

SUPPLEMENT TO THE COLUMBIA UNION VISITOR

Vol. 20

Mount Vernon, Ohio

No. 36

President's Annual Address at Fifty-third Ohio Conference Held at Mount Vernon, Ohio, August 12-22, 1915

This occasion marks the ending of another eventful year and the passing of another twelve months of precious probationary time. While assembled at our last annual meeting at this place one year ago, several of the leading nations of the East were in the act of entering upon what has proved to be the most general and sanguineous conflict of any year of the history of the world. Nations comprising over one half of the world's population have participated in this awful carnage and more than a score of millions of men have faced and fought each other, which has resulted in the cruel breaking of family ties, the blighting of proud and prosperous nations, and the blasting of numberless homes and the hopes and happiness of many millions.

In these stricken countries many of our brethren and sisters have been made to suffer. Our work and workers have felt the scourge of war most keenly in parts of these fields.

Our lot here in America has been vastly different. Providence has measured out to us a year of prosperity and plenty and a continuation of peace and liberty. It would be rank ingratitude on our part not to sense and manifest our appreciation to God for the past year's blessing; and thus far His restraining hand has held back the winds of war in our government. In the conference sessions and in the other meetings held here at this time; in our worship here, and in our plans for work hereafter, let our sense of gratitude to God for these special blessings and favors be fittingly manifested. He who is the head of the church is the head of all things for the church and it is through His protection and power that we here in America, where the message had its beginning, are granted this freedom and prosperity by which it becomes possible for us to liberally aid in sounding the message in less favored lands.

We have gathered to perform the work delegated to us for the interest of God's cause in Ohio. We have the assurance of His presence and the promise of His blessing and guidance in these important undertakings.

The progress of our work in the confer-

ence in its various departments has been kept before you more or less from month to month, and it will be presented by the departmental secretaries in their reports before you here so that it will be needless for me to take the time to speak of that excepting in a general way.

The evangelical work has had a large place in our plans and prayers in seeking to build effectively and well in the state. Every worker, I am glad to say, has had some measure of success in establishing men and women in the message. Most excellent results have attended the efforts of some. I believe that our ministers and Bible workers have, as a rule, labored earnestly and untiringly to win souls to God. The work in the cities, though difficult, has given some good returns. In givings their reports, those who have labored in the cities will tell of progress that you will be pleased to hear. During 1914, two hundred were added to our Churches by baptism. Thus far this year, fully two hundred have been added by baptism. The five tent efforts held in Cleveland, Columbus, Springfield, Portsmouth and Van Wert have all proved successful.

This large pavilion was pitched in a prominent place in Columbus, and it proved to be none too large. A good average attendance prevailed and the interest was especially good. A large number have already begun to obey the truth who attended these meetings. A large work remains to be followed up there and many more, we are certain, will obey the call of the message. Elder H. H. Votaw conducted this effort with the faithful co-operation of his assistants and the church membership.

The committee had not planned a tent effort for Cleveland, but on taking up his work there in the spring, Elder R. S. Lindsay soon found himself confronted by a good interest. The commodious church soon proved too small for the Sunday night meetings. The English Cleveland church soon raised over one thousand dollars to secure a tent and finance a tent effort. This prompt and liberal move proved to be timely. The large tent, twenty feet longer than this one, was shown to be none too large. We expect at least fifty will obey the truth as a result of this effort.

As a result of an effort for the colored people of Springfield by Elder Leslie Muntz, it was our privilege to organize a

prosperous church in that place a few weeks ago.

The series of meetings conducted by Elder H. A. Weaver at Van Wert will make it possible to organize a church there in the near future.

Elder J. F. Olmsted and Brother Merritt Eusey labored hard in the face of difficulties in the city of Portsmouth, and it seems now that a church can be organized in that important city on the southern border in the near future. A good harvest of souls will be garnered as the result of these tent efforts.

We must recognize the importance of our evangelical work, and in this connection permit me again to urge that we aim for the highest possible efficiency in our public workers. As "laborers together", let us aid and strengthen one another in soul winning work by having in our hearts that unfeigned love that should exist with true yoke-fellows. Let no human example serve to lower our standard.

More than usual interest has been manifested in the distribution of our literature in the past year. The subscription book work has become a mighty factor in giving the message in this great state, not only through the contents of the books, but through the lives and labors of our consecrated colporteurs as well, as they go from home to home. Our depository records will show that a large volume of printed matter, laden with the last warning message, has gone into Ohio homes. By this means, every county in the state is being leavened by the message, and demands for continuing a strong work with the printed page are certainly cogent.

I wish to call the attention of the delegates of this conference to our great need of a decided reformation in our relation to the great reform movement committed to us in the matter of health and temperance. Many have grown careless and have become lax in the observance of nature's laws relating to diet, dress and the care of our bodies. Our medical department and our medical institutions occupy an important field and these closing years call for a great reform on the part of the remnant church.

We continue to maintain our Religious Liberty department and the need for such a department certainly is not abating. Much has been done in the past to check offensive and oppressive legislation and to create public sentiment

against such legislation by setting forth the principles involved. I desire to recommend that the department be maintained, and that the principles and preciousness of personal and religious liberty be upheld and presented whenever necessary or expedient.

No other part of our work is of greater importance than our Missionary Volunteer department. In Ohio, I am free to say, this branch has kept pace with the general growth of the department, but we must recognize that most careful thought and study must be given and most earnest labor bestowed in efforts to save and fit for service the youth and children within our churches.

From year to year, our Sabbath-schools seem to grow in strength as a means of attaining unto that wisdom which is "unto salvation". Our aim should be to advance if possible and bring the benefits of the Sabbath-school to every home and every isolated member. Our growth in Sabbath-school offerings for missions follows, which is most encouraging to contemplate: 1911, \$3929.58; 1912 \$7975.39; 1913, \$9359.49; 1914, \$10,082.95.

This movement has called into existence an educational reform designed to provide for that symmetrical development needed for our temporal eternal good. It rests with us, as a people, to be leaders in this as in other reforms, but we are ever confronted by dangers to lapse into that which is inferior. H. Addington Bruce recently said: "They think that only those should be called educated whose minds teem with a large accumulation of facts. To people of this way of thinking, the college professor is the most educated of all men. Assuredly he is the most 'learned', but he is really educated only in proportion as he attains the other standard set forth above. Neither a college professor, or any other man, deserves to be regarded as educated if he does not know how to conserve his health, if he is self-centered, lacking self-control, deficient in human sympathy, or devoid of good moral and religious ideals. Judged thus, not a few college professors are less truly educated than many men who never saw the inside of a college. The development of efficiency and the development of character such, in other words, is the great object of education; and only in so far as the schools attain to it are they meeting the purpose for which they were brought into existence." These words suggest thoughts worthy of our consideration in our efforts to reach the high ideal in our educational work in the conference. It is not enough to have schools, nor can we permit the passing of grades or the holding of degrees to satisfy. The standard has been lowered to the detriment of the cause. I urge that a careful study be given this work that our

church schools and more advanced schools may not conform to a low standard.

