

SIXTH MEETING: THIRTY-FIFTH SESSION.

S. D. A. General Conference,

S. D. A. Church, Oakland, Calif. Wednesday, April 1, 10:10 A.M.

Opening song No. 97 of Hymns and Tunes.

Prayer by G. B. Thompson.

H. W. Cottrell in the chair.

The Chair: I would inquire if there are any new delegated who have come in since the last meeting. If so and they will make it known by the uplifted hand, they will be seated.

S. H. Lane. The Committee on Delegation have a partial report to present this morning. Brother George Webb who has labored for some time in South Africa and is at the meeting, and as of those here who have labored in Africa Brother Webb is the only one who has been in Africa recently, we would suggest that the Conference receive him as ~~and~~ a delegate at large, and request him to give us the facts in regard to the wants and needs of South Africa. The Committee on Delegation have decided favorably in his case. I would move that he be accepted as a delegate at large and give us the facts in regard to South Africa.

The motion was seconded.

The Chair. It is moved and seconded that he be accepted as a delegate. All in favor say Aye. Any opposed, No. The motion prevails.

Since the last meeting, the following-named delegates have arrived and taken their place in the Conference: *Valentine Beer,* ~~Lars Nelson,~~ and J. E. White, *and H. Shultz.*

The Chair. The unfinished business would naturally come up in its order first. If there are ~~any~~ no objections, we will call up the report of the Treasurer of the General Conference. A motion to adopt this report was read yesterday. It has been printed, and

and will now be in order according to the rule of taking up unfinished business.

G.A. Irwin. I move we adopt the Treasurer's and Auditor's reports together.

N.P. Nelson. I second the motion.

The Chair. We are open for remarks on the report of the Treasurer and Auditor of the General Conference. Are you ready for the question? The question is called for on the adoption of the report of the Treasurer and the Auditor of the General Conference. All in favor of the adoption manifest it by the uplifted hand. Thank you. Any opposed by the same sign. The motion prevails unanimously.

We will now call up in the same way the reports of the Auditor and the Treasurer of the Mission Board as such.

S.H. Lane. Mr. Chairman, I move that we adopt these reports.

E.T. Russell. I second the motion.

The Chair. All in favor of the adoption manifest it by saying Aye. Any opposed may say No. The motion prevails.

Now we will call up the report of the Auditor and Treasurer of the General Conference Association. It was received yesterday. All these reports were received by being permitted to be read, and a motion to adopt now will be in order to bring it before us.

E.T. Russell. Mr. Chairman, I move that the Treasurer's and Auditor's reports of the General Conference Association be adopted as read.

N.P. Nelson. I second the motion.

The Chair. All in favor of the adoption of these reports as read will manifest it by saying, Aye. Any opposed by saying No.

The motion prevails, the report is adopted.

Now the routine business would be in order. If there are no objections, we will call for the report of the President of the Canadian Union Conference.

(W.H. Thurston read the report as follows:)

The Chair. We will not listen to the report of the President of the Central Union Conference, Brother E. T. Russell, if he is prepared to report.

(E.T. Russell read his report as follows:)

The Chair: If the president of the Lake Union Conference is present, we will hear ~~H~~ his report; if not, we will ask the ~~present~~ president of the Northern Union Conference, Elder Flaiz, to report.

C.W.Flaiz:

[Insert his report in full.]

The Chair: We will now ask if the president of the Pacific Union Conference, Elder Knox, is prepared to report?

W.T.Knox: I would say that this report was not prepared with the thought in mind that we should be called upon to read it. It may prove to be a little lengthy.

[Insert his report in full.]

