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## The Winter Council Opens

By W. T. Bartlett

THE Winter Council opened on Wednesday evening, December 14, 1938, at Watford, England, when Pastor W. E. Read, in a powerful address, called attention to the perils facing the work of God at the present time. He outlined the work that was before the council and also indicated some directions in which we might hope to accomplish more in the future than we had been able to do in the past.

Brother M. N. Campbell brought greetings from our brethren in North America, also from the Winter Councils of the Central and Southern European Divisions. Brother Peterson also brought greetings from the young people of North America. Letters of greeting to the council were read from a number of missionaries. Among these was Brother W. McClements, who wrote of a great opening among the Ibibio people, "unparalleled in our history."

Brother Read began his address by reading some passages from Luke 21 and Matthew 24. The emphatic message of these passages is that God's people in the last days must make it the first business of their lives to get ready for the returning Master. The performance of their task will be the sign of that readiness: "This Gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world; . . . then shall the end come." There is no question about the message; the one point that need concern us is whether we ourselves are ready and helping other people to get ready.

"The subject," said Brother Read, "divides itself into three

parts: first, The Time; second, The Work; third, The Call." Who can doubt that we have reached the time of the prophecy! The newspapers make us very conscious day by day that the prophecy is being abundantly fulfilled. The Spirit of prophecy has warned us that the last movements will be rapid ones, and Brother Read called attention to the speed with which the centre of conflict has passed from one point to another during the past three years. First it was Abyssinia, on which all eyes were fixed. Then Spain, after that China; then the world began to learn more about the Sudeten country than most of us had known before. As soon as there was a kind of settlement in that part the emphasis passed to Teschen, then Ukrainia, quickly to Tunisia, and in the last day or two to Memel. Should it not be true that in our work also the last moves will be rapid ones? The world is speeding up its work of rearming. Before the World War broke out it was calculated that the amount of money spent on armaments was £1,000 per minute. A few weeks ago it was reckoned at £5,000 per minute, and the other day the figure was given at £6,000 per minute. In many lands great armies of youth were being made ready for the slaughter. New ideas concerning freedom and individual rights are being instilled into the minds of youth to-day. It is rendered by one writer thus: "Free-

dom is not doing what you want to do: it is being allowed to become what you ought to become."

God had wonderfully kept in check the winds of strife. The late premier of England, Lord Baldwin, speaking of the recent crisis, had remarked that it was just as though the finger of God had drawn a rainbow across the sky and renewed again His ancient covenant. The children of men, he said, had an important part to play in these fleeting hours, and one last opportunity to save the world.

Brother Read spoke of his recent visit to the Teschen country where the brethren extended to us a hearty welcome. They had passed through a trying time, but in the darkest hours the word of the Lord brought comfort to them.

As to our work, it is first and last the preaching of the everlasting Gospel to every nation; nothing else takes the place of preaching. The time has come for stronger evangelism. Like the double blast of the trumpet that called Israel first to form line and then to march, the call to get in line is sounding for us to-day. Unity is vital at this time. It must be the unity of the faith, and the unity of the Spirit. What is the bond of unity? Not money, nor facilities, buildings, nor institutions, but the love of Christ. The methods of political organization must never find place in the church of Christ. There must be no unholy desire for independence or personal ambition in the hearts of the leaders. The time has come for us to gather together and to be bound together. At this time a new

spirit is gaining ground in the world—the spirit of dictatorship. There is a growing disposition for strong men to take matters into their own hands, do something drastic, and then require others to agree to it as an accomplished fact. Never let us yield to this spirit as an influence in the work of God. Brother McElhany has said that this is a world movement, and we need to have a world vision. The leaders in one field are just as responsible for the work in other lands as in their home field. At the Fall Council we were told about a union session that was held in the Far East. There were gathered together some Chinese, Japanese, Koreans, and a few Americans. There was a call for a Japanese worker to locate in a place where a Chinese worker lived. A crisis was on at the time. Someone said to the Chinese worker, "Won't this step be embarrassing for you?" "No," he said, "We are Seventh-Day Adventists, we are different from other people." So we must not think of ourselves as Danish, Swedish, Norwegian, British, or Lithuanian; we are all one in Christ Jesus.

The time is ripe for the strongest evangelism. We must rally our entire church membership to the

task and go forward with it. Sister White has said that we are to preach the Gospel to those who may seem to our judgment to be as hopeless as though they were already in their graves. There is resurrection power in the Gospel. We have still a great number of unentered cities in the homelands and enormous areas of Africa waiting for the message.

