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Victorian Conference, 1909.

TEMPERANCE MEETING.

The Conference gatherings began well with a great Temperance meeting in Lygon-st. chapel, on Tuesday, April 6. Hon. J. G. Barrett occupied the chair and delivered the opening address. He apologised for the unavoidable absence of the Premier of Victoria, who was on the programme for a speech, and Mrs. Roy Thompson, who was absent through sickness.

Mr. J. G. Membrey, M.L.A., delivered an eloquent address. He congratulated the Conference on the magnificent meeting, which indicated the temperance sentiment of the Churches of Christ. The patriotic enthusiasm recently displayed in connection with the offer of a "Dreadnought" would be still more to the point if shown in the temperance cause. Ancient Rome fell when the law sanctioned drink and lust. If ever Great Britain went down it would be on account of the foes within, the social evils in the heart of the empire. In other days the church and the clergy patronised the drink traffic. To-day clergy, politicians, newspapers, medical men and all classes were united against it. The temperance bill in England had been wrecked in the Lords, but it would certainly be brought forward again and become law. Fifteen thousand medical men in Great Britain had petitioned Parliament to inculcate temperance teaching in the schools. Victoria was ahead of all the other Australian States as far as the licensing question was concerned. Speaking to the young people, Mr. Membrey said that a nation is built up not by wealth, but by the character of the people. Drink tells upon the physical stamina of the young. Young men should join the church in order to help her in her efforts to promote national righteousness, and banish the curse of intemperance from the land.

Solos were rendered by Miss Jena Allen, Miss Ethel Benson, and Miss Nellie Gray. The Kensington Quartette Party sang selections, and Mr. Norman Pearce recited. All these items were of a high order, and gave great pleasure. Miss Jeannie Dickens was accompaniste. The collection realised £6/11/1.

SISTERS' CONFERENCE.

A full report of the Sisters' Conference will appear in our next issue. It will be sufficient to say here that the meetings were large and enthusiastic, and pervaded by a deep spirit-

uality. We were only privileged to attend the evening service, which was varied and interesting, though a little on the long side. Mrs. C. L. Thurgood's annual message and the Foreign Mission report were listened to with great attention, and the papers on the beginning of our movement in Great Britain, U.S.A. and Australia were timely and instructive. In these the Centennial note was first sounded, a note which was repeated in all the subsequent gatherings of the Conference.

FRIDAY MORNING.

The annual Conference of the Churches of Christ in Victoria was held in the Lygon-st. chapel, commencing Friday, April 9.

The morning session was opened by a devotional service conducted by T. B. Fischer.

The business part of the session commenced at 10 o'clock, when the President, H. G. Harward, took the chair.

The churches at Stawell and Gordon, having applied for admission to the Conference, were duly admitted.

The roll of representatives was called, answered by the following:—

Ascot Vale—C. A. Wilson, W. Flood, J. Y. Potts. Bayswater—T. Clements, G. Bishop. Border Town—E. Edwards. Bet Bet—T. Batty. Berwick—E. Hillbrich, N. Meyer. Brighton—J. Sharp, F. M. Ludbrook, W. Brochie. Brunswick—C. A. Quick, J. H. Barnden, W. Hardie, C. Spicer. Blackburn—W. Redman, W. Piercy. Brim—W. G. Oram, W. White. Cosgrove—A. Strongman. Chinese Church—S. Wong. H. L. Pang. Carlton North—C. Scott, W. Dickson. Colac—A. W. Connor, J. Mudford. Cheltenham—T. B. Fischer, W. Judd, W. H. Barnett, H. Foreman. Carlton (Lygon-st.)—T. Bagley, W. C. Craigie, W. C. Thurgood, F. Payne, J. McColl. Croydon—T. J. Collins. Collingwood—H. G. Harward, W. J. Brooker, M. Bell. Dandenong—H. W. Crisp, A. Marshman. Doncaster—W. W. Mantell, J. Tully, H. Zelius. Emerald—A. E. Frier, W. Bolduan. Footscray—J. E. Allan, W. Buckley, H. Gladman. Fitzroy North—A. J. Hagger, A. Millis, L. H. Shirt, J. McMillan. Jos. Collings. Fitzroy—J. McGregor, H. Swain, C. W. Mitchell. Geelong—T. Edwards, H. Christopher. Gordon—A. B. Chappell. Harcourt—H. Edwards. Horsham—J. Collins. Kaniva—J. M. Goldsworthy. A. R. Benn. Kerang—C. Milne. Lillimur—A. D. Strongman. Lancefield—H. M. Clipston, Robt. Gerand. Malvern—L. W. Holmes. Mildura—M. McLellan. Mooroolbark—J. Maguire, T. Minahan. Middle Park—J. Jones, W. H. Mill. Melbourne

North—M. Dale, M. W. Green, R. McCance. Melbourne (Swanston-st.)—F. G. Dunn, B. J. Remp, C. M. Gordon, B. Huntsman. Northcote—Gracie, J. Woodgate. Newmarket—J. Hatty, J. Hancock. Polkemmatt—J. Collins. Pakenham—J. Larsen. Richmond North—J. Salisbury, T. Darnley, T. Collins, J. S. Garden. Richmond South—W. Whitely, G. Nicholls, W. Gale. South Yarra—D. A. Lewis, W. H. Nightingale, T. Batty. Surrey Hills—J. Holten, A. R. Main. South Melbourne—R. J. McSolvin, T. H. Bennetts. St. Kilda—T. M. Davis, Morrison. St. Arnaud—W. Smedley, T. R. Morris. Taradale—J. Jackell. Warragul—A. L. Archer, L. Johnston. Windsor—J. Bidey, J. Pittman, W. Flood. Warrnambool—Whiting, R. McConnell. Williamstown—H. Baker, H. Greene, Wampoon—S. Goldsworthy, F. Goodwin. Wilkur—W. G. Oram.

H. G. Harward said that Conferences were a threefold bond, binding the brotherhood together in bonds of fraternal intercourse. It was good to review the past, and see if we were still walking in the old paths, to see if we were taking color from our religious environment and losing our hold upon the great principles which gave us a right to a separate existence. It was also good to enquire how far the principles we espoused were making their way outside of ourselves. He regarded the Restoration movement as one of the grandest in religious history. It could be truly said that the great principles of the movement were being recognised, in theory if not in practice. Certainly there was no need to beat a retreat, but to advance with confidence, believing in the ultimate triumph of truth. Our work was not yet finished, and there was greater need than ever for earnest, steadfast adherence to New Testament teaching. As to the future, there was a threefold need. First, there was a need for a deepening of the spiritual life in our churches. There should be greater attention given to the spiritual development in home life. The family altar should not be neglected. Secondly, there should be a campaign in the direction of a more perfect organisation. We should bring better business methods into our churches. Especially was this true in the matter of finances. The reason of our deficits was the want of method in raising funds. In the third place, there should be a campaign in the direction of a more aggressive evangelism. We were an evangelistic people, but there was plenty of room for improvement. The question had been raised as to how to reach the masses. The solution of this problem

207. There are 75 Sunday Schools, with 6541 scholars, and 625 teachers, an increase of 1 school, 85 scholars, and 8 teachers.

IV. DATE OF ANNUAL COLLECTION.

Many brethren have expressed themselves as being of opinion that the day at present set apart for taking up the annual collection in the Victorian churches is not a suitable one, owing to so many members being absent at Christmas and New Year's time. This applies more particularly to the city and suburban churches. It was therefore decided by the Committee to submit the following recommendation for the consideration of the Conference:—

"That it be a recommendation from this Committee to the Conference that the date of the annual collection be changed from the first Lord's Day in January to the second Lord's Day in December."

On the motion of W. C. Craigie, it was resolved that the clause be adopted with the alteration that the matter of the date of the annual collection be referred to the Federal Conference with a view to its selecting a suitable day for all the States. J. Tully, R. C. Edwards, R. Lyall, M. McLellan, J. McGregor, F. G. Dunn and others spoke to the motion. It was further resolved that the Executive be empowered to give effect to the decision of the Federal Conference.

V. LABOR SUNDAY.

At last Conference the following resolution was carried:—"That this Conference recommends the proposal to institute a Labor Sunday to the favourable consideration of the churches." This was then referred to the Executive Committee for further consideration. We beg to report that up to the present no date has, so far as we know, been fixed by the Council of Churches for holding a "Labor Sunday." When it is, no doubt the Victorian Churches of Christ will be ready to fall in line with others in this matter.

Resolved on the motion of F. Payne, That the above clause be adopted.

Bro. Clarey suggested that the Churches of Christ might take the initiative in setting apart a special Sunday.

On the motion of T. Bagley, it was resolved that if any Sunday should be set apart for the above object, our churches be asked to co-operate with the other religious bodies.

VI. FEDERAL AND CENTENNIAL CONVENTION.

As is well known, this is a notable year in connection with the Restoration Movement. In America, Great Britain, and Australia, great meetings will be held to celebrate the completion of 100 years since the "Reformers of the 19th century" first drew attention to the need of union among Christians, and the uselessness of human creeds as bonds of union. Sydney will be the rallying point in Australia, and in a few days after this Conference, brethren and sisters from all parts of the Commonwealth will be flocking there in hundreds to join with the New South Wales brethren in the Centennial Celebrations. The Federal Conference will also be held in Sydney at the same time, and in order that Victoria might be properly represented, the full number of delegates (15) have been appointed. These brethren will be accompanied by many others. Large and enthusiastic meetings are sure to be held. We very cordially wish the Federal and Centennial Convention every success, and hope that the result will be a mighty impetus to the cause of primitive Christianity throughout Australia.

Resolved on the motion of A. R. Main, seconded by F. G. Dunn, That this Conference of Churches of Christ in Victoria

send fraternal greeting to the Centennial Conference; and in doing so express its heartiest congratulation on the completion of a century of restoration work, and its sincere prayer that the coming celebrations will abundantly fulfil the rich promise they give of fitly commemorating the inauguration of the great movement, which aims under the blessing of God to lead the world to a better appreciation of the simple gospel of Christ, and a return to the Christianity of the New Testament.

VII. CHURCH LOAN BUILDING FUND.

At the last Conference provision was made for the commencement of a Church Loan Building Fund. From the financial statement, which follows, it will be noticed that the sum of £15 has been contributed. This is, of course, quite insufficient to be of any practical use in lending for building purposes. By referring to the notices of motion on the Conference programme, it will be seen that the Church at Preston gives notice regarding this fund.

Church Loan Building Fund Account.
To contributions received £15 0 0
Amount in Savings Bank 15 0 0
Audited and found correct.

J. BARNACLE, Auditors
A. R. LYALL,
Melbourne, 22/3/09.

Resolved on the motion of J. Holten, that the above clause be adopted.

VIII. THE AMERICAN FLEET.

At the time of the memorable visit of the American Fleet, a sub-committee was appointed to ascertain if any members of churches were aboard any of the ships of the fleet. It was found that 30 members accompanied the fleet. Most of these met with some of our churches. They were entertained, socially, by members, and taken for a trip to Fern Tree Gully, where a very enjoyable picnic was held.

IX. ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

We desire to thank the officers of the churches at Lygon-street and Swanston-street for the use of their buildings during the year. We have also to thank Bro. Barnacle, A. R. Lyall, and Chas. Hardie for their valuable services as auditors, and to all who during the year have assisted to carry on the good work.

Sincerely hoping that the deliberations of the Conference may be productive of much good,

On behalf of the Executive Committee,

H. G. HARWARD, President.
M. McLELLAN, Secretary.

On the motion of F. G. Dunn, the report as a whole was adopted.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

PRESIDENT.—T. Bagley.

VICE-PRESIDENT.—J. W. Baker.

TREASURER.—W. C. Craigie.

SECRETARY.—M. McLellan.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY.—H. Swain.

HOME MISSIONARY COMMITTEE.—F. G. Dunn, H. G. Harward, B. J. Kemp, A. Millis, C. M. Gordon, T. R. Morris, P. A. Dickson.

FOREIGN MISSIONARY COMMITTEE.—F. M. Ludbrook (Secretary), T. B. Fischer (Assistant Secretary), R. Lyall (Treasurer), G. P. Pittman, A. R. Main, W. A. Kemp, C. A. Quick; Sisters F. M. Ludbrook, R. Lyall, G. P. Pittman.

