

INDIA UNION TIDINGS

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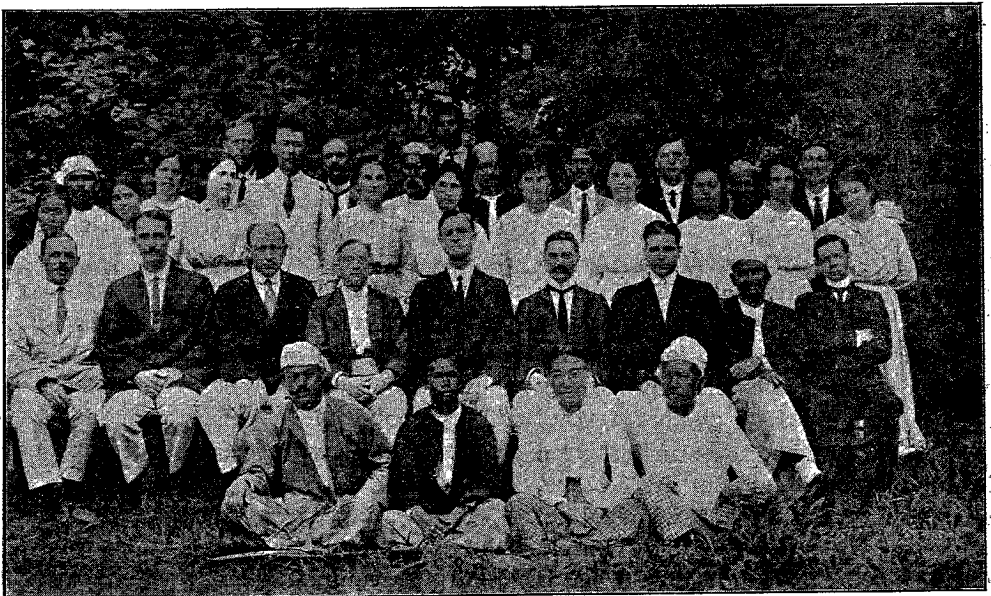
No. 20

Burma General Meeting

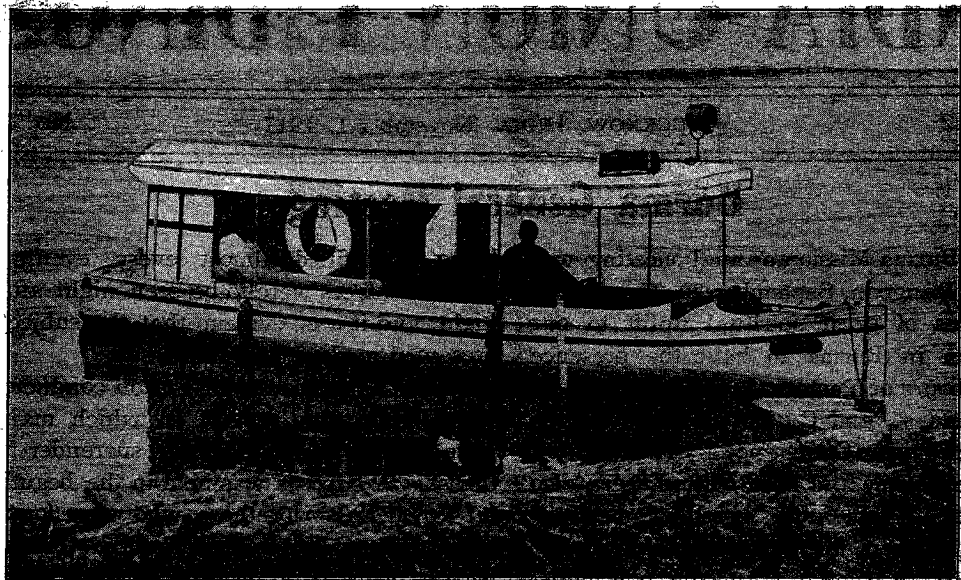
The Burma Mission annual meeting was held at Rangoon, September 20-25. It was a means of great spiritual uplift to our brethren in Burma to have the presence and labours of Pastors J. E. Fulton, F. H. De Vinney, and C. E. Weeks of the Asiatic Division Conference. Sisters Fulton and De Vinney and Miss Fulton were also present. There were excellent meetings for the workers for devotion, Bible study, practical instruction, and the consideration of departmental interest. These meetings were held in the mission home at Kemmendine. In the evening, Burmese and English meetings were held in the city at the meeting place of the Rangoon church. The visiting brethren spoke at most of these meetings. There was particularly good attendance at the English meetings, the hall