Brother Read asked how the money necessary for such enlarged evangelism can be raised. He showed by some striking figures on charts how our people, according to the tithe receipts, were receiving a larger income. Had the mission offerings kept up with the tithe receipts, we in this Division would have received in the last year £5,370 more in offerings. If all had paid tithe at the average rate we should have received £33,000 more. If the missing members in our Sabbath-school had attended school on the Sabbath and brought their offerings at the average rate, there would have been another £3,600. These figures indicate how true is the statement made in the Spirit of prophecy that if all our people were faithful in bringing in their tithes and offerings there would be an abundance in the treasury.

1938 and realize how near we were to the inferno of war with all its attending chaos, destruction, and confusion, we should to-day raise our hearts in sincere gratitude to God for this extension of time and solemnly pledge our all to the finishing of the work during the days of comparative peace that have been granted us.

The third quarter's report shows that our present membership is 37,289, a gain of 3,040 over the third quarter of 1937. This is 1,535 more than the net gain of the previous period and is the best showing we have had during the past seven years.

Our membership at the close of 1937 was 35,951, a net gain of 1,702 over 1936. This is an increase of 197 over the net gain during the previous year, and 298 better than the average net gain during the previous four years.

There were added to our churches during 1937, 3,353 souls. These were shared almost equally between the home and mission fields: 1,665 in the home Unions and 1,688 in the mission fields.

In comparison to these gains we note the following losses: apostasies during 1937 were 1,128.

We are glad to note some improvement in the number of apostasies in comparison with 1936. The figures, however, still stand too high, especially in our home Unions, and this question, I believe, should give our responsible leaders deep concern, for surely we ought not to be losing fifty per cent of those we baptize each year through apostasy.

We are glad to note a slight increase in the working force in the home Unions during 1937. In fact had there not been such a marked decrease in the Baltic Union, the increase would have been much larger.

	1935	1936	1937
Baltic .....	119	108	92
British .....	173	176	185
Polish .....	105	101	103
E. Nordic .....	133	146	146
W. Nordic .....	121	120	128
Totals	651	651	654

The nations of Europe are stirred with the spirit of war. But though our hearts are troubled we need not be dismayed, for we have the assurance that God's people, even through tribulation and per-

## Items from the Secretary's Report

BY J. I. ROBISON

STRANGE forces are at work in the world to-day. Rapid changes are taking place in almost every land. The Spirit of God more than thirty years ago foresaw these times and through the servant of the Lord penned the following warning: "The agencies of evil are combining their forces, and consolidating. They are strengthening for the last great crisis. Great changes are soon to take place in our world, and the final movements will be rapid ones."—*"Testimonies," Vol. 9, page 11.*

These changes are even now taking place all around us, and leaders of world thought everywhere recognize that the world is facing the crisis hour of its history.

"Rulers and statesmen, men who

occupy positions of trust and authority, thinking men and women of all classes, have their attention fixed upon the events taking place about us. . . . They recognize that something great and decisive is about to take place."—*"Prophets and Kings," page 537.*

"Every element of power is about to be set to work. Past history will be repeated; old controversies will arouse to new life."—*"Testimonies to Ministers," page 116.*

These statements portray the current history of our times. This crisis hour should come to us as a challenge to arise and finish the work during these closing hours of probation. "For the night cometh, when no man can work."

As we look back over the year

secution, will triumph at last and stand on the sea of glass victorious.

"Fearful tests and trials await the people of God. The spirit of war is stirring the nations from one end of the earth to the other. But in the midst of the time of

trouble that is coming—a time of trouble such as has not been since there was a nation—God's chosen people still stand unmoved. Satan and his host cannot destroy them; for angels that excel in strength will protect them."—"Testimonies," Vol. 9, page 17.

## A Few Figures from the Financial Report

BY E. R. COLSON

THE Balance Sheet for the first ten months of 1938 shows a small gain. We must build up our working capital as per the 31st of December, 1937, by £2,865 before we shall be able to release all our surplus reserves. In time we hope to achieve this goal.

The actual increase in mission offerings over 1936 is seven per cent, which is very encouraging. The tithe has increased a trifle more than that. Practically every field had a substantial gain. One of our mission fields had an increase of over fifty per cent in mission offerings, while one home field made a gain of fifteen and one-half per cent.

Our Sabbath-school offerings have increased about ten per cent, for which we are also thankful to God. Our people rally well to the Harvest Ingathering Campaign.

Great strides have been made in the receipts from this year's campaign. We are, however, sorry to see the Week of Sacrifice Offering still receding, in fact, it is the lowest it has been for many years.

