

INDIA UNION TIDINGS

VOL. 14

LUCKNOW, INDIA, December 1, 1919

No. 23

The Conference to be Held at Ranchi

In company with Brother Williams, the writer reached Ranchi on the 19th of November, where we were met by Brother Burgess. We found Ranchi a very pleasant and attractive station, and were especially pleased with the quarters that had been offered us for the use of the delegates who would attend the conference should it be held there. The rooms are large, airy, well-lighted, and reasonably well furnished. To secure similar accommodation in one of the large cities would be both difficult and expensive.

There are ten suites of rooms already available; each of which will comfortably accommodate four families. A large building used as a mess house is also placed at our disposal, in which we will be able to have the general dining rooms and committee rooms, besides accommodating another six families.

The executive engineer at our request will reserve for us another nineteen or twenty rooms as they become available through the departure of members of the staff from Ranchi. We estimate that this will provide for not only our workers, but also such church members as may attend the meeting.

We have asked for the reservation of nine of the Indian staff officers' quarters. These quarters contain three rooms each, and will provide comfortably for our Indian delegates.

For the holding of the meetings we are planning for the erection of a temporary structure near the building in which the dining rooms will be located. It is intended to erect a frame of wood, with mat walls, and tiled roof. The space thus enclosed will be 60x35 feet. After the conference the materials will be used for the erection of dormitories in connection with the Bengali Boys' School, which the brethren are planning to conduct at Ranchi.

The government officials are doing all they can to assist us in our preparations for the conference, and we greatly appreciate the consideration they are showing us.

On our return to Lucknow a meeting of the Union Mission Committee was held, and it was definitely decided to hold the conference at Ranchi. Brother L. W. Melendy was appointed to take general charge of the preparation of accommodation, reception of delegates, etc, Brethren L. J. Burgess and C. C. Kellar to form a committee with him for the oversight of that work. Sister Manson has consented to take charge of the catering. Food will be served on the cafeteria plan. We are asking Brother Semmens to help in that department by taking charge of the counter, and Brother Leech to supervise the buying.

The prospects for a successful meeting seem to be good, so far as the provision to meet the temporal necessities is concerned. What may we expect in the way of spiritual help and blessing? We believe the Lord is ready to bless his people as never before. We must not depend on any of our brethren for the spiritual success of this meeting. Let us each one seek to come to the conference in the fullness of the blessing of the gospel of Christ. If we are all of one accord in drawing nigh to God we may confidently expect that He will visit us, and will give us the help that we need for the solemn times in which we live.

W. W. FLETCHER.

Vernacular Sessions of the Coming Conference

I am sure that every vernacular worker in the India Union Mission rejoices at the thought of the pleasure we shall have of discussing together at the coming conference some of the many interesting questions that come to us in the vernacular work.

The committee has promised us at least one hour each day of the conference for our work. We may even be granted a little more time if it is necessary. I am sure that we all appreciate this very much.

In thinking over the matter it was thought best to ask certain of the brethren to prepare papers on some of the most important questions, and then after each paper is read, throw the meeting open for a general discussion on the paper presented at that time. The leader of the discussion will be appointed beforehand.

We will likely have seven or eight meetings, and for these meetings six subjects have been chosen, and writers appointed. It perhaps is needless to say that we do not feel that these six subjects anything like cover the ground that we should like to see covered at this meeting, but the topics chosen we feel are important, and will be interesting to every one.

As we wish every one to feel free to take part in the discussions, we give herewith the topics suggested so that all may be thinking along these lines.

- (1) "Language Study."
- (2) "The Relation of the European Missionary to His Indian Workers and Believers."
- (3) "Standard of Admission to Church."
- (4) "Production of Suitable Literature for Indians."
- (5) "Adoption of some Simple Form of 'Service' for our Vernacular Churches."
- (6) "How to Successfully Open up Work in a New Station."

As suggested before, there are many other questions that will likely come up and should have time for consideration. To meet this need we plan to have two "open days", that is days, without any set program on. The time that is allotted to us these two days can be utilized in discussing various questions which do not appear in the programme. All those who have questions that they would like to have discussed should send them in to me at least a few days before the beginning of the conference, so that the different topics can be arranged and leaders appointed to lead out in answering questions or discussions. Some have already sent in some questions.

