

TWENTY-SECOND MEETING

The twenty-second meeting was called at 2:30 P.M., May 24, W.C. White, chairman of the Publication Committee, in the chair.

Prayer by P.F.Bicknell.

The secretary's report of the Publication Committee was further considered, and representatives from Mexico, China, and India spoke of work with literature, while Brethren R.C.Porter and A.T.Robinson gave an account of the influence of work with literature in various individual cases coming within their observation.

E.W.Farnsworth spoke of the work of the minister in selling literature. The minister who gets the people to read most as they listen to the truth from the pulpit, will establish most people in the truth. This will require effort. The speaker said he had found best success in selling books by taking one at a time for special mention in public. It is well to have a small assortment on a table in the meeting place. In visiting among the people the laborer may take a few small pamphlets and dispose of them. A good plan is to make up a package of tracts, and urge the people to take the package for personal study in their homes. No one has such advantage in getting people to read as the minister. There is need of a revival of this selling of our literature in public effort.

Hearty responses were made to this plea for a revival of book-selling in the ministry.

J.N.Loughborough stated that he was the first preacher among us to sell books in public effort. Then all our books or pamphlets could be sold for thirty-five cents. When at a public meeting in the midst of a busy harvest season, they sold \$53 worth of these pamphlets, it greatly encouraged the brethren. Brother Loughborough told also of

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pioneer experiences in California, in later days, in which book-selling was a prominent feature, and where people read themselves into the truth, as they listened to the preaching, the results were substantial Sabbath-keepers who stuck to it.

G.I. Butler recounted the methods in the old days, of spreading out the literature in a tent meeting, and making it a point every day or night to get the people to buy reading matter. He proposed to do the same thing this coming season, when he expects to hold a series of tent meetings.

W.J. Boynton, of Alberta, testified to the success he had had in selling literature as he went from place to place, taking subscriptions for the various papers. The people want this literature. In traveling by carriage the long distances in the Canadian Northwest he takes a quantity of papers and tracts, made up just ready to hand out, tossing a packet into a passing wagon, or leaving a packet at each farm house.

Following a brief recess, the program of the publishing department was continued.

E.R. Palmer spoke of the practice in Australia of accompanying tent effort by selling literature day by day on the topic presented in the tent the night before.

The publishing work is not a department in the sense that the Sabbath-school or religious liberty work is a department of the work of the message. It is the message itself in all its departments, set in type and scattered among the people. It is the means by which all departments must work.

The importance of circulating the literature was shown by figures gathered by Brother A.J. Bourdeau, of California. He heard from 539 persons who gave the manner in which they were led to accept the truth.

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The report in part is as follows:--

Tent meetings and lectures,	164.
Reading publications only,	123.
Bible or mission work,	87.
Reading Bible only,	26.
By birth or home influence,	101.

A few Interesting Cases:--

Reading the Signs of the Times at the bedside of his brother. A sick lady in a Catholic hospital. A nurse loaned her a copy of "Great Controversy." Result, a conversion to present truth, much to the dismay and anger of the nurse who brought the book. Nurse was not aware of the nature of the work.

Inviting a Seventh-day Adventist to ride with him in his wagon fifteen miles. The Seventh-day Adventist talked the Sabbath all the way, and the party could not throw it off his mind. Became a Seventh-day Adventist soon thereafter.

A tract sent from Colorado to Canada--Result, a convert.

His wife's godly life--an experience of fifteen years. Led him to accept same belief.

A sick boy overhearing, from his bed, a Bible reading being given to his parents by a Seventh-day Adventist minister.

The reading of one tract only--"Elihu on the Sabbath."

A work which yields such large returns for so small an investment should be pushed with energy. The publishing work should be carried on so that every Seventh-day Adventist can be doing something. Better all doing something, men, women, and children, even though doing a little, than a few doing much. It will mean an active, living church, and a widespread influence. There can be no strong work with literature in a conference save as the evangelical workers in the conference take the burden of encouraging its development.

The book work has prospered as greatly during times of adversity as in good times financially. It is only when the hard times gets into the heart of the laborer that there is failure.

The story of the methods by which the book work was made strong some years ago was told. It was strong because everyone worked to build it up--conference leaders and all labored to lead the people into the book work. It is to be done again. It is not to be left to a department, or to a few men. Our publishing houses have unloaded from commercial

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work so that they may give all their energies to developing the literature of the third angel's message.

Lewis Johnson: He felt that the ministry of the message could never be separated from the work of preaching the truth by literature. It is one united work.

