

Victorian Conference, 1913.

The Annual Conference of the Churches of Christ was held in the Christian chapel, Lygon-st., Carlton, on Friday, March 21, and following days.

DEVOTIONAL MEETING.

A devotional meeting was held at 9.30 a.m., under the leadership of R. Ennis. A number of brethren took part in this helpful meeting.

BUSINESS SESSION.

At 10 o'clock H. Kingsbury, President of the Conference, took the chair, and led the meeting in prayer.

ROLL CALL OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Abbotsford: J. W. Parslow, Burns, Andrews, Asot Vale: W. Brown, W. Flood, H. E. Knott, M.A., S. J. Southgate, Ballarat: Benson, F. E. Thomas, A. E. Pittock, Bendigo and Golden Square: J. Southwick, A. W. Connor, Bot Bot: R. A. Baker, H. J. Patterson, Berwick: N. Meyers, T. Collis, Brighton: G. Manifold, W. Brodie, F. Hunter, Brim: W. W. White, A. R. Lyall, F. M. Ludbrook, Brunswick: W. J. Way, J. Brinkin, W. Harde, E. Payne, Baywater: F. Widdall, A. Clements, Box Hill: W. Rothery, A. W. Smith, Carlton (Lygon-st.): H. Kingsbury, W. C. Craigie, W. C. Thurgood, F. Payne, J. McColl, Carlton North: C. Scott, R. W. Jolly, Carlton (Chinese Church): W. Hing, D. C. Gow, Cobden: M. Wood Green, H. Foreman, W. Joll, F. B. Fischer, Geelong: J. C. Skinner, Col. G. E. Chandler, Doncaster: J. E. Allan, E. Suedley, G. W. Clancy, Duncannon: M. Hoyer, Drummond: D. Gilmore, Dundasong: J. Procter, Jona, I. Latson, Emswold: J. F. Borland, F. E. Adams, Fitzroy: J. Whelan, C. W. Mitchell, Jas. McGreer, Fitzroy North: J. Butler, A. J. Haggard, E. Kelton, R. J. Perry, Dinnnett, Fairfield Park: E. H. P. Edwards, Hubert Edwards, Geelong: J. Smith, J. Hunter, L. Kinman, Geelong: A. W. Kelly, T. Baird, G. Gordon, Hampden: J. Tinkler, senr., D. E. Pittman, Hawthorn: A. C. Ruckinge, W. Hunter, McCaughray, Harcourt: B. W. Manning, Hersham: F. J. Goodwin, Kaniva: A. R. Benn, Kyneton: J. R. Cambridge, W. G. Harman, Lillimur: Leslie McCulloch, T. W. Smith, Lancefield: E. J. Meyer, Melbourne (Swanston-st.): F. G. Dunn, Melbourne North: A. Hutton, M. Dale, W. Rogers, Melbourne South: Bennet, Patterson, Maryborough: H. Lenz, Montrose: Archer, senr., C. H. Pratt, Malvern: P. Aurisch, C. Milne, Mildura: M. McLellan, Rep. Ennis, Murrumbidgee: D. Goobie, Geonic, Moreland: J. C. F. Pittman, W. Brown, senr., J. J. Anderson, Middle Park: J. Mill, T. Hall, J. H. McKean, Northcote: J. Woodley, Clara, Anderson, C. Gunning, Newmarket: J. Hart, J. L. Mulford, J. W. Gillman, Pakinham: E. Reeve, Prahran: P. A. Bond, W. Hancock, E. E. Moody, Preston: O. A. Walker, G. A. Dickens, Richmond North: J. Salway, Graham, Schult, Fisher, Richmond South:

W. L. Jones, Crook Whichey, Stawell: T. Hagger, Shepparton: H. M. Clipstone, South Yarra: D. A. Lewis, W. Murray, C. Young, St. Kilda: H. Parker, P. Dawson, Surrey Hills: C. M. Gordon, G. Clewett, St. Arnaud: Allan Wedd, Swan Hill: W. G. Oram, Taradale: J. Jackell, A. Clarke, Warragul: F. J. Siver, Warranbool: R. McConnell, C. Clarke, Williamstown: W. Bell, R. Macdonald, R. Goldsworthy, Windsor: J. Pittman, Tuck, G. Glastonbury, Warracknabeal: G. B. Moysiey.

