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INDIA MISSION WORKERS AT THE CONFERENCE DEC. 25 1896 TO JAN. 12 1907.

OPENING MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE

The biennial conference of the India mission field opened Friday evening Dec. 28, at the S. D. A. Hall Calcutta with a praise and prayer service. There were present representatives from different parts of India, Burma, and Ceylon. A few days previous a company of fifteen workers arrived from America. Among them was Eld. G. B. Thompson who came as a representative of the general Conference to assist in the field and be present at the meeting. Other workers were J. S. James and family, Dr. and Mrs. Menkel, R. L. Cook and family, Dr. Ollie Oberholtzer, Mrs. McCamley and her niece Miss Rachel Johnson, Mrs. Rouff, Miss King, Miss E. Brain, and the writer and Mrs. Shaw who have returned after a furlough in the homeland. Eld. H. H. Votaw and Mrs. Votaw and L. F. Hansen and family with a company of nine Burmese believers were present from Burma. Among them were Maung Maung and Mah May our first Burmese Sabbath keepers. H. B. Meyers and Miss Anna Orr from South India were at the opening meeting, but Eld. Owen from Ceylon did not arrive until a few days later, nor did Mrs. Jewett and her daughter Miss Daisy Jewett from Darjeeling. L. J. Burgess and Mrs. Burgess from Almora. W. A. Barlow and family and two santal workers from Simultala, Miss Wilcox and Miss Knight from Simla, Dr. Marsh, Misses Whaley and Kurtz of Bombay, J. C. Little and Mrs. Little of the Karmatar Press, Miss Smith and Miss Burroway and Miss Belchambers, with ten of the older students of the Karmatar training school were all present at the opening meeting. Aside from these were Eld. and Mrs. Miller, Dr. Ingersoll and Dr. Olive and mother Mrs. Olney, J. H. Reagan and wife, H. J. Jewel, A. G. Watson and Mrs. Watson, Mrs. Mackie, Miss McIntyre, Miss Haegert of Calcutta and local members of the Calcutta church. A. C. Mookerjee and family from Gopalganj arrived later.

The opening meeting of praise and prayer was a blessed occasion. Praise to God arose for his protecting hand which had brought us by sea and land many miles together. So large a company from the homeland was a source of encouragement to those who had been working in trying places almost alone. Only those who have laboured in a foreign land under heavy burdens know how cheering are the

faces of those who have come to help. Workers alone at this meeting counting local and foreign numbered fifty-five including the wives of different workers.

After words of welcome by Eld. Miller and encouragement in the recounting of God's providences by Eld. Thompson and the writer, the meeting was thrown open to the delegates, whose hearts responded in joyful testimony of praise to God. At the close of the meeting the following daily programme for the coming meeting was read. Praise and prayer service 8 : 30, Conference 9:30, Bible study 11 : 00, Committees and dinner, 12 : to 3 : 30, Conference. 3:30, Preaching service 6:30.

J. L. SHAW.

The Conference.

IMPORTANT ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE CONFERENCE.

THESE resolutions do not comprise all, but only those, we thought, would be of general interest to our people in the Indian field and elsewhere.

I. Vote of Appreciation.

Whereas God has so graciously preserved our lives the past two years, and blessed the work in our institutions, and given us a degree of success in our labour for souls, and sent us such a large company of recruits, and given us such marked evidence of His presence with us at the beginning of our meetings by the manifestation of His Holy Spirit,—

Therefore, Resolved that we express our gratitude to God for these manifold blessings, and pledge ourselves to more faithfulness in His cause during the year to come.

II. Work in the Vernacular.

Whereas we believe that the third Angel's Message is to be carried to every nation, tongue, and people in this generation, and whereas there are in the mission field of India 300,000,000 souls of various languages, to whom we are debtors to carry the message, yet among whom we have scarcely made a beginning,

Therefore resolved that we recognise the responsibility given us by the Lord of the Harvest to carry this message to all these millions, and as a conference we urge that a strong, aggressive, evangelistic policy of mis-

onary labour especially in behalf of the Indian race be begun to continue until the work is done: and we further urge that to carry forward this policy a systematic plan of labour be inaugurated at once. To this end we suggest:

(a) That the advisory Board plan to open work at once in as many languages as possible and that as many of our labourers as is consistent with the work already in hand, who are of proper age, and qualified by education and otherwise to acquire a knowledge of the language, be selected to labour in the vernacular.

