

Home Missionary Extra No. 2.

BATTLE CREEK, MICH., DECEMBER, 1891.

OUR FOREIGN MISSION WORK ; ITS ORGANIZATION, AND HOW SUPPORTED.

WE are fully aware that all our friends have a deep interest in our foreign missionary work, and are therefore desirous of knowing just how it is organized, and what arrangement is made for its support. In speaking for the Foreign Mission Board, we are glad to tell you all about it, for we are anxious to have all informed on this matter, as it is right that you should be. We hope that all are carefully reading what appears on this subject every month in the HOME MISSIONARY, and every week in the *Review and Herald*.

The past year has been one of general prosperity. The reports that appear in our periodicals week by week are very encouraging indeed. Ministers and colporters have met with much success, the colporters especially. Never before was the way so generally open for the message to go everywhere as now. What is lacking are men and means.

Our foreign mission work was never so well organized as now ; nor was there ever a time when a given amount of money was made to go further and accomplish more than at the present. The Foreign Mission Board, which is composed of the General Conference Committee and six other brethren, making fifteen in all, besides holding frequent sessions to consider and advise regarding the foreign work whenever a quorum of the members can be called together, holds regular semi-annual meetings of several days, at each of which they carefully look over the whole ground and examine the workings of each mission. This Board has made arrangements for the appointment of local advisory committees in each field, of from three to seven members, as the case may be. Each committee is advisory to the Foreign Mission Board. At present we have these committees appointed in Africa, Southern Africa, Australasia (Australia and New Zealand), Central Europe, England, or the United Kingdom, the German and Russian mission fields (including Germany, Russia, and other countries in the adjacent territory) and Scandinavia.

The chairman of each committee is also superintendent of that special field, and through him the Foreign Mission Board receives regular and full information on every matter connected with the work in that field. The chairman of the Advisory Committee, in connection with the members of the committee, has charge of the disbursement of the funds appropriated for that field.

Near the close of each year the superintendent is expected to make an annual report of all the work done in his field, the disbursing of funds, etc., to the Foreign Mission Board. He is also called on to make an estimate of the needs of the work in his field, for the coming year. This includes the

amount of money they will need from the foreign mission funds to carry on the work in that field. These reports, which include the report of all the work done in the past year, and the estimate for the work to be done the coming year, form the basis on which the Foreign Mission Board makes the appropriation for each field.

With such arrangements as these, the Foreign Mission Board here is in a position to receive the fullest information possible on every matter, and advise regarding all the workings of our foreign missions. And by the aid of the local advisory committee, which is generally composed of the leading missionaries and some of the most responsible brethren living in the field, we have an assurance of the best management of the work in each field. Important questions may come up which call for immediate decision, and they are not left to one man to decide ; but there is a committee of the most experienced and most responsible brethren, each member of which will have a part in such measures.

We think all our brethren will see both the propriety and the utility of such an arrangement, and how it also assures the best results in the work, and the most careful expenditure of all missionary funds.

The plans of the Foreign Mission Board in making their yearly appropriations for foreign missions, are these : First, they carefully study each field, considering the work already done, and the work and the openings now presenting themselves. The report of the superintendent of each field receives the most careful consideration, also the plans of work he suggests for the year to come. Secondly, the Board considers the calls from fields not yet entered by any organized effort. Thirdly, after carefully considering the calls and demands from all the fields, they proceed to take an inventory of the money that may be expected from the different sources ; such as the annual contributions to foreign missions, first-day offerings, Sabbath-school contributions and other free-will offerings, and miscellaneous contributions. After having done this, the Board proceeds to make its appropriation for each of the several missions for the year to come.

It may be well to remark right here that in every case the Board makes the appropriation just as small as is possible in view of the necessities of each field ; for at the best we can work only a small amount of the territory and the fields that are calling for help. All can see from this the importance of raising the amount of the appropriation for each field.

