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## The Morning Bible Study

Wednesday, May 27, 1936

### The Promise of the Holy Spirit

By I. H. EVANS



I. H. Evans

THIS morning hour is set apart for Bible study and devotion, and will continue as such during the Conference session. The eventful times in which we are living, our lamentable spiritual lack as workers, and the great need of spiritual

help on the part of the advent people scattered among the nations of the world, constitute strong reasons for a humbling of the heart before the Lord and a seeking, on the part of this delegation, for a new baptism of the Holy Spirit. This demands a putting away of sin; a forsaking of the world and its allurements; a facing of present-day conditions in such a way that we shall not lose our faith and vision in a soon-coming Lord; and a heart preparation that will fit us as a people for translation. All over the world where our people are worshipping, prayers will be offered for this meeting. If we who are here fail to make a new consecration to the Lord, and to receive a new infilling of the Holy Spirit, our people will be grieved and pained, for they expect great things from this Conference. Let me bespeak for these morning Bible studies a regular and full attendance.

I read a prophecy involving a wonderful promise from the Lord to His people: "Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord: and he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse." Mal. 4:5, 6.

Not a few of the prophecies of the Old Testament have a double time period in their fulfillment. My text is an illustration of such a prophecy. It was partially fulfilled in the great movement connected with the life of Christ and the Pentecostal blessings, while its final

fulfillment will be associated with the second advent. In evidence of this statement I read:

"Those who are to prepare the way for the second coming of Christ, are represented by faithful Elijah, as John came in the spirit of Elijah to prepare the way for Christ's first advent. The great subject of reform is to be agitated, and the public mind is to be stirred. Temperance in all things is to be connected with the message, to turn the people of God from their idolatry, their gluttony, and their extravagance in dress and other things."—*Testimonies*, Vol. III, p. 62.

The prophecy in Joel is another prophetic utterance of which we may expect a second fulfillment. Of this second fulfillment Gordon says:

"If we refer to Joel's great prophecy: 'I will pour out My Spirit upon all flesh,' and then to Peter's reference to the same, as recorded in the Acts, we are led to ask, Was this prediction completely fulfilled on the day of Pentecost? Certainly not. Peter, with inspired accuracy, says: 'This is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel,' without affirming that herein the prophecy of Joel was entirely fulfilled. Turning back to the prediction itself, we find that it includes within its sweep 'the great and terrible day of the Lord,' and the 'bringing again of the captivity of Judah and Jerusalem' (Joel 2:31; 3:1), events which are clearly yet future."—*The Ministry of the Spirit*, p. 210.

#### Elijah

Malachi's prophecy concerning the sending of Elijah the prophet "before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord," was devoutly cherished by the Jews. So ardent and jealous were they that Elijah should be welcomed when he came, that it became customary at feasts, and even in Jewish homes when families partook of a festive meal, to place a vacant chair for the unseen guest. Christ settled the fact that Elijah had come before His day when He said, speaking of John the Baptist:

"Verily I say unto you, Among them that are born of women there hath not risen a greater than John the Baptist: notwithstanding he that is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force. For all the prophets and

the law prophesied until John. And if ye will receive it, this is Elias, which was for to come." Matt. 11:11-14.

That Elijah will come again the second time is certain from the words of the prophet Malachi when he says: "Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord." The expression "great and dreadful day of the Lord," clearly refers to the second coming of Christ. Now if Elijah is to come the second time in fulfillment of Malachi's statement, it must be in connection with the second coming of Christ. The phrase, "the great and dreadful day of the Lord," does not seem applicable to Christ's first advent. Repeatedly, similar language is used by the Holy Spirit in describing the days reaching to the second coming of Christ. Therefore we have a right to inquire into the work of Elijah and John the Baptist to learn the nature of Elijah's work.

Elijah was the greatest of the ancient prophets, according to Jewish teaching and faith. His ministry was tragic and accompanied by many miracles. Without announcement or introduction, he appeared before King Ahab, and uttered the dire warning: "As the Lord God of Israel liveth, . . . there shall not be dew nor rain these years, but according to my word." 1 Kings 17:1.

The important thing concerning the work of Elijah is that he was filled with the Holy Spirit, and worked under His guidance; therefore God confirmed the word of Elijah, and wrought through him to turn the hearts of Israel from idolatry to the worship of the Lord. Ahab was an Israelite, the son of King Omri, and had good ability; but he was a wicked man, under whose reign God's people went into idolatry, and became worshipers of Baal. Ahab had married Jezebel, the daughter of the king of Zidon, who himself was a priest of Baal. Jezebel caused to be built many temples throughout Samaria, and she brought from her father's country many priests of Baal who ministered in these temples, and induced Israel to forsake the worship of Jehovah and to become worshipers of Baal. That idolatrous religion was immoral in its nature; and having fallen to a low standard of morality themselves, the Jewish people readily accepted Baal worship.

Elijah came to Israel when this form of idolatry was at its height. His work was to lead Israel back to the worship

of Jehovah and to reestablish the Jewish sacrificial service. Though lacking all that men usually regard as the accouterments of position and authority, Elijah was clothed with unmistakable power. He spoke with authority, and wrought miracles never before witnessed. He raised the dead to life, stayed the heavens from giving rain for three years, and slew four hundred and fifty prophets of Baal. He outran the fleet steeds of Ahab from Carmel to Jezreel, a distance of eighteen miles; and went without food for forty days, walking under a burning sun across the sands of the wilderness of Sinai. At the close of his earthly career, we are told, "there appeared a chariot of fire, and horses of fire; . . . and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven."

As a result of Elijah's mighty work, the worship of the true God was re-established for a brief time in Israel, and the outpouring of His wrath was delayed. One cannot reverently read the record borne by Inspiration concerning the life and work of the prophet Elijah without being profoundly impressed that God was with him.

#### John

The prophecy of Malachi declares: "Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord; and He shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse." When Christ, speaking of John, says, "This is Elias, which was for to come," we are warranted in expecting to see, in the life of John, a similarity to the experience of Elijah. When the angel announced the birth of John to his father, he made use of the very words of the prophet:

"Many of the children of Israel shall he turn to the Lord their God. And he shall go before Him in the spirit and power of Elias, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just; to make ready a people prepared for the Lord."

Elijah was a miracle worker, a fearless, bold man, who faced the king unafraid, and trusted not in man for help. All we know of him is mighty. But when John came, we find him not a miracle worker at all. "John did no miracle," was the testimony of those who had heard him; and they added, "but all things that John spake of this Man were true."

John was a great evangelist, a mighty preacher. Without miracles, but by the preaching of the word of God, he stirred the people of Judea and all the country round about Jordan as they had not been stirred since the days of Elijah. Like Elijah's, his message was given with power. Both men were alike in the simplicity of their dress, in their way of life, in their abstinence, but especially in the reformatory message which they preached.

John was a humble man. He sought no self-promotion. On no occasion do we find him boasting of what he had done. When the Jews sent priests and Levites to question John, he said: "There cometh One mightier than I after me, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to stoop down and unloose."

Both Elijah and John were clothed with the Holy Spirit. They were men whom the Holy Spirit used as He used

Peter and the apostles on the day of Pentecost. If the remnant church is to do a greater work than has been done through the ages, if those proclaiming this advent message are represented by the prophet Elijah, and John the Baptist was that promised Elijah, preaching the gospel of a coming Christ till the people of Judea were moved to repentance from sin, then may we not know something of the power that is to attend our own work?

#### Nature of John's Message

John was a great reformer. He spoke with convicting power. In positive, unequivocal language he pointed out the sins of his hearers and urged them to repent. Read again his stirring words under the light of the condition of the world today and the awful tragedy that impends:

"Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. For this is he that was spoken of by the prophet Esaias, saying, The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make His paths straight. And the same John had his raiment of camel's hair, and a leathern girdle about his loins; and his meat was locusts and wild honey. Then went out to him Jerusalem, and all Judea, and all the region round about Jordan, and were baptized of him in Jordan, confessing their sins.

"But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees come to his baptism, he said unto them, O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance: and think not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to our father: for I say unto you, that God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham. And now also the ax is laid unto the root of the trees: therefore every tree which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but He that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: He shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire: whose fan is in His hand, and He will thoroughly purge His floor, and gather His wheat into the garner; but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire." Matt. 3:2-12.

John's greatness is best seen in his dealings with Herod Antipas. In our day who would not have flattered the voluptuous king? Instead of dwelling upon the mercy and forbearance of God toward sin, John introduced the question of Herod's conduct in taking his brother's wife, and declared to Herod, "It is not lawful for thee to have her." For these bold words John went to prison, and later was beheaded.

When we covet the power of Elijah, we should pause to reflect on what the possession of that power means. It stands for purity of life and heart; for zeal that knows no fear nor compromise; for a willingness to be nothing while others advance, and to suffer imprisonment and death for Christ's sake.

#### The Remnant Church to Have the Holy Spirit

That the remnant church is to have the power of the Holy Spirit in giving the gospel to a lost, perishing world is foretold in various scriptures. The three messages of Revelation 14 are

represented as being proclaimed, not in the feebleness of man's power, but by three angels from heaven, which must mean that all heaven is enlisted in the giving of these messages. The angels indicate that the church that gives these messages is clothed with power. The first and third angels speak with a "loud voice." In Revelation 10 we read about another mighty angel coming down from heaven, "clothed with a cloud: and a rainbow was upon his head, and his face was as it were the sun, and his feet as pillars of fire: and he . . . cried with a loud voice."

In Revelation 14:15 the angel accompanying Christ at His second coming is said to cry with a "loud voice." Revelation 16:1 says there was "heard a great voice out of the temple saying to the seven angels, Go your ways, and pour out the vials of the wrath of God upon the earth." In Revelation 18 we read that John saw "another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory. And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen." Then another voice from heaven is heard, saying, "Come out of her, My people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues."

#### The Three Angels' Messages to Go With Power

Everything connected with the giving of the three angels' messages of Revelation 14 and the end of the gospel age, is apparently clothed with power. The constant repetition of the phrases "loud cry," "loud voice," "cried mightily," etc., must mean that the closing work of God on earth is to be with great power and in demonstration of the Holy Spirit.

We have many statements from the Spirit of prophecy which indicate that there are to be mighty manifestations of power in preaching the word among this people in the last days. Let me read a few such statements:

"The third angel, flying in the midst of heaven, and heralding the commandments of God and the testimony of Jesus, represents our work. The message loses none of its force in the angel's onward flight; for John sees it increasing in strength and power until the whole

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earth is lightened with its glory. The course of God's commandment-keeping people is onward, ever onward. The message of truth that we bear must go to nations, tongues, and peoples. Soon it will go with a loud voice, and the earth will be lightened with its glory. Are we preparing for this great outpouring of the Spirit of God?"—"Testimonies," Vol. V, p. 383.

"The angel who unites in the proclamation of the third angel's message, is to lighten the whole earth with his glory. A work of world-wide extent and unwonted power is here foretold. The advent movement of 1840-44 was a glorious manifestation of the power of God; the first angel's message was carried to every missionary station in the world, and in some countries there was the greatest religious interest which has been witnessed in any land since the Reformation of the sixteenth century; but these are to be exceeded by the mighty movement under the last warning of the third angel.

"The work will be similar to that of the day of Pentecost. . . . The great work of the gospel is not to close with less manifestation of the power of God than marked its opening. The prophecies which were fulfilled in the outpouring of the former rain at the opening of the gospel, are again to be fulfilled in the latter rain at its close. . . .

"Servants of God, with their faces lighted up and shining with holy consecration, will hasten from place to place to proclaim the message from heaven. By thousands of voices, all over the earth, the warning will be given. . . . The message will be carried not so much by argument as by the deep conviction of the Spirit of God."—"The Great Controversy," pp. 611, 612.

#### *The Holy Spirit Promised*

Whence comes this promised power? When is the church to receive the Spirit that characterized Elijah and attended the preaching of John the Baptist? Let us seek for light on these important questions. Christ said to His disciples after His crucifixion, just prior to His ascension, "Tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high." Luke 24:49.

In the first chapter of the book of Acts we have a clear statement in regard to the Holy Spirit. Christ was talking to His disciples just before His ascension, and He said to them:

"John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence." "But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto Me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth." Verses 5, 8.

The reception of the Holy Spirit and the reception of power seem to be identical in the mind of Christ. "Tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem until ye be endued with power." And again, "Ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you." Hence we may conclude that the Holy Spirit is the power that was to accompany the preaching of the gospel by the disciples.

In the second chapter of Acts we have a brief record of the day of Pentecost:

"When the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a

sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance." Acts 2:1-4.

Here we have a description of the descent of the Holy Spirit as far as language can portray it. He came upon the disciples and accompanied their preaching to the people. A vast multitude had gathered at the temple to attend the Pentecost festival then due. Peter, filled with the Spirit, spoke to the people. The sermon that he preached was effective and heart-searching, severe as it may seem to us today. It was like the preaching of John the Baptist,—a condemnation of sin and a call to repentance toward God. The power of God was present, and Peter was moved by the Holy Spirit. Only a brief synopsis of this wonderful sermon is recorded, but it closes with this statement: "There-

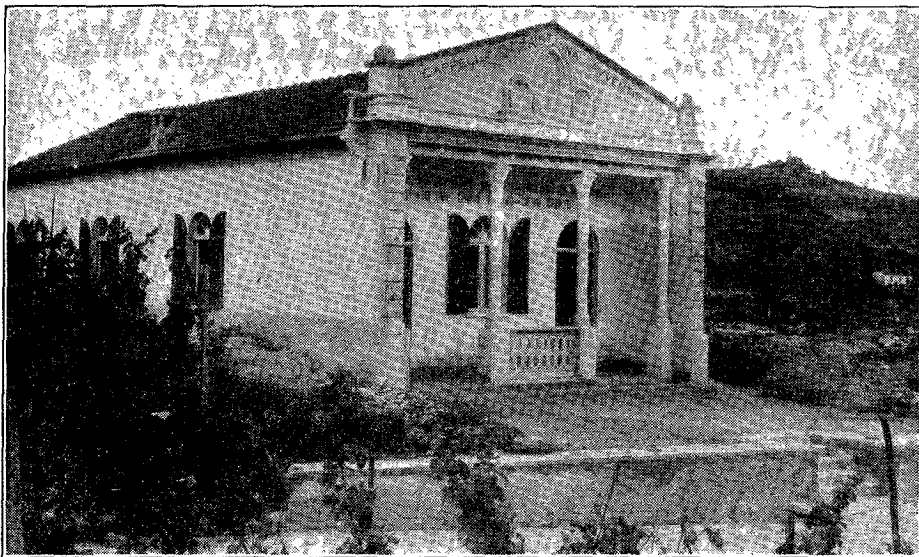
here, He Himself promised that He and the Father would send the Holy Spirit to His disciples and to the church. We read:

"All power is given unto Me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen." Matt. 28:18-20.

John records the promises that Christ made to His disciples concerning the descent of the Holy Spirit. In the 14th chapter of John we read:

"If ye love Me, keep My commandments. And I will pray the Father, and He shall give you another Comforter, that He may abide with you forever; even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth Him not, neither knoweth Him: but ye know Him; for He dwelleth with you, and shall be in you." Verses 15-17.

"The Comforter, which is the Holy



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fore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ."

It took great boldness on the part of Peter to utter these words; for only fifty days before, at a greater festival than Pentecost, the people and priests had cried out for the crucifixion of the Lord Jesus. That Pentecostal sermon of Peter's, and the sights that the people saw and the words to which they listened, brought 3,000 souls to Christ.

A little later we find Peter and John talking to the people under the influence of the Holy Spirit, and it is declared of them, "With great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus." Acts 4:33. And we read that the number of men who believed was about 5,000.

#### *The Holy Spirit During the Christian Age*

According to the teaching of the word of God, we understand that the Holy Spirit was to minister to the church throughout the entire Christian age. Christ is the head of the church, but He sends the Holy Spirit to minister to the church and to clothe His messengers with power from Pentecost to the second coming of Christ. When Christ was

Ghost, whom the Father will send in My name, He shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you." Verse 26.

"When the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, He shall testify of Me." John 15:26.

"Nevertheless I tell you the truth: It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send Him unto you. And when He is come, He will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: of sin, because they believe not on Me; of righteousness, because I go to My Father, and ye see Me no more; of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged. I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now. Howbeit when He, the Spirit of truth, is come, He will guide you into all truth: for He shall not speak of Himself; but whatsoever He shall hear, that shall He speak: and He will show you things to come. He shall glorify Me: for He shall receive of Mine, and shall show it unto you." John 16:7-14.

Here we have repeated promises of

Christ to His disciples that the Holy Spirit will come to this world, that He, as teacher, will bring to memory the teachings of Christ, that He will reprove the world of sin and of righteousness and of judgment. Then in verse 13 it is declared:

"Howbeit when He, the Spirit of truth, is come, He will guide you into all truth: for He shall not speak of Himself; but whatsoever He shall hear, that shall He speak: and He will show you things to come."

Thus we have the purpose and plan of God made known to the church,—that the Holy Ghost is to teach and guide and help, and give such power as is needful at any time to meet the demands of the day and work.

Had the people of God cherished the presence of the Holy Spirit, had they complied with the conditions on which He is promised to be given, and allowed Him to use them as agencies in promoting the work of God, we should not find the world situation as it is today. And if we had cherished the Holy Spirit and lived for His indwelling, we should not find our church in the condition that we all confess it to be in.

#### *The Holy Spirit Dwells in the Christian*

What purpose does the Holy Spirit have in coming to the church? I answer, It is twofold. The first mission of the Holy Spirit is that of a helper. The second objective is that of enabling power. To be filled with the Holy Spirit is a blessing upon each individual member of the church. It is God in man, to supply strength that the Christian may walk before the Lord in obedience to His commandments. Said the Master, before He promised the Holy Spirit, "If ye love Me, keep My commandments." And again we find in the twenty-third verse, "If a man love Me, he will keep My words: and My Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him."

Now the Christian is powerless to render perfect obedience to the law of God without divine help. So the Holy Spirit comes to each individual as a helper, for that is the promise. He enters the heart, controls the life, lives in the Christian as God in the flesh; and thus the Christian is filled with the Holy Spirit. I read:

"Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are." 1 Cor. 3:16, 17.

"What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? for ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's." 1 Cor. 6:19, 20.

"What agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people." 2 Cor. 6:16.

These scriptures set forth that the third person of the Godhead enters into man's heart, takes possession of his life, reigning there supreme; and that as Christ lived in the flesh and obeyed His Father, it is understood that after receiving the Holy Spirit the Christian will walk in obedience to the commandments

of God. There should be no breaking out of sin, no returning to the works of the flesh, after one has tasted of the good Spirit of God, and known the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit.

#### *Every Christian Needs the Holy Spirit*

Not only does each Christian need this divine presence, but in order for him to be victorious in his Christian life, he must have the presence of God in the Holy Spirit in him. Elijah was conscious of this presence and power. How otherwise could he have promised Elisha a double portion of his spirit? He knew that God was with him when he threatened Ahab that the heavens should be cloudless, and there would be no rain; when he prayed for the dead child, asking that his soul might come into him again; when he sent out a call for the prophets of Baal to gather at Mount Carmel; when he stood before the prophets of Baal, mocking and deriding them because their god was unable to answer their prayers. When he poured the water upon the altar and the sacrifice, and filled the trenches round about, Elijah felt the divine presence. He knew that God was with him when he ran that long distance from Carmel to Jezreel, eighteen miles, before the speeding chariot of Ahab. This man of God knew that the Holy Spirit was upon him.

John knew that he had the presence of the Holy Spirit in his ministry. He felt His power, and all the people who came to hear him were convinced that he was a prophet sent of God to lead Israel from sin to faith and hope.

So in these last days, men are to be conscious that the power of God rests upon them. They are not able to command the Holy Spirit; but they yield themselves as instruments of righteousness unto God, and beseech the Lord that He will use them to speak in His name. Every minister before me today is entitled to be conscious that God is with him when he speaks, that God indites the words he utters. He is to feel the presence of the Holy Spirit; he is to be conscious of His divine presence and power, and know that God gives the message that he speaks. He is so to speak as the oracle of God that he shall be conscious that power has gone from him upon his people as they have listened to his burning words of reproof, exhortation, and entreaty.

We read from the Spirit of prophecy concerning this time in these graphic words:

"Servants of God, endowed with power from on high, with their faces lighted up, and shining with holy consecration, went forth to proclaim the message from heaven. Souls that were scattered all through the religious bodies answered to the call, and the precious were hurried out of the doomed churches, as Lot was hurried out of Sodom before her destruction. God's people were strengthened by the excellent glory which rested upon them in rich abundance, and prepared them to endure the hour of temptation. I heard everywhere a multitude of voices saying, 'Here is the patience of the saints; here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.'" —*Early Writings*, pp. 278, 279.

Every Christian needs this divine power in his daily living, that he may have the mastery over the natural weaknesses of the flesh, and live a life of holiness unto the Lord. I know that some fear the word "holiness," thinking

it borders on fanaticism; but if this advent people are not holy, they can never hope for translation. If we are not a clean people, we can never expect to be caught up in the clouds and made immortal in the presence of God. No man living in sin can enjoy this marvelous change. No one who has been living according to the flesh will be able to stand in that great day when the Son of man is seen coming on the white cloud in power and great glory.

The first thing, therefore, that the Holy Spirit must do with the people of God is to cleanse them from sin. This should be our great cry at this time, "O Lord, make me clean; make me like Christ." The prayer of each one of us at this Conference should be:

"One thing I of the Lord desire,  
For all my paths have miry been,  
Be it by water or by fire,  
O make me clean, O make me clean!"

"If clearer vision Thou impart,  
Grateful and glad my soul shall be;  
But yet to have a purer heart  
Is more to me, is more to me.

"Yea, only as this heart is clean  
May larger vision yet be mine,  
For mirrored in Thy life are seen  
The things divine, the things divine.

"I watch to shun the miry way,  
And stanch the springs of guilty thought;  
But watch and struggle as I may,  
Pure I am not, pure I am not.

"So wash me Thou, without, within,  
Or purge with fire, if that must be,  
No matter how, if only sin  
Die out in me, die out in me."

It is far more important to us today to get ready for the coming of Christ, to know that our sins are forgiven, that we are clothed with the righteousness of Christ, that we are daily living a holy, humble, Christlike life, than that we adopt a thousand plans, however good and perfect they may be, for the promotion of the gospel. The greatest work that can ever be done is to get ready for the second coming of Christ; and until one is ready and has the power and presence of the Holy Ghost in himself, he is not qualified to preach a saving gospel to poor sinners who must get ready for the appearing of our Lord.

#### *The Third Angel's Message Will Close in a Loud Cry*

The second office of the Holy Spirit is to help the people of God to finish His work on the earth. We as a people are expecting a time when the last sermon will be preached, the last sinner will have received forgiveness, and the work of God will be closed. We have long believed this, and every one who is a true believer in the advent message has this faith. Now when the church of God has been cleansed from sin, when the channel through which the Holy Spirit must work to reach the world has been cleansed, when men have been washed and re-created in Jesus and are living the life of Christ, we may expect the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the church in mighty power, so that both the ministry and the laity will be filled with the Holy Spirit and will go forth to preach this saving truth to the people of their day.

"Thus the message of the third angel will be proclaimed. As the time comes



for it to be given with greatest power, the Lord will work through humble instruments, leading the minds of those who consecrate themselves to His service. The laborers will be qualified rather by the unction of His Spirit than by the training of literary institutions. Men of faith and prayer will be constrained to go forth with holy zeal, declaring the words which God gives them."—*"The Great Controversy,"* p. 606.

"The remnant people of God must be a converted people. The presentation of this message is to result in the conversion and sanctification of souls. We are to feel the power of the Spirit of God in this movement. This is a wonderful, definite message; it means everything to the receiver, and it is to be proclaimed with a loud cry. We must have a true, abiding faith that this message will go forth with increasing importance till the close of time."—*"Testimonies,"* Vol. IX, p. 154.

James urged patience on the part of God's people: "Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain." James 5:7.

Commenting on this scripture, is a word from "The Ministry of the Spirit," as follows:

"As in husbandry the one rain belonged to the time of sowing, and the other to the time of harvest, so in redemption the early rain of the Spirit was at Pentecost, the latter rain will be at the Parousia; the one fell upon the world as the first sowers went forth into the world to sow, the other will accompany 'the harvest which is the end of the age,' and will fructify the earth for the final blessing of the age to come, bringing repentance to Israel and the remission of sins, 'that the times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that He may send Jesus Christ, before appointed for you, whom the heavens must receive until the times of restitution of all things' (Acts 3:19-21)."—*Pages 211, 212.*

Others than Seventh-day Adventists believe and teach this latter-day anointing of the Holy Spirit. F. B. Meyers wrote:

"John the Baptist came in the spirit and power of Elijah; that spirit and power are for us too. . . . God is still able to vouchsafe to us as large a portion of His Spirit as to the disciples on the day of Pentecost. . . . The power of His grace is not passed away with primitive times, as fond and faithless men imagine; but His kingdom is now at hand, and Christ ever waits to lead His church to greater triumphs than she has known."—*"John the Baptist,"* pp. 189-191.

Thus the Holy Spirit will rest upon the church of God as they go forth to finish the Lord's work. This message is to be finished in power. Men and women who have gained the victory over sin, who live the life of Christ in the flesh, knowing that the Holy Ghost dwells within them, will proclaim this last message of warning with power from the Holy Spirit.

