

# THE WEST MICHIGAN HERALD



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## Conference Proceedings.

### Eighth Meeting.

Report of Meeting of Conference Held Thursday Morning at 9 o'clock in Academy Chapel, Cedar Lake, Michigan.

Jesus Lover of My Soul was sung to open the meeting after which prayer was offered by Brother A. C. Bourdeau.

After another hymn, Elder Haughey read the 25th Psalm and the minutes of a previous meeting were read.

As the report of the committee on city work had not been given full attention, the secretary read the next section, which was passed by. He then read the following section: "Whereas, the Lord has instructed us that the greatest help we can give our people is to teach them to work for God, and to depend on Him and not on the minister," and further, "that the church members are not to expect a sermon every Sabbath," and "our ministers should not spend their time in laboring for those who have already accepted the truth,"

We therefore recommend, That our ministers who are stationed over the churches in our cities take the oversight of the work of training such laborers as shall engage in the city colporter and Bible work, leading them in aggressive effort in carrying this message to unbelievers.

A very lively and interesting discussion followed the reading of this recommendation.

Elder Bourdeau said he believed the greatest help we could give the people was to teach them to help themselves; it is not the man who does the work as a leader that ac-

complishes the most but the one who inspires others to do it.

Dr. Hansen said he believed it to be a good thing for our ministers to come in contact with the people, but that there was a place in our denomination which should be filled between the laymen and the ministry, and that it should not be the minister's only duty to preach on the Sabbath.

Sister Ingersoll said she hoped that some of the ministers of the cities, where they were overwhelmed with preaching, would go out to the smaller churches.

Much discussion followed pro and con and the interest of the delegates was very deep.

Elder Haughey asked for an explanation of the intent of the resolution, which was given by the chairman of the committee, Elder Burnham. He stated that the committee had in mind the lifting of burdens from our ministers who are stationed in our city churches, allowing them to take an active part in the training and leading out of workers who shall do this city colporter and Bible work, and placing the burdens carried entirely by the ministers, on the other officers of the church.

Elder Haughey stated that he favored the resolution with that interpretation.

Many other delegates spoke to this question among them Elder Heckman, Brother Crothers, Elder Nicola, Brother DeVries, and a number of others, and finally Elder Kneeland moved that this recommendation be referred to the committee on plans to be re-arranged.

Brother Collier suggested that if the delegation would tell them

what to insert, it might be well to refer this recommendation back to the committee which originated it.

The Chair then suggested that it might be referred back to the committee on plans, as it properly fell under their jurisdiction, and that the committee on city work be asked to assist.

This motion prevailed and the recommendation was referred to the committee on plans to be assisted by the committee on city work.

A recess of ten minutes was then taken.

After the recess Elder Haughey called for reports from laborers and Sister Margaret Haughey gave in her report of the Sabbath school work as follows:

### Report of the Sabbath-school Department of the West Michigan Conference from January 1 to September 30, 1906.

We have 86 schools with a membership of 2532. Four new schools have been added. The Home Department of the local schools has a membership of 29. One school has been organized as the result of the Home Department work.

We have not been able to increase the membership of the State Home Department, however, we are glad that it has not decreased. The membership of this department is one.

At the last session of the conference a resolution was passed that we continue the plan of holding conventions. An effort has been made to carry out this resolution, and as a result ten conventions have been held. Success has attended this work and in every case the schools have been encouraged.



## DONATIONS.

1st. quarter 1906	-	\$ 544 74
2nd. " "	-	594 54
3rd. " "	-	555 72
Conference Sabbath School Jan. 20, 1906	-	24 00
Camp-meeting Sabbath School		53 22
Total		\$1772 22

The children of our schools have been much interested in our Orphanage at Karmatar, India, and they have raised over one hundred dollars for the work at that place.

**Young People's Work.**

The past year has not marked any great outward demonstration in the young people's work, however, we believe a steady growth has been made and the outlook is brighter. At some of the Sabbath-school conventions, part of the time was devoted to the young people's work, and in this way, the attention of the whole church has been called to this important movement.

