

Western Canadian Tidings

"BEHOLD I BRING YOU GOOD TIDINGS"

Vol. 7

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No. 2

HALIFAX DISASTER

Our brethren everywhere have heard more or less of the terrible disaster at Halifax, and doubtless will rejoice that God miraculously spared us. No lives were lost of all our members, except one little child. Sister Jennie Boutilier's little Helen, aged two years, was burned in the ruins of their house. While we feel very sad over the loss of this little one, we can only praise God that no more were lost and that He so wonderfully preserved us all during this terrible calamity.

Thursday, Dec. 6, 1917, is a date which will never be forgotten by those who survived this great catastrophe. The morning dawned bright and beautiful. Every one was busy with the usual activities of life, except a few who had remained in bed late and those who were sick. Little did any one think that death and destruction were so near.

It came to us, as a family, like a bolt from the blue sky just as we were about to bow in morning worship together. There was a slight rumble and then the terrible shock came so suddenly that we had no time to think of danger until it was all over. The whole thing could have been no more than five seconds. Our windows were gone, curtains, glass and everything scattered about and broken. Our front door lay a mass of kindling wood with the whole frame and glass panels of the inner door in a heap on the hall floor. When we began to look about every one's house was in the same condition.

In some parts children had already assembled at school and others were on their way so that families were separated and none knew what had become of the others. In one school of 525 children only 7 are living. In some instances whole families were killed. It made us think of the great day of God, for the destruction came suddenly and there was no way of escape. The terrible havoc wrought in those few seconds is beyond the power of tongue or pen to describe. With two thousand killed, three thousand seriously injured and six thousand rendered homeless, besides hundreds made totally or partially blind, one forms a little idea of its vastness.

We were warned to leave our houses and flee to open fields as there was danger of another explosion. Many people went without proper wraps and footwear and as there was snow and ice on the ground much suffering was caused from exposure. Many died from fright and nervous shock.

Our little boy was sick with pneumonia; we had been up several nights treating him. We wrapped him well and carried his cot out to an open space a few blocks distant where we remained until after one o'clock in the morning, *when we were told that all*

danger was over. How glad we were. We then learned the cause of the disaster—that the steamer Mont Blanc, loaded with about three thousand tons of high explosives, had caught fire in a collision with a Belgian relief boat and caused the explosion.

Every building in the city was shattered more or less and windows were broken in houses more than twenty miles distant.

We immediately began to think of our brethren and sisters who were nearer the scene than we were, wondering how they fared. We greatly rejoiced upon learning of them one by one, to find them alive and we praised God more and more each time we heard of another. Surely He did encamp around us. Although three of our sisters had bad wounds none of them were serious. Our little church which we had so recently painted and at which we had a goodly attendance of outside listeners on Sunday evenings, was shattered beyond repair, being moved from the foundation. We were unable to get together for a meeting during the week of prayer until Thursday evening and on Sabbath we had a wonderful experience meeting, which was indeed interesting. Sister Jennie Boutilier being in the hospital, wrote her experience and sent it to us:

"Dear Brothers and Sisters:—So very sorry I cannot be with you to give my personal testimony in your praise service today. As the Lord has kept my right arm unhurt I shall take advantage of the opportunity to send a written testimony. We can surely all join in saying, 'Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised.' That was one of the Morning Watch texts we had not long ago. How thankful we should be for the Morning Watch. Some of the verses, especially those on God's protection, were brought to my mind. The Lord fulfilled his promise in bringing to my remembrance the things I had learned. But remember it is what we have *learned* so I trust not one of our members will fail to observe the Morning Watch this coming year. Our Bibles may be burned, but if we have it in our minds the precious promises that are contained therein will surely be brought to our remembrance when we need them. Of course as you all realize, it was a miracle any of us were saved, but in my case a special miracle was performed. I was driven from my room through the next one and thence to the cellar. The reason I know this is because when I crawled out I was on the front sidewalk and I live in the back of the house. Our house and the one next to it came down on me. This I know by viewing the ruin after I got out. I saw from the small place where I got out, how much had been on top of me. There were three or four high boards around me like a stall.

There I was down in the dark. To human reasoning it would seem very absurd to think of getting out alive. But I thought with God, nothing is impossible so I spoke to my dear Friend who always helps me and looking up by faith expecting to see an opening, saw it and at once started to climb up the side of a straight board and got out on the sidewalk I was assisted by an angel, because I could not have climbed out alone. I felt the presence of Jesus with me. In one way I was glad no human being helped me because I can give all praise to whom it is due—that is to my dear Jesus. After I escaped I looked about the ruins and seeing a hole I put my feet down first and crawled under the ruins in search of my darling baby. I called her and she started to cry. Mrs. Pennie in the same house was yelling for me to save her. I did my best. I could not move that big door that was pinned hard against the ruins. I crawled out again, running across the street and up and down pleading with men to come up to the rescue. But they had their own to look after. At last a naval officer promised to get her and I went with him but he forbade me to go near the ruin. He did not know I had been there three times already trying to pull boards away. A man caught me on the street, and tied my face up and ordered me to go at once to the auto. But I could not, I had to go back and try to get dear little Helen. After doing my best I was obliged to leave as my hand was badly burned and cut and my chin was terribly cut (though I did not know it), besides several cuts about my head. My face was getting stiff so I could hardly talk so I ran to the Wellington Barracks nearby and they brought me here (Camp Hill Hospital).