#### Who Receive the Holy Ghost

We are commanded to "ask . . . of the Lord rain in the time of the latter rain," and the promise is, "So the Lord shall make bright clouds, and give them show-

ers of rain, to every one grass in the field." Zech. 10:1.

In Palestine the early rain followed the seeding time, and the latter rain brought the ripening of the harvest. The prophet uses this fact in nature, as does the servant of the Lord, to induce the church to pray for the baptism of the Holy Spirit for the finishing of the harvest of the earth.

The latter rain and the loud cry of the message are simultaneous. It is the latter rain that constitutes the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Thus we should pray for and expect that God will ripen the harvest by a special gift of Himself through the latter rain.

Once we prayed for the latter rain almost daily. How seldom now do we hear such prayers! Yet the precept stands unrevoked, and this people must face the command as well as take responsibility for failing to obey.

"Ask ye of the Lord rain in the time of the latter rain.' Do not rest satisfied that in the ordinary course of the season, rain will fall. Ask for it. The growth and perfection of the seed rests not with the husbandman. God alone can ripen the harvest. But man's co-operation is required. God's work for us demands the action of our mind, the exercise of our faith. We must seek His favors with the whole heart if the showers of grace are to come to us. We should improve every opportunity of placing ourselves in the channel of blessing."—*"Testimonies to Ministers,"* p. 508.

We are not to receive the Holy Spirit while we are filled with selfishness, with rivalry for position, with envy and jealousy. Men cannot receive the Holy Spirit while seeking riches and gains, popularity and favors. God cannot give us the Holy Spirit in full measure till we are of one accord and obeying the Lord. He may give us a portion of the

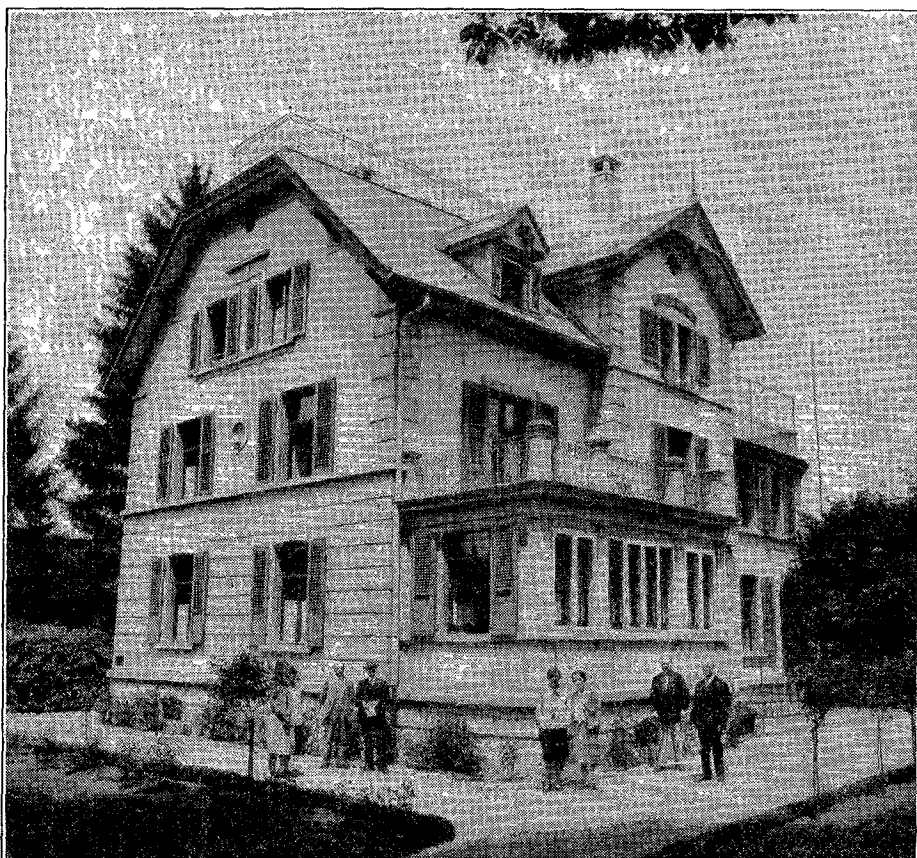
Spirit to lead us to repentance, to help us to change our lives, and to amend our ways, till we gain victory over the flesh; but let me read to you what we are told concerning the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in the loud cry of this message:

"I was shown that if God's people make no efforts on their part, but wait for the refreshing to come upon them and remove their wrongs and correct their errors; if they depend upon that to cleanse them from filthiness of the flesh and spirit, and fit them to engage in the loud cry of the third angel, they will be found wanting. The refreshing or power of God comes only on those who have prepared themselves for it by doing the work which God bids them, namely, cleansing themselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God."—*"Testimonies,"* Vol. I, p. 619.

This surely is a call to piety. It means a full consecration on our part if we are to be ready for the latter rain and the loud cry of this advent message. God expects this people to get ready for the latter rain. He expects them to finish His work under the power of the Holy Spirit.

May this Conference bring to every one who is here a new experience in spiritual things. Could we go forth from this Conference clothed with the power of the Holy Ghost, we could do a hundred times more than we have been doing in preaching the gospel. We are told in the Spirit of prophecy:

"If we would humble ourselves before God, and be kind and courteous and tenderhearted and pitiful, there would be one hundred conversions to the truth where now there is only one. But though professing to be converted, we carry around with us a bundle of self that we regard as altogether too precious to be given up. It is our privi-



Southern European Division Headquarters Building at Bern, Switzerland

lege to lay this burden at the feet of Christ, and in its place take the character and similitude of Christ. The Saviour is waiting for us to do this."—*Id.*, Vol. IX, pp. 189, 190.

"As the third angel's message swells to a loud cry, and as great power and glory attends the closing work, the faithful people of God will partake of that glory. It is the latter rain which revives and strengthens them to pass through the time of trouble. Their faces will shine with the glory of that light which attends the third angel."—"Spiritual Gifts," Vol. IV, Part 2, pp. 112, 113.

So let us consecrate ourselves that the

Holy Spirit may fill us and use us in the finishing of God's work.

O Lord, we confess Thee our God and Saviour. Thou hast called us to a great and mighty work to prepare a people to be ready and awaiting Thy second coming in power and glory. Thou hast made us ambassadors of Thine to a lost and perishing world. Put Thy love within our hearts, and take such hold of our lives that they may be wholly consecrated to the finishing of Thy work. Help us, as Thy ministers, to prepare a people for translation, and grant that we who minister in Thy name may be ready and waiting for Thy soon coming.

ous thing for this denomination. Having passed through that, having with my brethren of the present administration received some experience during that time, we would lift our voices unitedly, and urgently ask that plans for the future in connection with the Treasury work of the General Conference shall include the proper reservation of sufficient moneys held in such a way as to make them available at a moment's notice for the meeting of any emergency which the very uncertain future may produce.

I am glad too, dear friends, that the securities of the General Conference are in a satisfactory condition. I have had men by the dozen—not in groups, but one by one, again and again during the administrative period—come to me with anxiety of heart and ask if it was a fact that the General Conference had lost hundreds of thousands of dollars through its securities. It is a joyful thing, dear friends, to have our Treasurer come before us and tell us that no such thing has occurred, that the securities are in an absolutely satisfactory condition. I thank God for this splendid report rendered at the close of the most difficult financial period that this movement has ever experienced.

E. E. ANDROSS: The Treasurer has a further word for us.

J. L. SHAW: I have some good news, especially for our Sustentation beneficiaries. In my report I told you that we

## Proceedings of the General Conference

### Second Meeting

MAY 27, 1936, 10 A.M.

HYMN, "Gospel in Song," No. 275, "Re-deemed! how I love to proclaim it!"

Prayer by A. Vollmer, manager Hamburg Publishing House.

E. E. ANDROSS (chairman): The first item on the agenda for this morning is the report of the Treasurer of the General Conference.

J. L. SHAW: I am sure we were all deeply impressed with Brother Watson's report which was given last evening. On the one hand he showed how the resources of the movement have been reduced, how the income has been lessened, and yet, on the other hand, how marvelously the work has gone forward. This is indeed a lesson for us all that God's work is not measured by financial reports. It is not measured by material resources, but by the power of God. Zerubbabel saw a great mountain before him, a mountain of difficulty. He was asked to build the temple of the Lord, but he did not see the resources with which to do it. But the Lord told him, "Not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit, saith the Lord of hosts." Our hope, brethren and sisters, is in the outpouring of God's Holy Spirit. And so we look to Him for power, and His blessing upon us.

I am asking Brother Williams, the Undertreasurer, to read the Treasurer's report.

[The Treasurer's report appears on page 30 of this issue.]

E. E. ANDROSS: The President, Brother Watson, will now make some remarks with reference to the report of the Treasurer.

C. H. WATSON: Brother Chairman, I am sure we are all very thankful that our Treasurer can come before us at this time and make such a wonderful report as that to which we have listened. After the severe years of depression, after the great falling away of income, after the tremendous pressure that has been upon us from the whole world field, urging us to new opportunities, to larger expenditures, to greater enterprises in this way and that way for God, it is a very wonderful thing that we can listen to the Treasurer this morning reporting to us that the financial situation has been balanced after what we experienced in the depression years. I am sure those of you who are leaders in the ends of the earth are exceedingly thankful that God has thus blessed His people and His work in a financial way.

The Treasurer has done well to give us counsel in his report concerning the

future. It is a fact that our income has taken the upward curve; it is also a fact that the demands upon our income have taken the same curve much more sharply. Great wisdom needs to be exercised as to just what shall be approved in the way of new expenditures and the way in which the increased income shall be used.

The conditions of the world—trading conditions and economic conditions—are not very encouraging. The better circulation of money in this country, for instance, is understood to be upon a very unsatisfactory basis. Had we not had wise leadership in this denomination in past years, we never could have



Part of Indian Market at Chichicostenango, Guatemala

come through the depression years without a collapse of our whole work. God led the brethren of previous years to build up proper and sufficient reserves in the General Conference Treasury, and but for those reserves we never could have come through these years.

As the retiring leader, I would like it to be known that I urgently desire this people to contemplate as a financial measure for the denomination the rebuilding of the General Conference reserves, and the keeping of these reserves at a satisfactory point. It is a wise provision of the Constitution that requires the General Conference Treasurer to hold reserves in a certain form. Had they not been in that particular form, when it was necessary for us to draw upon them at a time when every bank in this country was closed and the whole economic world was in chaos and confusion, it would have been a very seri-

ous thing for this denomination. Had we had a heavy deficit in the Sustentation Fund during the hardest period of economic adjustment, but I also told you this deficit had been made up and cleared away. But since we have come to this meeting, we have done more than that. We have considered cuts that have been made to our Sustentation beneficiaries. It was hard for us to cut these men and women during the hardest depression years, but we could not give money we did not have. However, now that funds are in hand, an action has been taken by the Executive Committee restoring to our Sustentation beneficiaries the cuts that were made during these hard times. We are thankful for this, and that our Sustentation beneficiaries have been so patient during these difficult years.

At the invitation of the Chairman, W. H. Williams read the Treasurer's Financial Report (copies of which had been given to the delegates), as follows:

## BALANCE SHEET—DECEMBER 31, 1935

## ASSETS

*Current:*

Cash and Bank .....	\$897,990.96	
Securities and Bank Savings .....	889,130.49	
Notes Receivable .....	200.36	
Accounts Receivable .....	167,853.82	
Accrued Interest Securities .....	7,199.22	
Inventory Supplies and Prepaid Expense .....	6,621.88	
Total Current Assets .....		\$1,968,996.73

*Fixed:*

General Conference Library .....	2,389.88	
Less Reserve for Depreciation .....	1,899.12	
Total Fixed Assets .....		490.76

TOTAL ASSETS ..... \$1,969,487.49

## LIABILITIES

Accounts Payable .....	68,750.13	
Trust Funds .....	324,752.54	
Total Liabilities .....		393,502.67

NET WORTH DECEMBER 31, 1935..... 1,575,984.82

## NET WORTH

Net Worth January 1, 1935 .....	1,284,143.82	
1935 Operating Gain .....	218,820.67	
Securities—Adjustment to Market Value .....	73,020.33	
Total 1935 Increase to Net Worth .....	291,841.00	
Net Worth December 31, 1935 .....		1,575,984.82

## CONDENSED OPERATING STATEMENT

For Year Ending December 31, 1935

## INCOME

*Tithe:*

Per cent of Tithe .....	\$ 517,548.52	
Union and Miscellaneous .....	40,730.31	
Foreign Fields .....	68,013.83	
		\$ 626,292.66

*Mission Offerings:*

Home Fields .....	\$2,041,324.33	
Foreign Fields .....	835,474.75	
		2,876,799.08

*Miscellaneous:*

General Conf. Corp. Appropriation .....	\$50,000.00	
Autumn Council Pledges and Surplus Tithe .....	39,500.00	
Surplus from Divisions .....	110,000.00	
Interest and Dividends .....	33,620.52	
Royalties and Legacies .....	5,409.75	
Exchange Gains .....	\$84,935.10	
Less Exchange Losses .....	49,527.79	
	35,407.31	
Funds Returned .....	6,811.46	
Miscellaneous Items .....	402.14	281,151.18

Total General Conference Income Year 1935 ..... \$3,784,242.92

## EXPENSES

*Appropriations:*

## Foreign Fields:

Regular .....	\$1,650,631.61
Reverted Funds .....	622,314.63
Miscellaneous Foreign .....	285,505.87

\$2,558,452.11

## Home Fields:

Regular .....	\$184,702.24
Reverted Funds .....	14,723.54
Institutional Relief .....	\$320,880.69
Less Church Extension to Operating .....	40,000.00

280,880.69

Sustentation Fund .....	67,360.34
Special and Miscellaneous .....	92,382.84

640,049.65

Total Appropriations ..... 3,198,501.76

*General Operating Expense:*

Administrative and Departmental .....	\$217,600.03
Regular Operating Expense .....	34,861.93
Mission and Harvest Ingathering Promotion .....	80,021.43
Special Operating Expense .....	9,437.10
Reserve for General Conf. Session .....	25,000.00

Total General Operating Expense ..... 366,920.49

Total General Conference Expense year 1935 .. \$3,565,422.25

Total Income year 1935 ..... \$3,784,242.92

Total Expense year 1935 ..... 3,565,422.25

Net Operating Gain year 1935 ..... \$218,820.67

## COMPARATIVE BALANCE SHEET

## Years 1930-1935

	1930	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935
<b>ASSETS</b>						
Cash and Bank .....	\$ 596,299.04	\$ 304,930.04	\$ 632,179.25	\$ 672,342.84	\$ 687,714.68	\$ 897,990.96
Securities and Bank Savings .....	1,007,314.82	606,059.72	572,721.96	479,889.90	636,013.76	889,130.49
Notes Receivable ....	9,412.62	8,636.30	8,619.56	8,615.10	244.70	200.36
Accts. Receivable ..	440,698.57	230,064.15	307,978.86	248,627.09	155,707.83	167,853.82
Interest and Other Deferred Items ..	8,924.15	484,156.86	7,582.26	6,379.96	6,584.67	7,199.22
Supplies and Pre- paid Expense .....	14,022.12	26,980.92	5,331.23	5,750.61	6,748.85	6,621.88
Library—Net .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	397.85	490.76
<b>TOTAL</b>						
ASSETS .....	\$2,076,671.32	\$1,660,827.99	\$1,534,413.12	\$1,421,605.50	\$1,493,412.34	\$1,969,487.49
<b>LIABILITIES</b>						
Accts. Payable .....	\$ 96,626.03	\$132,370.03	\$ 20,732.94	\$ 88,151.34	\$ 26,375.75	\$ 68,750.13
Deferred Items .....	7,464.49	57,077.25	25.02	.....	.....	.....
Trust Funds .....	481,034.28	185,231.56	281,765.78	236,354.05	182,892.77	324,752.54
<b>TOTAL</b>						
LIABILITIES \$	585,124.80	\$374,678.84	\$302,523.74	\$324,805.39	\$209,268.52	\$393,502.67
<b>NET WORTH</b>						
DECEMBER 31.	1,491,546.52	1,286,149.15	1,231,889.38	1,096,800.11	1,284,143.82	1,575,984.82



## COMPARATIVE CONDENSED OPERATING STATEMENT

Years 1930-1935

	1930	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935
<b>INCOME</b>						
<b>Tithe:</b>						
Home Field ....	\$ 617,549.35	\$ 511,070.54	\$ 375,764.39	\$ 332,753.95	\$ 446,647.13	\$ 558,278.83
Foreign .....	223,524.82	230,309.23	169,807.56	119,179.07	110,183.14	68,013.83
	841,074.17	741,379.77	545,571.95	451,933.02	556,830.27	626,292.66
<b>Mission Offerings:</b>						
Home Field ....	2,705,545.00	2,386,440.65	1,921,903.49	1,677,420.51	1,916,428.83	2,041,324.33
Foreign .....	1,245,142.35	1,262,242.93	1,079,874.23	713,287.01	830,365.69	835,474.75
	3,950,687.35	3,648,683.58	3,001,777.72	2,390,707.52	2,746,794.52	2,876,799.08
<b>Misc. Income .....</b>	251,454.24	293,146.10	267,575.59	239,282.84	417,444.57	403,699.30
<b>Total Income ..</b>	<b>\$5,043,215.76</b>	<b>\$4,683,209.45</b>	<b>\$3,814,925.26</b>	<b>\$3,081,923.38</b>	<b>\$3,721,069.36</b>	<b>\$3,906,791.04</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>						
<b>Appropriations:</b>						
Foreign .....	\$4,061,063.33	\$3,619,226.52	\$2,987,015.64	\$2,350,318.23	\$2,564,823.55	\$2,607,979.90
Home Field ....	836,878.87	663,777.96	519,568.25	500,229.13	627,104.12	640,049.65
	4,897,942.20	4,283,004.48	3,506,583.89	2,850,547.36	3,191,927.67	3,248,029.55
<b>General Operating Expense:</b>						
Administrative & Departmental	257,484.64	263,157.07	216,495.95	197,141.38	210,085.01	217,600.03
Regular Operating Expense..	141,303.61	152,310.48	119,729.57	108,557.44	115,557.41	114,883.36
Special Operating Expense..	84,873.83	190,134.79	26,375.62	60,766.47	16,155.56	34,437.10
<b>Total Expenses ..</b>	<b>\$5,381,604.28</b>	<b>\$4,888,606.82</b>	<b>\$3,869,185.03</b>	<b>\$3,217,012.65</b>	<b>\$3,533,725.65</b>	<b>\$3,614,950.04</b>
<b>Net Loss for year ..</b>	<b>338,388.52</b>	<b>205,397.37</b>	<b>54,259.77</b>	<b>135,089.27</b>		
<b>Net Gain for year ..</b>					<b>187,343.71</b>	<b>291,841.00</b>

E. E. ANDROSS: The auditor, H. W. Barrows, will now read his certificate of audit covering the Treasurer's Financial Report:

## CERTIFICATE OF AUDIT

TO THE CONSTITUENCY AND THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS:

I have made a careful examination of the financial records of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists for the year ended December 31, 1935, including all cash receipts and disbursements and journal records. The amount of cash called for by the books is found to be in hand, and the bank accounts are in agreement with the bank statements.

The securities owned by the General Conference have been verified and are included in the Balance Sheet at market value as of December 31, 1935.

I hereby certify that the accompanying Balance Sheet and the Operating Statement are in accordance with the book records, and present, in my opinion, a true and correct view of the financial position of the General Conference as of December 31, 1935, and the results of operating during the year then ended.

The records of the General Conference have been audited for the years 1930, 1931, 1932, 1933, and 1934, and the certified financial reports were presented to the General Conference Executive Committee.

H. W. BARROWS.

Takoma Park, D.C.

February 28, 1936.

After the reading of the Auditor's report it was voted that the Treasurer's report be accepted.

A. W. Cormack, the Secretary, announced the names of those chosen by the delegations to serve on the standing committees as follows:

## Members of the Nominating Committee

## North America

J. K. Jones  
W. H. Heckman  
M. N. Campbell  
W. B. Ochs  
J. F. Piper  
J. J. Nethery  
H. J. Detwiler  
H. A. Morrison  
W. H. Holden  
S. E. Wight  
E. K. Slade  
M. L. Rice  
Glenn Calkins  
J. E. Fulton  
G. A. Roberts  
H. E. Ford  
R. L. Benton  
H. H. Hamilton

## Australasia

W. G. Turner  
A. H. Piper  
J. W. Kent

## Central Europe

A. Minck  
H. Fenner  
G. Seng  
J. Doubravsky  
J. Wintzen  
W. K. Ising  
F. F. Oster

## China

W. J. Harris  
Y. H. Chu  
G. J. Appel

## Far East

J. G. Gjording  
R. R. Figuhr  
V. T. Armstrong  
H. A. Oberg

## Inter-America

W. R. Elliott  
A. R. Ogden  
C. E. Wood  
C. P. Crager

## Northern Europe

W. E. Read  
L. Munderspach  
G. A. Lindsay  
H. L. Rudy  
T. T. Babienco

## South America

W. E. Murray  
E. H. Wilcox  
H. B. Westcott  
F. E. Bresee

## Southern Africa

C. W. Curtis  
J. E. Symons  
R. M. Mote  
Dr. E. G. Marcus

## Southern Asia

G. G. Lowry  
H. M. Peak

## Southern Europe

W. R. Beach  
A. J. Girou  
Jules Rey  
Hans Bauer

*Members of the Committee on Plans**North America*

G. E. Peters  
John Ford  
F. H. Robbins  
W. M. Landeen  
P. T. Magan

*Australasia*

J. D. Anderson  
N. A. Ferris

*Central Europe*

A. Vollmer  
M. Busch  
G. A. Ellingworth

*China*

D. E. Rebok  
Bessie Mount

*Far East*

J. H. McEachern  
W. P. Bradley

*Inter-America*

W. A. Bergherm  
L. V. Finster

*Northern Europe*

H. W. Lowe  
G. E. Nord

*South America*

J. L. Brown  
M. V. Tucker

*Southern Africa*

F. E. Potter  
R. L. Jones

*Southern Asia*

J. C. Craven  
H. Christensen

*Southern Europe*

F. Charpiot  
Dr. J. Nussbaum

*Members of the Committee on Distribution of Labor**North America*

E. K. Slade

*Australasia*

J. W. Kent

*Central Europe*

W. Mueller

*China*

E. L. Longway

*Far East*

F. L. Pickett

*Inter-America*

W. L. Adams

*North Europe*

W. T. Bartlett

*South America*

E. M. Davis

*Southern Africa*

C. W. Bozarth

*Southern Asia*

L. C. Shepard

*Southern Europe*

Alfred Vaucher

The secretary of the Home Missionary Department, J. A. Stevens, presented his report.

[The report appears on page 35 of this paper.]

After an expression of appreciation by Brother Andross concerning the good things contained in the report to which

we had just listened, announcement was made of appointments for the standing committees. The meeting was closed by singing the hymn, "Lift up the trumpet," by the congregation, and the benediction was pronounced by J. L. McElhany.

Adjournment was taken at 12 noon till 3 p. m.

E. E. ANDROSS, *Chairman.*  
A. W. CORMACK, *Secretary.*

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*Third Meeting*

MAY 27, 1936, 3 P.M.

E. E. ANDROSS in the chair.

"Just When I Need Him Most," was sung for the opening hymn.

A. S. Maxwell, of the British Union, editor of the *English Present Truth*, offered prayer.

E. E. ANDROSS: We will now listen to the report of the Publishing Department, brought to us by the secretary of the department.

[The report appears on page 38.]

E. E. ANDROSS: This wonderful report will be followed by the Statistical Report, brought to us by H. E. Rogers.

H. E. Rogers then read his report.

[This report appears on page 41 of this issue.]

The delegation rose and sang, "Higher Ground."

E. E. ANDROSS: We will now ask the Secretary to bring to us the General Conference recommendation on membership.

H. T. ELLIOTT: The General Conference officers, including the officers from the divisions assembled in council before the time of General Conference, have been giving study to certain general problems affecting the work. They are presenting to you for consideration the series of recommendations entitled, "Conserving and Strengthening Our Church Membership," as follows:

*Conserving and Strengthening our Church Membership*

Recognizing that the church of God has been commissioned by the Lord to give the gospel to every nation, kindred, tongue, and people as its work, the officers of the General Conference previous to this session of the General Conference, engaged in a prayerful consideration of the ways and means by which this most solemn work committed to men might speedily be done. The sources of divine power available for our work were set before us, which, if appropriated, would enable us to quickly finish the work. The causes of weakness and the present heavy loss of members as they appear in our church life were viewed not only with deep concern, but even with much alarm. The responsibility and remedy for the present spiritual condition of some of our members rests not only upon the ministers, but with the whole church. This great second advent message will certainly be given to every tongue and people, developing a church united in brotherly love and motivated by the mind of Christ and His spirit of sacrifice.

We note these words: "Not upon the ordained minister only, rests the responsibility of going forth to fulfill this commission. Every one who has received Christ is called to work for the salvation of his fellow men."—"Acts of the Apostles," p. 110. "We are to be consecrated channels, through which the

heavenly life is to flow to others. The Holy Spirit is to animate and pervade the whole church, purifying and cementing hearts."—"Testimonies," Vol. IX, p. 20.