W.T.Knox: In addition to this, I might bring to your attention one question that I believe is worthy of consideration in connection with this Conference; viz., the division of territory. The map before us does not begin to show the territory, so far as area is concerned. The Pacific Union Conference extends from the Mexican line to the undefined Northern regions, taking in all Alaska and British Columbia. The Hawaiian Islands, too, are included in its limits. The portions most densely populated are within the ~~territory~~ borders of the United States proper; but even the territory covered by these States is so great that it is almost impossible for one man to

attend to it properly. One man can not attend all the ^{general} meetings that are held, and give proper attention to the many enterprises that are conducted within the borders of the Conference.

I believe serious consideration should be given to the question of dividing the Conference, making at least two Union Conferences.

A natural division would be a line running between Oregon and California, Idaho and Nevada-Utah. This division would make an almost equal ~~the~~ division, ~~and~~ so far as area is concerned. It would throw the mission Conference of British Columbia and the mission field of Alaska into the upper portion, and the two mission Conferences of Arizona and Utah into the lower portion; ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ leaving the question of the Hawaiian Islands to be determined by the parties. [?] So far as the division of membership is concerned, this would also be almost equal. The resources of the lower portion would be larger than the resources of the upper. The institutional enterprises of the upper portion would also be largely out-~~weighed~~ weighed by those in the lower portion.

Moved by G.A.Irwin, seconded by R.C.Porter, that the Conference adjourn until 3 P.M. Carried.

Am H.W.COTTRELL,
Chairman.

H.E.OSBORNE,
Secretary.

Seventh meeting
Apr 1, 3 PM -
Wednesday

Un. Conf Repts
not stenographic-
ally taken

SERMON by Dr. David Paulson, Wednesday evening, April 1. 7/3
P.M.

There comes times in everyone's life when they feel discouragement. Nobody, I suppose, is entirely free from it. And very often this discouragement leads to backsliding. An unfortunate train of circumstances comes along, and one thing leads to another until the poor soul is practically in despair. But there is a reason for this experience of discouragement. It is that when we meet another soul who is discouraged we may know, from our own experience, how to help that soul.

I have been reading lately about the experience of Simeon and Levi. They had a curse pronounced upon them, whereby they were not allowed to have any land such as the rest of the people back there did. No doubt they were despised, and made the subject of much comment on the part of their brethren, and considered as we would regard tramps to-day. They were probably pointed to as worse than the rest of the people. But they spent their time while going through this period, in reviewing their situation, and were perhaps wisely improving the time. So they were accordingly rewarded by and by for their behavior. In Exodus 2:32 we read that Moses asked "Who is on the Lord's side?", and when the question was asked, those men who had had the curse of God resting upon them, boldly came out and declared where they stood. They became transformed. And, though they did not get their land back, yet God turned their curse into a blessing. He made them the spiritual leaders of the people. Their curse became the symbol of the

greatest blessing. God is no respecter of persons, and He will treat us to-day just as He did those people then. All of us are laboring under a curse. Perhaps some soul feels that he is hindered from service because of some insuperable obstacle, say an impediment in your speech. Well, the Lord can use you even if you will consecrate yourself wholly to His service and are willing to be used anywhere and in any way.

A very large percentage of our young people are discouraged and need some loving sympathizing heart to help them. They need someone to go to them who can feel somehow towards them as a mother does toward her child, and can pour the oil of healing and the balm of Gilead into such lives and hearts.

There is another thing discouraging to so many, and that is that when they have trouble the Lord has left them. When I have felt like that, I have often got great encouragement from the case of David. In 1st Samuel 16:13 we read: "Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brethren; and the spirit of the Lord came upon him from that day forward". Did he just have a good time after that? Did he never have any trouble, no discouragements, after that day? We know very well that he did. To-day, there are many thousands who ~~now~~ have had an out-pouring of the Spirit upon them, and are now praying for something they can't get. It is because they have not learned to make use of what they already have. Later on, David became the leader of the people, but what a price he had to pay for this

privilege. Many of us who desire to lead an army of sin-cursed mortals into the kingdom of God, will have to go through just ^{some} ~~such~~ such sort of an experience as David did. We must be willing to pay just such a price as he was willing to pay, and did pay.

