

# New South Wales Conference.

Ethelbert Davis.

FROM April 2 to April 10 the fifty-fourth annual conference sessions assembled under the capable presidency of F. E. Alcorn.

On Monday evening, April 3, at the City Temple, the president's reception was held. The function was well attended, and a remarkably fine spirit prevailed, setting the standard of harmony and fellowship for the whole of the conference meetings. At this conference every country preacher save one was in attendance. Two new preachers were welcomed to the State—A. C. MacLean, of City Temple, and P. D. McCallum, Epping.

The president took as the theme for his presidential address, "The Church's Message in the Present Crisis." It was a clear statement of the church's duty in relation to the problems confronting a distracted world, and a call to spiritual rearmament in order to meet the new challenge. Refreshments were provided by the sisters' conference.

The devotional sessions of conference were conducted by P. D. McCallum, who spoke on "The Patience of God"; A. C. MacLean, who took as his subject, "The Divinity of Forgiveness"; and R. L. Arnold, whose theme was "Love."

## Conference Executive.

The executive in presenting the annual report made special reference to the passing of Bren. L. Rossell, T. C. Walker and Joseph Whelan, whose service in brotherhood interests extended over many years.

The section of the report dealing with statistics showed additions for the year to total 558—311 by faith and baptism, 157 by letter, 60 baptised believers, and 30 by restoration. Losses totalled 376—by letter 135, by death 45, and by revision of roll 196. The church membership now stands at 5898, a total gain for the year of 182. The total number of scholars in the Sunday school was shown to be 4620, being a loss for the year of 40 scholars.

Other brotherhood activities coming within the jurisdiction of the executive were:—

1. Broadcasting. This comes about as a result of the association of the Churches of Christ with other religious bodies, with station 2CH.

2. United Board of Chaplains. W. J. Crossman and D. Wakeley have served on the board.

3. Book Room. Acting upon the decision of last conference a representative committee was appointed to accept the responsibility of the book room.

4. "Christian Messenger." A committee of one representative of the four main committees controls the publication with Geo. Morton as manager and C. B. Nance-Kivell as editor.

5. Federal Interests. Mentioned in the report were the College of the Bible, the Endowment Fund and the World Convention to be held at Toronto, Canada, from August 6 to 12, 1940.

Conference recorded its appreciation and thanks for service rendered during the year by F. E. Alcorn, president; W. J. Crossman, secretary, and R. A. Fox, treasurer.

A recommendation that the executive arrange an all-day convention on King's Birthday was adopted.

Conference executive officers:—President, W. R. Avenell; immediate past president, F. E. Alcorn; vice-president, W. J. Crossman; secretary, S. Laney; assistant secretary, Geo. Morton; treasurer, W. A. Stowe.

## Home Missions.

The chief interest in this department is centred in the return of E. C. Hinrichsen from England to act as director of evangelism in New South Wales.

During the year the committee assisted the following churches: Albury, in conjunction with the Victorian Home Mission Committee; Gilgandra, Grafton, Hamilton, Mayfield, Inverell-Delungra, Parramatta District, and Epping. For part of the year financial assistance was given to Bankstown, Bangalow, Tyalgum, Canley Vale-Loftus Park, Dorrigo and Wingham. A promising new field has been opened up at Georgetown in the Newcastle district.

A detailed account of the finances would not concern many, but it was interesting to learn that the total receipts of the committee during the year were £1830/13/4, and the expenditure £1334/6/3, leaving at the bank a credit of £216/2/4. Endowment account fund, made up of Commonwealth bonds, loans to churches and cash in savings bank, stands at £1500.

Conference endorsed as "future proposals"



W. R. Avenell,

Newly-elected President of N.S.W. Conference.

the appointment of an itinerant evangelist as soon as possible, the pursuing of a vigorous campaign in the Georgetown district, in conjunction with the Newcastle churches, and the policy of encouraging churches to conduct special evangelistic campaigns in their own centres.