In view of the present threatening perils we call upon our fellow believers throughout the world to join the delegates to this World Conference in entering anew upon the work of quickly preparing a people that can stand clothed in Christ's righteousness in His presence when He comes.

As the result of our study of conditions facing our people in their church membership, we are solemnly convinced that steps should be taken to bring about a great spiritual reformation, that our church may go "forth as the morning, fair as the moon, clear as the sun, and terrible as an army with banners," "conquering, and to conquer."

1. *Leadership.*—Only those whose hearts God has created anew and who have "understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do," should be selected for leaders in any of our organizations or institutions. When those who have the selection of leaders are in communion with God, the Holy Spirit will guide them in the choice of Spirit-filled men and women. The choice of leaders should be made on the ground of holiness of life, unrepachable conduct, together with fitness of mind. Only those who are well grounded in the knowledge and faith of the third angel's message should be placed in positions of responsibility. This can be accomplished only through the leadership of church officers who will follow the exhortation of the apostle Paul to the elders: "Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock." Such men must be trained for their work by conference and mission officers through personal counsel and in church officers' conventions.

2. *Brotherly Love.*—We emphasize anew that the Bible standard of brotherly love should be earnestly maintained by each church member seeking the welfare of every other member. The spirit of cordial Christian courtesy is certainly demanded of each for all in church fellowship, not only in form but in spirit. Strangers should be welcomed. We earnestly recommend that one or more persons be chosen in every church whose duty it shall be to welcome all strangers, inviting them into a Sabbath school class, introducing them to brethren and sisters, thus making them feel thoroughly at home, and inviting them to come again. "If we would humble ourselves before God, and be kind and courteous and tenderhearted and pitiful, there would be one hundred conversions to the truth where now there is only one."—"Testimonies," Vol. IX, p. 189.

3. *Concern for Absent Members.*—When members of the church, the Sabbath school, or young people's organization do not attend regularly, the reason for such absence should be investigated and every possible effort made to encourage such to become constant in attendance at the services. In our larger churches a committee might well be chosen to assist the pastor and elder in looking after the spiritual welfare of each member

Each church member should be visited at least once a quarter and suitable persons be appointed to visit such as seem to be in need. The same care that a faithful shepherd shows for each sheep and lamb should be manifested by the church officers for the members of their flocks.

4. *The Hand of Fellowship Not Easily Withdrawn.*—No name should be taken from the church roll until every possible effort has been put forth to save the member. The instruction given in the Bible and in the Spirit of prophecy concerning this matter must be observed if our churches are to be soul-saving agencies.

5. *Church Discipline.*—The welfare of the members of a church is affected adversely by the presence in the church family of those who live in violation of the principles of the gospel after faithful and Christlike efforts have been put forth to recover them from the error of their ways. The New Testament instruction concerning church discipline should therefore be carefully heeded.

6. *Our Children and Youth.*—The temptations on every hand to lead our young people away from the Lord are many. Alcoholic drinks, tobacco, picture shows, the theater, the gambling devices, the dance, and worldly associations are taking a great toll from the youth of this generation who ought to be walking in the ways of everlasting life. The church should be the ark of safety for our children and youth. It should earnestly seek the Lord in behalf of these tempted ones and prove a shelter to their souls. No effort should be spared to educate them in the faith and to minister to their spiritual needs. They should be borne up before the Lord in our private and public prayers.

7. *A High Standard of Morality.*—Immorality in all its seductive and hideous forms is again and again pointed out in the Scriptures as not only a most vicious cause of the weakening of the church, but it is specifically set forth as a sign of the end of the world. This awful disease of the soul, as it manifests itself not only in salacious literature and pictures but in a multitude of ways, must be guarded against by the church with far greater zeal than in the past.

8. *Fundamental Doctrines Must Be Taught.*—The Scriptural evidences of the fundamental doctrines of our message should be so repeatedly taught that all our people will know the truth and be rooted and grounded in the faith. They must become so indoctrinated that they will be "steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord." Far greater efforts must be put forth to hold every member of our church steadfast in the faith.

It is high time that the leaders of this people "weep between the porch and the altar," and cry, "Spare Thy people, O Lord, and give not Thine heritage to reproach, that the heathen should rule over them." If this is done, God promises, "Then will the Lord be jealous for His land, and pity His people. Yea, the Lord will answer and say unto His people, Behold, I will send you corn, and wine, and oil, and ye shall be satisfied therewith: and I will no more make you a reproach among the heathen."

H. T. ELLIOTT: Mr. Chairman, I move the adoption of these resolutions.

C. H. WATSON: Perhaps a word would be in place regarding the reason why

the General Conference officers thought it necessary to give such a matter study and to present such a report upon it. We have had a very wonderful increase of membership during the past six years. Comparing it with any previous period, the record is very pleasing. But we are not here to make comparisons with other periods so much as to know the trends within our own period, and we find that the trend in the matter of membership is rather unfortunate in the latter part of this administrative period.

During this period we have had the greatest yearly net gain of membership in our history, but the peak of our membership net gain was reached in 1931. The greatest total net gain that we ever had was in 1932. From that time the net increase of church membership has been dropping. That is an unfortunate trend. The leadership of the General Conference, as it expresses itself through the officers, believes that the best way to meet such a problem is to plan for its solution. We believe that the set of recommendations brought before you will, if accepted and carried out throughout the field, very strongly urge on the matter of soul winning throughout the world and definitely change the trend which we regard now as unfortunate in this matter.

When we come to analyze our membership gain, we have this revealing fact to face: Very much of the gain is in those divisions of the world that are least able financially to take care of it. The greater proportion of our net membership gain is within divisions that receive the largest appropriation from our General Conference Treasury. That, of course, leaves us to understand that the smaller gains are within the divisions that we call "base divisions," that is, in the bases that provide the money for the support of our foreign mission work. You will see that with a work growing tremendously in parts of the earth among populations whose giving power is very limited indeed, whose supporting power of the work of which they become a part is very, very limited, it is absolutely necessary to keep the membership within the home base divisions increasing in that proportion which will provide a proper assurance of support for the work that is developing in the fields beyond.

We believe that this set of recommendations is not merely something that will strengthen this line of work or that, but that it will relate itself definitely to the greatest problem that at this moment faces this people. I believe that it relates itself very helpfully to that problem, promising a very real strengthening of the work where it is weakest just now.

C. E. WEAKS: The Lord has given us very definite instruction regarding one of the best ways to hold our church membership; That is, to feed them. I want to read a statement concerning our work of evangelism:

"Though the minister may faithfully present the message, the people are not able to retain it all. The printed page is therefore essential, not only in awakening them to the importance of the truth for this time, but in rooting and grounding them in the truth, and establishing them against deceptive error." —*The Colporteur Evangelist*, p. 8.

I believe that one of the great reasons why we are losing members is that they are not being nourished in this message by the reading of our literature, the Spirit

of prophecy, and our other truth-filled books. We discussed this in our convention, and we found that here in America we have entire conferences where our people are purchasing on an average as little as seven cents' worth a member of our trade books in a full year. That ought to come home to our souls. Seven cents a year a member is less, in fact, than you pay here for a Sunday edition of a newspaper, less than half the price of a gallon of gas. The Spirit of prophecy says that our papers and books are the Lord's means of keeping the message for this time continually before the people, and enlightening and confirming souls in the truth. Publications will do a far greater work than can be accomplished by the minister of the word alone. I believe that is God's solution to part of our problems.

Report adopted.

The chairman called for a further report from the officers, entitled "Unity of the Advent Movement," which was presented by the Secretary. The report follows:

#### *Unity of the Advent Movement*

Christ died for all mankind, and the gospel belongs alike to every nation. With God there is no respect of persons; He "hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth." His Spirit is pleading with all flesh, and those who receive Him out of every nation are adopted into His family and become a Christian brotherhood in all the world.

The advent message is world wide. It presents the everlasting gospel for this generation to every nation, kindred, tongue, and people. It is one message and one church in all the world. Faith in this message unites men of every race and color into one body in Christ. "There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female," for we "are all one in Christ Jesus."

This advent movement, under the leadership of Christ, heads up, as an organization, in one General Conference, to which all our other organizations stand related as the branches are related to the tree. The closer these organizations in the different sections or divisions of the world field can stand related to the General Conference, the richer will be the blessings and the greater will be the progress that will come to this movement. United in the truth we can withstand every onslaught of the enemy. Therefore,

1. Every possible effort should constantly be put forth to hold together and to avoid all barriers of nationalism, racial feelings, or independence that would lead to separation or division. We must not permit the spirit of ambition for office, the desire to rule, or antagonism to people of other countries to enter our hearts. Rather, fervent faith in God, deep humility of heart, and mutual confidence in one another should actuate all the workers in this cause. This will bring unity and success.

2. Experience of many years has proved that unity in the advent movement is best preserved when there is an interchange of workers of different countries, bringing in a variety of gifts and experience, and adapting these to the conditions and needs of each field. It has often been seen that where a country is set off to itself, with workers of

its own people alone, our work does not prosper as well as it otherwise would. The General Conference Executive Committee is composed of men of various nationalities, and the North American Division, where the General Conference headquarters are located, has given an excellent example of this by employing a large number of workers from different countries with their varied gifts.

3. Since there still are countries and language areas where we have no schools in which our young people may obtain a training for the work, we recommend that careful study be given to the importance of providing in these fields, also, as quickly as possible, training centers where our young people may secure the necessary preparation to work for souls among their own people and in their own mother tongue.

4. In mission lands, where many are coming to the light from among backward and untaught peoples, we urge that immediate steps be taken to develop a much larger force of ministers and leaders from among these converts and that responsibility of leadership in various posts of duty be placed upon them as rapidly as possible. This plan will greatly relieve the overburdened missionary staff, secure for them a larger degree of cooperation from the indigenous workers, give stability to the work, and establish still greater confidence in the hearts of the church membership. We also recommend that far greater efforts be put forth to train the women of such lands that as homemakers and companions to their husbands in service they may be able to labor successfully in connection with the cause of God and to exert a telling influence in favor of the Christian religion.

In planning for the upbuilding of the cause of God in all lands, we must ever press forward by faith in the divine leadership and with confidence in our fellow workers. The Spirit of Christ must rule in our hearts, and love for souls be the propelling motive in our lives. As a citizen of an earthly country, every one should be loyally subject to the authorities and pray for the rulers of his country; but as children of God, all should bear in mind that they are also, in a spiritual way, citizens of a heavenly land and members of the family of God. The missionary in a land not his own, is to be subject also to the civil authorities wherever he may live, giving honor to kings and rulers, as commanded in the New Testament scripture.

H. T. ELLIOTT: Brother Chairman, I move the adoption of this report.

C. H. WATSON (seconding the motion): It surely is very fitting that at this World Conference, representing as it does so many of the peoples of the earth, such a statement as this should be adopted by us, declaring to the world that in this age of disunity, when it is almost impossible to find any means of uniting people in their plans and purposes, there is a people among all others on earth that stands unitedly in the bond of the truth of God and in the purpose to serve Him and to finish His work. I feel happy, Brother Chairman, to belong to that people. It has been my privilege to travel a good deal around the earth, and wherever I have gone, meeting our people, I have found them, without regard to race, nationality, color, or anything of that kind, brethren and sisters in the Lord. They meet you,

and even though they may not speak your tongue, though they may not understand your customs of life, somehow there is that in your heart that makes you feel that you are one of a family of which they are also members. I am glad to be one of those, with you, to bring forward this statement for the study and acceptance of our people throughout the whole world.

W. A. SPICER: Surely this reading has appealed to all our hearts. It is a blessed thing to live in a world that God so loved. Somehow the more I live in it and travel about among its people, the more I love it—the whole of it.

This is a wonderful work, calling out a people from all lands, and from the islands of the sea; and wherever you go to work among them you find that they are brothers and sisters. I have often said in missionary talks that while I am no linguist, I have always tried to learn four words of every language. That is not difficult. Only the first two words, perhaps, do I need to speak of here, and those two words are "brother" and "sister." I am glad to belong to such a people as this. As our work grows, as difficulties increase in the world, we must all pray God to keep that blessed tie in all our hearts.

Whatever troubles may separate the nations temporarily, those troubles cannot break the bond of love in Christ Jesus that unites the hearts of His people. Why, brethren, it is a blessed tie that binds our hearts in Christian love, and, really, it makes no difference where we were born the first time—the essential thing is to be born again, born from above. And when that spirit, the spirit of the New Jerusalem, is in our hearts, why, it doesn't matter where a man may have his earthly citizenship, or what language he speaks, we find him a brother in the blessed truth.

Here is Brother Watson, born outside of this country in the happy land of Australia. While he has been with us these six years, I guarantee that very few in this country or any other have ever thought of his being an Australian. He has been here, and comfortably at home among us, at home in Europe, at home in Asia, just as much at home as he would be in his own beloved Australia. I thank God that we can work together as brethren, men of all nations, with the same objective, pushing on the work of God that is to save a people in His kingdom.

E. E. ANDROSS: We will now listen to a report on the Home Commission, to be brought to us by Professor Spalding.

[The report of the Home Commission will appear in a latter issue.]

E. E. ANDROSS: The chairman of the Nominating Committee, Brother Slade, reports that the committee is ready to make a partial report to the delegates.

E. K. SLADE: Your Nominating Committee has been in session during a large part of the day, and feels that it might be pleasing and conducive to the advancement of our work to make this early report. We are pleased to say that the 57 members of the Nominating Committee selected from all parts of the world field are heartily united in making the report that we are submitting, and we hope that the same sweet spirit that prevailed in our committee may actuate us all as this report is presented. Elder Fulton, the secretary of our committee, will present the report.

J. E. FULTON: Delegates, brethren and sisters, your Committee on Nominations, after a very free and prayerful deliberation, unanimously recommend J. L. McElhany for the office of General Conference President.

C. H. WATSON: We all know Brother McElhany very well. He has endeared himself to our hearts by his kindly, loving, efficient ministry and leadership. I am among those who have associated with him closely in the work of the leadership of the General Conference and who believe that God has led the minds of the brethren in this choice, and I have very great pleasure in moving that the report of the Nominating Committee be accepted.

E. E. ANDROSS: You have heard the motion to accept the report of the committee and the second. Are there any further remarks? All delegates in the room who are in favor of its adoption, will you kindly stand?

[All stood.]

E. E. ANDROSS: That will do. You may be seated. Are there any opposed to the report? If so, will you stand? The vote is unanimous.

C. H. WATSON: Brother Chairman, I wonder if we may have a word from the new President. [Addressing Elder McElhany] I welcome you to the office of President. I love you with all my heart. This people love you. May God greatly bless you.

J. L. McELHANY: About fifty years ago the knowledge of this truth came to our home in this State, and from that time until the present hour there has never been a doubt in my heart or in my mind regarding the triumph of this movement. And today, as we gather here in this great Conference to plan for the advancement of the work of God in all the world, my confidence in its triumph is still firm and steadfast.

We will all agree, I am sure, that this is a time when one's words ought to be few. I greatly appreciate the expression of confidence and love on the part of my brethren. It will be my hope and desire to serve the interests of this cause to the utmost extent of my ability. But I realize very well the great responsibilities of leadership in this cause at the present time. I have had the privilege of working alongside Brother Spicer for a number of years. I have had the privilege of working with Brother Watson for the six years that he has been with us as President, and I know that day by day there have come to these brethren great problems of leadership. There have been times when they have been bowed down under the weight of these problems. I have been called to stand, as it were, alongside of them and to pray for them and to do what I could to uphold their hands. Now I must ask you all to do that for me. I know that I am unable, utterly unable, to meet the situation that faces us as a people today. Only by the help of God, brethren, can we do it, can we succeed and carry on and successfully extend the triumphs of this precious cause into all the world.

I greatly appreciate the association that I have had with my brethren in the General Conference circles. I cannot take the time just now to mention them all, but my contacts and associations with them have been most precious indeed. I have thought so many times of the splendid contributions that have been made to this cause by our dear Brother Shaw.

Many times I have felt constrained to pray for him that God would help him in the problems that have rested down upon his heart, and many times I have felt that same call to prayer in behalf of Brother Watson. We have all so deeply regretted the necessity for his withdrawal from the responsibilities of leadership. I hope we shall all remember to pray for him that God will bless him. I believe that during the last six years the Lord has greatly sustained him and given him needed help.

Now, brethren, I need your prayers, and my request today is that I may have them. May God help us all to consecrate ourselves to the finishing of this work. Let us not be satisfied with merely carrying on in an ordinary way, but let us all unite our hearts in earnest prayer and supplication that something may come into our own lives, that something may come into the cause of God, that will move it quickly forward, and that we shall soon reach the hour of its final triumph. [Voices: Amen.]

"Onward, Christian Soldiers," was sung in closing, and the meeting was adjourned.

I. H. EVANS led in the concluding prayer.

E. E. ANDROSS, *Chairman.*

H. T. ELLIOTT, *Secretary.*



### Fourth Meeting

MAY 27, 1936, 7:30 P.M.

I. H. EVANS: It is planned that during the session of the Conference the evenings will be occupied with the reports from our Vice-Presidents representing our respective fields. Tonight we have Southern Europe. It will be represented by its president, Elder A. V. Olson, and he will announce the speakers and conduct the program according to the arrangements they have made.

A. V. OLSON: Dr. J. Nussbaum of Paris, the medical secretary of our division, will announce the opening hymn.

DR. J. NUSSBAUM: Shall we sing, "He Hideth My Soul"?

A. V. OLSON: We will be led in prayer by D. N. Wall, our division field secretary.

E. D. DICK: We will now be favored with a quartet by the "Lone Star Four." This quartet is associated with H. M. S. Richards in his work at the Tabernacle of the Air. They will sing that old favorite, "The Old Rugged Cross."

A. V. OLSON: From the believers scattered throughout the far-flung territory of the Southern European Division I bring greetings to the delegates and friends assembled at this Conference. In order that all may know what is comprised in the Southern European Division, permit me to give you the names of the various countries. The division includes the countries of Spain, Portugal, France, Belgium, Luxembourg, Switzerland, Yugoslavia, and Rumania in Southern Europe; all of North Africa except Egypt; a large section of West Africa; and Madagascar, Mauritius, Reunion, Seychelles Islands, Rio de Oro, the Comoro Islands, and other islands in the Indian Ocean, together with islands in the Mediterranean and a number of island groups in the Atlantic Ocean.

Within the borders of this division we have nearly two hundred million souls. Our work in the Southern European

Division is divided into four union conferences and four union missions. There are 26,000 baptized church members and 36,000 Sabbath school members.

Southern Europe has already been a center of culture and learning. It is a rendezvous for students and scholars, a mecca for the tourists, and the playground of the world. Ever since the days of the Caesars, Southern Europe has wielded a strong influence upon the world. Even today Rome seems to occupy the center of the world stage.

At the present time Southern Europe is in a state of ferment. Great changes are taking place. There are currents and crosscurrents of thoughts and actions. Men and women are changing their attitude toward life and its problems, and this is especially true in the realms of politics, morals, and religion. In some sections there is a swing toward conservatism, while in other parts there is a turn toward liberalism and radicalism.

Spain offers a good example of this. As you know, Spain used to be strongly monarchic, and the people were Roman Catholics from one end of the land to the other. Spain used to be regarded as one of the most loyal daughters of the Roman Church. But during the last few years a great change has taken place in Spain. The monarchy has been overthrown. A republic has been established. The church that before was loved and honored, is held in no such esteem today.

Much more might be said about these conditions, but I shall not take time for that this evening. It might be of interest if I should take a little time to tell you a few of the experiences that our people have passed through during these last few years. As I have mentioned, often our chapels were closed and our services prohibited. Last year every meeting hall that we had in one country was closed, and all our workers had their licenses and credentials revoked. They were not permitted to preach, and in some cases they were not even permitted to go to the homes of our members to pray with them or to read the Bible with them. I am glad to say that the meeting halls are now opened, the credentials have been restored to our workers, and they are happy to be able to labor again. Allow me to add that often during these troublesome years, we baptized as many, or even more, in that land than we had done in any previous year.

In one country in Eastern Europe there have been times when one hundred or more of our chapels were closed, and many of our church members lodged in prison. It is a frequent experience for our people over there, when they are assembled on Sabbath morning for their Sabbath school and services, to have their chapels surrounded by an angry mob, the doors beaten open, our members beaten with the furniture in the hall, driven outside, there again to be beaten and tortured, and then often led to prison.

In one place, when our members were gathered on Sabbath morning, the mob came, broke through the door, and after having beaten nearly all the members, and having left their blood stains on furniture and floor, they took them all to the prison, and left them there until the evening after the Sabbath. Then the women and children were sent home. The men were again beaten, and had to be carried home from the prison on stretchers. For many weeks they were nursing their wounds.

The same experience comes to our workers and our colporteurs. I seldom go to that country but I meet some minister or colporteur with head or some other part of the body bandaged in order that the wounds may heal.

I met a colporteur the last time I was there attending a conference session, who had been arrested and marched off many miles across country from village to village. He had been thrown to the ground, and his head beaten and kicked by the mob until his own friends in the village did not know him when they met him. But this young man, who had recovered from his bruises and wounds, arose in that conference session and rendered a beautiful testimony, telling of his love for God, and of the joy he found in suffering for his Master. He said, "I am just waiting now to go back into the field to sell my books again."

While we were on the boat coming across to this Conference, we learned about one of our colporteurs who had met with similar treatment. This young man was in a village selling books in the evening, and he spent his time in certain homes giving Bible studies. One evening the door was swung open, a mob rushed in, and with a few strokes over his head they brought him to the floor, bleeding, unconscious. They picked him up, threw him into a wagon, and carried him to an empty house outside of the village, where he was locked up for the night.

The next morning they came again, put him back into the wagon, and hauled him down into the village in front of the church where a mob was gathering, for the church bells had been tolling. Once again they threw him on the ground, beat him with clubs, kicked him with their great big shoes, and finally left him unconscious, believing that he was dead. Friends picked him up, carried him home, and he was still in a serious condition when he wrote his letter. But he said, "Brother Bauer, just as soon as I am well enough, I am going back to sell more books in that village. Why, there are fifty people in that village waiting for me who want my books and who want me to give them Bible studies." That is the spirit of our colporteurs.

During the last sixteen years the colporteurs in one union were arrested 4,461 times. They were beaten 7,673 times. If we add up all the time these colporteurs have spent in prison during these sixteen years, the sum is twelve years.

Now you may think these figures are overdrawn, but I know they are true. And yet, my dear friends, in spite of these difficulties our colporteurs go forward, when they are not in prison, with courage and confidence in God.

When we were assembled here in San Francisco six years ago, I received a cable from one of the countries in South-eastern Europe, announcing that the king had granted religious liberty to Seventh-day Adventists. This brought great joy to our hearts.

I am afraid, however, that you would not consider it great liberty here in America. Under this new arrangement that has been granted us, and for which we are extremely grateful, we are permitted to have little meeting halls for our own church members, where they can meet for Sabbath school and serv-

(Continued on page 46)



# Report of the General Conference Treasurer

By J. L. SHAW



J. L. Shaw

LITTLE did we realize, when in conference in this city six years ago, the strength of the financial storm that was then in its beginning. It made its way to every part of this country and to other lands. So serious did the situation become that strong financial institutions trembled and many fell into receivership. Banks closed, many of which never opened again. Stocks and bonds shrank to unheard-of values. In our work, every conference, institution, and mission was thrown into such financial depression as was never before realized in the history of our work.

The General Conference faced new problems that were trying and difficult. Missionaries in many lands required food, shelter, and clothing, to be provided mostly from General Conference funds. How funds have been forthcoming has been truly marvelous. How the work has been held intact so well during these years is a clear evidence that God cares for His own. With a budget income of \$3,000,000, a work has been maintained that formerly required approximately \$5,000,000. In accomplishing such a task, we are assured that the day of miracles is not past. The same Jesus that fed five thousand with five loaves and two fishes is still with His people and will lead them on to the end.

While many other mission boards have called large numbers of their missionaries home because of lack of funds to keep them in the field, the General Conference has held our forces at their posts, and sent out the word to mission leaders in every land to hold workers and send none home permanently who were in health and able to serve.

There are three reasons why our work has gone steadily forward during these trying times. The first is adherence to the Bible plan of gospel support,—the system of tithes and mission offerings. This system provides a sound method of gospel support in hard times as well as good times. Because of this, there has been a steady giving to the work. Another reason why the work has been so well maintained is the loyalty of our people. They have paid their tithes and offerings. They have heeded the commission: "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel." A third is the spirit of sacrifice and devotion of workers. Cut after cut in the salary of workers has been made throughout the world field: first, a 10-per-cent cut; second, another 10-per-cent cut; finally a third cut of 10 per cent, and in some cases even further cuts. And yet, in all, none were returned for lack of the necessities of life.

