

The Annual Report

After the Committee's printed report had been circulated the secretary proceeded to read.

SIXTH ➤ ANNUAL REPORT. ◀

DEAR BRETHREN,—

ANOTHER Conference year has been numbered with the past, and with it has gone the twelvemonth's labour entrusted to our care. In presenting this, our report, we have to follow the action of the previous Committee, and draw your attention to the fact that our efforts have been confined within very narrow limits—Petersham and Rookwood being the recipients of the greater portion of evangelistic work. This course was unavoidable, as will be seen as we proceed. Accepting office in April, 1890, we were forced to accept and fulfil the obligations of our predecessors. A three months' engagement with Bro. William Donaldson was among these obligations, this term ending with the month of May. As the first agreement drew to a close, your Committee, acting upon the recommendation of the Churches with which Bro. Donaldson was working, secured his services for the further term of seven months. Thus, for a period of ten months, Bro. Donaldson divided his time between these two Churches; and, although the additions in either case were not very frequent, we are of opinion that the Church at Petersham received some assistance from the labours of Bro. Donaldson.

Of Rookwood we cannot speak with much hope, as by numerous removals the Church has been sadly reduced and now left to very few. Toward the close of the year we were advised not to enter into any further engagement with Bro. Donaldson, and, acting upon this advice, his career as Conference evangelist closed with 1890. During the time of Bro. Donaldson's labour between these Churches, he was principally sustained by them, and for the two-thirds of his salary, which they met, the Committee desire to tender their heartfelt thanks.

In this lies one of the principal reasons for the concentration of our last year's work.

To fill the position left vacant, your Committee secured the services of Bro. D. M. McCrackett, of Stirling East, South Australia. Bro. D. M. McCrackett began his engagement on February 9th, and is now labouring with the Churches at Petersham and Rookwood, and will continue

with them until the incoming Committee decide upon his future actions. We have every reason to hope that our brethren will endorse this engagement by heartily supporting the new Committee in the fulfilment of the obligation under which we have placed them—a 12 months engagement at £4 per week.

Bro. McCrackett is present with us to-day and will submit his own report.

NEWCASTLE DISTRICT.

Most of our brethren will remember that the last Conference made this district the subject of a special recommendation for the Committee appointed for 1890.

This recommendation has not been acted upon. Now, while our action may appear somewhat opposed to the best interests of our country Churches, it must be remembered that in not complying with the request our action was not the fruit of opposition to the further extension, but the direct result of a poorly lined exchequer.

Finances have never risen above low water mark, hence the apparent neglect of our outlying brethren.

Beyond an occasional visit from Bro. Watt, or a passing brother, the Merewether Church has been left to herself. Fortunately, the brethren, through the providence of God, have been able to continue the Work. We wish them every success.

Your Committee must gratefully acknowledge the services of those who have helped the cause in this district, whether resident or visitor, and specially to the Church at Enmore for the loan of our president.

DUBBO.

Just recently an attempt has been made to revive the work in this district, and from the last report we have every reason to believe that this effort will be successful, and that the Church will be placed on a firm footing again. We sincerely hope that such will be the case, and that future reports will be laden with good news of a successful cause.

Your Committee have received repeated requests for help from brethren in the distance, but owing to the "want of funds" we have been unable to respond to these calls.

Towards the latter end of the year we received a communication from the S.A. Conference Committee intimating their intention of opening a cause at Broken Hill.

It was suggested that this field be considered and dealt with as an intercolonial matter, the expenses being met by the colonies interested. Beyond an expression of thanks we were unable to go, for our home requirements have always been more than a match for the credit side of our cash-book.

We still live in hope of being able to assist in this, a work more truly within our own jurisdiction than of either of the Southern Colonies. Their goodness prompted this offer of assistance, now let each ask himself "what can I do to assist?" We regret having to speak in this manner and only do so from the conviction that a truthful report of our labour, must make mention of failings and successes alike.

The unfortunate depressions resulting from the prolonged labour struggles were felt by all, and probably were the primary causes of our want.