From the narrative in 1 Samuel, 22 nd chapter, we learn about the crowd of men that gathered around David--those who were in distress, in debt, and the discontented. David had to get an experience in learning how to deal with these people. When any of you have cranky and disagreeable people to associate with, it is because you have a gift for helping such people; and if you don't help them it is because you are smothering your gift. What a blessed thing it is to realize that just where we are is the very place where we can do the most good. If people only knew that, what a difference it would make. People say "If you want me to work with so and so, I will not work at all". Oh what they are missing in adopting such an attitude. God puts people just where they can do the most good, and if they don't profit by the opportunity He gives them to use a talent He knows they have, they get moved on, and they don't get a chance to do a greater work that they want to do, because to fit them for that work, they have to pass through experience number one first. God's providences are a school. God does not want us to live in just a little bit of a sphere. He wants us to exert an influence that shall extend throughout the earth.

David had with him a lot of men who were what we might call ragamuffins, tramps, who gathered around him, and he had such an

experience in the things of God, and he just labored with them, and by doing so got such an experience that gave him a chance to deal with men in great armies. Have you got some uncongenial person working with you to-day? If you have, you can get out of that experience an opportunity of helping them, and inspiring them to rise above that sort of thing; and your experience while working with that person will fit you to some day do great things for God.

Have you ever heard men say—
~~Sometimes a person says,~~ "If you put me to work with that

man, I am not going to work at all!"?

If the curtain could have been rolled up, he would have said, How could I have done that? You know well enough that ^{of} the greatest experiences you have, had, ^{of} the things that have brought the most blessings in your life, people have said you were a fool for doing them. I remember some of the experiences in my life that have brought the sweetness and joy, and opportunities for helping some one else, above all other experiences in my life, and of them people have said, you are a fool for doing that. But, brethren, God placed them there, and I laid hold of them, and it was a blessed thing. And you will find it true, that God will not make mistakes; that God is bringing all these things in your life, for a purpose, to help some discouraged soul.

I can think of the rebellion that broke out, and of the difficulties that David had. I can think of the sleepless nights, and the agony that man had to go through. And then he was chased around by Saul, and he had all these experiences. And yet, brethren, that man had the Spirit of the Holy Ghost poured out upon him. And he is a type of what you and I have got to go through, and

yet have the Holy Spirit. The Lord is with a man when he is in trouble. When a man is having an easy life, and everything is going smoothly with him, it is no evidence that he has the Spirit of God. His trouble is coming further on, when the curse of Merodach comes upon him.

Do not be afraid to face difficulties because of the criticisms you have to go through. The man who exhibits his virtues, who does something for God and humanity, also exhibits his weaknesses. The greatest work in this world is done by men who live at its fiercest.

If there were a great stream of water here, and there were a half a dozen men drowning in it, and there were a great army of people out watching it, the half dozen men who jumped forward to pull those men out may not have the best reputation in the town, but they are the most useful men. God chooses not only useful men, but willing men. God will make a man good. As I have seen the shortcomings and failures of my brethren, I knew, while I could not be good, I could be willing. We can all be willing; God can make us good, but we have got to be willing.

All about us there are opportunities for us to show our willingness to help some poor discouraged soul. You can not tell an thing about the material; you can not tell what will prosper, this or that. We may possibly get discouraged in our work; but if we become discouraged and give up, we never know what we miss. The discouraged people who give up, never know what they miss. And one of these days the curtain is to be rolled back, and ~~this~~ people will go forth as an army to step into the greatest opportunities now opening up. Why, the world is hungering and thirsting for this ~~mining~~ truth that we have; from every standpoint they are thirsting for the simply, uplifting gospel we have, for the truths of physical righteousness. Think of the disease and vice becoming so prevalent. There is one concern in this country manufacturing from seven to nine millions of cigarettes a day. Think of the dissipation and crime. According to the Chicago Tribune, there are one million morphine fiends in the United States. Some of you may know what that means. The world is becoming a lazar-house of disease. Twenty-seven million cases of sickness in this country last year! If you and I had risen up ten or fifteen years ago, by the help of the Lord, and said, I will do everything God can make out of me, to stay back

