

Christmas Is Coming!

ELLEN G. WHITE



"Christmas is coming," is the note that is sounded throughout our world from east to west and from north to south. With youth, those of mature age, and even the aged; it is a period of general rejoicing; of great gladness. But what is Christmas, that it should demand so much attention? This day has been made much of for centuries. It is accepted by the unbelieving world, and by the Christian world generally, as the day on which Christ was born. When the world at large celebrate the day, they show no honor to Christ. They refuse to acknowledge Him as their Saviour, to honor Him by willing obedience to His service. They show preference to the day, but none to the One for whom the day is celebrated, Jesus Christ.

CHRIST'S BIRTHDAY

The twenty-fifth of December is supposed to be the day of the birth of Jesus Christ, and its observance has become customary and popular. But yet there is no certainty that we are keeping the veritable day of our Saviour's birth. History gives us no certain assurance of this. The Bible does not give us the precise time. Had the Lord deemed this knowledge essential to our salvation, He would have spoken through His prophets and apostles, that we might know all about the matter. . .

There is no divine sanctity resting upon the twenty-fifth of December; and it is not pleasing to God that anything that concerns the salvation of man through the infinite sacrifice made for them, should be so sadly perverted from its professed design. Christ should be the supreme object; but as Christmas has been observed, the glory is turned from Him to mortal man, whose sinful, defective character made it necessary for Him to come to our world.

Jesus, the Majesty of heaven, the royal King of heaven, laid aside His royalty, left His throne of glory, His high command, and came into our world to bring to fallen man, weakened in moral power, and corrupted by sin, aid divine. He clothed His divinity with humanity, that He might reach to the very depths of human woe and misery, to lift up fallen man. By taking upon Himself man's nature, He raised humanity in the scale of moral value with God. These great themes are almost too high, too deep, too infinite, for the comprehension of finite minds.

GIFTS FOR GOD'S CAUSE

Parents should keep these things before their children, and instruct them, line upon line, precept upon precept, in their obligation to God—not their obligation to each other, to honor and glorify one another by gifts and offerings. But they should be taught that Jesus is the world's Redeemer, the object of thought, of painstaking effort; that His work is the grand theme which should engage their attention; that they should bring to Him their gifts and offerings, Thus did the wise men and the shepherds.

As the twenth-fifth day of December is observed to commemorate the birth of Christ, as the children have been instructed by precept and example that this was indeed a day of gladness and rejoicing, you will find it a difficult matter to pass over this period withou giving it some attention. It can be made to serve a very good purpose.

The youth should be treated very carefully. They should not be left on Christmas to find thier own amusement in vanity and pleasureseeking, in amusements which will be detrimental to their spirituality. Parents can control his matter by turning the minds and the offerings of their children to God and His cause and the salvation of souls.

The desire for amusement, instead of being quenched and arbitrarily ruled down, should be controlled and directed by painstaking effort upon the part of the parents. Their desire to make gifts may be turned into pure and holy channels, and made to result in good to our fellowmen by supplying the treasury in the great, grand work for which Christ came into our world. Selfdenial and self-sacrifice marked His course of action. Let it mark ours who profess to love Jesus; because in Him is centered our hope of eternal life.

Youth cannot be made as sedate and grave as old age, the child as sober as the sire. While sinful amusements are condemned, as they should be, let parents, teachers, and guardians of youth provide in their stead innocent pleasures, which shall not taint or corrupt the morals. Do not bind down the young to rigid rules and restraints that will lead them to feel themselves oppressed and to break over and rush into paths of folly and destruction. With a firm, kindly, considerate hand, hold the lines of government, guiding and controlling their minds and purposes, yet so gently, so wisely, so lovingly, that they still know that you have their best good in view. . .

THE EVERGREEN EMBLEM

On Christmas, so soon to come, let not the parents take the position that an evergreen placed in the church for the amusement of the Sabbath-school scholars is a sin; for it may be made a great blessing. Keep before their minds benevolent objects. In no case should mere amusement be the object of these gatherings. While there may be some who will turn these occasions into seasons of careless levity, and whose minds will not receive the divine impress, to other minds and characters these seasons will be highly beneficial, I am fully satisfied that innocent substitutes can be devised for many gatherings that demoralize,

Christmas is coming. May you all have wisdom to make it a precious season. Let the older church members unite, heart and soul, with their children in this innocent amusement and recreation, in devising ways and means to show true respect to Jesus by bringing to Him gifts and offerings. Let every one remember the claims of God. His cause cannot go forward without your aid. Let the gifts you have usually bestowed upon one another be placed in the Lord's treasury . . . In every church let your smaller offerings be placed upon your Christmas tree. Let the precious emblem, "ever greens," suggest the holy work of God and His beneficence to us; and the loving heartwork will be to save other souls who are in darkness. Let your works be in accordance with your faith. . .