(b) That to assist in carrying forward this aggressive policy and plan of labour in the various tongues, we ask the Mission Board to send to our field from time to time, strong, consecrated young men and women of good education, with a view of locating among the Indian population, to acquire a thorough knowledge of the languages, and who can act as pioneers in these tongues.

(c) That we ask the Advisory Board to investigate the advisability of our colleges teaching Sanscrit to their curriculum, so that those coming to India to labour could obtain knowledge of the language; and if it would assist them in the mastery of the various tongues of India, to open correspondence with colleges regarding the matter.

(d) That those who take up the study of the languages do so after counselling with the Advisory Board, and only those be advised to study the language who expect to remain permanently in the field.

(e) It being much easier to acquire a knowledge of the language if its study is commenced soon as we arrive in India, we advise that labourers coming to the field be located as soon as possible where they are to labour, and that they begin at once a study of the language with a view of acquiring proficiency in it sufficient to do evangelistic missionary work.

(f) That the Advisory Board perfect, as soon as possible, some plan whereby those studying the languages will be subjected to an examination at least once in six months as to their progress and proficiency in the tongue.

(g) That as fast as proper translations can be secured, literature be prepared in the different languages on the fundamental truths of

the Third Angel's Message, and that this literature be as widely circulated as possible.

(h) That the Advisory Board plan the preparation and circulation of all literature to be used in this field.

(i) That the Advisory Board prepare to promptly and accurately get out such literature as may be needed either by increasing our equipment at Karmatar, or by arranging with outside firms.

(j) That a committee of five persons be appointed to act with the Advisory Board to give special study to the matter of literature in the various languages and assist in its preparation.

III. Special Canvasser's Campaign.

Whereas the circulation of the "Oriental Watchman" and "Good Health" is low, we recommend,

(a) That a special campaign be inaugurated to increase the circulation of these papers.

(b) That this campaign be commenced immediately after the close of this meeting, and continue until Apr. 1, and that as far as consistent all our workers take part in this campaign.

(c) That the Board plan for those who may be advised to especially take up the vernacular study to do so immediately at the close of this campaign.

IV. Circulation of our Books.

Whereas the Lord has said that our publications should be circulated as the leaves of autumn, Therefore,

Resolved, that a continuous effort be made in behalf of our subscription books, and that capable persons be selected for this work, and that aggressive efforts be made to push the sale of our various denominational books.

V. Officers Newly elected.

Supt. J. L. Shaw. *Asst. Supt.* W. W. Miller.
Advisory Board:—J. L. Shaw, W. W. Miller, H. H. Votaw, J. C. Little, Dr. Menkel, A. G. Watson, J. S. James.

Medical Secretary—Dr. Menkel.

Treasurer—W. W. Miller.

VI. The Mountain Mission.

I. Resolved that we express our thanks to God and feelings of appreciation to our people

in America and the "Signs of the Times" for the generous contribution of funds for the establishing of a mission in the mountains of India, and that immediate steps be taken to find a suitable location for the same.

2. Resolved that we leave the location of the Mountain Mission in the hands of the Advisory Board with the following suggestions :

That it be placed,

(a) In a healthful location.

(b) Where Indian environments shall, if possible, predominate.

(c) That it shall be among people speaking a language familiar to the majority of Indian workers.

(d) Where the cost of operating shall be as cheap as possible.

(e) Where land can be procured and fruits and vegetables raised, and where, if possible, the mission may have its own farm products, such as cream, milk and eggs.

3. Resolved that in establishing the Mountain Mission the following plan and purpose of the donors be carefully guarded :—

That it serve,

(a) As a retreat for the workers from the different parts of the field and departments of the work.

(b) As a mission station where work may be opened among the Indian people living in the Hills.

(c) As a training centre for Indian workers, if, as our work develops, it shall seem advisable to carry on such a training school.

VII. A Legal Organisation.

Where as at the present time there is need of a legal organisation for the holding of property in the Indian Mission Field, therefore,

Resolved that we recommend the Advisory Board to take immediate steps for perfecting such a legal corporation as can hold property in India, Burma, and Ceylon.

VIII. Circulation of our Papers.

Whereas the "Review and Herald," "Oriental Watchman" and "Eastern Tidings" are our most able ministers and filled with important instruction, as well as stirring reports from all parts of the world, therefore,

Resolved that our labourers endeavour to

place them in the homes of all our people in this field.

IX. Work for the Karens in Burma.

Inasmuch as the needs of the Karens are great, it is expressed as the desire of this conference that a man and his wife be sent from home for this work in Burma, and that Eld. Thompson take this matter in hand and present an urgent request to the Mission Board to send the needed help as soon as possible.

