

GENERAL CONFERENCE PUBLISHERS' CONVENTION.

First meeting, Battle Creek, Mich., 9 A.M., March 25, 1901.

Review and Herald Chapel.

After a short devotional service, the President of the General Conference made a brief statement of the object of the meeting. He stated that it was called so that those who are more directly connected with the publishing work as well as those who have responsible positions in the field at large might come together for a free exchange of views, and also to consider the various phases of the publishing work in all its interests.

There were present at this first meeting, Elders G.A.Irwin, H.W.Cottrell, N.W.Allee, A.J.Breed, J.H.Morrison, R.M.Kilgore, W.T.Knox, O.A.Olsen, A.G.Daniells, S.N.Haskell, U. Smith, W.C.White, H.W.Decker, J.W.Westpal, W.W.Prescott, S.H.Lane, L.R.Conradi, W.J.Stone, W.D.Salisbury, A. Druillard, G.B.Thompson, I.A.Ford, R.R.Kennedy, A.F.Harrison, W.C.Sisley, C.D.Rhodes, L. Johnson, W.A.Spicer, J.D.Gowell, R.A.Underwood, L.A.Smith, G.W.Caviness, N.W.Kauble, A.E.Place, G.W.Amadon, J.W.Collie, E.P.Boggs, P.T.Magan, C.M.Christiansen.

The following is an outline of topics, with the names of those who will be expected to present a paper on their respective topic. This outline is suggestive of the general trend that the meetings would assume from day to day. The Chairman expressed the hope that each one in attendance would feel the utmost freedom in the meetings:--

SUBJECTS FOR CONSIDERATION AT PUBLISHERS' CONVENTION,
To Convene in Battle Creek, Mich., March 24, 1901.

1. The Publishing Work as an Instrumentality for the Proclamation of the Message. U.Smith.
 2. The Printing Houses as Training-schools for Missionaries. W.C.Sisley.
 3. The Principles to Govern Dealings with Employees, Conferences, and Outsiders. A.G.Daniells.
 4. The Proper Relation to Commercial Work. W.D.Salisbury.
 5. An Effective Literature, and How to Improve It. A.T.Jones.
 6. The Responsibility of our Publishing Houses, and the Division of Territory so as to Accomplish the Best Results, and to Economize Means. W.C.White.
 7. Classes of Literature, and the Place of Each: (a) Periodicals; (b) Tracts; (c) Trade Books; (d) Subscription Books; (e) Health Books; (f) Educational Books. C.H.Jones.
 8. The Foreign Book Field, and Its Needs. O.A.Olsen.
 9. Foreign Literature, and the Best Agencies for Its Publication and Sale. L.R.Conradi.
 10. The Selection, Adaptation, Translation, Illustration, and Issue of Foreign Literature. H.P.Holser.
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Elder U. Smith then led out in the presentation of the first topic, "The Publishing Work as an Instrumentality in the Proclamation of the Message." He stated that the subject is one of great importance, and far-reaching in its influence; that the most vital interests of our work are involved in it. He then gave a brief yet comprehensive history of the rise and progress of the publishing work in its relation to the Advent message. His paper will doubtless receive further notice in some form or publication.

The question was then thrown upon for a free discussion. W.C. White spoke feelingly of the importance of the convention, and especially of this phase of our work. He remarked that the most serious commission ever committed to a people is embraced in the plans that should be laid for the dissemination of our literature. Our plans should comprehend nothing less than to carry the third angel's message to every intelligent human being. That we are here to consider what can be done to bring the resources of the denomination, yea, of heaven, to carry this message. He stated that the work is broader than any one institution. The publishing work is like the work of God: it is to be worked out in a thousandfold more ways than have already been in operation.

He incidentally stated some of the observations that his mother had made on her recent trip through the South; that printing presses should be in many cities throughout the land. He stated that the publishing houses should be training centers for missionary printers. He then briefly reviewed the nursing of the canvassing work in its decline, and intimated that the medicine that has been administered to this sick child has been from the standpoint of the publishing house, through the agency, the money standpoint, rather than from that of getting the message before the people.