Financially, the past year has shown marked advancement. Owing to the great depression throughout the state, our tithe for 1914 was slightly below the preceding year, but for the first part of 1915 we have received an excess of any other like period. Our mission offerings for 1914 reached and passed the goal to which we had looked and for which our churches worked with a commendable zeal. That we will do still better in this year's endeavor is confidently expected. Your Executive Committee has endeavored to direct and plan the work with the best interest of the cause in view. We have sought counsel and aid in this and have always labored to work in harmony with and carry out the plans of the general body, and we court the counsel of those men whose motives and experience make them strong to help.

We find in our large state a vast field and many openings. Those who call for ministers and Bible workers must remember that only a small fraction of the openings can be filled and that these calls are not dealt with carelessly or with indifference when workers are not provided, but that the whole field and its most urgent needs are before us.

Our scattered churches have consumed but little time of the ministers. Some have been displeased that this is so and have been free to make it known. In this we have desired to be governed by the needs of the field, the policy of the denomination and council of the Lord.

I believe that our departmental secretaries and office workers have striven to make their part of the work a success. The harmony and hearty co-operation with my committee and these other workers has served to make the work more easy of accomplishment and more effective. My work has been made easier and many perplexing problems have been made less difficult of solution by the genuine interest and charitable attitude of my co-workers and the membership of the churches.

We are moved to grief that our beloved Sister, Mrs. E. G. White, is called from our midst. Her long life of remarkable service and devotion is inspiring to contemplate. Her labors are ended and her life of seventy years of active service furnishes a worthy example of devotion to the cause of God. Her writings should perform their mission for us in these vital times in which we are living. Greater blessings are in store for us. Great things are to be accomplished by those who will be God's helping hand in this closing work. The "loud cry" of the closing message calls for a special preparation on the part of God's people.

We are here to transact business,

appoint workers and elect officers for another term. It is a spiritual work that is delegated to us, and the leadings of the Spirit should be earnestly sought in our lives and in our decisions here. To be right with God, to be guided by his counsel, and to be assured that He is with us, should outweigh anything else that we might have in mind. Let us, with true devotion and with an eye single to the glory of God, perform the work committed to us at this time. E. K. SLADE.

Minutes of the Meetings of the Fifty-third Annual Conference Session of the Seventh Day Adventist Church, Held in Mount Vernon, Ohio August 12--22, 1915

First Meeting

The first session of the Fifty-third Annual conference was opened by prayer by Elder F. H. Henderson. Elder E. K. Slade acting as chairman, gave some opening remarks in which attention was called to the importance of this gathering and the deliberations of the hour.

The roll call indicated that ninety-seven delegates were present for the opening session.

The chair then appointed a committee for the seating of delegates which is as follows: H. D. Holtom, J. F. Olmsted, and G. A. Keppler.

The chair called for the presenting of any new churches for admission to the conference at which time the colored church of Springfield made application. That the Conference might better understand more concerning this new church, Elder Muntz spoke on their tent effort which they held this season and gathered a good number as the result, having baptized fifteen. This, together with other members, permitted them to organize a church of twenty-five members. He was assisted in this by Brother H. A. Rossin, and reports a very encouraging work started with the liberal assistance of the white church. Elder W. W. Miller expressed his pleasure in being able to endorse the second colored church organized by Elder Muntz's work, he having effected a similar work in Cincinnati. One point brought out was that by such separation and aggressive basis, the colored people were enabled to do a much greater work, and it demonstrated the fact that the best attitude for the white church to assume in such a situation is not idle criticism, but active co-operation by which a strong work can be done.

Elder D. E. Lindsey also remarked to the motion which was made by Brother Andre that the church be admitted, by recalling that he had conducted the first

colored effort at Xenia with considerable interest.

The president of the conference then submitted his annual report, dwelling in the first part upon the many evidences of the approaching end, especially those brought out by the European war and by which our responsibilities become the greater by the many openings and the impetus given in responding to the inquiring public. Parallel with this, the review of the progress through the past year was presented, giving as one evidence that two hundred have been baptized. Mention was made of the splendid results of the tent efforts held in Columbus, Springfield, Van Wert, Portsmouth, and Cleveland.

As one indication of our progress, the growth of the Sabbath-school donations was given, a substantial part of our offerings, by the comparison of \$3,807.81 in 1911 with \$10,082.95 in 1914. Emphasis was placed upon the importance of true education as was brought out in the Spirit of Prophecy making for the most efficient workers in the Master's cause. Summing up all, we were reminded that the present time demanded an aggressive program in every phase of the work in which the hearty co-operation of all is very essential, both for us and its advancement.

The next in order was the selection of a large committee from which the working committees were chosen. The motion by Elder D. E. Lindsey seconded by Brother W. A. Gibson was made that the chair be empowered to appoint the committees in question. At a later meeting, the following announcement of the committees was made: Nominating Committee: F. H. Henderson, R. H. Patterson, J. D. Montgomery, I. J. Gault, C. L. Burlingame, Leslie Muntz, and C. W. Weber. Committee on Credentials and Licenses: J. J. Marietta, G. C. Quillin, B. G. Wilkinson, R. S. Lindsay, H. S. Weaver, D. E. Lindsey, and R. I. Francis. Committee on Plans: V. O. Punches, C. L. Stone, Bessie E. Acton, H. M. Jump, W. J. Venen, H. A. Weaver, Mrs. Campbell, and I. D. Richardson and M. L. Kelley.

The motion to adjourn to call of chair prevailed.

Second Meeting

The second meeting of the annual conference session was called to order at 10:30 A. M. and prayer was offered by Dr. W. J. Venen. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved. On a call for other delegates not previously seated, forty-eight responded, making a total of one hundred forty-five.

The report of the treasurer was then given, charts being used to more clearly bring out the various statements and the

importance of improvement on results. Some items were as follows:—

The per capita of receipts from all sources for 1914 was \$36.09 or 18½ per cent of our income indicated by tithe receipts.

Our decrease in tithe of about \$1,000 evidently is due more to the result and influence of that one-sixth, who do not pay tithe than to any commercial depression.

Donations to foreign missions, though averaging 21 cents per member a week and a total of \$22, 285.72, were but 5.7 per cent of our income.

Our improved average and decrease in shortage of \$2,566.27 for the first seven months over last year indicate that Ohio will swing clear in 1915 for mission plans by the continuance of that same aggressive attitude. Stewardship is according to ability, not inclination.

Elders Knox, Wilkinson, and Slade made remarks of commendation concerning the interesting style of and the encouraging items of the report and after the same had been adopted, Elder Lindsey mentioned the comparison of the first General Conference reporting receipts of but \$400, \$200 of which was spent for the needs of the work of that time instead of thousands now.

Printed copies of several groups of statistics were circulated.

Adjournment prevailed to the call of chair.

E. K. SLADE, *Pres.*

H. D. HOLTOM, *Sec'y.*

Third Meeting

The third meeting of the annual conference session was held Monday at 10 A. M., August 16. After the approval of the minutes of the previous meeting, five more delegates were seated. Next in order was the report of the Field Missionary Agent. Some of the items mentioned in his report were subscription book sales of \$29,890.15 for 1914, compared with \$24,233.78 for 1913, showing a gain of \$5,646.37. This with over \$9,000 worth of magazines made a total sale which nearly reaches our slogan for the last year of \$40,000.00. This was accomplished largely through the faithful efforts of fifty-two colporteurs. With such encouraging results, there is evident need for maintaining a high standard for this class of gospel workers by making selection in harmony with the Spirit of Prophecy. In bringing out this matter, emphasis was placed upon the need of more workers and greater results, that the last warning of our printed page may have the circulation and subsequent result in harmony with our hope and responsibility.