Our plan of forwarding the funds to each mission is to divide the whole amount for the year into monthly installments, sending one twelfth or the whole amount each month. The superintendent of each mission understands this, and arranges his plans for the work in his field accord-

ingly. From this arrangement it will be readily understood by all how embarrassing the position must be when we, over here, for lack of funds, fail to send these regular installments just as we have arranged to do in each case. The circumstances of the work in a foreign land make such a failure to receive the monthly allowance much more embarrassing than the same would be here; for here we can make some kind of arrangement to get along for a while, but such arrangements cannot be so readily made under the circumstances in which our laborers are placed in these foreign missions.

We will now give some statements in reference to the money raised and appropriated the past two years; and it will be noticed by all that the money raised has not equaled the amount appropriated, but each year there has been a greater or less deficiency. This state of things has made it very embarrassing and extremely perplexing for both the Foreign Mission Board and our laborers in foreign lands. And here the question may be asked, How has the matter been managed, and how have emergencies been provided for under such circumstances? We will tell you. First, we have had to curtail the work wherever it was possible to do so; for to lessen the expenses means to curtail the work; secondly, we have had to borrow money at different times to meet special emergencies. You can readily see that neither of these ways is good. It is sad indeed to curtail a work, when, at the best, you are doing just as little as you ought to do; but when we cannot get the funds, it is impossible for us to go ahead with the work. And again, you can readily see that to borrow money with which to carry on a missionary enterprise is not a proper way at all. If money is borrowed, it must be paid; and where shall we get the money with which to meet our obligations? Perhaps you will say we must not borrow; but would you let our foreign missionaries go without food for their families? That is what it means. And again, would you let the credit of our foreign publishing houses go by default, and a reproach be placed on the cause of present truth in all that field, and on the whole denomination? That is just what it would mean not to provide funds in these emergencies.

But the question might be raised, Are we not doing too much? Would we not better retrench our work and confine ourselves to what we can readily do? Dear brethren, is that what you want us to do? Think it over. You profess to believe that we are near the close of time; that now the last warning message is going to the world; that the present generation is the one which will live to see the final consummation; that now the winds are held, and the sealing message is doing its work in the earth. Yes, and more than this; you believe God has intrusted us with this great light, and it is to go to every nation, kindred, tongue, and people.

Brethren, if these things are so, is there any opportunity or any excuse for doing less, and retrenching the work that we are now doing? It would seem to us preposterous, and a denial of our faith, to talk of doing less than we are now doing, in such a time as this.

Well, it may be asked, But what will you do when the means do not come in? The question is a pertinent one; but we will raise another question: Can it be that we are so

impoverished that we cannot do any more than we are doing at present? or is it because we lack the real spirit of the message, and as yet have not become fully awake to the responsibility of our work, and so are not doing what we otherwise might do? I cannot think that we are impoverished; indeed, I know we are not. There never was a time in the history of Seventh-day Adventists when we were better able to do than we are now; and I fear that unless we fully awake to these things and do our duty, God may excuse us, and raise up those that will take up the work and carry it on to its final triumph.

Right here I would say that we appreciate highly what you have already done; and if all were doing to-day what some are doing, or equally in proportion, there would be no lack of means in the Lord's treasury.

We will now give some figures in reference to the work for a short time in the past. The cost of our missionary work for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1890, was about \$60,000, and the receipts for the same time \$48,589.93. This amount, you see, is \$11,410.07 less than the amount expended for the same time, and which had to be provided for in some such way as we have already mentioned. The appropriations for the year ending June 30, 1891, were \$68,800, and the money actually raised during the same time was \$60,192.66, which leaves a deficit of over \$8,000. These deficits are what has made it so very perplexing the past two years. And yet, as we have said, we have done just as little as we could consistently do, and in any way meet the demands of the work. But the reader can readily see that such a state of things cannot continue; that is, we cannot continue to borrow money to make up deficiencies. We must raise enough year by year to pay for the work done.