X. The Work in New Fields.

Whereas for many reasons it would greatly assist in the management and development of the work, for strong centres of missionary operation to be established in various parts of the field, therefore,

Resolved, that as rapidly as possible we locate experienced labourers in the various divisions of India to pioneer the work in these parts of the field and assist in the oversight and development of the work in their territory and that we endeavour as far as possible to associate with these experienced labourers new workers coming to the field.

XI. Auditing of Accounts.

Resolved that all accounts of the mission be closed Dec. 31, each year and that the Advisory Board arrange to have a careful audit of the books in the various departments.

XII. A Cash Basis.

Whereas the Testimonies have instructed us concerning a careful financial policy along all lines of our work, and,

Whereas, in the past the strength and progress of the message has been much retarded and weakened through a bondage of debt in departments of our work, therefore,

Resolved that we carefully avoid any policy in the management of our work in this field that will involve any feature of it in debt or bring about financial embarrassment. To this end we suggest the following plans :—

(a) That the Mission field settle in full with its labourers at the close of each quarter and that we do not approve of the policy of advancing money on labourer's wages.

(b) That the accounts of all labourers in the field be balanced at the close of each month.

(c) That our Tract Society deal, as far as

possible on a cash basis in its retail trade.

(d) That churches and local societies ordering supplies accompany their order with the cash.

(e) That canvassers be allowed one shipment of supplies on credit until their first delivery, but that said account be settled in full or accounted for in supplies on hand before another shipment will be sent out.

XIII. Worker's Furlough.

Whereas, we deeply regret that in the past the continuity of our work has greatly suffered and mission funds have been heavily drawn upon by workers returning home broken down in health, and,

Whereas in the prosecution of the cause of truth among the many peoples of India it is necessary that the health of the workers be safeguarded that their service in this field be not cut short by failing health, therefore,

Resolved that every worker be given a month's vacation at least, each year, and that it be insisted upon that labourers of northern birth spend that time in the hills, arrangements for the same to be left to the Advisory Board.

Advisory Board
MINOR ACTIONS.

Voted that we express our appreciation of Eld. Thompson's visit to this field and our thanks to the General Conference for sending him here.

Voted that Jan. 13 be the date when the Sanitarium work be formally transferred from the hands of Dr. Ingersoll to the control of Dr. Menkel.

That Eld. J. L. Shaw, Bro. L. J. Burges, Sr. L. J. Burgess, H. H. Votaw, and J. S. James form a committee on languages.

That we urgently request the Mission Board to send to this field a young man and his wife of good education to locate in Southern India.

That we ask the Mission Board to send to this field a man to labour in Ceylon, as soon as possible.

That our Watchman Editorial Committee consist of the following persons: J. L. Shaw, J. C. Little, J. S. James, Geo. Enoch, and Dr. Menkel. Office Editor J. C. Little.

Whereas our Health Food Factory, is sorely in need of a good business man to improve

upon the work and push the business interests of the factory, and,

Whereas the Health Food Co. in England has on its books an account of Rs 955 to our credit.

Therefore we recommend that the English Health Food Co. be requested to at least partly discharge their obligation by sending us the most all round business man they can find who will be able to give substantial help to the Bakery, and that it be urged that this man be sent at the earliest possible date.

Voted that the Watchman Press be placed on a self-supporting basis and that it settle its own accounts for supplies and make monthly settlements with the mission; and that in order that the Advisory Board be kept informed regarding its financial standing monthly statements be rendered to the chairman.

Voted that no child is to be admitted into Karmatar Orphanage without the sanction of the Advisory Board.

Voted that we give our native workers a most careful training for the work and that we make it our policy to connect them with our experienced men who can be constantly teaching them in the truth, and that we discourage the plan of sending out native men alone at least until we are well satisfied as to their ability and character and can trust them to rightly represent the truth.

Voted that in exchange for the Babolmohol property and on other conditions agreed upon the mission take over the Simultala property as its own and that in so doing it turn over the Babolmohol property to Bro Barlow and family as their own.

That Sr. Quantock be asked to come at once to act as secretary and treasurer, and that the matter be put before her in its true situation that she may see the importance of getting here quickly.

That Eld. Miller, Dr. Menkel and Bro. Reagan act as local Board of Management for the Sanitarium.

REPORT ON DISTRIBUTION OF LABOUR.