The nominating committee then gave its report as follows: President, E. K. Slade; Sec-Treas., H. D. Holtom; Ex-

ecutive Committee, E. K. Slade, W. W. Miller, C. W. Weber, N. S. Ashton, W. J. Venen, G. C. Quillin, and R. I. Francis; Tract Society Sec-Treas., J. I. Cassell; Field Missionary Agent, V. O. Punches; Sabbath School Secretary and Educational Secretary, Bessie E. Acton; Medical Missionary Secretary, W. J. Venen; Religious Liberty Secretary, H. A. Weaver.

It was noticed that the Missionary Volunteer Secretary-ship had not been provided for in the above report, and on motion by Elder Slade, which carried, Sister Acton was again given that work. The chair announced that it seemed advisable to hold the assignment of the work of Home Missionary Secretary open for further consideration later on by the Executive Committee.

The Committee on plans and resolutions then gave a partial report, submitting ten resolutions, four of which were given consideration and adopted. The first expressed our deep gratitude to our heavenly Father for divine help and guidance, while the second extended our sympathy to the bereaved family of our beloved and esteemed sister, Ellen G. White. The third called attention to the need of all persons desiring to enter the colporteur work being referred to the conference committee for selection, and those receiving credentials must first canvass six months. Brother Palmer spoke to this, emphasizing the need of carrying this out. The fourth urged the more hearty support of the *Review and Herald*. Brother I. D. Richardson and Sister Gregg made remarks upon this, bringing out the decided advantage to our people and at which time expression was taken as to how many were receiving the weekly visits of the *Review*. A number gave their subscriptions.

The report of the Home Missionary Secretary was then given in which he called attention to the work accomplished by that department. Several items were as follows: value of magazines and papers used, \$8,932.56; tracts sold or given away, 26,805; papers mailed, lent or given away, 49,326; books lent or sold, 1,730; cottage meetings held and Bible readings given, 3,757. Mention was made of the ten conventions that this secretary held with the help of the Missionary Volunteer Secretary, during which time \$630 worth of our books were sold. In this way an aggressive program was started which had much influence. Thus in such efforts, we approach the standard of rightly training each member to be an active worker and in short, endeavoring to make good our aim of "every church member a soul winner."

Motion for adjournment then prevailed.

Fourth Meeting

The fourth meeting of the annual session was called to order at the usual time, August 17. Prayer was offered by Elder Wilkinson. After the reading and correction of the minutes, the religious liberty secretary gave a brief report in which he stated the supporters of Sunday bills had carried on a very aggressive program in the past session of the legislature and that he had appeared before the committee in charge of the same presenting them with copies of "State Papers", and together with Elder Horton had opposed the passage of bills at the hearings appointed. All bills were defeated in the committees.

The Medical Secretary presented a report by explaining at length the importance of a balanced diet by which we may avoid some serious conditions, the cause or remedy for which we know little about. Health reform is thus given a substantial basis for results. The statements brought out in this paper proved of such interest that on motion by Elder Lindsey supported by the conference delegates, request was made that it be published in the VISITOR.

The consideration of resolutions was then resumed, beginning at number five which recommended that every man, woman, and child be actively engaged in finishing the work.

Sister Lizzie Gregg, of the General Conference, spoke to this, urging the importance of effectively carrying out such a resolution. She also took up the need of acting upon the sixth resolution, which urged a large circulation of the *Church Officer's Gazette* among our church officers.

The seventh resolution called attention to the "Present Truth Series" of extras as an inexpensive literature for systematic missionary work. Sister Gregg briefly emphasized the need of liberally using this, suggesting how the same could be circulated as our people work among their friends and neighbors.

The eighth and ninth resolutions were taken up together, the former expressing our endorsement of the prohibition campaign and the latter urging that we use at least 20,000 *Temperance Instructors* prior to the election. Brother I. D. Richardson spoke to this, telling what success he had had in the West Virginia campaign, and showing how it broke down prejudice for work in other lines and urged that we take up this in an aggressive way.

The importance of this recommended that it be given more thorough consideration at a later meeting. Motion for adjournment was then in order.

Fifth Meeting

The fifth meeting of the annual confer-

ence session was held at the usual hour, August 18, 1915. Elder A. G. Haughey offered prayer after which the minutes were read and approved.

In harmony with previous announcements, the conference laborers were given opportunity to review their work of the past year. From these brief reports, we glean a few items of progress which have not been presented in any former meetings.

Twelve were baptized in Dayton, and with good prospects for an organization in Wangerlawn for the coming year. At Van Wert nine were baptized and it is expected we shall soon have a church organized and a new church building. As a result of district work in the northwestern part of Ohio, thirty-six have been baptized.

During the past three months, nineteen people have been baptized in Toledo, and that church has progressed proportionately in other lines. The fact that thirty-two souls have been baptized and brought into the church in Akron this year indicates why they find it necessary to replace a small and crowded church building by a new one, progress in which is being effected by the active membership.

At the close of the tent effort, financed by the Cleveland English church, fifty-two came forward to indicate their determination to obey the truth. On the other side of the city where the church is located, there are also seventy-five interested ones the result of the series of meetings held in the church building. A large work is now in progress there. Public interests invite another tent effort in the city of Springfield for the colored people. With twenty-five responding to the invitation to accept Christ and obey the commandments at the Portsmouth effort, there is a splendid prospect of twenty charter members for the new church there in the near future.

By less than three years' labor among the Roumanians, nine have been baptized at Warren and two at Girard with eighteen Sabbath-keepers in all. These faithfully obey the message though persecuted by their countrymen, who are Greek Catholics.

At the close of this meeting, we were favored by a song, "Build on the Rock," by Brother Klepe and Brother Oancea and wife, sung in their native tongue.

Adjournment to call of chair.

Sixth Meeting

The sixth meeting was called to order at 10:30 A. M., Friday August 20, 1915. Prayer was offered by Elder R. S. Lindsay. After the reading and approval of the minutes, the report of the conference laborers was resumed at which time we listened to some interesting experiences from our lady Bible workers from Columbus, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Bucyrus, and

Hamilton.

The consideration of the various resolutions was then taken up. Resolutions No. 8 and 9 relative to our attitude toward the temperance campaign and the circulation of the *Temperance Instructor* were again discussed, by Sister Gregg, of the General Conference, who called our attention to pointed statements in the "Testimonies" regarding this line of work, and related how a prominent temperance worker in Australia accepted the truth through the medium of the temperance question. In closing, she briefly outlined a plan of the campaign, voicing the general opinion that our aim of 20,000 copies of the *Instructors* was far too short of what we should accomplish in this line this fall.

Dr. Hilborn stated in a few remarks what he had accomplished in this line. For lack of time, but in view of the importance of giving this phase of the work thorough consideration, it was decided to devote the 8:30 hour Sunday morning to a more thorough study of this work.

Next in order was the final report of the nominating committee who submitted the names of C. L. Burlingame, A. J. Kennedy, I. J. Gault, and C. E. Welch as the auditing committee for laborers' annual accounts to serve in connection with the conference committee.

