

PACIFIC UNION RECORDER



"Then They that Feared the Lord Spake Often One to Another."

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Pacific Union Conference of Seventh-Day Adventists

Educational and Young People's Work

Introduction

Acting as secretary of two departments in the union, I will embody both reports in one paper. These departments being so closely related to each other, they lend themselves easily to this combined presentation. The educational work being the older in time of organization, I will give it the first place in our consideration.

Educational Work

It may be of interest first to briefly review the history of the educational work in this union, before presenting the growth and development of the biennial period just closed.

It was my privilege to connect with the educational work on the Pacific Coast in the fall of 1899, having been chosen president of Healdsburg College, which was established in 1881. In addition to the duties of presidency of Healdsburg College, in the year 1900, I was appointed educational secretary of the Pacific Union Conference, whose territory then included nearly all west of the Rocky Mountains, taking in Walla Walla College, established in 1892.

Within the present territory of our union, three church schools were operating at the time I came to the Pacific Coast,—one at San Pasqual, one at Fresno, and one at Healdsburg in connection with the college. Seventy pupils were enrolled, which, added to those attending the college, gave a total enrollment in all the schools of the union of not more than two hundred and fifty students.

During the summer vacation of 1899, a summer school for teachers was conducted at Healdsburg College, there being about a dozen persons in attendance. The following fall more church schools (seven in all) were started, and at the summer school held in 1900 at San Jose, the first school

manual, containing a definite outline of study, and a list of text-books for use in the first eight grades, was prepared. As the years passed, the church schools increased in numbers, and San Fernando Academy was added to the list of schools, serving students of academic grade in Southern California and Arizona.

A larger school manual was prepared in 1903, which was used by all schools on the Pacific Coast. The same year a five-book series of readers was prepared, also a three-book series of Bible lessons, nature study books, and a text-book on the essentials of English. The school manual and the text-books mentioned were used largely on the Pacific Coast, but some of the schools east of the Rockies used them also, the teachers expressing their appreciation of this effort to provide text-books of our own. At the General Educational Convention held at Union College in 1906, our school manual and all the text-books prepared were adopted for general use in all our schools in the United States. After some additions and revisions, these books have now been used for seven or eight years by our schools, not only in the United States, but also in other English-speaking countries.

This brief sketch of educational history clearly indicates that our union has contributed something of real value to the cause of Christian education at home and abroad.

At the beginning of this biennial period according to the former educational secretary's report, we had in this union, sixty-four schools, 143 teachers, and 2,181 students, and paid in yearly salaries, \$54,200. The returns of 1914 indicate seventy-six schools, 140 teachers, 2,294 students—a gain of 12 schools (church schools), a loss of three teachers, and a gain of 131 students. The actual enrollment of pupils during 1914 was 2,620 instead of 2,294, which was the number

enrolled by December 31, 1914; while the former is the number enrolled June 1, 1915.

Statistics gathered November 1 of the present school year indicate seventy-eight schools, 145 teachers, 2,470 students. These figures, although taken two months earlier in the year, (November 1 instead of December 31), show a gain of 307 students during the biennial period, and a gain of 176 students this present year over last year. There is a gain of fourteen schools, all being church schools but one, and that is the Nevada Intermediate School, which was opened this fall. This school plant is valued at \$5,000. It consists of a school building with three large rooms, and a concrete basement under the entire house, and ten acres of land. The salaries paid to 145 teachers during the past year amounted to nearly \$55,000 (average monthly salary: Church school, \$40.00; academic, \$53.00; college, \$64.00). The total investment in all our schools amounts to about \$280,000.

It is encouraging to note that the enrollment in our academic and collegiate grades is rapidly increasing; as this means that many will soon complete courses of training and instruction that will enable them to enter the fields needing their services.

Pacific Union College has 160 in academic grades and ninety-five in collegiate grades. Lodi Academy has 105, and San Fernando Academy, 125 in academic grades. The Arizona and Nevada intermediate schools have twenty-five academic students carrying ninth and tenth grade subjects, and 127 students in various church schools are carrying ninth and tenth grade work in addition to the first eight grades. These figures give a total of 542 academic students, and ninety-five college students, or a total of 637 students above the church school grades.

The number enrolled in our church school grades November 1 of this year was 1,833, which when increased by 637 students of higher grade, gives a total of 2,470 students. This enrollment by the end of the year gives promise of reaching not less than 2,800 students of all grades. Surely from 250 students to 2,800 during the past fifteen years indicates a growth and development of the educational work in our union which should awaken in our hearts deep gratitude to God.

Not only has this union conference been thus blessed of God, but our sister union in the north has grown with similar rapidity. During my absence of nine years from this union, it was my privilege to see the number of students in the North Pacific Union Conference increase from a few hundred up to more than 2,000 students, which gives a total of between 4,500 to 5,000 of our children and youth west of the Rocky Mountains attending our own schools. This is about one-fourth of the number of students in the North American Division.

While numbers is a cause for gratitude, yet quality is more than quantity. In Gideon's army 300 men of quality outmeasured the quantity of an army of 30,000. The quality and character of our educational work demands our earnest, serious attention. The organization of the educational work in our union is well perfected. The plan of affiliation, and cooperation has removed the spirit of competition and rivalry that is bound to exist when each school is operating as an independent unit.

The proper education and training of our young men and women as teachers will greatly aid in perfecting the quality of the education given. The Normal Training Department of Pacific Union College is offering a thorough, practical normal training course, and all our teachers should have the advantage of such training. The college has conducted a summer school for the past two years, in order that those who cannot attend college during the school year may, during the summer session, have the advantages of normal instruction. Last summer 105 pupils enrolled in the summer school. About sixty of this number were present to learn better the art of teaching. The remainder took academic subjects for credit on regular courses offered by the college. It is to be regretted that a number of our church school teachers did not take advantage of this splendid opportunity to better qualify for their work. It is a heavy expense to maintain a strong summer school each year; and yet most of our colleges have arranged to have them a permanent feature of the college work. Every year there are teachers who connect with our schools who need the advantages offered by the summer school, and yet the expense involved in their operation is a serious

problem which has not yet been solved satisfactorily.

The Educational Council and Union Convention held at St. Helena, June 4 to 28, was a great uplift and encouragement to all our teachers who were in attendance. The questions considered and the actions passed will greatly aid in unifying the work as regards courses of study, standards of work, certification of teachers, examinations, use of text-books, keeping of records, organization of schools, duties of school boards, etc., etc.

While the spiritual interests are of first moment and importance, yet more attention must be given to the physical side of education. This includes not only the individual needs of the pupils physically, but also the sanitary and wholesome conditions which should prevail in the school building and about the premises. Proper lighting, attractive rooms, grounds,—all these and many other things are specially emphasized now in the public school system of education, and if given their proper attention by our educators in harmony with the instruction contained in the spirit of prophecy, it will be greatly to the advantage of the students, and cause our schools to be looked upon with less prejudice. This will help to lengthen the period during which we may carry on without interruptions our heaven-appointed work.

Worldly educators today are emphasizing many things which were emphasized years ago in the instruction given to our schools. Industrial education that fits our boys and girls to be practical and useful in life is now carried forward in many of the schools of the land. Industrial high schools and consolidated rural schools are being organized, that physical and intellectual effort may be combined in the education imparted.

A state university inspector of high schools visited Pacific Union College last spring, and then wrote me that he was astonished at the wonderful scheme of education that was carried out in the happy combination of head, heart and hand training, and concluded his letter by saying that such an education would "develop young men and women of self-reliance, and fit them to fill unusual situations".

A short visit at the office of State Superintendent Hyatt indicated a real interest in our educational work, and that he stood ready to render any assistance possible to our teachers. He expressed surprise regarding the magnitude of our educational operations, and said that a people who would support the public school by paying their taxes, and then go to the expense of erecting buildings and paying teachers to instruct their children, were deserving of sympathy and protection in their efforts.

Our efforts in educational lines are being observed with interest by public school educators. They are watching its growth and development, and are

specially impressed with the earnest, serious way in which our youth address themselves to the problems of life. One educator who had observed some of our pupils said to me: "They are an earnest class of young men and women, not much like our high school boys and girls. Their heads are full of foolishness". This accords with what we are told in "Counsels to Teachers": "Interest the students to be in earnest, to be sober minded". "The greatest work our educational institutions have to do is to set before the world an example of true Godliness".

Not long since the Dean of Education in our state university asked me if I would not furnish him a history of our educational work in California from its beginning up to the present time. He said that it would be valuable for the university to have it on file in its library.

The Lord has given us the pattern for building this educational temple. Let us see to it that we "make all things according to the pattern shown in the mount".

