work up the weekly offerings to the full estimate of the average of sixpence a week for each member.

18. *Resolved*, That we express our appreciation of the favours shown us by the people of the city of Grahamstown, by the Cape Town Railway Officials, also the Press for the favourable reports in the local papers and for the use of the pleasant grounds occupied by the camp.

Voted, That the International Tract Society forgive the debt of £307 9 2 due the Cape Colony Conference.

We are sure it would be of interest to all our people generally to hear the discussion on these eighteen resolutions, but the space in our little paper is quite too limited. The first resolution was passed by the congregation rising and singing "Praise God from Whom all Blessings Flow." The Committee on Nominations reported the following names for conference officers:—

President—E. R. Williams.

Vice President—W. S. Hyatt.

Secretary and Treasurer—J. V. Willson.

Secretary of Sabbath-school department—H. S. Beckner.

Educational, and Secretary of Young People's Work—R. G. Ryan.

Auditor—F. Hall.

Conference Committee,—E. R. Williams, W. S. Hyatt, R. C. Porter,

O. O. Fortner, P. A. Venter, D. F. Tarr, J. V. Willson.

Ministerial Credentials,—E. R. Williams, I. J. Hankins, D. F. Tarr, G. W. Shown.

Missionary License,—J. V. Willson, Mrs. J. V. Willson, D. Sparrow, Mrs. C. Morgan, Mrs. M. E. Smith, J. R. Mtkinkulu, Joseph Rosmeni, Michael.

Teachers Certificate,—All teachers employed by the Cape Colony Conference.

Colporters License,—B. P. de Beer, I. B. Burton, Q. H. Jubber, and all accredited canvassers.

Ordination,—D. C. Theunissen.
Meeting adjourned.

E. R. Williams, *President*.

J. V. Willson, *Secretary*.

Tent-Meetings.

THE tent meetings at Grahamstown continue with unabated interest. The tent is well filled each evening and the interest is deepening. Last Sabbath there were 25 outside people in for the Sabbath service. Some of these are keeping the Sabbath. The tent was crowded when the Sabbath question was presented. We speak to-night on the change of the Sabbath. The presentation of the Sabbath question has thus far deepened the interest, and we have many invitations to visit. The Lord is greatly blessing in the presentation of his truth. The donations from without have been more than twenty pounds sterling.

The institute work is moving well. The Lord is working with those in attendance, and they are both gaining a knowledge of how to work and an experience that will make their work effectual.

GRAHAMSTOWN WORKERS.

Notes.

—It was voted to discontinue the Dutch Missionary.

—The time appointed for the week of prayer is April 2-9.

—Brother Ernest Freeman was invited to connect with the Union

Conference office as stenographer.

—Brother O. O. Fortner was chosen as auditor for the Union Conference, and Frank Hall for Union College.

—Brother Claud Tarr and wife were invited to take up work on the Maranatha Mission Station. Thus two more are added to our list of workers for the dark continent.

—Brother Murry Kalaka was asked to disconnect with the Kolo Mission and unite with H. C. Olmstead at his new station near Leribe, Basutoland. We have not learned the name of the native teacher for Kolo.

—Elder W. S. Hyatt was invited to join Elder Williams in mission work in Grahamstown, and also to assist in such other work throughout the conference as the needs demand. Thus his time will be divided between mission and conference work.

—R. G. Ryan was asked to take the place made vacant by the resignation of Miss Mary Robertson as Secretary of the Young People's Department in the Union. He will also act as Educational Secretary. He will fill these offices in the Cape Conference as well.

—The Press failed to act just as we had well begun printing the February *Sentinel*. Hope to make necessary repairs at once, and to post the papers this week. Sorry for this delay. We get good reports from subscribers, and wish the list might be increased. Who will solicit subscriptions?

—A vote of thanks was tendered Miss Robertson in appreciation of her faithful work in the capacity of Secretary of the Young People's Department. She has carried this work for some years, and was the instrument in the Lord's hands of starting this good work in the Union. We wish her successor the same interest and success.

—The tent meetings at Grahamstown continue with unabated interest. The taking up of the Sabbath question added to the interest, and the tent is filled each night with truth-seekers. A number have taken their stand for the truth, among them several young people of ability and talent. We hope for weekly reports of this meeting that all of our people may know of the good work going on, and can then pray the more intelligently for its continued success.