PRESS REPORTERS.

The following brethren were appointed reporters to the daily papers: A. C. Rankine, W. C. Beiler, and T. W. Smith.

GREETINGS.

Much appreciated greetings were received from Queensland, Tasmania, South Australia, New South Wales, West Australia and the Middle District of New Zealand.

WELCOME.

The President gave a hearty welcome to all visitors.

W. Morrow, President of the South Australian Conference, expressed on behalf of the various States, and Gifford Gordon as representing visitors from the country.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

Under the providence of God, we gratefully submit the following report of work done during the year, and which we trust will meet with the approval of the Conference.

I. WOMEN'S CONFERENCE.

The Women's Conference have now completed their 27th year, and during those 27 years they have always been given the place of honor in our reports. This year, as in all the previous years, they have proved a valuable auxiliary to the General Conference, helping in many ways.

The sisters have contributed by collectors and mite boxes for Home Missions, the sum of £19 6s, and the proceeds resulting from the Women's Rally recently held in the Masonic Hall amounted to £23 0s 9d, making a total of £42 6s 9d.

We very cordially thank the sisters for the help given, and wish them every success in the new year upon which they have entered.

This clause was adopted.

II. FINANCE.

We are very thankful to the brethren throughout the State for the financial aid accorded to the H.M. Committee. We meet Conference with a small deficit, owing that we owe the Treasurer the sum of £39 10s 0d. But this is very satisfactory, considering that at one time we had overdrawn from him £410. The splendid response to

the appeal for a good annual offering has enabled us to reduce our overdraft to the amount named.

The total amount received and expended is the highest ever reached, viz, £2719 2s 6d, and it is quite evident that we will soon reach £3000 in carrying out the Home work in Victoria.

We very cordially thank the churches for the record annual offering, viz, £702 9s 2d.

The Foreign Missionary Committee report their total receipts from Victoria for 1913 to be £1111 14 11, compared with £1100 8 8 last year. The total amounts raised from the Victorian brotherhood for mission work at home and abroad indicate a splendid interest in the Master's work.

The clause relating to Finance was adopted on the motion of W. C. Craigie, who expressed his pleasure at the satisfactory results.

The following brethren spoke to the clause: F. McClean, J. Tully, R. Lyall.

The Conference also expressed its appreciation of the valuable services rendered by W. C. Craigie as Treasurer.

III. STATISTICS.

It is with very much pleasure that we submit this year's statistical schedule. For many years we have been under \$500, but this year marks considerable progress in our numerical strength, the number now being 8822.

The gains are:—ly baptisms, 1495; letter, 429; formerly immersed, 70; restored, 23; total, 2117. Losses:—ly letter, 295; death, 56; removal and revision of roll, 200; total, 1151. Increase, 966.

The number added by faith and baptism is the greatest of any year, the next best being 1203 in the Jubilee year (1903).

The number of scholars is now 700, an increase of 27. Teachers, 797, an increase of 74.

Members to the churches from Bible Schools, 579.

The clause relating to Statistics was discussed by W. C. Craigie, C. Milne, J. Smith and M. McLellan.

Satisfaction was expressed at the fine numerical increase made during the year.

IV. DIAMOND JUBILEE.

We have pleasure in recording this as the sixtieth year of our existence as a people in Victoria, and we congratulate the church at Prahran on the appropriate services recently held in celebration of the completion of sixty years in their district, and in Victoria. We congratulate the brotherhood on the progress that has been made in that time, beginning with six members who met in a private house, and 70-day numbering over 8800, with nearly one hundred churches throughout the State of Victoria.

We honor the memory of the pioneers who so faithfully laid the foundation upon which we have been able to build, and thank God for the progress that has been made; and we look forward

TREASURER'S STATEMENT—VICTORIAN MISSION FUND.

