

G. Daniels

THE WEST MICHIGAN HERALD

HE THAT REAPETH GATHERETH FRUIT UNTO LIFE ETERNAL

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The West Michigan Herald.

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E. L. Richmond, Editor.

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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

A. G. Haughey, M. N. Campbell, S. D. Hartwell, J. W. Hofstra, W. R. Matthews.

Fifth Meeting of the Conference.

Held at 9 a. m. Sunday, February 16, 1908.

Conference opened with song after which we were led in prayer by Elder J. G. Lamson.

Dr. Otis, superintendent of the medical department of the conference, read a very interesting report which called forth a lively discussion. In reply to the question as to the position our ministers took regarding this branch of our work, Dr. Otis stated that he did not think our ministers were as familiar with it as they should be from the fact that only a short time ago the work had been separated from the denomination and made a separate and distinct feature. They had rather formed the habit of looking to the doctors to present that part of the message and had

paid little or no attention to it, and for this reason some were lacking in this particular; but believed if the burden were laid upon them, they would rally to the situation and become competent under the advisement of the medical secretary to give this kind of instruction.

The point of practicing the principles of health reform was discussed freely. Elder Hofstra stated that he thought that our ministers should stand as a unit on this point. Those speaking on this question were Brethren N. H. Pool, E. F. Collier, W. W. Robinson and W. H. Edwards. It was encouraging to note the united position taken by all speakers.

This report was accepted to become a matter of record.

At this point Elder Moon was called to the chair.

The Committee on Nominations presented the following report:

For Conference President, A. G. Haughey; Vice President, M. N. Campbell; Secretary, E. L. Richmond; Treasurer, G. H. Crandall.

Executive Committee, A. G. Haughey, M. N. Campbell, S. D. Hartwell, J. W. Hofstra, W. R. Matthews.

Trustees of the West Michigan Conference Association: A. G. Haughey, M. N. Campbell, S. D. Hartwell, J. W. Hofstra, W. R. Matthews.

Members of Cedar Lake Academy Board: A. G. Haughey, M. N. Campbell, S. D. Hartwell, J. W. Hofstra, W. R. Matthews, Fred Green, G. H. Crandall.

Signed: M. N. Campbell, J. B. Blosser, Orin Evans, N. H. Pool, J. E. Root, G. W. Amadon, George E. Davis, W. W. Robinson.

It was moved that we adopt this report by considering each name separately.

The Chair stated that the West Michigan Conference Association and the Cedar Lake Academy Board, both being legal bodies, no action on these would be taken until to-morrow. With this exception the report was carried unanimously.

Elder Campbell stated that the changes made in the Treasurer and Secretary of the Conference in no sense reflected on the former officer in that capacity, but were made to give him an experience in other work that would prove of benefit to him as he needed the rest from the taxing strain of this work. He stated that the funds had been most carefully husbanded without the variation of a single penny.

As the other committees had no work ready to present to the delegation, the order of the meeting was changed, and we enjoyed a lively testimony meeting in which some of the pioneers of the message bore cheering testimonies.

An intermission of ten minutes was taken, after which the minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

The Committee on Plans submitted a further partial report:

4. We recommend that all our conference laborers be more prompt in writing reports of their work for the WEST MICHIGAN HERALD.

5. Whereas, we are instructed that the health reform shall be an entering wedge for the message, and inasmuch as the health reform stands in relation to the message as the right arm to the body, and because we are told that when

we as a people fully live up to the light of health reform, we will be occupying higher ground in regard to the whole message,

Therefore, We recommend that a plan be set on foot whereby a thorough course of instruction be arranged and carried out including a medical institute in which each church shall be represented by at least one delegate, and

That we more thoroughly organize the medical department among our churches by appointing a health secretary in each church, whose duty shall be to keep the truths of healthful living before our people, and that one Sabbath service each month be given to the consideration of some health topic, and

We recommend that our people procure a copy of "Ministry of Healing" and subscribe for the LIFE AND HEALTH to aid them not only in the study of health principles, but in the circulation of these principles among their neighbors.