being well filled almost every evening. The same faces were to be seen night after night, and it was evident that the subjects presented made a deep impression.

On the Sabbath, Pastor Fulton conducted a very impressive revival in which many were led to make a definite surrender to Christ. A baptism was held in the beautiful Royal Lakes for those who were found to be prepared for that ordinance. Fifteen persons were baptised, almost all of whom were young men. There were three Telugu brethren and one Hindustani among the number. These had been won for the Message through the labours of a Telugu member of the Rangoon church. The headmaster and some students from the Meiktila school were also among those baptised at this time.



LABOURERS ATTENDING GENERAL MEETING IN BURMA



THE LAUNCH, KAMMAMAUNG

Pastor G. A. Hamilton will take charge of the English effort in Rangoon. There is every prospect that our English church in that city will soon become strong again, and a means of strength to the vernacular work as it has been in the past. The Lord greatly prospered the efforts of Brother and Sister Hamilton in their former labours in Rangoon, and it will be a great source of encouragement to the church that they are able to again take up the work.

Brethren Fulton, De Vinney, Beckner, Lowry, and the writer, spent Sabbath September 29th at Meiktila. Brother Ludington had presented an encouraging report of the school's progress at the Rangoon meeting, and we were pleased to be among the students and teachers and see for ourselves the evidences of the good work that is going on in their hearts. Here another revival service was held, and quite a number took a public stand for Christ and for the Message, including eight of the students who had not before been members of a Christian church.

The outlook for the work in Burma is encouraging. The Lord is raising up a number of consecrated Burmese workers.

Let us pray that God will give these brethren a deep experience in fellowship with Himself, and make their labours a great power for the salvation of the Burmese people. Brother Hpo Hla will again take up editorial duties, and the pastorate of the Rangoon Burmese church. Brethren Maung and Ba Tin will return to their former fields of labour. The latter is seeking to open up a new work on the Salween River. Brother Chit Hla is associated with Brother Beckner in the work in the Bassein country. Brother Arthur Richards is at present engaged in the office but will be assigned field work a little later on. Brother Ngwe Zin has been learning the work of a compositor in a Burmese printing office, and will shortly join our Lucknow Press. We have also a number of consecrated teachers. The school at Meiktila is now manned almost wholly with teachers of our own faith.

Brother C. F. Lowry, the superintendent of the mission, and Sister Lowry, are working hard to acquire the Burmese language, while at the same time discharging many other duties, and are making good pro-