It is a pity that many of our children and youth are still outside of our own schools. In the higher schools the atmosphere that surrounds them is soul withering and soul destroying. Much of the instruction is permeated with evolution; and faith and confidence in the Scriptures gradually and almost unconsciously fade out of the heart and mind. Let us as workers do our utmost to faithfully warn the parents as to the dangers and temptations that lie in the pathway of worldly wisdom and knowledge, and urge them to see to it that their children are educated according to God's plan. Let us earnestly plead with our youth who are in the higher schools of learning, to attend our academies and college, and thus fit themselves speedily to act a part in the closing work. These young men and women in the church are just as deserving of our interest, sympathy, and earnest prayers and tears, as are those we meet in our evangelistic efforts in the tent, in the hall or in the private home. The Lord help us to keep those who are in the fold from going out and straying away.

In closing I will mention the following items that need to be emphasized in our educational efforts:

1. That every church as far as possible provide for the education of its children and youth.
2. That every church establishing a school shall be carefully instructed regarding its privileges and responsibilities in conducting a school.
3. That school boards become familiar with the plans of organization of a school as outlined in the school manual and in the pamphlet, "Duties of the School Board."
4. That only those teachers be selected to teach in our schools who in all their habits of life set an example

which it is safe for their pupils to follow.

5. That the church make it possible for all the children to attend the school, assisting those who need financial aid.

6. That the physical education be given proper attention, by providing sanitary conditions within and without the school building.

7. That education in useful labor be combined with book study, and that the school room and grounds be kept in neat and attractive condition.

8. That all seek to co-operate in carrying out the plans laid to unify our schools in the subjects taught and text-books used.

9. That worthy young men and women be assisted to attend our higher schools.

Young People's Work

The young people's work is closely allied with the educational work inasmuch as it includes those who are of school age. Those who are in grades one to eight are organized into Junior societies; and those in the remaining grades are organized into Senior societies. The membership in our union ought then not to be less than the enrollment of our schools, which we have found was 2470 November 1. It should greatly exceed this number, as at least one third of our children and youth are not attending our schools. In 1913 our membership in the union was 2637, organized into eighty-two societies, and in 1914 the membership was 2236, organized into ninety-six societies. We had a gain of fourteen societies, but a loss of 401 members.

I am not able to get returns up to September 30, 1915, as the conference secretaries have not been in the habit of sending a duplicate report to the union secretary when sending their reports to the Washington office. It has been very difficult to have carried out any constructive, progressive, program of organization and field effort because of dividing the two largest conferences of the union, and the inability to secure secretaries for these new conferences; or to divide or combine the work in a way that was in keeping with the talent or experience of those asked to act as missionary volunteer secretaries. Now that the conferences are completely organized, each conference having secured a secretary, who is to send his report to the union instead of the general secretary, a more intelligent and effective work can be carried forward. Your secretary held several conventions last year in three of the California conferences, and had appointments out for conventions in two others, but was called to assist in raising the relief fund for our schools, and accordingly these conventions were not held. The summer was occupied in attending the Educational and Young People's Council and Convention, held in June, and in conducting the summer school for a period of

six weeks following the convention. The remainder of the time, up to this union conference session, has been spent attending camp-meetings, doing clerical work (correcting papers, issuing certificates, recording standings, etc.), visiting local societies about the bay region, and helping some on the relief fund; so that the young people's work has not received very much consideration.

But the Young People's Department is deserving of one-half of the time of its secretary, and capable of as full and extensive development as the Department of Education. The responsibilities that will be transferred from the division to the union secretary January 1, 1916, will require considerable extra clerical work. The quarterly reports from the local conference secretaries are to be summarized and forwarded to Washington, and the union secretary is to issue all reading course and standard of attainment certificates.

But in addition to this clerical work, there is much field work to be done, which is more vital than the clerical part of the work.

The spiritual and missionary phases of the work call for field activity on the part of both the local and union secretaries. The educational features of the work require careful organization and strong leadership in the local societies. There is a large school of our young people outside of our schools which has a membership equalling at least one-third if not one-half of the membership of our schools. Here is an opportunity for educating at home, as it were, a large body of our young people, many of whom later will enter our schools.

It seems that the local secretary will have a large work on his hands which might profitably occupy all his time. The young people's work and the home missionary work can be combined naturally and readily, as it can be done for both the missionary societies at the same time, thus saving extra traveling expense. The educational and young people's work can be combined, saving traveling expense, and the junior societies are mostly composed of church school children.

Our workers, our church elders, can greatly aid in developing the young people's work. They can help the young people by encouraging the spirit of prayer and deep consecration. Pray with the young people, and teach them how to pray by uniting with them in fervent prayers. There is too little of the spirit of earnest prayer and burden for souls with our youth, and the meetings are apt to be of a literary and social character.

It is doubtful whether we shall reach the goal apportioned to this union for 1915. It would not be a difficult goal to reach, if we were properly organized for it. I believe these delegates will make no mistake if plans are laid here to give the young people of each conference ca-

pable leadership, for this will result in finding capable leaders for each society, and our youth will press to the front ready for training and service, and soon pass on to the field awaiting them.

Shall we not keep the following important points before us this coming year in our association and effort for our youth:

1. The Master's last words to Peter, "Feed my lambs."

2. Help every youth out of Christ to find Him as a personal Saviour.

3. Bear to every young man the message, "The Master hath need of him."

4. Urge our youth everywhere to enter our schools to train for service.

5. If unable to attend our schools, have them enroll in the Fireside Correspondence School.

6. Urge all to join the Missionary Volunteer Society and perform faithfully the obligations of membership.

7. "It is good for a man to bear the yoke in his youth."

M. E. CADY.

Press Bureau

The immense task of reaching the 3,037,129 persons living in California, Utah, Nevada and Arizona would be almost beyond us were it not for the many agencies which God, in His providence, has brought into activity for the special purpose of quickly carrying the message to the world. The printing press plays no mean part in this work, and the daily and weekly newspapers throughout our field have been of great assistance to us. Since the last meeting of the Pacific Union Conference, hundreds of articles have been sent to the 797 newspaper editors in this territory, and without doubt many have been printed of which we have no knowledge, as it has been impossible to keep a careful check upon them all. Sufficient returns have come, however, to show that the possibilities of newspaper publicity are almost limitless. To-day God is using the public press, as well as other modern inventions, for the giving of this last message of mercy and warning to the world.

Not less than 1,175,208 souls in the Pacific Union Conference territory have been reached with articles about our work and principles since the spring of 1914. This figure represents the actual combined circulation of the newspapers in our territory which have published these articles during the eighteen months covered by this report. We know definitely of 1611 articles that were published during that period, of which 1287 totalled 508¾ columns, or about 509,000 words. The other 324 articles were reported by our workers as having been printed, the average length of the articles being from a third to a half column.

The large book, "Great Controversy," with 688 pages of solid reading matter, contains about 241,000

words, while "Patriarchs and Prophets," with 730 pages of reading type, contains about 255,000 words. These two books combined contain less reading matter than has been published in the newspapers of the Pacific Union Conference since the last union conference session in 1914. This will give some idea of the publicity given to Seventh-day Adventists on the coast during the past biennial period, and if the truth were known, the total doubtless would be far greater.

The 1,175,208 subscribers reached by our articles in the newspapers were in the following conferences: California Conference, 542,399 persons; Northwestern California Conference, 19,557; Northern California Conference, 58,787; Central California Conference, 44,618; Southern California Conference, 409,366; South-eastern California Conference, 54,313; Utah Conference, 18,272; Nevada Mission, 7,942, and Arizona Conference, 19,954. Newspaper publishers estimate that three or four persons read every newspaper, and if this is so, it shows that we have reached the astounding total of more than 3,000,000 souls in the Pacific Union Conference alone in less than two years through this one medium.

Every camp-meeting held in this field, with the exception of four small ones, was reported for the newspapers, thus giving the message to the public. Many points of truth were covered in this way, the papers not hesitating to publish articles upon the "Sabbath," "Coming of the Lord," "State of the Dead," "Millennium," "Judgment," "New Earth," "Religious Liberty," "Temperance," and other topics.

The Sunday law campaign a year ago showed what a wonderful help the newspapers may be to us. We know definitely of more than 100 articles which were published, giving the principles of religious liberty. Many of these were written by our people at our request. In addition to this the publicity department sent eight articles to every newspaper in California. Some editors expressed themselves upon the question editorially, using portions of our articles. One editorial of this kind was copied by other editors. Thousands were reached in this way who might not have known the real animus behind the Sunday law had our people not rallied as they did. The positive vote of 457,890 against the Sunday law, while only 290,679 voted in favor of it, showed that our efforts were not in vain. This bill obtained the fourth largest opposition vote on the ballot.

