

# INDIA UNION TIDINGS

VOL. 12

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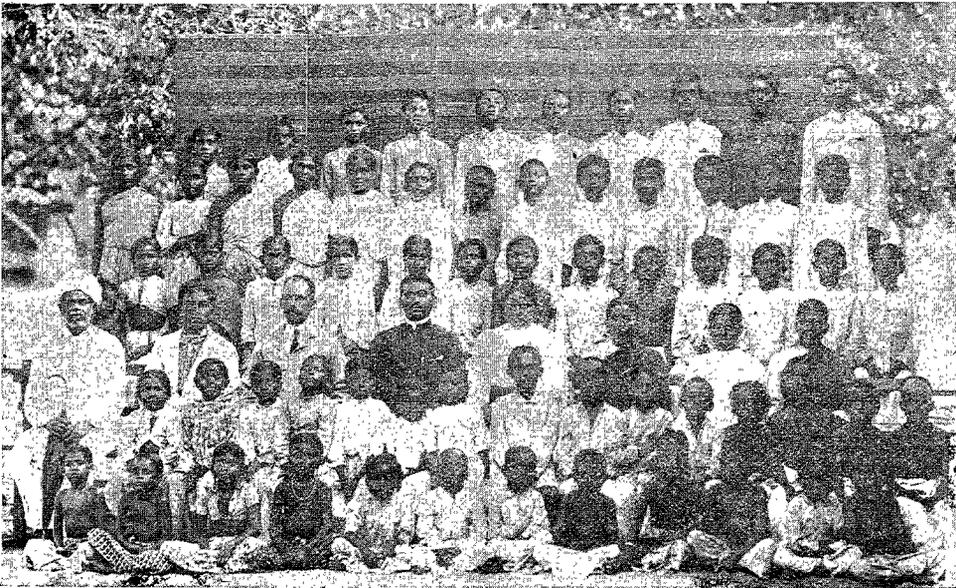
No. 12

## Annual Meeting of the South India Mission

The annual general meeting of the South India Mission was held at Coimbatore, June 1-10. The use of a large bungalow in the compound adjoining the property occupied by our South India Training School was secured at a very low rental. In this bungalow there was a large central room capable of seating

Brethren G. G. Lowry, P. C. Poley, and W. G. Woodward, and their wives, were in attendance at the meeting and shared in its labours and the attendant blessings.

There were many expressions of regret that Brother and Sister J. S. James were not able to be with us. The Indian believers and workers seem to feel as though



TEACHERS AND PUPILS OF MISSION SCHOOL, NAZARETH

considerably more than the eighty or so believers who were present, and there was also ample room in the building to provide the additional sleeping accommodation needed.

The Union Mission was represented by Pastor I. F. Blue and the writer. The foreign workers in the South India field,

they have lost a father and mother in the transfer to another field of these pioneer workers in the carrying of this message to the people of South India.

Two meetings daily were held, beginning with a devotional service at 7 A. M., and closing with a public preaching service at 6.30 P. M., when the fundamental

doctrines of the Message were presented. The evening meetings were attended by a number of interested persons not of our faith.

During the forenoon a Bible study was held at 9.30; and at 11.00 there was a meeting for general instruction in regard to the principles and methods that should enter into all our missionary operations. At these meetings there was presented to our Indian brethren a statement concerning the responsibility that will fall upon the India Union Mission in 1918 to raise within its own territory sufficient funds to support the Indian evangelistic and medical missionary work. It was also pointed out that there was likely to be a gradual increase in the burden laid on our brethren in India, until the time came that only the support of the foreign workers, with calls for funds for buildings and for major items of equipment, would appear in the annual budget submitted to the General Conference. Much interest was displayed in the facts and figures showing the funds raised within this Union during 1916, and the cost of operating the various departments of the Indian work. It was shown that it would be necessary to increase the income from tithes and offerings and at the same time eliminate the expenditure in certain departments that might be made much more nearly self-supporting.

Although to some, perhaps, this all appeared to be a "hard saying," yet it was evident that the majority were ready to bend to the task and willing to cooperate in every good work. There can be no doubt that any burdens the Lord may see fit to lay on us will all turn out "to the furtherance of the gospel," and will bring many compensating blessings. "Out of weakness" we will be "made strong."