Elder O.A.Olsen said he was much interested in this meeting, and called attention to the large portion of the world untouched. The publishing work is the most important phase for the dissemination of the third angel's message. He then gave a brief review of how the publishing work led out in the opening up of the various mission fields of Europe, and called attention to the large territory of populous cities, which are as yet untouched; that we had not reached the zenith of our work, having made but a mere beginning.

Elder L.R.Conradi said he thought one of the most important considerations in connection with the publishing work was not the large institutions, the large steam works and appliances, but for God-fearing laborers to distribute the literature. He then gave the experience they have had in Europe in getting the French paper and the German paper on their feet. He also spoke of the canvassing work in Russia; that they had sold \$2000 worth of books in Russia the past year. He called attention to the Macedonian cry that comes from Macedonia, and related a little incident, how that a little tract in the language of Macedonia had reached that people, and a company of eleven had embraced the truth; and so eager were they to see some representative of this truth, that they sent a delegation of three men to attend three different meetings, to be sure that they would meet him.

He then gave an idea of how the work was carried forward in the time of the Reformation by Luther and his co-laborers, how the work went in so short a time. But it was not by sending out large publications, but by small penny tracts.

Brethren Sisley, White, Magan, and Underwood spoke of the importance of the publishing work, and expressed an anxiety that something be done at this time to enlist a much larger number of people.

Suggestions were made by some as to the extent of this meeting, and the necessity of getting full reports, when it was moved by W.C.White,

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seconded by O.A.Olsen, that the Chair appoint a committee of three to consider the question of the attendance and the reporting of this convention. The motion prevailed.

The Chair announced as said committee W.C.White, P.T.Magan, and W.T.Knox.

A motion prevailed to adjourn to 9 A.M., April 26.

G.A.IRWIN, Chairman.

L.A.HOOPES, Secretary.

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GENERAL CONFERENCE PUBLISHERS' CONVENTION.

Second Meeting, Battle Creek, Mich., 8 A.M., March 26, 1901.

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Elder Irwin occupied a portion of the hour in setting before the conference the importance of especially seeking for the blessing and power of God in this the very beginning of our meetings. He likened this convention to the meeting of the apostles in the "upper chamber," as recorded in the first chapter of Acts, dwelling principally upon the statements in the Testimonies relating to this meeting.

The after part of the meeting was devoted entirely to prayer, when the meeting adjourned to give place to the meeting of the stockholders of the Seventh-day Adventist Publishing Association, which was to convene at 9:40.

G.A. IRWIN, Chairman.

L. A. HOOPES, Secretary.

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THIRD MEETING GENERAL CONFERENCE PUBLISHERS' CONVENTION.

Battle Creek, Mich., 2:30 P.M., R. and H. Chapel.

The meeting was opened by prayer by Elder J.H. Morrison.
Minutes of the first meeting read and approved.

The Committee appointed on attendance and reporting, submitted the following report:--

"To the Publishers' convention.:

"Your Committee on Attendance and Reporting suggest:

"1. That those selected to lead out in the presentation of topics be requested to furnish the committee a written copy or report of their addresses.

"2. That as far as possible, a full stenographic report be made of the discussions and speeches.

"3. That your committee be empowered to arrange for the publication of an abstract of the matters presented, in such manner as shall be agreed upon at the close of this council.

"4. That the editors of periodicals and the managers of publishing and canvassing enterprises connected with our cause, be urged to attend this convention.

[Signed] W.C.White,
W.T.Knox,
P.T.Magan."

The report was adopted.

W.C.Sisley then led out in the reading of a paper on the second topic of the list, namely, "The Printing Houses as Training-schools for Missionaries."

Brethren Salisbury, White, Evans, Conradi, Magan, Olsen, and Waggoner made some interesting remarks on this subject. As the talks was taken down in Shorthand, the committee no doubt will have them compiled in some form, as indicated in their report.

Before adjourning, it was decided to take up topics Nos. 3 and 4 at the next meeting.