RECEIPTS.		EXPENDITURE.	
Balance, Conference, 1912	£171 4 1	Salaries—	£208 0 0
Annual Offerings	702 9 2	H. Leng	195 0 0
Contributions from Churches	184 12 7	G. E. Chandler	182 0 0
Contributions from Individuals	81 18 4	H. Swain	182 0 0
Women's Home Mission Rally	123 0 9	T. Hagger	175 13 4
Collection at Conference, 1912	39 17 3	W. Gate	150 0 0
Conference Fees	35 0 0	J. R. Combridge	150 0 0
Sale of Hymn Books	7 17 3	A. R. Benn	150 0 0
Refund of Rent, B.S. Union	4 5 0	H. M. Clipstone	150 0 0
Refund of Rent, C.F. Union	4 0 0	J. E. Shipway	150 0 0
From Churches for Evangelists' Services—		F. J. Goodwin	139 10 0
Kaniva District—		G. B. Moyssey	121 6 8
Kaniva	£118 0 0	W. H. Clay	83 6 8
Lilburur	40 6 0	P. D. McCallum	80 0 0
	158 6 0	E. Davis	65 0 0
Maryborough and Bet Bet	203 0 0	W. Uren	60 13 4
Mallee District—		A. Weld	57 0 0
Brim	92 15 6	F. J. Snyver	52 0 0
Dunmunkle	19 10 6	M. McLellan	52 0 0
Warracknabeal	10 0 0	A. Cockroft	29 13 4
Wilbur	2 0 0	A. Fischer	11 18 4
	121 6 0	C. R. Brough	3 0 0
Castlemaine	135 0 0	C. Schwab	2 5 0
Kyneton District—			2312 12 8
Drummond	74 7 10	Church, Swan Hill	30 0 0
Taradale	29 0 0	Church, Box Hill	30 16 8
Kyneton	21 10 0	Church, Montrose	26 0 0
	127 17 10	Church, Preston	21 13 4
Shepparton District—		Church, Croydon	19 10 0
Shepparton	75 12 0	Church, Prahran	13 0 0
Cosgrove	32 7 6	Wonga Park	3 8 8
	107 19 6	Removal Expenses, T. Hagger	32 8 3
Colac	110 10 0	Removal Expenses, W. H. Clay	10 0 0
Warrnambool	53 15 6	Expenses, Organising Secretary	10 8 10
Terang	4 0 0	Rail Expenses, Glenhompson	0 12 0
Stawell	64 0 0	Rail Expenses, Brim	1 5 0
Horsham District—		Rail Expenses, St. Arnaud	26 10 0
Horsham	61 0 0		81 4 1
	47 10 0	Conference Expenses	17 8 3
	103 10 0	Picnic Expenses	9 13 6
Melbourne South	92 0 0	Postage	13 1 5
Warragul	11 0 0	Exchange	3 3 3
St. Arnaud	8 0 0	Printing and Stationery	54 4 6
Newmarket	7 10 0	Tent Repairs	28 14 7
F.M. Com, towards printing Conference Reports	6 0 0	Rent, Masonic Hall	19 10 0
Due to Treasurer	39 10 0	Seville Expenses	7 0 0
	£279 8 9	Hymn Books	8 4 6
		Rent, Warragul Site	4 0 0
		Sundries	5 1 0
		Balance in Bank	2 1 0
			£279 8 9

W. C. CRAIGIE, Treasurer.
Melbourne, March 1, 1913.

Audited and found correct,
J. BARNACLE, A.S.A.A., Eng. } Auditors.
THOS. W. SMITH,

with bright hope to even more rapid progress in the near future.
We have arranged for Wednesday evening, March 25, to be devoted to a "Diamond Jubilee Celebration."

On the motion of P. J. Pond the clause relating to the Diamond Jubilee was adopted. In speaking to the motion, Bro. Pond paid tribute to the memory of the pioneers of our movement in Victoria.

V. OFFICERS' QUARTERLY MEETINGS.

The quarterly meetings of church officers and evangelists have been continued since last Conference.

Owing to the Seville mission, it was found impossible to hold a meeting during the first quarter, but three have been held since then.

On August 5, 1912, the seventh quarterly meeting was held, Bro. A. C. Rankine being the speaker, and his subject was "How Best to Conserve the Results of the Seville Mission."