The Committee on Licenses and Credentials then submitted their complete report which included the full list of the names for the several classes of workers as follows: Ministerial Credentials: E. K. Slade, H. M. Jump, J. F. Olmsted, F. H. Henderson, W. J. Venen, J. J. Marietta, W. W. Miller, C. W. Weber, Leslie Muntz, R. S. Lindsay, H. A. Weaver, F. M. Fairchild; Honorary Credentials: H. H. Burkholder, A. G. Haughey, D. E. Lindsey, C. C. Webster. Ministerial License: G. C. Quillin, R. E. French, M. V. Eusey, John Klepe, H. A. Rossin; Missionary License: H. D. Holton, V. O. Panches, Cora B. Gibson, W. M. Campbell, Mrs. W. M. Campbell, Anna E. Smith, Hortense Howell, Carrie Askey, Ida Walters, J. I. Cassell, Bessie Acton, Mary I. Meck, Mrs. Catherine Weaver, Miss Nellie Underwood, C. E. Reichenbach. Colporteurs' License: J. S. Randolph, W. S. Syphers, Mrs. W. S. Syphers, Ira M. Rickett, Harry W. Barto, C. G. Douglas, J. H. Stafford, Glen S. Draper, L. H. Waters, Carl Fairchild, R. E. Simpson, H. O. Kohr, B. F. Carter, Fred Hannah, John Holder, R. G. DeGarmo, Mrs. Ira M. Rickett.

All other names were referred to the Executive Committee.

The Committee on Plans and Resolutions then gave its final report, and the delegation took up the consideration of each resolution, beginning with numbers

10 and 11 which were in the interest of Religious Liberty and the *Liberty* magazine to which Elders Wilkinson and Weaver spoke. No. 12 was an appeal in behalf of the Academy for the publishing of the *Visitor* to be retained here instead of a removal, which would deprive the Academy of another industry. Elder Wilkinson offered the amendment of correcting the wording so the resolution was addressed to the Conference Committee and omitted the word offices in reference to the *Visitor*. After this the resolution was adopted. The thirteenth recommended that only those be baptized at camp-meeting who could not arrange for the same with the home church.

The fourteenth recommended large offerings for missions and a determination to meet the twenty-cent standard. The fifteenth endorsed the vote of the Columbia Union Conference to hold quadrennial sessions. The sixteenth extended our vote of thanks to the local newspapers for their publishing of reports while the seventeenth expressed a determination to do a better and larger work for the Master. These resolutions were all adopted after which adjournment was in order.

Seventh Meeting

The seventh meeting of the annual session was called to order Sunday at 10 A.M., August 22, 1915. After reading and approval of the minutes, the reports of Sister Acton were called for.

This represented the Sabbath-school, Educational, and Missionary Volunteer Departments, in which attention was called to our responsibility toward the six hundred youth in our conference. A progressive basis in Sabbath-school work was urged and encouraging results reviewed in the young people's societies and church schools. This was closed by an earnest appeal for the co-operation of all in efforts for the salvation of our boys and girls. The chair supplemented this by emphasizing the need.

Next in order was the report of the tract society secretary and treasurer which showed that the sale of our literature for the year 1914 totaled \$42,023.77, a net financial gain for the year of \$898.10; that our Home Missionary work was thus developing in a most promising way, and the message progressing by the printed page in an effective manner in harmony with the counsel from the Spirit of Prophecy in finishing the work. On motion by D. E. Lindsey, supported by F. H. Henderson, the report was adopted.

Elder Lindsey then submitted two resolutions which were adopted by the delegation, the first being that a full report of the minutes of this annual session be published in the *Visitor* in convenient form for circulation among our members; second, that our temperance resolution

be furnished in practical form to the county papers of Ohio for publication.

The chairman then spoke to the importance of our taking hold of the Harvest Ingathering campaign in such a way as would insure large results and claim all the advantages to be gained from this plan of strengthening the work.

There being no other business to come before the annual session of the conference at this last meeting, the above minutes were read and approved.

Adjournment sine die prevailed.

E. K. SLADE, *Pres.*

H. D. HOLTOM, *Sec'y.*

Complete List of Resolutions of the Annual Conference

August 12-22, 1915

1. *Whereas*, the blessing of God upon the work and workers of this conference has resulted in a large number of additions to our churches, and

Whereas, the conditions in the world in general indicate that the close of probation is very near and the time has come to finish the gospel work; therefore

Resolved, that we express our deep gratitude to our Heavenly Father, and that we earnestly pray for divine help and guidance in our efforts to make the work in this conference more successful in the future than it has been in the past.

2. *Whereas*, in the providence of God our beloved and esteemed sister, Ellen G. White, has been permitted to rest from her labors,

Resolved, that although our hearts have been saddened by her death, we express our appreciation of her work and our determination to more earnestly follow her counsel that the Lord has given through her writings; also be it

Resolved, that we express our sympathy with the bereaved family and that a copy of this resolution be sent to her sons, W. C. White and J. E. White.

3. *Whereas*, the Spirit of Prophecy tells us that if there is one work more important than another, it is that of getting our publications before the people, thus leading them to search the Scriptures. As much care and wisdom must be used in selecting the workers as in selecting men for the ministry,

We recommend, (a) That all persons who desire to enter the colporteur work furnish good recommendations, and that the names of such persons be referred to the Conference Committee;

(b) That such persons canvass six months before receiving colporteurs's credentials.

Review and Herald Campaign

4. *Whereas*, The *Review and Herald* is our denominational family paper and represents the work and policies of the General and North American Division Conferences, and,

Whereas, Its pages are filled each week, not only with articles from our leading men and most experienced and capable writers, but with interesting and stirring reports from our various departments and from our mission fields throughout the world, and,

Whereas, This weekly periodical is our most able minister, tending to establish our people in the great fundamental truths of the Third Angel's Message, and leading those who read its pages to a higher spiritual life, therefore,

We recommend, (a) That we urge every family of Seventh-day Adventists to become a yearly subscriber to this paper.

(b) That a special campaign from this date be inaugurated by the Home Missionary Department of the Ohio Conference to place the *Review and Herald* in the home of every Seventh-day Adventist in this conference.

Home Missionary Work

5. *Whereas*, The Spirit of Prophecy states that the work of God can never be finished in the earth until the individual church members unite in it, therefore,

We recommend, That a campaign be inaugurated to enlist every man, woman, and child in the work until it is finished.

Church Officer's Gazette

6. *Whereas*, The *Church Officer's Gazette* has been brought into existence to give needed assistance to our church officers, therefore,

We recommend, That persistent efforts be made to get all the church officers to subscribe for this periodical.

Present Truth Series

7. *Whereas*, The Present Truth Series of extras is meeting the demand for an inexpensive literature for systematic missionary work, and proving an efficient agency for bringing the message before the people, therefore,

We recommend, That our missionary societies organize in such a way that every home in their territory will be visited regularly with these and that our people generally be encouraged to use them freely.

Temperance

8. *Whereas*, The liquor traffic is a menace to human rights and personal liberties, therefore be it,

Resolved, (a) That we pledge ourselves by pen and voice and vote to co-operate with all legitimate efforts to eradicate the liquor traffic;

(b) That we approve of national legislation favoring a constitutional amendment prohibiting the manufacture and sale and promiscuous use of alcoholic beverages.

