

Original

SEVENTH MEETING, 9:30 A.M., May 15

The seventh meeting was called to order at 9:30 A.M., May 15, H.W.Cottrell in the chair.

After the hymn, "Awake my Soul," R.A.Underwood led in prayer.

A short time was devoted to a formal legal meeting of the Washington Training School Association, and of the Washington (D.C.) Sanitarium Association.

Minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

The following delegates responded to the roll-call for the first time:--

F.W.Field, Wm. Guthrie, Margaret Haughey (in the place of Joseph Smith).

SOUTH AMERICA

The Chairman called on J.W.Westphal to give a report of the South American Union mission field (which appears in another part of this paper).

SOUTHWESTERN UNION CONFERENCE

Following this N.P.Nelson presented a report for the Southwestern Union Conference, a brief summary of which follows:--

This Union has a vast area, 382,000 square miles, with a population of 5,360,000. Nearly a million of these are colored. Many thousands of Mexicans reside among the border. The church membership is 3,333; ministerial force, 55, of whom 3 are colored. The Union policy is to push the work in new fields, and during the term 22 churches and companies have been raised up, and 13 church buildings have been erected. Two of these are for the colored people, one in Arkansas and one in Texas. The Keene Academy has had an enrollment of 116, and in its operating has gained about \$1000 during the year. Its indebtedness is very nearly wiped out. Dur-

Seventh Meeting-2-

ing the two years books have been sold to the value of over \$40,000, and this work is reviving. Success has attended merging the conference papers into one Union organ.

Two sanitariums, one in Keene, the other in Little Rock, are in a prosperous condition, and treatment rooms are being fitted up in several of the large cities. Special attention has been given to mission work among the colored people, with encouraging results. Two large preaching tents will be in use by colored workers this summer. An industrial school for the colored people is being established in Arkansas, 40 acres having been purchased and a small building erected.

The Union is thankful for the outside financial help that has been rendered it. They ask this Conference to provide some regular source of income, inasmuch as the field is large and undeveloped and the resources slender. The tithe stands at about \$8 per capital, an increase of one dollar over last year. ~~The Southwestern Union also asks that Louisiana be made a part of that territory.~~ The workers are of good courage, and know that the Lord is going before them and that victory is sure.

The meeting then adjourned.

H.W.Cottrell, Chairman.

W.A.Spicer, Secretary.

Approved
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EIGHTH MEETING, 2.30, May 15

The eighth meeting was called to order at 2.30 P. M., May 15, H. W. Cottrell in the chair. Prayer by W. D. Curtis.

On call for delegates newly arrived, J. L. Kay responded. Minutes of previous meeting were read.

The Executive Committee presented a further report on standing committees as follows:--

On Finance:- I. H. Evans, W. C. Sisley, W. J. Stone, J. O. Corliss, E. T. Russell, R. A. Underwood, C. P. Bollman, W. A. Wilcox.

The report was adopted.

The Committee on Plans and Resolutions presented a partial report. On motion to adopt, by voting upon each recommendation separately, the report was considered as follows:--

RECOMMENDATIONS

OF THANKS

1. Resolved, That we express the sentiments of this Conference, in the language of the psalmist in Psalms 107:1-8: "O give thanks unto the Lord, for he is good; for his mercy endureth for ever. Let the redeemed of the Lord say so, whom he hath redeemed from the hand of the enemy; and gathered them out of the lands, from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south," etc., to verse 8.

With manifestly deep feeling, the Conference voted this recommendation of thanks to the Lord for his prospering hand over the work.

Removal of Headquarters

2. Whereas, At the General Conference held in Oakland, Cal., in 1903, it was recommended that our denominational headquarters which for many years had been located in Battle Creek, Mich., should be removed to some place in the east; and,--

Whereas, This task, though surrounded with many difficult and serious complications, and attended with far-reaching consequences, has through the blessing of the Lord~~s~~ been successfully accomplished; therefore,--

Resolved, That we most heartily approve of the steps taken thus far in establishing our work in the city of Washington, and that we recognize and acknowledge with heartfelt gratitude the guiding and prospering hand of the Lord through the many perplexities with which this work was attended; and, further,--

Resolved, That we pledge to those on whom the responsibility rests of completing this work, our loyal support until such headquarters and institutions are established in the capital of ~~the~~ nation as has been outlined in the spirit of prophecy, and which will properly represent our work before the world.

These resolutions were adopted by vote. A.T. Robinson said he had just received a further token of the interest the people who are not here feel in this subject in the form of further checks for over \$1,500 from believers in Nebraska.

A.G. Daniells stated that this morning he had received a letter marked "urgent" from exactly the opposite side of the earth, containing \$1000 for the Washington work, sent on to reach us before the Conference should close.

Others would have followed with reports, and it was suggested that some of the special providences in this move should be recounted, but on motion to reconsider, it was agreed to set apart a time for full discussion of these resolutions, when more time might be given and Sister White might be present.

Fallen Workers

3. Whereas, Since the last General Conference divine Providence has seen fit to permit twenty-nine of our workers to fall under the hand of death; and,--

Whereas, Some of these were in distant lands, leaving their families in very trying circumstances; therefore,--

Resolved, (a) That we extend to the families of the deceased the sincere sympathy and deepest sorrow of the delegates assembled in General Conference;

(b) That we appreciate the loyalty and faithfulness of those who have fallen at their post, and have done what they could for the cause of their Master;

(c) That we request the Secretary of the General Conference to write a letter of condolence and sympathy in behalf of the General Conference assembled, to each family of the deceased, enclosing a copy of these resolutions, expressing to them our sympathy and sorrow in the afflictions through which they have been called to pass, by the loss of their loved

es.