The eighth meeting was held on December 2, 1912, when Bro. Reg. Emms gave an essay on "The Engagement of Preachers." At this meet-

ing the following resolution was passed, viz., "That it be a recommendation to next Conference that an Advisory Board be appointed, so that churches desirous of engaging preachers may obtain such information as it is possible for the Board to give."

The ninth meeting of the series was held on February 21, Bro. H. E. Knott, M.A., was the speaker, and his subject was "Elements of Weakness in Our Methods of Work."

On the motion of R. Emms, the clause relating to quarterly meetings was adopted. In moving the adoption, Bro. Emms referred to the difficulties churches had in getting information regarding preachers, and thought that the proposed motion would be helpful.

J. C. F. Pittman spoke of the helpful character of the quarterly meetings.

ADVISORY BOARD.

The motion relating to this was moved by R. Emms and seconded by J. Southwick.

The motion was spoken to by M. W. Green, J. Pittman, J. McColl, J. M. Abercrombie, A. Millis, E. H. P. Edwards, Goldsworthy, W. C. Craigie, W. H. Allen, W. Morrison and P. G. Dunn.

On the motion of R. Lyall it was agreed that the quarterly meetings be continued.

VI. CONFERENCE WITH BAPTIST UNION.

In June last a letter was received from the Baptist Union of Victoria, intimating that at the annual meeting of the Union a resolution was passed, "That a Conference between leaders of the Churches of Christ and leaders appointed by our Council be sought with a view to closer union."

A reply was sent favorable to such a conference being held. Eleven from each body were appointed, the following representing the Baptist: Messrs. F. C. Spurr, F. E. Harry, W. H. Eddy, W. M. Cartwright, J. B. Goldie, H. J. Jeffs, W. Clark, G. P. Rees, J. C. Martin, F. E. Wilkin and H. S. Martin, and the following representing the Churches of Christ: Messrs. H.

Kingsbury, A. R. Main, F. G. Dunn, W. C. Craigie, W. H. Allen, C. M. Gordon, J. W. Baker, A. C. Rankine, J. Pittman, Robert Lyall and T. B. Fischer. These brethren met on several occasions. The result was the following recommendations by the joint representatives:—

1. That the papers of Mr. Jeffs and Principal Main be published in the official organs of both bodies.

2. That Principal Main comply with the request that he should present a paper at a meeting of the Baptist Fraternal, to which preachers of Churches of Christ would be invited.

3. That a combined public questions demonstration be held about April, 1913.

4. That deputations from the Baptist Union be received at annual meeting of Churches of Christ, and vice versa.

5. That there be an exchange of speakers on Foreign Mission nights during annual meetings of both bodies.

6. That it be recommended to the Executives of both bodies that this general committee be constituted a standing committee, with Mr. Jeffs and Mr. Kingsbury as convenors.

7. That a fraternal spirit be cultivated by means of frequent exchange of pulpits.

A mutually fraternal feeling was manifested at all the meetings, and it is anticipated that much good will result from the joint conferences that have been held.

On the motion of F. G. Dunn, the clause relating to the Conference with Baptist Union was carried. Bro. Dunn spoke of the friendly feeling prevailing throughout the Conference, and trusted that the time would come when closer union on a Scriptural basis would be possible.

This was spoken to by E. H. P. Edwards.

VII. COUNCIL OF CHURCHES.

In accordance with the resolution carried at the last Conference, application was made for affiliation with the Council of Churches. After some considerable delay, a number of questions were submitted to us, and fully answered. After some more delay, a conference of representatives was asked for. Your Executive being of opinion that the delay and questioning were uncalled for, thereupon withdrew the application.

The clause in regard to the Council of Churches was freely discussed, and the following brethren spoke: M. W. Green, F. G. Dunn and A. R. Main.

The motion to adopt was carried.

On the motion of R. Lyall it was resolved that the further consideration of the matter be adjourned for twelve months.

VIII. LAUNCESTON MISSION.

We take this opportunity of heartily congratulating the Federal Committee on the great success that has attended the mission at Launceston. Also to congratulate the church at Launceston, Bro. Griffith, Bro. Wilson, and all who assisted in the mission, on the splendid success that has been achieved under God's blessing, and hope this is but the beginning of many other missions to be carried on by the Federal Committee.