9. *Whereas*, Past efforts have proved that the general public are willing to assist financially in the temperance work,

Resolved, That in view of the prohibition vote to be taken in this state in November, a campaign be inaugurated at once to circu-

late at least, 20,000 *Temperance Instructors* prior to the election.

Religious Liberty Work

10. Believing that civil and Religious freedom can only be guaranteed as long as there exists an absolute separation of Church and State, and that Sunday laws abridge the free exercise of religion; therefore,

Resolved, That we continue to protest against the enactment of laws by civil government for the compulsory observance of Sunday, or any other religious enactment which discriminates between the different sects as being contrary to the Gospel plan and a departure from the fundamental principles upon which the American republic was founded.

Resolved, That we continue to protest against the enactment of laws by Congress and State Legislatures for the abridgment of free speech, a free press, and the freedom of the mails beyond existing statutes.

11. *Whereas*, The *Liberty* magazine has done effective work among State legislators, executive officers, and judges of state courts, in molding sentiment against religious legislation and the enforcement of Sunday laws; therefore,

Resolved, That our conference continue to supply the *Liberty* magazine to the members of the State Legislature, the governor and his cabinet and the state supreme and circuit court judges, and that the necessary expense involved in this item be taken out of the annual collection for local religious liberty work.

Resolved, That we put forth an effort at our camp-meeting to get our people to subscribe for the *Liberty* magazine at the club rate of twenty-five cents per yearly subscription.

12. *Whereas*, Few of our people understand the principles of health reform, what to wear, how to combine and prepare foods, how to apply simple treatments, etc.,

Resolved, (a) That an effort be made by our conference to teach our people these things;

(b) That we request the Educational Department of the General Conference to provide through the Fireside Correspondence School a short course in dietetics in their curriculum.

13. *Whereas*, The removal of the printing of the *Columbia Union Visitor* from Mount Vernon would be detrimental to the interests of Mt. Vernon Academy; and

Whereas, A number of students are depending upon working in the printing office to pay their expenses; therefore,

Resolved, That we earnestly request the Columbia Union Conference Committee to permit the editorial and printing offices of the *Columbia Union Visitor* to remain in Mount Vernon.

14. *Resolved*, That no persons be baptized at our camp-meetings except those who reside where there is no Adventist

church or where it is impossible for them to be baptized and only upon the recommendation of the officers of that church.

15. Believing that when this gospel of the kingdom has been preached in all the world, the end will come and desiring to hasten the coming of that glad day,

Resolved, That we encourage our people to make large offerings to missions and to meet their full quota in the Twenty-cent-a-week Fund.

16. *Resolved*, That we concur with the vote passed by the Columbia Union Conference in April, 1914 to hold the sessions of the Columbia Union Conference quadrennially

17. *Resolved*, That we tender our appreciation to the newspapers of Mount Vernon for their courtesy shown in publishing reports of our meetings, and that we extend to them this vote of thanks accompanied by a suitable letter to each newspaper.

18. *Resolved*, That we thank our Heavenly Father for the privileges of this camp-meeting, and

Resolved, That when we return to our homes, we will do a better work for our Master and will do all in our power to live in harmony with all of his requirements.

Camp Meeting Notes

The visiting workers whose efforts greatly strengthened the camp program were Elders A. G. Daniells and W. T. Knox, of the General Conference, Elder G. B. Thompson, of the North American Division; Elder J. L. Shaw, of Washington College; Elder B. G. Wilkinson, Brother I. D. Richardson, and Professor C. L. Stone, of the Columbia Union Conference; Brother E. R. Palmer and Sister L. F. Gregg, of the Review and Herald, Washington, D. C.; and J. W. Mace, of the South Bend branch of the Review and Herald Publishing Association; and Elder F. H. Robbins, of West Pennsylvania. Elder J. P. Gaede, of Pittsburg, spent the last few days of the meeting here renewing old acquaintances.

Those in attendance felt especially favored in having Elder Daniells with us from the first Sabbath to Monday night. All greatly enjoyed hearing him tell of the progress of the work in the missions lands he has just visited. As various experiences were recounted showing how the native rejoices in the knowledge of the truth and sacrifices for it, the needs of these fields were emphasized and it was made evident that the present is the time in which most can be accomplished.

Sunday evening, he gave an illustrated lecture on our mission work. In all, each had a clearer vision of their responsibility in carrying the message into all the world and a greater determination to pray, to give, and to go, that the work may be speedily finished.

We have heard much about mission funds both through the *Review* and from different workers, but to listen to Elder Daniells review the progress of work and tell about those open doors in the lands he recently visited waiting for our means and men to enter with this advent message, proved the greatest resource in behalf of the campaign for needed support of our foreign work. Just returned from that greatest of missionary trips, he was enabled to give those in camp, glimpses of conditions over in those fields,- eager seekers for the truth, overburdened workers, meager facilities and numerous calls with no one to answer them - which made the Macedonian Cry sound a stronger appeal than ever. Such interest was aroused that, when it was decided to make the usual call for funds at the early meeting Monday, it was soon evident the people were waiting for the opportunity, not to be persuaded, but eager to invest. They seemed impressed with the fact that now is the time to invest lest the work be hindered by delay and they miss the opportunity and the blessing in some way if they wait. In a short time \$10,000 had been raised as substantial evidence of a determination to get a better "hold on the ropes." This includes the valuation of several pieces of property to be sold and represents perhaps a more sacrificing attitude and greater liberality than ever before seen on an Ohio campground. One of the best results of it, though, is the continued quiet working of that sacrificing spirit by which others are being impressed to place a part of their surplus in the cause in the advancement of which they rejoice. Surely, the Lord's plan of having us co-operate with Him as a test of our interest is of the utmost importance and should find us not only ever ready to respond but carefully planning to so invest that our treasure will have been transferred fully when we come to the time of triumph of the work in which we hope to share. All will in the meantime enjoy those reports of progress more. Is any reader making a dangerous delay?

Our camp-meeting Sabbath-schools this year evidently were determined not to take a backward step in the financial part of their program, for the total reached \$1,100 in cash and pledges. \$150 of this was donated the first Sabbath; probably some materially assisted in the large result on the second Sabbath who had not the privilege of participating in the effort earlier in the week. Thus our Sabbath-school in camp proved a good example in carrying out the truth of that statement, "a strong factor in mission support."

Treasurers Annual Report

Dear Brethren and Sisters:

To you as officers and members of the Ohio Conference assembled in the fifty-third annual session is submitted a yearly report of finances, many items of which indicate encouraging progress. Large corporations have regular sessions of their constituency or shareholders, part of the time some voting by proxy. The reports submitted are given careful consideration as a basis for future plans. We are assembled on this occasion as the constituency of the Ohio branch of an enterprise far greater than any worldly firm. Usually we vote by proxy, through the executive committee, but this time it is our privilege to join directly in the deliberations of this Conference and in the study of plans and current problems.

Figures are dry if not closely related to something we are deeply interested in. I trust the few that I shall present will not only give a very satisfactory review, but indicate the possibilities of still greater results and the need of larger plans for the co-operative development of the Lord's work. We must bear in mind that our dividend in this great enterprise is not so much in proportion to the original investment as upon our further investment and continual effort to aggressively advance the interests of the King's business.