this tide, who knows how many John the Baptists or Daniels we might have had to-day. If John the Baptist were to come back to the United States, he would made quite a stir here. Even Jonah, whom we have been holding up as a man that shrinked his duty, and he did; but, brethren, ~~where~~ have we a city missionary that accomplished that Jonah did? That man gave the gospel ~~to~~ a city as large as San Francisco, in but three days; and the people were not any more ready to receive the gospel than are the people now. We have got to have an experience in the things of God. We have a field of usefulness to ~~enter~~ enter into that. We have got to have a spirit of willingness, of falling into line with God's providence, a spirit of being linked up with God, and then the fields will open up, and the opportunities will appear to us, and we will be prepared to enter them, and accomplish the work the Lord would have us do.

Now there is the work for the army and the navy. How much has been done for that? There is a great field there unentered. Who has been working for them? That field is ready. I have had scores of letters from the greatest military officers, and they express a willingness to help and cooperate to get the gospel to the military. It is time that we get the gospel in their hands.. One of these days it will be worth while to know that we have got ourselves right before them.

And here are the great lawmakers of our country, who are putting the mold on the country. How much have we done to help them to make better laws. A few years ago we did step into some of the openings providences; but we have largely lapsed back again.

And then here is the great prison work all over this country. There are one hundred thousand men languishing behind prison bars, and Christ died for every one of them as well as for us here. Some of us may be there there some day, and I would be glad to look

back that I did everything possible to make it ^lpleasant for those that had been in that cell before I had. These opportunities are slipping between our fingers. Shall we improve these opportunities, or shall we be virtually saying to God, You must raise up somebody else? It seems to me that we should fall on the Rock and be broken.

God is not simply looking for good men, but willing men. If it were good men, some of us would not be in it. I have thought ~~of~~ [,] ~~this~~ as I have seen the opportunities opening up before us, that God can not use me. But I must be like the clay in the hands of the potter, willing to be moulded and fashioned, or to be made over again into another vessel. I am so glad that the Potter is working upon us, and that he can use us to give ~~this~~ message to the whole world in this generation.

This is the sweetest and best work. Some of you who have not entered into that thing at all, who thought that saving souls is good enough for the preachers, but as for you, you have your business, I want to tell you that the greatest business of life is, after all, the salvation of souls; and that it is the life that preaches the most.

I was once in the South Dakota prison, and I was to give a talk to the prisoners there. I saw there hands that had ~~been~~ done daring deeds. I said to myself, How can I say anything that the ~~se~~ men will listen to; and while on my knees, the thought came to me that all of these people here who would love a bouquet of flowers would love the gospel, if I could present it as beautiful as the flower is. Christ said, "Consider the lilies, how they grow." Now if God so clothed them, he will clothe us. That thought came to me, and I tried to talk the gospel, and to hold

up the gospel of that Master who said, I, if I be lifted up, will draw all men unto me." But there was another thought. It was this: Here is that flower. I rubbed that flower all up in my hands . There it is,---nobody cares for that. And yet it is God's flower; you are prejudiced against it. It is God's flower. You have no right to be prejudiced against it. No, it is no use. Have'nt you heard men talk that way when you present the gospel.

Ah, it is the human mangling. My brethren, that ~~is~~ is a blessed lesson to me. These men love flowers, but they do not love them after they are mangled in human hands.

Christ is the desire of all nations, and everyt time we find men driven off instead of being drawn, we ought to think of that thing, and on our knees, in fasting and prayer, we want to ask God to hold up that gospel in all its loveliness. I can not present it that way yet, but I will never stop until I can, God being my helper.