The fact that the Sunday-law advocates waited until almost the last day allowed by law for filing their initiative petitions, before handing to the Secretary of State their thousands of signatures, thus allowing only two months in which to show the evil effects of the bill, prevented us from giving publicity to the temper-

ance measure, which otherwise we would have attempted to do. This was the first effort in the United States to put a Sunday law upon the statute books through the initiative, such laws in other states having been passed through the legislatures.

Notwithstanding the overwhelming defeat of the measure in California, an effort was made to circulate a petition in Nevada for a similar measure. Prompt newspaper publicity throughout that state, by which the people were shown the evils of such laws, nipped the scheme of the "reformers" in the bud, and their plan was temporarily abandoned when they found themselves unable to secure the necessary signatures.

At the time of the Sunday-law campaign the town of Whittier had no church of our people, but a Seventh-day Adventist family living there faithfully circulated hundreds of tracts, and visited the newspaper editor with a signed article upon the Sunday issue. Publication was at first refused, but a second visit a week or two later was more successful. The editor said he had received an article that very morning in favor of Sunday laws, which he had promised to print, and that if our sister would make hers of reasonable length he would be glad to publish it without charge. The two articles, for and against the proposed law, appeared in the paper side by side. The next issue of the same paper contained another article from the Sunday-law supporter, saying he had changed his mind, and advising everybody to vote against the bill.

Such an interest was aroused among the people of Whittier, that a call was made for a minister to hold an effort there. Two of our brethren held a short effort in that place, and raised up a church of over thirty Sabbath-keepers. These brethren were treated very kindly by the newspaper proprietor, who gave them a large amount of free space. Through this means the attendance at their meetings was increased.

Results also were obtained at Portersville, where a brother and sister "sowed" the town with literature, and saw that all places where men congregate were supplied. They wrote articles freely for the town newspaper, and, speaking of the election returns, said: "We have the satisfaction of reporting a four to one victory against the Sunday law in the district that we covered. I have not been able to get reports from more than one other town of any size, and the vote there was only one and three-fourths to one.

It so happened this summer that the Lord's Day Congress, held in Oakland, opened the day after our Richmond camp-meeting closed. A strong religious liberty article, based upon a sermon preached at the camp, was submitted to the Oakland and San Francisco daily newspapers, and was published in the same issues that told

of the Sunday law aims of the much-advertised congress. The Oakland Tribune printed the opening article for the congress on the front page, with bold headlines, and put our article with religious liberty principles, immediately following this. This one article in the leading newspapers about San Francisco Bay reached not less than 156,000 persons.

Ten of our workers report having had nearly 800 articles published in various newspapers of the union since March 1, 1914. These are as follows: Elder J. D. Alder, 19 articles; W. H. Bradley, 8; R. A. Breitigam and F. E. Brown, 60; A. S. Booth, 510; M. A. Hollister, 27; L. L. Hutchinson and L. B. Ragsdale, 40; A. J. Osborne, 10; R. S. Owen, 30; D. A. Parsons, 65; Alexander Ritchie, 45; J. W. McCord, 40. Doubtless other workers have done as well or better than these, but we have not heard from them.

Brother Alder writes: "One article of over two columns was printed in full in the Ogden Examiner. The subject was 'Armageddon Given in Another Light,' and was an answer to a request in an editorial in the same paper. While the report shows only the papers with which I have corresponded, some of the articles have been copied by other papers. Sometimes the Salt Lake papers copy from the Ogden papers."

Brother Hollister says: "A number who cannot attend the meetings say they read and appreciate the articles. Some are taking Bible studies as a result. Many editors are interested in the Seventh-day Adventists, and appreciate the principles we hold."

Brother Booth, speaking of his experiences, says: "One lady, who lived 200 miles from where the services were being held, wrote for literature on the message, having read about our meetings in the newspaper.

"In another instance a man and his wife, on their way to San Francisco, saw an article in the paper, and the announcement of the meetings. They went to Fresno, and received the truth.

"A Mormon lady, who had fought Adventism, saw the matter in the paper and walked two miles to get a car to reach the meetings. She attended a number of the services, walking four miles, and then made up her mind to move into town. She did not inquire who we were until after the Sabbath was presented. She has accepted of the Sabbath with three of her children. She said, however, that if she had known we were Seventh-day Adventists, she never would have attended. We hope she soon will be united with the church.

"The great advantage in newspaper publicity is not only in increasing the attendance, but it gives us opportunity to get the truth before many that perhaps we otherwise never should be able to reach. In efforts which I have been privileged to hold, the combined circulation of these papers has

reached 118,000 homes with the truth. In these efforts 178 have united with the church. I am sure this result would not have been accomplished except for the newspaper publicity. We find the publicity given us in the papers tends to break down prejudice, and gives the truth a standing that otherwise it would not have.

"It pays to get acquainted with the editors of the place where meetings are to be held. One of the first things I do is to call upon them, telling them of my work, and what I expect to do. I then request the privilege of presenting my material. No doubt I have written 750 articles to get 501 published. We should not be discouraged to have a few rejected or cut. Articles that may be printed by one editor perhaps will be rejected by another. We have such a variety that some subjects are bound to commend themselves to the editors. The managing editor and owner of the Ogden Standard, after printing some sixty articles, volunteered that a tremendous good had been done."

Brother Bradley writes that a family of six and another family of three at Brawley accepted the truth after having been attracted to meetings there by an article on "The War" written by Elder L. E. Brant.

Brother Ritchie says: "In twenty weeks forty-five articles covering almost all points of present truth were published in three newspapers."

Elder Alder, now laboring in Eureka, has taken advantage of the Harvest Ingathering campaign to secure newspaper publicity. Early this month he held two meetings, which he says were attended by many not of our faith. The Eureka papers gave him good notices. His collections amounted to nearly \$90.

Although we have not received the clippings of nearly all the articles printed in the newspapers concerning the General and North American Division councils, just closed, we know definitely of more than sixty articles that have been published, having been sent out by Brother W. L. Burgan, secretary of the Press Bureau for North America.

We believe there is a field for continued newspaper publicity, and that we should heed the injunction of the testimonies: "Let all have more to write, and to publish in regard to those things that are now to be fulfilled, and that concern the eternal welfare of souls. Give meat in due season to the old and young, to saints and to sinners." Volume 7, page 158.

For the results already achieved we praise the Lord of the harvest, whose admonition, "Cast thy bread upon the waters," we have endeavored to heed.

FRANK A. COFFIN.

Wait not till you are backed by numbers. Wait not until you are sure of an echo from a crowd. The fewer the voices on the side of truth, the more distinct and strong must be your own. —Channing.

Report of Gathering the Educational Fund

To dwell at length in this report upon the importance of our educational system as an essential factor in the proclamation of the last gospel message to the world, would be a repetition of a portion of the address of our president. It will be sufficient to say that in our efforts to meet the requirements of the Lord in the education of our young people, which work was begun in the establishment of Healdsburg College more than a third of a century ago, financial obligations had gradually increased until, about two years ago, we found ourselves financially involved to the amount of fully \$90,000, and at the same time still in deed of approximately \$60,000 for buildings and equipment to provide for some five hundred students desiring the advantages of our advanced educational institutions.

Local conference administrations had made efforts to liquidate their part of these financial obligations, but without complete success. Finally at a meeting of the Pacific Union Conference, held in Oakland, Cal., in March, 1914, a plan was inaugurated for the raising of a total of \$150,000 to liquidate our indebtedness and to provide additional facilities for our educational work. This plan included as one of its features the idea of securing the money in all parts of the territory of the union conference, regardless of a pro rata basis or of local conference lines.

Other features were, that the solicitation should begin the first of June, 1914, and close with the end of December, 1915; that notes should be taken, giving eighteen months for payment, and that if the total of \$150,000 should not be secured within the time limit fixed, all subscribers to the fund would be entitled, upon written request, to have their notes or payments returned.

The solicitation began on the date set, and has been steadily pushed forward till the present time. The plan of solicitation was to visit all of the camp-meetings in the union, next our institutions, then the churches, and finally all of the church members who could not be reached by the public efforts. For the first eight and one-half months only one person devoted his time to the work. Since then Elder W. S. Holbrook has been constantly employed and has successfully engaged in the campaign, and during the past few weeks we have had the cooperation of most of the local conference presidents in the union in the actual work of private solicitation, and a number of our ministers have also given substantial help in this work. Doubtless the fact that we decided from the beginning that no solicitation, either public or private, should be carried on on the Sabbath, has made more work in the end, but we

believe that the Lord has been pleased with this plan.

A studied effort has been made to disturb the regular activities of the conference workers as little as possible while this campaign was in progress. Other reports submitted at this meeting have shown that the regular work of conference laborers has not suffered by this large financial effort.