To avoid some details, several of the amounts will be grouped and you can read the full list at leisure in the copies of the reports supplied.

The tithe receipts for 1914 were	38,644.03
Balance on hand January 1, 1914	1,226.55
Refund to operating fund	<u>1,348.35</u>
Total	41,218.93
Expenditures	
Paid in support of home work	25,466.26
Columbia Union Conference	3,854.26
Sustentation	2,318.54
Missions 25%	<u>8,474.50</u>
Total	40,124.56

Balance of Operating Fund \$1,095.37.

With the exception of \$46.32, Y. P. Soc. balance, all trust funds have been passed on for use in the several lines of work and are here listed in general groups:

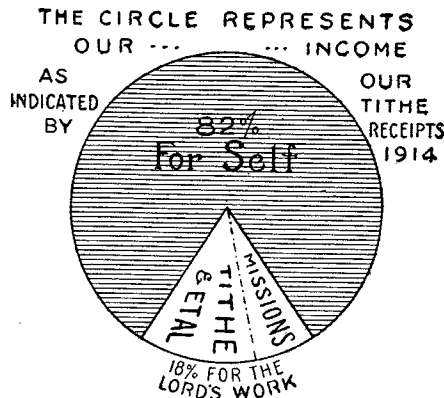
Local Trust Funds	217.18
Home Mission Funds	580.52
Educational Funds	171.67
Foreign Mission Funds	<u>22,285.72</u>
Total	23,255.09

Receipts all sources:

Tithe	38,644.03
Refund	1,348.35
Miscellaneous	<u>23,255.09</u>
Total	63,247.47

Receipts all sources, \$63,247.47, and how much is that a part of our income? But first, how much do we contribute to the support of the work in every phase? Add to the above \$7,668.66, the local church expense, \$2,615.49 is added as estimated amount of literature ordered for missionary

use, we have a total of \$72,183.27. Compared with the income indicated by our tithe receipts, the above would be 18½%. Per capita all sources, \$36.09.



By the same comparison, we find that the \$22,285.72 contributed to foreign work is 5.7% of our income.

You will notice that the decrease in receipts from all sources of \$330.78 compared with 1913, is due to the decrease in receipts of tithe and refund of \$1,262.35, exceeding the increase in trust funds of \$931.57 by that amount. Why this decrease? Some might say the financial conditions following the war and the slack time that has especially effected the cities. Let us note whether or not a comparison of records will bear out this belief.

1913 Normal Year

City Churches, 72% membership
 \$28,533.35 Tithe
 \$21.94 Per capita

Country Church, 28% membership
 \$11,061.96 Tithe
 \$14.73 Per capita

With resident worker
 16 churches 1075 membership
 \$23,298.45 Tithe 59%

Without workers
 47 churches 975 membership
 \$16,306.86 Tithe 41%

1914 Commercial Depression

City Churches, 73.6% membership
 \$28,441.06 Tithe
 \$21.88 Per capita

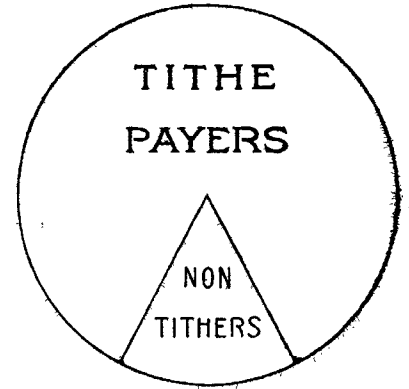
Country Churches, 26.4% membership
 \$10,202.97 Tithe
 \$13.60 Per capita

With resident worker
 16 churches 1075 membership
 \$23,826.82 Tithe 62%

Without worker
 47 churches 975 membership
 \$14,817.21 Tithe 38%

The real cause of such retarding tendency then must lie in the next which statistics, recently gathered, show there is a lax attitude in their stewardship on the part of some which cannot avoid having its influence farther.

PROPORTION MEMBERS



In other words, some of our resources have no active part in the advancement of the work and the owners, little realization of what such practice involves. Does not the consequences both to the individual and the work command a high standard and an aggressive effort if we would claim a belief and a hope in our Lord's soon coming?

By reviewing our finances and shaping our plans in the calendar years, the progress thus far, seven months, should more definitely determine how we are succeeding. Having experienced a loss in tithe receipts in 1914, it is most encouraging that the total for seven months is \$24,035.48 or \$3,433.64 per month with the average of \$3,220.34 in 1914 or \$3,300.44 in 1913. Will it be possible to reach our aim of \$4,000 per month this year? Many calls throughout the state together with the 36% sent outside urge it.

Further a monthly diagram of receipts and expenditures shows that the present result limits the progress by not permitting all obligations to be met promptly each month and, of course, such narrow margin does not permit of enlarged plans.

Our success in reaching the mission support goal was indeed gratifying for 1914, being 21 cents or a surplus of \$1,485.72 over our quota. This is the first that actual receipts show that we have passed the goal. Again, to compare July results of this year with those of last, we find the shortage \$3,131.46 instead of \$5,697.73, difference \$2,566.27 over 1913. Two churches are above the 30 cent average instead of none last July, 12 instead of two in the twenties, 34 instead of 28 between ten and twenty, 13 instead of 33 below ten, the highest 39 cents instead of 30 cents, the lowest 3 cents instead of 1 cent, and the conference 15 cents instead of 11 cents,—all indicating a general advance. And why not? Those at the other end of the rope are pushing forward to greater conquests and heavier burdens. Can we afford to do less? Our larger results by even greater self-denial and liberality will instil increased confidence in those faithful workers, and more abundant blessings bestowed by the great Leader of this world-wide work. However, in these enlarged plans, the greatest benefit to us is

merging into more of a true stewardship—according to our ability. Dependence on general results alone cannot now measure up to these growing needs and increased force pressing into those “open doors” of heathenism. Then why not respond to that goal plan?



Note the logical close and important relation and successful working out of our efforts to the needs of the fields in the work of carrying this gospel of the kingdom into all the world in this generation.

Shall we respond in such a substantial, business-like way that much greater progress be recorded? Past co-operation, that willingness for service, and confidence in the guidance of him with whom we hope to triumph, indicate that Ohio will contribute her greatest share to the progress of this great work in 1915.

H. D. HOLTOM, *Treas.*

Report of the Sabbath School, Missionary Volunteer, and Educational Departments

“We have an army of youth to-day who can do much if they are properly directed and encouraged.” Do you realize that this statement from the Spirit of Prophecy applies to Ohio? We have an army of youth to-day. Upon our record book we find the names of six-hundred children and youth between the ages of six and twenty-five. “With such an army of workers, as our youth rightly trained might furnish, how soon the message of a crucified, risen, and soon coming Saviour might be carried to the whole”—state of Ohio. Of this work of training them, I am to report to you to-day. Some of the figures given are encouraging as compared with past records; if we stop to

think of the patient, faithful work of the leaders and officers that made these possible, we will appreciate them still more. First we will consider the Sabbath-school department.

Here we find the whole church at study. It has been a pleasure while visiting the different schools of the state to note the careful painstaking efforts of the teachers and officers to make this work what it should be. At present we have 66 Sabbath-schools with a total enrollment (including the home department members) of 2143. The offerings given since our last report amount to \$9889.07, of which \$2551.35 have been given on the thirteenth Sabbaths.

