

INDIA UNION TIDINGS

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No. 20

Among the Indians of Fiji

It is just six months since we set sail from the homeland to labour among the Indians of Fiji. These Indians have been indentured from India, to work on the plantations of this country. They have been drafted out in such large numbers that the population of Indians has almost reached that of the Fijians.

Our work for these people was first opened up by Mrs. E. Meyers, Sen., about six years ago, and during this time the seed has been sown faithfully year by year, without seeing any definite results for the efforts put forth; yet with untiring zeal the work was carried on, relying on God's promise that if we cast our bread upon the waters we shall find it after many days (Eccl. 11:1).

It was on Sunday evening, June 9, 1918, that we saw this promise fulfilled. Just as the sun was taking its last look on another day, casting its golden rays on the blue waters of the Pacific, Pastor Steed led out from the little beach at Buresala three Indian believers to be buried with their Lord in baptism. It was indeed a joyful day for us to see the first-fruits of our labours presented to the Lord. We can see by faith in this small beginning, a people raised up from the Indians of Fiji who will stand on the shores eternal, monuments of the saving power of Jesus Christ.

All three of these men are direct from heathenism,—two from Hinduism and one from Mohammedanism. The last-mentioned man has held the position of a Mohammedan priest in the district where

he lives; but he now goes back, not to tell the story of Mohamet, the false prophet, but to proclaim the glad tidings of Jesus' soon coming as King of kings and Lord of lords.

One of the Hindu converts has met with opposition from his people for becoming a Christian, his father-in-law abusing him with all the vilest language that could be used. But this brother has stood firm, and his faith has grown stronger in God through this trial.

It has been my privilege since coming here to hold studies with three educated Indians who are government officials. These men are deeply interested, and through the studies have been led to give up drinking and smoking. Most of the truth has been presented to them, and one of them has expressed himself by saying, "I have lost my faith in my own religion and am praying for faith to grasp the new."

One of the local ministers endeavoured to prove to them that the law was abolished, and that there was no further need of observing the Sabbath. They asked him if he would interview me on the subject in their presence. He agreed to do this, and one Thursday night they came over to my home to have the study.

I prayed earnestly that God would show this minister the light if he were open to conviction. At the end of the study I asked if there were any questions that they would care to ask, but there were none excepting the remark from this minister that there was no doubt that the seventh day was the right Sabbath, that he was glad that he had been able to be present at the study, and

that he was ready to receive any further light. I lent him the book. "History of the Sabbath," and he is now investigating the truth. To God be the praise for giving us a truth that can stand all the tests to which it is put.

Remember in your prayers these who have stepped out and also the interested ones in this field. The names of the three Indians

who have accepted the truth are these; Suchit, Ram Khalon, and Abdul Rahim. We have many difficulties to meet with in our work, and Satan has his subjects well steeped in heathenism. We often wonder how we can reach them, but God has said, "Go," and then added the promise, "Lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world." D. MEYERS.

An Evidence of Progress

In East Bengal there are eight out-station Sabbath schools under the supervision of Pastor L. G. Mookerjee. A comparison of their membership and offerings for six quarters presents some very interesting facts.

1917	Membership	Offerings
First quarter,	52	Rs. 1- 4-3
Second quarter,	53	3- 0-6
Third quarter,	52	4- 9-6
Fourth quarter,	48	9-14-9
1918		
First quarter,	71	7-12-3
Second quarter,	90	17-11-9

The membership has increased in number,

as more and more of the Indian brethren have been encouraged to become active members of the Sabbath school. As the membership has increased, so the offerings have increased, only in greater proportion. For the first quarter 1917 the average offering per capita for the entire quarter was one pice; but for the second quarter 1918 the average for each member was three annas thus making the average per capita one pice for each Sabbath instead of one pice for thirteen Sabbaths. In many cases the giving of this money has meant sacrifice, but the greater the sacrifice, the greater the blessing.

MRS. I. F. BLUE.

A Wonderful Blind Man

Mr. Bruen of Taiku, says *The Record of Christian Work*, tells of a blind sorcerer who was convicted of sin on hearing street preaching, renounced his lucrative business and Sunday after Sunday groped his way fifteen li (six miles) to attend church.

To learn the Bible he cut up Standard Oil tin cans into 5,000 small squares with a hole through each. These he threaded on a string, making indentations in different corners to indicate various letters of the Korean alphabet. The final consonants he indicated by 2,000 pieces of wood of varying shapes. His plan was to have a friend read out John's gospel while he formed

sentence after sentence by threading his tin and wooden squares on a string. Then by running his fingers over the crude types, he committed to memory the first six chapters. Later he heard from church members about Mrs. Samuel Moffat's school for the blind at Peng Yang and groped his way thither 300 miles on foot. In a month he had learned to read by the New York point system. He thinks that in three years he will have memorized the whole of the New Testament. Now he is at work among the hundreds of blind Korean sorcers.—*The Herald of Light*.