Voted that Eld. W. W. Miller act as treasurer in this field until Sr. Quantock or some one arrives to take the work.

That Mrs. Mc Camely and Johnson be asked to connect with the Sanitarium.

That Bro. Watson make Koro his field of labour and devote his energies to opening up the work there.

That our Burmese brother, Hpo Hla (Pola) be taken on as a worker and that the General Conference be asked to give him a missionary license.

That we ask Sr. Rouff and Dr. Ollie Oberholtzer to connect with the work in Burma.

That Sr. D. Eda Smith be released from medical work at Karmatar to go to Almora.

That Sr. Della Burroway and Shoto Mitter be sent to open up the work in Koro.

That Bro. and Sr. Cook be asked to connect with the work among the Santals.

That Bro. J. S. James and family be asked to go to Southern India and that they take up the study of the Tamil language, and also that Sr. Orr return to work in Southern India.

That Sr. Jewett be asked to go to Burma it being favourable to the mind of the Board that her mother accompany her.

That Bro. A. C. Mookerjee make Gopalgunj East Bengal his field of labour and that Brethren Miller, Little, and Watson give him what assistance they can.

That Bro. H. H. Votaw and wife return to Burma and that Bro. Maing Maing and Bro. Hpo Hla work under the direction of Elder Votaw.

That the Board endorse the plan of Bro. and Sr. Burgess to return to Almora.

That our Burmese sister, Mah May be taken on as an accredited worker and the General Conference be asked to give her a missionary license.

CONFERENCE PAPERS AND TALKS.

ADVANTAGES OF KNOWING THE LANGUAGE.

George A. Burgess

It ought not to be necessary to spend much time in discussing the advantages of becoming acquainted with the language of the people among whom we expect to labour. We have a special message to give to the people of India this generation which no other people have and how can we expect to give it to them unless

we speak the language which they understand?

When we realise that out of a population of three hundred millions in India there are only about three hundred thousand Europeans, how can we ever hope to give the Message to India through the medium of the English language?

We have just one purpose in being in India, - that is to give the third angel's message to the people of this land.

We need the language in order to understand the people. Their manners and customs, their training, their way of thinking and looking at things are so entirely different from anything to which we have been accustomed that it is impossible for us to understand them unless we can enter into their homes, mingle with them in their daily lives, listen to their conversation, and enter into their feelings. But how can we do this unless we understand the language?

There is nothing that will form a closer bond of union between us and the people of this country than for us to become acquainted with their language.

There is another very urgent reason why we should learn the language. We can never hope to have the individual workers to carry this message to all these millions and hundreds of millions of India. In this as in other countries the message must go largely through the circulation of reading matter. There are scores of languages in India in which the message must be published. But we must have men and women who are rooted and grounded in this truth, who are acquainted with the various languages in order that this work may be done. We cannot leave this work of translation to people who are not in harmony with the message. Although I do not think, as a rule, it is wise for a foreigner to attempt the actual work of translation, because no matter how well we may know the language we cannot put into it the little idiomatic touches and colloquial expressions that make it readable to the Indian mind, yet we certainly should never publish any thing which cannot be read and understood by some one at least of our workers.

I would say to these new workers who have just come among us, If you have come with the expectation of working for the Indian peo-

ple, whatever else you do, make the acquiring of the language first. Let nothing, however urgent, turn you from that purpose.

In what I have said I do not mean to cast the slightest shadow upon our European work.

The soul of the European in India is just as precious in God's sight as the soul of the native, *but no more so*. The soul of the poorest coolie is just as valuable in his sight as the soul of the Viceroy. The same price was paid for both, and so at this Conference let us begin to look at things as God sees them. Let us begin to put things in their right proportion, and instead of having more than three-fourths of our workers tied up in English work where it is impossible for them to get the language, let us reverse the order and make a mighty, united effort to carry this message to the waiting millions of this land who, as yet, have not heard the first sound of it.

VERNACULAR PRINTING.

L. J. Burgess

Here in India we have about one fifth of the population of the world, very few of whom understand English. The children are learning, but those who have reached maturity and must hear the message in this generation will need it in their own tongue. We cannot fail to notice also how fond the people of India are of reading.

We should feel thankful that a small beginning has been made in printing the message in the language of the people of this promising field. We have leaflets in Bengali, Santali, Hindi and Urdu, representing a population of over 100,000,000.