Our goal is such however that we must have the co-operation of all if we succeed. Indeed the efforts put forth to win it can only be fully recorded in the record book in heaven.

THE GOAL

1. The daily study of the Sabbath-school lesson.
2. Personal work for every pupil.
3. An average of 15 cents a week for each church member.

The average amount of offering for each church member remains nearly the same as last year, being a little over nine cents a week, so Ohio can not as yet be added to the honor roll with those who give 15 cents each week for missions but where there is a will there is a way, and I feel confident that we will reach the top before we stop climbing.

MISSIONARY VOLUNTEER DEPARTMENT

Our young people have not been idle since we met on these ground one year ago. In comparing the report for this year with that of last it has made me very happy to find that we doubled every item, and many times trebled the amount of missionary work we have to report. Are you interested in what we have been doing?

Since last camp-meeting time we have—

Letters written	1291
Letters received	691
Missionary visits	5085
Bible readings or cottage meetings	766
Subscript. taken for periodicals	129
Papers sold	7312
Papers mailed, lent or given away	11994
Books sold	1394
Books lent or given away	787
Tracts sold	1068
Tracts lent or given away	7602
Hours of Christian help work	2208
Articles clothing given away	1001
Number meals provided	600
Bouquets given	109
Signers to Temperance Pledge	185
Offerings to Foreign Miss.	\$1136.26
Offerings to Home Miss.	\$91.68

Last year's goal was passed successfully, so that it was made larger for 1915. At present our aim is to see 44 young people converted, during this year, 22 Standard of Attainment

certificates, 44 to read the Bible through, 66 Reading Course certificates, \$822.50 for India.

We are pledged to support fourteen workers in Northern India this year, and the prospects are bright that we will do our part in carrying the message to that distant field.

During the year we have had twenty-four societies at work. At present some of the junior societies are closed until school opens in September, so that the numbers of bands is lowered to seventeen. We are not satisfied yet however, as only one third of our young people have enlisted as Volunteers thus far. May I plead for the co-operation of the workers and leaders in the different churches, that all may be united in active service?

CHURCH SCHOOL WORK

Another division of the work for our younger brothers and sisters. During the past year church schools have been held in Mt. Vernon, Dayton, Springfield, Columbus, Newark, Dresden two, Akron, Ravenna; and home schools in Youngstown, Mansfield Camden three, Toledo two, Alliance, and Grafton.

These are not all the churches where children may be found. My heart aches at the thought of the many bright little faces that I have met in going from place to place. The earnest little people need the training that God has planned for them, but they are as yet not drawn away from the influence of the worldly schools.

Not one half of our boys and girls are in our church schools, although the Lord has sent positive testimony that the time has come when it is not safe for them to be elsewhere any longer. We can see our young people drifting farther and farther from the truth: we hear the heartbroken statements from parents when it is seemingly too late, but what can we do to stir our people to action to save those that we hold so dear? Over six hundred young people in Ohio; and not half of them in our schools.

“While we should put forth earnest efforts for the masses of the people around us, and push the work into foreign fields, no amount of labor in this line can excuse us for neglecting the education of our children and youth. They are to be trained to become workers for God.”

“If ever we are to work in earnest, it is now. The enemy is pressing in on all sides, like a flood. Only the power of God can save our children from being swept away by the tide of evil.”

“The Lord would use the church school as an aid to the parents in educating and preparing their children for this time before us. Then let the church take hold of the school work in earnest, and make it what the Lord desires it to be.”

BESSIE E. ACTON.

Junior Departments

"Suffer little children to come unto me and forbid them not." This text comes to mind as we think of the crowd of merry, innocent children that gathered with parents and friends upon the camp ground. Tents and teachers were waiting for them, and Sabbath, Aug. 13, the first regular meetings were held. Both the kindergarten and children's tents were well filled. The largest number present at any time being eighty-five in each tent on the last Sabbath.

The youth's tent was also well filled, an average of one hundred twenty-five being in attendance at all of the meetings. but best of all was the spirit manifested throughout. Many earnestly sought for a closer walk with God, and the promise was fulfilled that "where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them."

The church school exhibit displayed in the young people's reading tent was excellent, though not large. It showed the careful, painstaking efforts put forth by the children during the school year.

This crowd of earnest youth and children causes joy and pride to spring up in our hearts, but with it must come the prayerful planning for future days that they may be trained for the kingdom.

BESSIE E. ACTON.

Report of Home Missionary Secretary

Year ending December 31, 1914

The report of work done in the Home Missionary Department covers but a portion of 1914. I came to the conference in the spring and having charge of the book work it took most all my time to get it started, then with a heavy summer's work, no organized effort was attempted until about the last five months of the year. This branch of the work has been organized but a very short time throughout the denomination. While our people have always done missionary work yet we have not had it under a separate head. In giving figures we have no comparisons to make. For in former years, or even months, no records were kept. However, we wish to present a few figures with this report that will show that the most of our people are doing something.

At the annual camp-meeting a year ago it was voted that the Young Peoples' Missionary Volunteer Department should hold conventions throughout the state in the interest of missionary work among the young people. Since the Home Missionary Department had also planned a campaign among the churches the two departments joined forces and started a series of conventions throughout the conference. We started with a determined

effort that by the help of the Lord we would not only try to tell the people to work but do our best to teach them how. Ten of the conventions were held in the latter part of 1914 with results far beyond our expectation. At the beginning of the campaign there were seventeen churches reporting. At the close of the year we had forty-two organized missionary societies. The following figures include, as far as possible to get them, the work done for the entire year.

Magazines and papers	\$ 8,932 56
Tracts sold or given away	26,805
Papers mailed, lent or given	49,326
Books lent or sold	1,730
Cottage meetings and Bible readings	3,757

At the convention we tried the plan of taking samples of our books with us. The tract society purchased a small trunk and in this we carried a complete line of books, Bibles, magazines, papers and tracts. These were placed on display in the churches where conventions were held. Our sales were far beyond what we had anticipated. Through this plan our people were given an opportunity of seeing our full line of literature, and many who have not had an opportunity of attending camp-meeting could see what we had at close range. Then many who are not of our faith become interested and often make purchases. At the ten conventions held we sold from our display alone \$630.00.

This effort to stir our people to active service has had results beyond working around home. Quite a number have seen the importance of working to save souls and are now devoting their entire time to the work. Young people decided to attend school, others took up the colporteur work and today are in active work.

At the close of 1914 we did not stop our efforts but kept right on working through the winter, until at the present time we have an organized society in about fifty out of sixty-seven churches and companies in the conference.

While the figures in this report are encouraging, are we doing all we should to spread this message? Thus far this year we have seen a great revival along missionary lines. Thousands upon thousands of the different extras have been used, also the little books "Worlds Crisis" and the "Shadow of the Bottle" have had a wonderful sale. This has been the means of bringing quite a number of people into the truth. However we find that out of a membership of over two thousand and that only about half are reported as working. What might have been the figures if all had been doing something? The work is going to be finished by the activity of the lay members of the denomination, with the ministers, Bible

workers, church elders and other laborers as leaders. They are to set a good example by going out and doing this kind of work. I read in Vol. 9, page 116 and 117 "The leaders in God's cause, as wise generals, are to lay plans for advance moves all along the line. In their planning they are to give special study to the work that can be done by the laity for their friends and neighbors. The work of God in this earth can never be finished until the men and women comprising our church-membership rally to the work, and unite their efforts with those of ministers and church officers."

