

Approved

THIRTEENTH MEETING

The 13th meeting was called at 9.30 A. M., May 18, H. W. Cottrell in the chair.

Prayer was offered by E. T. Russell, and the minutes of the previous meeting were read.

On motion, consideration of the report pending at last adjournment was deferred, in order to listen to the report of the Southern Union Conference, which was presented by G. I. Butler. The following is a very brief summary:--

Southern Union Conference

The Union Conference has nine States in its territory. Population, white, 9,084,496; colored, 5,823,023. This territory was once the great heart of the Southern Confederacy, and is compact together. Because of this solidity, and the strong social and other ties binding all portions together, this Union Conference of the sunny South must be most influential among the Union Conferences of this country. For nearly forty years our message has been penetrating this territory, but the general progress was slow. Believers in this truth were raised up here and there. The Tennessee River Conference, the first conference, was organized in 1879.

In the South, generally, people are strongly attached to old church associations. They have a respect for religion, and an unusual regard for their ministry, so that they are less inclined to break away from their own churches, and the influence of the ministers is generally greater than in the North. These things make it more difficult to secure attention to the message for this time. After sixteen years in the South, we have learned to love the people, and to know that there are thousands and thousands of noble souls who

would be glad to receive this truth, if they understood it as we do. It is a pleasure to live among them, and become acquainted with their kindness, hospitality, and goodness of heart.

Our work is gaining in strength. Nineteen churches have been added during the two years. Churches now, 99. Members added, 529. Present membership, 2,353. The tithe last year was \$22,035.97, an increase of \$1,464.67 over that of two years ago. The average tithe is about eight dollars, which compares most favorably with the average in the North.

With special difficulties in the general field, it is in the effort for the vast colored population that the greatest difficulties exist. One-third of the population is colored. More or less was done among these for years, but little was accomplished until Brother J. E. White and associates took up work in Mississippi, with the "Morning Star" steamer as the basis of operation. This work has steadily grown, amidst difficulties known only to those in the field.

The leading institutional interest is the Southern Publishing Association. It has turned out a large amount of work, and has a good equipment. Sometimes it has had to work night and day. It needs assistance, however, and counsel is asked of this Conference as to its work. The Graysville Training School is the most important educational institution in the Union. The attendance last year was the largest in its history. The large majority of students have left it as Christians. This school needs further improvement in facilities, however. The colored school at Huntsville, Alabama, has struggled heroically with a difficult problem, and is becoming stronger and stronger. A great work is before it. Last of all, a school to train teachers (white) for some of the Southern districts, has been started near Nashville by Brethren Sutherland, Magan, and others.

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The Southern Watchman has been prospered, but needs a still larger circulation to become self-supporting.

The time for the ministerial institute having come, it was agreed that the Southern Union report should be completed at another hour.

Meeting adjourned.

H. W. COTTRELL, Chairman,

W. A. SPICER, Secretary.

FOURTEENTH MEETING

The fourteenth meeting was called at 2:30 P.M., May 18, H.W. Cottfell in the chair.

Prayer was offered by M.C.Wilcox. A few moments were granted to the International Publishing Association, of College View, Nebr., which held a legal meeting, for the appointment of committees .

The minutes of the previous meeting of the conference were then read.

On call for delegates newly arrived the following brethren responded:--

E.E.Miles, W.B.White, L.H.Crisler, G.W.Wells.

The unfinished report of the Committee on Resolutions was taken up as follows:--

Sabbath-school

9. Whereas, Sabbath-school conventions wherever properly conducted have proved very helpful, not only in an increased interest in the work of the Sabbath-school, but in the deepening of personal piety and the salvation of souls as well; therefore,--

Resolved, That the holding of conventions in the various# conferences be encouraged, embodying the various lines of missionary work, and that conference officers and laborers assist in these important gatherings, not only in counsel, but in providing talented help, that they may be made a strong educational factor in the important work of the Sabbath-school, and assist materially in building up the work of the gospel.