W.D.Salisbury, of the Echo Publishing Company, Australia: The Australasian Union Conference, according to the publication secretary's report, has sold the largest number of books of any Union. He stated that the beginnings of that success was in the times when the laborers in the ministry talked this work from place to place and rallied the people to it. The fruitfulness of this work with literature in bringing people into the truth had been most encouraging in Australia.

A.T.Robinson: Told of good results following the effort to get Bible workers to handle books and literature as they labored among the people.

C.Santee: Told of large sales by workers during tent meetings in Southern California, as the workers made systematic efforts with literature.

W.C.White: The publishing houses have made strong efforts to get clear from commercial work. It is not primarily because of coming labor difficulties. It was to enable all their energies to be devoted to the work of the message. And this cutting off of commercial work brings a clearer atmosphere into our offices. The workers can feel that all their work is preaching the message by the literature they are working on. All this is a call to the people to use the literature and keep our presses busy printing the truth.

Further remarks were made as to the handling of the literature, the division of profits on the books so that canvassers and publishing

house shall be able to derive a living income.

The order of the meeting changed, and the Committee on Nominations presented a further partial report, which was adopted as follows:--

On Nominations

Members General Conference Committee: Frederick Griggs,
W.A.George, G.B.Thompson, K.C.Russell.

Electoral Constituency of Emmanuel Missionary College (Berrian Springs): A.Moon, Wm. Covert, W.J.Stone, J.M.Rees, A.G.Haughey, H.H. Burkholder, E.K.Slade, L.H.Christian, S.E.Wight, R.R.Kennedy, W.A.Young, A.R.Sandorn, W.D.Curtis, W.D.Parkhurst, J.B.Blosser, F.F.Peterson, M.N. Campbell, Arthur Spaulding, A.T.Jones, J.G.Lamson, N.W.Lawrence, S.P.S. Edwards, R.T.Dowsett, J.O.Miller, N.P.Nielson, N.W.Kauble, J.H.Haughey, B.F.Machlan, Arthur Hallock, W.H.Edwards.

It was announced that B.C.Wilkinson would make a report on the Latin Union mission field at the evening service.

Adjourned.

W.C.White, Chairman pro tem.

W.A.Spicer, Secretary.

TWENTY-THIRD MEETING

The twenty-third meeting was called at 9:30 A.M., May 25, A.G. Daniells in the chair.

Prayer by A.G.Haughey.

It was announced that the day was to be devoted to the educational work, and those taking part in the program were invited to the platform.

Call was made for the report of the Committee on Plans in regard to educational work, which was presented by L.A.Hoopes, and on motion considered item by item as follows:--

On Educational Work

30. Recognizing the kind and favoring hand of God in our educational work, we hereby express our deep gratitude for His mercy and help, and further express our determination to work unitedly for more efficient co-operation and unification in this work for the future.

31. Resolved, That the Department of Education of the General Conference consist of twenty-five members representing all portions of the world, to be appointed by the General Conference Committee, and that five members, of whom the chairman or secretary shall be one, shall constitute a quorum.

32. We advise those in charge of our schools of all grades to seek for a higher standard of education in the Word of God, the sciences, and literary attainments; so as to prepare workers of sufficient education and culture to meet all classes of society.

33. Resolved, That we adopt sixteen grades as the standard of our educational system with general divisions as follows:--

- (a) Primary schools, grades one to seven.
- (b) Intermediate schools, grades eight to ten.
- (c) Colleges, grades eleven to sixteen.

In reply to questions,--

B.G.Wilkinson: Explained that it was not intended to make any rigid limitation as to grades. If in the primary school special local conditions demand a higher grade, it should be left optional. It is the "general" plan that is recommended.

34. Resolved, That our training schools be advised to so plan their work that the state examining boards, such as the Regents of New York, can give credit for any work done in these schools.

Whereas, In some of our schools there has been observed a lack of discipline, tending to militate against the ideals of our work, and to counteract much of the good which the schools are designed to do; therefore,--

35. Resolved, That the attention of the managers and teachers of our schools be hereby called to these important matters, and that they be urged to maintain a high standard of discipline and pure moral atmosphere in all our schools, and that a special effort be made by the teachers to do heart-to-heart personal work for their students.

Whereas, The strength and efficiency of any department of the Lord's work depends upon unity of spirit and harmony of action on the part of the workers; and,--

Whereas, The nature and character of our educational work in a special sense requires well laid plans and the most hearty co-operation in the carrying out of these plans; therefore,--

36. Resolved, That we urge our educators to put forth earnest and well directed efforts to unify the educational work,--

(a) By completing a simple and effective plan of organization in the General, union, and state conferences, the organization of each being a part of a harmonious system of education which will develop Christian character and prepare our children and youth for the various lines of denominational work.