No one, of course, will get the idea that any of us are infallible, or that we are

likely to fully solve all the questions that may come up. But one thing is certain, and that is that much good will come from a thorough discussion of the problems that confront us in the vernacular work. We can at least compare notes and exchange experiences, which will certainly be helpful.

We hope that this programme will be a success, and to this end, let us not only study and plan, but also pray the Heavenly Father, who knows all about our difficulties and problems, for help and guidance.

G. G. LOWRY.

The Union Office

The Lucknow office is rejoicing in the possession of a Burroughs Adding Machine which will save us many weary hours of figuring, and will help us keep well abreast of our work. This last year has been an exceptional one for sickness amongst the office staff, at one time four out of five workers being absent together, apart from the fact too, that the press was running under emergency arrangements.

We are glad though that all are well again now, and are grateful to our Heavenly Father for His mercies toward us. By dint of putting in overtime we are rapidly catching up with all arrears; and with the more ample staff now available permanently, we hope the word "arrears" will no longer be needed in our vocabulary.

The forbearance with which one and all throughout the field have submitted to the inconveniences incidental to our work being somewhat delayed, has been greatly appreciated.

All are busy now preparing for Conference, which we pray may be a real season of refreshing.

A. H. W.

Important

To bring our work into line with the possibilities of our adding machine, it will be necessary for us to eliminate all 'half-pies' from our calculations. Will all workers therefore please note that it will greatly help us if they can arrange to adjust their accounts with us so that these fractions of a pie do not occur. This will affect only those in whose neighbourhood the half-pie

coin is current. We would suggest as an easy way of adjusting matters, that if the fraction of a pie occurs, one substitute two pie coins in his cash box for the half-pice, thus adding half a pie to the S. S. offerings or whatever other item is responsible for the offending fraction.

The office will be glad to reimburse any worker who finds this method of adjustment a serious drain on his personal finances.

A. H. WILLIAMS.

A Visit to Garwhal and Najibabad.

In company with Pastor Blue the writer made his first visit to Garwhal and Najibabad. It was an opportunity that we had for some time desired to embrace, and we are glad to report a very pleasant time. Garwhal was first visited, and here we met Brother and Sister Floyd W. Smith. We enjoyed the few days of association with them very much indeed. They are off the beaten paths of travel, and Sister Smith tells us that she has not seen a European woman since early in the year. But we did not find these workers complaining and lonesome, although longing for some good visits with their brethren and sisters. We found them deeply engrossed with their work, and busy in it from morning to night.

They have the care of a school of eighty boys, and that with language and other study, the daily counsel with their staff of teachers, talks with the villagers, caring for the sick which includes attending to serious accidents, all this quite consumes the time.

The view of the great range of snowcapped mountains was most wonderful. We thought that we could never tire of looking at them. As we looked at these lofty peaks how mighty does the Creator and how small do we appear!

On our return journey we stopped at Najibabad, and had some good visits with our Indian brethren there. Here we were entertained by Brother Buddha Singh and wife, and we must say that it was a real pleasure to be with them and enjoy real Indian entertainment. We have eaten food at the hands of our brethren in many parts of the world, but this was a little different from any thing before. Certainly we shall agree with the wise man when he said that man has sought out many inventions. All

the food recipes are not in the cook books. Well, we are glad for good kind brethren the world over. May the Lord bless them, and use them mightily here among the millions of their people.

Wherever we look there are so many opportunities, and the need of labourers is so great. We pray that God will give wisdom in planning for the work in these stations that we visited. At Najibabad we have a good bungalow vacant at present because of the physical breakdown of a labourer. Our forces are altogether inadequate. Let us continually pray that the Lord of the vineyard may raise up still other workers here in India and elsewhere that the work may be cared for that soon the day of triumph may come.

J. E. FULTON.

Among the Colporteurs of Bengal

Although we do not write very much we do appreciate the bi-weekly visit of our Union organ, "THE TIDINGS"; and we are persuaded by its reports that the time has come when fruit from the many years of faithful seed sowing, is ripe for the garner.

Since my last report many interesting and profitable experiences have come our way, for which I thank God. One which the other members of the family may be interested in, is my first tour among the Bengali canvassers.