Up to the present time the total subscriptions to the fund is \$143,239.61, of which amount \$30,000 has been paid into the treasury of the Pacific Union Conference. There still remains less than \$7,000 to be subscribed before the end of the year. However, on the twenty-seventh instant, special subscription cards are to be distributed in all of our churches in the union conference, accompanied by an urgent appeal, written by the president of the union, requesting our people to cooperate in the raising of the sum still lacking to complete the grand total of \$150,000.

As a considerable number of our people will yet respond if visited and the matter presented to them, it is planned to keep a number of solicitors in the field until the time limit set for the effort to close.

Incidentally we might mention that, while this effort has been in progress our people have deeded clear property to the cause in this union conference, upon which they placed the valuation of some \$70,000, and we have secured cash annuities to the amount of \$34,150. We have also learned of a considerable number of our people, some of them being the Lord's stewards of large estates, who have expressed their desire to consecrate their possessions to the finishing of the message, committed of Heaven to this people. The urgency of the work of solicitation has not permitted us to give attention to many of these cases. We still have a part of the former Healdsburg College property as an asset for our educational work; also a cottage located in Reno, Nevada.

After the splendid effort made by our loyal people to liquidate all of the indebtedness of our educational work, and provide facilities to meet the present requirements of the cause, it would be a source of great discouragement to them to have the experience of the past repeated. It would seem that the experience of thirty-four years in the operation of our educational work in this union ought to teach such wisdom that we will avoid the financial mistakes of the past.

Should we not plan to eliminate as far as possible all elements of hazardous experiment in the financial operation of our schools? Now that we have recognized the mistake of trying to establish too many advanced schools for a given constituency to support, and have tried to readjust ourselves to right principles in this respect, would it not be wise to have an efficiency committee to carefully study the finances of each of our institutions, and, in consultation with the local

management, shape a sound financial policy for each.

For whatever has been accomplished that will prove of benefit to the cause of God, we give all of the glory to the One who is carrying His work onward and forward in the earth,—surmounting all obstacles,—to a glorious triumph.
G. W. REASER.

Religious Liberty

This report will of necessity be a brief one, since only a part of the time included in this recital has active work in behalf of religious liberty been demanded. For a time before the closing part of 1914, some agitation was begun in Phoenix, Arizona, looking toward a local Sunday closing of business, and fears were entertained in some minds that the clergy of that city would succeed in bringing about their desired end. The city council was somewhat divided in sentiment regarding the question, and for a time was inclined to grant a public hearing to decide the matter.

By request, your secretary repaired thither, and at once sought an interview with the mayor, who intimated that personally he was opposed to any Sunday closing ordinance. But he said his opinion would have no weight unless a certain member of the council he named would stand with him. This man was then visited, and after a short presentation of the principles of liberty being rehearsed before him, he agreed to stand with the mayor on the question. As nothing more could then be done, the secretary returned to his work in California.

It had been earlier intimated that petitions were being circulated to secure enough signatures by which to place the question of Sunday rest by law before the voters of California in the November election. Some time in the summer this department was informed, by the Secretary of State at Sacramento, that only about 4,000 names had been sent in, and the opinion was then expressed by him that as the time limit for filing such petitions was so nearly expired, it was not likely that the 30,000 or more names required would be forthcoming.

But suddenly, just before the expiration of the time fixed by law for these named to be filed, the Secretary of State informed this department by letter that sufficient names had been filed to secure the placing of the Sunday bill before the people. At the same time Elder W. M. Healey was asked by the state to write an argument of 500 words against Sunday laws, to be placed in the hands of voters prior to the election. A paper of similar length was made by a state senator, giving reasons in favor of a Sunday law, and placed by the side of Elder Healey's document. Elder Healey was also asked by the union conference executive to make a leaflet of four pages, setting forth religious liberty principles, of which 275,000

were printed by the department and sent broadcast throughout the state.

But some of the leading brethren, feeling that this was not enough, urged that another document of similar size and matter follow the first one, so as to keep fresh in the minds of voters the issue before them. The department accordingly had printed 300,000 copies of another four-page leaflet, which was freely circulated by our brethren in every voting precinct. As this work was completed only a few days before the election, all that could be done was to pray that God would turn the minds of voters to the right side of the question, and then await the returns of the election.

In the meantime, the Chamber of Commerce of Los Angeles became interested, and pledged to circulate 25,000 of our department leaflets, by distributing them among other kindred organizations throughout the state. Also the Los Angeles Tribune, in the closing weeks of the campaign, recommended everybody to vote "No" on the Sunday measure.

Slowly but surely the election returns filtered in from the 4,585 voting precincts and revealed that while 290,678 votes were cast in favor of a Sunday law, 457,890 were cast against it, giving a clear majority in favor of religious liberty of 167,211 votes.

But notwithstanding this, when the legislature convened the following January, the same measure, with several others looking to the same end, was passed out to committees. A few minutes' hearing was granted to the secretary before two committees, but fearing that absent members of these committees would perhaps finally vote to recommend some such measure for passage, your secretary, in company with Elders W. F. Martin and A. J. Osborne, interviewed Governor Johnson, who readily gave assurance that no bill of that character on which the people had so decidedly spoken would receive his signature. This statement relieved all anxiety, so far as that session of the legislature was concerned, and nothing further was heard about any of the Sunday bills then on file.

So far as the status of these matters are at present, your secretary is not informed, since he has but lately returned from a five months' tour of the southeastern states. It has, however, been hinted that a movement is on foot in Arizona to inaugurate a Sunday-law campaign in various cities of that state. According to the prophetic Word, we may look for these movements to spring up more and more in the near future, since the wrath of the thus far defeated advocates of Sunday-law reign is being shown in the persecution of Sabbath-keeping men and women in different states. (See Test., Vol. 9, page 51.)

With this report, your secretary lays down the duties put on him two years ago, but wishing for the bless-

ing of God to attend whoever may be chosen to carry this burden in the quadrennial period just before us.

J. O. CORLISS.

Utah Conference

The Utah Conference has endeavored to carry nearly all missionary lines in the administrative work, yet because of lack of men and means, the work cannot be carried forward as strong as we should like.

Laborers

During the biennial period of twenty-one months we have had four ordained men, with but three on the pay-roll. We also have two Bible workers, a tract society secretary-treasurer, and a field missionary secretary. Aside from these laborers we have three canvassers in the field. We also have two church school teachers. Three others carry missionary license working part time, without remuneration from the conference.

We are glad for the labor of Elder A. S. Booth during the summer. All our conference laborers joined him in two efforts; namely, in Ogden and Salt Lake, and, as a result, over thirty-five have been baptized. The total number of laborers on our pay-roll is seven.

Churches and Membership

During the year 1914 some twelve persons were baptized, making the church membership 198. For the first nine months of 1915 there were twenty-eight baptized, which would have raised our membership to 226 had they all stayed in our conference. But eleven of these, soon after embracing the truth, left our conference, leaving our membership at present 215. We have five churches with fair prospects of soon organizing another.

During the biennial period two new church buildings have been erected, one in Ogden, the other in Logan. Neither of these is free from debt, however, the Logan members giving promise of soon lifting their obligations. Therefore we have four church buildings in the state.

Tithes and Offerings

The tithe for 1914 was \$2810.31, and for the nine months of 1915, it was \$1658.52, making a total of \$4468.83. Perhaps I ought to say that the tithe for the nine months of 1915 is \$211.88 less than was received for the corresponding period for 1914. The tithe per capita for 1914 was \$14.19, while it is a little less for 1915.

The total amount of trust funds for 1914 was \$1518.15, while for the following nine months it was \$1,000.26, total for the period being \$2518.41, all of which has passed beyond the borders of our conference. The total amount contributed for home missionary work for the entire period was nearly \$2000.

Appropriations

The Pacific Union Conference has, for a number of years, been making

liberal appropriations to our field. For 1912 it was \$6247.77; for 1913, \$5501.87; and in 1914, \$4245.10, while during the first nine months in 1915 it was \$3000. The total amount appropriated for these years is \$18,994.74.

Books and Periodicals

It may be of interest to the delegates to hear the figures with regard to the sale of our subscriptions and trade books, tracts, magazines, papers, etc., in our conference. I herewith present the figures that our state field missionary has handed to me. Commencing with 1906, we have as follows:

1906	\$ 1,199.87
1907	2,726.85
1908	814.50
1909	120.50
1910	1,870.55
1911	831.49
1912	2,418.83
1913	4,470.51
1914	3,710.25
1915 (nine months)	2,205.00

Total\$20,668.35

Our canvassers are doing faithful work.

Young People's

The Young People's department has shown a nice gain in work and offerings.

Sabbath School

The Sabbath-school membership and offerings are on the increase.

