

THE WEST MICHIGAN HERALD



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CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS.

THIRD MEETING.

February 14 at 2:30 p. m.

"Is Your Lamp Trimmed and Burning?" were the first words of the song sung to open the meeting.

Prayer was offered by Elder A. C. Bourdeau.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

As there was no business left over, the conference at once took up the consideration of the Treasurer's report. Many questions were asked and answered satisfactorily.

The Treasurer stated that we paid all the tithe to the Lake Union Conference and all trust funds, also all Tract Society accounts, so that we started in the year 1908 with a clean record.

On motion of John E. Hanson, the report was accepted and placed on record.

Elder Moon said that the showing was a most excellent one, and he was much interested in it. He spoke of the largeness of the territory of the North Michigan Conference and the difficulties attending the work there, and expressed a desire that West Michigan continue its generosity toward that field until it becomes stronger. He believed the Lord would bless us in it.

Brother Fred Green, Business Manager, gave a financial report of the Cedar Lake Academy for the two years ending June 30, 1907. After considerable discussion, the report was accepted to be made a matter of record. Brother Green also gave a financial report of the

first eighteen weeks of the present school year.

Meeting adjourned to the call of the Chair.

A. G. HAUGHEY, Pres.

E. A. MERRIAM, Sec'y.

FOURTH MEETING.

February 15, at 7 p. m.

Conference opened with the usual devotional exercises. Elder W. C. Hebner offered prayer.

Minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

Additional delegates were seated as follows: . Byron Spencer and Beulah Sperry, Battle Creek; C. W. Long, Potterville; Simeon Smith, Grand Ledge.

The Secretary of the Sabbath-school department gave a report showing the thorough organization of this department and that there was no excuse for any of our people not belonging to a Sabbath-school. We have the State Home Department organized for the purpose of benefiting the aged, invalids and isolated Sabbath-keepers.

A report of the Young People's Missionary Volunteer work was given, which showed that a lively interest is being taken in all lines of missionary work. Both of these reports were accepted and placed on record as proceedings of the conference.

The Field Secretary then gave a report of the canvassing work. Quite an interest was taken in this line of work. He urged that our laborers endeavor to get canvassers in the field and put them in touch with the head of the department. He spoke of the good work that had been done by an aged brother in Battle Creek, and that what has

been done in that field under the trying circumstances there could be done elsewhere. This report was accepted to be spread on our minutes.

The Committee on Plans and Resolutions submitted the following partial report:

1. We recommend that the selection of the departmental officers be referred to the Conference Executive Committee.

2. In view of the serious results of the late financial panic, and the possibility of re-occurrence of a similar condition in all worldly business,

We recommend that our people, instead of depositing money in worldly enterprises, deposit with the West Michigan Conference Association at a low rate of interest or without interest.

3. We recommend that all of our churches and members of the West Michigan Conference secure a full set of the Testimonies for the Churches, including Early Writing; and that all of our ministers and other workers encourage this; also that each church take steps to systematically study these at such time and place as local conditions will permit.

On motion of Dr. L. J. Otis this report was accepted by considering each item separately. The first recommendation was then re-read. Brother Blossom asked if this resolution was necessary since the constitution provides that departmental officers either be elected or chosen by the Executive Committee.

Elder Campbell said the Nominating Committee had drawn up a similar resolution, but that this

committee had gotten ahead of them in presenting it.

Elder Haughey stated that he thought it best to have it passed as an action of this delegation that the officers be chosen, but that this would give the power of such action for the present year. He stated briefly the advantages to the work by the officers being thus appointed rather than elected.

The second recommendation was presented for discussion.

Brother Robinson asked what the conference does with its money now, whether they kept it in a safe of their own or deposited it with worldly banks. The Treasurer stated that it was deposited in the banks for a short time only, that the money was sent on to the Lake Union Conference and used in auditing the conference laborers' accounts.

Brother Edwards said that some of the largert banks of the country were failing, and suggested that our people deposit their money with the Conference to be used in our denominational work, as it would be in a much safer place than in the banks of the world.

This recommendation was discussed by Elders Hofstra, Lamson, Brethren Gravelle, Brandt and others.

The third recommendation was then read. As the necessity of this was self-evident, no discussion was entered into.

The report was accepted as a whole.

Meeting adjourned to 9 a. m. Sunday morning.

A. G. HAUGHEY, Pres.,
E. A. MERRIAM, Sec'y.

Report of Medical Secretary.

It was stated by the medical secretary at Conference one year ago, that there is need that much be done in this line throughout the conference, but how it should be done did not feel exactly sure. From experience during the past year we still see great need for this line of work.

Health lectures were given with various churches. But this required considerable traveling expense, and the results seemed hardly to justify it.

One cannot become acquainted with health principles by listening to lectures at long intervals. It therefore seemed best to me, to lay the burden of this work upon the local churches themselves, assisting in every way possible and making the ministering brethren responsible to see that they became rational health reformers.

Articles have appeared on this subject in the Conference paper from time to time, endeavoring to set before our people briefly, the simplicity of health reform, giving consideration to topics most needed. These I have observed were much appreciated and have been a help to our people.