Another provision of the General Conference which has helped much during the period of depression has been the reserve fund accumulated during more favorable years to meet the need of such emergency. According to this provision, a sum equal to three months' salary and

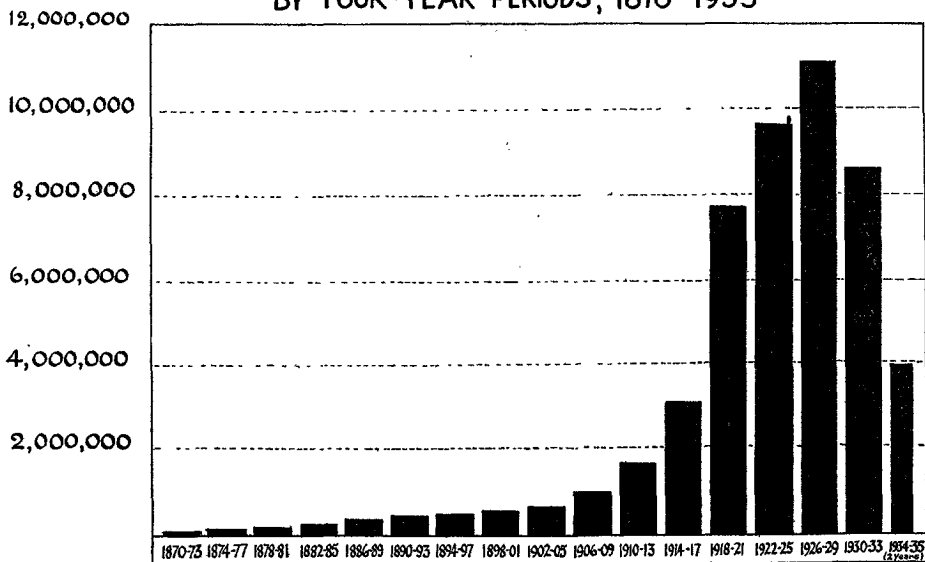
expense of the work and workers was put aside in readily convertible securities to tide over in an emergency. With this assistance, while other mission boards were borrowing money at the banks or recalling missionaries, or both, our Mission Board has called no missionaries home, and during the last fourteen years has borrowed no money at any bank. As Joseph in Egypt was led in a time of plenty to lay in store for a time of famine, so the Lord's servants were

guages have been added to the list in which the message is going—more literature in more languages, more medical institutions, more schools with more students in them, many more churches with many more members. It is being proved that it is not by dollars but by the mighty agency of the Holy Spirit that the work moves onward.

## Mission Offerings

We now place before you the report of mission offerings in North America. The goal of sixty cents a week was changed three years ago to forty cents a week, as sixty cents was thought to be, in view of the financial conditions, a

## MISSION OFFERINGS RAISED IN NORTH AMERICA BY FOUR-YEAR PERIODS, 1870-1935



led, in this unparalleled situation, to make needed provision to carry the work forward.

The tithes and mission offerings for the four-year period in the whole world field prior to the last General Conference amounted to \$48,489,878.15. The following four years, the amount received was \$41,046,461.62, indicating a shrinkage of \$7,443,416.53. The combined income of conferences and institutions amounted for the four-year period preceding the last General Conference to \$178,662,689.11. The four-year period following, to \$171,208,509.44.

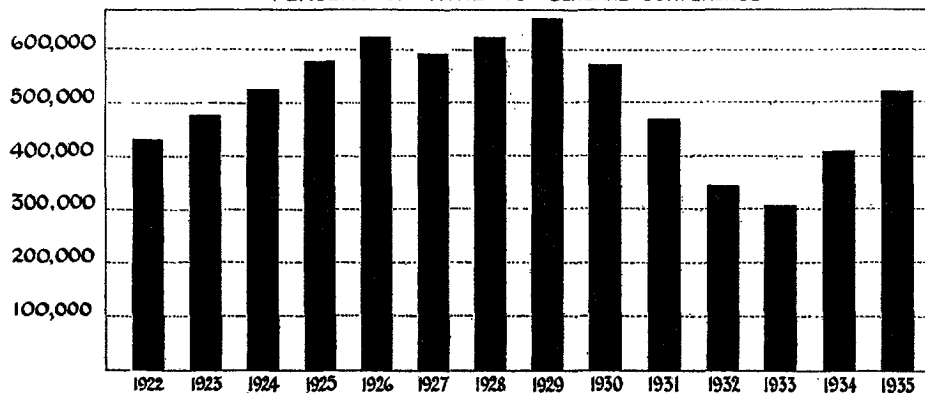
While we notice the shrinkage of funds in the four-year period following the General Conference compared with the previous quadrennium, this by no means measures the progress of the work, for our work never can be measured in dollars. Many more lan-

guages have been added to the list in which the message is going—more literature in more languages, more medical institutions, more schools with more students in them, many more churches with many more members. It is being proved that it is not by dollars but by the mighty agency of the Holy Spirit that the work moves onward.

## Mission Offerings in North America

1922	-----	\$2,123,980.19	
1923	-----	2,307,069.19	
1924	-----	2,867,846.87	
1925	-----	2,488,587.50	\$ 9,286,983.25
1926	-----	2,700,567.95	
1927	-----	2,692,530.70	
1928	-----	2,820,114.11	
1929	-----	2,839,574.09	11,052,886.85
1930	-----	2,681,213.22	
1931	-----	2,343,066.50	
1932	-----	1,902,888.41	
1933	-----	1,667,818.55	8,594,986.68
1934	-----	1,898,971.67	
1935	-----	2,020,227.87	3,919,199.54 (two years)

## PERCENT OF TITHE TO GENERAL CONFERENCE



The conferences and missions reaching the forty-cent-a-week goal during 1935 are as follows:

Bermuda	.....	\$ .668
Hawaii	.....	.607
Potomac (white)	.....	.509
Alaska	.....	.502
S. New England	.....	.489
New Jersey (white)	.....	.462
Greater New York	.....	.449
W. Pa. (white)	.....	.420
E. Pa. (white)	.....	.412
W. Va. (colored)	.....	.409
New York	.....	.403

Every quadrennium since 1870 there has been a constant increase in mission receipts up until the last quadrennium, beginning in 1930. This decrease (1930-1934) came about, not because of a lack of interest in missions, but rather because of drastic shrinkage in the income of our people. As conditions have improved, mission receipts have increased again. The years 1934 and 1935 show encouraging gains.

Percentage of Tithe in North America

Another important stable resource of the General Conference is the per cent of tithe. Under this plan each conference shares its tithe with the General Conference, and thus joins hands with the mission fields in the extension of the work. The following table indicates the per cent of tithe which comes to the General Conference:

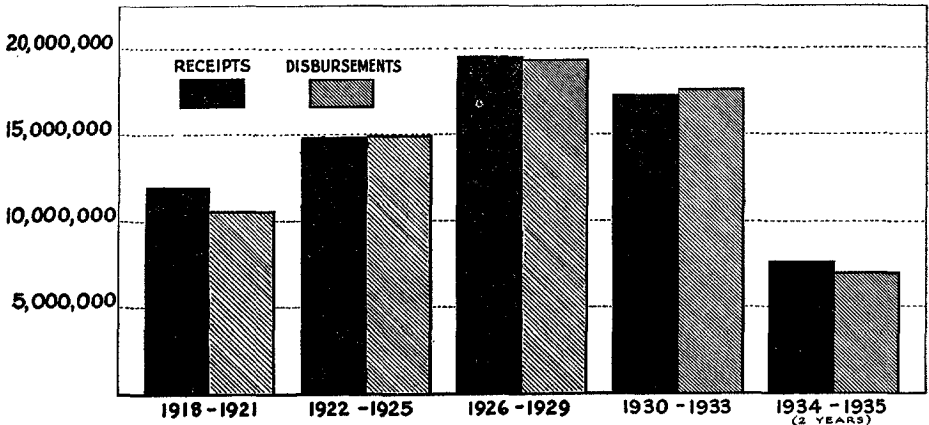
1922	.....	\$433,224.30	
1923	.....	477,523.83	
1924	.....	523,267.97	
1925	.....	577,245.09	\$2,011,261.19
1926	.....	623,144.20	
1927	.....	595,403.45	
1928	.....	620,101.84	
1929	.....	660,658.13	2,499,307.62
1930	.....	572,119.98	
1931	.....	471,336.01	
1932	.....	341,836.35	
1933	.....	301,828.46	1,687,120.80
1934	.....	406,300.49	
1935	.....	517,548.52	923,849.01 (two years)

The per cent of tithe to the General Conference, the tithe of tithe, mission offerings from foreign fields, and moneys received from other minor sources, added to our mission offerings in North America, make up our general mission fund. The following figures show the growth of both receipts and disbursements since 1922:

General Conference Receipts and Disbursements, Including Mission Offerings, Tithe, and Miscellaneous			
	Receipts	Disbursements	
1922	.....	\$ 3,313,246.35	\$ 3,675,419.04
1923	.....	3,686,742.38	3,802,512.38
1924	.....	3,802,872.25	3,486,154.76
1925	.....	4,176,969.30	4,023,415.31
	14,979,830.28	14,987,501.49	
1926	.....	4,387,801.32	4,190,318.02
1927	.....	4,887,616.65	4,981,497.18
1928	.....	5,063,554.70	4,867,933.27
1929	.....	5,217,631.99	5,384,941.16
	19,556,604.66	19,424,684.63	
1930	.....	5,043,215.76	5,331,604.28
1931	.....	4,733,209.45	4,933,606.82
1932	.....	3,943,385.15	3,997,644.92
1933	.....	3,081,923.38	3,217,012.65
	16,801,733.74	17,534,868.67	
1934	.....	3,721,069.36	3,533,725.65
1935	.....	3,906,791.04	3,614,950.04
	7,627,860.40	7,148,675.69 (two years)	

With the growth of the foreign mission work, the demands falling upon the

GENERAL CONFERENCE RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS BY QUADRENNIAL PERIODS



membership in the main base of supply bring a vivid realization of the necessity of earnest effort to make our foreign work as nearly and as rapidly self-supporting as possible. The present economic condition throughout the world has served to accentuate the necessity of increasing self-support. In a direct way the spiritual development of the native converts depends upon the faithful payment of tithe and mission offerings.

If we desire to see believers progress in self-government, for it is reasonable and right, constant progress in self-support is equally necessary. We never can tell in these last days what contingencies may arise in any country, making the importation of men and means impossi-

ble. When that experience does come, fortunate is the field that has strongly developed self-support for carrying forward the work.

While much more can be done and should be done in raising the gifts in mission lands, that the message may go swiftly into far places of the earth, we rejoice in the measure of progress that is being made. What our people in other lands are giving and gathering, even amid dire poverty, is substantial evidence of their love and loyalty to the message and their desire to see it hastened onward. You will see from the table given below, and also from the graph, the amount of funds contributed from fields outside of North America:

Mission Funds Outside of North America

Tithe					
	1926	1927	1928	1929	Increase
Africa	\$ 67,666.54	\$ 76,176.64	\$ 81,211.94	\$ 84,517.40	\$ 16,850.86
Australasia	*330,000.00	371,585.05	353,586.35	390,553.00	60,553.00
Europe	1,056,954.06	1,140,129.43	1,203,786.58	(1,207,053.17)	150,099.11
C. Europe	.....	.....	.....	694,904.13	
N. Europe	.....	.....	.....	325,295.14	
S. Europe	.....	.....	.....	186,853.90	
				1,207,053.17	
U.S.S.R.	72,671.76	76,895.10	81,682.75	85,000.00	12,328.24
Far East	104,974.81	116,490.52	132,414.72	125,055.49	20,080.68
Inter-America	103,022.38	115,934.15	120,470.23	133,488.40	30,466.02
South America	136,692.52	141,468.27	151,533.77	167,452.89	30,760.37
Southern Asia	35,219.06	36,914.44	44,474.37	39,230.86	4,011.80
Hawaii	9,343.05	10,121.81	10,000.00	.....	.....

Missions					
	1926	1927	1928	1929	Increase
Africa	\$ 48,518.92	\$ 50,951.07	\$ 61,012.46	\$ 62,917.96	\$ 14,399.04
Australasia	*235,000.00	230,482.09	235,168.93	243,661.00	8,661.00
Europe	489,916.00	516,692.16	520,399.41	(587,616.98)	97,700.98
C. Europe	.....	.....	.....	287,518.28	
N. Europe	.....	.....	.....	205,154.79	
S. Europe	.....	.....	.....	94,943.91	
				587,616.98	
U.S.S.R.	15,094.69	16,379.73	21,507.62	22,000.00	6,905.31
Far East	41,689.43	59,021.06	49,944.05	112,198.47	70,509.04
Inter-America	65,808.08	76,334.53	81,219.61	89,615.22	23,812.14
South America	87,862.30	89,078.31	89,651.39	99,007.00	11,144.70
Southern Asia	11,710.36	11,022.46	14,195.78	17,880.76	6,169.40
Hawaii	3,825.42	3,803.06	3,880.00	3,209.13	† 616.29

\* Estimated. † Decrease.

Tithe						
	1930	1931	1932	1933	1934	Decrease 5 years
Africa	\$ 86,467.86	\$ 81,482.74	\$ 78,459.53	\$ 84,945.64	\$ 98,080.76	*\$11,612.90
Australasia	347,070.29	308,958.10	309,795.38	320,978.33	352,164.17	*5,093.88
C. Europe	690,151.55	649,088.60	552,493.80	494,536.80	536,162.67	103,988.88
N. Europe	332,814.92	301,244.77	224,724.30	260,861.20	308,304.20	24,510.72
S. Europe	196,691.70	184,242.70	173,353.17	163,808.30	167,979.90	28,711.80
China		81,040.15	62,665.40	51,794.48	50,498.17	21,991.57
Far East	120,321.62	63,419.32	65,003.96	58,467.39	57,881.88	
Inter-America	120,624.39	107,893.29	107,691.56	102,441.35	119,461.94	1,162.45
South America	157,697.64	145,989.65	143,513.61	117,753.08	141,771.29	15,926.35
Southern Asia	43,332.00	42,133.18	41,171.68	35,274.12	37,863.20	5,468.80

Missions						
Africa	\$ 68,191.70	\$ 63,576.23	\$ 60,336.05	\$ 59,233.85	\$ 65,557.05	\$ 2,634.65
Australasia	228,305.60	207,379.51	199,602.72	196,819.43	206,397.45	21,908.15
C. Europe	306,235.15	317,274.83	270,180.92	239,253.99	234,523.19	71,711.96
N. Europe	206,189.44	198,075.55	149,872.76	194,750.95	209,966.16	*3,776.72
S. Europe	111,662.98	113,866.20	108,040.90	102,321.05	99,709.50	11,953.48
China		31,711.12	28,453.23	28,920.84	20,295.66	74,038.82
Far East	137,079.58	48,118.81	48,411.54	41,081.33	42,745.10	
Inter-America	81,864.54	74,936.24	67,104.14	54,998.39	62,366.05	19,498.49
South America	98,436.82	98,668.32	92,766.74	74,772.15	82,310.00	16,126.82
Southern Asia	16,191.16	29,207.81	18,871.94	16,713.98	17,525.54	*1,334.38

\* Increase.

While considering mission offerings, we should not fail to mention at least three important sources of supply:

First: Our Sabbath schools, in a regular and consistent manner bring offerings to the General Conference Treasury approximating one half of its income. While the Sabbath School Department will make its own report, we wish to mention the wonderful blending of young and old through this agency of support to the cause of missions in every land the message has entered.

Second: Another important source of revenue is the Harvest Ingathering campaign, promoted largely by the Home Missionary Department. Starting in North America, the plan has spread to every mission field. While the plan has been in operation, it has brought to the General Conference Treasury from North America, \$11,657,687.61. The amount of Harvest Ingathering funds in the world field during the last six years, amounts to \$6,392,958.08.

Third: A younger yet highly productive agency in providing mission funds, is the Missions Extension Fund which is promoted through the Big Week campaign, and which has set publishing houses humming with the message in many languages around the world. While assisting printing plants already started, it has entirely equipped many others. By this plan, sister publishing houses that are in a strong financial condition have rendered continual cooperation and support.

At first the Missions Extension plan provided funds for the extension of the publishing work only. Beginning with 1925, the plan was broadened to include educational and medical missionary interests in mission fields. Owing to the economic situation, the funds gathered through this agency have been required to maintain the work already established in our publishing houses, schools, hospitals, and dispensaries in foreign lands. We are hopeful that the time may soon come when the Missions Extension Fund can revert to its original purpose, and extend, as before, our literature work, our schools, and our medical missionary work.

#### Sacrifice

Sacrifice lies at the foundation of the gospel plan. It has the approval of both Christ's teaching and His example. It was in earnest toil and sacrifice that the pioneers of this movement started the work. In more recent times we have been reminded of what sacrifice will do. In the year 1922, when the world field faced a cut in the appropriations that would have brought retrenchment to our work in all lands, our workers and laity gave even to the point of sacrifice. It was then that the Week of Sacrifice plan was started. By this plan all workers in conferences and institutions were asked to give a week's income to the Week of Sacrifice Fund, and to encourage our people to follow their example. The results were more than we anticipated. Each year since then there has been a Week of Sacrifice Offering. During these fourteen years \$1,207,775.49 has been given to the cause of missions in the homeland. Again last year, when the mission funds were not coming in as the needs of the work required, a special appeal was made in behalf of the Week of Sacrifice, and the amount received nearly doubled that of 1934. Some

thought the Harvest Ingathering work would more or less hinder the Week of Sacrifice, but such was not the case. While in 1934 we received in this offering \$52,109.24, in 1935 it reached \$96,372.47.

#### The Budget Plan

The General Conference operates on the budget plan, balancing expense with income. It has through the years earnestly sought by counsel and example to persuade every conference, mission, and institution to operate within a carefully prepared budget, thus avoiding debt.

During the years 1930-34, inclusive, the annual income was insufficient to meet the necessary operating expense and hold our missions strongly around the world. Fortunately, as before stated, a reserve fund amounting to one fourth of the annual appropriations had in years of plenty been accumulated for a time of need. This was drawn upon during each year of the five-year period in order to balance the budget. We are happy to tell you that in the year 1935 the Treasury was able to balance its books by means of its annual income without drawing further on its reserve funds. This means that every expense in operating in 1935 has been more than met by the income of that year. If the income of 1936 is equal to 1935 and expenses are not greater than anticipated, there should again be sufficient to balance the budget from annual income. With conditions somewhat improving, there is a possible prospect of income in some measure exceeding expenditures, leaving a margin for new work. What a blessing it would be to the cause if we could increase our appropriations for advance work in the world field!

#### General Conference Securities

According to the By-Laws of the General Conference, the Treasury is required to keep in readily convertible securities an amount equal to 25 per cent of the annual appropriations. In addition to this reserve, there are other funds of the General Conference Corporation which must be kept invested. This is a heavy responsibility, requiring much technical investigation and careful attention. We have followed the plan over a long period of years, of entering our securities in our books each year at market value. This is a more conservative method than has been generally fol-

lowed by banks and other organizations. We have been told by prominent bankers in Washington that they knew of no organization at that time that followed such a conservative method.

Like everything that is bought and sold, securities, even of the highest type, fluctuate in value. Especially has this been noticeable during the period of economic adjustment. At times it has seemed that every financial structure was in jeopardy. Yet in it all, the hand of God has been over our work. We in the Treasury Department have been led to realize this. It is because of His guiding and protecting hand that we are able to make the following favorable report.

In going carefully through all the dealings of the Treasury Department during the last fourteen years, reckoning losses and gains at market values, adding interest received, we are pleased to report that on this basis up to January 1, 1936, the reserve invested in securities has been preserved one hundred cents on the dollar, and, in addition, an average interest of more than three and one-half per cent has been received annually. Should financial conditions continue with an upward trend, the average interest will present a corresponding improvement.

#### Institutional Relief

Fundamental to our line of advance in every branch of endeavor, stand our institutions as training centers for the work. From these, trained workers go forth to every land. The financing of these institutions, especially our schools, owing to their limited possible income as related to expense through the years, became an increasingly difficult problem. While the giving of our people has been toward one central fund, except for purely local purposes, mission offerings have thereby been increased accordingly. Gradually, however, our missionary training centers became more and more involved in debt, until some institutions were insolvent, and almost all were in a bad financial condition that threatened to impede our world-wide advance.

To change the situation, while yet avoiding the plan of having two separate funds in the field, it was finally decided that a certain portion of the one mission fund should be used each year as a relief fund to be devoted entirely to the reduction of debt on these institutions,

#### Appropriations

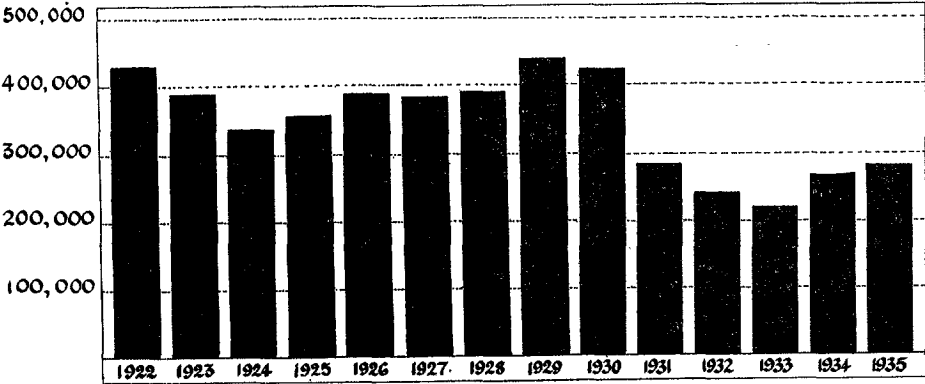
	1923	1924	1925	1926	Increase 4 years	
African	\$220,608.58	\$226,110.84	\$242,495.58	\$255,147.52	\$ 34,588.94	
European	559,428.38	743,870.66	735,810.72	729,409.49	169,981.11	
Far Eastern	651,903.98	568,519.77	688,297.72	724,308.91	72,404.93	
Inter-American	231,594.58	220,486.48	249,241.64	262,245.55	30,650.97	
South American	270,829.55	252,205.61	290,036.45	305,168.79	34,339.24	
Southern Asia	255,414.86	223,056.36	302,514.80	318,298.19	62,883.33	
	1927	1928	1929	1930		
African	290,603.81	295,171.67	316,426.77	329,655.69	39,051.88	
European	786,080.57	782,061.71	(915,337.44)	(994,917.60)	208,837.03	
C. European			294,446.65	301,236.58		
N. European			370,041.62	394,946.01		
S. European			250,850.17	298,735.01		
			915,337.44	994,917.60		
Far Eastern	789,807.86	813,753.67	801,001.78	829,698.56	39,891.20	
Inter-American	290,136.21	294,670.88	310,816.49	318,504.56	28,368.35	
South American	335,169.33	342,901.35	356,470.79	370,636.02	35,466.69	
Southern Asia	374,386.58	400,914.48	420,581.52	437,468.44	63,181.86	
	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935	Decrease 5 years
African	\$295,791.06	\$247,399.00	\$210,865.95	\$228,299.55	\$203,299.55	\$ 92,491.51
Australasian	302,111.06	206,122.40	149,213.17	182,042.80	139,355.87	162,755.19
C. European	340,117.18	191,484.75	104,231.03		7,227.19	332,889.99
N. European	355,975.42	210,359.31	197,848.70	194,836.79	168,854.58	187,120.84
S. European	278,308.62	190,251.72	171,815.25	170,915.76	158,810.89	119,497.78
China	424,286.88	351,309.54	297,207.87	308,407.87	292,207.87	132,079.01
Far Eastern	320,179.02	277,528.24	234,788.90	243,788.90	230,788.90	89,390.12
Inter-American	285,785.46	236,630.35	200,189.28	207,789.28	194,689.28	91,096.18
South American	335,561.60	276,189.00	235,156.58	244,407.01	228,038.81	106,477.79
Southern Asia	392,528.50	325,013.60	274,961.51	285,361.51	271,961.51	120,566.99

which are training workers for the missions. In carrying out this policy, our people have been made conversant with the plan, that they might know how their offerings have been used. We here

set in. The campaign to reduce school indebtedness was frustrated, and instead of school obligations reducing, they have been gradually increasing until at the close of the 1935 school year the inter-

our schools to better advantage. If the debt-paying comeback can be so handled as to be made available only on condition that institutions operate within their income, there is hope of deliverance ahead, as school boards insist that colleges and academies operate within their normal income. It is not impossible to roll away the reproach of debt. It can be done.

INSTITUTIONAL RELIEF



indicate the amount of mission offerings devoted to relief purposes year by year since the plan was put in operation, as follows:

1914	-----	\$108,385.06
1915	-----	167,639.11
1916	-----	214,533.38
1917	-----	369,225.97
1918	-----	196,867.66
1919	-----	228,309.85
1920	-----	453,425.68
1921	-----	418,964.16
1922	-----	426,836.05
1923	-----	388,282.76
1924	-----	340,734.26
1925	-----	358,356.55
1926	-----	388,881.79
1927	-----	380,022.33
1928	-----	393,291.67
1929	-----	440,760.89
1930	-----	421,745.61
1931	-----	282,523.40
1932	-----	244,462.11
1933	-----	221,852.18
1934	-----	266,576.26
1935	-----	280,880.69
Total	-----	\$6,987,507.42

A portion of these funds raised for relief has been used for church buildings in North America and also for the world field. The sum used for these purposes amounted in all to \$1,074,449.18. Owing to pressure for the support of the regular work in foreign fields, that portion of the Church Extension Fund owed to outside fields has been used for the regular budget. We are hopeful, now that conditions are improving, that it will be possible to provide annually, as formerly, funds for church extension in foreign lands.