We have fourteen societies and the most of them hold weekly meetings and are studying the lessons that suit their local needs. Some missionary work has been done, such as writing missionary letters, distributing literature, holding Bible readings, etc. Some of the societies have given donations to the missionary work both at home and abroad. At present we are making an effort to interest the children and youth in the work of raising the \$150,000 fund, and we believe they will do their part.

MARGARET HAUGHEY, Sec'y.

This report was adopted by the delegation.

Dr. Otis then gave an interesting report of his work both in the Sanitarium at Grand Rapids and also among the churches.

Brother Crothers asked what was the attitude of our people in reference to health reform and the Doctor answered that it varied in different places; in some places the people seem very anxious to learn to live out health reform but in

other localities the condition at Battle Creek has seemed to cause the people to think they were at liberty to cast off the health reform principles among us as a people.

Elder Haughey then made a brief statement of the work of Dr. Otis, explaining that because it had seemed necessary to remove the sanitarium work from Grand Rapids and because it had not yet been started at Berrien Springs, that Dr. Otis' work had not been wholly in the Sanitarium as he had expected it would be when he first entered that field.

Elder Horton then made a statement concerning the Waverly church explaining that owing to the fact that its members had nearly all joined with other churches near by, the few remaining members had decided to disband and wished this conference to take action on the same.

It was then voted that the Waverly church should no longer be regarded as a church of this conference.

Elder Haughey then stated that since he had heard some complaints concerning the action taken by the conference yesterday in regard to the auditing committee, he thought it might be best to reconsider the action.

The Chair then gave a very comprehensive explanation of the work of the auditing committee, and also of the reports of the workers, making it very clear just how these matters are carried on.

Considerable discussion was given this matter and when the noon hour arrived the conference was still in the midst of a very interesting investigation of the subject so that the meeting adjourned to meet again at 3 p. m. without coming to any decision regarding the question.

A. G. HAUGHEY, Chairman,  
E. A. MERRIAM, Secretary.

**The Educational Convention Held at Bedford, Jan. 12 and 13.**

The opening hour on Sabbath morning found Miss Margaret

Haughey in the chair; and she asked the audience, composed of representatives of the churches at Urandale and Battle Creek, also from the Haskill Home, beside our Bedford members, to sing "Come out in the Sunshine," which was heartily rendered.

A Scripture exercise was given by twelve children, and all joined with Elder Bourdeau in asking for the presence of the Mighty One in our convention.

The object of the convention was stated by the chair to be the stopping for a little while to sharpen ourselves for the work that it may go faster and easier.

The first paper was on the subject "How parents may co-operate with the Sabbath school teacher." The writer of the paper tried to make clear the truth that there must be harmonious co-operation by the parents in teaching the lessons and upholding the teacher in all commendable efforts, or his work will be of little value in leading the young into a personal acquaintance with God.

This was followed by a paper on the kindred subject "How the teacher may co-operate with the parents," which brought to view the fact that as the teacher will view the child through impartial eyes, his work will mainly be to point out to the parent the undeveloped characteristics of the child, that the excrescences may be chiseled away, and the undeveloped places filled out. After discussion of these subjects by Elder Bourdeau and Brother Curtis of the Haskell Home, a quartette was listened to and then the "Truth Hammer" was presented as the gospel or Word of God, which by the Sabbath school teacher would be more effectively used in gently tapping, than by dealing crushing blows; and that one who has the truth in his heart will be the most skillful user of the hammer of truth.

The children then gave a song with marching accompaniment in which they told of being pilgrims



and soldiers marching up the bright and shining way; and this was followed by a ten minute talk on the Importance of Sabbath school work by Elder Bourdeau who showed that it is of primary importance, being nearly always a pioneer movement and ever a source of joy and enlivening to the church.

Afterward we were privileged to listen to some of the Haskell Home children as they rendered the song, Silent Messengers; and the morning session adjourned.