The total mission offerings raised during 1937 amounted to £44,782, which is over £1,400 more than has been raised during any previous year in spite of the fact that we have one less union mission field, and reports from another conference are not included. Never before have the tithes been so high as during 1937. The percentage of mission offerings to tithe in the home Unions was 65.1 per cent, or the lowest it has been with one exception for six years, while in the mission fields it was 124 per cent, or the highest it has been since the Division was organized.

## Extracts from the Educational Secretary's Report

BY J. I. ROBISON

As I think of our meagre educational facilities and the hundreds of our children and youth not receiving a Christian education, I am led to conclude that our greatest need in this Division is a revival of interest in Christian Education. We have sometimes looked upon our educational work as a department to be fostered by selected men for a selected group of our young people. Christian education, however, is the heart and core of this movement, and its principles are fundamental to the success of the movement as a whole, as well as a bulwark against the forces of secularism and paganism that are permeating the edu-

cational institutions of the world.

We cannot departmentalize education if this movement is to triumph. Christian education is the foundation upon which our work is built, and only as we build on this foundation can we look for larger success. In *Counsels to Teachers*, page 108, we read: "By some, education is placed next to religion, but true education is religion."

Again the importance of Christian education is emphasized in the book *Education*, page 30, in these words: "In the highest sense, the work of education and the work of redemption are one; for in education, as in redemption, 'other

foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.' . . . The great principles of education are unchanged. 'They stand fast for ever and ever,' for they are the principles of the character of God."

The devastating influence of secular education upon the religious principles and convictions of our children and youth has been pointed out again and again. In *Counsels to Teachers*, pages 15, 16, are these words:

"Those who seek the education that the world esteems so highly, are gradually led farther and farther from the principles of truth, until they become educated worldlings. At what a price have they gained their education! They have parted with the Holy Spirit of God. They have chosen to accept what the world calls knowledge in the place of the truths which God has committed to men through His ministers and apostles and prophets."

We cannot afford to allow our children and youth to be subjected to such dangers as are here pointed out. As leaders in the work, I trust we will take seriously our responsibility to care for the lambs of the flock and seek to provide larger educational facilities for our own youth in this Division.

Another educational problem that we face here in Northern Europe is to provide graduate work for teachers and workers now in service. One year ago we introduced a plan whereby selected workers could be assisted in attending the S.D.A. Theological Seminary in Washington. This plan has met with approval both in our own field and in Washington, and I am glad to say that two students are this winter attending the Seminary from this Division. I trust, however, that many more will be able to attend in the near future, for surely we need to build up our workers and teachers into a deeper understanding of this message and in a better preparation for service.

All our schools in the home Unions have entered upon their work for another year with a good enrolment and a fine group of eager young people in attendance.

	Stu'ts	Teach's
Latvian Conference School ...	33	5
Newbold Miss. College .....	119	9
Vejlefjord Miss. School .....	71	6
Onsrud Mission School .....	71	6
Swedish Mission School .....	68	8
Finnish Mission School .....	37	6
Estonian Mission School .....	36	3
Totals	435	43

For the Latvian school we have used last year's figures.

The Onsrud Mission School in Norway shows a splendid gain of twenty-six more than last year. The little Estonian school is growing and now has thirty-six students, or a gain of six over last year.

The Newbold Missionary College has entered upon its third year of conducting an Overseas Department. The principal of the College writes:

"There are altogether twenty-eight students in this department, as follows: Finland, 2; Denmark, 6; Sweden, 5; Poland, 2; Norway, 9; Yugoslavia, 1; Hungary, 1; Holland, 1; Switzerland, 1.

"This year six of these young men should graduate, four from Norway, one from Denmark, and one from Sweden. We are proud of these overseas students. They are young people of good ability and consecration and they ought to become strong workers."

Our church school report is practically the same as last year, with twelve schools in the Division and 377 enrolled. Eight of these schools are in the West Nordic Union, three in the British Union, and one in the East Nordic Union. In the West Nordic Union, where we have the largest number of church schools, plans are being laid to open two or three new schools next year. I trust that this will be the beginning of a revival of interest in our church school work in other parts of the Division. I believe, brethren, that we cannot neglect this all-important work and stand clear before God. We have 584 organized churches in Northern Europe with 26,735 members. I believe at least 8,000 children and youth are in our ranks. Of these 8,000 only about 800 are attending our own church schools, high schools, or colleges. What of the 7,200 others? Can we rest satisfied when we have provided for only one-tenth of our youth? This is surely a problem that should call us to our knees, that we might find and follow

God's way in providing a Christian education for our youth.