Debt Reduction  
Schools

We were pleased to be able to report to you at our last General Conference that each year of the previous quadrennium had shown a steady effort on the part of conferences, schools, publishing houses, and sanitariums to roll away the reproach of debt. From an interest-bearing indebtedness of \$1,214,815.26 on educational institutions in North America, the notes payable were reduced at the close of 1929 to \$574,655.84, a reduction of \$640,159.42. In the year 1930 a further debt reduction was made, reducing the indebtedness of our schools to approximately \$495,000. If this good work could have continued for two or three years more, we should have been able to sing the song of freedom from debt for all our schools in North America.

But, unfortunately, during the years of economic adjustment a change has

est-bearing indebtedness of our colleges and academies stood at \$587,231.52, including some note obligations that were being held by union conferences for the schools. During the current school year

Colleges and Academies in North America

	Resources	Liabilities	Present Worth	Per cent Lia. to Res.	Notes & Loans Payable
1925	\$5,401,669.91	\$1,502,084.79	\$3,899,585.12	27.81	\$1,214,815.26
1921	4,226,506.51	985,537.75	3,290,968.76	22.13	674,522.72
Increase 1925	1,175,163.40	566,547.04	608,616.36		540,292.54
1929	5,850,458.16	784,439.87	5,066,018.29	13.41	574,655.84
1925	5,401,669.91	1,502,084.79	3,899,585.12	27.81	1,214,815.26
Increase 1929	448,788.25		1,166,433.17		
Decrease 1929		717,644.92			640,159.42
1933	5,860,787.94	810,180.35	5,050,607.59	13.82	511,748.22
1929	5,850,458.16	784,439.87	5,066,018.29	13.41	574,655.84
Increase 1933	10,329.78	25,740.48	15,410.70		62,907.62
Decrease 1933					
1935	6,087,717.88	889,174.57	5,148,543.31	14.73	515,411.52
1933	5,860,787.94	810,180.35	5,050,607.59	13.82	511,748.22
Increase 1935	176,929.94	78,994.22	97,935.72		3,663.30
Decrease 1935					
1935	6,037,717.88	889,174.57	5,148,543.31	14.73	515,411.52
1925	5,401,669.91	1,502,084.79	3,899,585.12	27.81	1,214,815.26
Increase 1935	636,047.97		1,248,958.19		
Decrease 1935		612,910.22			699,403.74

there have been further heavy increases in indebtedness. The increase of debt in some of our colleges is alarming. We may well be thankful that this large reduction in school indebtedness was made before the depression came upon us. Otherwise we might have seen some of our educational institutions closed because of the burden of debt upon them.

The question now before us is, Shall we again seek to liberate these centers of light and learning? Shall we work for their freedom once more? If so, our previous experience should help us to use the Institutional Relief Fund for

been the development of the modern printing press. If Gutenberg were alive, he would marvel at the mass of printing being done in such a multitude of tongues by the chain of Seventh-day Adventist publishing houses. The candle of invention faintly flickered as he dreamed of movable type. Today our publishing houses, like the noonday sun, blaze forth the glory of the third angel's message, brightening this whole earth. Each nationality represented in this world Conference can exclaim with wonder, as did the men at Pentecost, "How hear we every man in our own tongue, wherein

Publishing Houses in North America

	Resources	Liabilities	Present Worth	Per cent Lia. to Res.	Notes & Loans Payable
1925	\$2,117,419.46	\$ 547,036.57	\$1,570,382.89	25.84	\$318,083.01
1921	2,445,868.53	1,037,306.20	1,408,562.33	42.41	685,794.73
Decrease 1925	328,449.07	490,269.63	161,820.56		367,711.72
Increase 1925					
1929	2,091,571.40	337,341.84	1,754,229.56	16.13	119,556.83
1925	2,117,419.46	547,036.57	1,570,382.89	25.84	318,083.01
Decrease 1929	25,848.06	209,694.73	183,846.67		198,526.18
Increase 1929					
1933	1,849,022.94	337,336.13	1,461,686.81	20.95	193,617.52
1929	2,091,571.40	337,341.84	1,754,229.56	16.13	119,556.83
Decrease 1933	242,548.46	49,994.29	292,542.75		74,060.69
Increase 1933					
1935	1,839,382.04	405,426.23	1,433,955.81	22.48	190,814.93
1933	1,849,022.94	337,336.13	1,461,686.81	20.95	193,617.52
Decrease 1935	9,640.90		27,731.00		2,802.59
Increase 1935		18,090.10			

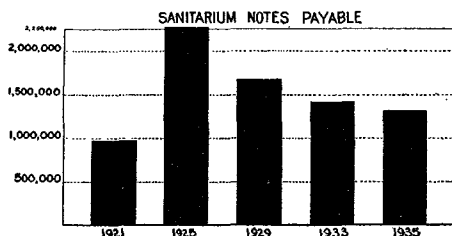
we were born?" From the Bible, looking to this miracle age of gospel printing, comes the answer, "The Lord gave the word: great was the company of those that published it."

During the harder years of the depression, our publishing houses in North America were less active; but as conditions have improved, it is an encouraging omen to see how our publishing houses are increasing the amount of literature sent forth to the fields. The preceding table will give you the financial standing of these houses at the end of 1935.

#### Sanitariums

Our vision of the possibilities of medical missionary work is widening. We are beginning to realize the vast possibilities of sanitariums and kindred enterprises in finishing the work among the nations. Men of wealth and influence are led to realize as never before the great work which Seventh-day Adventists are doing along medical missionary lines. We are assured that as we cooperate with our medical missionary Leader, heavenly agencies will give us strength and influence in this work. "Heavenly angels are waiting for human beings to cooperate with them in the practical carrying out of the principles of truth. It is through the agency of our sanitariums and kindred enterprises that much of this work is to be done. These institutions are to be God's memorials, where His healing power can reach all classes, high and low, rich and poor. Every dollar invested in them for Christ's sake will bring blessings both to the giver and to suffering humanity."—"Counsels on Health," p. 219.

We are pleased to report that our



medical institutions have held forth in an encouraging way, through the years of depression, so much so that even during these trying years a reduction has been made in their indebtedness. This is especially noticeable in the work of the Washington Sanitarium. In 1925 the liabilities of this institution amounted to \$327,841.69. A program of debt reduction was entered into, and each year since then, progress has been made. The last dollar of indebtedness to the General Conference was paid January 21 of this year. And now this beautiful institution, with all its equipment and staff of faithful workers, is at liberty to go forward without the burden of debt. Realizing the need of funds for medical missionary work in other lands, the constituency, at its last meeting, voted to contribute of the earnings of the Washington Sanitarium \$20,000 each year for the next two years.

#### Sustentation Fund

One of the distinct blessings which the Scriptural system of tithing aids in making possible, is that known as the Sustentation plan. Through this a partial means of support is assured workers of the denomination after they, owing to

Sanitariums				Per cent	Notes & Loans
		Resources	Liabilities	Lia. to Res.	Payable
1925	-----	\$5,363,485.47	\$2,658,820.42	49.58	\$2,273,116.86
1921	-----	3,517,180.67	1,869,300.48	38.93	988,788.43
Increase	1925	1,846,304.80	1,289,519.94		1,284,328.43
1929	-----	5,795,787.24	2,151,928.62	37.13	1,675,596.76
1925	-----	5,363,485.47	2,658,820.42	49.58	2,273,116.86
Increase	1929	432,251.77			
Decrease	1929		506,391.80		597,520.10
1933	-----	5,831,357.41	1,946,861.34	33.38	1,418,191.60
1929	-----	5,795,787.24	2,151,928.62	37.13	1,675,596.76
Decrease	1933		205,567.28		257,405.16
Increase	1933	35,620.17			
1935	-----	6,057,384.64	1,843,840.89	30.43	1,324,188.42
1933	-----	5,831,357.41	1,946,861.34	33.38	1,418,191.60
Decrease	1935		103,020.45		94,003.18
Increase	1935	225,977.23			
1930			505,096.11	569,112.74	919
1931			491,202.01	573,958.56	948
1932			429,452.53	521,840.57	955
1933			450,011.46	458,311.17	961
1934			548,922.28	441,809.23	980
1935			605,438.63	459,151.48	1,008

age or infirmity, have become less active. In this plan local conferences give a portion of their tithe; publishing houses, sanitariums, and tract societies join in contributions from their income; and the General Conference, as well, makes available a percentage of its tithe and also its mission offerings. Scores of letters received in the Treasury Department bear testimony to the benefits of this wise plan. What a blessing it is that tried workers, when active work must cease, may have this means of help.

At the General Conference six years ago a change was made in the Sustentation plan wherein those who had put in their life service would receive more compensation than those who had put in less time and service. It seemed to the delegates assembled that it was only reasonable and right that workers should receive compensation governed by the period of service, giving more to those who had put in longer time in the work. The reduction in tithe coming to the Sustentation Fund has, of course, reduced the income. In 1933 we found ourselves with the outgo of the fund largely exceeding the income. As times have improved, the situation has changed until all overdraft has been returned and the Sustentation provision now is operating within its income.

#### Sustentation Fund

Year	Receipts	Disbursements	Beneficiaries
1911	\$ 45,757.59	\$ 41,864.31	120
1912	65,206.01	65,974.92	151
1913	66,987.12	68,501.05	177
1914	102,057.30	77,781.97	229
1915	117,038.85	89,969.47	249
1916	140,592.33	106,545.13	304
1917	137,978.56	178,868.23	349
1918	223,215.84	166,909.55	400
1919	239,973.15	217,929.38	442
1920	269,210.21	267,140.77	481
1921	265,128.27	304,115.58	525
1922	238,211.53	309,888.00	551
1923	375,035.15	336,414.78	576
1924	397,574.96	368,078.26	648
1925	434,912.88	397,436.16	682
1926	437,437.22	419,966.73	740
1927	467,284.82	470,672.92	823
1928	475,593.40	507,262.19	869
1929	539,899.20	540,650.79	883

#### General Conference Corporation

Year	Assets	Liabilities	Present Worth	Per cent Lia. to Assets
1918	\$ 684,544.96	\$395,053.69	\$289,491.27	57.70
1919	939,392.71	564,623.13	374,769.58	60.10
1920	840,904.04	427,382.62	413,521.42	50.81
1921	917,150.52	414,740.37	502,410.15	45.22
1922	988,001.54	425,193.12	562,808.42	43.04
1923	1,011,511.94	422,883.00	588,628.94	41.81
1924	1,051,803.54	432,099.78	619,203.76	41.10
1925	1,108,448.06	438,817.31	669,630.75	39.58
1926	1,084,827.84	386,123.81	698,704.03	35.58
1927	1,244,084.61	436,292.78	807,791.83	35.06
1928	1,357,911.90	467,775.56	890,136.34	34.44
1929	1,463,831.50	511,751.68	952,129.82	34.96
1930	1,418,087.61	496,975.48	921,112.13	35.05
1931	1,396,565.87	535,538.00	861,027.87	38.35
1932	1,426,814.13	557,696.42	869,117.71	39.09
1933	1,686,019.24	759,442.57	926,576.67	45.04
1934	1,606,737.58	732,750.33	874,037.25	45.60
1935	1,694,276.99	728,632.14	970,644.85	42.71

#### Legal Organizations

The General Conference Corporation is the legal organization through which the General Conference does practically all of its legal business. The old General Conference Association of the Seventh-day Adventists, though still in existence, is practically dormant. The General Conference Corporation, even in these trying years through which we have been passing, has been able to give a good account of itself. When funds are short in the General Conference, funds are taken from the corporation to help tide over the crisis. The assets of the corporation were drawn upon in the years 1934 and 1935 to about \$200,000. This organization became a strong factor in holding our missionaries at their posts. Notwithstanding gifts to the General Conference, the present worth of the corporation amounts to a larger sum than in any previous year.

#### Ministerial Internship Plan

Several years ago we found, while extending our work in foreign lands, that an increasing drain had been made in our home fields not only of means but also of men. This brought about the need for new recruits in the home field. It was then that the Ministerial Internship was made a part of the General Conference operating policy. In this plan the General Conference agreed to meet two thirds of the expense involved in the support of an intern for one year. This plan worked successfully, and provided means for college graduates who were entering the ministry.

Approximately seventy-five internships were arranged for the first year. Then the depression came on, and conferences were not able to put these young men into regular work at the close of their internship. Therefore, to make the plan



work more strongly, the General Conference decided to appropriate funds for a second year of partial support. Up to the end of 1935, 273 internships have been arranged for, and \$245,466.54 has been devoted by the General Conference to this plan.

These young men, under the blessing of God, have brought a new breath of life into the ministry in North America. The plan has also more effectively prepared young men for work in foreign lands. It has also encouraged schools to emphasize more fully the ministerial training. We believe there are still far more possibilities in the internship plan, and we appreciate the spirit of cooperation which is helping to make the plan a success at the base of supplies.

#### Home Bases

In this connection let me speak of home bases, for it is from these that we branch out into every land. I speak of the fields that are self-supporting in North America, in Europe, in Australia, in South America, and in South Africa. These bases should not become entangled financially. They should not increase the load of debt at home, but steadily seek in every way possible to roll back the reproach of indebtedness. Every conference should see to it that it operates within its income. Where a conference or institution becomes lax and involves itself in indebtedness, it should immediately become the concern of our leaders in the union, local, and General

Conferences. Where legal organizations have created liabilities, definite steps should be taken to reduce them, and a definite program set on foot to operate on a safe and sound basis.

As we strengthen our stakes at home, we can lengthen our cords abroad. We can only expect God's blessing upon our work as we cooperate in carrying out sound plans of finance. There are unlimited possibilities in the onward reach of the work as we harmoniously counsel together to avoid the pitfalls of failure, and with renewed confidence in God move onward, ever onward to the completion of the unfinished task.

In conclusion I wish to express my appreciation for the help and cooperation that has been shown to me as Treasurer of the General Conference during the last fourteen years. In the thousands of problems that have been up for discussion and settlement, you have borne with the administration in decisions which have been reached, and the good hand of God has led us on in a growing work.

As we have approached this Conference, I have been happy, genuinely happy, at the prospect of turning over my responsibility to my successor. In doing so I ask that you show the same spirit of forbearance, cooperation, and helpfulness that has been shown me during these years, and I pledge myself to pray most earnestly that God may richly bless and strengthen the incoming Treasurer of the General Conference.

the proclamation of the truth. The world seemed to be lightened with the heavenly influence."—*"Testimonies," Vol. IX, p. 126.*

More and more we as a denomination are coming to see clearly how God is to "finish the work, and cut it short in righteousness" in the time yet remaining before the close of probation. We have come to see that the gospel commission was given to the church, and not to any one class of believers, either paid or unpaid. In *"The Desire of Ages,"* page 822, we are told:

"The Saviour's commission to the disciples included all the believers. It includes all believers in Christ to the end of time. It is a fatal mistake to suppose that the work of saving souls depends alone on the ordained minister. All to whom the heavenly inspiration has come, are put in trust with the gospel. All who receive the life of Christ are ordained to work for the salvation of their fellow men. For this work the church was established, and all who take upon themselves its sacred vows are thereby pledged to be coworkers with Christ."

And lest we should lose sight of this fundamental principle of evangelism, we find in the last volume of *"Testimonies for the Church,"* this startling admonition: "The work of God in this earth can never be finished until the men and women comprising our church membership rally to the work, and unite their efforts with those of ministers and church officers."—*"Testimonies," Vol. IX, p. 117.*

The great Head of the church, Christ Himself, united ministry and laity in carrying the gospel message to the world. In apostolic times the "good tidings" was heralded throughout the world. "Notwithstanding the fierce opposition that the disciples met, in a short time the gospel of the kingdom had been sounded to all the inhabited parts of the earth."—*Id., Vol. VIII, p. 15.* The historian, Gibbon, sets forth the situation as follows:

"The progress of Christianity was not confined to the Roman Empire; and according to the primitive fathers, who interpret facts by prophecy, the new religion, within a century after the death

## The Home Missionary Department

By J. A. STEVENS, Secretary



J. A. Stevens

THE secretaries of the home missionary departments throughout the world unite with the staff of the General Conference Home Missionary Department in extending greetings to the delegates assembled in the forty-third session of the General Conference.

We are glad for this privilege of presenting to you some facts and figures showing the very cheering progress made by the layman's movement during the last six years. We are placing in your hands a few comparative statistics which will enable you to evaluate more correctly the wonderful work being carried on by the laity, young and old, in all parts of the world field.

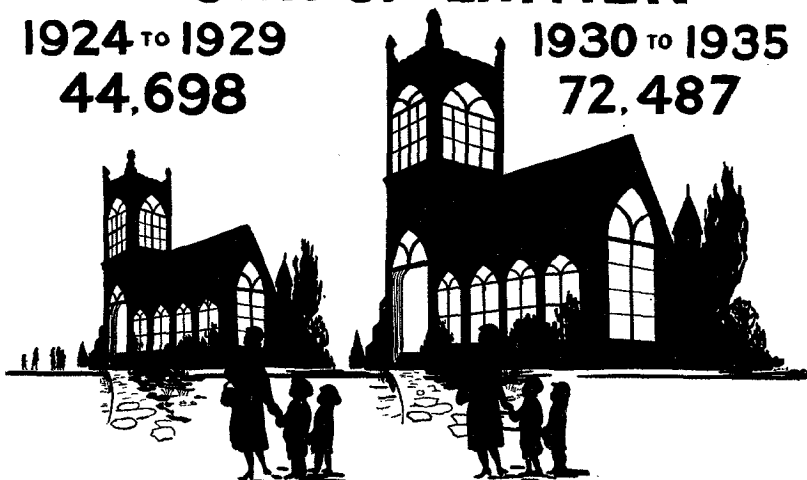
The sexennial term since the last General Conference session has been marked by steady growth in the army of lay workers, and also an encouraging growth in soul-winning efficiency. In certain parts of the world the laity have heartily united with the conference and mission workers in carrying on a successful program of evangelism. These developments have not been spasmodic, but have continued year after year, often in the face of bitter opposition from foes of our work. Surely such revivals of missionary zeal are the fulfillment of that prophecy which reads, "In visions of the

night, representations passed before me of a great reformatory movement among God's people. Many were praising God. The sick were healed, and other miracles were wrought. A spirit of intercession was seen, even as was manifested before the great day of Pentecost. Hundreds and thousands were seen visiting families, and opening before them the word of God. Hearts were convicted by the power of the Holy Spirit, and a spirit of genuine conversion was manifest. On every side, doors were thrown open to

## SEXENNIAL REPORT OF MEMBERS ADDED THROUGH WORK OF LAYMEN

1924 TO 1929  
44,698

1930 TO 1935  
72,487



of its divine Author, had already visited every part of the globe. "There exists not," says Justin Martyr, "a people, whether Greek or Barbarian, or any other race of men, by whatsoever appellation or manners they may be distinguished, however ignorant of arts or agriculture, whether they dwell in tents or wander about in covered wagons, among whom prayers are not offered up in the name of a crucified Jesus to the Father and Creator of all things."—Gibbon's *"Rise and Fall of the Roman Empire,"* Vol. I, p. 582.

The plan of Christ for launching the work of the gospel in apostolic times is also His plan for its triumph in this last generation of human history. And we are well along in the development of His divine purpose for the finishing of the work under the ministry of the remnant church. The goodly harvest of souls gathered into our church membership during the last six years through the work of the lay members, young and old, totals 72,487. This wonderful fruitage of souls is sufficient to duplicate the membership of the China Division, Far Eastern Division, Southern Asia Division, Southern African Division, and leave a surplus of over four thousand souls. As compared with the previous sexennial period, it is a gain of 27,789, or 62 per cent. Surely we are justified in rejoicing greatly at this manifest proof of the soul-winning talent in the membership of our churches.

#### *The Limit Not Reached*

That the church has not yet reached the limit of its evangelistic possibilities through the laity, is apparent by the fact that scarcely more than half of our membership regularly report active endeavor along any line of missionary service. Nor is that the single urge to greater effort to harness the latent soul-winning power of the church. Another stirring call to prayer and earnest work to enlist every potential missionary worker is the alarming fact that 989 churches in the North American Division did not add one soul by baptism or profession of faith during 1935. To make the situation more serious, we find that at least 528 of these same churches did not add to their membership by baptism or profession of faith in 1934; 453 of the same churches had a like record in 1933; and 385 of these same churches reveal that sad record as far back as 1932.

It is not to be inferred that the churches of North America are peculiarly marked in this matter of unfruitfulness. We are persuaded that careful research would show a like percentage of unfruitful churches in other divisions of the world field, from the fact that non-reporting churches are, as a rule, non-working and therefore unfruitful. The Home Missionary Department has accepted this appalling situation as a direct challenge, and has already set in motion plans that give promise of making every church a growing church.

Obedying the Master's command, "Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields," we have been startled to find such a vast portion of the field unoccupied, even in those lands where our work has been long established. A survey of North America is in progress, so we are able to report the situation only in the United States. But the report of the vice-president for the North American Division will show the unentered terri-

tory where there is not a Seventh-day Adventist church, or where we do not have even isolated members, either families or individuals. We call attention to the more than 16,000 cities, towns, and villages in the United States, as compared with less than 2,500 Seventh-day Adventist churches in all of the United States and Canada. Already plans are being worked out to carry the gospel to these unwarned millions. We of the homeland have been so closely occupied in raising money and training workers for lands afar, that we have allowed vast sections of our own "vineyard" to remain unworked. We are now turning our attention to the neglected task right at our own doors, and at the same time not leaving the other undone.

We recall that after the Lord had ordained twelve men to be the responsible leaders of the early church, He called "other seventy" also, and sent them forth to do pioneer work. We have turned our attention to plans for public evangelism by self-supporting laymen, and this has developed into one of our most important missionary activities during the sexennial term. In many conferences the plan has long since passed through the experimental stage, and duly licensed lay preachers carry on successful soul-winning work under conference supervision. A manual has been prepared, monthly report blanks have been adopted, and a license form has been approved by the General Conference Committee. The training of these lay preachers is carried on in institutes, usually continuing over three or four days. We believe that there are many thousands of consecrated men who should be encouraged to dedicate themselves and a portion of their time to this fruitful phase of missionary work.

Yet another phase of specific missionary work has grown to world-wide proportions during the last six years. We can only touch briefly on the Dorcas and Welfare Society work that has made such great progress in recent years. December 31, 1935, there were in all the world 1,514 Dorcas Societies and 1,195 Welfare Societies. Neither time nor space will allow a full recital of the wonderful work that is represented by this phase of the layman's movement. Millions of poor and needy have been blessed through the loving ministrations of the thousands of our brethren and sisters in various parts of the world. During recent weeks we have appreciated the timely counsel and help of Sister Hulda Jost, who has so efficiently directed extensive welfare activities in the Central European Division. We are persuaded that this work should be strengthened and extended into all the lands of earth.

#### *Christian Help Work*

Closely related to Welfare and Dorcas Society work are those missionary activities listed on our reports as "Christian Help Work," "Treatments," "People Given Needed Help," "Articles of Clothing Distributed," and "Bouquets and Food Baskets." In our missionary organization, most of this work is carried on by the "Community Health Service" company, although much of it is reported by other members. The volume of such unselfish service testifies to the fact that our laity are endeavoring to obey the Saviour's command to minister to the sick and the poor.

As a partial report for three years, there was reported a total of 4,155,407 hours of Christian help work. If this work had been done by visiting nurses, working eight hours a day, six days a week, it would have occupied the full time of 555 such workers. The 4,541,563 treatments reported during the sexennial period would have required 1,245 full-time nurses for a whole twelve months, averaging ten treatments a day. The clothing given to the needy would have completely outfitted at least 1,150,746 men, women, and children. And that vast host of people given some ministry of helpfulness totaled 13,206,946. Nor should we pass by the bouquets and food baskets, reported largely by our juniors under the leadership of the Missionary Volunteer Societies. And so in every land the members of our churches—fathers, mothers, brothers, and sisters—have devotedly carried forward this great work of lay evangelism, with its many activities, having but one single goal,—the winning of souls to the Lord Jesus Christ.

The limits of this report will not allow me to compass the whole field of activity represented in the work of the

#### WELFARE ORGANIZATIONS' ACTIVITIES

Dorcas Society work has been promoted for many years. In 1931 the General Conference Committee adopted plans for Welfare Society organization and work. As of December 31, 1935, there were:

Dorcas Societies	1,514
Welfare Societies	1,195

Total Welfare Organizations 2,709

	1924-1929	1930-1935
Number Treatments		
Given	1,626,862	4,541,563
Articles Clothing		
Given	2,343,476	5,753,784
Persons Helped (not reported)		13,206,946
Hours Christian Help Work	9,472,696	*4,155,407

\* Partial, 3 years only.

Home Missionary Department. But we do desire to note briefly some of the phases of work being carried forward so successfully in all the divisions of the world field.

Prememinently the Bible is the most important feature of our missionary equipment. Armed with a knowledge of the truths of the Bible, and with a simple training in the art of presenting these truths to others, our members go forth to conduct Bible studies, cottage meetings, hall meetings, and even open-air meetings on the streets or in parks. This year bids fair to be the greatest in the history of our Bible training class work. Many thousands have been trained to go forth with the message of God into the homes of their neighbors, and many thousands more are being trained to do this work of evangelism. During the sexennial term no less than 16,042,341 Bible readings and cottage meetings were reported.