Moment by Moment was sung when the convention work was taken up in the afternoon, and prayer was offered by Elder M. N. Campbell; after which a violin solo was enjoyed, and Elder Campbell spoke of Reaping the Harvest by Personal Work, maintaining from experiences that even little children may do much to bring the Present Truth to the notice of neighbors and others, by the distribution of literature. He advised the marking of any especially good articles in a paper before sending it away, as a marked article is almost sure to be read. After remarks by others on this line of work, eight of the children recited The Little Builders, and that beautiful selection, Would I Know Him, was rendered as a solo, and was followed by a paper, "A Thorough Study of the Lesson and how to secure it."

The next few minutes were spent in telling "How I get my Sabbath School Lesson" by several persons,—one telling how she kept her Bible on the corner of the ironing table and so while toiling committed the texts, proving that when we will to do His will, we will find a way to know the doctrine.

We then listened to that most comforting thought, that amid all the trials "He knows, My Father Knows" given by a quartette of pleasing voices.

"How I Teach the Lesson to my Children" was the next topic, and this too was both interesting and instructive. One taught his children that though helps are very

good, the Bible is the place to get the truth of the lesson, and that God will give the understanding. Another said she thoroughly learned the lesson herself first then taught it to her children, stopping any work to help them with it while they were eager to know.

Selections from Testimonies were read showing the importance of the Sabbath school lesson and that it may be remembered by all for God has pledged his help. The Haskell Home children again sang—this time, "An open Bible for the World," and the session closed by a song by the congregation and an implored benediction.

Sunday morning the convention reopened with Miss Haughey in the chair. After the usual opening exercises of song and prayer, "The Model Pupil from a pupil's standpoint," was called and the paper made plain that the model pupil besides being regular and punctual in attendance, and having a well learned lesson, will use his influence to interest those who are indifferent, and will show in daily living that loyalty to the Christ is the mainspring of all his actions.

"The Model Pupil" by a teacher, followed and pointed out that it is not HOW MUCH but HOW WELL. And that he is the model pupil who makes the best use of his opportunities.

These papers brought out very earnest discussion. Some points being made that perseverance in studying the lesson will bring its reward and also that perseverance on the part of the teacher will bring its reward. That a pupil will not get much unless he is interested, but if interested to get all he can he will be profited and will make a helper somewhere in the cause. That the teacher has much to do in the making of model pupils. The good teacher makes the pupil feel that he must have the lesson. After this, "I know not why the Saviour loves me," was given as a duet by two little girls, and then Elder Bourdeau gave quite an ex-

tended talk on School Work. He maintained that the work should be begun in the home, and that the parents should be sufficiently interested in their children to know where they are in their studies all the time. That often it takes years to get an amount of knowledge that might be gained in a few months, if the parents would take the proper interest in the work. As we are educating the children let us do all we can to save them for true education consists in leading the mind in the service of God.

Miss Haughey then made some remarks comparing the public schools and church schools, and in trying to impress upon parents their duty to send the boys and girls to school when they have the desire to go, lest later, they lose the desire and finally drift altogether away. That present truth is to be proclaimed by even the children; but first they must learn it, and where better, after the home, than in the schools organized for that purpose. After another quartet we were dismissed by benediction.

The afternoon session was begun by singing, "We Have an Anchor," and we bowed in prayer led by Bro. Davis, the elder of the Bedford church. Mrs. Davis then favored us with a fine instrumental selection, and a paper on "The Purpose of Young People's Work," was read which pointed out that this work is to fit young people to fill up the ranks as they are thinned by the enemy—death; and that they are to throw out the life line to those who are sinking beneath the temptations and cares of this time.

A paper on "Educational Work in Bible times and to-day" was given to show the advantages of an education gained under the supervision of the spirit of God. The discussion that followed brought out the thoughts that the work of the young people is to hasten the coming of the Saviour and should be entered into with zeal. Dr. Cooper told us that education now means preparedness for the future, so in our



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Margaret Haughey, - Editor.

school life we should do with our might what our hands find to do.