Our loyal, self-sacrificing teachers need our prayers, that from our educational centres there may

go out an influence that will be felt throughout the field for the upbuilding of the work of God and the saving of our children and youth.

## Notes from Sabbath-School Report

BY W. T. BARTLETT

ON September 30, 1938, our church membership, compared with the same date in 1937, had increased by 2,890. During the same period our Sabbath-school membership went up by 4,418, and the average attendance by 4,888. We are moving in the right direction, but we still have an average attendance that is 12,194 short of our enrolment, about twenty per cent. Of our gain in Sabbath-school membership 804 are in Europe, and of the improved average attendance Europe must be credited with 369. Our Diamond Jubilee Campaign to bring in the missing members was taken up earnestly, but much land yet remains to be possessed.

Had the missions report of offerings come to hand in time we should undoubtedly have reached seventy-five per cent of our goals instead of the seventy-three per cent shown.

We show a gain in perfect quarterly records of 13,495 against 13,153 a year ago; also a gain in perfect yearly records, rising from 923 last year to 1,065.

The \$232.26 we raise by the Investment Fund looks like "the small dust of the balance" when compared with the world total of 1937, which reached \$79,551.02. Cannot our Sabbath-school secretaries, backed up by their presidents, succeed in finding one business-like man or woman in every church who would be willing to

lead out in this enterprise, and help those who now are unable to contribute offerings to find some way of making money. In many places bright children, with some small encouragement, find the way for themselves. This is not a device for getting a little more out of those who are already giving liberally, but a way of helping those who have nothing to give to create gifts with the Lord's blessing and co-operation. There is not only money in the Investment Plan, but good training and mental and moral development. It does our young people good to engage in it.

The Sabbath-school Department of the General Conference is at work on the remaining third of their effort to produce a Training Course for all untrained Sabbath-school teachers. When the course is complete we must find ways of bringing it within the reach of the Sabbath-schools in our Division. Useful preparatory work can be done at once by organizing teachers' meetings where these do not exist. This is one of the greatest needs in our schools. In one strong conference it recently transpired that only twenty-five per cent of the schools had regular teachers' meetings. In view of the conditions about us, and coming upon us, it is of vital importance that our Sabbath-schools realize the importance and urgency of their task and set themselves at any sacrifice to perform it.

## Items from Young People's Report

BY W. T. BARTLETT

SINCE we reported at our last Winter Council, the membership has increased by 702, and the number of societies by thirty-nine. The most important item is the young people baptized, and this reveals a further increase of 150 on last

year's good report, which showed a 500 per cent growth.

We now unite to the number of 1,807 in our Morning Watch. In the British Union the sale of the Morning Watch Calendar rose by 100 per cent. There are 1,243 en-

rolled for the Bible Year as against 333 in 1937. Those taking the Reading Courses rose from 142 to 406. For the "Standard of Attainment" we have gone from 134 to 360.

Last year we took our first stride in the Progressive Courses with the issue of sixty-three Friend certificates. This year we report 349 certificates given to Friends, and sixty-eight Companions who have passed the second grade. Two so far are reported as having reached the rank of Master Comrade.

The work of translating *Mes-sages to Young People* goes forward rather slowly. The Finnish translation is now complete and the Danish should be finished about the end of the year. These editions will be unabridged, with index.

Nigeria is much encouraged over the zeal of their M.V's. They have laid in a stock of 5,000 badges of membership, and feel confident that these will be called for in the course of two or three years. In a recent report the superintendent, Brother Wm. McClements, attributed the mass movement that has been going on in parts of Nigeria largely to the zealous activity of M.V's. Their messages sounded so sweet to one chief that he wanted to know where they got their new

Bible from. A court clerk invited them to preach outside the court house to a crowd waiting there, and they did it so effectively that seven people decided to walk in the light.

Some of us may be inclined to look sceptically at the large figures that report the activity of our African M.V's, but Brother S. G. Maxwell justifies these reports. Speaking of the "enthusiastic body of youth in this Union" he mentions among other things their zeal in acquainting themselves with the Bible: "A large number are completing reading through the New Testament this year. At their monthly society meeting a set of ten questions is given to those reporting reading the assigned portion, and they must prove by satisfactory answers that they have read intelligently before they are given their credits. Memorizing Bible chapters is quite popular. One frequently listens to boys and girls reciting Luke 1, Matthew 26, John 6, and other long chapters. A new convert recently went through Psalm 119."