Adopted with great enthusiasm, on the motion of W. C. Craigie.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

We are thankful to the churches at Lygonist and Swanston-st. for the gratuitous use of their buildings for all meetings during the year; to the Principal and Board of Management of the College of the Bible for the use of their grounds for our annual picnic, and to Bro. J. Barnack and T. W. Smith for their valuable services as auditors.

On behalf of the Executive Committee,

HORACE KINGSBURY, President.
M. McLELLAN, Secretary.

ADDENDUM.

We much regret to inform the Victorian brotherhood that Bro. Malcolm McLellan has intimated to the Home Mission Committee his intention not to stand for re-election as Conference Secretary. Those who have stood closest to him through the years, bear testimony to his great devotion to the cause, and his unflinching zeal in promoting its interests. The history of our organized work cannot be accurately written without due acknowledgment of the large contribution he has made. Owing to years and the heavy demands of business life weighed with Bro. McLellan in his decision, and the marked progress of the work and the vision of larger possibilities prompted him to urge the appointment of a brother with more time at his disposal. Bro. McLellan has stood faithfully by the work through all the vicissitudes of thirty long years. He will always have the joy of knowing that he left it in a healthy condition, after a year of unusual blessing. His brethren of the Home Mission Committee hope he will long be spared to take an active interest in the work so near to his heart. They love him, and thank him, and place on record this tribute of their appreciation.

HORACE KINGSBURY, President.

On the motion of F. G. Dunn, this clause was adopted. Bro. Dunn and Lyall spoke in high terms of the good work done by Bro. McLellan. H. Leng also spoke eulogistically of the services rendered by Bro. McLellan, and assured him that he had the esteem and confidence of all the country preachers. H. Kingsbury also expressed his admiration of Bro. McLellan.

Bro. McLellan, in reply, expressed his sorrow in having to resign the secretaryship, which had almost become part of himself, but the growing work demanded more time than he could give to it. He thanked the brethren for the kind things said about him.

Resolved, That this Conference express in a substantial way its appreciation of the services rendered by Bro. McLellan.

The Executive Report was adopted as a whole.

NOMINATION OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES.

The nomination of officers and members of committees was then proceeded with, the election for the same taking place at a later stage of the meeting.

After the lunch adjournment a devotional meeting was conducted by J. I. Mudford, at the conclusion of which the President resumed the chair.

Miss Winnie Lowday, of the Geelong church, sang very sweetly, "He Died of a Broken Heart."

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

H. Kingsbury delivered the President's address, taking his text from John 17: 15-18. We hope to publish this in full in a later issue of the "Christian."

H. KINGSBURY—AN APPRECIATION.

F. G. Dunn expressed his appreciation of the fine address delivered by Bro. Kings-

bury. He also took the opportunity, in view of Bro. Kingsbury's approaching departure from Victoria, of expressing his high appreciation of the services rendered by Bro. Kingsbury as President of the Conference.

The following resolution was carried unanimously:—

That this Conference places on record its high appreciation of the services rendered by Bro. Kingsbury as President of the Conference and as a representative preacher, and expresses regret at his approaching departure from the State.

DEPUTATION FROM THE BAPTIST UNION.

At this stage the President of the Conference introduced to the meeting a deputation from the Baptist Union, which consisted of Messrs. J. H. Goble and H. H. Jeffs.

They were given a cordial welcome by the President, and received an enthusiastic reception from the entire Conference.

In response, J. H. Goble said that he admired the members of this Conference for their enthusiasm and good work in the gospel. He was pleased with the splendid results that had been achieved, and the splendid stand which had been taken for truth. He was there with his colleague, Mr. Jeffs, to convey to them the sincerest greetings. He had read our literature and found little in it that he could not agree with. He believed that the time would come when the two bodies so alike in many respects would be one.

H. H. Jeffs said that it was very much like coming home to be present with them. He felt that there was an atmosphere of brotherliness in the gathering. He was there that afternoon to express his cordial feeling to the Churches of Christ. The meeting which he saw before him was ample evidence of life and vigor. He too, hoped for the closer union of the two bodies. Organic union might not be possible just now, but a closer fellowship was in his view not only desirable, but would be also pleasing to God. We ought to pray about this union and endeavor to answer our own prayers.

