

GENERAL CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

Eighth Meeting, Monday, April 8,
10:30 A.M.

Elder G.A. Irwin in the chair. After the opening hymn,
Elder Luther Warren led the Conference in prayer.

The Chair: We have no business to carry over from the preceding meeting. The report of the Treasurer of the General Conference has never been called for yet, ~~so I think we will call for that this morning, and ask you to listen to the Treasurer's report, that it may go into the BULLETIN in the proper place.~~ Brother H.M. Mitchell, the Treasurer, will please come forward, and read the report:--

[The report of the General Conference
Treasurer for two years, was here read.]

[Also there was read a statement of the Specific Donations.]

Statement concerning auditor's Report

The Chair: I will say that we have no auditor's certificate to present ~~report~~ to you with this report. Brother Frank J. Whitgrove, our General Conference auditor, went through the books, audited the books of the General Conference and the General Conference Association; but he failed to write out a certificate; and, as most of you here know, he died very suddenly, and was found dead in his bed the 25th ult., and no certificate can be found among his papers. He told Brother Lane, however, and one

or two others, that he had finished the work, and that everything was all right. The Treasurer tells me that he is satisfied that everything is all right. There was not time after the death of Brother Whitgrove to have the books re-audited, even if we had thought advisable to go to the extra expense of doing so. The statement will not change the fact a particle. The Treasurer is satisfied that the books are all right. It will just simply be the formality of reading the statement. Now if you are willing to accept it that way, the report is before you for your adoption.

G.G.Rupert: I move that we accept the report.

R.D.Hottel: I second the motion.

H.M.Mitchell: I had been connected with the work about seven weeks up to the close of the year, so that I have nothing to speak for myself in regard to the correctness of the work back of that. I helped Brother Whitgrove in going over the books carefully; and as has been stated in regard to his work on the Foreign Mission Board books, it was the same with us here: he examined every voucher carefully, hunted up every letter, if necessary, in order to get the facts bearing on everything that was done, and he checked everything from beginning to end; was very careful and deliberate, and did the work thoroughly, and I think he did the work well. ~~Only he failed in having a certificate written out.~~

The question was called for.

W.W.Prescott: I did not get from the report, unless I passed over the item read, anything that would give us information as to the comparative administrative expense. I understand from the report that \$15,000 more were expended during the biennial period than came in from the usual sources of income. I thought perhaps it would be of interest to all the delegates if we could have some statement---not just now, but at the proper time---which would give us the information as to how much of the tithes and donations have been used in what we might term

the administrative expense, and how much has actually been used in the gospel work direct in the different fields, and how much in each field. That is, I would like to know how much was used in the Southern field last year. I would like to know how much was used in expense during the last period. I would like to have the matter divided up in that way for information. I merely make the suggestion.

The Chair: The delegates of course have the privilege of calling for any information concerning this report they may desire. I do not know that the information just called for can be given just on the spur of the moment.

W.W.Prescott: Oh, I meant at the proper time.

The Chair: I can say this, in a general way, that it has all gone to pay laborers that are working in the ~~the~~ employ of the General Conference. The shortage over and above what has come in, has been consumed in the payment of laborers, that many additional laborers have been taken onto the General Conference, from the demands that have been made upon us. The Treasurer can make out an itemized report, showing where every dollar of this money went to, if it is desired.

W.W.Prescott: I think, Brother Chairman, it was not that we should have so minute a report in that way; but I thought it might be of interest to all to know what has been spent in the different fields. The question of expenditure ~~amount expended~~ in the Southern field is quite an important one. For one I would like to know how much has been spent in the Southern field the last two years. And when I speak of administrative expense, I mean what we would term general expense. I suppose every Conference keeps an expense account, and it knows how much it pays its laborers in salaries, and how much their expenses have been in the field.

The Chair: The Secretary wishes to make a statement concerning this question.