So let no one doubt the reports of work done by African boys and girls, but rather take their figures as a serious challenge to our more favoured European young people.

chapel almost without aid from the conference. A few weeks ago the leader sent an appeal to the general public through one of the daily newspapers in Stockholm asking for a used organ in good condition, free of charge, for the chapel, and the following day the newspaper reported that someone in Stockholm gave an organ, and, added the newspaper, in order to make sure that the organ is in perfect condition, a piano firm in the city has offered to look it over and do whatever may be necessary before sending it.

Both tithes and offerings show a good increase. The total tithe up to October 31st amounted to Kr.221,312, which is an increase of Kr.25,366, or 12.9 per cent. During that same period the total offerings for missions amounted to Kr.183,805, which represents a gain of Kr.28,603, or 18.4 per cent over last year's attainments. There was a gain in the Sabbath-school offerings of nearly eighteen per cent, Week of Sacrifice offerings of thirty-one per cent, Harvest In-gathering offering of eighteen per cent, and miscellaneous gifts of fifty-five per cent. Special mention should be made of the Week of Sacrifice. With us it is an old practice that all conference and institutional workers give their week's wage. Nobody thinks it too much. Hitherto the churchmembers have just given an offering at the end of the week, but now more and more of the members fall into line with the workers.

The departmental work is progressing nicely. We have efficient leaders in the Union both for the H.M. and M.V. departments. We regret much that we had to release Brother Engström to go back to U.S.A. But we are happy for the strong work he had done to bring the M.V. work up to the mark. We have had translated into Swedish and published the Junior Handbook. We have also translated the M.V. Study League material in a duplicated form, but intend soon to print that in a permanent form as well. Then we have translated the book, *The Great Advent Movement*, prepared by Miss Howell for the young people. In this book we are adding new material on the section on

## Extracts from Report of East Nordic Union Conference

BY G. A. LINDSAY

WHILE we in our part of the Continent have been spared from the anxiety, strife, and turmoil that some other fields have passed through, we have not been unmindful of the fact that shadows of trouble have appeared also on our horizon. We are glad that harmony, peace, and co-operation have reigned within the rank and file in our field.

The membership at the end of the third quarter stands at 5,344. During the winter sixteen ordained ministers, including three conference presidents and two department secretaries, carried on evangelistic efforts. One of the presidents had to serve as editor of two monthly papers and magazines as well. Then there were also eleven licentiates out in the field

preaching. Eighteen Bible-workers assisted these twenty-seven evangelists mentioned above. Through their united efforts and with the help of many faithful colporteurs and home missionary workers 381 were added up to the end of the third quarter.

An interesting company of Adventists has sprung up in Lapland. It began with a man who some years ago spent some time in our training school, after which he worked a little as a colporteur. Last year the Home Missionary secretary went up there for a few weeks to garner in the harvest and the result was thirteen souls baptized. This summer one of our younger ministers was sent up there and several more joined the company. They are building a

## Report of the Northern European Division for the

Name of Conference or Mission	No. Churches	Baptism and Vote	Apostasy	Death	Net Gain	Present Membership	Evangelistic Workers	Colporteurs	No. Sabbath-Schools	Membership	Average Attendance	Tithe	Tithe per capita	Sabbath-School Offerings	Weekly Offerings
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
<b>N. E. Division</b>							15								
Baltic Union.....	1	118	64	15	51	4	5,355	63	27	105	4,924	3,284	\$ 3,094.50	0.10	556.38
British.....	2	89	163	40	26	89	5,856	125	90	166	5,951	4,274	\$ 41,341.00	0.58	6,802.99
E.Nordic.....	3	99	77	27	26	19	5,344	60	124	186	4,664	3,706	\$ 18,504.10	0.29	4,062.62
Polish.....	4	144	124	24	12	78	3,644	59	38	166	4,160	3,123	\$ 4,447.70	0.10	1,072.33
W.Nordic.....	5	141	79	33	38	-1	7,034	54	83	173	6,290	4,653	\$ 25,628.80	0.29	5,254.57
<b>Union Totals</b>	<b>591</b>	<b>507</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>153</b>	<b>181</b>	<b>27,233</b>	<b>373</b>	<b>352</b>	<b>796</b>	<b>25,989</b>	<b>19,040</b>	<b>\$ 93,016.10</b>	<b>0.31</b>	<b>17,748.89</b>	<b>9.40</b>
<b>Ethiopian Union*</b>	<b>6</b>														
French Equa. Miss. 7							25	6		162	173	\$ 37.70	0.21	14.87	
Gold Coast Union... 8	10	17	4	5	8	1,088	42		70	3,668	2,198	\$ 736.40	0.07	227.67	
Kenya.....	9	32	577	65	7	504	5,488	295	10	239	14,342	14,791	\$ 1,210.20	0.02	1,061.28
Liberian Mission... 10	2	2				2	93	14		21	367	186	\$ 123.80	0.22	39.17
Nigerian Union..... 11	20	60	4	1	54	2,498	113	8	175	15,470	13,150	\$ 688.80	0.05	565.83	
Sierra Leone Miss. 12	2	6	2	3	1	487	29		30	1,316	1,003	\$ 209.80	0.04	106.02	
Upper Nile Union... 13	3	19	1	4	11	377	39	2	33	988	888	\$ 221.60	0.07	88.43	
<b>Mission Totals</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>681</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>580</b>	<b>10,055</b>	<b>533</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>571</b>	<b>36,313</b>	<b>32,389</b>	<b>\$ 5,710.10</b>	<b>0.04**</b>	<b>2,778.84</b>	
<b>Grand Totals</b>	<b>660</b>	<b>1,188</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>173</b>	<b>761</b>	<b>37,289</b>	<b>914</b>	<b>382</b>	<b>1,337</b>	<b>62,302</b>	<b>51,429</b>	<b>\$ 98,726.20</b>	<b>0.25**</b>	<b>20,527.73</b>	<b>9.40</b>