The appropriation for the year from June 30, 1891, to June 30, 1892, is \$57,000. Just how this is distributed among the several fields, you will see by turning to page four of the HOME MISSIONARY EXTRA for September, 1891. This is a smaller amount by considerable than that appropriated the year before. Still we are glad to say that it does not represent a less amount of work to be done; for we do not know how to do less than we are now trying to do. But every year we receive more help from the mission fields themselves; that is, as the work progresses in those fields, the believers increase in number, and contribute more of their own means to carry forward the work. This is as it should be; and by way of illustration, I will state that the church at Hamburg, Germany, last year paid over \$500 tithes. Three years ago there was hardly a beginning in that city. This same is also true of the publishing houses at Basel and Christiania. The last annual report from each of them was very encouraging indeed, and shows that they are now getting in a position where they will not be any expense to the mission. And as the book sales increase, these publishing houses will be helped in the same ratio. But I would also mention that if we were doing all that we ought to do, our appropriations, while growing less each year in some fields, ought to be larger; for we ought to enter other fields where as yet we have not done any work. The Foreign Mission Board has

confidence to believe that when our brethren and friends understand these things fully, we will see larger contributions to the foreign missionary work.

You can readily see that while the appropriation for the current year is only \$57,000, yet to cover all deficiency and place the missionary work where it could stand unembarrassed, we ought to raise at least \$80,000.

Having set before the reader the situation, and the financial policy of the Foreign Mission Board, we will give some facts directly from the field, that you may be better able to appreciate the perplexities of the Board, and also appreciate how little we are doing in comparison with what ought to be done.

We will first mention the colporter or book work. Book sales the past year have gone far ahead of those of any previous year in our experience. The Foreign Mission Board sent Brother E. M. Morrison to Australia, a little more than two years ago, to give instruction in the canvassing and book work. He was very successful in organizing the work and instructing the canvassers. The result has been far beyond our highest expectations. According to their monthly reports, they are now selling to the amount of over \$7,000 worth of books each month, which is truly remarkable.

From Australia, Brother Morrison was sent to South Africa. The same good results followed his efforts there. From Africa, Brother Morrison was directed to go to Europe, where he is at present. His work in England has been very successful. I will quote from a letter from Elder D. A. Robinson, in reference to increased demands for books from the publishing house in London, England:—

“With the increased efficiency of our workers in this field and in South Africa as well, the demands upon the publishing house here have been very largely increased; and it has become a serious question with those having the management of it to know how we are to meet these demands. It was comparatively easy to get out editions of ‘Bible Readings’ of two and even five thousand at a time, but when the problem confronts us of speedily getting out an edition of twenty thousand of that book, and then many more of ‘Masterpiece’ and ‘Ladies’ Guide,’ with a good liberal supply of ‘Home-Hand Book,’ the seriousness of the situation becomes evident to all. These heavy editions call for a large outlay of means, and it requires several months to get returns from their sales; and the cost of paper and printing and binding has to be met before these returns come in. The printing and binding are all done by outside parties. This saves a heavy outlay for plant and machinery, and secures a better grade of work, and at a less price, than we could hope to do it ourselves. But when paper is ordered, and books are printed and bound, they must be paid for.

“It is not a pleasing picture to contemplate,—that of curtailing the canvassing work and asking our agents to sell less, to shut down the gates and say to those who ought to be encouraged into the field, You cannot go, because we cannot furnish you with publications. Will our friends who have means with which they could aid the work at this important time, permit such a calamity to come? Means will be greatly needed for the next six months. When the proper amount of funds is once in hand to run the business, the proceeds from the sale of books will keep it running, so it will be at once self-supporting. This matter has been urged so strongly in recent appeals to the General Confer-

ence, that I need not dwell upon it here. The fact, however, stares us in the face, that a large amount of means will be a necessity during the next few months, which, if it is not realized, will greatly cripple the work, both here and in South Africa.”

You cannot appreciate the embarrassment and perplexity we have suffered the past season on account of not being able to supply the necessary amount of books for the canvassers. Neither can you appreciate the difficulty in which it places the canvassers. After they have labored faithfully, and have taken a large number of orders to be delivered at a certain time, can anything be more discouraging than to have the publishing house, instead of sending the books in good shape, send word that it cannot fill the orders because it has not the books, nor the necessary funds with which to produce the books? This was the experience in South Africa the early part of the present year. And for a time it came very near utterly discouraging the canvassers and breaking up their whole work. Our brethren can readily see the danger threatening the work under such circumstances. You cannot wonder that we feel exceedingly anxious over the situation.