Only second in importance to the Book of books is our great array of missionary literature, now coming from presses around the world in many languages. The printed page enables our members to search out in every land those whose hearts will respond to the leadings of the divine Spirit. It pioneers the message into darkened lands where the living witness has never yet gone, and it

searches out the honest in heart. As light from the throne of God it shines in heathen lands, and even pierces to the depths of that greater darkness where men have wandered from God in more enlightened countries. Thus a multitude have been led over the path to the cross, and God has demonstrated that through the printed page "in a large degree will be accomplished the work of that other angel who comes down from heaven with great power, and who lightens the whole earth with his glory."

A veritable library could be written of the miracles of salvation God has wrought through the ministry of the printed page. But we cannot take time to recount even one. Like the showers of the latter rain, the "speaking leaves" are falling all over the earth, and souls are responding to the message. Our statistics show a grand total of 107,183,760 small books, periodicals, and tracts distributed during the period covered by this report. And vast as the total is, we believe it is small compared to what it will be when our members are fully aroused to their privileges and enlisted in literature distribution.

The Home Bible Study League method of systematic literature ministry is being more extensively used than ever before. In all parts of the world this plan has amply demonstrated its fruitfulness and economy, and already in 1936 several conferences in North America have launched conference-wide campaigns to reach every family within their confines. A single conference will thus distribute many millions of tracts and missionary periodicals.

The King's Pocket League is also a popular missionary activity, the members carrying with them a select assortment of tracts to give away as opportunity offers. The tract rack in public places, such as railway and bus stations, or other places where the public may be reached, is a very fruitful phase of literature work.

Lending our books and tracts has proved to be a very successful method of finding those who are interested in our message and work. It will not be out of place for me to say that one of the most important angles of the literature ministry is the reflex influence it has on our membership in inducing them into the still more extensive field of personal work.

We are constantly endangered by slavish adherence to the mechanics of our missionary work, and therefore have just as constantly endeavored to build on a foundation of love to God and our fellow men, urged on by many pointed statements from the Spirit of prophecy, such as the following:

"In Christlike sympathy we should come close to men individually, and seek to awaken their interest in the great things of eternal life. Their hearts may be as hard as the beaten highway, and apparently it may be a useless effort to present the Saviour to them; but while logic may fail to move, and argument be powerless to convince, the love of Christ, revealed in personal ministry, may soften the stony heart, so that the seed of truth can take root."—"Christ's Object Lessons," p. 57.

A manual on personal service entitled, "Fishers of Men," has been published to inspire our members to engage in this service and to inform them how to do

this work. Our statistics have revealed an increasing total of those who engage in personal work. During the sexennial period there were reported 22,425,148 missionary visits. What a wonderful panorama those figures bring before us, of a veritable army of men, women, young people, yes, and even children, day by day, speaking a word here, a word there. God watches over the seed thus planted, and as it is faithfully

THE MISSIONS EXTENSION PLAN			
Total Amount Raised 1921-1935 ----- \$1,687,572.66			
Raised 1930-1935 ----- 709,981.76			
It has built, equipped, and assisted 379 projects:			
	1921-1929	1930-1935	Total
Publishing --	88	26	114
Medical -----	95	31	126
Educational --	91	45	136
Miscellaneous --	--	--	3
	274	102	379

watered and cared for, a goodly harvest is garnered. Multiplied thousands who have not yet taken their stand with us are our friends because of their appreciation of personal interest in their eternal welfare. We should strengthen the work of training in personal work in all our churches in all the world.

It is a far step from the Vigilant Missionary Society of ten members organized by S. N. Haskell in 1869 to the vast missionary correspondence work now being carried on in all parts of the world. Wherever the mails go, there go missionary letters, always earnestly presenting the truth concerning the "blessed hope." The Home Bible Study League plan is largely followed in this missionary correspondence, but there are many thousands of our lay members who carry on their own individual correspondence with those whom they hope to lead to an acceptance of the truth. During the sexennial period 2,982,046 missionary letters were written, and a goodly number of people were thus turned toward the light of truth.

#### Missionary Campaigns

The Home Missionary Department of the General Conference is responsible for the promotion of all general missionary campaigns, such as the Harvest In-

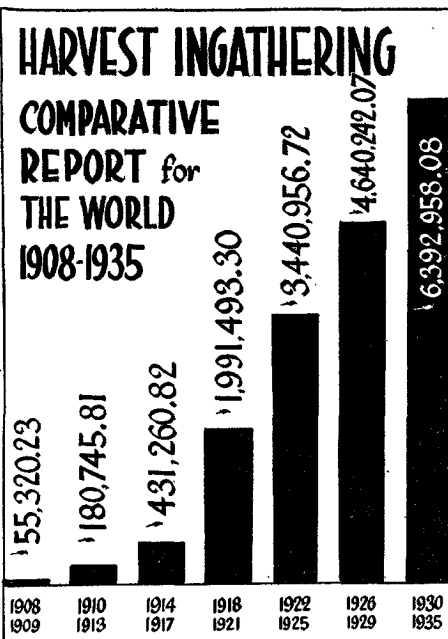
gathering and Missions Extension Fund, the latter being generally designated as the Big Week. In the division conferences the Home Missionary Department is often called on to promote other general campaigns. However, in this report we will deal briefly with just the Harvest Ingathering and the Missions Extension Fund Offering.

The six years covered by the statistics have been financially difficult years. Depression reigned in all parts of the world. But there is no crisis with God. His prospering hand has led us in the way of victory year after year, even though the financial totals may have varied from time to time. We greatly rejoice that we can report a grand total of Ingathering income for the six years covered by the report, amounting to \$6,396,227.92. This may be compared with the previous sexennial period, which totaled \$6,517,690.94. While the years from 1924-29 were years of plenty, yet the difference between the "fat years" and the "lean years" amounts to only \$121,463.02. Surely God has greatly prospered our workers and members in their Ingathering labors.

The grand total of Ingathering income from the first campaign in 1908 to 1935 inclusive is \$17,137,631.00. This amounts to \$1,727.24 for every day that has passed since the beginning of the very first campaign, and it is \$2,919.31 for every day during the last six years. During the last two years, 1934 and 1935, special attention has been given to enlisting "Minute Men"—workers who pledge to raise sufficient Ingathering funds to support the foreign mission work for one or more minutes. An appropriate emblem in the form of a small button is awarded to those who reach this goal, and more than 26,000 buttons were distributed in North America during the 1935 campaign. We are persuaded that it is possible to reach an Ingathering total of \$2,000,000 a year throughout the world field, and we should not rest content with present achievements.

But for the Missions Extension Fund plan, our institutional work in mission lands would have been deprived of the strengthening influence of these publishing, medical, and educational enterprises established or helped by the Missions Extension Fund during the last sixteen years. We have not been able to add new enterprises during the depression years, but the annual inflow of funds has enabled the various fields to maintain their work. During the sexennial term the total received is \$709,981.76. It should be a matter of satisfaction to every believer who has helped raise the grand total of \$1,687,572.66, and it has given substantial financial aid to 114 publishing houses and depositories, 126 medical enterprises of various classes, and 136 educational units.

The sexennial period has been marked by advance in the program of organization and training, which has been fundamental in our departmental growth since its beginning. A comprehensive series of leaflets covering the organization, education, and work of the church along missionary lines, has been published, and several volumes covering specific activities have been provided, notably "How to Give Bible Readings," "Fishers of Men," "Welfare Work by Seventh-day Adventists," "Lay Preacher's Manual," etc. The department also sponsors the promotion



of the annual Church Officers' Reading Course as an educational feature affording information and inspiration for more efficient leadership. During recent years the Welfare and Dorcas Society work has assumed large proportions. This conference should lay plans to greatly strengthen our welfare work in all parts of the world.

There has been a very cheering growth in the spirit of cooperation in the development of the department's service and training plans. More than half of our churches throughout the world now observe the Church Missionary Service, and about an equal number regularly observe the First Sabbath Missionary Service, a regular monthly Sabbath service in the interest of church missionary work. We have endeavored to work cooperatively with the Medical Department in the organization and training of our members in medical missionary work, and many thousand are now giving a practical demonstration of this training in their neighborhood missionary work. However, our laity should be trained to do a greater work in medical missionary lines than we have yet done, and a vast field of opportunity is wide open to us.

Of our total church membership around the world about 49 per cent regularly report some missionary activity. The latest statistics show 181,069 reporting members. But great as is the volume of work and fruitage of souls represented in the labors of this army of workers, it should be more than doubled through the enlistment of the inactive membership, and training for greater efficiency on the part of every believer. And so the work is to go on to its soon-coming triumph.

In closing this brief survey I am happy in the opportunity afforded to express to this delegation, and to our workers and members everywhere, heartfelt appreciation for the excellent cooperation that has resulted in the ad-

vancement of the work represented by the Home Missionary Department, not only during the sexennial term, but during the entire fifteen-year period in which I have had the pleasure of serving as secretary of the department. It has been a very great privilege to be associated with the fellow workers of the department, not only at Washington, but in all the world. I thank God for the loyal host of missionary workers that we have endeavored to serve in our departmental leadership. We believe the layman's movement is destined to share a large part in answering that question propounded so long ago by Solomon, "Who is she that looketh forth as the morning, fair as the moon, clear as the sun, and terrible as an army with banners?" Song of Solomon 6:10.

Truly, like a mighty army moves the church of God in its march to certain triumph, and the laity are responding gladly to the rallying call to consecrated service. Already the banner of truth has been planted on greater heights of achievement than ever before. The mountaintop of final victory rises before us, and the call to gain the utmost heights is a call to greater spiritual power. As always, this is the greatest and most imperative need. But we do need, also, a consecrated and trained leadership to guide the Lord's host to a speedy and final triumph in this last generation.

"God and Christ and the heavenly angels are working with intense activity to hold in check the fierceness of Satan's wrath, that God's plans may not be thwarted. God lives and reigns. He is conducting the affairs of the universe. Let His soldiers move forward to victory. Let there be perfect unity in their ranks. Let them press the battle to the gates. As a mighty Conqueror, the Lord will work for them. Let the gospel message ring through our churches, summoning them to universal action."—*"Testimonies,"* Vol. VII, p. 14.

"From them is to go forth the terrible denunciation, 'Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.' Rev. 14:18.

"They are represented by the third angel that followed, 'saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand, the same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God.' Rev. 14:9, 10.

"And in a large degree through our publishing houses is to be accomplished the work of that other angel who comes down from heaven with great power, and who lightens the earth with his glory."—*"Testimonies,"* Vol. VII, pp. 139, 140.

Could language be more definite? How dare we fail to give proper place in our plans to a strong, aggressive literature campaign in all our fields to the ends of the earth if "in a large degree through our publishing houses is to be accomplished the work of that other angel who comes down from heaven with great power, and who lightens the earth with his glory"? Today we have reached the time for the work of "that other angel." Our publishing work should take on added importance in our plans for advancement.

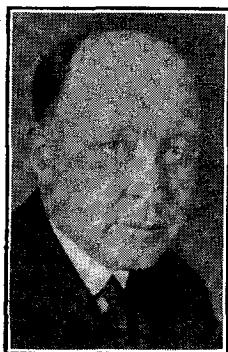
We have traveled far in this department since 1848, when the word came, "I have a message for you. You must begin to print a little paper and send it out to the people. Let it be small at first; but as the people read, they will send you means with which to print, and it will be a success from the first. From this small beginning it was shown to me to be like streams of light that went clear round the world."—*"Life Sketches,"* p. 125.

True to the vision, it has been a success from the first, and today we see the fulfillment of the promise, "like streams of light that went clear round the world." According to the latest statistical information, Seventh-day Adventist literature is now being printed in 169 languages, and there are few lands today where the gospel colporteur is not carrying forward his work. A short time ago one of our Norwegian colporteurs, after years of hoping and praying and trying, landed in Spitzbergen, that far north isle, which was the last landing place of the polar expedition before it flew over the North Pole. During the three and a half days our brother was able to remain on the island, he took eighty orders for "The Great Controversy," besides selling some small books. May the few white inhabitants of the island, as they labor there in the mines, find in "The Great Controversy" heavenly riches.

During the past year one of our Australasian colporteurs became burdened for the white settlers in the wild interior of New Guinea, who have gone there in search of gold. Taking his stock of books, he boarded an airplane, with the mines of New Guinea as his goal. He estimated that he might sell \$2,500 worth of books, but in the four months he labored there, his sales were \$5,400. So today over in New Guinea, in a most trying climate, these books are carrying on their ministry. Malaria and other deadly fevers do not affect them. They need no furloughs. They take no rest. They are ever on duty, ready to speak to hearts. Placing them there did not draw

## The Publishing Department

By C. E. WEAKS, Secretary



C. E. Weeks

JOHN the prophet nearly two thousand years ago saw in vision the message going swiftly to the world, so swiftly that it took an angel flying to represent the speed with which the work would be accomplished. Today we see literally the things which John saw

in vision, and which he was commanded to write for the encouragement of the church down through the ages, especially for our encouragement today, when the final work which he saw in vision is to be accomplished.

The work of printing and circulating our message-filled literature is thrown into the picture in most striking terms through the servant of the Lord. We read:

"There is great need of men who can

use the press to the best advantage, that the truth may be given wings to speed it to every nation, and tongue, and people."—*"Gospel Workers,"* p. 25.

How similar in thought to the words of the historian who, in commenting on the rapid spread of the Reformation doctrines through Europe, exclaimed, "The ideas had long been born; but printing gave them wings."

Not only has the servant of the Lord told us that the message is to be "given wings" by the press, but to aid us in getting the lesson of the importance of this work in our world program this language is used:

"Let it never be forgotten that these institutions [our publishing houses] are to cooperate with the ministry of the delegates of heaven. They are among the agencies represented by the angel flying 'in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people, saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to Him; for the hour of His judgment is come.' Rev. 14:6, 7.



upon the denominational resources. The colporteur was self-supporting; his efforts made work for our publishing house in Australia.

This same brother has returned to his homeland, and has accepted the remote districts of Australia as his field where he will continue his pioneer work. Who but the colporteur will ever carry the message to those great stretches of territory where a single farm covers thousands of acres?

1930-1935

#### Departmental Changes

There have been frequent changes in the personnel of the General Conference Publishing Department during the past

heard from the colporteurs. They are a courageous group.

#### Sales

During the year 1934 we were able to report that denominational sales of our literature since the small beginning made in 1849, had reached a total of \$100,000,000. Sales for the year 1929, the last so-called "boom year," the year just prior to the last General Conference session, were \$4,939,917.08; for 1934, the last year for which we have full returns, a year right at the height of the depression, they were \$3,416,345.80. Sales for the six years have been approximately \$22,500,000, or 22 per cent of all the literature we have circulated since the work was started eighty-seven years ago.

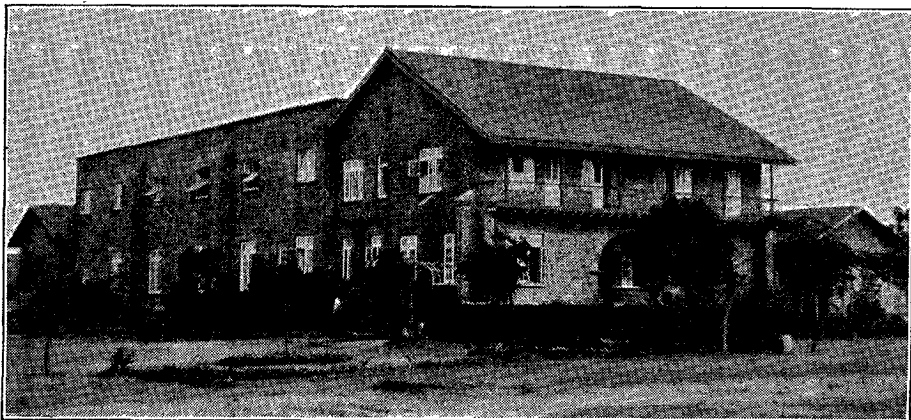
tension Fund. When this plan of raising money for the strengthening of our publishing, educational, and medical interests in fields abroad was launched, we had in the world field forty-five publishing houses and branches. Today there are sixty-nine, or an increase of twenty-four. Most of this increase has been made possible through the provisions of this plan. It is encouraging to know that many of these newly established houses are not only self-supporting today, but they in turn are contributing liberally from their resources to the advancement of other phases of the work, and are also increasing their own facilities in order to care for a growing work.

It took years for our publishing work to get a foothold in France. The colporteurs had a struggle, and many were inclined to feel that France was different, that the colporteur work could not be made a success there. But with the Missions Extension funds a property was secured a few miles from the city of Paris, and a publishing house established, and the work of the plant grew rapidly. About two years ago it became evident that it would be necessary to enlarge the building. The house had prospered to the extent that enlargement plans could be cared for from accrued operating profits. Early this spring Elder Franklin, of the General department, was present at the dedicatory services of this fine new addition to the French house.

The publishing house at Shanghai, China, built before the days of the Missions Extension Fund, has been in need of repairs for a number of years, and our brethren from China have been appealing to the General Conference for funds for this heavy investment. Thus far the General Conference has been unable to respond to their appeal. In 1934 this house reported its first operating gain, and in 1935, with an operating gain of \$19,000 Mex., the manager, E. H. Thiele, wrote that their board felt warranted in going ahead with their rebuilding plans without aid from abroad.

Our houses in South America have enjoyed special prosperity, and have been able to report good operating gains. Brother J. B. Johnson, the manager, reporting the work of the Brazil house, says:

"The Lord is prospering the book work in this field, and our sales for the first ten months of this year were just 50 per cent larger than for the same pe-



Oriental Watchman Publishing House, Salisbury Park, Poona, India

six years. Soon after the last General Conference, N. Z. Town was called from the department to South America to take the presidency of the Austral Union. E. E. Franklin, of the Lake Union, was called to fill the vacancy caused by the departure of Brother Town. Our dear secretary, H. H. Hall, whose life was so closely bound up with the development of our publishing work round the world field, was taken by death in the spring of 1934. A little later J. A. P. Green was called from the General department to serve as publishing department secretary of the South American Division. J. J. Strahle was called to fill the vacancy thus caused in the General department.

These six years since the last General Conference have been hectic years indeed round the world. We have felt the reaction of world conditions in all the departments of our work, especially where funds have been involved. But no class of workers have had to carry on under more trying conditions than have our 3,000 colporteurs. It has been no easy matter to go out day after day, year after year, and face a pessimistic world, listening from morning till night to tales of unemployment, need, and desperation. Still our workers have continued their labors, and we closed the year 1935 with 3,098 colporteurs in the world field, as compared with 2,297 at the close of 1929, a gain of 801, or 35 per cent. It is true that sales have decreased, which has meant decreased incomes for these ministers of the printed page. It has not been the material advantages that have held them to their fields, but rather their devotion to the work.

It has been my privilege to attend institutes in many parts of the world field during these unsettled years, but never a note of discouragement have I

When we consider conditions which have existed throughout the world field,—how wages have been reduced, how unemployment has prevailed, how in many cases we have greatly reduced the retail prices on our literature, and how in some fields laws have been passed which almost closed up our colporteur work at times,—we thank God for what has been accomplished.

We greatly appreciate the earnest co-operation given us by conference presidents and their committees and by workers generally, without whose help such a cheering report would have been impossible.

#### Finances

While the last six years have been difficult ones for business generally, and our publishing houses have felt the stress of the times, there has been much to encourage. For years our people have contributed liberally to the Missions Ex-



French Publishing House, Dammarie-les-Lys, France



riod of 1934. The October sales were \$17,756, the largest for a single month in the history of this house. We billed one field in a single invoice \$6,850 retail, the largest bill I think ever issued by the house. All our tract societies are paid up in their accounts with the house, some having a credit. Day before yesterday three and one-half tons of literature left here for two fields. A few days before that, a similar truckload left here for two other fields. Our bindery has been under pressure, in order to keep up with the field's demands."

Even in India, where the work has gone hard through the years, we seem to have come to a new day. Brother J. C. Craven recently wrote:

"You will be glad to know that we are kept very busy in the publishing house; in fact, at the present time we are faced with a very serious problem of getting our literature out on time. The volume of business is so great for us that it is extremely difficult to get our magazines out at the time agreed upon. I checked up on the amount of work that was waiting on the two cylinder presses the other day, and we had thirty large cylinder-press forms made

2. A greatly increased circulation of our periodical literature. The sale of books and periodicals should advance together. We read: "Papers and books are the Lord's means of keeping the message for this time continually before the people;" and, "The world is to receive the light of truth through an evangelizing ministry of the word in our books and periodicals. Our publications are to show that the end of all things is at hand."—"The Colporteur Evangelist," p. 8.

The combination plan, the placing of a year's subscription for one of our journals with the sale of a large book, is meeting with success. Many of our colporteurs seldom take an order for a book except in combination with a magazine subscription. We believe that this plan greatly adds to the effectiveness of the literature ministry. As the magazine is delivered from month to month, it is a reminder to the purchaser that he has that good book in his home. Scores are being enlisted for the sale of magazines through single copies or by subscription. Thousands could be employed in this field either as part or full time workers. What a field for the services of consecrated men and women, yes, and

5. Cash policy. This means that cash accompanies orders, or that credit is established at the Bible Houses or publishing houses sufficient to care for the orders placed by a church or colporteur. Where this plan has been put into operation, very gratifying results have followed. Some feared that the adoption of the plan would bring discouragement to colporteurs and churches, and result in decreased sales. The exact opposite has been the effect. It is interesting to note that the one division, Inter-America, which has adopted the cash policy in every one of its unions, showed the largest gain in sales of any division in our world field in 1935. The Bible Houses in that field have greatly improved their financial standing during the year. We give these few testimonials, illustrative of how the plan is working:

Mexico: "We will never return to the old method. One colporteur told me recently that at the beginning of 1934 he had a debt in the office of 150 pesos. This has been cleared up, and instead he now has a deposit of 75 pesos. He added: 'The birds sing sweeter to me now.'"

Antillian Union: "We are glad to tell you that the cash policy is working fine, and no man wants to go back to the credit system. We have increased our colporteurs in the union 50 per cent. It lightens the work of the field secretary as well as the office secretary."

Chosen adopted the plan some time ago, and the work has grown rapidly under it. Now it is being introduced into the Philippines, and Brother Bradley writes: "In the Northern Luzon Mission, where they have been pushing this plan, already the colporteurs are looking with pride on the deposits which they have at the office instead of the debts."

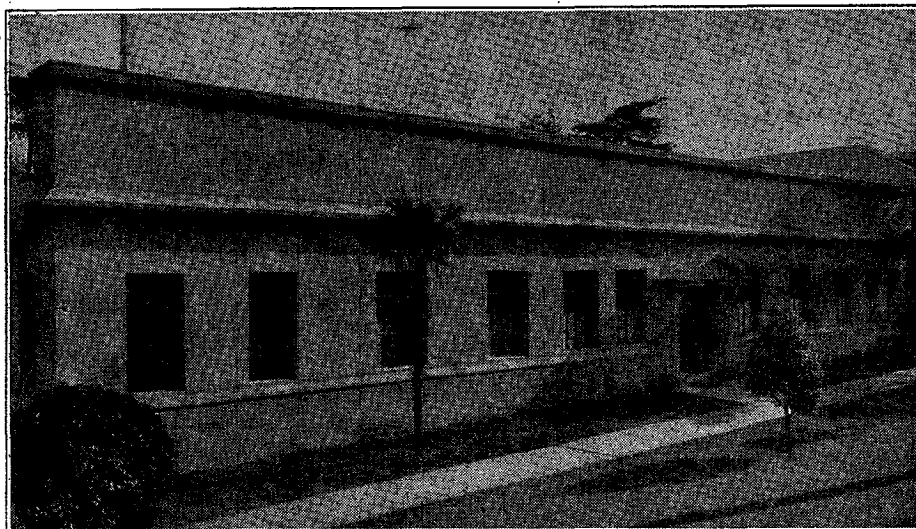
Early in 1936 some of our conferences here in North America decided to adopt the plan. We feel sure that before very long it will be the accepted plan for the world field.

#### Soul-Winning Results

Too often we are inclined to gauge the success of this department from the balance sheets of the publishing houses and Book and Bible Houses. While we should endeavor to keep the work on a good financial basis, we must never forget that the real object of this department is soul winning. Never before have we had so many evidences of the fact that souls are being won through this agency as today. One conference here in North America reports seventy-seven souls in 1935 won through the literature ministry. Another one reports: "We can look back over the past ten months and see where at least thirty-five souls are keeping the Sabbath as a direct result of the colporteur work, and by the close of the year we hope to have at least forty-five baptized members as a result of this work, and about sixty keeping the Sabbath, due to coming in contact with our colporteurs first."

Word has just reached us of a colporteur in Cuba who has been used of God to raise up fifteen companies of believers, three of which have now been organized into churches.

South Africa sends us this story of one of their native boys: "Today, but two years after entering the literature ministry, he has had the blessed privilege and joy of welcoming, as his broth-



Japan Publishing House in Tokyo, Japan

up in the composing room and waiting to go to press. The situation has become so serious that we have had to vote the purchase of another cylinder press. The division committee gave us an appropriation of 2,500 rupees from specials, and, due to our improved financial condition as a result of a large volume of work, we were in a position to meet the remainder of the cost, 5,900 rupees, from our own working capital."

#### Objectives

Among the leading objectives of the department today, we would mention the following:

1. Revival of the sales of our larger subscription books, especially those by Mrs. E. G. White. Unfortunately, for a number of years there was a very decided swing toward the sale of the smaller publications. While these have their field, we believe that our major efforts should be put forth in bringing to the attention of the world those volumes which contain special light for our day,—messages which are to prepare a people to meet God. We rejoice as we see more of our colporteurs returning to the sale of these large, message-filled books.

of boys and girls, who have a few hours they could devote each week to work for God.