The afternoon meetings were devoted to the interests of the colporteur work, or to answering questions. Brethren E. D.

Thomas, A. Devasahayam, and A. Asirvatham, with the brethren already mentioned, led out in the various services. When necessary the instruction was interpreted into the Tamil, Telegu and Malayalam tongues.

On the last Sabbath of the meeting, Brother E. D. Thomas was ordained to the gospel ministry. Pastors Blue and Lowry and the writer were the officiating ministers in this solemn service.

It is encouraging to note that no less than five of our own young people, whose lives are full of promise, were at this meeting invited to take up teaching work at Coimbatore and Nazareth. These have all been trained in our own schools. There are several others who should soon be ready for service. Brother S. Thambipilly also was appointed to the Coimbatore teaching staff.

At the close of the meeting the believers returned to their homes much cheered and helped by the season spent together in seeking God and considering the demands and interests of His cause. The outlook is bright for the speedy development of the work of the Message in South India.

#### A Visit to Nazareth

The writer visited the Nazareth station for the first time on Friday and Sabbath, June 15th and 16th. It was a privilege to meet with these believers and to see the evidences of the Lord's hand at work among them. The church at Nazareth is proving to be a tower of strength for the work among the Tamil people, and we rejoice with Brother Thomas and his fellow-workers at the good progress that is being made.

W. W. FLETCHER.

Subscribers to the *Signs Extras* will perhaps read with regret that it has been decided to discontinue publication of the series with No. 18 which has just been published. Special reduced rates will be given on lots of one to three hundred which are still on hand.

## With the Workers in North India

During the past two months I have visited all the stations in the North India territory. After the Hindi and Urdu examinations which were held in Lucknow in April, I visited the Rae Bareli station, spending Sabbath and Sunday there with Brother and Sister Belgrave and their Indian workers. The school, which is located about five miles from Rae Bareli at Jhakrasi, was getting on well, and is having a good influence on the people of that village. I am glad Brother Belgrave and his assistants are carrying on regular evangelistic efforts in connection with the school. The reports that have come in regarding the meetings they have been holding in the evenings with the people are encouraging, and we hope that this school will be as every mission school should be—an agent in the hands of the workers for nothing else except to preach Christ. Brother Belgrave has three Indian assistants in the work there, two in the school, and one who is a regular evangelist. Meetings are being held in several other villages around Rae Bareli.

The next place I visited was Chuhar Kana, Punjab, where I spent five days, part of the time in the villages where Brother Loasby has placed his Indian workers, and part of the time at the station in connection with the hospital and other business. We had quarterly meeting while there and the Lord seemed very near to all of us on that occasion. All the Indian brethren, five in number, with several of their new seekers for truth, came from a distance of about twelve miles to attend this meeting. With the men who are working at the station, these made a very good congregation for the celebration of the ordinances. On Sunday we went in a cart to visit Jhandiala and surrounding villages. Brother Kasim Ali has been located in Jhandiala

for over a year, and has worked up quite an interest in the places around his home. The men who have been studying with Brother Loasby the past winter are now settled in the villages surrounding Jhandiala and they are all labouring very faithfully in their separate villages. The truth seems to have gotten a hold in the lives of these men. This they show in their earnestness in proclaiming it. I have great hopes for the future in the vicinity where these brethren are located. We were there three days but did not get to visit all their work. I was also very glad to see the number of patients that Dr. Mann is now having daily at the dispensary. The morning I was there the veranda was full of people from the surrounding villages. At that time he was having about eighty patients a day, and the work of this branch of the Message is growing at Chuhar Kana. The Doctor was very busy all the time answering outside calls and looking after his other duties. All the Chuhar Kana workers are kept very busy, and the Message is going in the Punjab.

I have been to Najibabad twice in the last two months. First, I was there over Sabbath for quarterly meeting, and about three weeks ago I spent a week there with Brother Morris and our Indian brethren in their labours in Najibabad and the many villages around it. The quarterly gathering was an enjoyable meeting to me especially. About twenty were present and all took part in the ordinance, after which we had a good social meeting. These occasions are very much enjoyed by our Indian brethren and sisters and are a great source of encouragement. We missed Miss Kurtz on these occasions, who has been at Najibabad and taken part in nearly every meeting for several years.