L.A.Hoopes: About two years ago we went into that question very

minutely so far as the work in the Southern district is concerned, and we made a tabulated statement of all the workers, every class of worker, the rate that was allowed on their salaries, the amount of time, the amount of expenses. We began with the year 1895, and we found that in the four years from that time, there had been expended in the Southern field a little more than \$100,000 in tithes, and over \$17,000 of specific donations that had been sent into that field. We have it all itemized, making \$120,000 and a few cents that have been paid into the Southern field alone from the General Conference and the General Conference Association. That included the tithe that came that were used in the Florida and Tennessee River Conferences. Well, since then we have taken the pains to go over the entire field in America, and have ascertained the laborers that have been in the respective districts, up to the close of 1900. And I think I have the report all ready for publication if it is so desired. That will give the amount of tithe, and money that has been spent in every district, every General Conference district, up to the close of 1900. And if it is so desired, we can give an itemized statement, or a general summary. That includes the last audit which ended here a few days ago.

The Chair: The Treasurer has a statement here that will almost answer the question.

H.M.Mitchell: I have written off a statement of the amount paid laborers during the year 1900, by districts, as follows: No. 1, \$8,789.83; No. 2, 28,257.87; No. 3, 2,446.21; No. 4, 6,345.55; No? 5, \$3,663.69; No. 6, \$3,696.34. Under the head of general, which embraces general laborers that were not working especially in any district, but all over the field, going from one place to another, and also includes the amount paid to the Medical Missionary and Benevolent Association, and all the expenses of the C^onference, there is a total of \$29,175.93.

H.M.Mitchell: What was paid out has nothing to do with what was received. There was received about \$29,000. tithe during the same period.

W. W. Prescott: Would the Treasurer tell us how much of that \$29,000.00 was paid to the Medical Missionary Board?

H. M. Mitchell: \$4906.00. This was during 1900.

W. W. Prescott: That would leave \$25,000.00 to general laborers and expense account, and that would be one-third of the whole amount of the tithe.

H. M. Mitchell: That takes in our expense account for running the office.

W. W. Prescott: Then about one-third of the tithe has been used in supervising ~~xxx~~ and in the expenses of the work.

H. M. Mitchell: This includes also the International Religious Liberty Association.

W. W. Prescott: How much was that?

H. M. Mitchell: I will have to hunt up the different ones and find their audit. I could not tell you now.

This \$29,000.00 marked "general" embraces what was paid to the International Religious Liberty Association officers, the International Sabbath-School Association officers, the President of the general Conference, the International Tract Society officers,---takes in all these lines.

W. W. Prescott: That is administrative expense. Then the administrative expense has been one-third of the whole amount, and it has cost about 50% of what has been spent to spend it.

J. J. Ireland: Is that the amount of one year or two years?

G.A. Irwin: One year.

W. T. Knox: I would like to ask if in that general expense, the \$29,000.00 specified, does not include all the expenses of all the

laborers.

G. A. Irwin: He asked if there is not included in t his amount of \$20,000.00 the travelling expense and the general expense of all laborers. I say, Yes, and it includes in that, Brother and Sister White, and those that came from Australia. There are a great many things that go to make up this expense account. The Treasurer can run it out into the items if it is best to do so.

W. C. White: I wish to request that the Treasurer should segregate this, and put it in such classified form as should show us all these questions, that the delegates would like to have it for study, and let it be published so that we can have it before us as a saving of time.

G. A. Irwin: We have a motion already before us to adopt the report. Do you wish to ~~lay~~ further discussion of this on the table until ~~the report~~ is that is presented, and then vote on the report, or do you wish to do that---to request him to do that?

W. C. White: My motion can wait for the adoption of the report.

G. A. Irwin: The motion we have is on the adoption of the report of the Treasurer. As many as ~~ever~~ favor the adoption of it as read, will say, Aye; any opposed, No. CARRIED.