Miss Haughey then spoke on the Church School question from a financial standpoint saying that while \$30.00 per month looks large to some, it does not leave the teacher much with which to provide for herself after she pays \$3.00 tithes, from \$8.00 to \$12.00 for board, buys the books her profession demands that she have, and makes the modest offerings to the cause. Parents, it pays to teach your children by practical demonstration that you consider the work of your church school teachers as being of value for impressions made in childhood will remain.

Bro. Bourdeau then passed on to us a piece of advice given to him many years ago, that in all teaching whether Sabbath or day school to use very simple language so that even the smallest may profit by the instruction. Said he, be sure to hold the trough so low that the lambs may feed from it.

He then earnestly besought God to add his blessing to our united efforts to arrive at a clearer view of the work before us and our duty in connection with it; and we separated feeling that much food for thought had been presented to us and trusting that the eternity will show that we rightly build it into our future work.

MRS. E. A. S. CLARK.

### "The Good Old Way"

Thus saith the Lord, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest to your souls."

There is danger, in these days of worldly rush and change, that the people of God shall get away from

the good old paths of safety the Lord has provided for us in the message for these last days. We are not only to ask and seek for these safe old paths, but "walk therein."

Sometimes we are lead to wonder if we do not need to come back to the good old way of carrying on home missionary work. Perhaps the methods of how to do the work are not so much the trouble as that lying back of the activities. All true missionary endeavor springs from a love in the heart of the believer for perishing souls. If this is lacking, the best methods will fail.

Early in the history of this cause nearly every believer felt BURDENED to do his part in extending the message. All wanted a part in the work. Thus the tract and missionary work originated. The efforts of the believers were focused largely upon two truths—the seventh-day Sabbath, and the coming of the Lord. They believed these truths; they talked them; they wrote to their friends concerning them; they lived them; they scattered tracts and papers filled with these precious messages; and they prayed for whom they were laboring. As a result, believers multiplied.

It is to emphasize the importance of coming back to the doing of this same home missionary work that this article is written. Many in the churches feel they have nothing particular to do in any DEFINITE way in extending the truth. "It is such a little thing I can do, anyhow," they reason, "that it will not amount to much; so I will let the missionaries sent abroad, and the preachers and canvassers at home, warn the world."

Suppose the little nail, poised in the master builder's hand, should cry out, "O I am only such a little bit of iron; why drive me into that board, to remain forever out of sight? Would that I had been made into a part of that grand locomotive, so proudly speeding on its way over mountain and plain;

then it would be worth while." But who can tell which of the two is more useful?

So our mite of helping to spread the advent message may to us seem of little moment, not worth the doing; but in the hand of the Master Builder, that very same bit of expressed soul-love may be as a nail in a sure place, to some poor tempted, struggling one.

Just the other day a sister had been talking with a person, explaining the meaning of these terrible calamities of earthquake, storms, and accidents, so rapidly coming on the earth. She was met with unbelief. But a few days afterward, this same individual was in the appalling railroad wreck near Washington, D. C., in which some forty persons all about him were instantly killed. His life was spared. Afterward he met this same sister, and told her that he thought of her earnest words during those awful moments.

Let us stick to the old Sabbath and advent doctrines. This is the old path to which the Holy Spirit will bring us back. Tracts and papers filled with these truths let us circulate. Why not subscribe for the SIGNS, or WATCHMAN, or both, and mail, or give, or sell them to some one not acquainted with this blessed truth?

If we have not this early love; if it has been choked out of our hearts, let us go to weeding around in our OWN GARDENS, and praying God to send it into our souls once more. Then as we go to work for others, the old-time missionary zeal will revive, and a new life will come into the church.

Noah never ceased preaching and talking to his generation about being saved in the ark. Neither will Seventh-day Adventist, true to the same God whom Noah served and obeyed, cease to tell others of the true Sabbath—God's holy seal--and the coming of the Lord. "Blessed is that servant, whom his Lord when he cometh shall find so doing."

T. E. BOWEN.