

Mrs. Flora Summers

THE WEST MICHIGAN HERALD



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No. 3

CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS.

Fifth Meeting of the Conference
Wednesday 9:00 p. m.

Hymn "Wholly Thine" was sung. Prayer was offered by Professor Lamson. Minutes of Monday's forenoon meeting were read and approved.

Sister Ingersoll of the Agnew church was seated with the delegates.

The committee on plans reported as follows:—

3. WE RECOMMEND, That a canvassers' institute be held March 22 to April 2, and that each conference worker be asked to select and send at least one person who will agree to enter the work. The conference to pay transportation and board of those attending.

4. WHEREAS the efficiency of the work in our primary schools is very apparent, and we note with pleasure and gratitude to our Heavenly Father the rapid development of a Christian education in our midst; therefore,

RESOLVED, That we pledge our hearty support to the department in its efforts to raise the standard by requiring teachers to pass regular examinations, also to take the Teachers' Improvement Course; and further, we approve of the plan adopted at the last session of the Lake Union Conference of holding semi annual examinations in all our primary schools for the purpose of putting uniformity and system into the school work; and that we endorse the educational system and of courses of study adopted at the General Educational Council held in College View, Nebraska, June 27 to July 10, 1906, and more

recently adopted by the Lake Union Conference Committee at its meeting at Benton Harbor, Michigan.

5. In view of the great value of Professor Bell's series of graded Sabbath-school lesson books in giving our children and youth a thorough training in the fundamental principles of the third angel's message; therefore,

WE RECOMMEND, the use of these books in all the Sabbath-schools of this conference where they are not now used.

6. WE RECOMMEND, That the constitution of the West Michigan Conference be amended by adding the words "An Auditor" following the words "Assistant Secretary and Treasurer" in section 5, and by adding the following in section 4 under Article VI: The Executive Committee shall select six persons not in the employ of the conference to act with themselves to audit the accounts of the laborers.

Brother Blosser was the first speaker on the 3rd resolution. He said he was glad to note there has been a movement among the laborers of the West Michigan Conference to bring up the book work, and that they had already taken advance steps previous to this meeting. He felt confident that when the workers of a conference took hold of this work that it would surely come up in the conference and be placed on a good basis.

Elder Nicola expressed himself as heartily in favor of this resolution, and would do all in his power to help carry this into effect.

Brother Carman related some of his experience in connection with the starting the sale of our litera-

ture in the early pioneer days. He noted the growth in this line of our work, and was glad to know it is to be pushed more vigorously.

Dr. C. A. Hansen was glad of the opportunity of speaking for this resolution for he had been in the canvassing work—being urged to sell our books in connection with the work he was engaged in.

Brother Hofstra thought we were working on right lines. His experience since entering the ministry was that those who read our literature are more easy to reach with the truth. He stated he was glad to see the interest our young people are taking in this work; and that the conference would furnish free transportation and board to those attending the institute. Many of our canvassers are not blessed with an abundance of this world's goods, and need assistance in getting a better training for the work.

Elder Bourdeau stated he was pleased to see this work go on. He well remembered the time when Brother Haskell organized the tract and missionary work in this denomination. Brother Bourdeau was then president of the Vermont Conference and went through the state and gathered over \$300 for the tract work. He gathered \$87 at a prayer meeting. This had a great effect on the outside people. They said they never saw the like of it. As shown by the account of the Review and Herald, he had taken out over \$700 worth of books in a short time. He remembers the case of a worker who decided to stay at the roots of a tree in prayer until he gained courage to go out and sell our literature. The Lord gave him success, and he

sold over \$17 worth of books in one week.

Dr. Otis expressed his interest in the same work, as he had been a canvasser. He considered it a stepping stone to a greater work of usefulness for God. There is in it an experience to be gained to fit persons for positions of responsibility in the work.

Brother Carman remembered in the early days of the message when our ministers went out they took with them a supply of little tracts, and at the close of the sermon would ask the people to come up and take such tracts as they wished, thus giving them the opportunity of studying further on the subject presented by the minister. Said he was glad to know that we were coming back to the old paths in our work.