She has now gone for her furlough, and according to the last word from her she was feeling well and longed to get back to the work in India. The visit with the workers to the different villages I enjoyed very much. I got many points regarding the ways and methods of labour from these men, especially the more experienced ones. During the five days, we visited about twenty-five villages, and found the people very anxious to hear what we had to tell them. The Indian brethren have many *muttalashies* (seekers for truth) and are teaching them daily. Brother Morris is busy building the dormitory for the boys' school which will soon be completed. He has his hands full in looking after the building operations and his regular station duties at the same time, but God is blessing him and his helpers and the outlook at Najibabad is very encouraging.

Brother Fletcher and I visited Garhwal the middle of last month. The school was going well with about fifty boys in attendance. Brother and Sister Smith are getting more and more comfortably settled in their mountain home; and also getting on to ways of getting supplies, so they are enjoying their work more and more. While in Garhwal, Brethren Fletcher, Smith, Peters and myself visited the out-school at a place called Bhagrakhal, where we found about eighty boys reading in the great out-of-doors. They seemed to be very happy and getting along well with their lessons. We spent two days with the villagers, trying to get terms on some property we wanted to buy for Brother Smith to put up a small place in which to live part of the year. There being about five men interested in the acre of land we wanted to buy, we could never get all the men willing to sell at the same time, so we finally gave up and returned to the Chelusain school, where we spent Sabbath. The

meeting and sabbath-school with the Hindu boys was very interesting. They seem to be slowly getting some of the principles of Christianity, but the influence of their heathen parents is very hard to combat. I am glad to report that Brother and Sister Smith have passed their first year Hindi and are hard at work on their second year's work. I might say here that Brother Morris also passed his first year Urdu, and Brother Belgrave finished his second year Urdu. We enjoyed our visit to Garhwal and hope to be able to go again before the year is finished.

As I visit these different stations I am encouraged to see our cause going as it is, but none of us are satisfied with the progress we have made or are making. It is a great help to me to be associated with good consecrated Indian and European workers in these stations. I am especially thankful for one thing, and that is, we are getting some European labourers in North India who know the language, and who don't have to depend on getting Indian workers who know English through whom to work. It is impossible to work "through" another person, you can only work "with" him.

Pray for our field and our workers. I should like to say something about our literature with which the Lord is helping us but I have written enough this time. From time to time we hope to send articles from the brethren in charge of the different stations in our division.

M. M. MATTISON.

Commencing with the July number of *Signs of the Times*, Pastor J. M. Comer will present a special series of articles on the fundamentals of the gospel message in a new setting, as given in recent lectures in Calcutta. The first article will be entitled "The Evolution of the Gospel." We feel sure that all will desire to have the full series, therefore subscriptions should be sent at once. Only Rs. 2-8 for the year.

## Sabbath-School Lessons for August and September

In the first few weeks of the month of May our English Sabbath-schools in India were in difficulties because we failed to receive from America the usual supply of lesson pamphlets. To meet this emergency, our Union Mission Sabbath-school secretary, Sister Blue, looked up the lessons on the book of Acts that had been studied in our Sabbath-schools a out six years before, and the lessons on the closing chapters were printed by our Press at Lucknow. This enabled our schools to complete the study of The Acts of the Apostles without any serious break.

### One Month Behind America

But we cannot run the risk of this experience being repeated for we may not always be in a position to replace the lessons locally. The margin of time between the arrival of lesson books from America and the time when they are needed in our schools in India is too narrow for safety. We are studying the lessons only one month behind the American schools.

### Three Months Behind

These are days of interruptions, delays, and losses in the world's mail service. We cannot afford to run the risk of having

our Sabbath-school machinery thrown out of working order by the lack of lesson books. It has therefore been decided that our Sabbath-schools in India and Burma will follow the study of the senior lessons one quarter later than the American schools. The lessons on the book of Acts, which we are completing this month, are to be followed by a new series of lessons, the subject of which we are not yet able to announce. Instead of beginning with these lessons in August the schools of the India Union Mission will commence with them in October. The pamphlets will be printed at Lucknow, and all our schools will be supplied in good time.

### For August and September

This has made it necessary to provide a special set of lessons to be studied during the months of August and September. To meet this need a series of topical studies has been selected. There are nine lessons in the series, all of which touch in a most helpful way some essential phase of practical Christian experience.