Nobody knows what agony of mind I went through that day and night thinking and praying about Helen. I never experienced the like before and trust I never shall again. But I suppose it was wrong for me to worry as she may be all right, somewhere. Although Mrs. Pennie's bones were found I cannot bear the thought of Helen being burned alive. I can hardly believe that Jesus would permit it. But please have special prayer for me that I may have strength to bear whatever comes, knowing that Jesus doeth all things well. When I have read about Jesus performing miracles and delivering His followers, I often wished that I could have a miracle performed. I had no idea that such an unworthy being as I would experience so soon such a miraculous deliverance. It would have been no harder for God to bring me out without a scratch than the way He did, but had He done so I would not have appreciated His power so much for I may have soon forgotten about it. The way I am I have a chance to meditate and look back upon my experience and all the way I can see it was the Lord's doing. I could write a whole book about this for I cannot praise God enough for His goodness. How I would enjoy hearing your testimonies, for I know there will not be a silent person in your meeting for I am sure every heart is filled to overflowing with praise to our Creator. No one knows what I have to hear in this place. The sufferings of the people are terrible. While the doctor was attending one poor woman who had two eyes out she was crying, "O, doctor, don't kill me; I am not prepared to die. I wish some one would pray for me." Poor soul. I offered a silent prayer for her that dear Jesus would help her.

Please note what I am about to say. Hear the

words of this poor woman: "Not ready to die." Wanted someone to pray for her! What does this mean to us? We are alive, for what purpose, do you suppose? I do not need to say, for we all know it is to continue in soul-saving work so that people will not be afraid to meet dear Jesus. I feel so unworthy, so unfaithful, I surrender myself fully to Jesus and His services and I want to live every minute of my life for Him. Pray that my wounds may be healed if it is God's will. I did not mean to write so much but if you haven't time to read it all just read a portion of it. I feel grateful to Elder Chapman for coming and washing my face and eyes so I could see and for dressing my hand. I also wish to thank Sister Chapman for her great kindness to me. I would not forget to thank the other members that have been kind to me. I am in Bro. Herod's house now. He has been very kind to me. I certainly appreciated the visits from our members; I was very glad to see them and wish they could come oftener. Sister Hayward, I am glad you are improving. I am praying for you. (Sister Hayward and her husband had a very miraculous escape also, their house being demolished and they were badly cut). Of course, I am praying for all our members, but especially for those who are sick or wounded. This is the week of prayer. O, how we should pray and offer praise unto dear Jesus. May God bless you all. Pray for me.

(Mrs.) Jennie Boutilier, Camp Hill Hospital.
Mrs. E. M. CHAPMAN.

Alberta Conference

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NEEDS AND BLESSINGS OF OUR SANITARIUM AND TREATMENT ROOMS

Job 31:32: "The stranger did not lodge in the street; but I opened my doors to the traveller."

For a number of years we have felt the importance and necessity of developing the medical work in this Conference. After considerable study upon the question it was concluded that something of this kind must be established in this province in order to do justice to our brethren and sisters and friends and neighbors. The Lord finally opened the way and made it possible for us to have the privilege of securing Dr. Bonde and his family from California, also Brother Close and his family.

It is well known throughout the Conference that our treatment rooms commenced operations seven years ago and have always proved a blessing to the cause. Brother Hommel and wife were the first ones to start this work in Calgary. After a certain length of time the treatment rooms were turned over to Brother Logan, who did a good work for three years. Finally the voice of the people was that we ought to have more than treatment rooms in this Conference, so we decided to look around and find some good medical missionary man to head the work. We finally succeeded in getting the Doctor up here and opportunity was given to do more for our people.

Since we opened up what we now call the Alberta Sanitarium, the words of Job 31:32, seems to me more clear than ever before. So many times inquiries

have come from our people as to where and how they can secure medical help from our own source, and we had no place to direct them except across the line. Therefore the people recognized that we, as a Conference, ought to establish something of this kind so that we can "open our doors to the traveller" and not let the "stranger lodge in the street."

This medical institution certainly has proved to be a blessing to the people of Alberta ever since we opened our doors. From the very beginning our rooms were filled up to the limit and always have rooms been hired outside to take care of all the patients. It has not only proved a blessing to our own Conference, but also to our sister conferences in the Union, and we are only too glad that we can help those who need medical care and pay expenses. I know all our medical help have done the very best they know how. Our doctors and nurses many times have no time to lay their clothes off for 24 hours at a stretch because we are so short of help and always crowded with patients.