TEMPERANCE COMMITTEE.—J. G. Barrett, W. J. Woodbridge, W. C. Thurgood, H. J. Peacock, R. J. McSolvin, C. A. Wilson, C. Peters.

KINDERGARTEN COMMITTEE.—H. Swain, R. C. Edwards, T. B. Fischer, W. C. Craigie; Sisters J. A. Davies, J. Haddow, Allan, Jerrems, J. Sharp.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

After adjournment for lunch, the Conference reassembled. A devotional meeting conducted by J. Mortimer was held, after which the various Home Missionaries gave short addresses.

HOME MISSIONARY COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

By a reference to last year's report, we notice that our predecessors made the following statement:—"The work is growing, and if any satisfactory forward movement is to be made, it will be necessary to increase our offerings, so as to meet the continually recurring demands upon the H.M. Committee." These remarks were evidently made, anticipating that this year's work would be extra heavy, which, as a matter of fact, it has been, owing to the number of men engaged in the home field. We beg to submit for the consideration of Conference the following report of work done since last Conference.

I. RESIGNATION OF J. T. T. HARDING.

We regret very much to have to state that after attending two meetings of the Committee, Bro. Harding had to resign through failing health. For some time after his resignation, he took an active part in the Kindergarten Movement, but more serious illness intervening, had ultimately to give up that work, very reluctantly, we are sure, because his heart was in the work. We sympathise with our esteemed Bro. and Sister Harding, and sincerely hope that he may soon be restored to health again. He was succeeded on the H.M. Committee by Bro. T. R. Morris, who was next on the voting at last election.

On the motion of R. Lyall, it was resolved that this Conference expresses its sympathy with Bro. Harding, and sincerely hopes that he may be speedily restored to his wonted health.

II. KINDERGARTEN WORK.

In accordance with a resolution passed at last Conference, the question of Kindergarten work was taken up by the Committee, and on April 28, a Committee was appointed to report. At the following meeting the proposed rules were submitted, and, with some slight alterations, approved of, and a Committee of Management appointed. The following is the Committee's first report:—

The first annual report of the Free Kindergarten Management Committee, year ending April, 1909.

The committee consists of the following:—Sister E. Davies, president; J. T. T. Harding, deputy chairman; W. C. Craigie, treasurer; Sister A. D. Allan, secretary; Sisters W. Dickens and E. Haddow, Bro. H. G. Harward, A. Millis, and H. Swain. Associated workers: Miss M. Wilson, hon. directing superintendent; Miss M. Alexander, director; Bro. C. M. Gordon, Sisters Harding and Jerrems.

Twelve committee meetings were held during the year, with an average attendance of eight. The deputy chairman, J. T. T. Harding, who did splendid work in organising and controlling the movement in its early stages, has

been absent from all meetings since his serious illness.

After the inaugural work, as reported in the "Christian," June, 1908, the committee set forth the aims and objects of the movement by holding public meetings, "At Homes," and distributing printed matter. As a source of revenue, the "Identification and Endowment Fund," "Foundation Memberships," and collecting cards were issued.

The young people of the church, led by Mrs. W. A. Kemp and Miss N. Millis, held a very successful sale of gifts in November last, whereby the fund of the movement was greatly augmented.

The Free Kindergarten Management Committee became associated with the "Free Kindergarten Union of Victoria on Feb. 27, 1909.

The Church of Christ, North Melbourne, was chosen as location of first Free Kindergarten Centre, and the services of Miss Alexander were secured as director. Owing to delay in North Melbourne chapel building contract, the opening was unavoidably postponed until Feb. 1, when the Church of Christ opened its door to nine little Kinders. The numbers have rapidly increased; there are now 34 names on the roll, with an average attendance of 27.

The Free Kindergarten movement is assuredly one of the most hopeful signs of future progress.

Finally, the committee recognise their indebtedness to the following:—The committee and all who helped in the sale of gifts; the Austral Publishing Co.; "Uncle Arthur," of "Pure Words"; the church, North Melbourne; the Dorcas Societies; Church officers, Swanston-street; the voluntary helpers; and to all who have co-operated in the Free Kindergarten movement the best thanks of the committee are tendered.

ANNIE D. ALLAN,

Hon. Sec.

FREE KINDERGARTEN BALANCE SHEET.

RECEIPTS.

To Sale of Gifts (including £7/10/- collected for Chairs) ..	£209 13 6
.. General Contributions 53 5 0½
.. Chairs 2 17 9
.. Foundation Tickets 0 10 0
.. Furniture Sold 0 19 3
	£267 5 6½

EXPENDITURE.

By Furniture and Furnishings, including	
.. Piano ..	£35 15 6
.. Salaries 30 16 8
.. Contractor on Account of Exercise Shed and Sand Pit at Nth. Melbourne ..	20 0 0
.. Printing and Stationery 6 18 3
.. Incidental Expenses and Petty Cash ..	5 14 6
.. Cash in Bank 168 0 7½
	£267 5 6½

W. C. CRAIGIE, Treasurer.

Audited and found correct,

Melbourne, J. BARNACLE, A.S.A.A., Eng. } Auditors
22/3/09. A. R. LYALL }

Miss Wilson, superintendent of the Kindergarten work, said that her heart was in the work. She was glad that the church was taking a deeper interest in child life. This was manifested in the interest it takes in Kindergarten work. She knew of no better means of advancing the kingdom of God than by taking hold of the children and training them for higher things. The work in connection with the Conference had been started in North Melbourne very quietly, but she thought it was better that it should be so. The great need that was felt was a greater number of helpers. The influence exerted by the Kindergarten was direct and indirect; first on the child itself, and afterwards on the home of the child.

W. C. Craigie spoke in favor of the benefits conferred by Kindergarten work, and strongly urged the churches to give it their support.

J. Tully also supported the movement, and characterised it as being a Christlike work.

III. COLLINGWOOD.

At the date of last Conference, Bro. Connor was engaged in holding a mission at Collingwood. He continued his labors there during the year (excepting three weeks at Stawell, where he held a mission, when two were added to the church). There is a general improvement in all the meetings. The results of his labors are as follows:—By faith and baptism, 35; restored, 5; formerly immersed, 3; total, 43. Bro. Harward has now commenced preaching at Collingwood, Bro. Connor having gone to Colac.

A. W. Connor said that it was the second year in which Collingwood had appeared under the auspices of the Conference, and for the future it would be supporting itself. He was to speak not only of Collingwood, but also of the work at Colac. As far as Collingwood was concerned, he was glad to report an increase in membership and in financial power. He could not say truthfully that he was delighted to leave Collingwood to go to Colac. He felt it to be a call of duty which must be obeyed. Of the work done there by H. G. Harward he could speak in the highest terms. He regarded it as probably the best work that he had done, and in the church at Colac a fine band of brethren had been gathered together.

W. J. Brooker expressed the thanks of the church at Collingwood to the Home Mission Committee for the assistance it had rendered in sending Bro. Connor to their help.

IV. COLAC.

Bro. Harward having recently conducted a very successful mission at Colac, it was realised that it should not be allowed to languish for want of help; so, at the request of the church at Colac, Bro. Connor was invited to take up the work there. He entered upon his labors on March 14.

V. CASTLEMAINE DISTRICT.

During the past year, Bro. Leng has been working in the Castlemaine district. The year has been a very bad one for the town, as many removals have taken place. However, the work has gone on quietly. Congregations have been good. Nineteen have been added to the church by faith and baptism, and one has been restored. In addition to the work at Castlemaine, Bro. Leng spent six weeks with the church at Kyneton, where nine have been added by faith and baptism. Altogether the work is in a healthy state, and the outlook for the future is promising. Additions, 28 by faith and baptism; restoration, 1; total, 29.

H. Leng said that he had been working in the Castlemaine district for the last twelve months. This twelve months had been the worst, commercially speaking, for the last forty years. The year was commenced under most depressing circumstances, but things became brighter when they started a tent mission in Castlemaine Market Square. The results were most cheering. A tent mission had been held at Kyneton, which was a hard place to work, and at first the reception was most discouraging. Towards the end of the mission good results were obtained, and it was felt that a fine opening had been made. He would strongly recommend the Home Mission Committee to continue assisting Kyneton.

W. G. Harman and Bro. Partridge, both of Kyneton, also spoke of the work in that district.

VI. GEELONG.

Bro. Theo. Edwards has continued his labors at Geelong since last Conference. The church is in a healthy condition. The Sunday school has had 36 additions, and an Endeavour Society has been organised. Additions:—By faith and baptisms, 22; restoration, 2; total, 24.

T. Edwards said that he had heard that Geelong was a hard field, and he had found it so. Among the twenty-six members there were none that could help in speaking or teaching, but they earnestly set to work, and now numbered seventy members. The Sunday School had considerably increased in numbers, and other branches of work were in a healthy state. They were making plans for a forward movement, and hoped by-and-bye for a great revival. To this end they proposed, as soon as possible, to conduct a tent mission. Geelong presented a splendid field for work. Mission stations could be started in various parts. The members of the Endeavor Society were full of enthusiasm and doing a good work. During the coming year they expected great things.

H. Christopher said he had come to thank the Home Mission Committee for what they had done for Geelong, and trusted that the Committee would continue their help.

VII. WARRNAMBOOL.

Bro. Shain reports as follows:—"The cause here has now fought her way through dangers and difficulties to a position which commands the respect of the community. In judicious advertising, by preaching and teaching from house to house, and more especially through a continuous campaign of open-air work, the message has been kept prominently before the public by night and day. A band of consecrated workers await the opening of every door of opportunity, and the steady progress of the town in buildings, factories, and other spheres presents a field literally white unto harvest. Additions:—By faith and obedience, 10; formerly immersed, 1; restored, 1; total, 12.

J. G. Shain said that he regarded Warrnambool as the finest district in Victoria for evangelistic work. The more he saw of it, the more he was impressed with its possibilities. At first he found the difficulties very great, but these were disappearing. He believed in open-air preaching, and met with great success in carrying it on. The church there had secured the ear of the people.

VIII. WEST WIMMERA DISTRICT.

Bren. Benn and E. Edwards have continued their labors in this large district on the borders of South Australia. The principal places are Kaniva, Bordertown, Lillimur, South Lillimur, The Dinyarrak, Wampoon, and Mundalla. The reports are very encouraging. At Lillimur they expect soon to have a meeting-house, which will be a great convenience. Bro. Benn reports 9 additions by faith and baptism, and Bro. Edwards 8, and 3 who had been previously baptised. Total in this circuit, 20.

A. R. Benn said that when he went to the Wimmera district he found things in a healthy condition, and was not confronted with some of the difficulties that other preachers had experienced. The work had gone on quietly, and some additions had been made. Bro. Edwards and himself had conducted a mission, which was found to be a great encouragement to them in their work.

They were hopeful when they went back to start a forward movement, and to make our plea better known than it is.

E. Edwards said that he could report good steady progress, and they had held their own. They had lost one church, Narracoorte, which had now been taken over by the South Australian Conference. The work at Bordertown was in good condition, and the church there was held in esteem by the people of the district. After referring to the work in Wampoony, Lillimur, Dinyarrack and Kaniva, he continued by saying that it was a mistake to think that there were many in their midst who might be termed "snug farmers." A good season frequently meant ability to make up the arrears of the past, but they would do their best to make the district self-supporting.

J. Goldsworthy also spoke of the work in the West Wimmera district.

IX. MALLEE DISTRICT.

Bro. Oram has labored faithfully in this district since last Conference, taking a very active part in temperance work. Indeed, it was largely through his hostility to the drink traffic that a license was refused on the local show grounds. Additions by faith and baptism, 2. The committee is of opinion that this district has received assistance long enough, and that the churches ought now to be self-supporting.

W. G. Oram said that he was not able to be present at the last Conference owing to illness, and was sorry to miss the good things that were going. He was glad to be with them again in good health and get the needed inspiration. He was sorry to say that the results from the Mallee district were not commensurate with the labor and money spent. He believed that the churches in the Mallee recognised their financial responsibilities, and should be in a position to support themselves. In regard to his work, he looked upon the cause of temperance as being part of it, and was thankful that they had been able to do something against the liquor trade. He desired to speak a word of praise in behalf of Bro. White, who had been a splendid helper to him.