Elder Haughey stated that he had thought it not best to continue a Field Secretary in the work as there was nothing to direct, but thought that if all our ministers and workers would take hold of this line of our work, it would soon be brought to the position where some one would be needed to direct in it again.

Brother Blosser said our experience was not a lonely one; but that other conferences had found the canvassing work languishing, and the laborers took hold and built it up, and a Field Secretary was again needed to direct.

Elder Curtis spoke to resolution No. 4. He said that as the resolution was so clear it would not be necessary to make extended remarks upon it, but emphasized the fact that we should do all we could to raise the standard of the work.

Professor Lamson stated that he thought some means ought to be devised by which the spiritual standard of our teachers could be inquired into. That the Conference Committee advise with the Board of Examiners. He deplored the fact that some times persons were put into the schools who were not converted.

Sister Straight stated that the teachers should have the hearty co-operation of the parents in order that their work be successful; and called for co-operation on the part of all.

Elder Haughey stated that in some cases there had been a lack of spirituality on the part of the teacher, but that was also true in any branch of the work. He thought the teaching staff would compare favorably with the other departmental workers; that our teachers were just as devoted as our ministers, and believed they were sincere; however, we should continue to raise the standard of spirituality.

The conference took 10 minutes recess.

Hymn "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name" was sung on resuming the work. Prayer was offered by Dr. C. A. Hansen.

Resolution No. 5 met with the hearty approval from the conference. Elder Hebner asked if this would interfere with the use of the Little Friend and the Youth's Instructor in the Sabbath-school. Elder Campbell replied that he did not think there would be any trouble on this point; that these papers contain information that every pupil should know, but the Bible Lessons should be used as text books.

Brother Bayley thought it would help in grading the pupils in the Sabbath-school; that there had been considerable difficulty in grading according to age, but by using the books this difficulty would be removed.

Brother Clark said he believed the church schools were using these books in their work.

Resolution No. 6 was then read. The chairman of the committee, Elder Campbell, explained that the reason of this was that it did not appear in the present constitution.

Elder Haughey stated that it must have been an oversight in printing the minutes, as he was sure that such provisions were made, but ac-

ording to the constitution as it now stood, they had no right to elect an Auditing Committee or an Auditor.

These resolutions were passed upon and unanimously adopted. The committee on nominations reported as follows:

President, Elder A. G. Haughey; Vice President, Elder S. M. Butler; Secretary and Treasurer, E. A. Merriam; Assistant Secretary and Treasurer, Fred Green; Educational Secretary, Clifford Russell; Sabbath school Secretary, Margaret Haughey; Missionary Secretary, E. A. Merriam; Medical Secretary, Dr. L. J. Otis; Religious Liberty Secretary, S. D. Hartwell; Auditor, W. H. Edwards.

Executive Committee, Elders A. G. Haughey; S. M. Butler, W. H. Heckman, B. F. Kneeland, M. N. Campbell.

West Michigan Conference Association: Elders A. G. Haughey, S. M. Butler, W. H. Heckman, B. F. Kneeland, M. N. Campbell.

Cedar Lake Academy Board: A. G. Haughey, S. M. Butler, W. H. Heckman, B. F. Kneeland, M. N. Campbell, Leslie Avery, S. Phippeny.

Professor Lamson was called to the chair.

The President asked that his name be voted upon separately. He was unanimously elected to the office of President. The names of the other officers were read by the Secretary and voted upon. All were unanimously elected to their respective offices.

The President then made the following feeling remarks in accepting the charge of the affairs of the conference for another year: "I feel thankful for the courtesies extended by you. I want the Lord to bless me in the performance of the duties. When we make mistakes it is not human nature to make things right, but I want grace enough to make matters right. I see ahead in this conference some very hard things to meet as I view the situation. Could I

have the same evidence that my work was done in this conference as I had that God called me to come to this conference, I could go away. Not in any sense that I have anything in my heart against the West Michigan Conference. There are experiences coming in the next few months that will try the souls of men in a different way than we ever have been tried; and I know your officers will need your prayers and hearty sympathy.