Let there be recorded in the heavenly books such a Christmas as has never yet been seen, because of the donations which shall be given for the sustaining of the work of God and the upbuilding of His kingdom. -Review and Herald, December 9, 1884

HOLIDAY GIFTS

The holiday season is fast approaching with its interchange of gifts, and old and young are intently studying what they can bestow upon their friends as a token of affectionate remembrance. It pleasant to receive a gift, however small, from those we love. It is an assurance that we are not forgotten, and seems to bind us to them a little closer.

Brethren and sisters, while you are devising gifts for one another, I would remind you of our heavenly Friend, lest you should be unmindful of His claims. Will He not be pleased if we show that we have not for-

gotten Him? Jesus, the Prince of Life, gave all to bring salvation within our reach. .

It is through Christ that we receive every blessing . . . Shall not our heavenly Benefactor share in the tokens of our gratitude and love? Come, brethren and sisters, come with your children, even the babes in your arms, and bring your offerings to God according to your ability. Make melody to Him in your hearts, and let His praise be upon your

While urging upon all the duty of first bringing their offerings to God, I would not wholly condemn the practice of making Christmas and New Year's gifts to our friends. It is right to bestow upon one another tokens of love and remembrance if we do not in this forget God, our best Friend, We should make our gifts such as will prove a real benefit to the receiver .- Ibid., December 26, 1882,



December 14-When Does God Not Forgive?

December 21-So the Baby Came!

NORTHERN UNION OUTLOOK

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Editor Assistant Editor

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SOUTH DAKOTA

Conference of Seventh-day Adventists
217 North Grand
Pierre, South Dakota 57501
F. W. Bieber, President
R. W. Wilmot, Secretary
Make wills and legacies to
South Dakota Conference Association
of Seventh-day Adventists

Three Senior Citizens and Ingathering

Last week I helped the Rapid City church for two nights in the Ingathering caroling program. It was a thrill to see the large number who were participating and the good spirit of the members.

We always hope and pray that every member who is physically able will do his part in an active way to assist during Ingathering. Let me tell you what three Rapid City members are doing who would have every right to stay home and not actively help.

Mrs. Rachel Emerick is eightysix years old. She is also blind. (Do your excuses sound a little lame?) The other night she was out with the singing band for a full three hours. Besides that she accepted other territory and worked it going from door to door. (Some should actually feel ashamed.)

Mrs. Nancy Rollins is past eighty. She has a foot that gets quite sore when she walks on it but she is always determined to do the Lord's work. She was out with Pastor Mansker making business calls. I understand that her only complaint was that she couldn't do more.

Leonard Olson has Parkinson's disease. He lost his speech from an operation on the brain to stop his hands from shaking. Leonard looses his balance easily and takes a good many nasty falls but he has a spirit that won't quit. As a former home builder he has many business friends in Rapid City. It has been my joy to go with Leonard for a number of years to contact these friends during the Ingathering crusade. You never get a complaint from Leonard; only a big smile.

God appreciates and notices the faithfulness of our members as they fill their place in His vineyard, "He who has 'appointed to every man his work' according to his ability, will never let the faithful performance of duty go unrewarded. Every act of loyalty and faith will be crowned with special tokens of God's favor and approbation. To every worker is given the promise, 'He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him.' " 5T395

J. B. GRAY Lay Activities Secretary

Pierre Church Hosts Literature Evangelist Rally

On Sabbath, November 22, The Pierre church was privileged to be host for a South Dakota literature evangelist rally. Those present for the occasion were John Kerbs, Joseph Ring, Northern Union Publishing Secretary; Ray Flemmer, Gemmie Baker, Milbert Guthmiller, Edwin Johnson, and Ernest Rueb.