Our past experience has proved there are different classes of people. One class are very able to pay all their medical fees and even give more too; another class are hardly able to pay their medical fees but at the same time they sacrifice much in order to do so. The third class of people we have to meet are the ones who are poor and needy, and those are the ones we ought to pay special attention to. When they call at our institutions our doors are open to them, and all we can do is bless them and tell them to go and tell some other needy ones where to come and receive the same blessing. It is a blessing for us to help in this respect, but the financial side of the question will hardly allow us to do as much as we might. I know there are many people living in this Conference with means in the bank as a result of God's blessing, and we would like to call on those to make some donations where we could help the poor ones who come to our medical institution.

Not only can we help them from a physical standpoint, but also spiritually. A number of people who came to the place never had prayed once in their lives, but as it has been resolved that no one should leave our doors without someone speaking to them in regard to their salvation, thus we have had the pleasure of seeing a few rejoice in the message before leaving the institution.

I know that quite a number of people would like to have a part in this work and the only way we all can have a share in the work is for us to have a Poor Fund established where we can help by our gifts so that those who need help may be taken in. I will call not only on those who have money which they do not know how to use in the cause, but also every member of the Alberta Conference to contribute to this fund.

Since we started our Sanitarium and treatment rooms in Calgary, Brother Logan, who used to operate the treatment room, felt the need of this line of work and so opened up another treatment room in Edmonton, and I hope all those people who are near there will call on Brother Logan and he will certainly try to do the very best he can for everyone.

I would like to quote the verse again and call your special attention to it. "The stranger did not lodge in the street: but I opened my doors to the traveller."

—H. H. HUMANN.

YEARLY REPORT OF THE ROSEBUD CHURCH

Another year has come and gone, and many trials and temptations came to this people in the year that is now of the past. At the beginning of 1917, we all looked into the future wondering "What will it bring to me and to the world." Now we can look back at 1917 and we recognize God's wonderful care for His people. No one has had to suffer here in this part of the earth. In order that we may learn to love God better, He sometimes sends us hard times to teach us these lessons.

On Sunday at eleven o'clock in the forenoon, we held our yearly meeting. Elder H. H. Humann acted as chairman. Nearly all the members were present. The reports were read and the church secretary's report showed a membership of one hundred and seventeen. Seventeen were taken into the church and eight have been dropped. Some moved away. Two dear members we lost through death. Among the seventeen taken into the church, eight were received through baptism, three through vote and six through letters. The latter moved in last spring from the Leduc church.

The treasurer's report was next given, which shows the following figures: Total amount received to December 31, \$16,691.56. Mission Funds per capita per week 56c. Tithe per capita \$81.12. About ten thousand dollars more have been given for our church and school buildings.

The third report was from the Missionary Secretary. This report showed that the church held seven meetings during the year. At these meetings, we sent out 18,777 pages of tracts, 632 *Hausefreunds*, 335 *Zeichender Zeit*. We have ordered some in clubs and sent them out, also some English tracts and papers, the amount of which I cannot give. The amount of money that has been used for this work during the year was \$452.00. Outside meetings held, thirty-seven. Bible readings, thirteen. Letters written, thirteen. Letters received, four. More letters then reported have been written and received.

We are all thankful to the Lord for the little we are able to do for His cause. Our aim is to do better every year. We are very glad for the good crops the Lord has given us last year, so we could only take from that when He gave us and hand the same back to His treasury. So may the Lord help us to work as long as the season lasts. The time may soon come when no man can work.

A. A. ROTH, *Elder of Church.*

EDBERG

It was announced that the Lewisville Church should hold their quarterly meeting and elect officers for 1918 January 5, as Elder Johnson could not be there on December 29 as was first announced. On January 2, a 'phone message came saying that Sister Pearson died that morning and Elder Johnson was wanted, as the funeral was to be held January 6. So Elder Neufeld was sent in place. We had splendid meetings. They were held in Brother Hansen's house Friday and Sabbath evening and a goodly number of the neighbors came. The Sunday afternoon meeting was held in the school house. The house was well filled with attentive listeners. One German family became very much interested. May the Lord's spirit work with this family until they be fully converted. We were sorry that there were not more church members present, because those that

cannot be present at the quarterly meeting lose much, so brethren, try to come to the quarterly meeting, even if you have to sacrifice a good deal of worldly things, you will surely gain in the spiritual things. Brother Eklund, Brother and Sister Larsen and Thedi Johnson were present, aside from those living around Edberg.

The church officers elected are as follows:

Elder—Elder Fred Johnson.

Deacon—Brother Wold.

Deaconess—Sister Wold.

Clerk—C. J. Hansen.

Treasurer—Bennie Hansen.

Librarian—H. E. Shelstad.

The Sabbath-school officers are:

Superintendent—Ole Wold.

Secretary—Tracer Herman Wold.

May the Lord give those elected much of His spirit and wisdom to work for the benefit of the other members that souls may be revived with fire from above, and drawn into God's fold was all our prayers.

God's spirit was with us all through the meetings, and some of the young members of families asked for prayers. Brethren, it pays to bring the young with you on such occasions.