These lessons are now ready, and will be supplied to the Sabbath-schools and individual members at three annas a copy.

W. W. FLETCHER.

## Madras

In spite of the hot season, the presence of which we cannot mistake, we are pressing on in our work for the people of this great city. Last month a draughtsman in the railway, who has proved to be a very earnest man, took a firm stand for the Sabbath. As he was not able to retain his post in the railway when he obeyed the Lord, he took up other work. His consistent example will no doubt be a source of encouragement to others who

are studying. Our people are showing a stronger desire to win souls, and our prayer meetings are much better attended than formerly. Our brethren have been exempted from military drill on the Sabbath. They see in this the hand of the Lord and thus many things are conspiring to increase their feeling of dependence upon Him. The Lord is faithful. Let us be so.

P. C. POLEY.

## Church Recorders

Perhaps the church clerk would be more accurately termed the 'Church Recorder,' but some clerks would have to do more faithful work to ever deserve the name 'recorder.'

In a previous article we called attention to the fact that no names should ever be crossed off a list, but the record should show what has become of them. Once a name is entered on a church list it remains there; and there are only three possible things that can be done with it. If the member died, record the date. If he moved away he should be granted a letter of transfer to some other church, and the date recorded. If he has definitely apostatized and the church has done everything in its power to win him back, but without success, the church should formally vote to drop his name. That vote should be recorded opposite his name.

Some clerks think the Church Record Book is merely for the purpose of keeping the list of members and the minutes of annual business meetings. The second paragraph of "Instructions to the Church Clerk" says: "Record all the transactions of the church. This record should state when, where, and by whom the church was organized. It should state who were taken in at the organization, who were elected elder, deacon, and clerk, and what

the covenant was they signed. After this, whenever any member is taken into the church, or is turned out of the church, this fact should be recorded both in the list of names and in the body of the record. When anyone is baptized, when an elder or a deacon is elected or ordained, or any church trial is held, a record of the fact should immediately be made in the body of the book, and the clerk's name signed to it each time."

I remember seeing one church record book which contained the list of members and several reports of annual business meetings. In the list of members were some that had been out of the country for years, but no transfer given. Other names had been transferred and no record made of it. When I looked at the reports of the annual business meetings I learned that on such a date, "after singing and prayer the nominating committee brought in their report for church officers for the ensuing year, all of which were elected." Could you tell me from that who the church elder was in the year nineteen hundred—something?

If thou art a church clerk, so do thy work that when thou standest before thy Master, He may say: "Well done, faithful servant. Thou hast been faithful over the few things I gavest thee to do."

W. S. MEAD.

## Bible Reading and Religious Power

(Concluded)

Matthew Arnold, who at times was one of the severest critics of the Christianity of his day, says: "As well imagine a man with a sense for sculpture not cultivating it by the help of the remains of Greek art, or a man with a sense of poetry not cultivating it by the help of Homer and Shakespeare, as a man with a sense for

conduct not cultivating it by the help of the Bible."

"Whatever of greatness", said John Ruskin "there has been in any thought of mine, whatever I have done in my life, has simply been due to the fact that when I was a child my mother daily read with me a part of the Bible, and daily

made me learn a part of it by heart. She began a course of Bible work with me which never ceased until I went to Oxford."

William Wilberforce once declared, "It will be the business of the sincere Christian to be rooting out of his life all trace of its natural corruption, and to perfect himself in the lineaments of Jesus Christ. For this purpose let him study his Bible." Or, as old Izaak Walton puts it yet more quaintly—

"... Every hour  
I read you kills a sin,  
Or lets a virtue in  
To fight against it."

"And all of us, with face unveiled, gazing on the mirrored glory of our Lord, are hourly being transformed into the same likeness; for this comes of the Lord the Spirit"—such was the daily exper-

ience of Christians in the early days.

If in the history of the Indian Christian church there is to be a repetition of apostolic triumph then all who have the ear of that church must honour that divinely inspired Book which portrays not only the life of the apostles but also that divine Lord who was "the masterlight of all their seeing." George Muller, who began his work almost penniless and raised over a quarter of a million pounds for his great orphanages during the last half century, revealed one of the deepest secrets of his power, when, speaking of the Bible, long before he died, he said: "I have studied that Book through more than one hundred times." Let us urge all our readers to guard jealously what is called "The Morning Watch" and to give the Bible its proper place in every day's life. J. P. E.