W.C.White remarked on the good work these conventions did years ago, and rejoiced that they were being revived again.

A recommendation regarding missionary exercises in the Sabbath-school was referred to the Finance Committee.

Religious Liberty

10. We recommend, That Religious Liberty departments be organized, and secretaries appointed in each Union and State conference in North America, in counsel with the general Religious Liberty department.

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Remarks on resolution:--

A.G.Daniells: Believed the religious liberty work ought to be carried on by all the people. There is a general tendency toward religious legislation in all parts--often of sincere desire to stem the tide of evil. We know this is not the remedy, and must tell the people. Our ranks everywhere must be drilled and watchful to meet the issue, and not leave it alone to a central committee to do the work.

K.C.Russell: He had met only yesterday in Washington, Senator Blair, of the "Blair Sunday-rest Bill" of years ago, ^{who} He said that he admired the earnestness and persistency and force with which Seventh-day Adventists had agitated on these issues. Said it showed discernment to establish our headquarters in Washington where the problem would be worked out, and he hoped the best side would win.

In reply to a question as to why the resolution did not urge the same action outside America;--

L.R.Conradi stated that in some of the European fields it was best to work quietly. If we began the religious liberty agitation, as such, workers might be speedily expelled from various countries. In some parts it is best to suffer silently, and let God work the matter out--and he has worked deliverance repeatedly. The authorities in Germany had declared no one should have the Sabbath off in the required military service, but God has stood by young men who were steadfast and true and the freedom has been granted. The Emperor has pardoned several. One young man told the authorities that years ago his father had repeatedly suffered imprisonment for refusing duties on the Sabbath. The record was looked up, and the young man's colonel told the whole regiment that he was to have the Sabbath free, and none were to cast reproach.

Allen Moon: The "God in the Constitution" party, while for some years quiet, are now working, and mean to win. Should they amend the Constitution, the States would be appealed to to ratify. In all the States educational work must be done to inform and warn the people.

11. We recommend, That religious liberty institutes be held in the conferences as may be arranged.

12. We recommend, That the petition and remonstrance work be diligently followed as occasion and circumstance may require.

13. We recommend, That suitable religious liberty literature be prepared and that it be diligently and extensively circulated.

R.A.Underwood: Suggested on the latter recommendation, putting out some of the declarations of protest, from ourselves, the Baptists, and others, which appeared in Washington papers during the religious education agitation.

J.O.Corliss: Felt that in all our religious liberty literature now, the message should be so interwoven that people would see why we take the position we do.

S.H.Lane: Desired published a fresh statement of the general principles of religion and civil government.

14. We recommend, That "American State Papers" be republished with appropriate corrections and additions, thus bringing it up to date.

Question was called on the entire report, as amended, and unanimously adopted.

Partial Report on Nominations

The Chair called for the report of the Committee on Nominations. A partial report was submitted by F.Griggs, the secretary, as follows:--

For Officers of General Conference:

President, A.G.Daniells.

Vice-Presidents, L.R.Conradi and G.A.Irwin.

Secretary, W.A.Spicer.

Treasurer, I.H.Evans.

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Executive Committee: A.G.Daniells, L.R.Conradi, G.A.Irwin, the Presidents of Union Conferences and Union Mission fields, at present acting as follows: H.W.Cottrell, G.I.Butler, Allen Moon, R.A.Underwood, E.T. Russell, N.P.Nelson, W.B.White, W.H.Thurston, O.A.Olsen, P.A.Hansen, W.S.Hyatt, J.W.Westphal, W.H.Wakeham, and the president of the Australasian Union Conference, additional members nominated to be elected by this conference: W.A.Spicer, I.H.Evans, W.W.Prescott, W.C.White, W.C.Sisley, S.N.Haskell.

It was moved to adopt by considering each name separately.