Let us remember the time is short and God will call us to give an account of what we are doing. We thank Brother and Sister Hansen for their hospitality and also others who made it pleasant for us.

H. E. SHELSTAD.

MEDICINE HAT

The weather and roads not being favorable to labor in the country, I have come here for the present to labor in the city.

I arrived here on Monday night, January 7, and the next day met a lady at the Y.W.C.A. who is here canvassing for an American publishing house. She taught school for nine years, and has been a missionary for seven years. A few months ago she severed her connections from the church she belonged to, being dissatisfied with the profession of many so-called Christians, yet she hasn't let go of her faith in Christ. I have had two studies with her so far. I ask your prayers for her. The first time we studied together she remarked, "I don't seem to be able to keep from meeting your people the last three years."

God's spirit is searching for the honest in heart, though it may mean a giving up of preconceived ideas, which may cost a struggle. My heart goes out in love and gratitude, to my Heavenly Father, for His providential leadings. The same Father who led in the experience of Philip and the Eunuch, is leading today.

I was introduced to a family, with whom I am giving studies, who came a few years ago from my home town in Ontario. God's ways are wonderful in the leadings of the affairs of mankind. I want your prayers that I may have sanctified wisdom to give the message in a saving way.

H. A. NIERGARTH.

THE TEACHERS' INSTITUTE

The Teachers' Institute held at Lacombe Dec. 29 to January 2, closed with good results. Nearly all the teachers from the field were in. Such topics as "Opening Exercises," "Courtesy in the School," "Junior Society Work," "Parents Meetings," "Recreation," "Discipline," and methods in various

subjects were discussed with profit. Several suggested that they were anxious to get back to work and try some of the new ideas. All left with a determination to make their work count for eternity.

BERTHA GILLBANK.

OBITUARY

PEARSON—Mrs K. Elizabeth Pearson fell asleep quietly and peacefully 1.45 a.m. January 2, 1918, at the home in Burnt Lake, Alberta, ten miles west of Red Deer. She was sixty-two years, one month and fourteen days of age. Her maiden years were spent in nursing in Stockholm, Sweden, where she united in marriage with C. A. Pearson, which union was blessed with three sons, two being present at the funeral, while the youngest is attending our Broadview School. The couple emigrated to Canada in 1893 and settled on a homestead at Burnt Lake, where Sister Pearson lived till her death. While yet young, she joined the Methodist faith, was baptized among the Baptists in 1900, but joined the Seventh-day Adventists in 1907 and remained a faithful member. Sister Pearson was known as a hard worker and generous supporter of the cause. The funeral service was held at the Baptist church with a large attendance of friends and relatives. Words of comfort were spoken by the writer from Hebrews 13:14.

FRED JOHNSON.

OBITUARY

Bechthold—Sister Caroline Bechthold, of Beiseker, Alta., died on the 4th of January, 1918, after a prolonged illness. The writer spoke words of comfort to the sorrowing friends from Job 7:2-3, Rev. 14:1-3 and Eze. 37. We all mourn the loss of a good mother, whose admonishing lips have closed forever. The garment of a worthy character woven during the 37 years of her life will only be revealed in eternity. Through faith she accepted Christ and He will raise her to new life in the first resurrection.

H. H. HUMANN.

The Bible presents a perfect standard of character; it is an infallible guide under all circumstances, even to the end of the journey of life. Take it as the man of your counsel, the rule of your daily life.

Test. for Church Vol. 3, Page 252.

British Columbia Conference

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President, A. C. Gilbert; Secretary-Treasurer, T. S. Bowett; Religious Liberty Secretary, A. C. Gilbert; Field Secretary, L. A. Philpott; Tract Society Secretary, T. S. Bowett; Educational Secretary, C. W. Degering Sabbath-School Secretary, Mrs. A. C. Gilbert; Missionary Volunteer Secretary, Miss Lydia Stickle; Home Missionary Secretary, T. S. Bowett; Health and Temperance Secretary, E. R. Potter.

LABORS DURING THE CLOSING DAYS OF THE OLD YEAR

It was my happy privilege to spend the latter part of the Week of Prayer with the brethren and sisters of the Victoria church. The Lord came near to us as we unitedly sought Him for His blessing.

This church is gradually growing in numbers. Brother Swan has been doing faithful work, and results are being seen. Soon Pastor and Sister Wood will be locating in Victoria, and together with Brother Swan will inaugurate a strong evangelical effort for this city. Let us pray earnestly to our Father that He will graciously guide these workers in their plans.

We are waiting anxiously for a minister for the city of Vancouver. Correspondence has been in progress for some time with the view of securing the help we need. During the meantime, however, it is earnestly hoped that the officers of each of the local churches of Vancouver will arrange plans for systematic house-to-house work with our periodicals. A visit every two weeks, or once a month, at least, will be a mighty help in making the evangelical effort to follow a grand success.

After attending a Union Conference Committee and Bookmens' Council at Calgary, December 25-27, I enjoyed the pleasure of visiting the Armstrong, Grandview and Silver Creek churches. The Saviour was with us in each place as we sought to learn more fully the way of salvation. The Devil has tried to discourage some poor souls, but they renewed their hold upon God's throne of grace, and have determined never to yield again to temptation, and so lose the blessings of heaven.