But some one may suggest that we should not bring ourselves into such strait places. How would you proceed? What would you do different from what we have done? The fact is that it is not we that have done it at all; we have not done anything more than we have done for years in the past; we have always tried to instruct and encourage all our laborers to the best of our ability; the difference seems to lie in the changed attitude of the people and public sentiment, in connection with the increased efficiency and experience of the workers. When we make the statement that the field is open everywhere, and that the Spirit of God is moving upon the hearts of the people, opening the way for the truth, some may appreciate but little the meaning of this; but we hope that, by setting these things before you so often and so plainly, you will come to understand it better. We know that you are deeply interested, and this gives us courage to make these efforts to have you fully informed.

The remarkable manner in which the Lord has opened the way for the truth to be carried to all parts of the world, and the eagerness with which our books and publications are taken by the people, place us under the greatest obligation possible; and there is no way by which we can excuse ourselves from putting forth the most earnest efforts. No sacrifice can be called too great; no appeal for help in any line of the work can be called too earnest; for everything seems to indicate that we are fast nearing the final consummation.

We have comparatively few laborers, and therefore we cannot send the living messenger to all parts of the world where there are calls, and the way is open. But what excuse is there for not sending our books and publications everywhere? Should not an effort be made to have some of our books—at least of our smaller publications—translated into all the leading languages of the world? We have felt of late that an effort in this direction ought to be commenced at once. We find that wherever our publications have gone, souls have embraced the truth. But we cannot do this without funds. To what better purpose could we use several thousand dollars than to translate our publications into some of the leading languages in which we have nothing yet? We have made no appropriation for this, and we cannot do it without funds. Some one may ask, Can you get any one to translate? We can answer, Yes; there are ample facilities for getting translation, if we only had money with which to get it done. What say you to this question, brethren? We should like to hear from you.

The Religious Tract Society, of London, is now issuing publications in 204 different languages. While we feel that we have done considerable, we have as yet reached hardly

a dozen languages; and yet this is a truth that is to go to every nation, kindred, tongue, and people.

For the encouragement of our brethren we will mention some things that have been accomplished. I shall confine myself alone to foreign work, as the progress of the home work is quite generally known to all. Our foreign work was begun in Central Europe by Elder J. N. Andrews, who went to Switzerland in 1874. We have now a conference organized, consisting of nineteen churches, with a membership of 438, and thirteen native laborers. Our publishing house in Basel is doing a good work, and, as we have mentioned before, is nearly self-supporting. Last year we organized the German and Russian missions, with Elder L. R. Conradi as superintendent, and headquarters at Hamburg. In Germany we have five churches, with a membership of nearly 140. I will quote from a recent letter from Brother Holser, some statements about the work in Russia:—

“The opportunities to develop a strong conference in this field are much more promising than in any other field of Europe, so far as I am acquainted. But the difficulties are increasing. All but one of our Russian church at Strawropol are in prison. The one left is here in the meeting to-day. A few went back, but most of them remained true, and though in prison, their joy is full.”

The work was opened in Scandinavia by Elder J. G. Matteson, in the year 1877. We now have three organized conferences: Sweden with sixteen churches, and a membership of 457 (and four more churches have been organized since the annual report); Denmark with eleven churches, and membership of 391; Norway with four churches, and membership of 284. Our publishing house in Christiania is in a very prosperous condition and doing a good work. Last year it came very nearly paying its way; probably this year it will do so fully. We have sixty-one native laborers, ministers, colporters, and Bible workers in these three countries, and five devoting their whole time to the work, who have been sent there from America. Last year they raised \$3,731.40 for the work in their own field.