On the name of G.A.Irwin, E.W.Farnsworth inquired if that would mean taking Brother Irwin away from Australia. O.A.Olsen, in behalf of the Nominating Committee, stated that it was with very serious consideration of the effect of this action on Australasia that the committee had united in this nomination. After praying and studying separately over the matter of a selection, members had come together, each with the same deep conviction. The necessity of giving the president of the General Conference a helper strong to share the burdens in this growing work and in these critical times had pressed with weight upon the committee. It had come most unexpectedly upon Brother Irwin, and he had felt deeply over the matter, but on the promise that the best possible would be done to help Australasia, he had yielded to the unanimous conviction of the brethren that it was the right move. All were grieved to take him away from Australasia, but it was felt that the whole general situation made this vice-presidency of first importance.

E.W.Farnsworth: Feared that interests in Australasia would suffer. The return of workers to America had brought discouragement already, and he feared this move would make people feel that there was some plan to draw workers to America.

A.G.Daniells: Stated that he could assure the brethren that certainly there was no plan to bring workers to America. In this case the decision had come solely from the committee and the conviction had ~~come~~ come to them, as we had heard, unexpectedly.

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Brethren Sharp and Olsen spoke further, and by the responses from the congregation it was evident that hearts were touched by the suggestion of the possibility of our brethren in Australasia feeling that their interests had not been properly considered.

W.D.Salisbury, of Australia: He believed he could say in behalf of the brethren in Australasia that they would meet the situation with confidence in the good will of the conference toward that field. They would deeply feel the loss, but he felt that the needs of that field would surely have most earnest consideration.

G.A.Irwin: He had never in this message had a matter more difficult to decide. It had come as a great surprise to him. Heart and soul were in Australasia, without a thought of leaving the field. After struggling all day with the matter, he had been led last evening to say to the brethren that he must accept on promise that the best would be done for Australasia. If it is God's will to return to America, he could say, Amen. If to go back, assuredly, Amen. He loved the people and the field--a grand territory and a growing work. It needs help, having truly been much drawn upon. It was in accord with his desire always to stay by a field or a work until the body sending recalls. The work is to be done by sticking to it.

Question was called on the partial report as submitted, and it was adopted.

Five minutes was taken for recess.

On resuming, the conference listened to the completion of J.N.Anderson's report for China. The Spirit of God touched hearts with China's need as the field was presented. (The report appears elsewhere in this paper.) The Chairman remarked that the population of the United States was but three-fourths of one-fourth of China's population.

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America has many laborers, and 60,000 believers, while China has fourteen workers.

J.O.Miller: He was especially interested in China; had given a son to that field. [Dr. H.W.Miller] He could not say No when the call came, and now had come the word of the death of his companion. Her mother, Sister Thompson, had written that she could not be sorry that she had given permission for her daughter to go. The loved one was buried at the dead of night to avoid the mob, but he was consoled with the thought that Elder Hyatt had suggested of fallen African workers, and prayed that as those Chinese see this new grave in Honan and wonder why she came to give her life, it may teach them of the love that led Jesus to leave the courts of glory for our sakes. In a little time will come the gathering-- now it is first the scattering, the word is Go, either to go to the fields or to go down into the pocket to send. He thanked God for the missionary agitation in fulfillment of Matt. 24: 14.

J.N.Loughborough: Spoke of Brother A.LaRue, who died in Hong Kong in a good old age. He had known him for many years, and he was always giving. People told him, "You will give away all you have got." His reply was, "When the Lord comes I want to have only twenty-five cents." He awaits the resurrection.

E.W.Farnsworth, of England: In Portsmouth he met a sailor who said he used to climb the stairs to Brother LaRue's lodgings in Hong Kong "to see the best man on the earth." This man had nearly all our books and declared that "if he was not saved in the kingdom it would not be because Father LaRue had not done his duty." Six men on one British battle-ship, the "Terrible," had embraced the truth through Brother LaRue.

Brother C.Haynes sang a hymn, adapted by Mrs. Dr. Selmon, of our Honan mission, as follows, the conference joining in the chorus:--

The meeting adjourned, it being announced that F.W.Field would report for Japan at the evening hour.

H.W.Cottrell, Chairman.

W.A.Spicer, Secretary.