W. W. White spoke of the work in the Mallee, and trusted that the Committee would continue to help them.

X. ST. ARNAUD.

Bro. H. G. Peacock continued to labor at St. Arnaud till the end of October, when he resigned. Two added by faith and baptism. He was succeeded by Bro. W. Smedley, who began his labors early in November. The meetings are good, considering the number of people who have left the district.

W. Smedley said he had been engaged in preaching the gospel in St. Arnaud for the last five months without making much impression upon the people. There were circumstances which had given the cause a set-back, and it would take some time to overcome this. The financial condition was not at all inspiring, and was a hindrance to success. The most pleasing and successful part of the work was found in the Endeavor Society, which was in a most healthy condition. The outlook was not promising, but he hoped that in the providence of God more prosperous times awaited the church in St. Arnaud.

XI. SHEPPARTON DISTRICT.

Comprising Shepparton and Cosgrove. Bro. E. Davis labored here until he went on vacation, when he reported 11 additions by confession and baptism. Bro. A. D. Strongman succeeded Bro. Davis, and reports 1 added by faith and baptism, and 1 formerly immersed. Total, 13.

A. D. Strongman referred to the work in the Shepparton district, and regretted the absence of Bro. Skinner.

XII. LANCEFIELD.

Bro. H. M. Clipstone has been located here during the past year, preaching at Lancefield and Goldie. Good gospel meetings. Two added by faith and baptism.

R. Gerrand and H. M. Clipstone spoke of the work at Lancefield and Goldie.

XIII. MEREDITH.

Previous to vacation, Bro. Mudge preached at Meredith and Elaine. Three were added by faith and baptism. Bro. Shipway is now laboring in this district, and reports splendid meetings.

XIV. WARRAGUL.

This field has been occupied by Bro. R. Pittman up to January, and since then by Bro. Lionel Johnston. No additions to report.

XV. GORDON.

Bro. Chappell is preaching here, and reports that good interest continues to be manifested in the meetings. Since last Conference the additions have been six by faith and obedience, and one restoration. Besides these, two others have confessed their faith in Christ, but have not yet been baptised.

A. B. Chappell briefly referred to the work at Gordon, which he regarded as most encouraging, and appealed for help in erecting a suitable meeting-place.

XVI. SUBSIDIES.

The following churches were subsidised during the past year:—Kerang and Dandenong. One addition by faith and baptism is reported by each church.

XVII. SUMMARY.

The following is a summary of the foregoing reports:—By faith and baptism, 141; formerly immersed, 8; restored, 9; total, 158.

XVIII. SPECIAL MEETINGS.

With a view of deepening and increasing the interest in Home Missions, H. G. Harward, S. Bagley, and H. Swain were appointed to act with the Sisters' H.M. Committee in arranging meetings with the various churches during the year. We are pleased to report that some very successful gatherings have been held, and we are sure much good will be the result of these co-visits. The following churches kindly co-operated in this matter:—Fitzroy, Northcote, Preston, North Carlton, Brunswick, Ascot Vale, Newmarket, Footscray, Hawthorn, Brighton, Collingwood, North Richmond, South Yarra, Cheltenham, North Melbourne, and Williamstown. Our thanks are due to the officers of these churches for the use of their buildings, and also to those singers and choirs who materially assisted to make the meetings so successful.

XIX. ATTENDANCE OF MEMBERS.

Number of meetings held, 15. H. G. Harward, 13; T. Bagley, 14; W. C. Cragie, 14; M. McLellan, 15; F. W. Martin, 13; F. G. Dunn, 15; C. M. Gordon, 13; B. J. Kemp, 14; A. Millis, 14; Mrs. Davies, 12; H. Swain, 15; J. T. T. Harding, 2 (resigned); T. R. Morris (succeeded Bro. Harding), 9.

On behalf of Home Missionary Committee,
H. G. HARWARD, President
M. McLELLAN, Secretary

HYMN BOOK ACCOUNT.

Balance in Savings Bank, 1908 ..	£51 8 3
To Interest ..	1 10 7
By Balance in Savings Bank ..	52 18 10
	£52 18 10

Audited and found correct,

Melb. J. BARNACLE, A S A A., Eng } Auditors.
22/3/09. A R. LYALL

HOME MISSION NIGHT.

The Home Mission Demonstration was held in the Independent Church, Collins-st., the usual place of meeting not being obtainable.

After the opening hymn the President called upon T. J. Gore, of Adelaide, to open the meeting with prayer.

The President introduced to the meeting the President-elect, T. Bagley, for the incoming year.

T. Bagley expressed his thanks for the honor done him in electing him to the position of President, and trusted that the work of the coming year would be abundantly successful.

The President in his introductory remarks said that he had already made them, and simply wished to thank the brethren for their support during his term of office, and to regret that his other duties prevented him doing more than he had.

Addresses were delivered by H. J. Banks on "The Restoration Movement, Its Inception"; Linley Gordon, "The Restoration Movement, Its Development," and D. A. Ewers, "The Restoration Movement, Its Needs." We shall not attempt to outline these addresses, which were of a high standard of excellence. It is our intention to publish them in full as opportunity offers.

A solo by Madame McClelland, "The Holy City," was much appreciated.

The singing of "God Bless You" and the benediction brought to a close one of the finest meetings of the Conference.

SATURDAY MORNING.

The Conference reassembled on Saturday morning. The devotional exercises were conducted by W. H. Nightingale.

The President took the chair at 10 a.m., and after the opening hymn called upon A. R. Main to engage in prayer.

SUNDAY SCHOOL UNION.

Once again our Union avails itself of the privilege of presenting to its friends and supporters a summary of the work accomplished during the year which is just about to close.

We have now 35 schools connected therewith; these are represented by 60 delegates, who together with 13 officers, comprise the General Committee. This Committee meets regularly on the last Monday in each month for the purpose of discussing matters pertaining to the best interests of the various schools, and it is pleasing to mention that the average attendance at these meetings has been 38, as against 31 last year. This, I believe, is a record, and points to a growing interest in our work as a collective body.

389 teachers and scholars competed at the examination held on April 6, 1908. This is also another record, being the largest number of competitors since the formation of the Union, and speaks louder than words as to the ever-increasing interest manifested in these examinations, to say nothing of the far-reaching effects produced therefrom in the lives of both teachers and scholars. 34 secured prizes, 160 certificates of merit, and 111 certificates, which means that 79 per cent. of those who were examined obtained awards. No wonder is it that one of the examiners, in writing thereon, should state that "Victoria has not only to be proud of her Bible schools, but she may look confidently from among her present pupils for many efficient Bible teachers." Brethren, are you proud of this? If so, encourage us by your presence at our public demonstrations, and enrol as honorary members. Confer with Union delegates on these matters if desirous of assisting us in this grand and noble work.

Our Committee would like to see all the country schools who have not as yet joined the Union, do so during the coming year (May, 1909, to April 1910). Will the evangelists and delegates from these districts do what they can to bring about this result, for we believe that much good will be done amongst the workers and their pupils, by giving to this important department of church work a desirable impetus that will lift it into a state of greater activity and vitality.

Bible Sunday.—This was observed on Lord's Day, April 12, 1908, in most of our Union schools, and the collections were forwarded to the secretary of the British and Foreign Bible Society, to assist their committee in disseminating the Word of God amongst the benighted races of the earth.

Our Annual Demonstration (27th) was held in the Masonic Hall, Collins-street, on Thursday, July 16. This meeting was presided over by Bro. R. J. McSolvin (President), and the awards were presented by the retiring President, Bro. Jos. Collings, who complimented the successful competitors on their splendid achievements. An excellent programme was also gone through by scholars from the various schools (Union), which was much appreciated by a large and attentive audience.

Our Teachers' Social and 8th Half-yearly Demonstration, were held on October 12 and November 25, respectively. The former was not so well attended as we would like to have seen. Thos Bagley delivered an excellent address on the subject, "The Sunday School Teacher," which was listened to most attentively, and this, together with musical items, were thoroughly enjoyed by those who were present. Would like more of our teachers and those interested in the work of training the young for Christ to attend these gatherings. The half-yearly meeting was well attended, and the items rendered by the scholars were splendidly performed to the delight of the audience.

Children's Day, F.M., was observed on Lord's Day, November 3, in all of the Union schools, and the special collections were forwarded to F. M. Ludbrook, to assist the F.M. Committee in their work in foreign fields. The schools responded most liberally, and received the best thanks of the F.M. secretary for their monetary assistance.

Visitors' Report.—Our visitors, Bren. R. J. McSolvin and B. J. Kemp, have during the year visited most of our city and suburban schools, and have found these to be in a fair state of efficiency. Their reports have been interesting and instructive. These brethren deserve our best thanks for their fidelity whilst acting in this capacity.

Finance.—Our Committee is pleased to state that the position, although not quite up to last year, is in a healthy condition. Would like to see every member of the church become an honorary member. We desire to thank the brethren for their liberality in the past, and trust for a renewal thereof in the coming year.

In conclusion, we desire to express our gratitude to our heavenly Father for blessing our efforts in the past, and we go forward in full

assurance, believing that he will guide and bless us in the days that are to come.

R. J. McSOLVIN, President.
J. Y. POTTS, Hon. Sec.

Preparatory to the consideration of the Sunday School Union, the President called J. Pittman to lead the Conference in prayer with special reference to the welfare of Sunday School work.

The South Australian Sunday School Union through Bro. Brooker sent fraternal greetings to the Sunday School Union of Victoria.

J. Y. Potts, Secretary of the Union, read the report, and its adoption was moved by the President, R. J. McSolvin.

R. J. McSolvin said that he did not offer any apology because the report was not better. They had done the best they could. He found pleasure in the fact that a large percentage of the additions to the churches came through the medium of our Bible Schools. Regarding the work of the Sunday School, he emphasised the importance of the efficiency of teaching, and eulogised the good that was being done by the Teacher Training Classes. He also urged that the churches take more interest in the Sunday Schools and assist them financially. Attempts had been made to get the country schools to be connected with the Union, but without much success. He would urge the country delegates to assist in this matter.

C. M. Gordon, the President, said that there were some features in the report that were subjects for congratulation, and some that gave cause for thought. It was one of the problems of to-day, how to secure and keep the young in our church life. Churches were lamenting the falling off in the attendance of scholars. One of the needs of the present time was more up-to-date methods of Sunday School work. This was a question that required serious consideration. It was desirable that adult Bible Classes should be formed in all our Sunday Schools.

T. B. Fischer spoke of the importance of the work, and the desirability of more time being given to the consideration of Sunday School work at our Conference meetings. He urged all the Sunday Schools to take *Pure Words* rather than give preference to other publications.

D. A. Lewis said that for many years the Sunday School Union had been complaining about its difficulties without accomplishing much good. He thought the Sunday Schools should be affiliated with the Conference.

The report was also spoken to by J. Pittman, J. Sharp, T. Bagley, F. Collins and J. H. Stevens.

It was resolved on the motion of T. Bagley that it be a recommendation to the Sunday School Union to have a special evening demonstration in connection with the meetings of the Conference.

TEMPERANCE COMMITTEE.

Another year has come and gone, and in pursuance of its duty to the brotherhood at large the Temperance Committee presents its report.

There is much cause for thankfulness as one views the temperance position, because there is progress along the line the world over. To-day all thoughtful men recognise that the physical, moral, spiritual, and rational well-being of mankind is involved in the temperance problem, and that slowly and surely the rising vote of popular opinion amongst enlightened countries and peoples is with those who are teaching the true principles which make for good health, clean living, and an ideal citizenship.

Taking the Australian States as an example, South Australia has secured during the past few weeks a thorough amendment of the licensing law, which gives the people greater power over the trade. West Australia is also to remodel her licensing Acts, the Government of that State having recently sent a commissioner to gather information as to the working of the law in the other States of Australia and New Zealand, and he has already reported. Almost simultaneously, the Queensland Government adopted the same course, appointing the senior police magistrate to this work, and it is certain that the two States named will shortly be engaged in work of licensing revision. Tasmania has not yet secured an Act satisfactory to temperance advocates, but they are plodding along with the work, and hoping and praying for better results. New South Wales will probably have their second triennial poll at the end of this year, and at the latest early in 1910. New Zealand has obtained a glorious victory; at its recent poll added six new districts to those now existing, which now make 12 in all. They are handicapped by having to obtain a three-fifths majority before they can secure No-License. The following were the votes polled for:—Continuance of licenses, 189,241; No-License, 223,466. The battle-cry of the future there, is a simple majority, and when secured, the doom of the trade will be absolutely certain.

