

NORTH MICHIGAN CONFERENCE

NEWS SHEET

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THE 1907 RELIGIOUS LIBERTY COLLECTION.

Sabbath, February 2.

The annual collection for the Religious Liberty Department, appointed by the General Conference Committee will be taken this year on Sabbath, February second.

It will be remembered that this is the only general collection which is taken for the support of this important line of work, and furthermore, the department has no other resources by which to carry on its work. Hence it is necessary that this collection should be a liberal one.

There has never been a time in the history of our work when the demands were so great upon us to exert our very best efforts in laboring and sacrificing for the cause of religious liberty as now, for the enemy was never so active in seeking to deprive men of the exercise of the rights of conscience as now.

Intelligence has just been received that twelve hundred persons had been summoned to court in the city of Boston for the violation of the New England Sunday law. A Sunday closing crusade is also on in Willimantic, Conn., and in California a desperate effort is being put forth to secure a change in the State constitution which will provide for a Sunday law in that State. So the battle is on in many places throughout the country.

The latest news which shows a little of the fruitage of what this movement means is the arrest of three of our own people in Spartansburg, South Carolina. Their trial was appointed for January 10.

It should not be forgotten that there is also a Sunday bill pending in Congress, the outcome of which no one can say. Shall we not willingly sacrifice of our substance in helping stay the relentless and fearful oncoming tide of intolerance and persecution which will soon overtake us by enlightening the honest ones?

All collections should be sent through the regular channels.

K. C. Russell.

CHURCH WORK

What can I do to help spread the Third Angel's Message in the earth? This question comes very often. It is a proper question in this luke-warm age of the church and when one finds him or herself arousing to the situation "something to do" is the cry. There is much to do and every individual will find plenty to do if they begin at home and do a thorough work.

We are told that the end is right upon us and we must work for the perishing. This expression often causes people to do the very thing the fellow did whose head was bumped by putting it out of a car window when the conductor called out, "Look out! the train is passing over a covered bridge." The place to begin work is in our home, our church. When this work is done in the right way our children will respond to the call and gladly accept this truth.

If we look on and do nothing for the children and youth in our ranks and they are lost we must answer for their loss. We are not to consider what we possess as tho it were our own but we should dedicate it to God by remembering the helpless and the stranger.

There is a great responsibility resting upon the officers of the church to-day. The elder must be a praying man and thoroughly in earnest. His eye must follow the members of the church. The children in the homes of his church claim his attention. If any are indifferent to the welfare of their children he should try and persuade them to

put forth a more earnest effort. We have come to the time when the elder of each church must promote the church school. If he is neutral or against this work being done he is not the man for the place. This is strong language but we are so near the end we must speak of the qualifications of the saints in plain language.

As I go to the churches and visit the people of our conference I am surprised to find so many who say that they love the Lord and His cause and are willing to lay down their lives for the cause and still will not pay one cent to help support the church school. Some will not even send their children. What can such be thinking of? A more straight forward testimony was never sent to the people of Israel than the following to us:

"The mind will be of the same character as that upon which it feeds, the harvest of the same nature as the seed sown. Do not these facts sufficiently show the necessity of guarding from the earliest years the education of the youth?"

"To parents He sends the warning cry, Gather your children into your own houses; gather them away from those who are disregarding the commandments of God, who are teaching and practicing evil. Get out of the large cities as fast as possible."

"The work that lies nearest to our church members is to become interested in our youth, with kindness, patience, and tenderness giving them line upon line, precept upon precept. O, where are the fathers and mothers in Israel?"

"Wherever there are a few Sabbath-keepers, the parents should unite in providing a place for a day-school where their children and youth can be instructed."

"But some cannot send their children away from home to be educated. In such cases, parents should endeavor to employ an exemplary religious teacher, who will feel it a pleasure to work for the Master in any capacity, and be willing to cultivate any part of the Lord's vineyard."

"In some countries parents are compelled by law to send their children to school. In these countries, in localities where there is a church, schools should be established, if there are no more than six children to attend."