In our experience in preparing the Pamphlet "The Sanatan Susama-char" or "The Everlasting Gospel," we have found that there is much efficient help to be freely and willingly obtained from those who know both the native and English languages. The plan which we have followed in this work has been to first prepare an article in simple English and then take it to some native friend who was interested in the subject. He would study it over carefully and then put the thought into good Hindi. Then we would read it over with others to see if they could understand it easily. In this way the article would soon be gotten into satisfactory style. Several Christian

men have thus become interested in the Message.

Heretofore we have had only small leaflets in Hindi for free distribution, but this pamphlet should sell readily for one anna per copy. This will open up a field for colporter work.

A REPORT FROM BENGAL.

Gopalgunj, East Bengal is a very sickly place where Europeans can not stay. Though the language is Bengali yet there are as many as fifteen different dialects. During the rainy season we can not get around at all except in boats. The houses are built upon stilts, and the people are very poor.

I think that we have in all about forty-five families that are keeping the Sabbath. It is very hard for them for most of the land belongs to different missions, and as soon as they find out that any one is keeping the Sabbath they give him a notice to move off the land, and as many have to work for missions, they will not hire any one that keeps the Sabbath but will hire any other Christian, or Hindu.

At Gopalgunj there lived an old man over 30 years ago that had been a leper all his early life and being a Hindu he began calling upon all his Hindu gods. One day he saw a man coming up to their little town in a boat. He went to him and asked who was his God. This man was a missionary, and so told him about the true God and gave him a copy of St. Matthew. The leper took it and read it and here he found that it was Jesus of Nazareth that healed the lepers. He began to pray and his leprosy was cured. This took place thirty-one years ago.

When we went down there we circulated the tract "Jesus Christ was a Sabbath keeper" and we gave him one but he paid no attention to it. As we held meetings, he soon observed that his congregation was falling off, and this worried him. He went to his head missionary and they told him to study the tract and reply to it. He came home and found the tract and read it, and saw that Jesus did keep the Sabbath. So there was nothing else for him to do but keep it. The mission people and came took his little house from him and sold his pony telling him that they would be returned any time he gave up the Sabbath. This took place eight months ago and he has been faithful to the truth so far.

A. C. Mookerjee.

EASTERN TIDINGS.

INTERNATIONAL TRACT SOCIETY.

39-1 Free School Street, Calcutta.

Eld. Shaw, Eld. Thompson, and Eld. Miller accompanied by Bro. and Sr. Burgess have been looking about for the Mountain Home. They have visited Simla, Kasauli, Mussourie, and other places in their vicinity but the spot has not yet been decided upon. We expect their return soon, and will in all probability be able to speak definitely as to the location of the Home in our next number.

We have been much encouraged with the "Special Campaign" work from the very first. All the workers who have sent reports are having success in taking orders for our papers. Some have sent in no reports thus far, but we look for a word from them soon. For the benefit of the canvassers we would request that every possible effort be made to take cash orders instead of V. P. Post. The latter are very uncertain as not more than half remit the money for the paper.

We had hoped that ere this some definite move toward entering Koro could be reported. But things move slowly in the East. The land has not been obtained thus far on account of our not being able to see the raja who owns it. We hope to be able to report something definite in our next number.

Let our canvassers make the special series of articles on Spiritualism a strong point in presenting the paper. We have received letters already, showing interest in the subject though but one article has

appeared. Not only so, but the news papers have been filled during the past few weeks with reports of seance and hypnotic manifestations so that an interest has been aroused in the subject. Bro. Thompson's articles are timely.

A TESTIMONIAL.

"I was very glad to receive your letter of the 1st inst. regarding the renewal of my annual subscription to the *Oriental Watchman*. I will remit Rs. 2 by money order, before the end of this month. Allow me to wish the *Oriental Watchman* a career of increasing success and usefulness.

"I take great interest in the subject of Spiritualism, which I consider to be one of the great enemies of the truth as it is in Jesus. Spiritualism is based on the unscriptural doctrine of the "Immortality of the Soul," and as the great majority of Christians accept this teaching Spiritualism is a very dangerous foe to the faith of the Gospel. I will, D. V., carefully follow the special articles on this subject, that are about to appear in the *Watchman*.

"No one except myself among the leading representatives of our mission, gives a thought to the great subject of the second advent of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. I have taken a deep and solemn interest in the Second Advent for the last thirty eight years. I have attempted off and on to awaken the minds of the mission people to the importance of the subject, but they are inclined to jeer at it. May the spirit of Jesus open their hearts to His truth."

Let this encourage our hearts in the work of placing the *Watchman* in as many of India's homes as possible.