The work in Victoria has been steady, and during the 18 months the Reduction Board has been in operation 208 houses have been closed. The Victorian law also requires the worst houses in any locality to be the first to go, and already many of the dens previously existing in Melbourne, in localities where the vice of the city congregated, have been closed.

It is interesting to note that in twenty-two years of Local Option prior to the passage of the 1906 Act, only 217 houses were closed.

Turning to the work of the committee, we desire to report that at its first meeting, Bro. J. G. Barrett was again re-elected as president, a position which he has held for the past five years. Vice-president, A. W. Connor; Treasurer, A. J. Hagger; Press Correspondent, C. A. Quick; Victorian Alliance Representative, A. J. Hagger. Bro. D. A. Lewis was unable to take his seat on the Committee, and Bro. W. J. Woodbridge was asked to do so, and was pressed to accept his old position of secretary, according to the unanimous wish of the Committee in this respect, and we owe him our best thanks for the time and labor for the efficient arrangement of the work.

During the year, 17 public meetings have been held, and the Committee at the beginning of the year communicated with all the churches, urging the need of temperance work, and inviting co-operation. Ten replies were received and local committees appointed in these places. A similar letter was also sent to evangelists laboring with the churches, and the Committee from this source obtained 15 replies. We also carried out the system inaugurated in previous years, asking the churches to support the Victorian Alliance, the representative temperance body of the State, and urged a collection on Temperance Sunday or some other time convenient to the churches themselves. As a result, £7 17s. 6d. was collected, as against £17 18s. 11d. the previous year.

We have to thank the Editors of the "Australian Christian" and "Alliance Record" for space in their pages, the various brethren and sisters, including the Quartette Party, who responded to the invitation of the Committee, for speaking and otherwise assisting at public meetings, thereby ensuring success, and to Bro.

W. C. Thurgood for the use of his rooms for holding the meetings of the Committee. We desire to place on record our thanks to Bro. Connor for his assistance in view of the fact that he is shortly to be transferred to Colac. He has been a loyal and faithful worker, and our best wishes go with him in his new field, where we trust he will be richly blessed.

The Committee held 11 meetings during the year, attended as follows:—J. G. Barrett, 9; A. W. Connor, 6; C. A. Quick, 10; A. J. Hagger, 11; W. C. Thurgood, 10; C. Peters, 10; W. J. Woodbridge, 11.

J. G. BARRETT, President.
A. W. CONNOR, Vice-President.
W. J. WOODBRIDGE, Secretary.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

RECEIPTS.

1909—March 1—
To Balance of Cash on hand at 1/4/08 .. £2 8 9

Collections—		
Masonic Hall ..	£8 6 0	
Collingwood ..	0 5 0	
Williamstown ..	0 6 4	
Glenferrie ..	0 13 8	
Ascot Vale ..	0 3 5½	
North Melbourne ..	0 9 6	
Newmarket ..	0 8 2	
Cheltenham ..	0 14 11	
South Richmond ..	0 4 11½	
South Melbourne ..	0 3 9	
Lygon-st. ..	0 10 9	
Brunswick ..	0 10 10-12 17 4	

To amount collected from churches of Christ on behalf of Victorian Alliance 7 17 6

EXPENDITURE.

By Badges (Masonic Hall) ..	£0 4 2	
Printing ..	1 11 6	
Rent ..	4 0 0	
Sign ..	0 17 0	
Postage ..	1 8 6	
Carriage ..	0 5 0	
Pledge Cards ..	0 7 6	
Music ..	0 1 6	
Sisters' Committee, ½ share, Nth. Melbourne 3 0		
" " " Lygon-st. 3 10½—0 6 10½		
Amount forwarded to Vict. Alliance (as per contra) ..	7 17 6	
Travelling Expenses ..	4 10 7	
Cash on Hand ..	1 13 5½	

Audited and found correct. £23 3 7

22/3/09 J. BARNACLE, } Auditors.
A. R. LYALL }

The adoption of the report was moved by C. A. Quick, and seconded by A. W. Connor. In speaking to the report, A. W. Connor urged upon the churches so take a greater interest in temperance work.

The report was adopted.

CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR UNION.

On behalf of the Council, we desire to place before you our annual report, and in submitting same, we feel that God has been with us and prospered us in our work. It gives us much pleasure to state that our numbers have greatly increased, and the cause of Christian Endeavour among our Victorian societies has advanced in every department. The Christian Endeavor Circle should be loved by all true Christians, because it trains the young people to be loving, kind, and loyal both at home and abroad. In it is wrapped up all that is Christ-like, noble, and pure. "For Christ, for Church, and for Country," is our motto, and we are justly proud of it. In serving Christ and His church, we believe that we are doing our country the best possible service. We are training our young people to make good citizens. We hope that we are laying a foundation stone of righteousness, upon which the future welfare of our homeland will rest.

We have affiliated with our Union some 56 Societies (senior and junior), comprising 2,155 members. It will be interesting to note the progress of the Union since its re-organisation on October 3, 1902:—

Year.	No. of Societies.	Total membership
1902	14	600
1903	29	1177
1904	40	1572
1905	42	1584
1906	38	1347
1907	42	1469
1908	56	2155

The Committee work has been carried out systematically, and as a result we have been gratified to find a marked increase in the work and influence of our Societies. A large area has been covered, and many tributes testifying to the good work of the young people have been received from far and near. We would like to draw special attention to the returns for a year, as given by one of our metropolitan societies:—Visits to hospitals, 13; visits to homes of sick, aged, etc., 897; prayer meetings held, 70; families relieved, 26. Both metropolitan and country societies have furnished reports which are full of good things that have been done during the year. There are several committees, and such are formed as to suit the needs of the various societies.

The Lookout Committee has been on the alert for new members, and carried out the duties entrusted to it, in an able manner. The members have affectionately looked after and reclaimed any that seem indifferent to the duties, as outlined in the pledge. This committee, by personal investigation, satisfies itself of the fitness of intending members.

The Prayer Meeting Committee conducts prayer meetings preparatory to gospel services, also in the homes of those who cannot attend church, and always provides for the general programme of each evening's meeting.

The Sunshine Committee has endeavored to do what it can to cheer and aid, if possible and necessary, by material comforts, the sick and destitute among them. A flower taken to the bedside, a garment given to the needy, a meal for the hungry, a helping hand to the overburdened mother, a word of encouragement to the discouraged, even a glass of water in Jesus' name, accompanied with a smile and kindly manner, is a work worthy of commendation, and will earn from our Master "Inasmuch as ye did it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye did it unto me."

The Missionary Committee has stimulated a greater interest in both Home and Foreign Missions, and has informed members of the movements of the missionaries.

Other committees, Social, Musical, Sunday School, Temperance, Flower, Literature, etc., have also done excellent work.

The Junior Committee.—Its work has been greatly developed, and last year was one of the brightest and best that we ever had. We love the children, and ask for the practical cooperation of all those who work for the future development of the Churches of Christ in this land. We remember the words of Jesus, "Suffer little children, and forbid them not to come unto me; for of such is the kingdom of heaven."

The combined efforts of the several committees have resulted in some splendid work being accomplished, of which we will now give but a few examples:—Distributing flowers, fruit, groceries, clothing, books, etc.; gifts to the Melbourne City Mission; post-cards to the hospitals; visitation to Austin Hospital, Old Colonists' Home, Immigrants' Home, Benevolent Asylum, Sailors' Mission and other institutions; distributing tracts; supporting missionaries; open-air work; kindergarten work, etc.

The business of the Union is under the direct control of the Council, which consists of the officers of the Union, and two representatives from each society. Meetings are held each month, and generally, at the termination

of the business, an address relating to Christian Endeavor work is given.

The metropolitan societies are visited at least once in six months by various members, and thus the Council is always kept in touch with the different societies.

During the year we successfully re-organised the Foreign Mission Study Class, which now has some 30 students.

The following officers were elected for 1909:—President, Mr. C. M. Gordon; vice-presidents, Mr. T. B. Fischer, Mr. C. A. Quick, Mr. P. A. Dickson, Mr. T. J. Cook (representing country area); secretary, Mr. C. W. Timmins; treasurer, Miss Rosa Lee; Foreign Mission treasurer, Mr. W. A. Kemp; junior superintendent, Miss M. Mitchell; Foreign Mission Study Class, Mr. C. M. Gordon, leader; Miss K. C. Feldmann, secretary visitation committee, Mr. E. Rowland, convener.

We take the opportunity of thanking all those who have helped during the past year, and we appreciate their many kindnesses. We are entering a new year with the knowledge that God is for us. Trusting in the Lord Jesus Christ for strength, we promise him that we shall strive to do whatever he would have us do.

This is our endeavor,
With consecrated hearts to crowd
Into life's little day, as much
Of loving service,
As the Lord puts in our way.

On behalf of the Council,

C. M. GORDON, President.

CLARENCE W. TIMMINS, Hon. Sec.

C. W. Timmins, Secretary of the Union, pointed out the salient points of the report, and expressed satisfaction at the progress made.

C. M. Gordon, President of the Union, said that a number of comparisons had been made in which Victoria had not always come out on top. In the Endeavor movement, he was pleased to say, Victoria led the way. The Endeavor movement gave a high place to the Bible, and was doing a great work for good among our young people.

D. A. Ewers spoke in reference to the Christian Endeavor work in South Australia.

H. Christopher said the church at Geelong had the honor of being the first to form a Christian Endeavor Society.

T. J. Gore said the Christian Endeavor movement had his heartiest approval. He found great pleasure in attending the meetings of the society in Unley.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

After lunch the Conference reassembled, the devotional meeting being conducted by C. A. Wilson.

The President taking the chair, the Foreign Missionary Committee's Report was read by F. M. Ludbrook.

FOREIGN MISSIONARY COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

The year has been one of great blessing in the various fields, and the spirit of hopefulness is everywhere present.

I. INDIA.

Miss Mary Thompson—our first Missionary—has been zealous in her work of faith and labour of love. Zenana work is her special de-

partment, and, accompanied by Sarubai, she has visited the homes very diligently. The Swadeshi spirit (India for the Indians) has been in evidence in Harda, and has somewhat hindered the work. Miss Thompson is now amongst us on her second furlough, and will tell us more. Meanwhile, Miss Franklin and Dr. Fleming are taking her place as far as possible.

Bro. Shah is as enthusiastic as ever, and his wife is a good helper. Bro. Shah preaches and teaches, sells Scripture portions, distributes tracts, and gets among the people.

Yakub Masih has not had the advantage of close oversight and direction in his work. But this has now been remedied. For a part of the year he was not working in the Mission. Nineteen were added to the membership at Harda during the year, which now stands at 100; in the Sunday Schools, 810; C.E., 64.

Mr. and Mrs. F. E. Stubbin were home on furlough at last Conferences, so there is nothing to report in regard to Hatta. Bro. Stubbin sent in his resignation to the Committee, which was accepted as from the end of September.

The F.C.M.S. report for India for the year gives a total membership of 852—an increase of 80 upon last year's returns.

At Our Australian Station, Bro. and Sister Strutton are actively engaged. Their health is good. The tonga purchased is used by them to get into more and more distant villages. The medical work is much appreciated. The missionary is preferred to the Government dispenser by many as a doctor. The industrial work includes the cultivation of the aloes, and the weaving. The latter gives work to three or four natives, and will, in time doubtless, grow considerably. The spiritual work gets very close attention. There are preaching services and daily Bible classes. On Thursday afternoon the bazaar is visited, and large numbers hear the Gospel. At Tandalwadi, one and a half miles north-east from Baramati, the school-building is well utilised; and at Diksal—the railway station—an attempt is being made to complete a favourable purchase of land with a view to starting work there. Waman and Dinker are the most prominent and promising native helpers. The latter is now at high school in Bombay, so that he may become more efficient in the work.

S. P. Ludbrook has moved from point to point—never far from Baramati—always with a view to the early mastery of the difficult Marathi language. After one year's study, he submitted himself to an Examining Board, whom he satisfied. He has also gone amongst the invalided English soldiers, and to them has brought spiritual blessing.