We hope that there will be a still greater revival in missionary efforts and that not a single church elder or pastor will allow the fourth Sabbath readings to go by without being brought before the people and that one Sabbath a month at least will be devoted to a rousing missionary meeting. We hope to see the instruction carried out that God has given us in the former quotation and also in this one taken from Vol. 9, page 117. "In every church there is talent, which, with the right kind of labor, might be developed to become a great help in this work. That which is needed now for the up-building of our churches is the nice work of wise laborers to discern and develop talent in the church,—talent that can be educated for the Master's use. There should be a well organized plan for the employment of workers to go into all our churches, large and small to instruct the members how to labor for the up-building of the church and also the unbelievers. It is training, education, that is needed. Those who labor in visiting churches should give the brethren and sisters instruction in particular methods of doing missionary work."

Our aim for this year is "Every Church Member a Soul Winner." We trust that before the close of the year every member will be working and the work will soon be finished and then we can enjoy the pleasures of Heaven throughout eternity.

V. O. PUNCHES,

Home Missionary Secretary.

Field Agents Report

Year Ending December 31, 1914.

We greet the delegates of the conference this year with as fine a line of figures as was ever brought before you. We are sure that each one rejoices with us in knowing that our book sales were the highest in the history of the conference. For all this we must give God the praise and thank him for his many blessings.

The chart placed here before you gives our sales by years. Our colporteurs sold during the twelve months of 1914 \$29,890.15 worth of subscription books,

against \$24,233.78 in 1913, making a total gain of \$5,646.37. These figures do not include the magazines of which there were over \$9,000.00 worth. If it had, our sales would have been close to \$40,000.00 for 1914. The magazine work is now under the direction of the Home Missionary Department, and Tract Society Secretary.

These sales were made possible by the faithful efforts of fifty-two colporteurs. This includes our students who were with us during the summer months only. We had an average of about twenty-two throughout the year.

Thus far in our report we have mentioned figures, only, but there is the soul winning side. The thousands of dollars worth of our books placed in the homes of the people cannot help but bring forth fruit. The Lord has told us through the Spirit of Prophecy what care he has for the books that contain the message in the following quotation.

"It is true that some who buy the books will lay them on the shelf or place them on the parlor table, and seldom look at them. Still God has a care for his truth, and the time will come when these books will be sought for and read."

During the past few months we have seen the fulfilment of these words. Immediately on the breaking out of the European war, and one nation after another entered the struggle, the world seemed paralyzed. The one great question asked by nearly all was, "What does it mean? Have we come to Armageddon? Where can we find the answer? Where could the answer be found? The Bible and our books alone gave the interpretation. The following experience which was given by one who is in the truth illustrates how this has taken place. (We think it has happened many, many times.) "There was a canvasser at my house one time who sold me a book that I think told of a time of trouble coming upon the earth according to the prophecies. I wonder if it will not give me light on the present condition now existing in the earth. Then I sought for that book, and it gave me the desired light and a knowledge of this truth." We could give many similar instances where people have been brought into the truth in this way. I believe at the present time many people are taking Great Controversy, Daniel and Revelation, or possibly Bible Readings from the shelf and studying them with a greater interest than ever before. God alone knows how many are saved as a result of the books being placed in the homes of the people. It is not the colporteur's privilege-except in rare instances-to know the results of his work; for the work of following up is left to the Bible-worker and ministers.

Many who look at these figures may think that the colporteur is in the work

because of the financial gain, if so he is mistaken. The man who enters the work for this reason soon fails. The workers who have made this good work possible have made sacrifices. Men have had to leave sick wives, sick babies, go away often for a couple of weeks and many times for a month without seeing them, sleeping where night overtakes them; eating where they can, but through it all I am safe in saying that if you were to ask any one of the colporteurs here on the grounds if they regretted taking up the work, you would not hear a discouraging note, but hear instead, "We thank the Lord for the opportunity."

It is the aim of the workers in the conference to raise the standard of our work to the place where God would have it. We realize that in the past the canvassing department in some instances has not been conducted along the line it should be. Men have been allowed to enter the field and go out as representatives of this truth, who were not a credit to our cause, but brought it into disrepute before the people. Our present policy is to avoid this as much as possible. We feel that our workers should be selected for this work the same as in the gospel ministry. Not along educational lines, but as to character and proper ability to do this work. This is according to the instruction given us in the following quotation.

"The canvassing work is more important than many have regarded it. If there is one work more important than another it is that of getting our publications before the people, thus leading them to search the Scriptures. As much care and wisdom must be used in selecting the workers as in selecting men for the ministry. In all parts of the field, colporteurs and canvassers should be chosen, not from the floating element of society, not from the men and women who are good for nothing else and who have made a success of nothing, but from those who have good address, tact, keen foresight, and ability." To meet these requirements we realized that it was necessary to place our work upon a different basis. A colporteur should be recognized just as much a part of our conference force as any other laborer. This being true and in harmony with plans adopted at the book-man's convention held last spring the selecting of workers is not left in the hands of the field agents, but all names are presented before the conference committee, or a committee appointed for that purpose, for consideration before he is allowed to enter the work. Then the colporteur is placed on probation, if he proves faithful to the trust, he is granted credentials and considered one of our colporteurs. In this way we hope to build up a strong force of regular colporteurs

who will go forth in simplicity and truth giving the message due the world at this time.

We do not want to close this report without mentioning the condition of our work at the present time. Our colporteurs are still making progress. We were materially affected by the college being moved to Washington; for it took away our more mature students who usually help us out in the summer. However in spite of this, with the present force of regulars there is every indication that our sales will be higher for this year than last. At the present time we have thirty-four colporteurs in the field, but some of these are students who will leave us at the beginning of school.

The financial standing of our colporteurs is also excellent at the present time. Many times when the delegates have read the tract society report they see a large amount marked "accounts receivable," and upon inquiry are told they are canvassers' accounts. We are glad to say that at the present time these accounts have been lowered. Some who have through mismanagement or other reasons owed the society have paid up and are now running on the cash basis, others are working hard to pay up in full. So that we hope in the near future to see practically all on the cash basis.

OUR NEED

Realizing that the time is short in which to work, and that souls are perishing around us the great need at this time is more laborers. There are opportunities for many, and they can engage in no higher calling. Again I read, "The canvassing work properly conducted is missionary work of the highest order, and it is as good and successful a method as can be employed for placing before the people the important truths for this time. All who consecrate themselves to God to work as canvassers are assisting to give the last message of warning to the world. We cannot too highly estimate this work; for were it not for the efforts of the canvasser, many would never hear the warning."

We hope that many who have ability will consecrate themselves to God for service at this meeting. If this is done the work will soon be finished, then the last book will have been sold, the last canvass given, and we can relate our experiences to one another in the earth made new. We realize that our work is not a success by our own wisdom, "But not by might nor power, but by my spirit saith the Lord of Hosts." Therefore we ask that our brethren remember this department in their prayers as they come before the throne of grace from time to time.

V. O. PUNCHES.