Twenty-Cent-a-Week Fund

The twenty-cent-a-week fund for 1914 amounted to 14.7 cents, while for the nine months of 1915 the average is some better.

Tract Society

Our tract society has made a steady gain the last two years, with all obligations paid.

Conclusion

I wish to say in closing that there is perfect harmony in our work, and a good spirit prevails. We are thankful for Heaven's blessings upon the work, and pray that God may greatly bless it in the future.

W. M. ADAMS.

Arizona Conference

The work in Arizona during the year and nine months which have passed since we last met in union conference session, has moved steadily forward. It was at the close of that meeting that I was asked to go to this field to connect with the work, in order that Elder G. W. Reaser might be released for the work of raising the relief fund for our schools.

Evangelical

Since the beginning of the year 1914, fourteen tent and hall efforts have been held in our conference, which, with the work done by the faithful members of the various churches and companies, have added to our ranks 165 baptized members

and ten on profession of faith, making a total addition of 175 for 1914 and three quarters of 1915, as against 126 for the former biennial period. This places the present membership of the conference at 467, with between thirty-five and forty others keeping the Sabbath, most of whom will soon be baptized.

Three of the efforts in 1914 were held in Clifton. The first by Elder I. P. Dillon and the writer, and the other two by Elders Dillon and L. L. Hutchinson, assisted by Sister Tressa B. Hutchinson. An effort was held in Thatcher by Elders M. A. Hollister and W. L. Sims, and one held in Phoenix by Elders A. S. Booth, C. D. M. Williams, G. W. Reaser and Hollister, assisted by Brother C. F. Innis and Sister M. M. Kay. During this period considerable work was also done in Prescott and Flagstaff.

Early this year Elders Dillon and Hutchinson opened a tent effort in Duncan, at the close of which Elder Hutchinson went to Miami, where he joined Prof. L. B. Ragsdale in a very successful tent effort; while Elder Dillon conducted an effort at Sheldon. Elder Williams and the writer held an effort in Mesa, which was followed by an effort at Gilbert, Brother F. M. Owen taking my place in the company. Following this, Brother Owen and M. P. Acosta conducted two tent efforts for the Spanish-speaking people of Phoenix, while Elder Williams was holdings a hall effort in Prescott, being assisted by Brother G. A. Roberts. The first of August Brother P. L. Knox joined our force of laborers and conducted a successful work in Patagonia. Churches were organized in Mesa and Miami.

Financial

The tithe for the past twenty-one months has been \$10,919.93, while the total offerings to missions have been \$8,255.08, making a total amount received by the treasurer of \$19,175.01.

School

The Arizona Conference Academy, our only school, is doing excellent work. It is supporting three teachers, and has had an average attendance of about sixty. A number of our young people are at present in the Fernando Academy and the Pacific Union College, while two of them are teaching California church schools. We hope to be able, by another year, to open two more schools, and thus to utilize the young people who are preparing for this line of work.

Sabbath Schools

We have at the present time nineteen Sabbath-schools with a membership of about 370. It has been our constant aim to have every Seventh-day Adventist in the state a member of the Sabbath school, and we are thankful to be able to report good progress in this line. But owing to the fact that more than ninety of the church membership are scattered, we have not yet been able to get them all in line.

Young People's Work

While this branch of our work is strong in Phoenix, we have not sufficient members in any other place to sustain an organization. However, through our corresponding secretary, Sister Emma Wheeler, we have been able to induce a good number of our isolated young people to unite with the Conference Society and many of these are taking up the reading courses, and some are studying for the standard of attainment.

Literature Work

Since the outbreak of the European war this branch of the work has moved very slowly. At that time it became impossible to sell books, so our field men sought better pastures, and we have not been able to secure other men to take up the book work. But all over the state our church members have done faithful work with tracts and periodicals, and through this instrumentality many have been won to the message.

Church Buildings

May 28 of this year our Phoenix church was burned, having been set on fire by a boy who gave as his reason for so doing: "The Catholics were being talked against by those who used the church." Seventeen hundred dollars was received as insurance and a new building is just being completed, which will be a credit to our work in that place. Plans are being made to build a new church in Tucson, the old one having been sold three years ago. A good lot in a central location has been donated for the new church site. Two good lots have been purchased in Mesa, and we hope to soon have a meeting place there.

Laborers

During the greater part of the past two years our laboring force has been small, but at the present time we have six ordained ministers, two licensed ministers, and one licensed missionary on our pay-roll, and each minister's wife is actively engaged with her husband in helping to give the message, so that the field is better manned for the work than it has been at any former time in the history of the message there. All the workers are of good courage and contented with their present locations. A spirit of harmony and cooperation prevails, and we bespeak a rapid building up of the work for the coming year. J. ERNEST BOND.

Northern California Conference.

To the Pacific Union Conference—
Greeting from the Northern California Conference:

This report for one year and nine months will embrace the year before the conference area was lessened by taking away the two southern counties, with their churches, and nine months after the change.

At the time of the Oakland meeting, twenty-seven churches were re-

ported. After the division there were twenty-two, four being taken away and one dropped. This number has been increased since September 30 by the organization of one church with thirty-one members.

January 1, 1914, the entire membership was 1536. At the time of the division there were 1688. This was reduced to 1596 by the removal of the four southern churches. During the nine months of the present year there have been added 125, making a membership September 30 of 1721. With the church of thirty-one members added since September 30 the present membership is 1752. This was a gain above the loss of the four churches of 216.

During this period 224 have been baptized. We have nine ordained ministers. Four of these have not been in active conference work. There are four licensed ministers, ten holding missionary licenses, and three regular canvassers, making a total of twenty-six laborers.

We have twelve Young People's Missionary societies, with a membership of about 300. There are twelve church schools, with an attendance of 265, with eighteen teachers.

The tithe for 1914 was \$27,035.29, for the nine months of 1915, was \$12,690.36, making a total for the twenty-one months of \$39,725.65. With the destruction by rains of the first crop of alfalfa and a part of the second, and there being no market for the peach crop, the early part of the year yielded almost no returns. The tithe is now coming in and we hope for good returns for the remainder of the year.

There has been raised for missions \$9196.96, for home missions \$6121.40, and for local church work \$4817.39.

The number of Sabbath schools September 30 is thirty-one. This is the same as the number before the four were taken away. But the membership has materially increased. The present membership is 1469, a gain over the first quarter of 1914, including the loss of the churches taken away of 250. We believe that this has been partly due to the conventions that Sister Verah MacPherson has held in different places in the conference. It is also due to the increased membership through conversions, and the close touch of the secretary maintained with the schools.

Sabbath-school donations have been \$7575.43 and book sales \$22,815.47.

Our Conference Evangelistic Work

Meetings have been held since January 1, 1915, in Chico, Los Molinos, near Corning, Yuba City, Maxwell, two suburbs of Sacramento, Oakdale, Hughson, Modesto, Oroville and Wheatland.

The calls for labor in new places are becoming more numerous as the signs in the earth increase and the war progresses.

There is a perfect agreement and harmony among all the laborers and our courage is good.

CLARENCE SANTEE.

Northwestern California Conference

To me is accorded the honor of extending to the delegates of the Pacific Union Conference greetings from the Northwestern California Conference.

The Northwestern California Conference territory consists of that section of California north of San Francisco Bay, including the counties of Solano, Napa, Marin, Sonoma, Lake, Mendocino, Trinity, Humboldt, and Del Norte. The population is 201,823. There are twenty-one churches with a present membership of 1400. The headquarters are at Santa Rosa. The conference was organized at a joint session of the California, Central California and Northern California conferences, held in Oakland February 4 to 9, this year.

Inasmuch as our conference year closes December 31, this report will only cover the nine months ending September 30. We have no records of past year's work with which we may compare the work of this first year, and by which we might have formed some conclusion as to the progress or failure of our efforts. We have had, however, a very definite goal, and while disappointed at our inability to attain all we had planned, we have had no occasion for discouragement.

For all that has been accomplished we ascribe to God the glory. Surely His blessing has rested upon the work and workers. While disease and death have preyed relentlessly all about us, our workers and our people have been spared. The workers have spared themselves no toil or sacrifice that has seemed needful for the success of the work. In every council and in the working out of every plan there has been the most hearty cooperation. This same spirit of harmony broods over the entire conference, and we have experienced a foretaste of that glad day not far from now when the people will be of one accord, filled with the power of the message. Everywhere there is a revival of the old-time missionary spirit, and we believe the church is shaking herself free from the lethargy that has ever threatened to be her ruin, and with increasing zeal will speedily finish her work in all the world.