\* 1936 income \*\* Without Ethiopia

Scandinavia, enlarging it to suit our needs.

The colporteur work goes forward. The colporteurs' sales amounted to the sum of Kr.301,321, a gain of more than twenty per cent. Forty-nine of the students earned full scholarships. Of these, two entitle the students to study in Newbold College and three in U.S.A. There are also three more students on half scholarships.

Beside our two training schools, which are also operated as sanitariums during summer vacations, we have two sanitariums in Sweden, one clinic and treatment-room each in the capitals of Finland and Sweden. We also have a publishing house in each country. All these institutions are doing a good work. We have a faculty of God-fearing men and women in each of the schools.

burden upon us. That school needs help.

We have as last year eight church schools with about the same number of pupils and teachers.

The tithe has gone up in all conferences about Kr.25,000 to Kr.346,096. 66.8 per cent of the members have paid tithe.

Mission offerings are about the same as last year. We have reached our goals in Week of Sacrifice and Harvest Ingathering.

We have also this year had difficulties with the authorities in Denmark over our Harvest Ingathering work. Some members have been fined. Our members in Denmark have done a very commendable work as they have gone over their goals in both conferences.

### A New Year's Resolves

To keep my body strong, that I may  
be [me;  
Ready for service when He calls for  
To keep my spirit pure, that I may  
hear  
And answer quickly to the summons  
clear;  
To keep my courage firm that I may  
know  
No thought of fear when I am called  
to go;  
To keep my trust in God for ever  
true  
That I may do what He would have  
me do;  
To march straight onward where my  
Captain leads,  
Proving my loyalty by simple deeds;  
This is my prayer, Lord, may I faith-  
ful be,  
That by true service I may honour  
Thee.

BESSIE DICKERSON-DUCEY.

## Items from Report of the West Nordic Union Conference

BY L. MUDERSPACH

We have during the first nine months of this year taken in 356 new members by baptism and vote against 259 last year, a net gain of 155 against seventy-four last year. In membership we now have 7,034.

We have had difficulties in Denmark in respect to the sale of our papers, but our workers with good courage have used new methods which mean more work; the results have been about the same as last year.

In our departmental work we have translated and manifolded lessons for laymen's conventions and lessons for lay-preachers. Our first institute for lay-preachers has recently been held in the West Danish Conference. Sixteen men received help and will now go to work in their respective churches.

In the other conferences there are plans for similar institutes.

For the work among our young people we have translated and printed the handbook for M.V. juniors. *Messages to Young People* and *The History of our Denomination* are translated, and we shall soon print these books. We have created a fund for the publishing of these books so that they shall not be too expensive for our members. The junior work has been taken up with great interest in many churches.