Do I still hear you say, What shall I do? If so, I answer, Go to the church treasurer and pay your tithes and then according to your ability give for the support of your church school. That may be little or may be much but you and the Lord know if it is really all you can do.

"Let all share the expense. Let the church see that those who ought to receive its benefits are attending the school. Poor families should be assisted. We cannot call ourselves true missionaries if we neglect those at our very doors, who are at the most critical age, and who need our aid to secure knowledge and experience that will fit them for the service of God."

If any object to letting those who are poor attend because they do not pay when the school is already provided for I trust you will read the last quotation over again for it may change your mind.

God is about to do a great work in the earth and can we not all so relate ourselves to Him and His cause that a blessing may be poured out on us?

S. E. Wight.

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A returned missionary, of long experience and conservative judgment, was asked, "What do you believe to be the greatest single obstacle to the speedy evangelization of the world? After a moment's pause he replied: "I have no hesitation in saying that the greatest single obstacle to the speedy evangelization of the world is to be found in the home church, in the hearts of individuals Christians who are prejudiced or indifferent because of ignorance concerning the missionary movements of the day" Did he answer right?

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"No man can stop the hands of God's clock. Some present truth will always stir the world."

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"Mistakes will often be made but every error lies close beside the truth."

It is indeed gratifying to see how kindly so many take to the cash system just adopted by the Conference. Until it is thoroughly understood some will suffer inconvenience.

There are a few personal accounts that have run for a long time. Brethren and sisters, can you not send in a part of your account. If you can send a dollar or two each month it would be encouraging. When it runs year after year and not a cent comes in it stimulates the Auditor to say that it should go to the loss account.

There are a few churches which have accounts ranging from ten to sixty dollars which have been carried for two or three years. Will not the members of these churches devise some plan to pay their accounts at an early date?

THE UNSPEAKABLE GIFT.

"Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift." James 1:17. Giving is divine. It is the delight of our blessed heavenly Father. It is the joy of our elder brother Jesus. It is the glory of the angels. God gave His Son. Christ gave His life. The one business of the angels is to minister, to give their service, to the other creatures in God's great universe.

All that He has made in nature demonstrates that the principle of giving is the very essence of divinity. The sun gives its light. The earth brings forth and gives for the service of man her fruit. The flowers breathe out their perfume. The clouds send forth the rain. The birds give their free concerts joyously, cheerfully. All nature gives.

See that mountain stream, sparkling, living, clear, giving life to that which grows upon its banks, freshness, health, and joy to the dumb creatures which God has made, and to man, their king. The mountain stream comes from above. It flows downward to man. Every good gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights.

See that pool, full of death, decay, and poison. Why?-- It receives; it does not flow forth. There is no outlet. It does not give. That which ceases to give dies.

Dear brother, dear sister, if you would live, if you would be a blessing, if you would be like God, and a part of his plan, give freely; give your best; give that which costs a sacrifice. You are sowing costly, precious seed. What a harvest of joy will return to you! How much blessing we lose when we fail to give! "He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully."

J. S. Washburn.

REPORT OF THE WEEK OF PRAYER AT MENOMINEE.

It is not my intention to enter into an elaborate report of this important annual meeting in the church of Menominee relative to all of our experiences during that time but thinking that the readers of the NEWS SHEET might be interested to read about some of our experiences, I submit the following:

We had been having some excellent meetings just prior to the week of prayer both in our Sabbath services and prayer meetings. We had just been studying and comparing the "former and latter rain" of the Holy Spirit and the importance of a new consecration on our part so that the Lord could use at this time to hasten the coming of the Lord.

When the REVIEW came freighted with messages from the servants of the Lord on the same line of thought so much more extensive our hearts were enlarged and we praised the Lord very much indeed. I am glad to say that some started out to serve the Lord for the first time while others who had really felt discouraged were reclaimed and they have renewed their covenant with the Lord. But others were not especially moved.