The Treasurer will do what was r equested from one brother, and be able to report ~~at~~ as soon as he can. ~~It will be quite a little job to segregate all these accounts, and show them up. He will do that.~~

There were several committees appointed from the large Committee you appointed at the beginning of the Conference, and some of these Committees have formed sub-committees, and they have done their work as far as they can go with it; but they have not reported it back to the Large Committee. Time is passing rapidly by, and it was thought that perhaps you would excuse us from reporting it back.

and would like to have the report direct this morning. Now it is in your hands to say. There are two committees that are ready to report if you excuse them from reporting back from the large Committee. You who compose the large Committee are all here. What is your pleasure?

Moved by A. O. Burrill and seconded that the reports be read.

G. A. Irwin: It has been moved and seconded that the reports that are prepared by these sub-committees be presented to the body without going the round. The question is called for.

As many as favor this, will say, Aye. Opposed, No. CARRIED.

~~The first will be the report of the Committee on Finance, I believe. Is Elder Evans present? [Elder Evans did not respond.]~~

~~We will call the other sub-committee to report. I believe Elder White is the Chairman of it. I believe it is a partial report of the Committee on Organization.~~

W. C. White: [Reading.] "Your Committee on Organization present a partial report, recommending, ---

"FIRST, That the perfecting of plans for the organization of district union Conferences, be carried forward as rapidly as possible during this session of the General Conference.

SECOND, that the delegates from each district be invited to appoint three of their number to act with the Committee on Organization in the framing of constitutions and working plans.

Third, That all questions regarding the change of district territorial lines be referred to the Committee on Constitutions and Plans.

FOURTH, That in the framing of constitutions and working plans, provisions be made for the use by the district organizations that are strong financially, of such a part of their income only as is

necessary for the administration of the district union Conferences, and that the plans be forwarded to the General Conference for the maintenance of its administration, and to assist weaker Conferences and missions.

Respectfully Submitted,"

Committee.

~~Names of Committee here.~~

G. A. Irwin: You have heard the reading of the report; what is your pleasure?

A motion was made and seconded to adopt the report.

G. A. Irwin: ~~It has been moved and seconded that the report that has just been read in your hearing, be adopted.~~ It is now open for remarks; I presume that means by considering each clause separately.

C. W. Flaize: It seems to me the importance of this subject demands that we give it a study; and it seems to me it would be a wise thing for us to have this report in the Bulletin that we might have an opportunity to study ^{it}. Therefore, I move that it be printed ^{on slips for the use of the delegates} ~~in the Bulletin so that we may have an opportunity to study it.~~

Carried.

This motion was seconded, and ~~after some talk, it was changed so as to provide that slips be printed as soon as possible, and distributed among the delegates this afternoon, instead of printing the report in the Bulletin.~~

Various questions were asked, and answered by the chairman of the committee.

(Voice): I rise for information. There is one point that I note in the Resolution and Memorial, providing a fund for the carrying on of the work in the Districts by the tithe.

Do I understand that that is a tithe that we are paying to the General Conference now, to be employed to that interest?

The Chair: The Chairman of the Committee will answer that question.

W. C. White: What District do you represent?

(Voice): Five.

W. C. White: Let us take District No. 5 as an example. The conferences in District No. 5 are now sending one-tenth of the tithes which they receive from the Districts to the General Conference treasury. This we usually call the Conference tithe. It may be better to speak of this just now as the tenth, which is another word, but the same thing.

When District No. 5 organizes a union conference, the state conferences will send their tenth to the union conference treasury. Then the question comes up at once as to what means the General Conference will have to maintain its administration. After ^{those} ~~that~~ union conferences are organized, there will still be the necessity for a General Conference Committee, which shall labor for the unification, the furtherance, the strengthening, of the work throughout all the Districts under its supervision. Therefore, there will be a General Conference Committee administration, and that will necessitate expense. You will want your General Conference officers to visit the various Districts, to attend all the District Union Conferences, to attend other important meetings, to join with the brethren, the district laborers, in holding important meetings ~~xxxx~~ ^{specially} near our great cities, in which we attempt to illustrate lines of advance which can be made upon our cities. You will also wish the General Conference to fulfill any pledges which we may make to District No. 2. It was proposed that we deal more liberally with them than we have dealt with them in the past.