The thanks of the Committee and Conference are especially due to the collecting Sisters for the work which they have done during the past year; to those who have aided the Committee in meeting their obligations by contributing to the general fund; and to those brethren, who, at considerable inconvenience and expense, have kept their appointments at Petersham and Rookwood during the past 12 months. Without the aid of these brethren, the Churches could not have been supplied; and to our thanks we take the liberty of adding the thanks of the individual Churches. We feel grateful for all favours, and sincerely hope that what has been done in the past will be continued in the future with an increase, proportionate to our needs.

In conclusion, we have every reason to believe that the year upon which we have entered will be much more prosperous than the year on which we report. And with a view of making this sure, we earnestly appeal to all who have the cause of their Master at heart, for that measure of sympathy and assistance which will enable your Committee to do the work for which you appoint them, with more honour to the brotherhood, and more praise and glory to the name of our Heavenly Father.

Trusting that our past failures will be an incentive to nobler efforts, and that this year will witness a revival in the work we have pledged ourselves to do.

Faithfully yours,

CHARLES WATT, *President.*

G. W. LOGAN, *Vice-President.*

E. ANDREWS, *Treasurer.*

J. LOCKLEY, *Secretary.*

A. HARRIS, *Assistant-Secretary.*

March 27th, 1891.

For Statistics see further on

The Committee's report was unanimously accepted.

TREASURER'S STATEMENT

FOR 1890-1891.

A GLANCE at the following statement reveals our financial position.

The year opened with a credit balance of £11 18s. 7d., to which has been added £143 18s. 10d., representing the total receipt for the year. In these amounts we have £155 17s. 5d. as the financial basis of our years' labour. Comparing the actual collections of the two past years, we have a falling off for 1890-1891 of £12 2s. 3d.

In this decrease there is little evidence of the increased enthusiasm which a work such as ours should receive. Possibly the falling off is attributable to the general depression in trade affairs. In a measure this may be true. But there is a greater probability of its being accounted for by the general indifference to Home Mission Work.

Brethren, if this be so, let us endeavour to be more constant in our giving, so that something worthy of so large a people may be done in the Service of our Master.

E. ANDREWS,

Treasurer.

1402
1891
11

New South Wales Mission Fund.

TREASURER'S STATEMENT FOR 1890-1891.

RECEIPTS.		DISBURSEMENTS.	
£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Balance from 1889-1890	11 18 7	SALARIES—	126 0 0
CONTRIBUTIONS—		Bro. W. Donaldson	16 0 0
Church at Merewether	2 0 0	" D. W. McCrackett	...
" Newtown	28 18 0	TRAVELLING EXPENSES—	...
" Petersham	43 18 6	Bro. W. Donaldson	3 0 0
" Rookwood	27 18 3	" D. W. McCrackett	5 0 0
" Sydney	13 17 0	Conference Tea Meeting Expenses	4 8 10
Annual Fees	...	Deficiency on Tea Meeting held in September	0 12 0
Proceeds from Conference Tea Meeting	...	Printing	...
Collection made at Special Tea Meeting	...	Stationery, Stamps, etc	...
Sister Bibb	0 5 0		...
Bro. C. Whately	1 0 0		...
John Kingsbury	1 1 0		...
" W. Waring, Moree	5 0 0		...
Total Receipts for year	7 6 0		...
Balance due to Treasurer	155 17 5		...
	6 7 5		...
	<u>£162 4 10</u>		<u>£162 4 10</u>

EDWIN ANDREWS,
Treasurer.

Audited and found correct,
E. GOLE.

March 16th, 1891.

The Treasurer's Statement was also received without alteration or comment.

Scrutinisers.

Brethren
were appointed Scrutinisers for the day.

Minutes of the Second Day.

The president Bro. Watt again in the chair.

The meeting opened with Hymn 332,
after which Brethren Hawkins & Black,
offered prayer.

Business began with Bro Harris (in the absence
of the secretary) introducing Motion No 6,
which after some discussion was generally
considered to be the work of the committee;
& on a motion moved by Bro Harris & 2nd
by Bro R. Steer, it was referred to the incoming
committee.

Bro. Gely, with the permission of the meeting
introduced a matter relating to some internal
trouble, in the Church at Wagga.