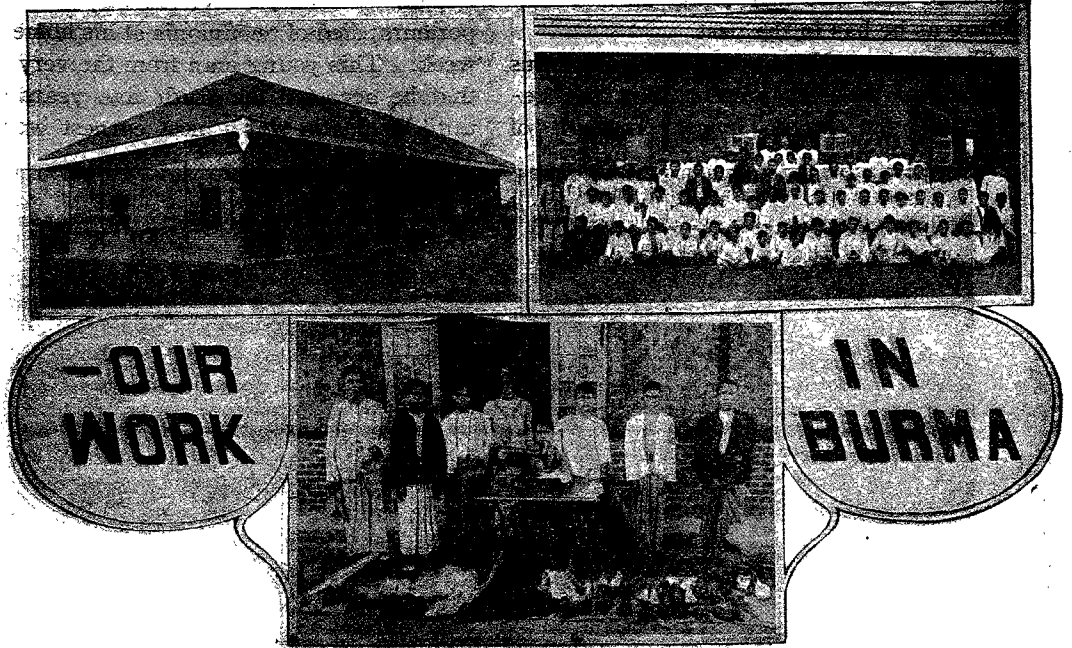
gress. Let us remember in our prayers all the workers of the Burma Mission.

Brother Weaks sailed on the second of October for Singapore. We were glad of his presence and counsel in regard to the important interests of our literature work. Brother Weaks is planning to spend several months in India next year, when we are hoping to be in readiness for important

forward moves in the production of our vernacular literature.

Brethren Fulton and De Vinney will visit our mission stations throughout India, and will be with us probably until almost the end of this year. We are glad that the officers of the Asiatic Division Conference are thus coming into close touch with our field.

W. W. FLETCHER.



MEIKTILA SCHOOL

Do You ?

"I know a minister who never exceeds the hour limit in his sermons. He makes two or three good points; gives some of the good straight truths of the Gospel; and best of all, he sits down when he has said enough. I have noticed that he always has good congregations, especially the young people like to hear him. I know other men who take about two hours to propound some goody-goody theories that anyone could read in fifteen minutes from a Sunday School paper while at home in a comfortable chair. The young people never seem

to want to go to church when they preach, and I don't either. Do you?"—*The Beadle*

One of the means by which the American Methodist Episcopal Church of America proposes to celebrate its centenary next year is rather striking. Five million copies of the Scriptures are to be distributed in this country, the distribution spreading over five years. The Bible Society has been entrusted with the work of preparing these copies, at a cost of between three and four lakhs of rupees.