Elder Kerbs, from Union College, recently served as a publishing secretary in Africa. He started in the Lord's work as a regular literature



Literature evangelists lay plans for sales and souls. (I to r) Edwin Johnson, Ray Flemmer, Milbert Guthmiller, John Kerbs, Gemmie Baker, and Joe Ring. Ernest Rueb is not pictured.

evangelist in a California conference. His inspiring message was filled with interesting colporteur experiences.

South Dakota publishing secretary, Ray Flemmer, reported \$50,000 in sales for the first eleven months of this year. He challenged South Dakota church members with the following words, "The Lord imparts a fitness for the work to every man and woman who will cooperate with divine power. All the requisite talent, courage, perseverance, faith, and tact will come as they put the armor on. A great work is to be done in our world, and human agencies will surely respond to the demand. The world must hear the warning. When the call comes, 'Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?' send back the answer clear and distinct, 'Here am I: send me!" Colporteur Ministry p. 14.

If YOU wish to enjoy the thrills of a full or part-time literature evangelist, contact your conference publishing secretary.

RAY FLEMMER Publishing Secretary

Western Dorcas Federation

The Western Dorcas Federation met in the Rapid City church Sunday, November 9, with Elder Dittberner from the Northern Union as guest speaker.

S. J. Elie of the Spearfish district pointed out some interesting lessons from the letter to Philemon as our devotional thought. Mrs. Barbara Gatewood of the Pine Ridge Mission brought us our message in song.

Betty Johnson, Federation president from Rapid City, was asked to continue in this office for the next term. Other officers elected were: vicepresident, Mrs. Jack Dyer of New

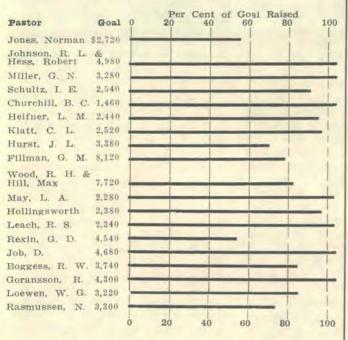


Many times the aged challenge the young. Mrs. Rachel Emerick, standing with Mrs. Mansker, eighty-six years old and blind, is happy for the opportunity to participate in the Ingathering Crusade.

INGATHERING REPORT TO DECEMBER 8- 1969

District Comparisons

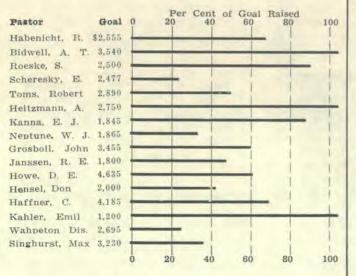
1970 IOWA INGATHERING



Conference Goal \$70,280.00

Total Received to Date \$65,724.32

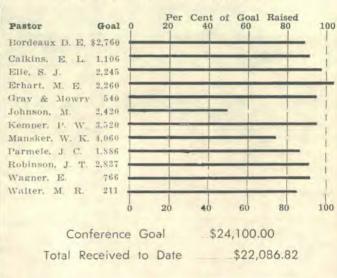
1970 NORTH DAKOTA INGATHERING



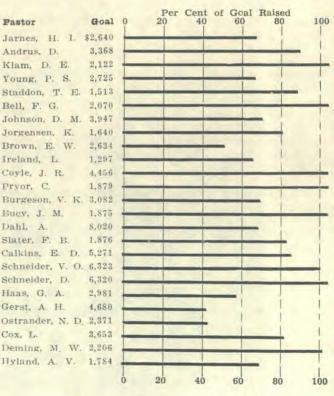
Conference Goal \$43,625.00

Total Received to Date \$27,692.95

1970 SOUTH DAKOTA INGATHERING



1970 MINNESOTA INGATHERING



Conference Goal \$81,050.00

Total Received to Date \$65,960.96

Underwood; secretary-treasurer, Mrs. Agnes Scott of Edgemont; Associate treasurer and secretary, Mrs. Clarence Jacobson of Spearfish; and Esther Larson of Rapid City was asked to be press secretary.

We extend our thanks and appreciation to those who have served in these offices in the preceding years. Especially, we want to thank Mrs. John Leui who has given us many years of faithful service as Federation secretary-treasurer.

The report from the Western federation is as follows:

Everyone present enjoyed potluck fellowship at the close of the meeting in the church basement.