It cheers my soul when I see the earnest desire on the part of our dear brethren and sisters to win the kingdom at all costs. We are entering the troubles of the last days, and it is so good to see the determination of our people to consecrate all in order that they may be shielded in the day when God's unmingled wrath is poured out.

Pastor J. V. Maas accompanied me to Silver Creek. I enjoyed his help and counsel very much. Brother Maas' health is gradually improving, and we, as well as he, will be very thankful to the Lord when he becomes able to give his whole time to the gospel work to which he has been ordained.

The church school at Grandview is moving along very encouragingly. Professor Degering and the other teachers appreciate the splendid co-operation that the school board and the church are giving in behalf of the school. Without this, success would not attend this work for the Christian education of our young people.

It is sincerely hoped that there will be several more church schools in operation during the coming school year. It is not too early to begin to plan for this. Perhaps all do not know that Professor Degering is our Educational Secretary for this conference. He will be very glad to correspond with any who are anxious to have a church school next year. It will be well for you to get your applications for teachers in early. Professor Degering, as well as myself, will be delighted to assist in any way that we can to help forward this important line of labor for the salvation of our children.

The past year has been one of progress for the British Columbia Conference. The New Year is largely before us. It is filled with golden opportunities for soul-saving work. May every person who professes this truth consecrate themselves to the Lord so fully that He can through them win at least one soul for the kingdom. Let us begin *now* to look for *that* soul. He is somewhere amidst the busy motley throng of humanity, and is looking for your light to lead him out of the darkness. Be sure to hold faithfully the lamp for the Lord so that the one in doubt may not stumble or lose the way.

Not only must we be true to God in the spiritual duties, but we must continue to remember the financial needs of the cause. These needs are spiritual too. God has certainly blessed those who have come forward with their means for the cause during the

past year. But some have proven unfaithful stewards of the Lord's goods. Some have actually stolen from the Lord. They have taken that which does not belong to them—the holy sacred tithe. It is no wonder that spiritual power and enthusiasm is lacking in their individual Christian experience. May the Saviour help these to see their danger, and to repent before it is too late. When one begins to fall away from *one* spiritual obligation, it is very easy to fall away from the second, the third, and so on until all is lost.

A. C. GILBERT.

A RETROSPECT

As the record for 1917 has closed and we are commencing our entries on the white pages of the new year, it is well to stop for a few reflections. No changes can be made in the entries which the sealed pages of the past days contain. The past year brought varied experiences, it brought numerous changes, it brought much which is to be forgotten but also much which is to be remembered. God's goodness and love to us has been manifested in many ways, His blessings have come to us through various channels, His many providences stand out in bold relief against the details of our every day experiences. Yes, there is much to be remembered which may help us in the days to come.

As we ponder over what the past year has meant to us as young people, we find that it differs in a number of respects from any bygone year in our experience. No other year in the history of our conference has witnessed so many deaths among our young people. During the year, five of our young people, between the ages of seventeen and twenty-two, have been laid away in their graves to await the call of the great Lifegiver. Heavenly angels are watching two of these resting places on Read Island, one on Vancouver Island and two in the Okanagan.

We miss our comrades, but we are so glad we have the confidence of meeting each one of them when Jesus comes. Their encouraging letters and reports are missed, indeed. For some good purpose, God permitted these dear ones to be laid away, and for some good purpose He has permitted the rest of us to continue our sojourn here. He has something for us to do still. We shall have some more important decisions to make, some more battles to fight, some more victories to win.

The Conscription Act, during the past year brought new experiences to our young men, which they shall never forget. At present, we know of none who have been forced into combatant service, and we thank the Lord for His guidance and His care for His children.

As we view the year's record along the lines of active missionary work done, we are glad to note progress, and feel encouraged to take up our new work anew knowing that God is with us and is preparing the way for us to accomplish more for Him than ever before. Every day of the year He is going to give us some opportunities for service. Let us watch for them. Some of these opportunities are going to look insignificant to us, but will be truly great in their import.

We know not what changes this year shall bring forth, but "'Tis blessed not to know." There comes

to mind the thought from Pastor F. B. Meyer, "This is the blessed life—not anxious to see far in front; not careful about the next step; not eager to choose the path; not weighted with the heavy responsibilities of the future, but quietly following behind the Shepherd, one step at a time."

"Not much of aught, O Lord, I dare to vow;
But as before thy throne I humbly bow,
I pledge for this short time thou givest me
I'll work and pray and love and give and be
A little more."

—LYDIA G. STICKLE.