That will mean not less than ten thousand dollars from the General Conference treasury, to assist District No. 2.

You will also desire to develop the work in the great Canadian field. You will desire that Canada shall organize a union conference, that the Canadian work, instead of being fragmentary and connected with American union conferences, shall have a great national union conference of its own. And you will need from the General Conference treasury not less than five thousand dollars a year to assist in the development of a Canadian union conference.

Where will the twenty thousand dollars come from? Suppose the administration has five thousand dollars, and five thousand dollars is required to assist in the development of a Canadian Conference, and ten thousand dollars in the Southern Conference,--I am just giving these as possible figures; your benevolence may go far beyond it; do not allow these figures to stand in your way, for that matter, for a moment; but where will the General Conference get the twenty thousand dollars required, or the twenty-five thousand, or the thirty thousand, to carry forward this work? It must get it from the Districts. Then, when the delegations of Districts No. 3, 4, and 6, which are strong financial Districts, come to frame a Constitution, which must be afterwards adopted at a District convention, they will find that they must deal with the financial question; and this recommendation, and to call their attention to the fact that in taking over the income which has formerly passed to the General Conference, they must plan their administration so economically, so effectively, that they can live on half of it and let the other half go to the General Conference for this work which I have named.

Shaw: With your permission, I will read a few words from the BULLETIN, pages 68 and 69. Every one will recognize the author:--

"I want to say that from the light given to me by God, there should

have been yeass ago organizations such as are not proposed. When we first met in Conference, it was thought that the General Conference should extend over the whole world. But this is not in God's order. Conferences must be organized in different localities, and it will be for the health of the different Conferences to have it thus....New Conferences must be formed. It was in the order of God that the Union Conference was organized in Australasia."

When the author was on the stand yesterday, she said that there had been delay long enough. The work ought to be pushed. Now, there is not anything in that to scare anybody, there is nothing but what is reasonable; and everybody will say so, and you will pass it unanimously, I think, without a doubt, when you come to it. Two or three days' time has been delayed in passing it.

The Chair: The question before us is its adoption. There was a request, that was seconded, to have it printed before we ~~xxxxxxx~~ proceed further with it. But if there is anything that will throw any light upon it, it is all right. If we are going to have it printed for consideration, it seems to me it will be just as well to have that done and take ~~it~~ up some other matter at the present time. It would be in your hands, to read and study.

A. G. Daniells: I was going to say that the propositions are very simply. I would not want to consider them with undue haste, but the ~~prop-~~ositions are very simple, and I do not see that much will be gained to delay in discussing them, acting upon them for the purpose of having them printed on the slips and giving them a few minutes' study.

report

~~Moved and supported, That the ~~xxxxxxx~~ be printed on slips.~~

The Chair: We will ask for the report of the Committee on the Equal Distribution of Funds. Prof. Magan is Secretary of that Committee.

"1. We recommend to our Conferences, as far as they are able and consider that it would be a blessing to do so, to pay a second tithe to the general cause for its mission work.

"2.

"3. We recommend that as far as consistent, the General Conference, the Union Conferences, and the local Conferences agree beforehand with their tried and accredited laborers as to salary which should be paid them, and that ~~that~~ ^{no} portion of their wages be held back.

"4. We recommend that our Conferences everywhere be urged to adopt and develop the ten-cent-a-week plan for the support of our foreign work, as inaugurated by the Foreign Mission Board last year.

"5. We recommend that all who especially labor in word and in doctrine in our colleges and academies in the training of workers for the field, be supported from the tithe.

[Signed by the Committee]

I.H.Evans,
W.C.White,
L.R.Conradi,
C.W.Flaiz,
J.C.Ottosen,
N.P.Nelson,
J.D.Gowell,
R.A.Underwood,
P.T.Magan."