3. The enlisting of large numbers of our young people for service in the literature ministry. While hundreds of our young people have been able to attend our schools during the years through the blessings and benefits of the scholarship plan, we believe there are hundreds, probably thousands, in our churches who should be encouraged to enter the field with our literature, later to enter our schools for further training in the work of God. During recent months we have been putting forth special effort to search out this class, and with encouraging results.

4. The development of leaders. It is becoming more and more difficult for us to transfer workers across border lines. We must have native men prepared to step in and fill vacancies. The work of training local leaders has been making rapid strides, and we rejoice today as we see workers in countries like China, India, Africa, and other so-called mission fields, able to take over heavy responsibilities in leadership in institutions and fields.

ers and sisters in Christ, fifty-seven of his own countrymen. More than that, there are still 108 others in the Bible classes, about thirty-seven of whom will be baptized before the close of 1935. 'To God be the glory,' says this brother, 'I have good reasons to know that the canvassing work is more than other works, and I am determined that I will keep on working hard for my own people, so that more of them can be won to Christ.'

Pastor Brewer, superintendent of the Manchuria Union, writing of the work for 1935, says: "Two new stations were opened because of the direct work of our colporteurs, and as we had no evangelist to follow up this work, the colporteurs who created these interests were asked to follow them up. In one of these places thirteen were baptized last fall, and in the other twenty. We are looking for many more places to be opened as the direct work of our colporteurs in giving Bible readings and talking to the people on Sabbaths and in the evenings."

Truly we can say with Elder Spicer: "What a picture of the truth winging its way over all the lands! May God greatly increase these aviation squadrons in all our fields. The time has come for the wings of our publishing work to spread for swifter, stronger, farther flight. Thank God for the force that can give wings to the books of truth. Set the wings, O men of the printed page! Spread them for the flight that shall never tire and never cease till every people, at home and abroad, shall have the message in their own tongue."

Statistical Report for 1935

A Review Showing 73 Years of Progress

By H. E. ROGERS, Statistical Secretary



H. E. Rogers

At the close of 1935 this work was conducted in 353 countries and islands, by 25,000 evangelistic and institutional laborers, who are using in their work 577 languages and dialects. This increase in languages has come mainly during the last fifteen years, and it is possible that it is an increase greater than that shown by any other movement during the same period of time. The increase in languages during the interim since the last session of the General Conference has been 183, or one new language added on an average of every twelve days. The increase in countries and islands in which work was begun dur-

ing 1935 was 28, and in new languages in which work is conducted, 34.

This work is carried on throughout the world by twelve divisions, comprising 69 union conferences, 146 local conferences, and 320 missions,—a total of 547 evangelistic organizations, employing 11,600 evangelistic laborers, with 443 associated institutions, with which are connected 13,400 persons,—a total of 25,000 laborers employed by the denomination in all lines of work carried on, or one laborer actively employed for every eighteen church members. In addition, there are many hundreds of lay workers in all lands engaged in efforts that are very helpful in advancing the work.

December 31, 1935, the membership of the 8,000 churches of the denomination throughout the world was 422,968. This is a gain of 123,413 in the entire world since the last session of this body, and is equivalent to a gain in membership greater by 5,642 than the entire membership in the United States and Canada at the time of the last session of the General Conference. Another comparison will show the rapid growth this cause is making in all the world when it is stated that the increase in members during the last six years is equivalent to the membership in all the world up to 1914, or seventy years after the beginning of this movement.

This gain is shown below by divisions, for the last six years, as follows:

Membership Compared With That of Previous Session			
Division	1929	1935	Gain
Australasian	11,465	16,864	5,399
Central European	42,245	51,278	9,033
China	24,651	15,651	14,572
Far Eastern		23,572	
Inter-American	14,602	28,132	13,530
North American	117,771	157,507	39,736
Northern European	24,228	32,744	8,516
South American	18,342	26,585	8,243
Southern African	13,070	26,167	13,097
Southern Asia	2,961	4,943	1,982
Southern European	16,511	25,816	9,305
U.S.S.R.	13,709	13,709	—
Totals	299,555	422,968	123,413

The figures above show that in North America in 1929, there were 117,771 church members. The membership in

this country had increased by 1935 to 157,507, an increase of 39,736, or 33.82 per cent. In 1929 all the divisions outside of this country had a membership of 181,784, which had increased by 1935 to 265,461, an increase of 83,677, or a gain of 46.03 per cent. The average gain of all divisions is 41.20 per cent.

Note the increases since the last General Conference in various lines, as indicated below:

	Increase	Per Cent
Membership	123,413	41.20
Languages in which representatives are doing work	179	45.43
Countries and islands in which work is conducted	214	153.96
Institutions	68	18.13
Laborers	4,722	23.29

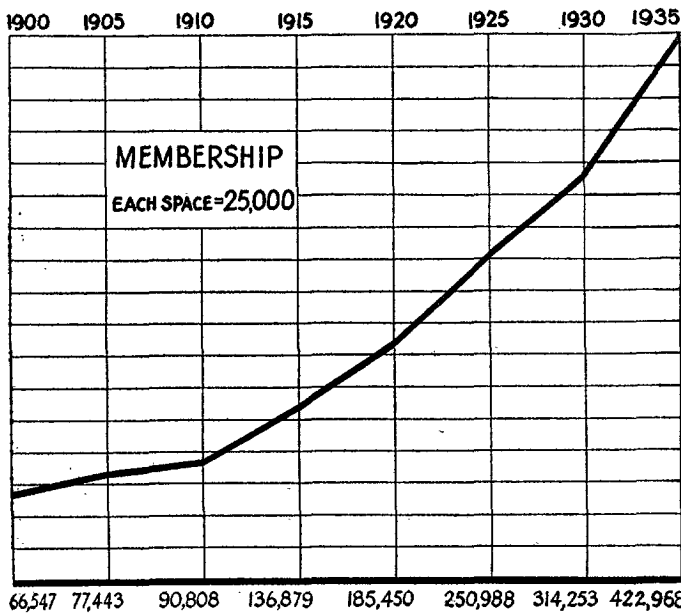
The percentage of gain during the last six years by divisions is indicated below. The greatest percentage is shown by the Southern African Division, 100.21 per cent; while Inter-America stands second, with 92.66 per cent.

Percentage of Gain, by Divisions	
Division	Percentage
Southern African	100.21
Inter-American	92.66
Southern Asia	66.94
China and Far Eastern	58.99
Southern European	56.36
Australasian	47.09
South American	44.94
Northern European	35.15
North American	33.82
Central European	21.38
Average	41.20

Membership at Recent Conference Session Periods		
	Membership	Gain
1917	153,857	—
1921	198,088	44,231
1925	250,988	52,900
1929	299,555	48,567
1935	422,968	123,413

Members, Churches, and Laborers Through the Years						
Year	Members	Conferences	Missions	Churches	Evangelistic Laborers	Languages
1872	4,801	12	1	205	86	2
1882	17,169	26	6	660	301	8
1892	33,778	34	11	1,102	400	15
1902	67,150	72	42	2,077	2,278	40
1912	98,044	126	100	2,874	5,101	75
1922	208,771	143	153	4,927	7,600	194
1929	299,555	155	245	6,557	10,051	394
1930	314,253	160	270	6,741	10,988	417
1931	336,046	155	278	7,021	10,850	455
1932	362,101	144	289	7,322	10,749	485
1933	384,151	146	309	7,640	10,946	504
1934	404,509	144	318	7,818	11,642	539
1935	422,968	146	320	8,000	11,600	577

Allow me to call special attention to the information indicated by the following graph, pertaining to membership. From the beginning of this movement to 1900—the beginning date shown on this graph—is a period of 57 years, during which the denomination had reached a total membership of 66,457, scattered throughout 56 countries of the



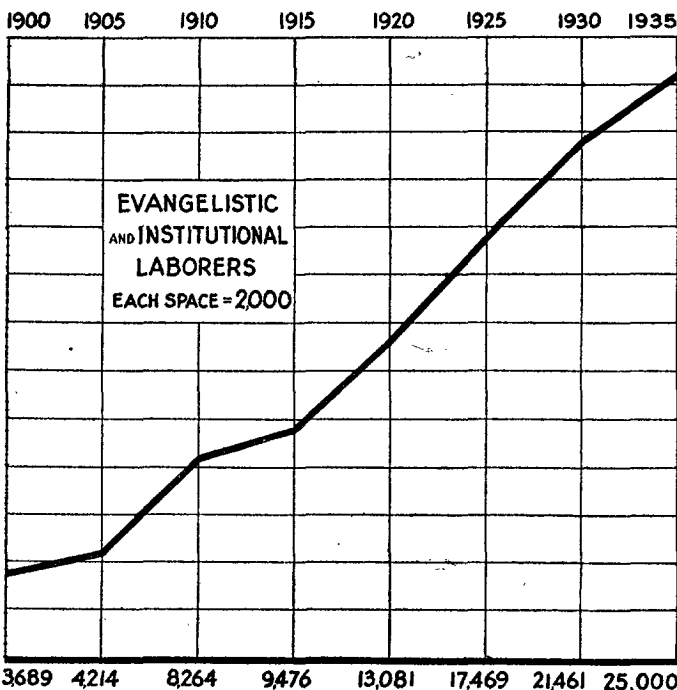
world. At that time the denomination was distributing literature in 39 languages, the total value of one copy of a full set being worth \$267.84.

Beginning in 1900, we entered upon a period of expansion and growth never before realized; 35 years later, we have a membership of 422,968 (over six times the 1900 membership) in 353 countries (over six times the countries entered by 1900), with work carried forward by 25,000 evangelistic and institutional laborers (about seven times the 1900 laborers) in 573 languages, or fifteen times the number of languages employed in 1900, the total value of one copy of the full set being worth \$2,087.50.

#### Baptisms

The number of persons baptized, and joining on profession of faith, and connecting thus with the denomination, during recent years has run as follows:

Year	No. Baptized	Year	No. Baptized
1913	12,794	1924	25,626
1914	14,999	1925	25,047
1915	17,438	1926	23,590
1916	10,395	1927	26,100
1917	16,083	1928	25,175
1918	14,787	1929	29,371
1919	16,762	1930	28,536
1920	19,683	1931	34,859
1921	21,061	1932	41,629
1922	19,055	1933	40,952
1923	24,175	1934	38,809



#### Total Funds

Year	Tithe	Foreign Missions	Home Missions	Total
1863	\$ 8,000.00	\$ .....	\$ .....	\$ 8,000.00
1883	96,418.62	13,668.88	.....	110,087.50
1903	684,030.54	158,359.67	.....	842,390.21
1921	4,237,745.31	2,781,728.23	1,488,582.65	8,508,056.19
1930	6,230,362.04	4,020,398.21	1,861,849.29	12,112,609.54
1931	5,641,514.44	3,649,455.31	1,743,192.47	11,034,162.22
1932	4,736,430.93	3,022,870.89	1,497,735.61	9,257,037.43
1933	4,491,730.36	2,730,641.22	1,420,280.85	8,642,652.43
1934	5,318,630.57	3,024,983.07	1,549,601.03	9,893,214.67

Grand Totals, 72 Years

\$121,093,924.85 \$64,557,364.90 \$32,721,416.31 \$218,372,706.06

#### Total Contributions 1935—North America

	Amount	Per Capita
Tithe .....	\$3,618,262.18	\$22.97
Foreign Missions .....	2,030,377.21	12.89
Home Missions .....	1,043,016.35	6.62
Total 1935 .....	\$6,691,655.74	\$42.48
Total 1934 .....	6,242,556.35	41.28

Gain .....

Per Cent Increase .....

#### Publishing Department

Year	No. Pub. Houses and Branches	Assets	Book and Periodical Sales	Em- ployees	Peri- odicals
1850	....	\$ .....	\$ .....	.....	1
1880	4	338,565.93	40,000.00	128	10
1900	13	1,400,000.00	250,000.00	600	96
1910	28	1,176,092.39	1,560,510.58	610	126
1920	45	4,338,099.16	5,682,972.35	1,125	144
1928	56	3,757,226.44	4,716,601.54	1,057	215
1930	67	3,781,444.16	4,715,709.89	1,145	219
1932	68	3,725,255.86	3,499,304.93	1,075	246
1933	69	3,570,490.48	3,387,682.66	1,060	249
1934	69	3,565,127.52	3,416,345.80	1,090	250

#### Sanitariums and Treatment Rooms

Year	Treatment Sanitariums Rooms	Assets	Physi- cians	Total Em- ployees
1866	1	\$ 24,800.60	2	14
1880	2	190,956.74	10	165
1900	27	1,294,474.73	74	1,216
1910	74	3,368,041.46	116	1,989
1920	33	4,309,701.10	163	2,308
1928	30	7,345,047.23	474	3,789
1930	51	7,999,591.83	566	4,287
1932	58	8,229,915.09	648	3,881
1933	66	8,459,711.05	810	4,466
1934	69	8,903,507.13	903	5,066

#### EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT

##### Primary Schools

Year	No. Primary Schools	Teachers	Enrollment	Value
1880	1	1	15	\$ 100.00
1900	220	250	5,000	50,000.00
1915	692	849	13,413	282,710.47
1920	928	1,273	23,481	558,668.87
1929	1,971	2,640	64,563	1,143,452.26
1930	1,977	2,547	67,719	1,252,036.23
1931	1,937	2,584	66,288	1,280,316.21
1932	1,650	2,171	55,268	1,096,975.95
1933	2,064	2,807	71,579	1,389,825.24
1934	2,130	2,896	72,625	1,382,524.54

##### Advanced Schools

Year	No. Colleges Academies and Inter. Schs.	Teachers	Enrollment	Value
1872	1	3	90	\$ 500.00
1880	1	20	490	52,040.70
1900	25	199	2,357	800,000.00
1915	67	574	7,623	2,222,058.68
1920	97	1,020	14,614	4,922,953.19
1929	204	1,596	25,270	8,121,531.22
1930	201	2,211	25,462	8,405,551.80
1931	196	2,265	24,177	8,533,089.84
1932	204	2,189	23,556	8,393,781.65
1933	207	2,325	23,481	8,403,214.06
1934	214	2,459	25,117	8,472,626.24

General Summary

Year	Union Organizations	Local Conferences	Mission Fields	Institutions	Total Denominational Investment
1865	....	7	1	1	\$ 38,712.53
1875	....	13	2	5	282,179.55
1885	....	28	3	11	885,382.97
1895	1	36	22	29	2,858,725.82
1905	13	80	56	126	4,799,419.51
1910	23	106	87	188	10,086,245.27
1915	26	130	109	147	14,254,615.45
1920	46	148	153	183	30,699,461.49
1921	51	139	160	204	34,196,049.15
1922	55	143	153	224	36,903,593.95
1923	54	146	150	224	40,675,238.72
1924	52	138	164	248	44,971,881.12
1925	60	139	180	266	45,648,299.24
1926	65	143	198	255	48,025,317.33
1927	64	146	211	291	49,293,887.27
1928	65	153	222	328	50,281,614.54
1929	67	155	245	375	53,314,348.60
1930	71	160	270	399	54,115,482.55
1931	71	155	278	417	54,114,844.52
1932	70	144	289	424	53,235,460.37
1933	70	146	309	441	53,979,143.72
1934	70	144	318	443	56,045,968.38
1935	69	146	320	443	.....

Growth in Number of Institutions

Year	Publishing Houses	Sanitariums	Treatment Rooms	Advanced Schools	Food Companies, etc.	Grand Total
1920	45	33	8	97	....	183
1925	53	34	31	148	....	266
1926	56	31	31	121	16	255
1927	56	32	39	144	20	291
1928	56	30	51	175	16	328
1929	58	44	51	204	18	375
1930	67	51	55	201	25	399
1931	68	58	54	196	41	417
1932	68	58	50	204	44	424
1933	69	66	57	207	42	441
1934	69	69	62	214	29	443

Value of One Copy of Each Publication

Year	Printed Languages	Value	Year	Printed Languages	Value
1846	....	\$ .93	1915	....	\$ 640.00
1854	....	6.08	1916	....	680.00
1862	....	7.50	1917	94	704.50
1865	....	8.33	1918	94	758.48
1870	....	12.49	1919	96	812.53
1875	....	29.57	1920	99	877.74
1880	....	53.30	1921	100	1,000.80
1885	....	96.60	1922	114	1,153.23
1890	....	171.55	1923	114	1,244.15

1895	....	243.60	1924	114	1,301.68
1900	39	267.84	1925	128	1,417.23
1905	....	300.00	1926	131	1,523.51
1907	....	420.00	1927	132	1,594.00
1908	57	488.00	1928	141	1,700.68
1909	....	500.00	1929	141	1,746.29
1910	....	525.00	1930	146	1,814.73
1911	....	540.00	1931	152	1,885.80
1912	....	550.00	1932	157	1,951.87
1913	....	575.00	1933	161	2,004.87
1914	....	600.00	1934	169	2,087.50

Total Languages in Which Work Is Conducted, Also Countries in Which Representatives Are Located—by Years

	Oral Languages	Countries *
1921	179	108
1922	194	115
1923	220	119
1924	224	119
1925	252	124
1926	256	126
1927	279	127
1928	347	135
1929	394	139
1930	417	141
1931	455	141
1932	485	275
1933	504	295
1934	539	325
1935	577	353

\* Since 1932, including islands.

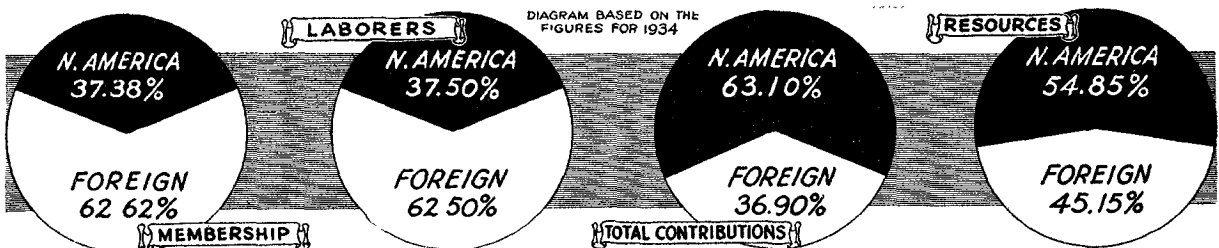
Evangelistic Laborers Sent to Foreign Fields  
(Not including children or those returning from furlough)

1901-02	107	1919	83
1903	60	1920	310
1904	40	1921	212
1905	60	1922	137
1906	76	1923	110
1907	58	1924	142
1908	140	1925	175
1909	134	1926	216
1910	61	1927	184
1911	74	1928	159
1912	97	1929	155
1913	157	1930	183
1914	103	1931	119
1915	76	1932	67
1916	147	1933	64
1917	59	1934	72
1918	103	1935	123
Total	.....	.....	4,063

Comparative Statement Showing Growth Since Date of Organization

Decade Ending in	Church Members	Per Cent Increase	Total Contributions for All Purposes—During Decade	Per Cent Increase	Per Capita for Year at End of Decade	Offerings to Foreign Missions During Decade	Languages in Which Literature is Printed*	Periodicals*	Institutions*	Denominational Investment*
1872	4,801	....	\$ 185,378.60	....	\$ 5.55	\$ 8,552.57	1	3	1	\$ 38,712.53
1882	17,169	257.61	561,837.46	203.05	5.64	46,219.63	7	10	11	885,382.97
1892	33,778	96.74	2,834,382.95	315.52	11.59	411,373.33	12	24	29	2,858,725.82
1902	67,150	98.80	5,613,720.32	140.49	11.01	1,076,788.69	39	96	126	4,799,419.51
1912	98,044	46.01	17,023,363.23	203.27	23.66	3,138,831.42	75	123	196	12,084,438.13
1922	208,771	112.94	62,500,778.53	267.68	39.86	17,583,760.91	114	154	224	36,903,593.95
1932	362,101	73.44	111,527,377.87	78.18	25.56	36,136,142.44	157	246	424	53,235,460.37
1933	384,151	6.09	8,642,652.43	....	22.50	2,730,641.22	161	249	441	53,979,143.72
1934	404,509	5.30	9,893,214.67	....	24.46	3,024,983.07	169	250	443	56,045,968.38
			\$218,372,706.06			\$64,557,364.90				

\* Year nearest amount shown in summary.



Institutions, Assets, Income, and Annual Gains

Year	Conferences and Institutions	Assets	Income	Annual Gain
1917	448	\$14,123,038.60	\$11,937,956.91	\$1,300,081.20
1921	513	28,493,961.93	28,620,315.93	1,181,091.40
1925	705	37,600,774.93	36,865,275.14	1,458,230.17
1929	809	42,410,954.61	50,709,693.01	1,652,535.70
1934	901	44,029,161.43	34,059,049.00	871,443.33

Denominational Investment

(Including not only 901 conferences and institutions, but the value of 5,586 church buildings and church school buildings and equipment—a total of 6,487 units.)

1917	\$16,873,422.54
1921	34,196,049.15
1925	45,648,299.24
1929	53,314,348.60
1934	56,045,968.38

Denominational Literature in Various Languages

Year	Languages	Total Publications	Total Pages	Total Value
1900	39	1,185	92,421	\$ 267.84
1908	57	1,834	168,376	488.00
1917	94	2,708	216,040	704.50
1918	94	2,863	228,190	758.48
1919	96	3,015	240,333	812.53
1920	99	3,155	253,881	877.74
1921	100	3,507	278,805	1,000.80
1922	114	3,904	310,128	1,153.23
1923	114	4,113	333,081	1,244.15
1924	114	4,313	348,882	1,301.68
1925	128	4,659	376,493	1,417.23

1926	131	4,906	396,787	\$1,523.51
1927	132	5,108	411,563	1,594.00
1928	141	5,703	433,016	1,700.68
1929	141	5,784	439,328	1,746.29
1930	146	5,966	456,590	1,814.73
1931	152	6,387	480,802	1,885.80
1932	157	6,607	493,193	1,951.87
1933	161	6,902	510,952	2,004.87
1934	169	7,182	529,636	2,087.50

To sum up the outstanding features of this report: The church membership was never so high as at the present time, the gain since the last session of the General Conference being greater than in any other interim, even exceeding the membership in the United States and Canada at the last session of the General Conference.

The number of countries and islands in which this work is carried forward now stands higher than ever before, having reached 353, or practically the entire world; while the number of languages—577—in which this work is now conducted, has reached an unprecedented figure, the gain coming mainly during the last fifteen years, and it is possible that this is an increase greater than that shown by any other movement in any similar period of time.

We might ask, Why this effort to reach these lands and the peoples speaking these languages? The answer is found in the words of our Saviour: "This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come." Matt. 24:14. To the Seventh-day Adventist' people has been committed the task of carrying this gospel of the kingdom to all the world; and when this has been done, we may confidently look for the end of all things. May we then be found faithful.

Southern European Division

By A. V. OLSON, President



A. V. Olson

It was from the shores of Southern Europe that the Macedonian call reached the ears of the apostle Paul nearly two millenniums ago. That call is sounding still, not only from little Macedonia, but from every land in Southern Europe, from North Africa, West Africa, Madagascar, and the large number of island groups in our far-flung division field. Within the borders of the Southern European Division are nearly two hundred million people, most of whom have not yet heard God's last warning message.

The six years that have passed since we last met in General Conference session here in San Francisco have for our field been years of perplexity, hardship, and trial, but also years of glorious victories. The financial crisis, which has caused so much sorrow and suffering throughout the whole world, has rested heavily upon most of the countries in our division. Commerce and trade have been paralyzed, unemployment has been widespread, and poverty and distress have existed on every hand. Political upheavals have been frequent, and revolutions have left their ugly scars. International relations have been confused and severely strained. Again and again great, ominous war clouds have hung dark and threatening over the nations of the world.

Because of restrictive and prohibitory

rules and regulations due to international jealousies, fears, and hatreds, it has been very difficult, and often impossible, to transfer mission funds and mission workers from one country to another. Reduced appropriations and heavy exchange losses have also added to our perplexities and difficulties. In addition to all this, we have, in many lands, had to face determined opposition and bitter persecution. Our workers, colporteurs, and members have been beaten, stoned, and imprisoned. During the last six years there has seldom been a day when some Seventh-day Adventist was not in prison for his faith. In 1932 one of our faithful ministers, Brother Oresciuc, laid down his life as a martyr for his faith. In some countries it has been a common experience to have our chapels and meeting halls closed and our services prohibited.

Work Has Gone Forward With Power

But to the glory of God we are glad to report that in spite of every hindering cause the work of the Lord has gone forward with power and success. Where the battle has been fiercest, the victories have been greatest. We thank God that in this mighty Gibraltar of Greek and Roman Catholicism we have been able, with the help and blessing of the Lord, during the six years from 1930 to 1935, to gather into our churches by baptism and vote 16,384 new members, a number which comes within 127 of being equal to our entire church membership at the beginning of 1930. Our net gain in membership for the six years is 9,305, or 56.35 per cent.