In each of our mission schools we have about seventy students. The Norwegian school has a larger enrolment than ever before, but the debt on the school is large, and the community has forced us to build a new stairway and make other changes that lay a heavy

## Quarter Ended September 30, 1938

Harvest Ingathering	Annual Offering	Miscellaneous offerings	Week of Sacrifice	Young People's Offerings	Other Gifts	Big Week	Total Offerings	Total Offerings per capita	Percentage of Offerings to Tithe	Total Contribu- tions for Home Missionary Work	Total Contribu- tions for Local Church Work	Colporteur Sales
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
1,425.95	0.14	.....	47.51	1.34	.....	85.76	2,124.84	0.07	68.7	63.31	402.66	3,926.65
24,842.48	0.24	.....	2,539.25	128.27	122.12	60.27	34,495.62	0.49	83.4	267.55	4,835.99	27,720.12
21,052.42	5.70	224.91	453.17	-75	47.83	218.02	26,055.42	0.40	140.9	1,704.57	1,500.06	30,844.89
3,267.81	.....	16.86	5.91	9.18	.....	7.76	4,379.85	0.10	98.5	14.84	326.98	2,251.00
12,141.26	2.03	1.10	145.35	1.38	27.89	13.52	17,589.74	0.20	68.6	945.95	1,475.81	30,245.62
62,729.92	8.11	242.87	3,191.19	140.92	197.84	386.33	84,655.47	0.29	91.0	3,001.22	8,541.50	94,988.28
.....	166.84	.....	218.66	.....	.....	.....	1,061.07	.....	48.6	.....	.....	.....
.....	.....	.....	18.03	.....	.....	3.25	36.20	0.20	96.0	.....	.....	.....
6.57	.....	.....	253.02	.....	.....	9.74	500.00	0.05	67.9	.....	.....	.....
0.04	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	180.49	1,241.81	0.02	102.6	.....	.....	110.78
0.06	3.90	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	43.13	0.03	34.3	.....	.....	.....
32.93	15.60	.....	.....	.....	.....	63.63	677.99	0.03	68.6	.....	.....	1,366.24
47.50	.....	.....	4.63	.....	.....	11.26	169.41	0.04	80.7	.....	.....	.....
53.22	0.49	.....	5.46	.....	.....	9.27	155.87	0.05	70.8	.....	.....	39.90
140.32	185.83	.....	502.85	.....	.....	277.64	3,886.48	0.03**	68.1	.....	.....	1,516.92
62,870.24	194.94	242.87	3,694.04	140.92	197.84	663.97	88,541.95	0.22**	89.7	3,001.22	8,541.50	96,505.20

## Notes from Polish Union Report

BY WM. CZEMBOR

THE work in our Union during this year has been as usual carried out in stern conflict with the powers of darkness. That grows from year to year more strenuous. Our freedom to preach the message by voice and pen becomes less and less, and the hindrances grow greater. The Clerical Party is making use of all possible means against the sects, and brands them as disloyal organizations. It endeavours to influence the State to persecute all sects. A scheme for the early dissolution of all unlegalized religious societies and sects is spoken of publicly and is also discussed in the Press. During the summer a new press law has been enacted which notably reduces the freedom hitherto enjoyed.

This autumn the printing establishment which works for our publishing house has been for a period closed on the ground that they have printed for sects. For the first time in the history of public work in Poland an edition of our paper was confiscated. It was the November issue of the magazine *Wellspring of Life*. The reason given for this action was an article concerning the immortality doctrine in which this sentence appeared: "The doctrine of the immortality of the soul is heathenish and devilish." The matter is be-

fore the authorities and we expect every day the sentence of the court.

The same thing is happening to public speaking everywhere. In many places we cannot hold a meeting at which representatives of the Catholic Action have not their reporters, who carry misleading reports. Often secret detectives of the authorities are present. I am glad, however, to report that these representatives, as a rule, give a good report of us and bear witness in our favour. They speak of us as a loyal society which works in the interests of the State. This is indeed the case. In November I received a letter from a worker in which he informed me that he had been accused to the courts by the relatives of a friend of the truth who was preparing for baptism. The worker gave him personal studies and was very cautious, as he wrote me, and yet he is now expecting judgment against him for having spoken insultingly of the State religion. In new places especially the workers as well as the believers are strongly persecuted and often they suffer for the sake of the truth.

In spite of growing difficulties, the Lord has blessed us in adding new souls to the church. During the last eleven months we have

won 356, and altogether there were 329 baptized and twenty-seven received into church by vote. The membership according to the report for the third quarter reaches 3,644.

The income from tithes and mission offerings shows good advance this year. For the ten months of this year the tithe reported is £1,80,941.98, as compared with £1,73,580.45 for the same period of the previous year. This means a gain of £1,7361.53, or about ten per cent increase. Mission gifts have come in to the amount of £1,51,043.80—in the previous year £1,46,427.83—which is an increase of ten per cent. We are grateful to the Lord for these blessings and for a willing people that in spite of its poverty offers willingly. According to the September report, we have in our Union seventy-seven per cent of tithe-paying members.