The Chair: What is your pleasure with reference to this report?

E.E.Miles: I would call for a second reading.

G.B.Thompson: Can not we have it printed in the BULLETIN for study, before considering it further, and thus save the time?

A.J.Breed: In order to get the report before us, I move its adoption.

Wm. Woodford:
~~Wm. Woodford:~~ I second the motion.

M.C. Wilcox: I move that the report be printed on slips and furnished the delegates as quickly as possible."

R.R. Kennedy: I second the motion.

Elder H.R. Johnson suggested that all the general committees be instructed to have important reports printed before presentation, that the delegates might have them in hand when considering the questions brought before them. Professor Magan stated that if the report were referred back to the committee, or changed, the slips would then be useless.

Elders G.G. Rupert and H.W. Cottrell asked what was meant by "a second tithe." Elder Underwood called for a reading of the report item by item, giving opportunity for questions. The secretary of the committee, P.T. Magan, read the first recommendation, and explained that the term "a second tithe" means a second tithe, and not a tithe of the tithe. For instance, if the Conference receives \$100 tithe from individuals, it would send \$10 to the general work. If this ~~mentioned~~ first recommendation is adopted, then it would send not only the \$10, but \$9 more for mission work, or a tithe of what remained after tithing it for the general work. It would amount to nineteen per cent.

H.M.J. Richards inquired if this tithe for the general work would first go to Union Conferences; and if so, how it would be divided between the Union Conferences and the General ~~mission~~ ~~General Conference~~ Conference. P.T. Magan replied that the recommendation read "general cause," and not any particular Union or General Conference, for the reason that they did not desire to recommend anything which would not be in harmony with the report of the reorganization committee; that the exact manner in which the tithe will travel will be for other committees at some future time to decide. F.D. Starr asked if this recommendation contemplated the teaching of individual members to pay a second tithe in the churches. Professor Magan

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replied that the committee had thought of that, but it was not thought advisable to recommend this; for there are other ^{calls} ~~movements~~ already in the field---~~raising~~ funds being raised for the Scandinavian institutions, and for the relief of our schools; and if if the brethren would be urged to pay a second tithe while these other calls were being made, it would require them to pay more than they could; that the Testimonies tell us that in ancient Israel their tithes and offerings amounted to about one-third of their income, and if this second tithe were paid by individuals, in addition to the ten-cent-a-week plan and liberal donations for Scandinavia and our schools, it would amount to considerably more than one-third the income of our people.

YOUR COMMITTEE ON THE MORE EQUAL DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS RESPECTFULLY SUBMIT THE FOLLOWING RECOMMENDATIONS:--

1. We recommend to our conferences as far as they are able and ^{consider} ~~feel~~ that it would be a blessing to do so to pay a second tithe to the ~~General Conference~~ ^{cause} for its mission work.

2. We further recommend to such conferences as are able and willing to do so that they send a number of their laborers into the Mission Field and support them there, operating as far as consistent through the Boards having charge of the different fields to which the laborers are sent.

3. We recommend that as far as consistent the General Conference, the union conferences and the local conferences agree beforehand with their tried and accredited laborers as to the salaries which shall be paid them, and that no portion of their wages be held back.

4. We recommend that our conferences everywhere be urged to adopt and further develop THE TEN CENT A WEEK PLAN. for the support of our foreign work as inaugurated by the Foreign Mission Board last year.

5. We recommend that all who ^{especially} labor in word and doctrine in our colleges and academies in the training of workers for the field be supported from the tithes.

Signed:

I. H. Evans,
W. C. White
L. R. ~~Centadi~~
C. W. Flaiz

Dr. Oteson
N. P. Nelson
J. D. Gowell
R. A. Underwood

P. T. Magan, Sec.

~~The question was called for and unanimously carried.~~

The report was considered by asking the secretary of the committee questions, he replying as he understood the mind of the members of the committee. A motion prevailed to have the report printed on slips for the use of the delegates.