The following are those employed on the mission premises at Baramati, with their various duties:—Wamanrao Gaikwad, preacher. Salary, Rs. 3/- per week and horse allowance. Savitrabai, his wife (they have three young children). Yesubai, preacher's mother (minds mission cattle, 8as. per week). Dinker Garde, teacher of Tandalwadi school, still studying, Rs. 1/8/- per week. Vinayek Powar, teacher Diksal school, Rs. 2/8/- per week. Manaji, Baloo, Tersingh, weavers, Rs. 2/8/- per week each. David John, cook and butler, Rs. 3/- per week. Shanker Garde, washerman and house boy, Rs. 2/8/- per week. Bhagibai, Shanker's mother, grinding, etc., 8as. per week. Sundribai, Zaibai and Gitabai are wives of David, Manaji and Shanker respectively, and there are three children also. The above are all the Christians on the compound. Hindu work-people:—Bapoo, milks, attends to horses, and does field and garden work, Rs. 1/12/- per week. Nana, pump and garden-boy, Rs. 1/12/- per week. Mahadoo, bullock-driver and field-worker, Rs. 1/12/- per week. Baboo, water-boy, 8as. per week. Though the custom in India is to pay workers monthly, all are paid weekly, as it keeps them out of debt, and enables them to do without credit. Additions to date, 22/2/09:—Christians—Sonyo, weaving-boy, Rs. 1/8/- per week. Narayan, field hand, Rs. 1/12/- per week. Sugundabai, wife of Tersingh, 8as. per week. Kernibia, wife of Narayan, 8as. per week. Zaibai and Sugundabai both help in the preparing

of warp and the filling of bobbins, for which they receive 8d. per week, as they only put in part time each day.

A. R. Main spoke in regard to our Australian station. The work in India was being largely concentrated in Baramati, and while the work was encouraging at present, the prospects for the future were glorious. He took that opportunity of acknowledging the interest the brethren took in this work.

T. B. Fischer said he was glad that Mary Thompson was with us, and that we should hear from her later on. The industrial work conducted by Bro. and Sister Strutton was attracting the attention of officials, who inspected the work being carried on and highly appreciated what was being done.

On the motion of **F. G. Dunn** it was resolved that a letter of congratulation and encouragement be sent to the workers in our Australian station.

II. JAPAN.

Bro. and Sister Davey are our Living Links. Their work is both educational and evangelistic. Bro. Davey has oversight of the work in Hongo. At Tokio he preaches frequently. He has also an English Bible class and song service before the evening meeting. Mrs. Davey makes friends amongst the women and children, and has a weekly song service. She is helping prepare a Sunday school hymnal. The year has been one of seed-sowing rather than reaping.

Statistics.—Members last year, 1,396; additions, 224; in Sunday schools, 2,417.

III. CHINA.

Miss R. L. Tonkin is our Living Link in China. She was with us on furlough during the early part of the year, and addressed meetings in many places. She returned to her work in August. Mr. Jas. Ware, who has since paid a valued flying visit to some of our States, speaks very highly of Miss Tonkin's helpfulness in the work. At Shanghai, 23 additions are reported for the year, the membership now standing at 155, with 130 in Sunday school. In all there are 714 members in China, and 650 in Sunday schools.

A. Millis, speaking of the work in China, raised the question as to whether a forward movement could not be inaugurated. He was in favor of Chinese educated here being sent as missionaries.

J. Pittman, in reply, said that it was contemplated employing a native of Canton as a missionary in that city.

R. Lyall said that Bro. Ware had been consulted, and was not favorable to sending Chinese educated in Australia as missionaries. Bro. Pang held a contrary opinion. It was a difficult thing to decide, and they would have to be guided by experience.

F. M. Ludbrook also spoke of the problem as a difficult one.

IV. CHINESE WORK IN AUSTRALIA.

At four centres—Sydney, Adelaide, Perth, and Melbourne—this is being attended to. Each State F.M. Committee looks after its own work. The prospects in W.A. are very bright. The work in S.A., and also in N.S.W. has been somewhat hindered. More preachers like **Bro. Jame** are needed. He has spent most of the year in Victoria, but is now devoting his time to the Adelaide work. Bro. J. Pittman now superintends the work in Melbourne, where he is well supported by faithful Christians, both Chinese and English.

The secretary of the Chinese Mission, Melbourne reports:—160 week-night meetings held

during the year. We have 74 scholars on the roll; average attendance, 39. Teachers, 65; average attendance, 20. Sunday evening meetings: scholars on roll, 44; average attendance, 35; teachers, 23; average attendance, 10. Sunday afternoon: scholars on roll, 11; average attendance, 6; teachers, 7; average attendance, 4. Much interest is taken in the meetings by both teachers and scholars. We are very pleased to have the help of Bro. Parker, who, besides working in the mission, has taken over the superintendency of the Sunday school. Bro. J. Pittman has won the approval and co-operation of all.

J. Pittman, superintendent of the Chinese Mission in Melbourne, said that he had only just recently taken up the work, and he had to report and acknowledge the assistance he was receiving from both workers and scholars. They wanted more teachers, and he appealed to the young men present to come forward and take part in this work.

S. Wong said that he was glad to have the opportunity of saying a few words about the work in Australia. He agreed with Bro. Pittman that the work among the Chinese in Australia was the cheapest and best kind of Foreign Mission work that could be done. He would be glad if the members of the Conference would visit the mission, and he was sure that they would be satisfied with what was being done. He was of opinion that the best defence against the invasion of Australia by Chinese or other aliens was to turn these peoples to Christianity.

D. M. Wilson, of W.A., said that he could not say much about Chinese work in West Australia, but he believed that it was in a prosperous condition. West Australia was passing through a season of depression, but as far as church work was concerned the prospects of the future were very bright.

H. Pang, who is about to leave Australia for China, also spoke of the work that was being done. He also advocated the starting of a mission in Canton.

V. KANAKA MISSION.

Our work now entirely centres in Pentecost Island, New Hebrides, South Seas. **Bro. Frank C. Filmer** has spent a twelvemonth there, including many varied experiences. He has been brought low with the fever, which now seems to have largely lost its power to cripple him. Bro. Filmer has been in peril of his life often at the hands of wicked men, but his trust in God remains, and he is still at his post. His full and interesting letters have duly appeared in the pages of the "Australian Christian." When he arrived he found the teaching work under the native Christians going forward. At the various centres, **Bren. Filmer** and **Tabymancon** baptised those making the good confession. In all nearly 300 are reported as having thus entered the Kingdom. The seed-sowing on the part of Bro. Jno. Thompson in other days has duly resulted in a plentiful harvest of souls. With sower and reaper, may we not all unite in giving God the glory? Bro. Filmer is opening fresh schools as opportunity affords, and the outlook continues most encouraging. A Missionary house is essential, and a boat for access to various parts of the island. Your Committee has deferred sending either, as it is hoped that Bro. Filmer will be over at Conference time, and report in person at the Centenary Gathering, when his advice as to requirements of both house and boat will be available. The N.S.W. Committee has sent supplies to the Island as needed.

F. G. Filmer, in speaking of the work at Pentecost, said that he had noticed in the reports in the CHRISTIAN that it was said

that he had done a splendid work, but he wanted to say that the most of it was done by returned Kanakas from Queensland. He thanked the Foreign Mission Committee for the splendid help they had given to the work in Pentecost.

F. Collins said that he was proud of the fact that the Bendigo church had the honor to have Bro. Tabymancon as a living link. He was proud of the work this good brother had done.

T. B. Fischer said he thought the Conference should be pleased with their missionary on the island of Pentecost, Bro. F. Filmer. What Bro. Filmer had said that afternoon would undoubtedly help the work of the mission.

At the close of the meeting Miss Franklin and Miss Jolly, of the church at Ballarat, sang a duet.

VI. SECRETARIAL.

This work has been distributed. The State secretaries, Bren. Walden (N.S.W.), Nelson (W.A.), Rankine and Burns (S.A.), have been in continual communication with the Executive (Vic.). H. D. Smith corresponded with the Missionaries in the field. We regret the resignation of Bro. Smith from the Committee at the close of last year in consequence of removal to S.A. Mrs. Ludbrook has corresponded with the lady missionaries on the field; and Bro. Lyall, the treasurer, has sent other good cheer along with the bank drafts. Bro. Main, in the C.E. page of the "Australian Christian," and Bro. Pittman, in the F.M. column, have both given of their best.

VII. FINANCIAL.

The Committee express their grateful thanks to the brotherhood for the splendid response made to their appeals during the year. The total receipts for the general fund are shown in the statement as £1890 9s. 11d., and expenditure, £1898 2s., which, with the debit balance March, 1908, added, amounts to £2161 5s. 7d. The actual deficiency at March, 1909, after allowing for funds in hands of Treasurers in New South Wales and South Australia, stands at £41 15s. 11d., a reduction of £192 2s. 4d. from last year.

The Bequest and Annuity Fund has been increased by £100, through the generosity of a Victorian brother. On this fund we pay the donors interest annually, and on their death the money becomes the property of the Committee.

The fund is used for the erection of mission property, until the cost is defrayed from the general funds. A statement of expenditure to date on mission property is given, and shows the Committee to have spent to date £1040 10s. 10d. on Mission buildings, against which, of course, the properties stand as an asset.

During the year, in India, Bro. S. P. Ludbrook has been studying the Marathi language, and, as opportunity offered, has practised his profession of dentistry. This has enabled him almost to support himself wholly for that time.

Almost immediately we shall have to provide suitable buildings at Pentecost for Bro. Filmer, also a boat for use in going to different parts of the island. This will involve an outlay of some £250, which the Committee hope will be provided in some special way without entrenching on the general funds.

We solicit a continuance of the active interest of the brotherhood in world-wide missions hitherto manifested. Our work is growing, and requires each year a larger provision for the necessities thus created.

R. Lyall, Treasurer, spoke to the report, drawing special attention to the Victorian Statement and Mission Property Account. He also referred to the gratifying reduction

of the heavy deficit of last Conference, and further mentioned that a remittance to hand from West Australia turned the seeming present deficit of £41/15/11 into a small credit balance.

The position of the Childers Mission was brought before the notice of the Conference. W. C. Craigie briefly explained the association of this mission with the Federal Conference. It was resolved on the motion of A. Millis, seconded by F. Collins, that a special committee consisting of R. Lyall, F. M. Ludbrook and W. C. Craigie be appointed to collect from Victoria sufficient funds to contribute towards John Thompson's support at least the sum of one pound per week.

VIII. THE CHILDREN'S DAY.

"Kanaka Jacky," a service of song (author, Bro. P. Pittman), was taken up very largely in all our schools through the States. The S.S. Unions helped, and this, our third set of exercises, was greatly enjoyed. The children and friends gladly gave towards "A Happy Christmas," and "medical comforts," and benevolent work generally amongst the children of other lands.

IX. VICTORIAN.

Conference having requested us to raise £52 toward the support of Jno. Thompson, we beg to report with pleasure that this has been accomplished.

X. MEMORABILIA.

No new workers have been sent out this year. Some are a stage nearer fitness for their life's work; others have volunteered. Endeavour Bands have helped again. W. A. Kemp has looked after this department. The collectors' books and mite boxes still plead for Scriptural—systematic—giving. The F.M. issue of the "Australian Christian" duly appeared in June, and the ensuing offering on the first Lord's day in July was good. Most of the churches responded. "Pure Words" gives our Sunday scholars many a bright missionary article, and "Uncle Arthur" (Bro. Fischer) is also giving them serious missionary ideas. For Quarterly Review Sunday the Austral Leaflet now prints, as an alternative course, a missionary lesson that is much appreciated. An increased literature campaign has been much discussed during the year, without immediate results. South Australia is working up for a Living Link missionary of its own. Sister Zelius still gathers the funds for support of the Bible-women. The staff and students of the College of the Bible supports Vinayek Powar, now studying in Bombay. Lantern slides have been shown in many meetings with good results. The curios have also been in demand.

XI. ATTENDANCES.

Meetings, 12. Mrs. Ludbrook, 12; Mrs. Lyall, 11; Mrs. Pittman, 11; T. B. Fischer, 9; W. A. Kemp, 10; F. M. Ludbrook, 12; R. Lyall, 12; A. R. Main, 9; P. Pittman, 11; H. D. Smith, 4 (resigned).