It was stated that since the Conference had assembled, word had come of the death of a pioneer worker, Elder W. B. Hill, of Nebraska. The resolution was adopted.
Four-Year General Conference Term

4. Whereas, The organization of Union Conferences has taken burdens of local administrative work in nearly all the field, both in America and abroad; and,--

Whereas, The wide-spreading growth of the work in all the world renders it essential that a Conference really general shall be attended by representatives of the organized Union Conferences and leading fields abroad; and,--

Whereas, The calling of a General Conference every two years means a large expense for transportation, the expenditure of much time on

the part of representative laborers, and a really frequent partial interruption of the work in the fields in these times when means and time and continuous effort are so important to the closing work; therefore,--

Resolved, That ~~the~~ regular sessions of the General Conference be held once in four years, and that the Constitution be changed to accord with this action; and further,--

Resolved, That these quadrennial sessions shall be truly representative world's missionary Conferences, which, experience has shown, are of the greatest value and importance in shaping the work and giving fresh impetus to the hastening forward of the message committed to us.

A full and free discussion was had of these resolutions. Those who spoke in favor of the change in the General Conference term were Brethren J.N.Loughborough, A.G.Daniells, F.W.Field, G.A.Irwin, L.R.Conradi, H.W.Cottrell, R.A.Underwood, I.H.Evans, O.A.Olsen, E.W.Farnsworth, Smith Sharp, W.C.White, M.C.Wilcox, W.J.Stone, A.T.Robinson.

Brethren who questioned the advisability of the change and spoke on the negative were G.I.Butler, S.H.Lane, H.M.J.Richards, R.C.Porter, McReynolds, R.F.Andrews.

It was urged against the change proposed that four years was too long a time between General Conferences in times of intensity such as these, when questions are liable to come up requiring attention. That four years was too long a tenure for officers of the Conference; that if things went well it might be all right, but if changes were needed and wrong policies adopted it would be better to have the term two years only, and that it would strengthen the hands of officers to have a General Conference endorsement of the policy at least once in two years. It was suggested that the change might favor a tendency to centralize. It was urged that more and more frequent times of counsel were needed as the end draws near, and that it was an inspiration to laborers to meet and have the bene-

fit of the counsels of more experienced workers. That while the expense was great, as the recommendation stated, the information and ~~help~~ help received from hearing reports from the fields would enable the home laborers to raise more money. It was argued that sometimes new and untried men might be placed in office, and there would be a feeling of uncertainty when the term was four years which would not be for the shorter period. The speakers felt that it would be best to leave it as it is.

In favor of the resolution it was urged that while a similar proposition was before the General Conference six years ago, it was now evident that the work was not at that time properly organized for such a step. But since that time the Union Conference organizations have been perfected, taking away from the General Conference great burdens of detail work. Now some of the Unions have as large affairs as the whole General Conference some years ago. Interests, institutional and otherwise formerly coming to the General Conference officers were now looked after within Union Conference lines by those locally informed and qualified. The whole tendency was to decentralize, to place authority upon local organizations and to make the General Conference a great world's missionary body. It was urged that now the General gatherings involved great expense; that coming so frequently as every two years, now that the work is so widespread, it takes leading laborers too much out of their fields and interferes with a strong continuous effort. That, with the rapidity with which events ^{come and go, and the enlarged sphere of interests to look after,} ~~are~~ four years now seems scarcely more than two did some time ago. That when the General Conference term was changed from one to two years, the same objections were urged, but that it has been found to work all right; that now, with the Union Conferences coming every two years throughout the world, it is but a logical step to make the General Conference term four years. The local church has its meeting weekly, from Sabbath to Sabbath; the local conference has its conference meeting yearly;

the larger Union Conference has its meeting every two years, and now the resolution provides four years for the still larger world's General Conference, the whole plan making a natural series of steps from the local to the largest body. ^{It was stated that} The Constitution provides for the calling of a special session at any time if emergencies arise, and with the large and representative General Conference Committee, in touch with all the field interests, there is provided a body of counsellors to guide the officers of the Conference. ^{and safeguard the work.} The College View council last September was cited as ^{an example of the} means of now and then getting ^{special} counsel. As many of the General Conference Committee were available were brought in, joined by conference presidents and laborers within easy reach. It was urged that while it was an inspiration to hear reports, there was a still greater inspiration in the calls for help from opening fields, and with the work before us frequent really general gatherings took laborers from the fields who longed to be at work with souls. Foreign delegates urged that the change proposed would give them more time for work and afford opportunity for general men to spend some time with them in the field dealing with missionary problems.

The recommendation was adopted, 106 voting in the affirmative, and 19 in the negative.

A.T.Jones introduced a resolution providing for delegates from foreign fields to bring native representatives of the work with them to the next General Conference. The resolution was referred to the Committee on Plans.

~~R.F.Andrews, who stated that he had voted in the negative on recommendation 4, now moved to make the vote unanimously in the affirmative, inasmuch as the judgment of the Conference had been expressed. It was, however, suggested that in all our deliberations and actions any minority loyally joined in accepting the decision of the general body, and so it was not needful to make any special motion in this case. The motion was~~

disposed of by a further motion to adjourn, and the Conference session closed with the announcement that as a part of the reports to the Conference, J.L.Shaw, of India, would present his field at the 7:45 evening service. (His report appears in this issue.)

The meeting adjourned, leaving a fifth recommendation of the report of the Committee on Plans still to be considered.

H.W.Cottrell, Chairman.

W.A.Spicer, Secretary.