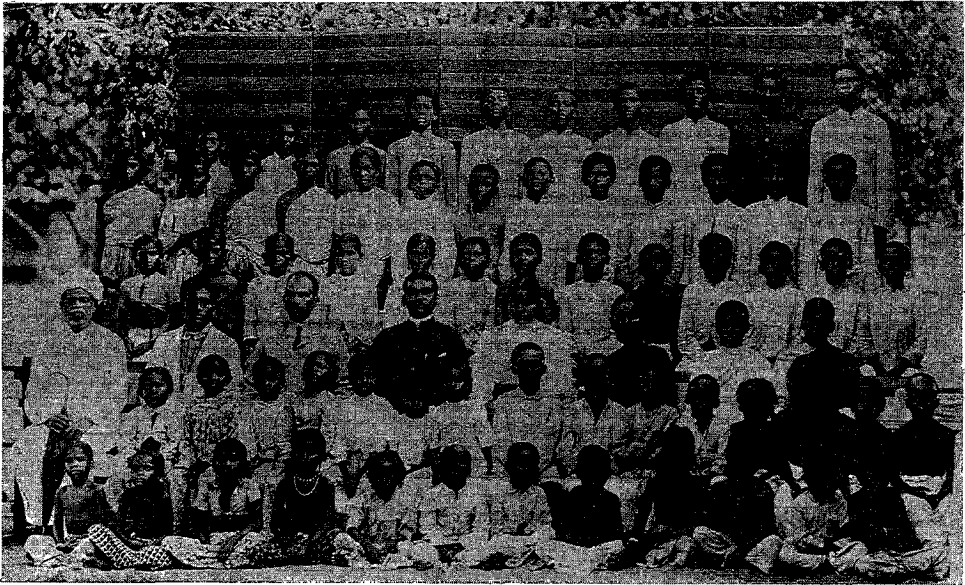
South India

A very pleasant day was spent with the Nazareth church last week. While there, two of our workers, Samuel a colporteur who has done faithful work for many years, and Pakkiam, a teacher in the Nazareth school, were united in marriage. They both plan to continue their work in the mission and we trust that God will bless them in the future as he has in the past.

The work at Nazareth is in a prosperous condition. Just at present they are recovering the boys' home. Instead of

from Madras. I spent Friday and Sabbath with this church, and had several good meetings with the brethren. On Sabbath we celebrated the ordinances of the Lord's house and Brother A. Devasagahayam was ordained elder of the church.

Word has just been received that Suvesashamuthu, one of our very best colporteurs; died of pneumonia at his home last week. This young man from the very day that he accepted the truth five years ago until his death, was a most earnest worker



TEACHERS AND PUPILS, NAZARETH SCHOOL

covering it with leaves as it has been in the past we are using the Mangalore tile. It costs much more, of course, to put it on, but in the long run it will be economy because it will last several times as long as the leaves would. Another advantage in using tile is that we are not so likely to be burned out by some one who may wish to hinder our work. After spending one day and night there I left for Pondicherry.

This place, as I think most all know, is in French territory about a night's journey

in the literature line. Thousands of people have heard the message of the second coming of Christ through his efforts, and we have no doubt that many will be saved in God's kingdom as a result of his work.

Death has also visited our school, taking away one of our boys. He died of acute pneumonia, September 28th. "Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth; yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them." G. G. LOWRY.

“When Ye Pray”

The Apostle Paul instructed the Corinthians: “Let all things be done decently and in order.” It seems to the writer that this instruction is necessary for the churches at the present time in regard to our attitude in public prayer. A glance over one of our companies knelt in prayer is enough to astonish a heathen—as it often has—or those from other churches more ceremonially inclined.

The attitudes assumed are many times indecorous, to say nothing of reverence. Some kneel on one knee; others, for lack of room, crouch; some kneel toward the one who is leading the service; others turn and put their faces in the seat of their pew or chair. In fact, a congregation supposed to be in the presence of God, appears more like people thrown down by an earthquake.

There are records in the Bible of people standing, kneeling on *both knees*, and even lying prostrate while in prayer; but nowhere do we find an example of the irreverent attitudes often seen in our churches.

Were we in the presence of the King of England, would we kneel and put our face in a chair bottom or crouch on our heels? While in the house of God, we believe ourselves to be in the presence of the Lord of heaven and earth. Shall we not assume as reverent, graceful and becoming attitudes, and be as concerted in our movements before the Omnipotent as before an earthly potentate?

It has been my privilege to see several of those who have grown old in this Message and who are men of prevailing prayer. I have noted their attitude while praying in public, and they have always knelt on both knees, turned their faces heavenward, speaking in clear, audible tones. Are we praying to God or just for the benefit of ourselves when we hide our faces in our hands or the back of the pew and mumble

out words so that only our immediate neighbours can hear?