6. Whereas, We have been warned by the Spirit of prophecy that if harsh words are spoken against the government, and unadvised positions are taken with regard to Sunday laws and wrong methods of presenting the mark of the beast are used, they react upon us, and that the extreme positions will be urged against even those who had no part in making them, therefore

RESOLVED, That our workers and lay members be cautioned against taking such extreme positions, or making harsh criticisms against the government or rulers;

RESOLVED, That our laborers and lay members be urged to acquaint themselves with the true principles of religious liberty.

RESOLVED, That our people be urged to take and circulate the magazine LIBERTY.

7. RESOLVED, That we extend to the family of W. D. Curtis, our sincerest sympathy in this their time of sorrow.

8. Whereas, Much harm has re-

sulted from the injudicious use of the Testimonies by quoting them as authority in conversations with unbelievers, we therefore urge our people to take special heed to the instruction given in I Cor. 14:22 to the effect that the gift of the Spirit of prophecy is for those who believe and not for unbelievers, and that we confine ourselves to the words of Scripture in defending the faith.

It was moved that this report be accepted by considering each resolution separately.

Recommendation 4 brought forth considerable discussion by Brother Pool, Elders Campbell, Lamson, Hofstra, Brother Blosser and others.

Elder Lamson spoke from the standpoint of an editor, and said that a conference paper was different from a newspaper of the world in that we had to rely on facts, and we could not publish reports in the paper unless our workers first sent reports in. We were glad to see the interest taken in this and the desire of the laymen to know of the work being done.

Mrs. Hilliard, the editor of the HERALD, stated that she had appreciated the co-operation of the workers in furnishing reports, but had felt loath indeed many times to send out numbers of the paper without a single report from the workers. She expressed a sincere desire that they give her successor their most hearty support, sending in reports more frequently.

On motion of Elder Campbell this recommendation was referred back to the Committee on Plans.

Recommendation 5 was also discussed at considerable length. As this recommendation embodied several resolutions they were considered separately and each resolution accepted.

Recommendation 6 was spoken to by Brother Brant, Elders Slade and Hanson. Elder Moon stated that we had scriptural command to honor the heads of governments; and in our discussion of the church

and state question we should not dwell so much on what we considered wrong administration, but on the wrong principles of the Church, as it really was the Church that was at fault as they were demanding and influencing the state to take these actions on religious liberty.

Brother Richmond stated that he had received much benefit from reading the magazine LIBERTY, and believed that all would vote in favor of this last resolution if they were acquainted with its contents.

Recommendation 7 was carried unanimously.

Recommendation 8 was then read and was followed by an interesting discussion as to the proper use of the Testimonies and the care that should be used in quoting from them. We should prove points of faith from the Scriptures rather than from the Testimonies. Elder Moon stated that points of faith that are found in the Testimonies would not be there only from the fact that they were in the Bible.

Meeting adjourned to 2:30 p. m.

A. G. HAUGHEY, Pres.

E. A. MERRIAM, Sec'y.

Systematic Study of the Testimonies.

The Grandville church has adopted the following plan for the systematic study of the Testimonies:

The fourth Sabbath of each month is the time fixed upon. We study by subjects. A good reader is selected to read, slowly, the testimony chosen, while the rest discuss the salient points. These are then enclosed in parentheses, and are numbered 1, 2, 3, etc., on each page separately. We do this in pencil so that the marks may be easily erased or changed.

We then prepare a list of questions on the lesson, giving the page and number where the answer may be found. At the next meeting we review the previous lesson, one asking the questions while the

book is passed from one to another to read the answer.

The few most important points in all Testimonies we propose to gather into a list of questions, to be frequently referred to until permanently fixed in the mind.