In England the canvassing work has made very rapid progress the past year. Here we have no organized conference as yet. The Pacific Press has a branch office in London. The greatest perplexity the past year has been the lack of capital with which to manufacture the books called for, of which we have already spoken. We have eight churches in England, and 157 believers. During the year we have organized the first church in Ireland, where there are now over 50 believers. Colporter work has also been begun in Scotland during the past summer, and is very successful.

In Australia and New Zealand the work is making steady progress. There is an urgent call for a school to be located there. A number of students have already come from there to this country, and more are contemplating coming unless steps are soon taken to arrange for a school there. The work in the Pacific islands, as well as in Australia and New Zealand, demands a school in the near future, and this necessity must not be ignored.

The mission among the Pacific islands, and the work of our first missionary ship, is most encouraging indeed. The manner in which our missionaries on the “Pitcairn” have been received at every point, and the work they have been enabled to do, are far beyond our highest expectations. No one can ever regret having contributed to our missionary ship. But this is only another illustration showing how remarkably the Spirit of God is moving on the minds of the people, and how the way is being prepared for the truth to go everywhere.

There are at present a large number of people on the South Pacific islands that would like to attend a school, and be instructed with a view to fitting themselves up to labor among the people on the islands. Australia would be a very proper place for such a school.

The success attending the labors of Elder Ball in the West Indies, is worthy of mention. His labors have been far more successful than was expected. Our brethren are also acquainted with another advance move the last year; namely, that Elder L. C. Chadwick, the president of the International Tract and Missionary Society, has gone on a tour to South America, visiting Mexico, the Bay Islands, and the West Indies on his way, and will return by way of Africa and Europe. Brother Frank Hutchins and wife have also gone to fill a long-standing call from the Bay Islands; and three canvassers have gone to South America.

Before we close, we must call attention to a few more points, which we wish you to consider. We have already mentioned the importance of having at least some of our tracts translated into the leading languages of the world. But we have felt a burden for Finland. We have every reason to believe that the Finns are just as easily reached by the truth as other people in Northern Europe. But as yet we have not even a tract in the Finnish language, to circulate among this people. This we must have at the first possible opportunity.

Another pressing demand is a permanent location in Hamburg for a mission, depository, meeting hall, and a place where we can have a school for the education of workers for Germany and Russia and adjacent countries. Providence has so ordered that many in these countries can be instructed through the medium of the German tongue, and can go back from a course of training well prepared to carry the truth to their fellow-countrymen. We find it impossible to rent suitable quarters. A house for the mission family and depository can be rented, but we cannot obtain a hall at any reasonable price. The reason is that they are all taken up for pleasure concerts and beer drinking. We see no other way by which to meet the wants of the work than to purchase property suitable for the above purposes. But for this we need funds. We have investigated this matter, and find that this is the only way out. We are certain that if our brethren could understand the real situation, they would urge the step at once; for unless something is done soon, the work will be greatly hindered.

We have now placed the situation before you in as brief a space as possible. We have informed you of the manner in which the work is organized and carried forward, and of what has been accomplished, and have also mentioned some of the most urgent demands now pressing for help. But these things that I have mentioned *are not included* in our estimates for the work the coming year. This would call for about \$10,000 more. Shall this important work be delayed? It is for you to answer. As a Mission Board we are only your servants, and can go no farther than our people will furnish funds. We have felt it our duty to place these things before you, believing that when you understand them fully, you will take pleasure in doing your utmost to help in the work. We know that you are interested, and therefore we have confidence that you will do all you can in this time of special interest.

From the above statements, all can readily see the necessity for a large contribution to foreign missions during the week of prayer. We hope that the readers will in a special manner carefully consider these things. We should not feel that our duty is done with one contribution. During the year to come we should ever bear in mind to contribute from time to time to the work of the Lord, as his providence may place means within our reach. And further, we ask that you who read this and consider the needs of the work, will place the situation before others of your brethren and sisters, who would be interested, and who would be willing and desirous to help in the work if they understood the needs. So we shall request each of you to act as an agent for our foreign missionary work, and to work up these interests in every way that is in your power.

O. A. OLSEN,

Pres. Foreign Mission Board.