Instead of calling the men together in the usual manner for an Institute, it was decided that I should visit each worker in his respective field of labour, thus becoming better acquainted with the joys and perplexities of each. Accordingly the first canvasser, Brother P. C. Dey, was visited in Cooch Behar state in the northern part of Bengal. We spent a day at the home of Brother and Sister Sircar, whom brother Dey had been instrumental in winning to the Message, while engaged in the literature work there. They are very earnest Christians, and are working for their neighbours, and now a Hindu woman has accepted the message through their efforts. To-day the two eldest girls of the family, who are pupils in our Girl's School, were baptized. The next day we started for Dhubri where Brother Dey was located for some time and canvassed the district. It was in the quietude of the Sabbath on the

bank of the Bramaputra that the vastness of our work dawned upon me, as it had never done before.

As I viewed that town with its eighty thousand inhabitants without perhaps even one Indian Christian among them, I wondered how they were going to be warned of Christ's coming in this generation which is so far spent. There was a little consolation in the fact that for the first time our denominational literature was being exhibited for those who were willing to purchase.

Sunday morning found me aboard the boat for Mymensingh where Brother and Sister Jelowitz are faithfully upholding the banner of truth, they being our only representatives among the three and one-half millions residing in the district. By mid-day Wednesday I was in Dacca enjoying the kind hospitality of Pastor Mookerjee. Here I met with three of our workers, two men who had some months' experience (in fact Brother Haidar has canvassed for years, and has since graduated into Bible Work), and another new man. We had an interesting and profitable time together.

Sunday morning I was again seated on the train which took me to another native state, Agartala, where Bro. Akshay Mundle had been selling literature. As a result of his work six bright young Hindu men requested me to remain until evening and answer some Biblical questions for them, which I was pleased to do. It is said that "necessity is the mother of invention"; so here I was obliged to throw away my timidity of using the Bengali language and give my first Bengali Bible Study; and it was an interesting time indeed.

The Maharaja of Agartala is opposed to aggressive gospel work in his State, but permits the sale of gospel literature; therefore, let us pray that God will use the printed pages which have been circulated there.

The next stopping place was at Chanpur, where we found Brother Indra Bairagia in a hovel just 6 ft. by 3 ft. 6 inches, made of mats, which made it very convenient for thieves to break through and relieve him of his umbrella, shoes, shirt, coat and dhoti, a few days before our arrival. Naturally this was a little discouraging to him, and

he was very happy to see his friends happen in. These circumstances afforded an opportunity for the writer to follow the Bible injunction regarding the two coats. By the kindness of the station master we secured a small room in the guard's running quarters for Indra before our departure and provided him with a new umbrella. Thus we were able to leave him a happier and more comfortable boy than when we arrived. Although he is a mere youth, he is doing well and bids fair to become one of our best salesmen.

From there Bro. Akshay went down to Chittagong where our territory meets that of our friends in Burma. It being a large sea port, he meets many Burmese, and has asked to be permitted to go and canvass in Rangoon. Of course I could not listen to that at all.

My next landing place was at Barisal, where after spending Sabbath and Sunday with Chandra Kumar Haldar, who was struggling amidst difficulties, my tour was brought to a close by a wire calling me to attend an important committee meeting in Calcutta. Later a visit to Khulna, where two more of our men work, completed the round, which has awakened in me a deeper sympathy for the Bengali canvassers, because I now realize to some extent what they have to contend with.

Brethren and sisters, will you remember this section of India's book work in your daily devotions? Pray that God will raise up faithful men to scatter the printed page, and that he will provide means and ways that we may soon have literature that can be sold on a self-supporting basis.

In closing I may add a few words about the "Ingathering". While other parts of the Union are (we hope) rejoicing in Goals exceeded by donations, Bengal is behind again. We thought it advisable to postpone our campaign until Dec. 1-5. We have however, broken the ice and have Rs. 600 in hand.

W. H. STEVENS.

Karmatar.

It has been some time since I have made a report of our work through the "TIDINGS," though I am sure you all are interested in this station.

I am glad to say that notwithstanding the famine conditions which have prevailed

in this region, and the spirit of lawlessness that seems to have taken hold of the people generally, we have reason to believe that the Lord is moving upon the hearts of the people and the precious seed that has been sown for so many years in this vicinity will at last bear fruit.