The home mission report was submitted to conference on Good Friday afternoon. Added interest was given to the report when representatives from churches, assisted by the committee, spoke of the work being done. The present H.M. preachers are I. J. Chivell, Albury; W. B. Hodgson, Gilgandra; T. V. Weir, Grafton; P. E. Thomas, Hamilton; R. Wilson, Mayfield; D. G. Hammer, Parramatta District; S. Jenner, Inverell-Delungra; and P. D. McCallum, Epping.

At the home mission demonstration on the Friday evening there was a splendid attendance. The first speaker was H. G. Harward, who gave a great statement of the position of the Churches of Christ in an address on "A Changeless Plea in a Changing World." Roy Wilson followed with a stirring appeal to fulfil the primary purpose of the church in an address on the subject, "Evangelism, Our Supreme Task." The offering for evangelism amounted to £245/17/-, including a cheque for £113 from the sisters' conference. A solo was rendered by Miss Amy Carey, and a number by the Enmore choir.

Home Mission Committee.—B. G. Corlett,

chairman; E. Davis, vice-chairman; J. Little, secretary; N. D. Morris, treasurer; Geo. Burns, representative conference executive; C. B. Nance-Kivell, A. C. MacLean, P. J. Pond, F. S. Steer, S. Stevens.

## Foreign Missions.

The foreign mission sessions of conference were enhanced by the presence of Dr. G. H. Oldfield, of Dhond, India, on furlough, and H. R. Coventry, late of India. The greater part of the foreign mission report was similar to that of all other States, as this work is under the direction of the Federal Board. Of interest will be the membership and additions to the churches during the year. Baramati: Church membership, 210; additions, 20; Sunday school scholars, 375; teachers, 20. Shri-gonda: Church members, 95; additions, 12. Dhond: Church members, 48; number of scholars in schools is not stated. Diksal: Church members, 39; additions, 3.

Regret was expressed at the shortage of workers on the Indian field, but pleasure filled all hearts when it was known that Miss Helen Wiltshire had been accepted for service and had gone to India as a nurse.

The work in the New Hebrides was reviewed. Mr. and Mrs. Dudley have the oversight of 26 churches with a membership of about 1000 at Aoba. Mr. and Mrs. Dudley return shortly to the homeland on furlough.

Tragedy has come to Pentecost, where Alf. Dow had been laboring. An epidemic of whooping cough caused over 150 deaths, and disorganised the work. Alf. Dow has resigned from his position as missionary. The work in war-torn China is difficult to report.

Money received by the New South Wales committee during the year amounted to £1821/8/-. The New South Wales brethren contributed to the appeal made at Federal Conference for the cost of a tent and equipment for evangelistic work in India the sum of £137/3/6. As usual the report was discussed and adopted with enthusiasm. The first-hand information given by Dr. Oldfield was appreciated. The demonstration was held in the City Temple on the Saturday night, when D. Wakeley and Dr. Oldfield were the speakers.

Foreign Mission Committee.—J. H. Adams, R. L. Arnold, Quan Mane, F. W. Perkins, F. S. Steer, R. H. Wakeley, P. C. Williams.

## Youth Missions.

The youth missions committee commenced its sessions with a demonstration in the City Temple on Tuesday, April 4. A lengthy programme included solo, Miss Joan Rigg; choral items, Belmore Y.P. choir; orchestral, Y.P.D. orchestra; pageant, "The Leather Workers Epping Y.P.," and addresses by J. L. Stimson and P. D. McCallum.

Youth activities reported cover many concerns. In the correspondence home classes there are 350 scholars. Enrolled in the schools of the State there are 4620 scholars and 62 teachers. More than 1000 candidates sat for the scripture examinations, and 845 of them passed. During the year teachers and leaders have held helpful conferences to discuss their problems. There are 1500 Christian Endeavorers connected with the Churches of Christ in New South Wales. The Christian fraternal orders have 500 members. Young worshippers leagues report an enrolment of 1000. A women's auxiliary has given valuable help during the year. The total financial receipts for the year amounted to £304/5/9.

Bible School Committee.—C. T. Garrett, S. Gole, S. Morris, P. H. Morton, P. D. McCallum, P. J. Pond, K. A. Rae, J. C. Rosser, J. Stimson, F. B. Stowe.

## Social Service.

The work of the social service committees occupies an important place in the brother-

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