Evangelistic Work

During the first three months of the year there was but one worker in the field. Some time passed after the organization of the conference before several of the workers could be released to enter the field, and as a consequence, active field work did not begin until the first week in May. During the four months ending September 30 there have been in the employ of the conference seven ordained ministers, one of whom is the chaplain at the St. Helena Sanitarium, and eight missionary licentiates, three of these being young men and two of them young women just entering the work.

There have been held three series of hall meetings and three series of tent meetings, and a series of hall meetings is being conducted at this time. As a result of these meetings and other work among the churches 132 have been baptized. There are several others in different places ready to go forward in baptism. Several Sabbath-keepers have located in and near San Rafael, and a church will be organized there before the end of the year. As a result of faithful work there will soon be a church organized at Willits.

Finance

As the tide of destruction has continued to spread over the earth, our people have been stirred to greater faithfulness in returning to God His own in tithes. There is manifest, also, a spirit of real sacrifice in giving of their money for the increasing demands of the fast-growing work in every line. For the nine months the tithe shows an increase of \$1841.54. During the same time, \$7085.46 was given to missions, making an average of 15½ cents per member. We fully expect to reach the goal of 20 cents per member by December 31. Approximately \$17,000 has been pledged for the \$150,000 fund, and there has been the fullest cooperation of churches and workers in this endeavor, and rather than have the plan fail the people have pledged themselves to lift once more.

Home Missionary Work

While it is true that only the records in heaven properly present the loyalty of this people, there are some encouraging features in the reports of work that is being done by the churches. The report of Brother D. R. Sperry, secretary of the Northwestern California Missionary Society, shows that \$4915.02 worth of literature has been sent to the churches during the nine months covered by this report. Much of this volume of business represents books placed in the homes of people by faithful colporteurs. Brother C. C. Morlan has labored earnestly to enlist consecrated men and women in this important branch of the work.

The report of Elder C. S. Prout, missionary secretary, shows marked progress in the work being done by the brethren in the churches.

Elder Prout also has charge of the young people's department, and his report indicates a steady growth in that interesting and important department.

Sabbath-School

We are coming to recognize more and more the place of the Sabbath-schools in finishing the work. Sister Vesta J. Farnsworth, our secretary, reports that there were twenty-seven schools at the time of the organization of the conference. There are now twenty-nine. The original membership was 1302. It is now 1328. The thirteenth Sabbath offering for the three quarters amounted to \$1263.05, and the total offerings were \$5801.37.

Educational

The first Adventist educational institution on the Pacific Coast was located within the bounds of what is now the Northwestern California Conference, and its successor is likewise within our borders. Thus it is not strange that Christian education should find a large place in all of our church work. There are ten church schools in the conference. Of these, two have three teachers, two have two teachers, five have one each, and the one at the college is under the direction of the normal department. Sister Sarah E. Peck reports that most of the schools began with an increased attendance. The standard of the work is being steadily raised, and we earnestly covet the reputation of being in front in our church school work.

Conclusion

We have been glad for the evidences that God is blessing the work, and that His hand so graciously covered the mistakes that have been made, and hope that even yet a glorious harvest shall be gathered from the Northwestern California Conference during the few years in which we may be granted opportunity to labor.

J. ADAMS STEVENS.

California Conference

To the Delegates of the Pacific Union Conference, Greeting:

With profound gratitude to God we acknowledge His mercies and blessings so generously bestowed upon us. In appearing before you to report for the California Conference, it may be well to state that of the entire population of the six conferences in the state of California, practically one-half is found within the borders of this conference.

The metropolitan area of this conference provides the greatest problem in city evangelism to be found within the confines of this union conference. The present territory, together with that now embraced in the Northwestern California Conference, formed the California Conference during most of the past biennial term.

The field was under the care of Elder E. W. Farnsworth, whose long connection with the field qualifies him to speak more intelligently of the conditions than I. My connection with this conference dates back to February of this year, at which time the field was divided. Comparisons with the preceding biennial term are rendered difficult owing to the division. Consequently this report will deal largely with present conditions.

There are nineteen churches in the conference with a membership of 1,773. At the close of 1914 there was a membership reported from the same churches of 1,513, which shows a gain of 260 for one year. During the preceding biennial term the average membership was 1,461.

Financial

Our first request on arriving in the field was to have a budget made out for the present year. Taking last

year's tithe as a basis, this budget showed that the expenditures of the conference would exceed the income by nearly \$5,000 unless some radical measures were taken. With the cooperation of the conference committee, we set ourselves to the task of improving this situation—first, by eliminating some expenditures, and, second, by endeavoring to increase our tithe.

The Lord has greatly blessed us in this respect with the result that for the first ten months of this year our tithe has increased over the same months for last year to the amount of \$2879.70. The figures are: For 1914, \$24,358.09; for 1915, \$27,237.79. For the present biennial term the tithe amounts to \$51,598.88. For the preceding biennial term the tithe amounted to \$58,346.67.

For the first ten months of 1915 our mission offerings amounted to \$11,220.57; for the whole of last year, \$12,132.93. The ten months of 1915 lack but \$912 of equaling the entire offerings of last year. For the present biennial term the mission offerings amount to \$23,353.50, while for the preceding biennial term they were \$18,520.08, being a gain of \$4,833.42, and our best offerings for 1915 are still to come in. In view of the efforts that have been made in all our churches in behalf of the \$150,000 fund, we feel that this increase is most encouraging. We believe the future will justify our hopes of seeing a greater liberality on the part of our people in the support of foreign missions.

Tract Society

We wish we could give as glowing a report of the tract society and book work as we believe the importance of the work demands. Last year the tract society sustained a loss of \$844.04. What the standing will be for this year we cannot say at this time. From the standpoint of an improvement in the circulation of our message-filled books, we believe the outlook is good. Our leaders are putting forth faithful and earnest efforts to greatly strengthen this feature of our work.

Sabbath-School Work

Much could be said regarding the growth and development of our Sabbath-school work. As in most fields, this is our strongest factor in raising mission funds. Earnest efforts have recently been put forth to increase the membership of our schools, and the results have been most encouraging. Some churches are finding it difficult to provide teachers, and to otherwise cope with the increasing attendance.

Young People's Work

We have at present seven organized societies. In addition to these, the junior society work is fostered in our church schools. We have been much encouraged in visiting the various societies to note the earnest spirit which prevails in most of them.

The reports show that in almost all lines of missionary activities there has been a healthy and steady growth. If the plans now being pushed in the interests of the young people's work receive the hearty support of ministers and church officers, we believe there will be an increasing army of young people enlisting in the work of the message.

Church Schools

We have five well organized church schools in the conference doing good work in the training of our children and youth. Ten teachers are employed to carry on this work. We hope to see the work strengthened until in every church the principles of Christian education receive proper attention.

Evangelical

By no means the least important of all our lines of work is that of our evangelical efforts. Our churches report additions by baptism as follows: For 1912 and 1913, 60; for 1914 and 1915, 258. Of this number 170 are reported for 1915. The number added to the church already for this present year is almost three times the number added during the preceding biennial term. We believe, however, that these figures would be much larger if we added those baptized by our workers, who have united with churches in other conferences.

We feel thankful for the manifest evidences of God's blessing upon the efforts of our workers during the past summer. Elders J. W. McCord and R. S. Fries, with a faithful corps of Bible workers, carried on a large effort in Oakland with encouraging results. Elder A. S. Marcus and his corps of workers have labored faithfully in Richmond, and have added a number of souls to the church there. All our conference workers are imbued with an earnest spirit of soul-winning, and we are glad to be associated with such workers.

In behalf of the churches and workers of the California Conference, we desire to say to these delegates that we unite with you in such plans and measures as will advance this precious cause of truth in this union conference. We take our stand for every advance move, and unite in praying for God's richest blessings upon the entire field.

J. L. McELHANY.

Central California Conference

It is always a source of encouragement to us to recount the blessings of the Lord, and I esteem it a privilege to be given the opportunity of presenting a brief report of the progress of the work in the Central California Conference for the past twenty-one months, or since the last biennial session of the Pacific Union Conference.

First, we desire to express our gratitude to God for the success that has attended the efforts put forth in our field. To Him belongs all the glory. Without Him we are nothing and can accomplish nothing.

During the period of twenty-one months covered by my report several changes have taken place in the officers of our conference. Elder J. H. Behrens was president for the first four months of this period; then Elder B. E. Beddoe was president for about ten months, when he was called to take charge of the work in the Southern California Conference; and finally I have tried to carry the work laid down by them for the past seven months of that period. Whether such frequent changes are a blessing to the conference, may be seriously questioned.

The changes in the boundary lines of our conference, which were effected at the joint session of our conferences in February, 1915, did not materially affect our conference as far as membership and tithes are concerned. We lost three counties and gained two. Our number of churches remained the same. Our membership was decreased by nineteen, while the tithes were increased by \$353.34, if we take the tithes for 1914 as a basis for reckoning. We believe, however, that this readjustment of territorial lines was a blessing to our conference, as our field is now more compact, and hence more easily worked.