Is it not time to correct wrong impressions among those who are coming to us from heathenism and teach them correct postures in their worship of the true God? Shall we fall behind the Mohammedan in graceful and reverent attitudes while at worship? Have we not in an attempt to avoid ceremonialism become deeper in the mire on the other side?



A careful study of the sanctuary and temple service shows that God desires everything done in order. Everything connected with the heavenly court moves in unison. Every star of the universe moves in its majestic orbit without the loss or the gain of a second. All are in harmony; but sinful man is not. Shall we not bring heaven a little nearer earth by harmony in our worship of the Unseen?

How much confusion could be avoided by all simply and quietly kneeling *forward* in prayer, resting, if necessary, their hands on the back of the seat in front. Under present circumstances, we see some kneeling forward, some turning about with their backs to the pulpit, and perhaps finding themselves face to face with those who feel it right to kneel forwards. In order to avoid

such unpleasant situations, the aisles become blocked, chairs, if used, are misplaced, and it is some time before the one praying can be heard.

It has always been a source of wonder to the writer why people turn their backs to the pulpit. Under no other circumstances is such a thing done. Why, in public worship? Can we imagine a company of

martyrs meeting their death in the arenas of Rome with their faces all turned from the noble patriarch who was exhorting them to be strong unto death and praying to God for them and their enemies?

Our converts, our children, those of other denominations and creeds, are looking to us for the right way. How are we representing our religion to them? *A Subscriber.*

A Bit of History

Eleven years ago, Brother Jasper Wayne of Iowa, U. S. A., took fifty copies of the Capital and Labour American *Signs of the Times* and distributed them among his friends, and received therefor Rs. 14-1-0. This was less than five annas each, but fifty more copies having come into his hands in a mysterious manner, he decided to go out with them also and ask for larger contributions. For the first one, the man interviewed handed him all the money he had in his pocket—eighteen cents (nine annas). But when he had finished with these he had a total sum of Rs. 81-4 for the one hundred papers he had used.

The next year, 1907, he ordered four hundred of the same special issue of the *Signs*, and his persistent labours brought in returns of Rs. 312-8. The experience of this consecrated worker having come to the notice of the General Conference brethren, they asked him to come to Washington and tell them of his plan, with the result that in 1908, the *Review and Herald* published our first Harvest Ingathering special, which brought into the treasury the sum of Rs. 44,177-6-2. This has increased year by year until nearly ten and a half lakhs of rupees have been realized for missions during the eight years in which special Ingathering numbers have been issued. The little stream of offerings has become a mighty river whose sources now embrace most of the countries under the control of the Foreign Mission Board.

As far as we know, India took part for the first time three years ago. Our position in one of the mission fields of the world neutralizes an appeal for funds for evangelical propaganda. Our medical work, however, provides a solid foundation for appeal to every one in India, whether Indian or European. The result of the partial attempt of last year in this direction proves the wisdom of a strong campaign at each opportunity in the future. Had all the papers received last year been disposed of in as profitable manner as those used by Sisters Burroway and Leech, the results would have been astonishing. But we *have* the opportunity this year to make up for lost time.

With the exception of one field, all have a local enterprise to encourage and support. Each institution is located in territory not overlapped by the medical efforts of any other denomination. Their reputation is established in each instance. Growing patronage and limited facilities demand our help, especially in view of curtailment of mission funds for the coming year.

The Harvest Ingathering *Watchman* which has just come will be a "pull" in every instance on the purse strings of the recipient. It ranks among the best specials which have been published. We are glad to note that India occupies a prominent place throughout. In fact, it is the best number for *our* use that has ever been issued. With such a good medium of

solicitation we ought to get ten or twenty times the amount we did last year.

We are preparing a little folder which will give illustrations of the institutions for which we shall solicit; and a few words of introduction, stating the purpose and the use of all funds which may be given, and perhaps also a short paragraph describing each object. We hope to have these ready in time for the commencement of the campaign this fall. They will make an introduction much easier and will also be convenient for enclosing with copies which may be sent by mail.