With the help of the Lord we have succeeded this year in building three places of worship: two smaller wooden houses and one larger chapel. These chapels cost us in the neighbourhood of £1,15,000, of which the Division has appropriated £1,5,330, for which we here express our heartiest thanks. Besides these, one of the country churches, out of its own means, has built a prayer-hall which we have dedicated this summer. The lack of meeting-places is a great problem for us. We have



altogether, with the buildings now begun, nineteen of our own meeting-places and thirty-five rented rooms. Only fifty-four groups possess buildings of their own. Ninety churches have no regular meeting-places. They gather together here and there in the oft-times small dwellings of the members.

We greatly need new workers. Our workers' Training Institute was closed this year, but we have already made plans to reopen the school next year, and for the purpose of providing better teachers two of our preachers have been sent this year to Newbold College.

In the Big Week we have gone £1,220 beyond the receipts of the previous year, and in the Harvest Ingathering have improved by £1,170. Up to the present we have £1,24,500 for the Ingathering this year. The work was very hard. People in Poland are not educated to give offerings to missions. They give their money gladly for spirits and tobacco, but not for missionary work. We rejoice that the brethren, especially the young people, were willing, in spite of the difficulties, to sell the Ingathering literature, and in this way work for the cause of God. The sum total achieved is relatively small, but it consists almost entirely of small sums.

The fight over our children to get them released from school education on the Sabbath was this year especially hard. During October the first Polish Congress in the interests of the children took place. Among other things, a proposal was made that the Polish child should receive instruction from Polish Catholics only. Fortunately the proposal was not carried. We are endeavouring to help our children and youth, according to our best knowledge and ability, and are glad that this year we have been able to publish the last volume of A. E. McKibbins' for Bible Education. With this we now have four good volumes with which to educate our own children in the Word of God. They take very heartily to this instruction. During the summer holiday we have for the school-children what we call a Children's Health Holiday. In the West Conference we had sixteen children for three

weeks, and endeavoured to minister to their mental and physical welfare. In the Silesian Conference about thirty-five children received the same holiday for six weeks. In this work we have sought out the poorest children to receive help.

I might mention that the territory of the Polish Union has been extended. With the new frontier we have received from the Czechoslovakian Union sixteen churches with 609 members, two workers, and seven small meeting-houses. There is nothing as yet from this addition to report in

the way of gifts, because it was only in November that we took over the new churches and no reports are to hand. The statistics that have been given are not yet final. We have among these churches found an excellent spirit. The brethren and sisters are all happy to be united with us. They are all Polish churches, and have always studied their Sabbath-school lessons in the Polish language. We have on the average through the years supplied them with 400 Polish lessons and other Polish literature.

## Items from Treasurer's Report on Our Liabilities

BY E. R. COLSON

ONCE every year in our institutions and conferences we take an inventory of our assets and liabilities. It is also desirable at times for us to take stock of our work at large, not as individual institutions and departmental units of our organization, but as a whole in order to see the general trend of things.

If North America could use all its tithes, mission offering receipts, and offerings taken up for local church work, it would take fourteen months for them to pay off their indebtedness. If we could do the same thing for the whole world, that is, use all the tithes and mission offerings taken up throughout the world fields to apply them on our debts, it would take about sixteen months for us to pay off all the debts. If we could do the same in the Northern European Division, that is, use all our tithes and mission offerings with which to pay off our debts, it would take us two and one-half years to carry out this purpose. Of course, this is the average; in some unions it would take less, but in others it would take over five and one-half years.

During the past five years the organizations and institutions within the Northern European Division have gone into debt to the amount of \$520,000, as follows:

1933	.....	\$165,604
1934	.....	122,886
1935	.....	155,539
1936	.....	32,817
1937	.....	44,000

At the Autumn Council of 1936 action was taken that mission

fields having incurred indebtedness be required to adopt a definite policy of debt liquidation, and that no less than ten per cent of the entire indebtedness be liquidated annually.

If we are to carry out the action taken at the 1937 Autumn Council and reaffirmed at the recent Autumn Council of 1938, there are debts in the British Union to the amount of £1,572 to be liquidated each year; in the Polish Union, £1,398; in the East Nordic Union, SKr.51,357 and FMk.148,617; in the West Nordic Union, NKr. 81,267 and DKr.182,238; in Estonia, EKr.721; in Lithuania Lits168, and in the mission fields £115, or a total for the whole Division of \$84,985.

In the Spirit of prophecy we read: "The very highest kind of education that can be given is to shun the incurring of debt as you would shun disease, . . . methods must be devised to prevent the accumulation of debt upon our institutions. Let all who have acted a part in allowing this cloud of debt to cover them, now feel it their duty to do what they can to remove it."

### The Advent Survey

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