Our beloved brother, Elder Adam G. Schlotthauer, passed away in October, 1914. Brother Schlotthauer had not been in active conference work for some time on account of failing health and financial affairs. His labors are done, but his works will follow him.

On December 31, 1913, we had twenty-four churches with a membership of 1,218. On September 30, 1915, we had twenty-nine churches, besides our conference church, with a membership of 1,452, or a net increase of five churches and 234 members during the last twenty-one months. Perhaps a little comparison year by year will be of interest. Our membership at the close of 1912 was 1,064; for 1913, 1,218; for 1914, 1,341, and for September 30, 1915, 1,452. This shows a steady growth.

The number baptized during 1912 was 96; during 1913, 80; during 1914, 155; and during the first nine months of 1915, 200, while 23 united on former baptism, making a total of 223 during the past nine months, or 378 during the biennial period of twenty-one months.

The tithes for 1914 were \$19,999.89, and for the nine months of 1915, \$13,393.38. This latter is an increase of \$1,577.55 over the same period of 1914. Our mission offerings for 1914 amounted to 9,487.50, which is a gain of \$2,134.86 over 1913. Our mission offerings for the first nine months of this year amounted to \$5,869.67, an increase of \$1,329.92 over the same period of 1914. Thus both our tithes and mission offerings show a healthy increase, for which we thank the Lord.

Our literature sales for 1914 amounted to \$7,356.77, and for the first nine months of this year, \$4,-

422.86. This shows a slight decrease over the same period of 1914. We should do more to lift this branch of the work.

Our Sabbath-school work during this biennial period has been most encouraging. At the close of 1913 we had thirty-one schools with a membership of 1,222 at the close of 1914, thirty-two schools with a membership of 1,264, while on September 30, 1915, we had forty-two schools, with a membership of 1,530. We now have three home schools and ninety-eight home department members. Our Sabbath-school donations for 1913 were \$4,060.34; for 1914, \$4,464.83, and for the first nine months of this year, \$4,063.84. Thirteen new schools have been added during this biennial period, and a net increase of 366 members appears according to the report. Our Sabbath-school membership is now in excess of our church membership. This is as it ought to be.

Our educational work is an important part of this great movement. Our children and youth must be trained for this message. On January 1, 1914, we had ten church schools with an enrollment of 197. On September 30, 1915, we had twelve church schools, with an enrollment of 224. We have fifteen teachers employed in these schools. We also have five mothers' schools, with an enrollment of nine. The church school work should be fostered and greatly strengthened.

At the beginning of this biennial period we had fifteen young people's societies with a membership of 398. On September 30, 1915, we had eighteen societies with a membership of 370.

We are reorganizing the young people's work, and are dropping those from the membership who have gone away and are not now attending the meeting and this makes the membership lower. Then there are societies which have never reported, and we do not count these as regular societies. We believe that the work is advancing. More are taking the reading course and standard of attainment than ever before.

We gladly give the Lord of the harvest all the glory for what has been accomplished in the advancement of the message. A spirit of fellowship and harmony exists among our workers. Our people generally are of good courage, and we view the future with bright hope, anticipating success in soul-winning. We consecrate our all to the Lord for service, knowing that there is no greater work in this world than that of winning souls for the Master.

N. P. NEILSEN

Southern California Conference

In the biennial period just closing, three presidents have succeeded each other in the administration of the Southern California Conference. During the year 1914 the conference was under the faithful leadership of El-

der F. M. Burg. One hundred and eight workers united in gospel labor. This includes sixty-one book and periodical workers. There were 240 baptized. Over \$31,000 worth of books and periodicals were sold. Total offerings to missions were \$31,433.28, or over 17 cents a week per member.

In December of 1914 Elder Burg accepted an invitation to head the Bible department of the Loma Linda College of Medical Evangelists. Elder E. E. Andross was asked to carry the responsibility of the conference until the next regular conference session, which was held in February of this year.

With a membership of 3773 and an annual tithe of over \$75,000, the Southern California Conference was much the largest conference in the world. At the February session the conference was divided, the Los Angeles division continuing to bear the name of the old conference. The perplexities incident to very large camp-meetings and the administration of such a large constituency were prominent among the reasons responsible for the division.

At the beginning of the present year the territory that now comprises the Southern California Conference had a membership of 2163. By the close of the third quarter the membership had increased to 2307. For the first ten months of this year the tithe receipts were \$33,332.31, an increase of \$1,259.65 over the same period of last year. On the twenty-cent-a-week fund \$11,518.24 had been raised at the close of October, an average of about 13 cents per member per week.

During the year there have been an average of thirty-three laborers in the employ of the conference. This number is made up of fourteen ordained ministers, six licensed ministers, eleven licensed missionaries and two office workers. Besides these we have had an average of eleven book and periodical canvassers laboring in the employ of the conference. It gives pleasure to report that during the first three quarters of this year 161 persons were baptized.

Both the Southern and the South-eastern California Conference Tract Societies are using the old tract society office as their depository. There has been an increase of several thousand dollars in the volume of business of the two conferences in book and other missionary literature over that of the past year.

The retail value of literature sales for 1914 was \$31,415.88 for the old Southern California Conference for the first nine months of 1915. For the present Southern California Conference the sales have been \$15,523.69, almost half the total sales for all of 1914, for the conferences before the division.

The camp-meeting sales were \$1,429.19, as compared with the total for both conferences of \$2,031.16 in 1914.

The tract society report shows the merchandise sales for the first ten

months of this year exceed the total for twelve months of last year by almost \$6000.

Our young people's secretary hands in the following figures: At the close of 1914 there were twenty-three societies with a membership of 342. At present we have twenty-one societies with a membership of 335. Considering that the former figures are for the Southern California Conference before its division, the latter figures mean the department shows a large increase in both number of societies and membership.

A good gain has been made in the Sabbath-school membership. Still more encouraging has been the gain in Sabbath-school offerings. Nearly \$7000 has come in for the first three quarters of 1915, a gain of over a thousand dollars as compared with the same portion of last year.

At the time of the division of the Southern California Conference, an action was taken recommending that the San Fernando Academy be transferred to the Pacific Union Educational Association. Provision will probably be made for such a transfer at this meeting. This academy, which is serving principally the two conferences in Southern California, is enjoying the largest attendance in its history. It is operated by a board representing the Pacific Union, the Southern California and the Southeastern California conferences.

Since the Glendale Sanitarium has practically become a union conference institution, I am not attempting to make any report for it other than to say it has enjoyed a good patronage the present year. During the past two years several have been baptized, whose attention was first turned to the message by the faithful laborers in this sanitarium.

Church Schools

We have fourteen schools, with eighteen teachers and an enrolment of 329. Three schools were organized during the present year.

Even though several staggering perplexities have presented themselves the present year the special blessing of God has been upon us. Considering the result of the year's work in the light of these extraordinary perplexities, we feel greatly encouraged at what we see. God has turned defeat into victory. The future holds out to us bright prospects of even greater fruitage.

B. E. BEDDOE.

Southeastern California Conference

The Southeastern California Conference was organized at a meeting of the Southern California Conference held in the city of Los Angeles, February 18 to 23, 1915. At this time the counties of San Bernardino, Riverside, Imperial, San Diego, and Orange were separated from the mother conference and given the name of "Southeastern California Conference". Statistics show that there are living in this conference 325,000 souls. San Diego is the principal city, but there are within

the borders of the conference a number of thriving smaller cities, and prosperous country furnishing a good field for labor.

At the time of the division, there were reported to be in the new conference 1652 members, composing twenty-seven churches. These churches paid during 1914 \$35,379.86 tithe, \$21.40 per capita. There were allotted to this conference thirteen ordained ministers, three licensed ministers, and five Bible workers. Added to this were other laborers, such as office help, etc., making a total of twenty-three laborers. Not all of these were full paid laborers, some of them drawing from the sustentation fund, this being supplemented by our conference.

We have in our conference seven-teen church schools, employing twenty-one teachers, with an enrollment of 384 pupils. We have a number of young people in San Fernando Academy, which is held jointly by the Southeastern and the Southern California conferences. We have also a goodly company of students in Pacific Union College.

At a meeting of the conference committee held at Loma Linda March 23, 1915, it was decided to locate the headquarters of the new conference at Santa Ana, county seat of Orange County. Accordingly a building was rented for this purpose, and an office established. We have now a well-equipped office, supplied with the necessities to carry on our conference work.

Two sanitariums are located within the limits of our conference—one at Paradise Valley and the other at Loma Linda. We are glad to have these institutions in our midst. They were planted by direction of the spirit of prophecy, and are a blessing to the work in our field.