We think that as far as possible uniformity of time should be observed by all our people, and then visiting ministers and brethren would know what subject was due, and could be prepared to preach or conduct a study on that subject. We are ready, if necessary, to change our time of meeting to harmonize with the time that they come to be generally observed.

"Well," says one, "at your slow rate how long do you think it will take to go through all the Testimonies?"

We answer that we intend to be at it till the Lord comes. It does not debar anyone, however, from reading the Testimonies by course, or otherwise, all he chooses to.

A. SMITH.

Obituary.

HOWARD.—Died February 22, 1908, at the home of her sister, Mrs. Jane C. Jones, in Monterey, Mrs. Amelia P. Howard, aged 81 years, 6 months, and 5 days. Sister Howard was one of the charter members of the South Monterey church of whom only two still remain. She was a woman of marked integrity and deep Christian experience, and retained her faith and hope firm to the end. Monterey will miss greatly this devoted saint, who has lived there so many years. A more complete obituary will appear in the REVIEW AND HERALD.

E. F. COLLIER.

WANTED—To correspond with a middle-aged man to work on a small fruit farm for the present season. Church privileges within short distance. F. H. Carpenter, Otsego, Mich.

The March Number of Life and Health.

Have you seen the March number of Life and Health? If you have not we would advise you to send for a sample copy. Its general topics are Tuberculosis and Intemperance,—the two principal death-dealing agencies of this age. In the main, it is a splendid temperance number, and will not only be a good selling number, but will be an "entering-wedge" for the great Third Angel's Message, now hidden from the masses through physical infirmities and benumbed consciences resulting from a lack of a knowledge of the true principles of right living.

In this number, in addition to exposing the ravages of intemperance through the agencies of alcoholic drinks, a broad application of intemperance is made to include abstinence from things hurtful, and the proper use of the beneficial.

Dr. Knopf, the New York tuberculosis expert, dwells upon the life-giving properties of fresh air. Dr. Lauretta Kress treats whooping-cough in the home. Mrs. Bainbridge presents the life of Christ as evidence of his being the prophesied Healer. The entire number is practical and of vital importance. It will be a good selling number. Those who have been selling previous numbers will be able to increase their sales with this issue. Many have reported during the past month 100 copies sold in three or four hours' time. Suggestive canvass for the March number will be sent on application. A good selling number, a canvass telling how to sell it, hundreds of records showing an average of 50 copies sold every day, with an average profit of from \$3.50 to \$7.00,—what more is wanted in a good work?

Send in your order for a trial-Prices, 2 to 25 copies one order to one address, five cents a copy; 25 to 500 copies, four cents a copy.

Address your State Tract Society.

From the Field.

The Work in Battle Creek.

The month of February is a short month, but the routine work of the church is just the same. The congregation here, though much smaller than years ago, has its regular lines of work. There is always preaching on the Sabbath in the morning after the Sabbath School. In the afternoon, nearly always, there is a social meeting of adults in the large north vestry, and at the same hour a gathering of the young people in the east vestry for Bible study or reports of labor being done. Both of these are large, spirited gatherings, and at the preaching service in the morning there is a good sized audience. At all preaching meetings in the Tabernacle a collection is taken up.

During the week, usually on Wednesday evenings at 7:30, there are nine regular prayer and missionary meetings held in different parts of the city. These are important occasions, and of good spiritual benefit to the church, though not always as well attended as desirable. It should be stated that at the present time, and for weeks previous, there are Sunday evening lectures in the Tabernacle which are well patronized. Generally some vital point of the faith is considered at these services, and an offering is always taken. On these occasions we have been favored with the help of Brethren Lamson, Videto, and Sanders, in addition to the discourses of Elder Campbell who has spoken a number of times.

Usually each week it is planned to have an elders' meeting, at which time matters of vital interest in the church are considered. And on each Tuesday evening there is a Sabbath School teachers' meeting which is of great importance in the Sabbath School work.