We have this year twelve boys and fourteen girls in the boarding schools, besides a fair number of day students. And I am glad to say that there seems to be an earnest desire on the part of several to have a deeper Christian experience. Two of the teachers and one of the students are preparing for baptism, and several in our midst who are not church members are now paying their tithe.

Our little hospital building was finished last year and it has already proved a blessing to many sick and suffering ones. Though we do not have the large number of patients that some of our dispensaries have, yet there is evidence that the people of the vicinity are gaining confidence in our methods of treatment of the sick. I might mention the case of a wealthy zemindar who lives some ten or twelve miles from here as an illustration. About a year and a half ago, his little son was very badly burned by hot milk. The burned area was so large that it did not seem possible that the little boy could live. However, with much prayer for divine help we set to work and applied soothing dressings to the suffering little body. With the Lord's blessing, within two weeks he had entirely recovered, and to-day there is not even a scar remaining. The father was very grateful of course, and since that time has been a frequent visitor, taking treatment himself and bringing his wife, children and other relatives. He also recommends our hospital to his friends.

Though we have not seen any direct conversions as a result of our medical work, we believe it is a means in God's hands of winning the confidence of the people and opening the way for the gospel.

We ask an interest in your prayers for the work in this place.

C. C. KELLAR.

Lasalgaon.

We are preaching in the villages every day, making regular rounds of the district. The people listen very respectfully, and

pay splendid attention. Once or twice, when a man from another village has been among the listeners, he has invited us to his village, assuring us of a good hearing.

With our present program of studies every day for the workers on various phases of Hinduism, and how to meet them, we can only visit one village a day, this one trip averaging about an eight mile tramp. This is an agricultural section, and the villages are scattered; but later on when we have absorbed more experience and a freer knowledge of Hinduism, we shall have our self-advancement meetings twice a week; so giving us time to preach in more than one village a day.

Two or three times we have had pretty stiff debates with Brahmins; but each time we have been enabled to more than hold our own. In one village the Brahmins tried to drive the people away from listening to us. This started a debate which lasted for two hours. By that time, Brahminism, and its results on India, had been laid bare to such an extent, that the people drove the Brahmins off, accusing them of having spoiled the country and ruined the people. Then the "common people" returned and "heard of Christ gladly."

The low caste people of several villages have asked us to establish a school for their children; either a day school or a boarding school. We could have seventy or eighty young boys and girls learning Christian teaching to-day, if we only had the funds for building. And after all, we need nothing elaborate. Neither have we school facilities for the children of our Marathi workers in the Bombay Presidency; at least not for girls. We hope that the brethren will be able to take a fairly "broad view" of the needs of this Presidency at the coming Conference.

The medical work is still doing its bit to create a good impression, and to help the people. Mrs. Loasby averages about two hundred patients a month. Moreover, she makes it pay from a financial standpoint, though her work lies mostly among the poor labouring castes. After eight months work, she has not only bought all her medicines, and in addition some furniture and instruments without going into debt; but has to date about Rs. 25/- in hand, as well as a stock of medicines worth about Rs. 100/-. As Mrs. Loasby attends to her

patients every day, washing their filthy sores, compounding the medicines herself, occasionally going seven or eight miles in a native tonga in the heat of the day to attend a sick person, then doing the hundred and one things about a house, I agree with Brother Blue that "we ought to appreciate these good wives of ours more."

I would like to add that if any English Sabbath-school has any picture rolls to spare, and will send the same to me, we shall be extremely obliged; for they are exceedingly useful in our preaching work.

R. E. LOASBY.

Encouraging News from Nazareth.

While in Ceylon, I had the privilege of preaching to crowd of the Church of England people, who paid strict attention to my sermon. At the end of my discourse, I told them the reason of my special mission to Ceylon at the time. After having talked over the matter among themselves for a few minutes, they gave me Rs. 25/- requesting me to accept it as their gift for our proposed church building at this place.