ESTHER LARSON
Press secretary

Our Redfield School

About a mile out of the town of Redfield, in a quiet Adventist community near the location of old Plainview Academy, a small white building stands. This is the school where 8 young people attend and a faithful teacher, Mrs. Edith Harriott, conducts the daily program. The school is fairly new, is always neat and clean, plenty of light, with much to attract the visitor inside. Outside there is a generous supply of leaves about this time of the year. Located on the edge of a wooded grove, the school affords ample opportunity for eager children to manipulate the handle of a rake. This was the special activity on the day their conference superintendent visited the school.

Mrs. Edith Harriott, hospitalized for several days the first of October,



Chester Schurch of the Redfield school after a day of study and raking leaves.

is recovering very well and was back in the schoolroom the day after being released from hospital. She enjoys her work immensely and hardly ever misses a day of school. The children are learning well, and a strong JMV program is conducted each week preparing leaders for their church in just a few short years.

We salute our school in Redfield. The members of the church are to be commended for giving priority to their young people and Christian education.

L. J. PUMFORD Educational Superintendent

IOWA

Conference of Seventh-day Adventists
P. O. Box 1475 (540 42nd Street)
Des Moines, 50306
E. L. Marley, President
J. O. McLeod, Secretary

Make wills and legacies to lowa Seventh-day Adventist Association

A New Day

At the recent Fall Federation meeting in Waterloo the nominating committee started a new trend, Two men were elected as Federation officers.

Ted Butler of Waterloo was selected to be assistant secretary-treasurer. Jim Armstrong of Mason City is the new press secretary.

After this precedent-setting beginning, men were also elected to office in the next three Federation meetings.

Marley in the Fox's Den

One of the most popular radio talk shows in Des Moines is the Roy Fox show over WHO called "clear channel conversation." The show often gives listeners opportunities

Monday Morning Story Hour



Mrs. Gwenda Thomas, a member of the Cedar Rapids church, has been the leader of a community story hour in the litte town of Toddville near Cedar Rapids for over one year.

Several non-Adventist mothers have volunteered to assist in the weekly story time. It is conducted in a public community center.

It was unfortunate that a sudden flu epidemic kept ten to fifteen children from attending on the day the above picture was taken.



E. L. Marley and Roy Fox

to call on the telephone and ask questions of the Fox's guest.

In one of the programs not long ago Everett Marley, president of the Iowa Conference, was the guest. The listeners who called in asked the type of questions which gave Elder Marley excellent opportunity to give a favorable presentation of Seventhday Adventist's beliefs. One lady said that her child had died and some people told her the baby was in heaven. Others said it was in purgatory. She asked Elder Marley what S. D. A's believe. This gave him the opportunity to explain the state of the dead. Popular demand could get Elder Marley on a future program. Write the station,

Of Interest In Iowa

QUIET HOUR

Those with FM radios within the range of radio station KDMI-FM 97.3 m.c. will be happy to know that the Quiet Hour radio program is now being broadcast at 5:00 p.m. on Sundays.

The Voice of Prophecy has been continued on KDMI for another year, also at 6:30 p.m. week nights and 9:30 p.m. on Sunday.

HAWARDEN

Old postage stamps are being collected to help build a church in Denmark.

SIOUX CITY

Over \$100 came into the investment fund through a special investment sale held in the church fellowship hall,

MUSCATINE

Efficiency is the watchword at

Muscatine. The Ingathering goal, with a generous overflow, was accomplished in only one week. The nominating committee met only twice to finish the work of selecting 1970 church officers. In addition to selecting officers for the usual church offices, they nominated the following: flower committee, social committee, welcome committee, book display and sales committee, and armed forces secretary. They did not forget the Investment secretary and Vacation Bible School leader.

TOLEDO

Twelve pillows and slips, children's quilts, and four boxes of good clothing have been prepared to send to the Nevada depot.

Notice

The writer has just learned that R. W. Boggess and Craig Hollingsworth are starting a series of meetings in the Centerville, Iowa, church December 13. Anyone having friends or relatives in or near Centerville should send their names to Craig Hollingsworth, 518 E. Oak St., Centerville, Iowa, This would also apply to any other interested persons.

Let us pray that God will bless this meeting and that souls will be brought into a knowledge of truth. L. H. NETTEBURG

Notice

This is to inform you that there will be no Outlook on January 2, 1970.