F. M. LUDBROOK, Sec.

NOTICES OF MOTION.

The motion in the name of the church at Dandenong, "That it be a recommendation from this Conference that a representative from the Home Mission Committee be appointed to visit the different churches in the State once a year," was moved by H. Gray and F. Collins. H. Swain, Assistant Secretary, expressed his willingness to visit during the year as many of the churches as possible in town and country, in the interests of Home Missions. The Conference highly appreciated

and approved of Bro. Swain's generous offer. B.W. Huntsman, R. Lyall and A. Millis spoke to the motion.

The notice of motion of the church at Preston, "That an offering for the Church Loan Building Fund be taken up in all the churches in Victoria, willing to do so, on a Lord's day to be agreed upon," was moved by Bro. Strongman and seconded by F. M. Ludbrook. T. H. Brooker described the inauguration and success of the Church Extension Building Fund in South Australia; and spoke warmly in support of the Church Loan Building Fund. F. W. Clarey, W. C. Craigie, A. Lyall, T. Bagley and G. Wilson spoke to the motion, which was carried.

It was resolved on the motion of R. Lyall, seconded by W. C. Craigie, That the Executive Committee be requested to give special attention to the Church Loan Building Fund during the year, and report to next Conference.

R. Lyall moved, and J. Pittman seconded, That the Home Missionary Committee during the ensuing year consider the matter of appointing an organising secretary or Home Mission superintendent, and have the power, if it be considered desirable and practicable, to make the necessary appointment. This was carried.

On the motion of C. M. Gordon, seconded by T. Bagley, a comprehensive vote of thanks to the sisters, musicians, visitors, secretary, committees, and in particular the Conference President, was carried unanimously. Lygon-street officers were specially thanked for the use of the buildings for the gatherings.

With the doxology and benediction, the Conference adjourned at 5.55 p.m.

FOREIGN MISSION NIGHT.

Lygon st. chapel was filled to overflowing on Saturday night, when the programme prepared by the Foreign Missionary Committee was presented. After the opening hymn, G. Gordon led in prayer.

F. M. Ludbrook, who presided, refrained from saying anything further than introducing the various speakers. He first presented to the audience

T. J. Gore, who began by emphasising the contrast between Christianity and other religions. The Christian religion was unique in its universality and impelling missionary spirit. "Go" is its great, characteristic word. The missionary work of the early church was in marvellous contrast with the forgetfulness and even wilful neglect of the church of later days. In more recent days the command, "Go," had been remembered to the blessing of the church. The speaker referred to the mission at Bolenge, Africa, as "the greatest work on earth since Pentecost." He was not a pessimist; he believed in happiness, and the way to be happy was to obey the will of the Lord as expressed in his great commission.

Miss Mary Thompson, our first missionary, now home on her second furlough, had a great reception. She as a Foreign Missionary had experienced the happiness of

which Bro. Gore spoke. Miss Thompson gave an interesting account of the work in India, its difficulties and encouragements. The impediment of caste was described, and the value of the school education extolled. Much progress was being made. There are now three million professed Christians including persons of all social grades. Daily she thanked God for the privilege of laboring in the needy field.

Miss Thompson also sang in Hindi a verse of "Jesus Loves Me."

D. A. Ewers, President of the South Australian F.M. Committee, conveyed greeting from his Committee. He congratulated the brethren on the growth of the missionary sentiment, and spoke of the advance in South Australia.

Mrs. Filmer was introduced to and cordially welcomed by the audience. In response she made a happy speech.

F. G. Filmer, who followed, received an ovation. He paid a tribute to the willing native workers on the island, and briefly spoke of the need of a mission boat. The Anglo-French agreement was referred to, and Bro. Filmer said the British Government had adhered to its bargain. The French, however, were supplying the natives with gin, despite the treaty. Guns and cartridges were being supplied. The natives fought, and shot one another; and recently a cannibal feast was held. But, on the side of the island reached by the gospel, such practices were unknown. The power of the gospel was thus exemplified. The Christians were noted for their steadfastness, withstanding the temptation of lapsing into heathen practices. The unscriptural practices of the Roman Catholic priests were a great hindrance. Bro. Filmer thrilled the great audience with his graphic description of the wonderful work of God on Pentecost. We have on Pentecost 18 schools and teachers, 700 scholars and 300 Christians.

C. M. Gordon offered prayer, after which the collection, amounting to £18/12/6 in cash and £52/7/- in promises, was taken up.

Linley Gordon spoke on "The Success of World-wide Missions." This was seen in the elevating power of the gospel, as manifested in the transformation at Tahiti, Hawaii, Fiji, Tierra del Fuego, Greenland, Pentecost. Another evidence was in the numerical progress made. The modern rate of advance was high compared with that of old. For example, whereas at the end of the first century of our era there were but 500,000 Christians, in India alone after one hundred years of modern missions there were 2,500,000 Christians. So of other fields. A third illustration of success was to be found in the calibre of the native Christians—their consecration, liberality, and endurance in the midst of persecution.

A. C. Rankine expressed his high appreciation of the missionary and his work. He spoke on certain needs. We require the missionary eye. We should see the mighty harvest awaiting the reaper. We need the missionary heart, to love like Christ; and the missionary ear to hear the great command of Christ to "Go." Further, a missionary

conscience is needed; possessing this, we each shall do our part in spreading the truth. The missionary motive is necessary—to save the lost for God. We require the missionary purse. Above all, we need faith in the gospel, God's power unto salvation to every one that believeth.

A. R. Main led in prayer. The benediction pronounced by H. G. Harward brought a magnificent gathering to a close.

The Conference Sermon was delivered by Thos. Bagley in the Lygon-st. chapel on Sunday afternoon, his subject being, "The Windows of Heaven Open." There was a very large attendance, and the sermon was listened to with evident appreciation.

The Conference Picnic was held as usual at Survey Paddock, Burnley. A good number assembled, and despite the somewhat unpleasant weather, enjoyed the outing.

Conference Notes.

"We have got a fine building, but it is not ours!"

"An inch of boy is worth a thousand yards of carpet."

H. G. Harward's presidential address was a fine deliverance.

T. J. Gore was very heartily received as he led the way in the responses from the visitors.

T. J. Gore's first address in Australia was delivered from the Lygon-st. platform 42 years ago.

F. G. Filmer spoke of two English traders on Pentecost—a Scotchman and an Irishman.

The need of a wider circulation of our literature received emphatic notice in the President's address.

F. G. Filmer fairly convulsed the Conference by a description of his efforts at tailoring and dressmaking.

With a Strong-man as preacher, yet Shepparton wants a man. Gordon with a Chappell needs a chapel.

News item from the Sisters' Conference:—The house formerly inhabited by our missionaries is now occupied by Christians!

Mrs. Filmer told us that Mr. Filmer's remarks concerning the dressmaking made it imperative that a lady missionary should go!

Conference was unanimous in the wish that one day should be appointed throughout the States for the annual Home Mission offering.

"Some one said that the book which John saw with seven seals set upon it, the book which no man could open, was the pocket-book."

Bro. Oram expresses himself as willing to sacrifice even his classical, i.e., nasal, organ in the cause of temperance. Many a toper does this very thing!

It is becoming a commonplace to say of each Conference that it is the best yet. In attendance and spiritual tone that just held was not found wanting.

Inferentially H. G. Leng made a strong plea for the distribution of our literature. He illustrated this by telling of his meeting with a man recently who had learnt the way of life from a copy of Errett's "Elements of the Gospel," originally donated in 1884.

The Musical Society presented a fine programme of music and elocution on the Thursday evening.

Mrs. Roy Thompson was missed from the musical department of the Conference. She is laid aside in the hospital.

The Conference was much indebted to various brethren and sisters who with their gift of sweet song rendered gracious service.

C. M. Gordon paid a high tribute to the work of C. W. Timmins, the C.E. Union secretary, to whose untiring labors the rapid growth of the Union was due.

The President pleaded for a deeper spiritual life, family and private prayer, the study of the word, and regular attendance at the meeting for worship and prayer.

A. C. Rankine interested Conference with an account of the raising of over £1000 to pay off the debt on the building at Norwood. It sounded quite an easy thing to do.

As hitherto, the Conference recognised its great indebtedness to the sisters. In addition to their other services, the sisters raised during the year the sum of £250/11/- for Home Missions.

"We need more perfect organisation in the church," said the President, "and a better system in the State." He pleaded strongly for a State evangelist and a more aggressive evangelism.

Like the course of Empire, so is that of our Home Missions, Warrnambool, Colac and Geelong churches with their three evangelists give bright promise of good days in the rich Western district.

H. G. Harward emphasised the fact that our position is necessarily an isolated one, and that we must be careful not to let our charity lead us to surrender the distinctive truths for which we stand.

Deep sympathy was expressed for Alan Price in the loss of his daughter since he started for Conference. Bro. Price did not even know that she was sick, and only received the news on arrival at Melbourne.

The determination of the Chinese brethren to support a native preacher in Canton evoked much enthusiasm. Bren. Wong and Pang made strong pleas for this simple and inexpensive method of evangelisation.

Several speakers spoke of their district as one that had grown good potatoes and good Christians. A visiting brother was heard to remark, *sotto voce*, that he hoped the latter were not like the former, mostly underground.

The first annual report of the Free Kindergarten Management Committee was received. Much interest was exhibited in the work so well begun. An address given by Miss Wilson, honorary directing superintendent, was much appreciated.

H. J. Banks' magnificent address on "The Inception of the Restoration Movement" gripped and delighted the large audience privileged to hear it. The general opinion was that no finer effort had been heard at any Conference gathering.

The Home Mission meeting was one of the greatest we have ever held. It was well conducted, the singing was splendidly hearty, the addresses were such as have never been surpassed at a similar gathering, and, lastly, the audience was dispersing by 9.30.

Our missionaries assembled in Conference at Jubulpore, India, sent a written greeting, which was read by Miss Mary Thompson. The Hindustani Christian church also sent a message, which was read by Miss Thompson first in Hindi, and then in English.

"Drink is the mother of mischief," according to Mr. Membrey, M.L.A.

The Premier of Victoria was to have spoken at the Temperance Meeting, but could not attend.

Attention was called to the fact that some of our churches are using Sankey's Hymns instead of our own hymn book in the morning worship, and it was pointed out that our own book contains a far greater variety of hymns suitable to the worship of the church.

Collins st. Independent Church building made a most suitable place of assemblage. Some expressed the hope that such a building be obtained for more of our Conference meetings. On Friday afternoon Lygon-st. chapel was quite unequal to the demands made upon it.

The president of the Sunday School Union referred to one school which not only received no financial help from the church, but was required to pay its share of chapel cleaning. On the other side one school was mentioned in which all the church officers were teachers.

Bro. Partridge, of Kyneton, who for years has been preaching New Testament truth as far as he knew it, having learned the position of the Churches of Christ through Bren. Mudford and Leng, has united with the church at Kyneton, and will we believe be an acquisition to the cause in that place.

It was more than once remarked that the great number of young people who sat throughout the business sessions was a splendid tribute to their interest in the cause of Christ and a happy omen for the future. To bottle up, preserve and afterwards use this interest would mean the problem of expansion solved.

SOME CONFERENCE METAPHORS.—"We have laid during the year a foundation that will grow."—We have been leaking more than we have gained."—"Poison-tipped projectiles with which to batter down ecclesiastical walls."—An amphibious plough: "Ploughing through briar-bushes, stony ground, and stormy waves."—One speaker in one breath said he came from Hell's Gate, and in the next that he might be throwing a wet blanket on the audience. Whence came the water?—The language of "flowers": "Rooted like a cabbage in the ground, unable to answer."—Warrnambool has "the best land this side of eternity," able to grow good potatoes, and good Christians! In this "land" sails the gospel ship. The stoker thereof, W. C. Craigie, has often to put the shovel in his own pocket!

From the Field.

Queensland.

ROMA.—Splendid interest and attendance at our meeting at Yingerbay yesterday. One confession at close.—T.G.M., April 5.

TOOWOOMBA.—Splendid attendance of members yesterday morning. Sunday School, good attendance. At the gospel meetings large audiences are the rule. One confession on Sunday, Bro. Parslow preaching. This makes three decisions from one family.

New Zealand.