When I returned from Ceylon I brought with me Rs. 746/- as donations received for our church building, of which Rs. 446/- was given by our people and the remainder by friends. Even though I visited Ceylon at a time when rice and other articles of food were very scarce and dear, I was given hearty receptions both by friends and strangers, in all the houses I called at. I felt the guiding hand of our Heavenly Father during this trip, for which I thanked Him many a time.

Ever since I returned from Ceylon, influenza has raged in these villages. Nearly all our workers, students, and many members of our congregation were laid up with it for several weeks. I had to spend most of my time in attending to them. At this writing, all have recovered, for which we feel very grateful to God.

Two ingathering services are held at this station every year. The first one for this year was held in April when Rs. 617/- was received from our people. The second was held on the 30th of October. Rs. 416/- was realized in tithes and offerings on that day. In the year 1911 when we first proposed to start this kind of ingathering service it caused us a great deal of anxiety,

as the majority of our adherents were very poor in this world's goods. The collection in that first service amounted to Rs. 79/-. There has since been a steady growth. There has never been a word of grumbling among our people for holding these services so regularly. I feel very much encouraged to see a great change in the hearts of our people year after year. Those who used to be indifferent some years ago in paying tithes and other offerings have now begun to honestly pay their tithes in all the presents and dowries (such as eggs, fruits, clothes, and cattle, etc.) received from their friends and relations. None of us have become poor by giving these offerings; on the other hand we feel very thankful to our Heavenly Father for the many rich blessings we have been receiving from His hands.

Two baptismal services were held very recently, in which six were baptized and united with the Church.

Our students and teachers are at present working very hard for the half-yearly examination which will come off in the second week of December. There are now 96 students on the roll, 28 of whom are boarders; 20 boys and 8 girls. I am very glad to note that all our teachers devote much time and effort to molding the minds and character of the children according to the Divine Model.

I am in receipt of a postcard of late from a friend, who writes, "I have been keeping the Sabbath since the 8th instant. The agent of our sugar factory has given me leave on Sabbaths. I have sent you my tithe for the last month by M. O. Kindly accept it and remember me in your prayers."

The outlook is bright all round for a good harvest in due season, as a result of good work, which is being done far and near, by our faithful colporteurs. We are all of good courage and are pressing the battle forward. Kindly continue to remember us at the throne of grace so that we may be faithful to the end.

E. D. THOMAS.

Four of our missionaries sat for the recent language examinations in Lucknow, and all passed with good grades. Brother and Sister S. A. Wellman passed in the second year Urdu, and Brethren A. H. Williams and N. C. Burns in the first year of the Urdu Course.

Statistical Report

OF THE INDIA UNION MISSION FOR THE QUARTER ENDING SEPTEMBER 30TH 1919

	TOTALS	UNION	BENGAL	BOMBAY	BURMA	NORTH INDIA	SOUTH INDIA
CHURCHES							
Number of Churches	26		7	3	4	4	8
Membership	914		244	71	151	197	251
Baptized during Qr.	45		11	1	3	20	10
Nett incrs. " "	50		12	3	2	27	6
TITHE							
Total Receipts	Rs. 13,481 14 0	6437 5 9	1353 4 0	928 2 0	1097 8 9	3205 10 6	459 15 0
OFFERINGS							
Sabbath-School	Rs. 1,746 7 9		249 0 6	408 14 4	251 3 9	638 6 6	198 14 8
13th Sabbath	404 11 1		105 1 0	16 3 0	121 0 9	156 1 3	6 5 1
Harvest Ingathering	2,449 8 0		1121 8 0			1328 0 0	
Annual Offering	19 2 0				19 2 0		
Other Offerings (except for local church expense)	90 1 3		2 8 0		8 0 0	48 1 0	31 8 3
Total Offerings	4 709 14 1		1478 1 6	425 1 4	399 6 6	2170 8 9	236 12 0

A. H. WILLIAMS.

Instruction to those Coming to the Union Mission Session to be held at Ranchi, Dec. 25, 1919—Jan. 4, 1920.

Please bring:—

- Camp cots;
- Ample bedding, including mattresses, and warm clothing (frost is sometimes known in Ranchi).
- Cutlery sufficient for your family and jharans for drying.
- Table napkins;
- Small mirror;
- Enamel washbowl;
- Hot water bags or bottles;
- Towels, soap and other toilet requisites;
- A drinking water bottle (Surahi; kuja; jalla; kusau.) for your own room;
- Hymn books (C. in S. and 'Hymns and Tunes');
- A hurricane lantern, if available.