"I had said to myself and wife and before God, if there was one single opposing vote I would think the time had come for me to leave, but I cannot turn back as a coward. If I am to stand as a captain I want an interest in your prayers that I may not turn back. We are threatened with a condition that is anything but pleasant, but we have a testimony that has come to us that has cheered us on our way: the Lord says he is master of the situation. We also believe if we all put our confidence in Him and allow Him to guide, the old ship will go through safely.

"I wish to say further when the time comes that the Lord wishes us to leave you, we will be willing to accept it so there need not be a campaign waged against us as officers which has been done in other places. I hope ever to be in this place, and I hope this will be the stand all our officers will take."

After singing one verse of "Nearer My God to Thee" Professor Lamson spoke as follows:—

"We have reached a time when you and I must know the foundation on which we stand. I am glad to see the conference not willing to change leaders in the midst of the battle. I am glad, too, that Brother Haughey does not stand alone when it comes to men of back-bone. I speak of back-bone in the sense of the man who is willing to listen to the still small voice. Is it not too bad to look upon a man who is like a willow; shaken by every wind? We must put our feet on the solid rock and

stand on solid principle, though every sense goes against that principle. The grand old ship is going through, and those who stay on the ship will be safe; and may God give us courage and grace and strength to do it. I believe it is a good thing to spend the balance of this meeting in letting the brethren tell on which side they stand."

The remainder of the time was spent in social meeting in which Brethren Curtis, Bourdeau, Amadon, DeVries, Carman, Wilbur, Campbell, Nicola and others gave cheering testimonies showing their determination to stand by the ship.

Meeting adjourned till 3:00 p. m.

A. G. HAUGHEY, Pres.

E. A. MERRIAM, Sec'y.

Resources of the South.

Will it pay to invest means in the South? Is it such a poor barren field that no harvest will be reaped from the seed sown? Are there men of means and intelligence in the South who will ultimately make the work self-supporting, and return into the cause that which will bring souls into the truth in other great mission fields?

To the first question we answer emphatically, Yes; to the second question, a hundred times, No; to the third question, a thousand times, Yes. The South has wondrous resources. Men of the keenest intelligence, men whose blood is the purest Anglo-Saxon, men of unconquerable energy, and of fiery zeal, are the men who are leading the South to-day.

Though there is not the soil in every part of the South that is found in Illinois, Iowa, and other states in the wonderful garden valley of the upper Mississippi, yet there are great agricultural possibilities here. What would the world do without the cotton fields of the south? I recently had the privilege of visiting, at Montgomery, Ala., a manufacturing plant which took the cotton in its first raw state, and seeing the process step by step until it came out of the

mill as cloth ready to wear. I saw the manufacture of cotton seed oil, and of cotton seed meal. Truly this resource alone has almost illimitable possibilities.

Recently, passing through the great cotton fields of Alabama and Georgia, I visited the great orange orchards of Southern Florida. There I saw also bananas, pine-apples, lemons and other tropical products growing. Northern crops, such as potatoes and garden vegetables, are grown during the winter, and tropical products during the summer. I thought, What a wonderful country; What wonderful possibilities!

Then there are the rice crop; the mighty pine forests, producing turpentine and lumber in almost limitless quantities; the great sugar cane industry; and many other agricultural resources that are peculiar to this part of the United States. There are also mineral resources, an abundance of coal, iron, and other metals, and to a certain extent the more valuable minerals, silver and gold.

Already a large amount of manufacturing is done in the cities of the South. Many of the cities will compare favorably with those of the North. The school system in the South, while not yet equal to that in the North, is improving, and in many of the cities may be found excellent educational institutions. Nashville has a number of universities of high class for white people; also the world-famous Fiske University, and other first-class institutions for colored people.

The Lord will give wisdom that our work may be placed on such an elevated plane that the people of energy, of intelligence, and of refinement may be reached. Nowhere in this world can be found a class of people of greater refinement, generosity, hospitality, and the graces which constitute them true Christian ladies and gentlemen than are the best people of the South.