STATEMENT OF FUNDS RECEIVED DURING FIRST
NINE MONTHS OF 1917—BRITISH COLUMBIA
CONFERENCE

| Church— | Total | Tithe | Home Funds | 20c a Week |
|--------------------|------------|-----------|------------|------------|
| Armstrong.....\$ | 195 99 | \$ 126 55 | \$ 1 60 | \$ 47 84 |
| Conference..... | 953 66 | 688 02 | 8 30 | 257 34 |
| Firvale..... | 320 00 | 257 65 | 25 65 | 36 70 |
| Grandview..... | 1716 42 | 1461 77 | 41 80 | 212 85 |
| Lumen Grandview.. | 724 40 | 582 07 | 17 04 | 125 29 |
| Manson..... | 297 02 | 217 30 | 32 90 | 46 82 |
| Miscellaneous..... | 1819 48 | 1059 99 | 238 80 | 520 69 |
| Mission..... | 79 25 | 57 90 | | 21 35 |
| Nanaimo..... | 485 66 | 317 69 | 32 20 | 135 77 |
| Nelson..... | 632 57 | 545 20 | 2 83 | 84 54 |
| Penticton..... | 432 55 | 290 68 | 13 90 | 127 97 |
| Silver Creek..... | 346 16 | 259 46 | 4 95 | 81 75 |
| Vancouver:— | | | | |
| 42nd Avenue..... | 570 24 | 371 50 | 11 50 | 187 24 |
| River Road..... | 683 09 | 449 30 | 18 15 | 215 64 |
| Union Street..... | 1114 93 | 915 75 | 15 00 | 184 18 |
| Maple Street..... | 982 73 | 803 04 | 10 63 | 169 06 |
| Vernon..... | 397 76 | 301 48 | 14 00 | 82 28 |
| Victoria..... | 207 65 | 150 36 | 9 40 | 47 89 |
| | \$11939 56 | \$8855 71 | \$498 65 | \$2585 20 |

T. S. BOWETT,

Treasurer.

Manitoba Conference

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OUR FIRST YEAR IN WINNIPEG

We are closing up our accounts and are recalling God's many blessings in connection with our humble services during the year. A number of times, it seemed as if we were meeting a crisis, but God has each time overruled to his glory. Many of the church members have worked faithfully for their fellow-men and will share in the reward in the final day. As to results, it's hard to say who will prove true to the end, but over fifty souls have begun to observe the Sabbath during the last twelve months and thirty-five have been baptized and added to the church. These are all adults and there are over fifty children belonging to these families, so it all helps to swell our numbers on the Sabbath, and let us hope, in Eternity.

Finances.—Offerings received from collections and individuals amount to \$421.47, from Conference and church, \$227.20. The total expense was \$667.75. Three workers are taking the Bible course and others are attending the instruction given by the pastor. We need more workers and funds to warn this large city, where are so many dear people who would like a home in heaven. Pray for us and help us in every way you can.

C. A. HANSEN and WORKERS.

"JIM," OUR NATIVE MISSIONARY IN RHODESIA, SOUTH AFRICA

I am sure the Manitoba young people will be glad to hear from the mission station, where their missionary they were supporting last year is stationed. I just received a letter from Brother R. P. Robinson, assistant superintendent of the Solusi Mission. I will not be able to give you all that will be of special interest to you. Brother Robinson says, "You can tell your young people that we appreciate very, very much their efforts in supplying us the money for Jim's salary. For when you remember that we have about twenty natives on the mission payroll, the most of whom are teachers, it means a lot of money for their salaries every month. The young people are certainly doing a good work in giving their money for this purpose and Jim is indeed worthy of his hire. Jim is not a very imposing looking man, but you would be very much surprised if you knew how well he knows the Bible.

We organized our young people's society here a little over a year ago. It was the first to be organized up here in Rhodesia among the natives. These black boys and girls knew absolutely nothing about what it meant to volunteer, they have no such word in their language. It took the concrete operation of the thing before the majority could understand what a young people's society meant. But after a number of meetings, they began to understand.

We do not follow the regular printed programs, nor the denominational history part of the Standard of Attainment. The members do not use the Morning Watch Calendar, or take the Reading Course. Why? If the young people in the homeland had only their Bibles in their societies, a book of two hundred songs, "Steps to Christ" and "Christ our Saviour" in their language, then they would understand why the Solusi Mission Young People Missionary Volunteer Society does not follow the regular programs. But that does not keep us from doing something or from having meetings. Brother Reising, I wish you and all your young people could step into our meeting some Sabbath afternoon and hear these boys and girls recite their Standard of Attainment texts and give their report of work done. If you could be made to understand the Matabele language for that one meeting, you would be much interested in their reports. We have about sixty-five members in the society now and an attendance at the meetings of from seventy-five to eighty-five. Of course only baptized young people are permitted to become members, but anyone can study the Attainment texts and all take part in missionary work. They know now what it means to volunteer.

I keep before them the different kinds of work they can do. They stand and give their reports orally and they like very much to tell what they have done, however small it may be. There is no trouble here about reporting. One will tell how many meetings he held in the Kraals (villages) another drove somebody's cattle out of somebody's garden, another talked to someone about the Bible (Bible-reading), another directed someone on the right road, another gave somebody food or shared his own, another told somebody that it is bad to drink utjivala (native beer) and still another tells how he refused to drink utjivala

or to help make it. These are some of the different kinds of work they do.