We have the need before us which is known to all; we have some good objects for all the funds we can raise; we have the medium for our appeal in the 3,000 specials

to hand; we have the constituency in India to use them all to good advantage. Now is the time to use all these opportunities.

Let us rally to these various enterprises, brethren and sisters, and work while we have such a marked period of calm in our portion of the field. God has been very merciful in sparing us the horrors of war thus far. We have a mighty task before us yet; and God is giving us peace so we may accomplish it. The shades of earth's last night of anguish may soon close over us—how soon none can tell.

“Go, labour on, while yet 'tis day;

The world's dark night is hastening on;
Speed, speed thy work—cast sloth away!

It is not thus that souls are won.”

R. B.

The Sabbath School Lessons

Mrs. Flora L. Plummer, the Secretary of the General Conference Sabbath School Department, has sent the following information regarding the Sabbath School lessons:—

“Beginning with 1918, our Junior lessons, and from that grade down to the Kindergarten, will all be on Old Testament History, beginning with the book of Genesis. We will continue this study for two years, taking up a very systematic outline of Bible History from the Old Testament standpoint.

“Our Senior lessons for two years are to be based upon different topics. We are to have a regular topical study of the many important phases of our message.”

We have already begun the lessons on the topical studies, and the Junior and and Primary lessons on the Old Testament will soon begin. The times in which we are living urge us to the faithful daily study of the Sabbath School lesson:

MRS. J. F. BLUE.

Here and There

Born, September 30, 1917, to Mr. and Mrs. H. G. Woodward, a son.

Born, October 10, 1917, to Jahan and Jane Singh, a girl.

Pastors DeVinney and Fletcher paid a short visit to Lucknow the third week of October.

Among recent visitors at the “Office” were Miss Jones and Brother and Sister Reagan.

Brother Mookerjee is convalescing in Mussooree from his severe attack of enteric.

Brother Mead and family are at present on hill leave. We are sorry to learn that Sister Mead's health is still indifferent.

The following was received by the Tract Society not long ago.

“Will you kindly send me a copy of your catalogue of books relating to the Second Advent of Christ? I have been much interested in some of your tracts which were passed to me by a friend, and should like to read some more.” How many others might be reached in the same way! Where are the tract distributors?

A letter from Brother Carrott announces the death of his brother at the front. Shall we not remember those of our TIDINGS family whose loved ones are being taken by this cruel war?

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While in Lucknow for his first year Hindi examination, Brother Mattison had the misfortune to fall and dislocate his shoulder.

We deeply regret to announce the departure of Brother A. W. Knight from Calcutta for Australia on October 22nd. Brother Knight has been in poor health for some months and a change has been imperative. Our prayers will follow him for a speedy recovery.

Pastor Fulton arrived in Lucknow the 23rd of October and left the following day for Mussooree.

By foreign post comes the word that Sister H. R. Salisbury is taking rest and treatment in Melrose Sanitarium, U. S. A.

The first Ingathering *Watchman* used in Burma this year brought Rs 10 donations and three yearly subscriptions for our papers.

The Editor of *Signs* desires to thank all who so kindly sent in their recommendations, and suggestions for the coming year. Some of these have been used in the last number of TIDINGS and all the rest have been carefully filed for reference. Twelve of the best writers among our brethren in India have volunteered to contribute articles for 1918. A feast of good reading is in store for the coming numbers.

The total number of the Bengali, Hindi and Urdu magazines for the months of November and December approaches very near to 20,000. Our presses have been very busy lately, and the volume of work is rapidly increasing.

Do not fail to read the good report of the Burma meeting and note the good work being done in that field.

Important Notice

Will all Mission workers kindly note that the Treasury cannot undertake to send remittances to strange addresses in response to telegraphic requests. Workers out travelling should either send their requests for money by mail, or should arrange for remittances to be sent to recognised Mission addresses. A strict adherence to this arrangement is essential for the prevention of fraud.

A. H. WILLIAMS,
Treasurer