This subject was discussed at considerable
length. Bro. Walker then moved and
Bro Rose seconded

"That the matter in connection
with the "Wagga Church" be referred to the
executive committee, to ask both parties
to furnish particulars so that they may be in
a position to advise." carried.

Bro Hawkins then proposed & Bro Walker 2nd
that the church at Lumore, be requested to
allow Bro Watt to proceed to Wagga for two
or three weeks to converse, the interests of the body

"in that locality"
Carried.

Prof Harris moved that Bro. Watt be granted power
to introduce certain matters not contained in the
Syllabus." Carried.

Bro. Black moved and Bro. Clowman seconded:—
"That all members present be permitted
to discuss and vote on all matters under
consideration" Carried.

Moved by Bro. Watt and seconded by Bro. Walker:—
"That in keeping with the democratic spirit
of the age, the parliament of N. S. W. give to the
people the direct vote on the whole liquor
business; That it entrust those for whom the
Public Houses are licensed with the opportunity
of stating whether or not these houses are
required at all; and further that a simple
majority decide."
This motion was carried unanimously.

Bro. Watt also moved (Bro. Rife seconding)
:— "That this conference of the Churches of Christ
view with alarm the widely prevailing vice
of gambling, and pray that Parliament take
such steps as will ^{check} prevent its growth, or at
least prevent the using of our postal
facilities for betting." Carried.

Bro Logan proposed and Bro Dingle seconded,
:- "That this Conference, believes the time
has now come, when something should be done,
to check the vice, of youthful smoking; &
that for this purpose, it should be, constituted
a Wisdemennow for children to use tobacco
under the age of 14." Carried.

Bro Watt proposed and Bro Newton seconded
that: - The foregoing resolutions referring to
Drink, Gambling & Smoking be signed by
the president & placed in the hands of one
of the members for the district that they be
presented to Parliament. -
Carried.

Bro Watt, then introduced the
"A.P.W. Property Liability Co."
Considering the lateness of the hour and the
magnitude and ~~the~~ intricacies of the subject
it was moved by Bro Watt: - That a committee,
consisting of Brethren Logan, Walker, Halliday
& Andrews, Grocock, Rose, Jolly, Harris, Black,
Bardley, Lillie, Hunter, J. Kingsbury, W. Shinn,
Newton, Holderness, Belby and the mover,
be formed for the purpose of investigating the
project in detail and to report progress to a
general meeting to be convened at a future
date. Carried.

Bro Walker proposed: ~~and~~ That the committee
be summoned by the chairman by circular,
Carried.

Evangelists Reports.

Bro McCracken, the newly appointed Evangelist delivered a brief account of his short term of labour with the church at Petersham, and spoke with pleasure of the success he expected from his labour in this district.

Bro McCracken was well received, and his report adopted.

A Verbal Report of the progress of the Cause in the Newcastle, district was presented to the conference by Bro.

Election of Officers

The Election of officers was then proceeded with.

Executive.

President.	—	Bro Charles Watt!
Vice-President	—	" John Kingsbury
Secretary	—	" C. Gole
Treasurer	—	Edwin Andrews
Assistant Sec.	—	C. T. Rose

Committee

Members. J. Hunter
R. Steer
C. Crocock
J. Halliday
C. Hillie

Motions of which notice has been given

(1) The election of Delegates to the Intercolonial Conference.
The choice of delegates fell upon
Brethren Charles Watt & John Kingsbury

(2) By E. Goley.
"That at the Intercolonial Conference, the subject of Foreign Missions be placed on the programme for discussion."

But little discussion followed the introduction of this motion. It was carried unanimously.

By Bro. C. D. Rofe,

(3) "That this conference suggest to the churches the advisability of devoting one Lord's Day collection every year to the Conference fund"

Seconded by Bro. & carried.

4 By Bro. Goley "That this conference suggest to the churches the following mode of procedure with regard to collecting funds for the ensuing year: — That each church guarantee a stated sum per month towards the Conference work."

Carried after being seconded by

(5)

By Bro. Watt.

"That the offer of the Editor of the
"Christian World" be accepted by the
members of this conference.

Bro. Watt fully explained the nature of the
offer & the motion was accepted.