The following is the report of our society for the third quarter for 1917:

| | |
|---|-----|
| Missionary visits..... | 85 |
| Bible Readings and Cottage Meetings held..... | 203 |
| Books sold..... | 221 |
| Books lent and given away..... | 3 |
| Tracts lent and given away..... | 25 |
| Hours of Christian Help work..... | 30 |
| Articles of clothing given..... | 5 |
| Meals given..... | 30 |
| Treatments given..... | 9 |

Most of the two hundred and twenty-one books were sold by Jim. We give him two or three weeks off now and then and he sells in Bulaway and in the mines the few small books and tracts we have in the two or three different native languages."

Now, dear young people, are we as faithful in doing what we can as these black young people? How does our report compare with theirs? Let us not forget these missionaries. For 1918 four native evangelists are depending upon the young people of Manitoba for their support. I know you will supply all their needs. I am sorry that I did not hear regarding the missionaries that were supported by the other conferences, but we know they are busy and doing good work.

Come, young people, let us all unite and make the year 1918 the banner year in the young people's work in the Western Canadian Union Conference. Are you observing your Morning Watch? How do you like the Reading Course books?

Sincerely your friend,

J. J. REISWIG.

Saskatchewan Conference

Office Address:—103 Willoughby-Sumner Block, Saskatoon, Sask.
 President, J. G. Walker; Secretary-Treasurer, U. Wissner; Religious Liberty Secretary, M. Mackintosh; Sabbath School Secretary, Mrs. R. S. Dexter; Tract Society Secretary, U. Wissner; Home Missionary and Young People Missionary Volunteer Secretary, W. A. Clemenson; Field Secretary, Robert Kitto; Educational Secretary H. W. Clark; Corresponding Home Missionary Secretary, U. Wissner.

VISITS WITH AN OBJECT

After the Union Conference Council in Calgary, Elder McVagh and myself started east to visit the churches at Prussia and Fox Valley, both of which were to be dedicated at the time of our visit. We missed connections at Swift Current for Prussia and so spent the Sabbath with the church at Swift Current. The visit was a surprise to the little company and one they seemed to enjoy. Evening after the Sabbath, December 29, we went on to Prussia (now Leader) where we found a number of our brethren waiting for us at the train, Elder Ziprick among them. The next day, we held the dedication service with the church about full and a large number of people present not of our faith. The church is nicely built, is in a good locality, and the structure does credit to the cause. The church gives it to the Saskatchewan Conference free from debt. We held meetings there all day Monday and on Tuesday drove to Fox Valley with Brethren Hagle and Hirschhorn. We held meetings there until the following Monday night, January 7. While there the annual church business meeting was held and the officers were

elected. On Sunday, January 6, we dedicated the church also to the worship and service of God. It had been built for some time, but only recently had it become free from debt, hence the reason for the delay.

The brethren and sisters came out faithfully to all the meetings. One feature about the attendance at this church was the promptness about being present at the opening of services. The house seemed always full long before time of services to begin.

Monday morning, Elder McVagh left for the train at Prelate, and I stayed with Brother Berg and Elder Ziprick for another day and evening meeting. After the last meeting, I rode with Brother and Sister Braumbach to their home near Big Stick Lake, a distance of twenty miles from Fox Valley Church. I was glad for the chance to visit this family and to see their need of a teacher. The children, modest, respectful and well-behaved as they are, have no present opportunity to go to school. The parents are anxious in this matter and so ought to be.

The next morning Brother and Sister Braumbach drove me in their auto to Maple Creek where we arrived just in time for the train going east. The next morning I arrived in Saskatoon to be at the office for a day or two before going to Battleford.

At this writing, however, I am at Southey. Called the day of my arrival to visit the bedside of Sister Palmer, who was very ill. I took the first train, but arrived only fifteen minutes after her death. A further report of this and something about the funeral services will be given in another article.

J. G. WALKER.

NEWS ITEMS

Elders Walker and Ziprick, together with our Union President, Elder McVagh, have been present at the dedication of our churches at Leader and Fox Valley.

The work in the Western part of the province is progressing encouragingly, and Elder Ziprick and Brother Berg are now at Estuary, where they are planning to hold a series of meetings. There are already some Sabbath-keepers there and we believe that the Lord will bless their efforts.

Elder Mackintosh has been paying a visit to our isolated members of the Eastern part of the province on his way to Manitoba, where he is spending a few days with his brother. On his way home he expects to call at Canora and Battleford.

Our young people's work in this conference has a strong support by our young people of the school, and Elders J. J. Reiswig and W. A. Clemenson are spending two weeks there giving spiritual encouragement to our young people. The Young People's work is a great asset to our denomination, and we know that the young people will play an important part in the finishing of the message.

We are glad to announce that over \$2,100.00 has been collected for the Harvest Ingathering in 1917. We wish to thank all of those who had a part in this campaign. Some money has since been received but it is too late to be credited for last year.