Information desired from those planning to attend the Union Mission Session to be Held at Ranchi, Dec. 25, 1919 to Jan. 4, 1920.

- Number of men in your family party?
- Number of ladies in your family party?

- Number of children in your family party (3 years-14 years)?.....
- Number of children in your family party (under 3 years)?.....
- What date will you reach Ranchi?.....
- How many camp cots can you bring?
- Will you require all meals at the cafeteria?.....
- Will you require only breakfast at the cafeteria?.....
- Will you require only dinner at the cafeteria?.....
- Will you need a milk supply for your children? If so, how much?.....
- Have you other special requirements?....
- Have you any suggestions regarding accommodation, etc.?.....

Answers to the foregoing questions should be posted promptly, to:—Mr. L. W. Melendy, Poste Restante Ranchi.

Brother and Sister L. W. Melendy arrived in Lucknow the 27th inst., and will be in Lucknow for a few days before proceeding to Ranchi for the work to which Brother Melendy has been assigned in connection with the General Meeting.

India Union Tidings,

ORGAN OF THE

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The call for delegates to bring camp cots does not mean that any need purchase cots for this purpose unless they wish to do so. But all who have cots should certainly bring them. None should fail to provide themselves with warm mattresses to sleep on as well as sufficient covering.

Brother and Sister Earle R. Reynolds, and Brother and Sister Arthur Nelson have reached Bombay by the S. S. "Dunera". The former are appointed to work in the Guj-rati and will begin at once with the study of Gujerat. Brother Nelson is to act as leader in the vernacular literature work of the North India Mission, and will come to Lucknow to study Urdu. We extend a very cordial welcome to these new missionaries, whose arrival will gladden the hearts of all our workers.

Harvest Ingathering Campaign, 1919-20.

Report of Progress.

Nov. 26, 1919.

Bengal.—

No Copies Ordered,	800
Amount Collected to Date, Rs.	600

Burma.—

No Copies Ordered,	700
Amount Collected to Date, Rs.	112

Bombay Pres. Mission.

No Copies Ordered,	600
Amount Collected to Date, Rs.	678

South India.

No Copies Ordered,	500
Amount Collected to Date,	nil.

North India.

No Copies Ordered,	1,000
Amount Collected to Date, Rs.	

The Telugu Work.

The interest in our English Sabbath meetings increases, and we have good reason to believe that the seed of truth is falling in good soil. A number of educated Indians attend the services from time to time. Some English people have been very regular in attendance. One earnest man has not missed a meeting.

This morning an Indian woman asked for baptism. She needs further instruction, but doubtless will take her stand for the whole message.

Some extracts from a letter in this morning's mail encourage us and may encourage others. A young Telugu man writes. "I thank you again for the eight tracts you gave me. They have the flavour of true knowledge. I see that Sunday is not the true Sabbath and that the seventh day of the week is the real Sabbath. I loaned the tracts to friends after reading them, and find myself constantly speaking about the Sabbath truth. But I find many Christians firmly believe that the Seventh-day Adventist Mission is false on account of false representations. People say that you teach things that you do not really teach. I realize that your mission is preaching a heaven born message, and I truly enjoy with my whole heart the truth preached by your mission. I want to visit you again soon to learn more of the truth."

Brother Jacob is settled in Vizagapatam, and has commenced work with a nice class of people. We appreciate his help, and trust the Lord will bless the efforts he puts forth in this needy field.

We request the readers of the TIDINGS to remember the millions of needy Telugu people in their prayers.

HUGH L. PEDEN.

TORNBLAD: Brother Carl Tornblad was born in Kalma, Sweden, August, 22nd, 1870. He accepted present truth, and was united in marriage with Dr. Ollie Oberholtzer, in 1910. He fell asleep in Jesus at the Mission House in Kemmendine, November 3, 1919. We laid him to rest beside Pastor Lowry where together they await the coming of the Life-giver. Dr. Tornblad mourns her loss. Words of comfort were spoken by the writer from Rev. 14:13. "Blessed are the dead that die in the Lord from henceforth." G. A. HAMILTON.