WELLINGTON (Vivian-st.).—M.I. Class, C.E., and Ladies' Aid Society are doing a good work. Splendid

gospel meeting. Powerful address by J. J. Franklin, "The Meaning and Message of Our Centennial." At the close three persons confessed their faith in Jesus.—K., April 4.

WELLINGTON SOUTH.—On March 30 a farewell social was given to A. F. Turner, who has for nearly seven years been the evangelist here. R. A. Wright, M.P., and J. J. Franklyn, of the city church, D. M. Crackett, of Petone, and J. P. Heggie, of the Lower Hutt, addressed the meeting, and all testified to the esteem in which Bro. Turner was held, and the general regret felt at his departure. Solos were given by Sister Patching and Bro. Bewley, and recitations by Misses N. Day and G. Copp. Bro. Campbell presented to Bro. Turner a handsome travelling-bag with name and plate, and to Mrs. Turner a hand-bag, on behalf of the church. Bro. Turner suitably replied.—A.H., April 6.

West Australia.

COLLIE.—On March 28, at the close of an address by J. T. Stone, one intelligent young man came forward and confessed his faith in Jesus, and was immersed on the following Wednesday evening.—H.D., April 3.

New South Wales.

BROKEN HILL.—Sunday, April 3, big duststorm lessened congregations. Two received into fellowship who had been attending another church. Good service in evening. One confession. Bro. House improving.—E. J. Tuck

AUBURN.—The Berean Class, started but a month ago, is now attended by nearly 80 students. The mid-week meeting was the best attendance on record, 150 being present. Splendid meetings around the Lord's table continue, and a crowded house to hear the gospel. One more confession.—W. H. CLAY, April 12.

INVERELL.—On Tuesday evening the 30th a social was held to bid the late evangelist, Bro. Uren, and his wife farewell. A nice programme was rendered. Some speeches were delivered expressing regret at our brother's departure. An illuminated address was presented to Bro. Uren on behalf of the church. A small token was also presented to Sister Uren on behalf of the sisters. The two brothers, A. Woolford and H. Cook (jun.) are proclaiming the gospel for the present.—THOS. HODSON, April 4.

MEREWETHER.—The church has secured the services of Eli Neville as their evangelist. He commenced duties on the 24th ult. We had previously become acquainted with him through his holding a 10 days' gospel mission last February. We are having crowded meetings. During the past nine months the brethren have been holding cottage prayer meetings at Hamilton, with the purpose of starting a church in that district; these meetings have an average attendance of over 20. We expect greater things since Bro. Neville is with us. On Friday, 2nd inst., was tendered a send off social to Sisters Banks inst., and Nesbit, who leave to join Bro. Nesbit in Scotland. We will miss them very much, for they have proved themselves to be very devoted Christians. They were presented with travelling-bags from the members.

South Australia.

PORT GERMEIN.—Meetings continue good. One young man made the good confession a fortnight ago,

and was received into fellowship to-day; and that one, and the three who had previously obeyed the commands of Christ, were each presented with a copy of God's word. Bro. Moffit preaching.—J. H. HALL, April 4.

CONFERENCE OF NORTHERN CHURCHES.—The fifteenth annual Conference was held at Balaklava on March 10. The meetings commenced at 11 o'clock, when the chair was taken by D. Finlayson (Owen). The chairman then extended a hearty welcome to visitors. Bro. Griffiths (Mallala) read the morning essay, "Are We Understood?" The essay was well received and a vote of thanks moved to Bro. Griffiths. The time and place for next Conference was then fixed, and a working committee appointed. The afternoon session commenced at 2 30, F. M. Worden in the chair. Bro. Day took as his subject "The Church's Objective." The essay was freely discussed. Jas. Gordon (Owen) read an essay, "Marks of the Successful Church," which was also freely discussed, and the writer heartily thanked for his essay. A. G. Day (Balaklava) moved "That this Conference recommend to the incoming Committee that they take steps towards some aggressive work in the Northern district during the coming year." There was a good attendance at the public meeting in the evening. A. G. Day occupied the chair, the speakers being A. C. Rankine from Norwood, and I. A. Paternoster from Hindmarsh. Bro. Doley conducted the choir.—W. J. MARSHMAN.

HINDMARSH.—I. A. Paternoster spoke at 11 a.m.; three adults were received in by letter from the Mile End Baptist Church. 6 30, F. Filmer gave a very interesting address. Wednesday, April 7, quarterly business meeting of the church, preceded by a members' tea. J. Lea presided. Attendances at the various meetings very good. 7 additions for the quarter. Receipts from all sources, including balance from last quarter, £107/1/11; expenditure, £100/17/3; credit balance, £6/4/8. Outstanding liabilities on land and improvements, £280. Reports from the various organisations were very satisfactory. Regret was expressed at the retirement from the teachers' roll of Miss A. Harkness and Miss D. Freeman. Sisters Paternoster, Bartlett and Snook were elected deaconesses. I. A. Paternoster gave a very interesting address on general matters in regard to the church.—J. W. SNOOK.

Victoria.

GUELONG.—We were pleased to hear from C. L. Thurgood through Bro. Christopher, sen. Bro. Thurgood recalled the days when he labored with the church here. He sent words of cheer and comfort, and enclosed five dollars for our tent mission.

ST. ARNAUD.—R. Morris addressed the church in the morning, the Bible School in the afternoon, and the meeting at night. We were greatly pleased to see the young daughter of our esteemed Sister Bodle come forward to make the good confession.—W. SMEDLEY.

CHELTENHAM.—Excellent meetings on Sunday. Bro. Filmer gave a fine missionary address. The C.E. Society presented our brother with an umbrella after the service.

CARLTON (Lygon-st.).—On Conference Sunday we had a large number of visitors present. T. H. Brooker, from Hindmarsh, S.A., presided over the morning meeting, and D. M. Wilson, from Perth, W.A., exhorted. In the evening A. C. Rankine, from Norwood, S.A., preached for us. The Dorcas sisters

were pleased as usual to provide dinner and tea for the visitors.—J. McC.

BLACKBURN.—Theo. Edwards, from Geelong, exhorted a large assembly in the morning, and D. A. Ewers addressed a full meeting to-night. We had several other visitors from other fields. Generally the cause is healthy. The interest is steadily growing, and the meetings are well attended. On the 25th inst. we celebrate our anniversary, and on Wednesday, April 28, a tea and public meeting will be held. A good programme has been procured.—A. EDWARDS.

BRUNSWICK.—One sister received into fellowship at morning meeting who was baptised the previous Lord's day evening. A good attendance at breaking of bread. Bro. Oram addressed the meeting. Bro. White, from the Mallee, presided at table. At the gospel service Bro. Oram took charge. Bro. Parker will be with us during Bro. Quick's stay in Sydney. Will Thompson and Sister Telfer were united in marriage by Bro. Quick on Thursday afternoon.—W. H. DOWNING, April 12.

SOUTH YARRA.—Bro. and Sister Nightingale were received by letters from Ma Ma Creek and Brisbane. Bro. Nightingale gave a very practical address in the morning, and in the evening his subject was "The Resurrection of Christ." On Thursday, 8th inst., Sister Ethel Smartt was united in marriage with Wm. Kestle, Bro. Nightingale performing the ceremony, and on Easter Monday, Sister Sybil Lee was united with Frank Young, of Shepparton, H. G. Harward officiating. In our last report we omitted the name of Wm. Buckingham from the list of presidents.—T.M., April 12.

Here & There.

Decisions reported in this issue, 12.

S. G. Goddard, "Avondale," James-st., Hamilton, is now the secretary of the church at Merewether, N.S.W.

Bro. and Sister Filmer were at Cheltenham on Sunday morning and at Brighton in the afternoon, and gave interesting talks.

Large numbers of delegates to the Centennial Conference passed through Melbourne during the last few days. We wish them all a happy season of fellowship.

It was our intention to publish in this issue the speeches delivered on Home Mission night of the Victorian Conference, but pressure on our space compelled us to omit them.

Preparations are being made for a mission at Narracoorte, S.A., commencing April 25, with D. A. Ewers as preacher. Two young ladies made the good confession on April 11.

Orders are being filed for the Centennial Number of the AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN. Have you sent yours? Only a limited number will be printed. You should certainly secure and preserve a copy.

Church reports had to be considerably condensed this week on account of Conference matter. Will correspondents please note that for several weeks Conferences will have the chief place. Be brief!

Several have written complaining of the non-arrival of quarterly S.S. supplies from America. The publishers advise that the delay was occasioned by something wrong in their composing department, and promise that for the future the periodicals will be forwarded to time.

In church reports we had no room for names of visitors to various churches. At the Conference season most of the town churches are favored with visiting brethren, whose services are gladly used.

Bro. Tuck, of Broken Hill, N.S.W., explains that he entrusted a report of the mission to one who forgot to post it. However, Bro. Thomas' report in last issue gives a good idea of the work done. Bro. Tuck speaks very highly of Bro. Thomas and the prospects of the church at Broken Hill.

Acknowledgments.

VICTORIAN HOME MISSION FUND.

Conference fees:—Brunswick, 10/-; Wedderburn, £1; Ascot Vale, £1; Newmarket, 10/-; Gordon, 10/-; St. Arnaud, 10/-; Brighton, £1; Wamboony, 10/-; Richmond North, £1; Melbourne North, £1; Warrnambool, 10/-; Croydon, 10/-; Williamstown, 10/-; Berwick, 10/-; St. Kilda, 10/-; Cheltenham, £1; Northcote, 10/-. Contributions:—E. Styles, Elliott, Tas., £1; Mrs. W. Barnes, Latrobe, Tas., £1; Mrs. Millis, N. Fitzroy, £1; Mrs. Gray, Brighton, 2/6; Northcote Mite Boxes, £1/1/6; Northcote collection, 1c/-; Gordon, 12/-; South Yarra, per Miss Blake, £1/17/-; Geelong, £4; Brim, penny per week collections, £2/14/-; Lillimur, £7/10/-; Wilkur, £2; Peter Burns, Mundalla, £2.

M. McLellan, Sec.,
890 Drummond-st.,
Carlton.

W. C. Craigie, Treas.,
263 L. Collins-st.,
Melbourne.

MARRIAGE.

WEDD—GRIFFITHS.—On March 4, 1909, at Church of Christ, Durham st., Christchurch, N.Z., by R. Gebbie, B.A., Frank Wedd, youngest son of Peter Wedd, of Saffron Walden, Essex, England, to Florence Griffiths, second youngest daughter of James Griffiths, Melbourne, Australia.

WANTED.

Brother or sister with little money to help an inventor. Several new ideas. Half share given. Apply by letter, "Inventor," Austral.

Good dairy farm, buy or rent, option purchase, Northern District, Goulburn Valley. Near meeting preferred. "Dairy," Austral.

BOARD AND RESIDENCE.

Comfortable Home. Kept by Sister Hutchison, "Liskeard," Cascade-st., Katoomba, N.S.W. Terms moderate.

IN MEMORIAM.

JACKSON.—In memory of my dear husband, John Jackson, who passed away at Wedderburn, Vic., April 15, 1908.

—Inserted by his loving widow, Margaret Jackson.

JACKSON.—In affectionate memory of my son, William Jackson, who died at Wedderburn, May 12, 1891, aged 24 years.

—Inserted by his loving mother.

Declaration @ Address

By THOMAS CAMPBELL.

Published at Washington, Pennsylvania,
September 7th, 1809.

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RECEIPTS.

Contributions received to March, 1909—

New South Wales—

From Churches, Members, Endeavor Societies and Schools (including £7/1/5 Balance in Treasurer's hands, March, 1908.)

£352 10 11

Queensland—

From Churches, Members, Endeavor Societies and Schools

97 12 6

South Australia—

From Churches, Members, Endeavor Societies, Mission Bands and Schools (including £22/3/11 Balance in Treasurer's hands, March, 1908).

578 3 2

Tasmania—

From Churches, Members and Schools

25 11 0

Western Australia—

From Churches, Members, Endeavor Societies and Schools

34 0 0

Victoria—

From Churches, Members, Endeavor Societies, Schools and Sisters' Special Contributions

..761 0 1

Special Contributions for John Thompson, Childers Mission.. ..