Here and There

We made a mistake in the last issue. Brother and Sister Skinner's girl is a boy.

Brother C. C. Keller has been elected a member of the Trained Nurses' Association of India. He is the first male member.

News has reached us of the deaths of Pastors R. C. Porter and G. I. Butler; Miss E. M. Graham, secretary of the Home Missionary Department; and of Mr. Plummer, husband of Mrs. F. L. Plummer, secretary of the S. S. Department.

There are said to be more S. D. A. young men in the American army in proportion to our membership than any other denomination. This fact is attributed to their temperate habits of living.

The sale of *The Return of Jesus, World in Perplexity, World War, and United States in Prophecy*, was recently suspended by our American publishers pending a hearing before the American authorities. The hearing resulted in their being immediately released.

Did you ever read what Sir James Meston has said regarding cigarettes? And did you know that the *Statesman* does not favour their use, editorially, although it carries their advertisements? The new tract, *The Deadly Cigarette*, hits the nail on the head from an Indian standpoint. It also contains a message for our tobacco-using friends. Price, 2 pice.

A booklet entitled *What Will Happen After the War* is soon to be published in Gurmukhi, the language of the Sikhs and Punjabis, it being the first permanent literature in this tongue. It will be well illustrated.

The Western Oregon Conference was able to give tangible proof of its support of the Red Cross by lending proof all the Conference

tents for housing the homeless people of a town which had been destroyed by fire. They were the only tents which could be obtained by the Red Cross.

It is interesting to know that a S. D. A. "hut" is to be established in France for our boys where those who are invalided or on leave may go and be under the influences of an Adventist home. An experienced man and his wife will be in charge.

A daily paper published in the State of Washington, United States of America, reports the results of a religious census of a large training camp for soldiers. In answer to the question, "What church or religious sect do you prefer?" one hundred and forty-nine responded, "Seventh-day Adventists." Yet the records of our people showed only twenty-five. This is another evidence that there are more people who believe this message than we are aware of.

The offerings of American and Canadian Adventists for the first quarter of 1918 averaged \$7.34 tithes, 1.08 for foreign missions, 1.41 S. S. offerings, 49 cents for home missions, 90 cents miscellaneous offerings, a total of \$11.22 per capita.

At the missionary meeting on Wednesday evening, June 19, the members of the Wahroonga Australia, Church, together with a number of visiting friends, were favoured in having with them the present native ruler of the Loyalty Islands and New Caledonia, known to his people as King Watriama III.

The king has been serving with the Commonwealth forces since the outbreak of the war in 1914. He has seen active service in New Guinea and the adjacent islands occupied by the British, early in the war, and also has spent some time with the colonial forces in France. Since being wounded,

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he has returned from the front and is spending a little time in Australia studying certain industries with the view of improving his country.

We were interested to learn of the good work that has been done by the early missionaries in these islands. King Watriama repeatedly assured us that his people would welcome any Protestant missionary, and he hoped we would soon send one to them.

As yet these rich and fertile islands are on the list of "unentered fields" and from their king we heard again the Macedonian cry, "Come over and help us." We look forward to the time when this part of the field will be brought under the dominion of the King of kings.—*Record*.

Rs. 450,000 have been given by an anonymous donor in the U. S. through the Presbyterian Mission for the erection of suitable buildings for the China Continuation Committee which corresponds to the India National Missionary Council, and the Presbyterian Board has given a site for the building in Shanghai.

One of the Hindu members of the Imperial Legislative Council has introduced a bill for validating intercaste marriage between Hindus. The Bill will "enact that whatever words spoken and things done constitute a valid Hindu marriage in the

case of two persons who belong to a group within which marriage is permitted at present, will constitute a binding marriage even if the two persons are outside such a group, any custom or law to the contrary notwithstanding." We trust that Government will do nothing to hinder such a progressive measure.

The representative Conference of missionary Societies of Great Britain and Ireland have, with the consent of the Colonial Office, commenced the formation of a Trading Company to take over the industries of the Basel Missions in Africa and perhaps India.

We learn through other missionary publications that the British Government at one time last year were considering the advisability of shutting out all non-British missionary activity from the colonies. As the result of representation from British missionaries of influence who feared reprisals in countries not under British rule, a revised scheme for the control of missionary propaganda has been approved by the India Office and the Government of India.

Under this arrangement Government will recognize the British and American Conferences of Missionary Societies, and the National Missionary Council of India, *as bodies on whose judgment it may rely in recognizing societies and individuals*. In other words, this means that missions which are not represented on the National Missionary Council will be restricted according to the prejudices of the leaders of this Council, through the Government, and there will be no opportunity of appeal from their decisions. The night is coming in which no man can work.

"Those who accept the one principle of making the service and honour of God supreme, will find perplexities vanish, and a plain path before their feet."