MINNESOTA

Conference of Seventh-day Adventists
1100 Ford Road at Highway 12
Minnetonka, Minnesota 55343
Arthur Kiesz, President
H. W. Pritehard, Secretary
Make wills and legacies to
Minnesota Conference Association
of Seventh-day Adventists

Minnesota Book & Bible House

Open Every Sunday and Monday Night Until Christmas Hours:

Sunday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Wonderful family gift - Testimony Set \$19.95 Special (Check with your pastor for your own Testimony Countdown Program)

Now Available

New Reading Course Book Clubs Senior Sabbath School Program helps (Superintendents check with your Lay Activities Secretary to see if one has been ordered for your Sabbath School)

Still Available

Pecans—This year's crop - \$1.60 per pound.

Many gift items in addition to books. Give a book with every gift!



Mona Kay Elder

Sharing Her Faith

Mona Kay Elder, daughter of William Elder, Lay Activities Secretary of the Northern Union, recently shared her faith with a group of early teens at the Covenant Lutheran Church in Minneapolis. The youth asked such questions as:

Why don't you wear jewelry? Why don't you eat meat?

Why don't you go to shows?

Why do you go to church school? Why not go to heaven when you die?

Mona Kay was careful to give only Bible answers to these questions.

The pastor of the Lutheran church asked V. O. Schneider, pastor of the Minneapolis Northbrook church, for the name of a teenager who would be willing to share her faith with teenagers. Pastor Schneider recommended Mona Kay, She enjoyed doing it and did a fine job.

JACQUELYN SHAIN
Press Secretary

Stillwater Senior Citizens

The Stillwater Dorcas Health and Welfare Society and the Washington County Medical Auxiliary entertained the Senior Citizens Club of Stillwater Friday, November 14, at the Legion Hall, Stillwater. The Dorcas ladies, responsible for the program, sponsored the Choraliers from Maplewood Academy. The Medical Auxiliary ladies provided the lunch and decorations. Both groups supplied gifts for the specially-honored senior citizens.

Following is part of an excerpt appearing in the November 17 Stillwater Gazette, by the Senior Citizens Club reporter:

"The high point of the afternoon was the arrival of seventeen Choraliers from Maplewood Academy at Hutchinson, Minnesota. Led by choir director, Klaus Leukert, these 11th and 12th-graders gave a fine performance of vocal and instrumental music, some patriotic, some sentimental, and others sacred.

"Lyle Anderson, principal of the school, explained that the academy is a Seventh-day Adventist academy, organized in 1904 for the purpose of training young people to be good Christians and citizens of the United States. It is a nine-months school, regular high school curriculum, and accredited.

"The Choraliers joined the seniors for refreshments and before boarding the chartered bus to leave, they sang a song of thanks for the hospitality and the the pumpkin pie."

A number of people expressed appreciation for the program and for the opportunity of seeing young people "whose eyes and ears can be seen!" Another observation was that one could see the faith of these young people in their faces.

The Stillwater church expresses thanks to the Choraliers and their director, Klaus Leukert, and to Lyle Anderson, principal of Maplewood, for making this program possible.

Assisting with programs for the senior citizens is a regular project of the Stillwater Dorcas Health and Welfare Society, taking thier turn at least every two years.

Regular sponsors of Senior Cit-

izens expressed themselves as feeling that the Dorcas members have always cheerfully gone beyond the ordinary whenever asked to perform this community service,

IVA FLEMING PR Secretary

NORTH DAKOTA

Conference of Seventh-day Adventists
Box 1491
Jamestown, North Dakota 58401
W. H. Elder, President
Reuben Beck, Secretary
Make wills and legacies to
North Dakota Conference Association
of Seventh-day Adventists

Sheyenne River Academy Festival of Music

The Music Department of Sheyenne River Academy would like to invite the parents and friends to a Christmas Festival of Music the weekend of December 12-13. Beginning Friday evening, a carol sing and candlelight service is planned. Sabbath afternoon the seventy-voice chorus will perform Handel's Oratorio, The Messiah. This will feature student and faculty soloists. John Boyd will accompany the oratorio. Saturday evening the band and choir will bring a program entitled, "Christmas Around the World." Don't miss these important events at your academy.