### Canvassing Report

FOR MAY, 1917

HERALDS OF THE MORNING	Hours	Orders	Rs. Value
R. A. Thrift, ... ..	201	118	1145 8 0
H. A. Skinner, ... ..	32	16	113 0 0
Helps Sold			40 4 0
<b>Totals</b> ... ..	<b>233</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>1298 12 0</b>

### Magazine Sales

ENGLISH LITERATURE	No. Agts.	Hours	Subs.	Copies	Helps	Rs. Value
F. O. Raymond		148	114	7	156	619 4 0
VERNACULAR						
Bengal (Calcutta)	3		40			83 12 9
(East Bengal)	3	339	135	138	7	38 12 9
North India	4	485		1519		47 11 9
South India						
Tamil	5	635	37	165	5	27 6 0
Telugu	5	213	29	243	116	37 4 9
Malayalam	12	1761	36	405	25	37 5 6
<b>Totals</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>3581</b>	<b>391</b>	<b>2470</b>	<b>349</b>	<b>891 9 6</b>

We have been very fortunate to secure Drs. W. Howard James and E. S. Richards of Australia, Dr. A. B. Olsen of England, and Dr. G. H. Heald of America as special contributors to *Herald of Health*. These well known physicians, in addition to our local contributors, will

make our health paper the best of its kind in this part of the world. Between seventy-five and a hundred medical practitioners of India are on our subscription lists at the present time. Can you afford to miss its monthly visits?

# India Union Tidings,

ORGAN OF THE  
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EDITOR: R. D. BRISBIN

## "Copy"

All "copy" intended for publication the 1st of the month should be in the editor's hands promptly on the 20th of the preceding month. "Copy" for the issue of the 15th should be received by the editor not later than the 5th of the same month. Matter received later than these dates will be held over until the next issue. Hand-written or double-spaced type-written "copy" will be gladly received, *but single-spaced type-written manuscript we can not use.*

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## Here and There

Are we downhearted because....? NEVER!  
When is a lottery not a lottery? When it's a War Loan.

What do you know about the "conscience clause?"

"Everywhere Paul the Apostle went there was either a riot or a revival."—*Billy Sunday*. How many of either have we produced because of a zealous godly life?

A memorial has been prepared and sent to the National Missionary Council of India for adoption and transmission to H. E. Lord Chelmsford asking for exemption of all *bona fide* missionaries of any denomination. A lack of uniform-

ity in dealing with mission agents seems to have characterized decisions of the exemption tribunals.

The monsoons have broken in many parts of India, ushering in cooler weather and restful nights for tired labourers.

A letter from America states that conscientious objectors have been granted exemption from combatant duties.

Sabbath-keepers in New Zealand, after considerable hardship, have been granted exemption from military duties from Friday night until Saturday evening.

The women of India have contributed Rs. 62,00,000 to the War Loan.

Pastor Fletcher has promised some more good articles for coming numbers of *Signs of the Times*. One of them will be entitled "The Hope of India." We believe it will be worth the price of a year's subscription to you and your friends. Are you taking the *Signs*? If not, why not? How would it do to get acquainted with what our brethren are writing. You *might* find some good reading!!!!

Pastor Fletcher recently met with the local field superintendents in Calcutta.

For the benefit of contributors we give some synonyms for the words "work" and "workers" which are sometimes used in our denominational phraseology in place of terms much more expressive of the real meaning.

Work, (noun)—Cause, message, mission business, affairs, harvest, duties, labour, toil, effort, concern, task, office, charge, role, vocation, calling, profession, etc. The nouns given will also suggest synonymous verbs for "to work."

Workers—Associate, labourer, fellow-worker or labourer, companion, compeer, missionary, mission agent, etc.

The use of these foregoing words will prevent "work" and workers" being "worked" to death.

## EXCHANGES

For an indefinite period, India will have only a fortnightly mail service from England and America.

Please address all exchanges to India Union Tidings, 17 Abbott Road, Lucknow, India, and *not* to the India Union Mission.