A verse of "Hest be the tie that binds" was sung, and W. H. Allen led the meeting in prayer.

HOME MISSIONARY COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

The following is an epitome of the work done by the Home Missionaries during the year.

I. H. SWAIN.

Since last report the work at Warrnambool has made very satisfactory progress. The attendances at the breaking of bread have tripled, and the evening meetings have grown from 15 to 80. There has been the same improvement in the Bible School, the average attendance growing from 8 to 29. 40 have been added by faith and obedience, 4 formerly immersed, and 2 by restoration.

H. Swain was unavoidably absent, and consequently did not speak about his work.

II. H. LENG.

During the past year the work has moved along nicely in the Marborough district. The meet-

ings at Maryborough and Bet Bet are very good, and the churches are working unitedly together for the spread of the gospel. During the year Bren. Hagger and Clay held missions at Maryborough and Bet Bet, and a good number was added to the church at each place. Additions for the year have been 51; 48 by faith and baptism, and 3 restorations. These totals include those added at the mission. Bro. McCallum has commenced work in this district with Dunolly as his headquarters, and is doing a fine work in preaching and visiting in the Dunolly and Bet Bet districts.

II. Leng said that it was just about three years since his work was commenced in Maryborough. £400 had been spent on the building, and they now had a commodious home in which to meet. The spiritual life of the church had kept pace with its material progress. There was not a jarring note.

In Bet Bet they had a strong country church, and a church that was liberal in its giving. During the year they had had the help of Bren. Hagger and Clay, which had been a great blessing to them. Bro. McCallum also was a great help to them, especially in connection with the work at Bet Bet and Dunolly.

III. A. R. BENN.

Bro. Benn has continued his labors in the Kaniva district, comprising Kaniva, Lillimur, South Lillimur, Bunyip, Yanip, and Bill's Gully. Additions by faith and baptism, 5; restored, 1.

A. R. Benn said that he was in a district that had been established for a quarter of a century. He was told when he went to Kaniva that the work would be quiet and uneventful. He had found that to be so, and therefore had no glowing report to give. The churches at Bordertown and Wamponny, which formerly belonged to the circuit, but which had been handed over to South Australia, had made good progress. He desired to express his great appreciation of the services of the late Bro. Milne, whose loss to the district was keenly felt.

IV. G. B. MOYSEY.

Bro. Moyssey succeeded Bro. Uren last July, and has since then labored in the Mallee district, visiting the churches at Iram, Warrackbeal and Dunamukle. The additions since last Conference are 4 by faith and baptism.

G. B. Moyssey said that his district was a very large one, and during the rainy weather was extremely muddy. The district in former years had been very successful in regard to church work, but the decrease in population had made a distinct change for the worse. Some of the best and most prosperous members had left the district, and the churches suffered accordingly. After speaking of the work in the various districts in detail, he expressed the opinion that owing to causes already spoken of he was not looking for great things in the immediate future.

V. W. GALE.

Bro. Gale has continued his labors at Castlemaine since last Conference, also visiting the church at Newstead. Bren. Hagger and Clay held a mission at Castlemaine during the year. The additions, inclusive of mission, were 30 by faith and baptism and 1 restored.

We regret to say that we are losing the services of Bro. Gale, he having accepted an appointment

as Organising Secretary and evangelist for the New South Wales Bible School Union. He will remain until a successor at Castlemaine has been appointed.

W. Gale, who had accepted an engagement with the N.S.W. Conference, was not present.

VI. ETHELBERG DAVIS.

Bro. P. D. McCallum having accepted an appointment in New Zealand, Bro. E. Davis succeeded him at South Melbourne, beginning his duties there on November 1. The additions at South Melbourne since last Conference are 31 by faith and baptism, 1 formerly immersed, and 3 restored.

E. Davis said that it was his first experience under the Home Missionary Committee. It had been but a short experience, but a happy one. He was very happy in his work at South Melbourne, but the work was so great that he sometimes felt appalled by it. The class of work that was needed to be done could not be done under existing circumstances. The field presented almost endless possibilities, and the Home Missionary Committee would do well to consider the outlook.