Carol Sing and Candlelight
Service Fri., 8:00 P.M.
Handel's Messiah Sat., 3:30 P.M.
Band & Choir Secular
Concert Sat., 8:00 P.M.
LARRY KARPENKO, Chairman

Music Department



Larry Karpenko rehearses students for Messiah—Debbie Dahl, JoAnn Widicker, Jeanie Hooper, and Arlene Hammond.

ADVERTISEMENT

Advertisements and business notices are not solicited but are published as an accommodation and service to our readers. The right is reserved to reject any or all advertisements when space is short, and such advertisements as are acceptable should first be sent to the local conference office for approval of the officers and passed on by them to the conference office in Minneapolis. For each insertion the rate is five cents a word with a minimum of one dollar per insertion, cash to accompany the copy for the advertisement.

Wanted - experienced office help for the Home Health Education Service of the Northern Union Conference. Must be able to type. Contact R. W: Belmont, 400 North Lilac Drive, Minneapolis; Minnesota 55422. Phone 545-5443. x12-12-69

Public relations position in denominational employment for qualified individual. This salaried opportunity includes travel within your conference. Applications are now being considered for men and women between the ages of 28-55 years. Write for additional information, to Box 6097, Lincoln, Nebraska.

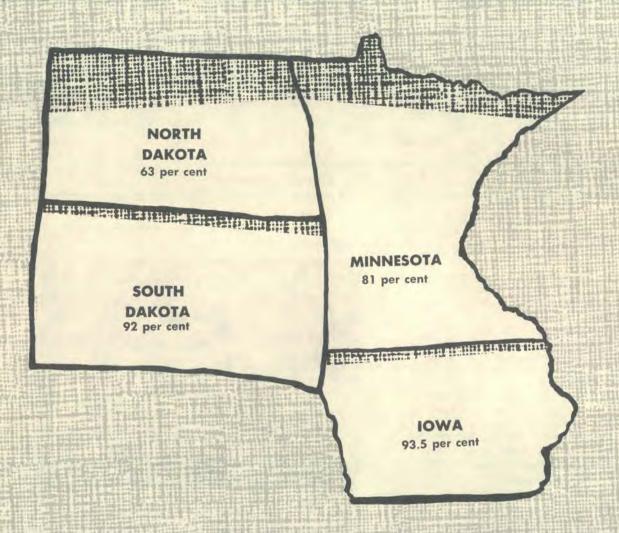
Christmas Music on Tape - Stereo-Mono. 7" reel, 8TC cartridge. 6OC Cassette. Part instrumental & vocal. 1 Sabbath sacred, 1 Xmas sacred, 1 Xmas secular. 3 of cartridge, Cassette or 7" reel, only \$12.00. Money-back guarantee. Order now from Educational Tapes. Box 656, Angwin, Calif. 94508. x12-12-69

Applications are now being accepted for finishers, inspectors, fork truck operators, and semi-skilled assembly workers. Equal opportunity employer. Harris Pine Mills, Box 549, Hutchinson. Minnesota 55350. x12-12-69

SUNSET CALENDAR

COLUMN CHAMILDING	
December 12	
Des Moines, Iowa	4:43
St. Paul, Minneasota	4:31
Bismarck, North Dakota	4:54
Huron, South Dakota	4:55
Rapid City, South Dakota	4:13
December 19	
Des Moines, Iowa	4:43
St. Paul, Minnesota	4:31
Bismarck, North Dakota	
Huron, South Dakota	4:55
Rapid City, South Dakota	4:13
All time given is CST	

1969-70 INGATHERING CAMPAIGN



INGATHERING REPORT TO DECEMBER 8 1969

We have figured that it takes an average of four calls to receive one dollar in Ingathering Offerings here in the Northern Union. This would mean that approximately 726,000 calls already have been made during this Indathering crusade. Think of it, almost three-quarter of a million homes with a current report of Gods work around the world.

Two of the conferences Iowa and South Dakota should exceed their basic goals by our next report, Minnesota and North Dakota could easily finish by December 20.

Lets press the battle until the task is finished.

W. H. ELDER, JR.

CONFERENCE	GOAL	TO DATE	PER CENT OF GOAL
lowa	\$ 70,280.00	\$ 65,724.32	93.5
Minnesota	\$ 81,050.00	\$ 65,960.96	81
North Dakota	\$ 43,625.00	\$ 27,692.95	63
South Dakota	\$ 24,100.00	\$ 22,086.82	92
Union	\$235,380.00	\$181,465.05	77