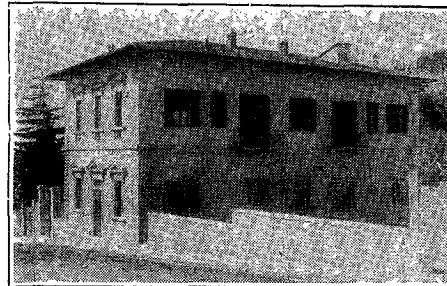
The following table shows the result of the soul-winning efforts for the last two six-year periods in the territory of our division:

	Jan. 1, 1924, to Dec. 31, 1929	Jan. 1, 1930, to Dec. 31, 1935
Church membership	9,181 16,511	16,511 25,816
Baptism and vote	10,708	16,384
Net Gain	7,330	9,305

The Southern European Division, the same as its sister divisions in Europe, began to function as a division conference January 1, 1929. During the seven years from the date of its organization to the close of 1935, there were added by baptism and vote 19,111 new members, and the membership increased from 14,644 to 25,816, representing a net gain of 11,272, or 77 per cent.

Island Fields

With gratitude in our hearts to God for His help, we are happy to be able to report that notwithstanding the distressing shortage of funds due to repeated reductions in the appropriations from the General Conference, alarming exchange losses, and a decrease in the income from our own conferences, we have not only been able to hold every post both at home and in our many mission fields, but have also been able to open new fields. The Seychelles Islands were entered in the year 1932, Madeira in 1931, the Azores in 1934, the Cape Verde Islands in 1935, and the island of Reunion since the beginning of the present year. A number of new missionaries have also been sent out to



Italian Publishing House, Florence, Italy



Madagascar, Mauritius, and the Cameroen,—fields that were opened shortly before our division was organized.

In all these mission fields, God has blessed and prospered the efforts put forth. Hundreds of souls have been rescued from darkness and sin, flourishing churches have been organized, chapels have been built, and schools have been established. At the time of our last division winter council, our missions in Madagascar, Mauritius, Seychelles, and other islands in the Indian Ocean, were organized into a union mission, to be known as the Madagascar-Mascarene Union Mission. This new union has about 1,000 baptized members, and more than 1,600 in the Sabbath schools. A good beginning has been made, and prospects for the future of this island field are very promising.

#### *Departments Fruitful in Soulwinning*

Twelve years ago the Sabbath school membership in the territory now comprising the division stood at 9,232. Six years later, at the close of 1929, it had increased to 20,326; and at the end of 1935 our statistical reports revealed a total of 36,004. In our field, the Sabbath school is one of the most important and effectual agencies for winning new members to the church, as well as for instructing and keeping them in the ways of God after they are in the church.

The home missionary societies and Missionary Volunteer Societies have done noble work in winning thousands of new converts for Christ. In many of our countries, where workers are so few and where public evangelistic work is not permitted, most of the work of evangelizing the masses must be done by the members.

Since the last General Conference session, we have had an average of 339 colporteurs, who have toiled hard and faithfully, selling our truth-filled books and papers. What many of these colporteurs have suffered, we cannot begin to describe. They are the ones who have generally endured the fiercest persecution. In certain fields they have suffered imprisonment and torture, times without number. Yet, constrained by the love of God, they have pressed on with their work, undaunted by what man may do to them. All this sacrifice and suffering and toil have not been in vain. As a result of their work, thousands of men and women have been brought out of terrible darkness into the glorious light of the gospel, and scores of churches have been raised up. Great will be the joy of our colporteurs in the day of final reward.

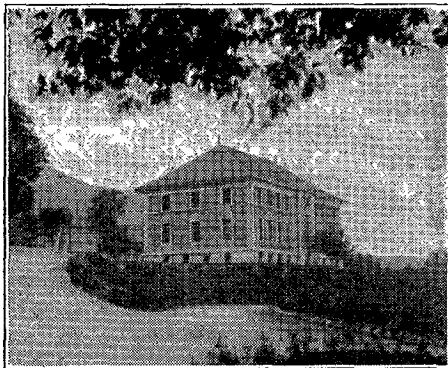
#### *Large Building Program*

Because of the economic crisis, it has not been possible to carry out any large building program during these last six years. It is surprising, however, to see how much has been accomplished even

along this line. Out in our mission fields, circumstances have forced us to provide chapels, mission homes, and mission schools. In Rumania, where the law requires that our people have their own meeting halls, we now have nearly two hundred chapels of our own, most of which have been erected during the last few years. Important buildings have also been erected in Paris, Antwerp, Basel, Algiers, and Zagreb.

In Rumania, where we have more than 10,000 children and young people in our ranks, a fine modern school plant has been built up near the beautiful city of Brasov. We thank God for this excellent training school, where our Rumanian young people may now be educated and trained to act their part in the finishing of the work of God.

Last year a large new addition was made to the publishing house in France. This new building, as well as a new Miehle press and some other new machines, was paid for out of the earnings of the publishing house. Fifteen years ago the French Publishing House was started in an old stable. From that humble beginning it has grown into a

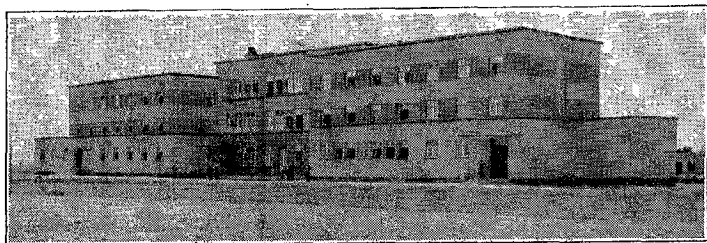


Administration Building of the Seminaire Adventiste du Salève, Collonges-sous-Salève, France

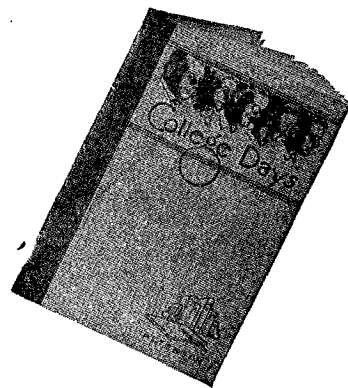
large, well-equipped, prosperous institution. In His mercy and love, God has done great things for this house.

Looking back through the six dark, stormy years that have passed into eternity since the last General Conference session, our hearts fill with grateful praise to our heavenly Father for the way He has led us. With Joshua of old we can say, "There failed not ought of any good thing which the Lord had spoken unto the house of Israel; all came to pass."

To Him who is the giver of every good and perfect gift, and through whom every victory has been gained, we give all the honor and glory for what has been achieved in the Southern European Division during the last conference period. As we look forward into the future, our hearts fill with an intense longing for more of the Spirit and power of God to come upon us, in order that the great, unfinished task may soon be accomplished.



Rumanian Union Training Institute, Brasov, Rumania



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(Continued from page 29)

ices on Sabbaths, and where they can hold prayer meetings and Bible studies. But no one can come to these meetings who is not a regular member. In the country of which I speak no one can enter our meeting halls unless he has a membership card. I never go to that field to meet with our people without this membership card. If I should go without it, very likely the brethren and sisters would not admit me to their chapels. If they should admit me, when the police would come to see if all had cards, they would take me outside.

I must not take any more time in telling you the experiences of our people in these countries where we have had so much persecution and trouble during the recent past. But allow me to say, to the glory of God, this evening, that even in these lands where we have no right to rent large halls and conduct public services as you do here, where our halls that we do have for our own churches are often closed, where ministers and colporteurs and members are often persecuted and in prison, God has given us great victories. Thousands of new believers have been gathered into our churches.

During these years of crisis, as we have often been told, many foreign mission boards have been compelled to call missionaries home. I am glad to be able to tell you this evening that under the blessing of God we have not had to call home a single missionary in our division. Instead, we have been able to open up some new fields.

Down in the Indian Ocean there is a little group of islands known as the Seychelles Islands. They had for a long time been calling for a missionary, but we had not had the money nor the man to send. Finally our brethren and sisters down in Mauritius, where we have a good work established, became impatient, and they sent one of their own young men with his wife and two little children to these islands. Under the blessing of the Lord he has had very good success. If you should visit the Seychelles Islands tonight, you would find a large, beautiful chapel with about one hundred baptized members.

Over in the Atlantic Ocean are the Madeira Islands. We had wished we might be able to have a missionary for these islands, but we had not seen our way clear because of lack of funds to send any one. But Portugal sent colporteurs there, who raised up a little Sabbath school; and then when the appeals came, we did not dare to refuse, so we thinned out our forces at home and sent a man over there. God has blessed his labors, and we have a good church in Madeira. Our church is about as large as a church which has been established by another Protestant denomination that has labored in that island field for nearly eighty years.

Then from the Azores Islands we also received earnest appeals after our colporteurs had gone to those islands, and some months ago we sent E. P. Mansell to the Azores. I saw him at the union meeting a few weeks ago, and he reported that a church has now been established on that island.

Then there is another group off the west coast of Africa, known as the Cape Verde Islands. They had also been waiting. Colporteurs had visited them, and had sold books with success. Interest

had been created, but we had had no one to send, and no money for it. Then the Lord moved upon the heart of a good brother over here in California who had accepted the truth in the Hawaiian Islands, a native of the Cape Verde Islands, a former sea captain, and an engineer. He went home to visit his people in the islands, and while there he was very active in giving Bible studies and visiting with the people. He soon wrote us saying, "There are fifteen souls ready for baptism. Send a minister to baptize them, to organize a church, and to take care of these new souls that have been brought into the truth. For," he said, "I must go home."

Well, you must understand that we could not leave a situation like that to be lost, so we selected one of our Portuguese workers, and sent him to the Cape Verde Islands, and he has written us that he has already baptized about twenty, and another large baptismal class is preparing. They are busy building a church.

And then he wrote, "Brother Olson, send us some money so we can buy a mule. There are no roads here, so we cannot use even a bicycle. The mountains are too high and too rugged. We must have a mule." So we sent the money and he bought his mule and is riding over those mountains, visiting other villages, raising up new groups. He said, "Brother Olson, the whole island is on flame with this message." We have hopes that a splendid work will be built up there.

Since coming to this Conference I have received a letter from that union. We sent a missionary down there just a few weeks before I left to come to this Conference. He was just getting located when he wrote. He is full of courage, and believes that soon light will be kindled on the dark island in the Indian Ocean.

So you will notice that the message is marching on into new fields. Light-houses are being established in these oceans. It has not been possible for us, during these crisis years, to carry on a very large building program, and yet the Lord has helped us in this respect also. In Rumania, where the law requires that we shall have our own chapels and buildings, the brethren now have about 200 chapels, most of them small, but a number are large enough to seat from 300 to 600. Splendid buildings have also been provided in Paris, Antwerp, Zagreb, and other cities; and since we last met here in General Conference session the Lord has helped us to provide an excellent school for Rumania.

Our publishing house in France has enjoyed real prosperity in spite of hard times. Instead of showing deficits in its operating from year to year, it has been able to close its books every year except one during this six-year period with a handsome gain, and out of the gains of the publishing house itself we have been able to build a large addition to this institution, and to put in a new Miehle press and provide much other equipment, so that today we have a fine, well-equipped publishing house right near Paris in France.

Let me say just a word also about the work of Dr. Nussbaum in the city of Paris. After the General Conference helped us by giving us quite a large sum of money for a church building in Paris, we found that a new era began

opening up for us in that city. Before, it had seemed that the people felt that we were pilgrims and strangers, and that we would soon leave; but since we have our own building, it has given them confidence, and they come to our services much more readily. This last winter Dr. Nussbaum gave lectures twice a week in a large hall in the center of the city of Paris. The hall was filled from night to night with attentive listeners. My heart rejoiced when I attended one of those meetings and saw the hall packed with that fine audience. The Lord has greatly blessed the labors of the doctor and his associates, and a large number have already been baptized as a result of the winter's work. More and more are preparing for baptism in the near future.

It took us thirty years or more to build up a membership of 100. But during these last few short years the membership has grown to more than 250, and we feel that a new day has dawned for our work in Paris and in France as a whole.

The apostle Paul, in writing to the Corinthians, said "a great door and effectual is open unto me, and there are many adversaries." I think this verse accurately describes the situation in the Southern European Division. There are open doors on all sides today. In this great Gibraltar of Greek and Roman Catholicism and Mohammedanism, we find open doors.

I do not want you to get the impression from what I have said about persecution and opposition that there are no people who desire to hear the message, or who are hungering for God. In all these lands and down through the islands of our far-flung field there are hundreds, yea, thousands of men and women who are longing for truth and light, and who, when they hear the message, respond to it. They accept it with joy, and they join with our people in accepting their lot of persecution and trouble, but they rejoice, nevertheless, for the liberty that has come to them.

And tonight as I stand before you, my heart is greatly burdened for the people of these lands. Other societies are abandoning some of these fields, and as they leave, new doors are opening for us. For instance, the Methodists have recently withdrawn all support from one country in Southern Europe. The result is that thirty-five or forty of the Methodist pastors are without salary and without a place. A large number of their chapels are for sale. The leader of their work has talked with us, and he told us he hoped that we could somehow take over some of these properties, for they do not desire that they shall pass into the hands of people who will use them for other purposes. One of our ministers has been holding meetings in two of these Methodist churches this winter. I am glad to tell you that seventy-five or eighty of these former Methodists are now keeping the Sabbath, and they are begging us to buy these church buildings from the Methodist organization in order that they may be able to continue to worship there in the future. The two chapels are offered to us for \$3,000. It would cost us about \$25,000 to build them.

The Methodists have also left, or been withdrawn, from several other countries in our division, leaving openings for us to step in where there are interested people who desire to hear the message.

Much might be said about the faithfulness of our members in Harvest Ingathering and in other lines of missionary activity. We have a loyal group of believers in Southern Europe. In many of these lands our people know when they take the Harvest Ingathering papers and go out to solicit for missions, that they may be arrested and thrown into prison before the day is over. Many of them have been imprisoned; and yet when the time comes for the annual campaign, they enter into it with a good spirit, and labor on earnestly and faithfully, and God blesses their efforts.

It is largely through the labors of our church members and colporteurs that new members are won in some of these lands where we are forbidden to preach our message to the public in large halls. Sometimes we are forbidden to hold Bible studies in the homes of the people until we have regular government permission.

Our young people are also very active. We appreciate their earnest and faithful labors. God has moved upon the hearts of these young people to devote their lives to the proclamation of His truth, and they are ready to suffer for it if they can only advance the cause of God.

But I must bring my report to a close. I simply want to say that since the last General Conference session the Lord has blessed and led us in our labors for Him. He has added to our membership. He has given us new centers from which to operate. He has provided us with new meeting halls and other facilities, and the outlook for the future is good. Looking back through the six dark, stormy years that have passed into eternity since the last General Conference session, our hearts are filled with grateful praise to the heavenly Father for the way He has led us. With Joshua of old we can say, "There failed not aught of any good thing which the Lord had spoken unto the house of Israel; all came to pass."

To Him who is the giver of every good and perfect gift, and through whom every victory has been gained, we give all the honor and glory for what has been achieved in the Southern European Division during the last Conference period.

As we look farther into the future, our hearts are filled with an intense longing for more of the Spirit and power of God to come upon us in order that the great unfinished task may soon be accomplished. We solicit your prayers tonight for the brethren and sisters in the Southern European Division, and for the work in that large and important field.

[A further report from A. V. Olson, giving statistical and other information concerning the growth of the work in the Southern European Division during the past few years, is found on page 44.]

F. Charpiot, publishing department secretary of our Southern European Division, announced the closing song, "In a Little While We're Going Home." After the singing of this song, W. R. Beach, president of the Franco-Belgian Union, pronounced the benediction.

I. H. EVANS, *Chairman.*  
H. T. ELLIOTT, *Secretary.*

(Continued from page 48)

Andross was the chairman of the morning and afternoon meetings.

Proceedings came to a halt for a few moments while two flashlight pictures were taken of the officers on the platform for the newspapers.

The first item of business was the presentation of the treasurer's report. This was introduced by J. L. Shaw, but was read by W. H. Williams.

Attention was especially centered upon the declaration of the treasurer that during the depression years, with a budget income of \$3,000,000 a world-wide work has been maintained which formerly required \$5,000,000. Lack of funds in many other mission boards has caused the abandonment of mission fields and the calling back of many missionaries. God has enabled us, however, to maintain our forces intact, and not one field has been abandoned. The treasurer pointed out that there were three reasons for this: a divinely given system of finance, the loyalty of a world-wide people, and the willingness of workers around the world to accept a reduced income.

The treasurer also directed attention to the fact that during the year 1935, following a number of years when it was necessary to draw very heavily upon reserves created in former years, it was possible to balance the books by means of the annual income without drawing further on reserve funds.

Another most encouraging feature of the treasurer's report was that the securities in which the funds of the General Conference have been invested in maintaining reserves, on being balanced as of January 1, 1936, are found to have been preserved one hundred cents on the dollar, and in addition an average of 3½ per cent on these investments has been received annually.

The report sounded a note of warning against permitting our colleges, schools, and academies to be plunged into debt again. Debt reduction was the program for a number of years, but there has been an increase in indebtedness during the last two years.

In closing his report, Elder Shaw gave a personal message to the delegation, expressing his appreciation for the co-operation he has received during the fourteen years of his treasurership, and assuring them that he was happy at the prospect of turning over his heavy responsibilities to a successor to be chosen at this Conference.

The treasurer's report was followed by the report of the Home Missionary Department, presented by J. A. Stevens, the secretary. This report was filled with encouraging information. During the past six years, 72,487 people have been brought into this faith through the work of lay members. This is the result of 4,155,407 hours of Christian help work, 4,541,563 treatments given, 16,042,341 Bible readings and cottage meetings held, and 107,183,760 small books, periodicals, and tracts distributed.

Harvest Ingathering campaigns during the past six years have resulted in an income of \$6,396,227.92. For the twenty-eight years that the Harvest Ingathering campaign has now been in operation, the grand sum of \$17,137,631 has been received. This amounts to \$1,726.91 for every day during these twenty-eight years. Elder Stevens expressed his conviction that an Ingathering total of \$2,000,000 a year was not at all an impossibility.

In the afternoon meeting of the Conference, C. E. Weeks presented the report of the Publishing Department, and revealed that we had 3,098 colporteurs in the world field in 1935 as compared with

2,297 at the close of 1929, a gain of 801. His report also showed that \$100,000,000 of our literature has been sold from the beginning of our publishing work. The sales of literature for the past six years have amounted to practically \$22,500,000. There are sixty-nine publishing houses and branches today.

H. E. Rogers, the statistical secretary of the General Conference, gave the statistical report also at the afternoon meeting. This report contains many features which are causes for rejoicing. It will repay the study of every reader. The report will be found elsewhere in the REVIEW.

Two recommendations from the officers of the General Conference, one on conserving and strengthening our church membership and the other on the unity of the advent movement, were also presented, discussed, and adopted. These will be found elsewhere in the REVIEW.

A. W. Spalding, of the Home Commission, presented the report of the Commission. With enthusiasm he challenged the church to accept the responsibility of education for parenthood. "Awake, church of God!" was his plea. "Ye have compassed this mountain long enough: turn you northward!"

At the night meeting of the Conference, speaking for the 200,000,000 people in the countries of the Southern European Division, the stronghold of Greek and Roman Catholicism, A. V. Olson, president of the division, made his report. God's work has steadily advanced in the war-torn countries of this division, notwithstanding national hatred and persecution against the truth, and 16,384 people have been baptized during the six-year period.

[A complete account of A. V. Olson's remarks at the evening meeting of the Conference is found elsewhere in this paper.—EDITORS.]



Devoted to the proclamation of "the faith which was once delivered unto the saints."

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## High Lights of the First Full Day

*A Summary of Happenings, Wednesday, May 27, 1936*

By CARLYLE B. HAYNES

THE election of a new General Conference president on the first day of the General Conference session was unusual, but very gratifying. J. L. McElhany was elected president of the General Conference to succeed C. H. Watson, at the afternoon meeting of the Conference today.

It was a dramatic moment when, at the close of the meeting, it was announced that the Nominating Committee was prepared to submit a partial report. The committee had been sitting during the time of the business meeting, and of course there was general eagerness on the part of the entire delegation to learn who was to be chosen to take over the heavy responsibilities which had been carried so ably by Elder Watson. This was the high point of the day's proceedings.

When the committee brought in this single item of what no doubt will be a lengthy report, Elder Watson called upon Elder McElhany for a few words to the delegation, and greeted him with a fervent embrace, telling him that he was loved by his brethren, and that he would have the prayers of the people of God as he entered upon the solemn responsibilities of this office.

It is not too much to say that overshadowing all other issues in the thought of the delegates on this first day of the session, has been this question of leadership of the General Conference for the years before us.

While reports of great importance have been made, which under ordinary circumstances would completely absorb the attention of the delegates, underneath all that has gone on today there has been this steady undercurrent of interest regarding this question of leadership and wonderment as to those upon whom its mantle would fall.

For it has been quite well known that important changes in leadership are certain to take place at this Conference. It is a source of regret to all present that Elder Watson, General Conference president for the past six years, is compelled, because of impaired health, to relinquish the responsibilities he has carried so ably.

For fourteen years J. L. Shaw has been the treasurer of the General Conference. In his case, too, impairment of health makes it necessary for him to lay down his burden as treasurer. The tenure of office policy limiting terms of office in the General Conference to twelve years affects others who have been familiar figures for many years.

This first full day of the Conference has been filled with interesting features. It began, as every other day of the Conference will begin, with a united and fervent call upon God for guidance and direction for the work of the day.

In hotel rooms, apartments, house cars, auto camps, and homes, and wherever the delegates are staying, beginning at seven o'clock this morning, God's servants entered upon the morning watch with God. Then at eight o'clock they gathered in the great Arena of the Auditorium, and were led in Bible study by I. H. Evans.

Very familiar to Adventists were the texts upon which Elder Evans based his remarks. Directing the attention of his hearers to the prophecy in Malachi regarding the return of Elijah, and also to the passage in Joel, with its promise, "I will pour out My Spirit upon all flesh," Elder Evans vividly narrated the circumstances of Elijah's experience, and gave an impressive description of the fulfillment of the coming of Elijah in the appearance of this world-wide movement today, with its final message of the gospel.

Following this Bible study, the delegates continued their devotions by separating into eight groups in eight separate halls of this vast and most convenient building. One of the reasons why San Francisco has been selected so many times as the meeting place of the General Conference, is this unusual building, containing as it does not only a great central hall, seating about twelve thousand, but also numerous smaller halls and rooms to accommodate simultaneously groups ranging from two hundred and fifty to a thousand.

Under able leaders these eight groups set themselves earnestly to seek the Lord for His blessing during the day. Here

the voice of fervent prayer could be heard, there voices uplifted in songs of praise; here the witnessing of many in interesting testimonies, there an earnest exhortation by the leader.

What an excellent approach to the great problems of administration which are to follow in the business meetings of the Conference are such meetings as these. What a recognition and acknowledgment that God is the real leader of this cause, and that from Him must come the power, the wisdom, and the ability to accomplish the great objectives of this movement.

Through all these spiritual meetings one thing that is spoken of many times is the conviction that back in all the fields and churches the people of the advent hope who have not found it possible to attend this gathering, are also engaged in prayer and are seeking God for His blessing upon this supremely important Conference. This assurance brings real courage to all.

On my round of all eight halls where the people were gathered in devotional meetings, I thought it of more than usual significance that each hall was filled to its capacity. In two there were not sufficient seats, and many were standing.

Following the devotional meetings, the first morning business meeting of the Conference convened in the Arena of the Auditorium at ten o'clock. E. E.

(Continued on page 47)

## TELETYPE NEWS FLASHES

### The Latest News From the General Conference

Thursday, the second full day of General Conference, began with the morning devotional study by J. L. McElhany, newly elected President of the General Conference, on "Our Need of the Holy Spirit." Later, in the morning Conference session, Elder McElhany told the assembled delegates he desired that the retiring President, C. H. Watson, continue to guide the Conference through to its close.

The general Secretary, M. E. Kern, presented his report, which showed that no mission station had been abandoned in these last six hard years. Near the close of his report our eyes were turned toward a large map of the world. One lone light in New England appeared to indicate the extent of the advent movement in 1840; then at intervals of thirty seconds more and still more lights came on, to show the spread of the message by decades, until finally the whole world was ablaze.

W. E. Nelson reported for the Department of Education. As with other features of our work, this department shows a heartening upward trend again. The enrollment is increasing. A brief summary of educational activities in other lands was given by four educational secretaries from abroad.

A. W. Peterson, secretary of the Missionary Volunteer Department, with five of his secretaries from foreign divisions, gave us a moving word picture, in the afternoon session, of the importance

and growth of the Missionary Volunteer phase of our work. Since the last General Conference session, the Missionary Volunteer membership has increased from 78,110 to 113,300 and the number of societies from 3,717 to 5,273.

The need of a well-trained ministry, able to deal with the mighty issues of our day, was set forth by L. E. Froom in his report of the Ministerial Association. The major methods by which the association is endeavoring to help our ministry were discussed.

The evening session was devoted to the story of advancement in North America during the last six-year period. W. H. Branson, president of this division, told us that at the end of the first fifty years of our history, the world membership totaled 37,404, while during the last six years alone our gains in membership were 39,736. More than forty conferences in North America have ministers who are regularly preaching the message over the radio, and an enlargement of such activity is in prospect.

From North America has gone \$12,789,000 to mission lands in the last six years. Elder Branson declared that God has used this depression as a means of turning the hearts of men and women toward the truth, and that our evangelists are finding it difficult in many places to secure halls large enough to accommodate the crowds.

F. D. N.