Meeting adjourned until 8 A.M., March 27, 1901.

Before adjournment the Chair remarked that the morning meeting would be devoted largely to a devotional service, letting the Lord dictate as to what turn the meeting should take.

G.A.IRWIN, Chairman.

L.A.HOOPES, Secretary.

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FOURTH MEETING GENERAL CONFERENCE PUBLISHERS' CONVENTION.

Battle Creek, Mich., 8 A.M., March 27, 1901.

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The morning hour was occupied in a short talk by Sister E.G. White, followed by a social meeting. After a brief recess the meeting convened at 10 A.M., and was opened by prayer by Elder J.O. Corliss.

The following brethren joined in the convention: J.N. Loughborough, C.H. Jones, M.C. Wilcox, J.O. Corliss, J.W. Bagby, J.E. White, Allen Moon, Ira J. Hankins.

A.G. Daniells then led out in the discussion of topic No. 3, "The Principles to Govern Dealings with Employees, Conferences, and Outsiders."

As it was voted that the fourth topic be considered in connection with this, W.D. Salisbury then read a paper on "The Proper Relation to Commercial Work." After the reading of this, the questions ^{we} ~~was~~ thrown open for general remarks. Some questions were raised as to which should take the precedence, job work for the outside world or our own work. Brethren W.C. White, C.H. Jones, W.C. Sisley, ⁺ M.C. Wilcox spoke to the questions under consideration in the papers presented.

As the papers will doubtless receive some attention by the committee having it in hand, it is not here reported. A good spirit prevailed throughout the meeting. The Chairman impressed upon the brethren the necessity of dealing with these questions in a broad and liberal spirit; that the convention is not the place to deal with personalities or individual matters, but to consider these questions that have been presented in the Testimonies for the past years.

Before adjourning, Elder Olsen called the attention of the convention to a committee that had been appointed by the General Conference Committee to arrange a program for the coming Conference. He spoke especially of the necessity of the devotional part of our exercises, and announced a meeting to be held in the afternoon at six o'clock. While

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it is true that quite a number will be busily engaged on important committees, yet there will be quite a large number in attendance who would esteem it a privilege to enjoy this season of specially seeking the Lord.

Meeting adjourned to 2:30 P.M.

G.A.IRWIN, Chairman.

L.A.HOOPES, Secretary.

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FIFTH MEETING GENERAL CONFERENCE PUBLISHERS' CONVENTION.

Battle Creek, Mich., 2:30 p.m., March 27, 1961.

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The meeting was opened by prayer by Elder J.N.Loughborough.

As there was some anxiety for a further consideration of the topics of the forenoon, some time was devoted to the consideration of these two topics, and Brethren Magan, Lane, and Sutherland dwelt at some length on the same.

Elder Jones then led out in the presentation of the fifth topic, entitled, "An Effective Literature, and How to Improve It." Other brethren joined in the discussion.

As these talks will doubtless be embodied in the report of the special committee on reporting, we will not give the substance of the remarks here.

Meeting adjourned to 8 a.m., March 28.

G.A.IRWIN, Chairman.

L.A.HOOPES, Secretary.

SIXTH MEETING GENERAL CONFERENCE PUBLISHERS' CONVENTION.

Battle Creek, Mich., 8 A.M., March 28, 1901.

The first hour was entirely a devotional service. At 9 A.M. W.C.White presented a paper on topic No. 6, "The Responsibility of our Publishing Houses, and the Division of Territory so as to Accomplish the Best Results and to Economize Means." This was a lengthy paper, and will be put in print for the perusal of the brethren present.

Meeting adjourned till 3:30 P.M.

SEVENTH MEETING.

Seventh meeting, 3:30 P.M.; Elder Irwin in the Chair. By common consent, topics 8 and 9 were considered respectively by Elders O.A. Olsen and L.R.Conradi. As these presentations of the subject will receive further attention in print, we make no further mention here.

Meeting adjourned till 8 A.M., March 29.

GEO.A.IRWIN,
Chairman.

L.A.HOOPES,
Secretary.