At the present time there is con-

siderable sickness in Battle Creek, and the church here is in no wise exempt from these afflictions. A number of deaths have occurred. The writer spends his entire time in house-to-house visiting in the church, attending the various meetings, giving occasional Bible studies, and looking after a correspondence which is somewhat large. And very often the elders are called to pray for the sick and afflicted according to the Lord's instructions in the book of James. At these times we frequently read what the Testimonies say about praying for the sick; that our requests should not take the form of a command, but be made in submission to the will of God. On this point please read "Testimonies to the Church," Vol. 2, pages 145 to 150, which is greatly to the point. It is a pleasure to state that in Battle Creek there have been many remarkable answers to prayer, not only respecting cases of affliction but in the matter of the Tabernacle property which by the late decision of the Circuit Judge has now been taken out of court. For this the church here is grateful to that good Being who rules in heaven and in earth. Oh that there may ever be with His people here a heart of consecration and a zeal to carry out God's wise will circumspectly and humbly.

Brethren of the remnant people, still remember the work in Battle Creek in your prayers. In closing it is a pleasure to add that the recent meeting of the West Michigan Conference in Charlotte will not be soon forgotten by the church here.

G. W. AMADON.

Grand Rapids.

My time has been divided between this place and Lansing since the first of November, but the experiences I have had have been rich in blessings. In Grand Rapids I found a wide-awake, Christian body of men and women. Elder Wilbur and myself have greatly appreciated the hearty co-opera-

tion of this church. Eleven active tithe-paying members have been added, five of them by baptism. We feel confident that there are still others who will be identified with us soon.

There is a good, live Sabbath School and considerable interest has been awakened in the study of the Testimonies. The Young People's Society is also at work, there being a good attendance at the meetings.

In Lansing I have had the privilege of working with Elder L. G. Moore and others in various parts of the city. The Lord has helped us to present the truth in such a manner as to carry conviction to some souls. We earnestly crave the sincere prayers of our brethren and sisters that our work may be blessed of the Lord and that many may accept the message through our ministrations.

JOHN E. HANSON.

Wayland.

"Ye are my witnesses, saith the Lord." O that we all may be true and faithful witnesses.

I feel that the Lord is blessing me in my work here. At present I have but few readers, but those few are interested. But I am working and praying that many may yet be brought to the truth.

EDNA WILBUR.

Report for February.

The fore part of February 1908 I labored with Elder E. F. Collier in Buchanan holding a series of meetings, after which I attended the West Michigan Conference. Since February the 22nd I have joined with Brother Whitmarsh in holding a series of meetings at Bangor. Our interest is good.

Sermons	5
Bible readings	5
Visits	84
Papers sold	100

M. B. BUTTERFIELD.

News and Notes.

Anyone knowing the whereabouts of Bert M. Standish, formerly of Benton Harbor, will confer a favor by sending his address to this office.

We understand that the Michigan Home for Girls in Grand Rapids has been closed for a time. Mr. and Mrs. McKee are arranging to spend some time in California in the interests of the Home and in recuperation. Miss Henry is visiting friends in Berrien Springs.

We would suggest that all our librarians order their supply of Sabbath School quarterlies at once to be sure and have them in good season. Our office force will be somewhat smaller during the Lake Union Conference which convenes the 17th, and we would like to get all the work possible done before that time.

WANTED.—Seeds, bulbs, plants, etc. The Graysville Sanitarium at Graysville, Tennessee, is in position to make good use of flower and vegetable seeds, plants, bulbs, vines, etc. With considerable ground to improve and with limited means, it feels warranted in giving others an opportunity to assist in this way. Address as above.

Notice.

Quite a number of our brethren and sisters have overlooked the recommendation of the Committee as published in the HERALD of February 26. It was asked that all remittances be made to the Conference and not to individuals.

This will also apply to all communications with reference to any of the Conference business. An individual may be away from the office for several days at a time and mail addressed to him personally will be held for his return. All our correspondents will at once see the advantage of the above plan, particularly where the letter contains matters that should have prompt attention.