(6)

By J. Lockley

~~"That some ^{see later.} definite scheme for the assistance
of outlying churches be arranged,
carried."~~

At this juncture, it was decided to
withhold the remaining business until
the next day beginning at 2.30,
P.M.

Votes of thanks were passed to

The Retiring Officers

- 1 Auditors
- 2 The Sisters who had collected Conference
funds
- 3 The Sisters who prepared the hot-day
meal and attended to the wants
of the delegates throughout the day.

An adjournment was made to the School Room to enable delegates and visitors to write in the Annual Conference Year, which has been prepared by the lumore sisters.

Records of the Public Meeting.

The attendance at the evening meeting was exceptionally good. Each of the speakers were listened to attentively, the singing spirited and good and the whole a fitting termination to a profitable, and interesting day.

PROGRAMME FOR THE EVENING :

Song "Before Jehovah's Awful Throne."

PRAYER.

CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS.

Anthem.—"I will lift up mine eyes" Choir.

SUBJECT.

The Need of the Age—"How to secure greater faithfulness to Christ and His Church."

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|--------------------------------|-----|------------------|
| 1.—Greater Devotion of Heart. | ... | J. W. SHEPHERD. |
| Song | ... | Choir. |
| 2.—Greater Devotion of Talent. | ... | G. W. LOGAN. |
| Song | ... | Choir. |
| 3.—Greater Devotion of Time. | ... | D. W. McRACKETT. |
| Song | ... | Choir. |
| 4.—Greater Devotion of Means. | ... | E. GOLE. |

CLOSING HYMN.

A Collection towards the Conference Fund will be taken up during the Evening.

A Vote of thanks ^{having} being given to the Singers the meeting closed.

Bro Walker presented an appeal from the Brethren in Queensland for pecuniary assistance.

Proposed by Bro Harris: "That this matter be referred to the Committee."

This terminated the Conference business and the meeting was closed with the usual devotional exercises.

MEMBERSHIP ON MARCH 1, 1891.

Location of Church.	CHURCH ADDITIONS.					CHURCH LOSSES.			RESULTS.			LORD'S DAY SCHOOLS.				Evangelists.
	Members, 1890.	Faith and Obedience.	Letter.	Previously Immersed.	Restored.	Letter.	Death.	Removal and Discipline.	Members, 1891.	Increase.	Decrease.	Scholars, 1890.	Scholars, 1891.	Teachers, 1890.	Teachers, 1891.	
Sydney ...	265	5	22	3	1	4	✓284	19	...	70	96	6	9	J. W. Shepherd
Enmore ...	364	18	13	5	3	8	...	*90	✓305	...	59	237	237	13	16	Charles Watt
Petersham ...	52	4	6	3	✓67	15	...	60	80	6	8	Conference Evangelist, D. W. McCrackett
Rookwood ...	37	2	...	...	...	2	...	...	✓34	...	3	46	39	6	4
Rockdale ..	13	...	...	...	...	2	...	3	✓12	..	1	5	2	...	1
Camperdown...	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	4	...	33	...	...	...
Wagga ...	49	...	...	...	...	Not reported	...	...	✓...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Chatham ...	46	1	1	...	...	4	...	...	✓41	...	5	...	...	...	...
Wingham ...	15	...	...	...	...	Not reported	...	...	✓...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Merewether ...	30	7	1	...	...	1	...	7	✓33	3	...	...	62	...	8
Dubbo ...	22	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	✓7	...	15	...	...	...	...
Bungawalbyn..	25	..	...	...	...	1	1	1	✓15	...	10	21	14	4	2
Lismore ...	18	...	...	...	...	Not reported	...	...	✓...	...	...	13	...	...	...
Moree ...	15	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	✓21	6	...	10	8	1	1
Nambucca ...	10	...	...	...	...	Not reported	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals ...	967	43	43	5	3	24	2	105	*829	47	93	495	537	36	49	

*Of this number, which represents the defections of years, half have been withdrawn from, while the others have removed away without letters.

*This apparent falling off is accounted for by the absence of statistics from the churches "not reported."

Chas Watt
Chairman

April 15th / 92