The medical work has suffered in that it was ever allowed to separate itself from the denomination. This is evident for two reasons. First, because when the former champions were found to be proclaiming false doctrines, some of our people felt that health reform also was false. And some gave it the same disposition as other doctrines that came from this source. And again because in the way it was presented, it lost its simplicity and became impractical. I mention this that you might see the unadvisability of continuing such methods.

The third angel's message includes this department, and it is my opinion that the one who has charge of this work should make the spread of the message his main business. For this reason your medical secretary for the last six months has been doing ministerial work and in many places he finds that the medical work may be used as an entering wedge.

L. J. OTIS, M. D.

From the Field.

Grand Rapids.

I am very thankful the dear Lord has seen fit to leave me in Grand Rapids, for there are precious souls hanging in the balance. One Holland lady is going through a SEVERE TRIAL as her husband has forbidden me to come to see her and to hold readings. She loves this truth and has told her husband no matter what he tried to do, he could not take the truth out of HER HEART. I truly believe she will be among those of whom it is written in Early Writings, page 133. Remember her DAILY in prayer. We can see the wrath of the enemy against those who keep God's commandments. I am so glad I am with this people, and I want to help search out PRECIOUS SOULS. It was my privilege to see seven take their stand this last year, five have been baptized and united with the church. O God's promises are so sure. Those that sow in tears shall reap in joy. Ps. 126:5. To the dear Lord belongeth ALL the praise. But let us be faithful in sowing if we do not see results right away for in due time we shall reap if we faint not.

Report of labor done last year—1907.

137 Missionary Letters written
647 Bible readings held
971 Papers distributed
59,604 Pages of books and tracts loaned and given away
415 Missionary visits
75 Subscriptions for books and periodicals
105 Books sold
167 Family Bible Teacher distributed.

JENNIE DEYOUNG.

West Michigan Conference Association.

Following the late session of the West Michigan Conference, the newly elected trustees of the Conference association met in the church at Charlotte, February 17, and immediately organized as follows: A. G. Haughey, President;

M. N. Campbell, Vice-President; S. D. Hartwell, Secretary; G. H. Crandall, Treasurer; W. H. Edwards, Auditor.

By unanimous vote it was decided to move the general office of this association from Grand Rapids, Kent Co., Mich., to Otsego, Allegan Co., Mich., and open a separate set of books with this association, to provide separate stationery and printed blank note forms, to instruct the treasurer to establish a deed registry to acquaint himself with the condition of the churches, and to get the deeds of all the church property as far as possible.

A. G. HAUGHEY.

Organization of the Cedar Lake Academy Board.

The newly elected board of trustees of the Cedar Lake Academy, seven in number, met in the church at Charlotte the evening of February 17 and organized as follows:

A. G. Haughey, Chairman; Fred Green, Secretary and Treasurer and Business Manager; and W. H. Edwards, Auditor.

We feel sure that all the delegates who were present and heard the report from the business manager of the Cedar Lake Academy, will be pleased to learn that Brother Green was the unanimous choice of the newly elected board of trustees and was requested to continue his work.

A. G. HAUGHEY, Pres.

Obituaries.

Died at his home near Greenville, Mich., February 2, 1908, Charles N. Gibbs, in his seventieth year. Brother Gibbs became identified with the message about fourteen years ago and by a consistent life won the esteem of his neighbors and friends. We believe he now sleeps in Jesus. He leaves a devoted wife, two daughters, one son and one adopted son to mourn their loss. Funeral was conducted by the writer at the home. Text II Sam. 14:14.

W. R. MATTHEWS.

Little Wealthy Blossom, the adopted daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles F. Bennett, was born at Sand Lake, February 16, 1907 and died at the same place February 13, 1908. But we mourn not as those who are without hope for we are assured that "they shall come again from the land of the enemy." Words of comfort were spoken by Brother George Matteson from Jer. 31:16.

Social Needs and How to Supply Them.

As people we need to understand the value of the social element of our natures, as we try to reach, enlist and hold the young people in the service of God. As has been said, the work in social lines may stop when everyone appreciates all the good in everyone else; when everyone knows everyone else; when the last quarrel between Christians has been lost in love; when the last sensitive plant has ceased to be over-touchy; when the last wall flower has withered because the last wall is pulled down; when the last frown has been smoothed from the face of Christians; and when people become really interested in each other as Christians.

Our people work too hard without allowing time for sociability. How seldom time is found to plan and enjoy a trip in the country, or a social day with neighbors and friends in a nice grove or by the side of a body of water where the scenery of nature can be appreciated. If from a sense of duty parents take the time for such a day with their children, their minds are so filled with their work that they are unresponsive to the happenings or the beauties around, and is it any wonder that they are soon considered dull company and the young people desire to plan their own pleasure? Such days or evenings should be free from care and perplexity, and all should learn the spontaneity of childhood. Parents should become children with their

children, making everything go as pleasantly as possible.