Word from the *Signs of the Times* office has been received saying that the publishers agree to accept subscriptions to the *Signs Weekly* till the 31st of this month at the old rate of \$1.00. A club of five or more to single addresses, 85c, to one address, 80c. We trust that all our churches and isolated members will make use of this opportunity. The new rate will be \$1.50 beginning with the first of February.

The Battleford Academy has set a nice example, and the students have sent in 161 subscriptions to the *Signs Weekly*. Perhaps you can think of some friend that should have the *Signs*. Save the fifty cents and send in your subscription at once to the office.

The Conference committee and the School Board will convene in Battleford January 29 to 31. The work in this province is progressing fast, and the Board will have to council about the aggressive work that will have to be undertaken this year.

Brethren O. M. Akre and C. Anderson are holding meetings amongst the Danish population at Weldon in the northern part of the province.

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F. L. HOMMEL - - - - - Editor

Western Canadian Union Conference Directory

Office Address, 304 I.O.O.F. Building, Calgary, Alberta.
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The old price of one dollar on the *Signs Weekly* for one year holds good until February 1. In clubs of five or more to one address, eighty cents; five or more to separate addresses, eighty-five cents each. Order now and save money.

WORLD PROBLEMS IN FOUR LANGUAGES NOW READY

The latest book in the "Current Events" series, entitled "World Problems," discusses in a very candid, helpful, interesting style some of the most vital present-day conditions. It tells the meaning of these portentous events and gives the solution—the only remedy.

"World Problems" in English has had a large sale during the short time since it was published, and is now ready in German, Danish-Norwegian, and Swedish. The leading topics discussed are "The Industrial Conflict," "War," "The Bible or Tradition," "Can the Dead Talk to Us," and "The Remedy."

Never before have so many new problems, so many new demands been thrust upon men and women for consideration and action. The rapidly changing events of the last few months have developed and forcibly emphasized some of these world problems, and in many people's minds rises the insistent query "What is the solution?"

In these thrilling days, when industrial conditions are so ominous, when "the nations are angry" and war has engulfed the world, when people imagine that Spiritualism offers the only source of comfort for dear ones struck down by death, shall not the people who know the "patience and comfort of the scriptures" proclaim, with intense earnestness, by the printed page and by every proper means, that message of salvation which the God of Heaven, foreseeing this time, prepared for His servants to give at this very hour in earth's history?

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TO HELP OUR BOYS AND GIRLS

There is now a Junior Standard of Attainment Manual. This is just what you need for studying to become Junior members of Attainment. This little Manual contains two lists of study questions with references—one list on Bible doctrines and one on

denominational history. On these questions the Junior Standard of Attainment examinations will be based.

This Manual makes it possible for every ambitious boy or girl of Junior age to become a Junior member of Attainment. Surely many will get this leaflet at once, and try to be ready to take the test in either Bible doctrines or denominational history, and possibly in both subjects, next May. Who will be first? Order from your tract society. Price 6 cents. Leaflet No. 58.

DO IT DURING JANUARY

When he was but a boy, the parents of one of our conference presidents accepted the truth through reading the *Signs of the Times*. This worker now in the full vigor of manhood is doing noble work for God, both as an executive in his conference and as a writer for the *Signs* itself. A faithful lay member in California delivered a copy of the *Signs* every week to a widow who for months showed absolutely no interest in it, but the word in season aroused her curiosity. She read, was convinced, and took her stand with us. That was thirty years ago. Her son, a mere boy at the time, is now serving on the circulation staff of this soul-winner. You no doubt have heard of that church that was raised by means of a copy of the *Signs* that was sent to an interested party in the old country, who after reading it, mailed it to a relative in America with the result mentioned.

Stories such as these could be told all day long and still the supply would not be exhausted. What better evidence that God is using the weekly *Signs* in a big way could anyone wish for? Its influence is greater than any one imagines. It goes where the living minister cannot always go—right into the home. It is ready to deliver its message when those who receive it read its columns. "Instant in season, out of season," truly.

Many, because of prejudice or lack of time will not attend our public hall or tent meetings. The *Signs* is just the thing for such persons. This, all agree, is the best season of the year for the circulation of our periodicals. In view of the record of the *Signs*, and the interest that there now is in the things which it reaches, and its ability to perform work that can be done in no other way, you surely will wish to renew your personal club before the first of February when the price will be raised. Perhaps after carefully considering the matter you will wish to increase its size. "More *Signs*—more souls."

By the way, please help pass on the word at once that our people can pay for their clubs by the quarter when they subscribe for ten or more copies. Thank you.

ERNEST LLOYD.

AN EMBARRASSING SITUATION

When some new "drafts" appeared before their commanding officers one Friday afternoon a short time ago and asked to be excused from service on the following day for religious reasons, they had no idea that the request would prove more embarrassing to their superiors than to themselves. Official Washington, upon being appealed to, reiterated our nation-old policy of religious liberty for all by issuing a general order to excuse from Sabbath service all who kept the day as a day of rest. Read all about it in the February *Signs Magazine*—a soldier number."