(b) By formulating courses of study for our ~~church~~^{primary}, intermediate, and training schools, which shall be uniform in the subjects taught, and in harmony with the character and scope of work to be done by these three classes of schools.

(c) By the Educational Department, in counsel with the General Conference Committee, appointing a representative Text Book Committee, whose work shall be to examine manuscripts, texts, supplemental, and reference books, and recommend those that are suitable for use in our various schools.

(d) By uniform adoption and use of the books and helps prepared by our people which have been approved by the Text Book Committee and also, as far as practicable, the uniform adoption of books secured from other sources.

(e) By preparing a school manual which shall be used as a guide in our schools, and which shall contain,--

(1) A brief but comprehensive statement of the principles underlying the work of Christian education.

(2) The plan of organization.

(3) The courses of study .

(4) The lists of text, supplemental, and library books to be used, with the price of each, and where they may be secured.

(5) Suggestions as to the best methods to be employed in teaching the various subjects in the courses.

In reply to inquiry on section "d",--

M.E.Cady: Explained the difficulty and confusion brought into our school work by lack of uniformity in courses of study and in books used. Lack of uniformity has led to changes in books, as one teacher succeeded another in a school, and parents are troubled over having to buy books different from those used a year before. A general agreement among educators will remedy this. And in bringing out text books, it is essential that a book to be published shall be generally used, else the expense of bringing it out cannot be met.

Inasmuch as there is a great responsibility not generally understood resting upon the members of our churches in the education and training of our youth,--

37. Resolved, That a vigorous educational campaign be carried on by the General, union, and state conferences,--

(a) By the publication and circulation of literature on primary school work.

(b) By holding educational conventions, and by such other means as may seem advisable.

Whereas, There are great numbers of our young people who ought to be obtaining the benefits of a Christian education, who are not in our schools,--

38. Resolved, That the teachers in our training-schools, as well as all our workers, take a more active interest in getting our young people into our schools; that a systematic correspondence be carried on by these schools throughout the year, and that as far as possible, the teachers labor in the field during vacation.

E.E.Miles: Emphasized the need of work in the churches, from family to family, looking out young people who ought to be in school.

Whereas, It appears that one cause of weakness in our schools, particularly those of the primary and intermediate grades, is due to the lack of sufficient supervision; ~~we~~ therefore,--

39. We recommend, That each conference provide for the schools within its territory to be closely supervised by a competent superintendent or visiting board, who shall visit these schools as the needs require.

Whereas, The conducting of our primary schools is an action requiring careful planning and good counsel; therefore,--

40. We recommend, That no schools should be established or discontinued without advice or counsel from the conference officials.

M.E.Cady: Urged that conference officers take a real burden to give encouragement and counsel in this very important matter. While there have been discouragements by starting schools more rapidly than we were prepared to operate them in a satisfactory way, it is so important a matter that the officers of a conference ought to be alert and watchful to promote school work in every way possible.

41. We recommend, That ~~no~~ intermediate schools should not be established without the co-operation and counsel of the union conference.

Whereas, In almost every church where schools are located our teachers are called upon to aid in church work which requires experienced workers; we therefore,--

42. Recommend, That the corps of teachers in our primary and intermediate schools should be strengthened,--

(a) By encouraging more mature persons to engage in the work; and,--

(b) By each conference committee encouraging many of our young men who are preparing for the ministry to spend a part of their time teaching primary and intermediate schools.

Whereas, There is a dearth of thoroughly qualified teachers in our schools of all grades; we therefore,--

43. Recommend, That our training schools make provision for a more thorough training of our prospective teachers, and that a thorough knowledge of the common branches of study and of the Bible and Testimonies should be obtained by these teachers, together with the best methods of conducting and teaching our schools.

44. We recommend, That the Union Conference Educational Secretary, together with the state superintendents, shall constitute an examining board to provide questions and conduct examinations for the promotion of students and the granting of certificates to teachers.

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45. We recommend, That as far as advisable, conferences provide employment for teachers when not engaged in school work, placing them at work selling publications, giving Bible readings, assisting in tent meetings, etc.

46. In order to guard against the improper use of the word "professor" we express it to be the understanding of the Department of Education that this title should be limited in its use to those who are or who have been engaged in advanced lines of education.

Action was taken on the entire report, which was unanimously

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48 } adopted.
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Adjourned.

A.G.Daniells, Chairman.

W.A.Spicer, Secretary.