But such days are a rare thing among us and so is any other planned recreation and the young people naturally look to those who do give study to this line, and friends are formed among the class with whom they associate in doing so. Is it not true in this line also that in their generation the children of the world are wiser than the children of light?

When people associate together their interests become mutual, therefore the responsibility of the social need rests heavily upon the Christian young people, because there is an opportunity for them to become acquainted with one another and also in non-Christian young people, become interested in one another and all strive together for nobler ideals, and by standing together, stem the tide of worldliness.

How much more readily we learn to appreciate the motive that prompts a deed when we associate socially than we do by associating in a more formal gathering like a church service. "There is so much bad in the best of us, and so much good in the worst of us" that it takes more than a formal acquaintance to appreciate all the good in anyone. And—

"When we know the cares and trials,
Know the efforts all in vain,
See the bitter disappointments,
Understand the loss and gain,
The grim, external roughness
Doesn't look to us the same,
And we'll help where now we hinder,
And we'll pity where we blame."

All this the social association should teach us, and when we understand, how quickly and easily quarrels are dissolved in love, and the cold, formal greeting changes to friendly recognition.

As friendship increases by contact, sympathy is awakened and the overly-sensitive ones feel that they are wanted and are a part of the company and gradually lose their sensitiveness, for they are the very ones who are apt to feel what

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Margaret Hilliard, Editor.

we are, rather than what we try to act, and as the real social spirit—which is the Spirit of Christ—prevails, they are wanted because they are one of the number if for no other reason, and because they are being loved and sought after with genuine Christian interest.

We can get used to anything, so it is possible to learn to feel at ease in a crowd. Social times should be so planned as to take in every one and see that special attention is given to the diffident and friendless. If this is done we will soon find the "wall-flowers" disappearing, for no one enjoys prominence in that line.

But successful social times are not thought up and executed on the spur of a moment, and if the ideal social times are to exist it will mean study, work and prayer and the use of all available talent for the good of others, and then people will be interested in one another, not as gossips or critics, but as to their happiness, both temporal and spiritual.

Then again, there is need of associating with others and mingling in companies that we may have the peculiarities and oddities of our natures worn away, and to learn self-control, for every association in life calls for the exercise of self-control, forbearance and sympathy. All should be so trained that even the silent influence of their personality will tend to win and draw others to them, then will they be better prepared to win souls for Christ.

To accomplish these results definite work must be done along this line, and the vital point is to have one or more working to reach a definite standard or ideal which is

in harmony with common sense and our denominational belief. In other words, education along social lines *en masse* is a failure—it has to be backed by the energy and untiring efforts of the few who comprise the backbone of the social body in any company. And the one who will by patient effort and personal work, find the person in each company endowed with the intelligence and power to win and lead others, and will set before them the general needs in a social line as explained in the Bible and Testimonies, and help study out the problems that locally confront each society in a different way, is the one who has practically solved the social problem of his territory. It is a matter of personal work on the part of the state leader, and of education on the part of local leaders. It is a work in which prayer is as great a factor as in anything else, for I do not believe social gatherings can ever succeed in leading to Christ unless they are prayed over beforehand and conducted in such a way that the heart can at any moment be lifted to God in prayer for the success of the exercises.

There are certain rules that hold good for any social event. It should be such as to promote health and restfulness, instead of fatiguing the system. The exercises engaged in should not only be innocent, but also instructive in some real tangible way, or they should be such as to inspire a greater love for the noble and beautiful, and should impart moral and spiritual vigor. They should be conducted with healthy restraint and discipline, they should be carefully planned and prayed about beforehand, and should cost little money, but much thought. They should be such as would tend to destroy any feeling of caste that may exist.

There are, on the other hand, some kinds of social gatherings that should never be held—those unplanned for where amusement must be found in common chit-chat and

gossip; those that encourage a passion for dress and show; those that unfit for the ordinary duties of life; those where the sports and games lead to frivolity; those that banish Christ from the mind; those upon which the blessing of God cannot in confidence be asked; those whose climax is something to eat; those that cannot be told from parties carried on by the world; those that consist essentially in "paring off;" those where poor people will not feel at home, or bashful folks not enjoy themselves.

If these principles are adhered to, and the instruction of Paul borne in mind, "let your moderation be known to all men," the evils of sociability will be obviated.

—MRS. M. E. ELLIS.
Pacific Union Recorder.

News and Notes.

Clifford A. Russell spent a little time at Cedar Lake last week.

Elder A. G. Haughey is in Ohio this week on some conference business.

This blue pencil mark means that your subscription expires with this issue.

Wanted—A middle aged woman to do housework for a family of two. Address: Mrs. Frankie Shepard, Otsego, Mich.

For Sale—A pleasant home with out buildings, chicken park, fruit, good well, and $2\frac{1}{2}$ acres of land. This is an excellent location for a Market Gardner. Church and Church-school privileges. Price, \$500.00. Easy terms.

ETTA-LANE WILLIAMS,
Grand Ledge.

We have a supply of Sabbath-school quarterlies for the second quarter of 1908. The lessons are on the "Great Reform Movements, in the Light of the Three Fold Message of Revelation 14."