VII. J. E. SHIPWAY.

At time of writing this report Bren. Hagger and Clay had just commenced a mission at Stawell, with large attendances and every prospect of a successful mission. Bro. Shipway has labored during the year with the church at Stawell, occasionally visiting the church at Glenhompson. Additions by faith and baptism, 8; restored, 5.

J. E. Shipway was not present, owing to the illness of his wife. In his absence Bro. Hagger spoke of the work in Stawell and of the high esteem in which Bro. Shipway was held by the people of Stawell.

VIII. H. M. CLIPSTONE.

Our brother has continued his labors at Shepparton and Cosgrove since last Conference. The meetings have been well attended, and a good interest maintained. Added to the church by faith and baptism, 17.

H. M. Clipstone said he was pleased to be present with them as a representative of the Goulbourn Valley district. He had to report good meetings, especially at the breaking of bread. They wanted very badly a new building, as the present one was not up to the mark, and the locality was unsuitable. He believed that there was a great future before Shepparton, but he did not think much better work could be done without a better building. The cause at Cosgrove had not altered much, but the brethren there were good givers.

IX. J. R. COMBRIDGE.

Since last Conference Bro. Combridge has labored at Kyneton, Drummond, Taradale, and Piper's Creek. A mission was also conducted at Kyneton by Bren. Hagger and Clay. Additions (including mission), 29 by faith and baptism; 1 restored.

J. R. Combridge said that during the year they had the joy of receiving twenty-six into membership. He thought it was time that the churches expressed their gratitude for blessings received by becoming entirely self-supporting. In Kyneton their great need was a building of their own; for want of this they were very much handicapped.

X. F. J. GOODWIN.

Bro. Goodwin has preached at two places during the year—Polkemmet and Horsham. Additions by faith and baptism, 14; formerly immersed, 2. Three of the additions by faith and baptism were the result of a mission conducted by Bro. J. E. Allan at Horsham.

F. J. Goodwin said that Horsham was a growing and prosperous town. It was also up-to-date, as it intended to adopt a system of electric lighting. He had pleasure in referring to the help given by the visit of J. E. Allan. They would always be glad to have the help and encouragement of any visiting brethren.

XI. GILBERT E. CHANDLER.

Bro. Chandler has done a splendid work at Colac during the past year. Bren. Hagger and Clay conducted a successful mission at that place. Additions by faith and baptism, 66; formerly immersed, 4; restored, 2.

G. E. Chandler said that he came from the Emerald West. He was proud of Colac. The church at Colac held a good position in reference to giving and numerical increase. He felt that they were under obligations to Bren. Hagger and Clay, and they would be glad to have the help of other evangelists also. They would be probably asking the Lygon-st. church for the loan of Bro. Griffith in the near future. He reckoned that the secret of their success was due largely to the interest they took in the young people.

XII. THOS. HAGGER & W. H. CLAY.

These two brethren in conjunction have been holding a number of missions throughout the State with considerable success. Bro. Hagger commenced in July, but it was soon found that it was necessary to obtain the services of a good singer and conductor of singing to act in conjunction with Bro. Hagger. Bro. Clay was recommended to the Committee, and he has more than come up to their expectations, being useful not only in the song service, but also displaying some ability as a speaker, which makes him very helpful to Bro. Hagger. As was announced last Conference, Bro. Hagger was appointed by the previous Committee to take up the duties of State evangelist and Organising Secretary, conducting missions at the following places: Colac, Maryborough, Bet Bet, Castlemaine, Kyneton, and Stawell. Other places at which he has preached: Newmarket, Dunolly, Fairfield Park, Taradale, Drummond, Shepparton. He has given one or more addresses also at North Richmond, Myrtle, Fitzroy, Swanston-st., Williamstown, Melbourne, Prahran, Horsham, Harcourt, Lygon-st., Melbourne and Ballarat; has also held conferences with brethren about work at Boort, Murrumbidgee and Hampton, and has also corresponded with inland members.