.. 15 7 3

—776 7 4

Special Contributions—

For John Thompson, Childers Mission—

From South Australia

.. 13 10 0

From New South Wales

.. 7 15 0

From Queensland

.. 2 0 0

From Victoria

.. 1 0 0

From New Zealand

.. 2 0 0

—26 5 0

Balance 270 15 8

£2161 5 7

To Cash in hands of Treasurer, New South Wales Committee 174 11 8
 „ Cash in hands of Treasurer, South Australian Committee 54 8 1
 „ Balance—Actual Deficiency, March, 1909.. .. 41 15 11
 —270 15 8

EXPENDITURE.

Balance—March, 1908

Amounts Expended to March, 1909—

£263 3 7

India—

Miss Mary Thompson

£108 10 0

F. E. Stubbin

.. 79 13 9

F. E. Stubbin, a/c Travelling and other Expenses

.. 43 2 3

Sarubai, Miss Thompson's Bible-woman

.. 8 0 0

M. J. Shah, Native Preacher

.. 40 0 0

Benevolent Work—Sent to Miss Thompson.. ..

.. 22 10 0

Damoh Orphanage

.. 25 0 0

—326 16 0

Australian Station, Baramati, India—

H. H. Strutton and Mrs. Strutton—

To March, 1909

.. 150 0 0

To June, 1909

.. 37 10 0

S. P. Ludbrook* (see note)

.. 25 0 0

For Native Workers

.. 29 0 0

For Benevolent Work

.. 40 0 0

For Bible-woman for Mrs. Strutton

.. 12 0 0

For other Expenses

.. 16 10 0

For Building and Land acquired at Diksal

.. 100 0 0

—419 0 0

China—

Miss R. L. Tonkin—

To March, 1909

.. 90 0 0

To June, 1909

.. 30 0 0

For Travelling Expenses

.. 36 13 1

For Biblewoman

.. 15 0 0

For Benevolent Work

.. 7 10 0

For other Expenses

.. 3 12 0

—182 15 1

Expenses James Ware

.. 11 10 0

Japan—

P. A. Davey

.. 120 0 0

For Benevolent Work

.. 7 10 0

For Native Student

.. 9 0 0

—136 10 0

New Hebrides—Pentecost Island—

F. G. Filmer for self and 13 native workers.. ..

122 19 6

Childers Mission, Queensland—

John Thompson—

Amount voted by Victorian Conference, 1908 52 0 0

Other Contributions received and remitted 41 12 3

—93 12 3

Chinese Mission, Melbourne—

W. Jame

.. 114 0 0

Travelling Expenses

.. 6 0 0

Sundry Expenses of Mission

.. 22 12 6

Interest on Money Owning on Mission Building 46 15 0

.. 46 15 0

—189 7 6

New South Wales F.M. Committee—

Amount Expended—Sydney Chinese Mission 19 2 9

Sundry Expenses

.. 9 7 4

Cash in Treasurer's hands

.. 174 11 8

—203 1 9

South Australian F.M. Committee—

Amount Expended by them

.. 10 16 3

Cash in Treasurer's hands

.. 54 8 1

—65 4 4

Charges—

Interest

.. 17 1 9

Printing

.. 65 7 4

Sundry Expenses, Postage, Exchange, etc.

.. 33 16 6

—116 5 7

Chinese Mission Building—

Special Contributions transferred to Building Fund 31 0 0

£2161 5 7

By Balance

271 15 8

£270 15 8

*S. P. Ludbrook practised his profession during part of year while studying the language, and did not require usual financial support from F.M. Committee.

Audited and found correct,

J. BARNACLE, A.S.S.A., Eng. } Auditors
A. R. LYALLR. LYALL, Treasurer.
Melbourne, March, 1909.

The Australian Christian

April 15, 1909

Chinese Mission Building Fund, Melbourne.

Contributions Received to March, 1909	£31 0 0	Balance, March, 1908	£779 6 8
Balance	748 6 8		
	£779 6 8		£779 6 8

ROBERT LYALL, Treasurer.
Melbourne, March 24th, 1909

Audited and found correct.

J. BARNACLE, A.S.A.A., Eng. } Auditors.
A. R. LYALL

Bequest and Annuity Fund.

Balance, March 1908	£600 0 0	Balance, March, 1909	£700 0 0
Amount Received to March, 1909	100 0 0		
	£700 0 0		£700 0 0

ROBERT LYALL, Treasurer.
Melbourne, 24th March, 1906.

Audited and found correct.

J. BARNACLE, A.S.A.A., Eng. } Auditors.
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Mission Property Account.

LIABILITIES.		ASSETS.	
Amount Owing on Chinese Mission Building, Melb.	£748 6 8	Chinese Mission, Melb., Land & Building, at cost	£1301 17 6
Balance, being Amount Expended on Mission Property	1040 10 10	Land & Buildings, Baramati, India, at cost	367 0 0
		Land & Buildings, Tandalwadi, India, at cost	20 0 0
		Land & Buildings, Diksal, India, at cost	100 0 0
	£1788 17 6		£1788 17 6

ROBERT LYALL, Treasurer.
Melbourne, 24th March, 1909.

Audited and found correct

J. BARNACLE, A.S.A.A., Eng. } Auditors.
A. R. LYALL

Foreign Mission Fund, Victorian Statement.

RECEIPTS.		EXPENDITURE.	
Contributions received to March, 1909—		Chinese Mission, Melbourne—	
From Churches and Members	£590 15 8	W. Jame—Allowance	£114 0 0
From Sunday Schools	27 14 1	Travelling Expenses	6 0 0
From Endeavor Societies	39 15 0	Expenses, Mission	22 12 6
From Chinese Brethren	41 15 4	Interest on Money owing on Mission Building	46 15 0
From Sisters (collected by Sister Zelius)—			189 7 6
For Miss Thompson's Bible-woman	£8 0 0	Chinese Mission Building—	
For Miss Tonkin's	15 0 0	Special Contributions transferred to Building Fund	26 0 0
For Mrs. Strutton's	12 0 0	India—	
	35 0 0	Miss Thompson, for Bible-woman	8 0 0
Special Contributions for Chinese Mission Building	26 0 0	Mrs. Strutton, for Bible-woman	12 0 0
Special Contributions for John Thompson, Childers Mission, Queensland	15 7 3	China—	
		Miss Tonkin, for Bible-woman	15 0 0
	£776 7 4		35 0 0
		John Thompson, Childers Mission, Qld.—	
		Special Contribution authorised by Conference, 1908	52 0 0
		Other Contributions	15 7 3
			67 7 3
		Balance—	317 14 9
		Transferred to Federal Foreign Mission Fund	458 12 7
			£776 7 4

ROBERT LYALL, Treasurer.
Melbourne, March 24, 1909.

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On Garvin's Division.

By Mabel Earl.

CHAPTER IX.—THE TRUTH ABOUT 1307.

One afternoon some three weeks later Jean went up to the hospital in answer to the request Dykes had sent, asking to see her. Her hands were free from work to an unusual degree just now. Mrs. Garvin had been removed to the hotel on the afternoon following her son's return, and a nurse from Quartz City had taken Jean's place. No outward coldness or distance of manner had marked Garvin's acceptance of the plea urged by Jean two days earlier. Considerably puzzled, and a little grieved, his mother had listened to the brief discussion between them.

"I can see that your brother needs you, dear," she said wistfully. "If I were in your place, I am afraid I should give up my profession simply to make a home for him. You were very good to come to me in the first place, and I mustn't be selfish with you. But you will come and sit with me sometimes? When Keith is at work I shall be very lonely, for no other nurse will be as good to me as you have been. I shall want you to read to me."

Jean promised, unable to resist the pleading brown eyes grown so dear to her. It would be very different—this going to read to Mrs. Garvin when her son was at the office.

Manning had taken courage at the turn of affairs. He flattered himself that this last refusal had lacked something of the firmness Jean had shown in rejecting him before. She had spoken bitterly; poor girl, naturally she was wrapped up in Stanley's misfortunes just now. But she had betrayed an agitation and a womanly consciousness which he had never seen in her before. If he bided his time, and if Keith Garvin kept out of the way, in the shadow of her just resentment, there was hope for the future even yet.

Manning was at the hospital when she called, and he took her directly up to Dykes. The little room was less crowded than it had been a week before, for Andrews had been moved into the main ward. Swathed in casts and bandages. Dykes smiled up at the surgeon as he entered.

"I've brought you a splendid prescription this time, one you ordered yourself," Manning said. "But you mustn't talk too long. I'm coming back in ten minutes, and then you must be quiet."

"All right. I'll keep to schedule time," Dykes agreed. Jean sat down beside him, her face vivid and tender with unspoken sympathy. The keen eyes under the bandaged forehead scrutinised her sharply.

"You won't mind if I speak right out, will you, Miss Davidson?" said Dykes. "I've only seen you once before, I think. I was up at your house one night when Stanley had three or four of us there. It was a Sunday night, and you played and sang something. I couldn't tell you now what the words were. I've never been one of the church-going kind. But you know what Dr. Manning did for me, and I—well, I know what he thinks of you."

"Oh, but it isn't—" Jean murmured. "Don't be offended, please. I don't know anything about that; only I know that he cares, and you'll let me say I'd give about all that's left of me to make him happy."

The deep voice quivered slightly. Jean felt her hands beginning to tremble.

"I see I've got to hurry with this. Your brother—they've fired him. I heard them when they were in here talking to Andrews, and I asked one of the fellows afterwards. They've fired him for a thing that was another man's fault."

"I want you to go to Jack Fleming, Miss Davidson, and give him a chance to confess what he knows. I could send for him here, but he wouldn't come. He'll do it for you if he will for anything on this earth. Ask him to tell you before God, and on his honour as an engineer, what shape 1307 was in when he brought her back from that last trip before your brother took her. Give him a chance. And, if he doesn't own up, tell him that you've brought him word from a man that's come back from the gates of hell; that, if he won't tell, Bob Dykes will."

"Miss Davidson, I heard your voice when I lay there under that engine, with the steam scalding me, and the weight crushing the life out of me. I heard you singing that song; it was about the cross; and then Manning's hand touched me, and I knew what he was going to do for me, and what he'd risked to do it. I never thought I'd live to get out of there; but the first breath I could draw, as the stuff began to work, and I slipped off easy like—I thought I was going out of this world—I prayed God Almighty to make it right for you and your brother, and to do something for Manning to pay him for what he had done for me. And now they say I'm going to live, and He's given me a chance to do it myself. I'll never run an engine again, but I'll not be the same man in some other ways either."

"And you tell Jack Fleming that my word won't have to stand by itself. There's more than one of the boys in Cameron know that he wasn't sick when he laid off and wouldn't take 1307 out again. And there's a fellow at the roundhouse that'll speak out after I've talked to him, even if it costs him his job for not speaking before. I've got no job to lose now, and never shall have again, not in railroad work; but I'd speak now even if I knew I'd lose by it."

"You know this?" Jean asked. "It isn't simply a thing that you heard?"

"Fleming told me first. The liquor was in him yet; I thought he didn't know what he was saying. But afterwards I looked at 1307 myself, and I saw enough with my own eyes to prove he was telling the truth. I didn't report it—no. Most of us don't like to give each other away for making mistakes, rules or no rules. I might have gone straight to Hathaway, and that's what I should do if I had it to do over, as soon as I knew Fleming wasn't going to own up to it, or Andrews either. Andrews was up to it, and of course he'd have been held partly responsible. Besides, he's been under Fleming's heel, body and soul, for things Fleming knew about him, and could have reported him for. But if they give him another chance, Andrews'll tell the truth this time. That sort

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of slavery breaks up mighty unexpected once in a while."

"You didn't know that the engine was actually unsafe, that any man who took her out again might be killed?"

"Unsafe? Yes, but I didn't know she would blow up. Anyway, it was their business to find out about her at the roundhouse, and 1307 might have stood another trip. I washed my hands of it. But, when I knew she'd blown up, I felt like a murderer; I don't know what Fleming feels like. She didn't kill anybody, but I won't stand by and see your brother lose his job because Jack Fleming got drunk and handled his engine so he didn't dare take her out again himself. A fellow sees some things pretty plain when he lies where I lay for four hours up there beyond Lion's Head. There's not much left of me, but it's enough for what has to be done.

You tell Fleming just those words—that I've come back from the mouth of hell to see this thing set straight."

—C.E. World.

(To be continued.)

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