Now it is quite evident that the Lord was moving upon some hearts for one young man and wife consecrated themselves more fully to the Lord and he remarked that he was dissatisfied to work in the broom factory longer and that he had made up his mind that he would, if the Lord should open the way, enter the ministry again as he felt that the Lord had something for him to do in that line. Quite a number of the young people took a part in our services. May the Lord bless our young people is my prayer.

We are cherishing fond hopes of good results from the church school work here

among us. May the Lord greatly bless this important branch of the work.

In closing I wish to say on behalf of the Menominee church that we want to do our part as best we can under the circumstances in which we are placed, for the success of the work in this conference. We are sorry that we have done so little and regret that we cannot do more. But, brethren and sister, we can say that our hearts are with you in this grand and glorious cause and by the help of the Lord we will endeavor to stand by the work and workers in this conference to advance His cause as well as to help outside of the conference. May the Lord hasten on the glad day when the world will be lighted with the light of this message.

Our plan is, by the help of the Lord, to get some truth in every family before this year shall close. Let us have your prayers for a successful campaign.

M. W. Lewis.

SMALL EFFORTS AND GREAT RESULTS.

The smallest effort put forth in the service of God to bring the light of truth to others is not in vain as will be seen by the following experience:

A gentleman in San Jose, Cal., bought a copy of the SIGNS on the street and took it home and studied it with his family and as a result they embraced the truth and were baptized shortly afterward and are now endeavoring to reach others with the message.

Perhaps the one who sold this paper never will know the result in this world of the small effort made to scatter the truth but God watered the seed sown. He tells us in Psalms that "He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him", so we see that if we do what we can to scatter the seed, there will be no doubt but what souls will be saved as a result.

Many are the instances where a single paper or tract or book has brought into the faith and shall we not as a people do more to reach others with the precious literature? God is calling upon people to-day to go from house to house with the warning message and we are glad that some are hearing this call and are planning to enter the canvassing work but there is room for many more for the Lord has said, that, "where there is one canvasser in the field there should be a hundred."

If this were so in our Conference how quickly could every soul be reached and the work finished: Who will answer this call by saying, "Here am I, send me."

H. W. Johnson.

NOTICE

The Tract Society has in stock the following slightly damaged books that will be sent postpaid to any desiring them, at these reduced figures for cash:

- 1 Great Controversy, library, \$1.95
- 1 Patriarchs and Prophets, cloth, \$1.45
- 10 Christ's Object Lessons, 90¢ each.
- 1 Eternity Great Controversy, cloth, \$1.47
- 1 French Great Controversy, library, \$1.78
- 5 Sunshine at Home, 60¢ each.
- 1 Prophecies of Jesus, marble, \$1.40

ATTENTION:

Owing to the increase in price on Cooking Oil the Tract Society will be obliged to charge 85¢ a gallon for cooking oil in five and ten gallon lots until further notice.

"You may know what God thinks of a man's religion when you know what his children think."

RELIGIOUS LIBERTY COLLECTION.

Sabbath, February 2nd, has been set apart for the collection of a fund to help forward this line of work by the General Conference. Every church should keep this in mind for the Religious Liberty Bureau is in need of funds to do the work now called upon to do. Doubtless all the readers of the NEWS SHEET are aware of our brethren in the Southern states being arrested for working on Sunday.

The money collected on that day does not go for our local work. It is sent to the General Conference. In our own field work is being done to enlighten the people. The three conferences of Michigan have united in sending the magazine LIBERTY to all the senators and the officers of the W. C. T. U. in the state.

This is a favorable time to take orders for the magazine LIBERTY. It is only twenty-five cents for one year. We can secure many subscribers. It is time for us to enlighten the people regarding the truth of this question so agitating the minds of the people.

S. E. Wight.

WILDWOOD CHURCH SCHOOL

We have been having school now for over two months. We have only five scholars. They are doing nicely in their work. We have just lately organized a children's society, as there are no older ones. So far, they have done nicely.

Asking an interest in all your prayers for our work, I will close.

Sarah Craig.

NEWS AND NOTES.