The Southeastern California Conference conducts its tract society work through the office at Los Angeles.

The retail value of literature sales in this conference for the nine months since its organization total \$11,253.97, as compared with total sales for 1915 in the undivided Southern California Conference of \$31,415.88. Our camp-meeting sales this year totaled \$1,599.60, almost \$600 more than half the 1914 sales in the undivided conference.

Among the items which make up the total sales for the first nine months of 1915 in the Southeastern and Southern California and the Arizona conferences, served by the one tract society, are about 1000 copies of "The Shadow of the Bottle", 7183 copies of "The World's Crisis", 156 copies of "Early Writings", an average of about thirty-five each of Sister White's books in red leather and cloth, "Acts", "Desire", "Controversy", "Patriarchs", and "Counsels"; and counting thirty-one sets of the "Testimonies", India paper edition, as separate volumes, a total of 1001 volumes of "Testimonies for the Church"—a veritable flood of message-filled, soul-winning literature.

Our Sabbath-school Department began the year 1915 with thirty schools and a membership of 1769, or 117 more members than our churches reported at that time.

At the close of nine months we have thirty-three schools, with a net increase of forty members. The small gain in membership is due to a change of method in reckoning the members of the school.

The Sabbath-school donations for the nine months amount to \$6,180.95.

A canvassing agent is employed jointly by the Southern and Southeastern California conferences.

A young people's department has been organized and placed under the leadership of a capable worker.

Our Sabbath-school work shows a decided upward tendency.

Since the organization of the conference, meetings have been held in a number of new places. Most of our active laborers have been engaged in evangelistic work. It has been my privilege to visit, with one or two exceptions, all the churches in the conference, some of them several times. In addition to this, I have assisted more or less in one or two series of meetings.

As a result of meetings held thus far during the year, quite a number have taken their stand for the truth. The reports of our laborers show 250 baptisms, fifty-nine joining the church on profession of faith, having been previously baptized. In addition to this there are twenty-five or more keeping the Sabbath, who have not so far united with the church. This brings our membership up to 1867. As stated above, we began with an enrollment of 1652. The apparent discrepancy lies in the fact that in some of our churches there has been a careful revision of the records.

For the ten months there has been received \$30,943.39 in tithe. Comparing this with the amount paid during the same period of 1914, there is shown a gain of \$2406.43.

The offerings to foreign missions for the ten months amount to \$9,950.65. This is an average of a trifle over 14 cents per member for the period.

Through the blessing of God we have been able to operate our conference within our income. We have not found it necessary to draw on our surplus, and are able to show an operating gain of \$1,858, of which \$726.92 has been invested in equipment. For this we are very thankful. It is our purpose, under the hand of God, to finish the work in our field on time, so that when the Master comes, He may find we have done faithfully the work He gave us to do.

W. F. MARTIN.

Nevada Mission

The report for the Nevada Mission will appear in the issue for December 16. The report does not appear here for lack of room.

WEEK OF PRAYER

Central California

We urge upon all our people the importance of observing the week of prayer. Our churches should plan for meetings every day. As far as possible we will have our conference workers visit all our churches during this season of refreshing. All should try to attend the meetings, but when persons are so situated that they are unable to attend, great blessing will come to them if they have the season of prayer and the readings at home. Let this week be a special time of seeking God and of soul-winning. Let us put away all sin and draw near to God, and bring Him a real thank offering on the last day of this week of prayer.

N. P. NEILSEN.

California

Every church in the conference was considered in the committee meeting held December 1, and plans were laid to send help for the week of prayer to as many as possible with the available working force. The list of appointments is too long to be printed here, but each local elder will receive a copy of the appointments for his church. We trust this will be a season of great spiritual uplift, and that each and every one will experience a real re-consecration to the Lord and His service.

Very encouraging reports are coming in from all over the conference on the Harvest Ingathering work. We are now right in the midst of the campaign, and we trust no church will slacken its pace until the desired goal is reached. One church has sent in to date \$436.

Several churches in this conference have already made up their quota on the twenty-cent-a-week fund for 1915, and are doing all they can to raise more. Surely those that are behind should bend every effort to make up their full quota. How does your clock stand?

H. B. THOMAS.

Southeastern California

To Our Church Elders and Brethren
Throughout the Field:
Dear Brethren:

It is only a few days now until the week of prayer, and the great annual season of seeking God will be upon us. This has come to be an established custom among our people, and has proved a great blessing to the Adventists throughout the world. Many of us who have been a long time in the message can look back with pleasure to these seasons when we sought the Lord and He drew very near to us.

Never has there been a time when it was more necessary to pray than at the present. Things for which we have been looking all these years are right now upon us. These should strengthen our faith in the message, and should lead us to humble our hearts before the Lord and be sure that our sins are all forgiven. I most sincerely trust that our people throughout the conference

will improve to the very best the advantages that will come to us. Let no one neglect the hour of worship. Each church can set aside the hour most convenient, either in the daytime or in the evening, and come together. Have someone read the article prepared for the day, and then spend some time in prayer and social meeting.

We are planning as far as possible to place our ministers so that a number of our churches can have help from one of the Lord's servants either a part or all of the time. Whether this will be possible or not, the week of prayer meetings should be carried on just the same.

Then at the close comes the great Annual Offering, which means so much to the faithful missionaries who have left their homes and gone away to the benighted lands to carry the message. May this year's annual offering be a large one.

Sincerely wishing you the blessing of the Lord during this season, I am

Your fellow-worker,

W. F. MARTIN.

Northwestern California

Plans are being considered for the best week of prayer in our history. Surely we must seek God for a deeper experience. On every side there is evidence that the enemy is laying plans to counter-work the plans of God. We must follow trustingly the rapid advancement of the Lord's work. To do this will require unwavering faith. Let us unite in seeking the preparation we need. Let us put away sin, and invite the Lord to come into our hearts. He is waiting to anoint His people with power for the finishing of the work. "Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear My voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with Me." Rev. 3:20. Let us make right every wrong, real or fancied. Nothing short of entire surrender will insure the blessing we seek.

Some, perhaps, have been unfaithful in returning to God His own in tithes and offerings, and thus have grieved the Holy Spirit. Others may have been careless regarding other points of faith, and have indulged appetite and pride of appearance. In whatever way we may have sinned, there is still assurance that "if we confess our sins He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." The day of mercy is nearing its close, but still the Lord intercedes for every one that lays hold of the righteousness of God.

The call to prayer this year is a call to service. There is no place for faint-heartedness, or discouragement, in this closing work. At the recent Loma Linda council every testimony, every report, and every plan for the future of the work rang with the note of triumph, final and complete. Shall we not young and old unitedly seek for personal victory over every sin. "The righteousness of Christ will not cover one cherished sin. There will be no future

probation in which to prepare for eternity. It is in this life that we are to put on the robe of Christ's righteousness. This is our only opportunity to form characters for the home which Christ has made ready for those who obey His commandments."

The days of probation are fast closing. The end is near. To us the warning is given, "Take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be over-changed with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares." Luke 21:34. Beware lest it find you *unready*. Take heed lest ye be found at the King's feast without a wedding garment. "In such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh." Matt. 24:44. "Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame." Rev. 16:15. (C.O.L. pages 318, 319.)

J. ADAMS STEVENS.

On the 27th ult. special emergency subscription cards were distributed in all of our churches in the Pacific Union Conference, with the hope that we might receive enough pledges to complete the grand total of the \$150,000 fund. At this writing we are much encouraged by the number of signed cards that have come in. We trust that all signed cards will be mailed to the Pacific Union Conference office at an early date.

NORTHWESTERN CALIFORNIA Conference Items

A company of young people from the Sanitarium church recently made a trip to Vallejo to wage a campaign in the interests of the Harvest Ingathering. The trip was made by automobile, and during the few hours in which they could solicit, \$28.00 was received. Members of the church paid the expenses of the trip, so the amount received goes to missions.

Members of the college ministerial class, under the leadership of Brother John Knox, held meetings with the St. Helena church Friday, Sabbath and Sunday, November 26 to 28. Others of the class, led by Brother Ernest Lloyd, went to Vallejo to hold meetings over the same dates. Elder C. S. Prout assisted in the services on the Sabbath, giving special attention to home missionary work.

Several churches have reached their Harvest Ingathering goal. Several others are nearing theirs, and there are still three weeks left in which the necessary money can be gathered. Let us not give up the effort before reaching the goal. One brother reports having received \$37.00. Two others received \$22.00 in a few hours. One church reports \$85.00 from their Harvest Ingathering church service. They are still working. The goal is \$1.54 from each member, and we can do it. Many are doing much more than this.

J. ADAMS STEVENS.