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Margaret Haughey, Editor.

It is true there are many in terrible need of help, but we believe that God will help us in time, and in a brief time at that, to reach the people who will make this work self-supporting, and who will make the South a great missionary field for work in the semi-tropical lands of heathenism. Yes, the South has abundant resources in men and means, and must yet play an important part in the closing work.

Let us give and pray that this may be speedily accomplished for surely the Lord will not come and leave the work unfinished in the South for which he has been so earnestly calling to this people for many years through the Spirit of Prophecy. Remember that the first one-third of the \$150,000 fund comes to the South. Who will help now, sending your gifts through your church or conference treasurer?

J. S. WASHBURN.

The True Ring.

The following letter breathes the spirit of true consecration and sacrifice. We pray that this spirit may lay hold upon those who are able to give one hundred times as much as this brother in the South. This spirit, received by all our people, would close up the work of raising the \$150,000 fund in a day. Before the end comes and the work closes, all those who go through the fiery trials into the kingdom of God will have this spirit.

"My dear Brethren:—

"Your favor of the 19th came yesterday; and, although I do not open my business mail on the Sabbath, when I saw one letter was from you, I ventured to open it, assured that it was about our Father's business. It contained book No.

101 for the \$150,000 fund.

"I took it with me to the last meeting of the week of prayer. After the annual offering was taken, which amounted to \$22.25, I presented the matter of the fund. I placed ten dollars as a pledge after my name, not knowing where the money would come from. But I have learned since coming to this Southland to lean hard upon the promise, "My God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory." What was my promise and thankfulness to find in the evening mail a post office order for just the amount I had pledged!

"The amount paid in and pledged is now over thirty dollars for this fund, and I expect more will be given. One of the most touching sights I have lately seen was that of a mother who is struggling hard to meet necessities encouraging her little girl to place her name to the pledge beneath her own, then taking the hand of her youngest child, and inscribing his little name with the pledge of a gift to his Master.

Yours in the blessed hope."

J. S. WASHBURN.

From the Field.

MENDON, JANUARY 5 AND 6.

We had the privilege of meeting with the church at Mendon on Sabbath and Sunday of the above mentioned dates. In the forenoon we spoke on the topic "The Privilege of Sonship" using as a basis for our remarks. 1 John 3:1,2. In the evening of the same day, at 7 o'clock, the ordinances of Christ were observed. A goodly number were present who with the writer seemed to enjoy the presence of Him who was commemorated in these institutions. This was evidenced by the reconciliations which were made between brother and brother.

After the celebration a meeting was called to elect the officers of the church for the year 1907. By a unanimous vote the writer was

offered the chair for the evening. The work of the church resulted in the election of Brother Babcock for elder, Brother Nyman for deacon, Sister L. Nyman for church clerk, Sister J. P. Nyman for treasurer and librarian, and Sister Babcock for organist for this present year.

Sunday evening Brother Collier spoke to the church on topic "Our duty toward our brother," text Gen. 4:9. After the evening service the newly elected officers were ordained.

Your brother in Christ,
J. W. HOFSTRA.

News and Notes.

Wanted:—Seventh-day Adventist girls for factory work. Girls between sixteen and thirty preferred. Wages reasonable. Board not high. A very pretty town of two thousand inhabitants. Address Three "B" Duster Co., Buchanan, Michigan.

We have received several Sabbath school reports, for which we are thankful, but we will be more thankful when all of the reports are received.

Elder B. F. Kneeland gave the office a call one day last week, and purchased some literature to use in the work at Kalamazoo.

We hope the secretaries of the young people's societies will not forget to send in reports for quarter ending December 31, 1906.

We have an article from Doctor L. J. Otis, but did not have space for it in this issue. It will appear next week.

Elder J. W. Hofstra is holding a series of meetings at the South Monterey church.

The Otsego church school opened last week after a two weeks vacation.

The editor spent last Sabbath with the church at Bedford.