The subscriptions on the NEWS SHEET are continuing to come here. Hope before the month closes there will not be a family in the conference who are not taking the paper.

Have you read Sister White's article on the Review and Herald of Jan. 17th, entitled, "Guts and Offerings?"

Miss Sadie Hogan of Calumet has gone to Cedar Lake to attend school.

Elder W. R. Matthews met with the Gaylord church Sabbath and Sunday, Jan. 12 and 13.

We hope that no church will fail to send a report of the Young People's Day program to Sister Myrta M. Kellogg, Le Roy, Mich.

It is hoped that everyone will keep in mind the \$150,000 Fund. We hope to see it grow rapidly.

Brother W. J. Thomas of Brutus spent Sabbath at Petoskey. When he left he took a supply of books and tracts with him to sell.

Elder Geo. G. Johnson at the present time is working in Menominee among the Swedish people.

Our Educational Secretary greatly appreciates the promptness of the Sabbath-school Secretaries in reporting for the past quarter. All but three reports are in.

If everyone who is interested in the sale of our literature would get a copy of the Proceedings of the Publishers' Convention they would find it profitable reading. It is only 10¢ at the Tract Society.

How are you spending the long evenings? Very many are working hard. Can we not spend an hour each week giving some family a Bible Reading or selling a tract, paper, or book?

A number of Young People's Secretaries have failed to report. Please do so as soon as possible.

At the last meeting of the Conference Committee it was decided to hold the Northern camp-meeting in two different places, one for the Swedish people in the most central place for them, and one for the English in the most central place for them. In this way it is hoped a large number of people can attend. These meetings will be held the last of the month of June. Begin to get ready for this meeting.

We received word that Elder O. Montgomery expected to hold baptism in the Baptist church at Laurium last Sabbath.

Those who are thinking of entering the canvassing work should remember that the Colporters' Institute will be held April 19th to May 1, 1907, and should plan to attend the same.

We wish that the officers in the churches and Sabbath-schools would note the following. All Sabbath-school and Young People's Society reports should be sent to Myrta M. Kellogg, Le Roy, Mich. All contributions as well as money and orders for goods should be sent to the N. Mich. Tract Society, Petoskey, Mich. Clerk's reports should not be sent to Sister Kellogg but to the conference headquarters.

This is the week that the young people are to sell a two dollar book for the cause of God. How many will try? God will bless your effort. When the week has closed will the Book of Record show your effort to succeed?

Several inquiries have come to us from different parts of the conference in regard to the Menominee church. We are glad to answer that the Menominee church is now saved to the denomination. The debt now standing against the church is three hundred dollars. We certainly ought to be very grateful to the brethren in the other conferences for their help in saving this property to the cause of God. The brethren are planning to reduce this debt one hundred dollars this coming spring and they will not be the least offended if anyone should send them something towards this because they are struggling under great difficulties.

A Brother from Clare writes us as follows: "We have arranged for a place of meeting in a nice room down town which we are fitting up expressly for that purpose, and we will be glad to have you send us a Bible worker as soon as possible, and in case you cannot spare a worker we could use a minister to good advantage, but the needs of this town are a good bit of house to house work. A Bible worker and canvasser could do well here I am sure. We are getting woke up to the times a little and I am very anxious of having the good work continue."

We note that some have been sending their contributions directly to the General Conference. We wish that all would send their money through the regular channel because when it is not it is apt to be credited to some other conference. You will notice by the report in the REVIEW that all money sent in on the \$150,000 Fund is credited to the conferences and not to individuals.

Wanted: A Seventh-day Adventist man to work next summer. He will be wanted from the 1st of April to about the 1st of October. Address L. H. Priest, Nessen City, Mich., R. F. D. 1, Box 79.

Meetings are being held in the Petoskey church Sunday evenings with a fair attendance. The interest is not great but sufficient to warrant the continuance of the meetings. One meeting each week is held at Harbor Springs. There is very little interest in that place if we consider numbers but we hope that some will take their stand there for the Sabbath.

True Educational Reader No. 2 now ready. Other numbers will follow soon.