Additions:—Colac, faith and baptism, 57; baptized believer, 1. Maryborough, faith and baptism, 23; restored, 1. Bet Bet, faith and baptism, 14; restored, 2. Dunolly, faith and baptism, 1. Castlemaine, faith and baptism, 30; restored, 1. Kyneton, faith and baptism, 10. Drummond, Taradale, 6. Faith and baptism, 137; baptized believer, 11; restored, 41 total, 141. Number of addresses delivered since arrival in July, 218.

Bro. Clay has spoken at Maryborough, Bet Bet, Dunolly, Castlemaine, Harcourt, Kyneton, Taradale and Drummond, also at Malvern, Murrumbidgee and Gordons. At only two of these places did he give a gospel address.

T. Hagger said that he considered it a privilege to stand before the Conference to speak about his work in the large district that his work covered. He had given his

chief attention to mission work; he had done so because the call for missions had been most urgent. He would speak most of the last mission he and Bro. Clay had held, namely, Stawell. The existence of this church was largely due to A. P. A. Burdeu, who on going to live in Stawell called round him the few brethren who were in the town, and made a start with about five members. The pioneers had done good work. When the mission started, the brethren thought they would do well if the mission succeeded in gaining twelve additions. The result, however, was 70 confessions, most of whom might be regarded as added to the church. In conclusion, he would speak in the highest terms of Bro. Clay and his singing.

XIII. WARRAGUL.

Bro. F. J. Siver has been preaching at this place. Gospel meetings well attended. Additions by faith and baptism, 10.

XIV. ST. ARNAUD.

Bro. Allan Wedd has visited St. Arnaud, weekends, during most of the year, and also spent the whole of his time during vacation. For such a large building the audiences are very small, and it is a great problem how to act for the best with regard to St. Arnaud. Additions by faith and baptism, 6.

CHURCHES SUBSIDISED.

XV. WONGA PARK.

Preacher, Bro. A. Cockroft. Additions, by faith and baptism, 3; previously, baptised, 1; restored, 2.

XVI. BLACKBURN.

Bro. A. J. Fischer. Additions, by faith and baptism, 5; formerly immersed, 1.

XVII. PRAHRAN.

The church at Prahran was for a time subsidised by the Committee, but we are pleased to say it is now able to do without the subsidy. Up to the time of cessation of subsidy, the additions were: By faith and baptism, 21; formerly immersed, 2; restored, 1.

XVIII. BOX HILL.

Bro. Nightingale was located here up to the end of October, when he left to go to Brisbane. The church is now able to do without any subsidy. Added, by faith and baptism, 12.

XIX. SWAN HILL.

Bro. W. G. Oram is preaching at this place. Three additions by faith and baptism.

XX. MONTROSE.

Preacher, Bro. C. H. Pratt. Good meetings. Additions by faith and baptism, 7; previously baptised, 1.

XXI. PRESTON.

Bro. H. E. Hall was preaching here until last January, but has now left the State. Added by faith and baptism, 5; restored, 1.

XXII. CROYDON.

Added by faith and baptism, 3.

XXIII. GORDONS.

Bro. C. R. Brown goes twice monthly to Gordons; good meetings; no additions to report.

XXIV. SUMMARY.

The following is a summary of the foregoing reports:

Added: By faith and baptism, 354; formerly baptised, 16; restored, 28; total, 398.

XXV. SCATTERED BELIEVERS.

The Organising Secretary has made an effort to compile a list of the scattered brethren in the State. The evangelists and church secretaries

were asked to help in this matter, but quite a number have made no response to the request for names and addresses. Of the names received, some had to be removed from the list, as it was found on communicating with them that they had joined one of the denominations, and seemed firmly fixed there; others could not be found at the addresses given; still others were living in close proximity to one of our churches. In the latter cases word was sent to the nearest church of the member's residence. With these subtractions we have 343 names, 168 of whom, so far as we have been able to ascertain, are not on any church roll in the State. It is firmly believed that there are hundreds more isolated brethren in Victoria, and if their names and addresses could be secured it would be a great help. All on the list have not yet been written to, but 192 letters have been posted, and 52 replies have been received.

The main purpose of this correspondence is not, as some brethren seem to think, to ask for contributions for the work, but to help the scattered ones, and get them into touch with each other wherever possible; it is a good work, and should go right on.

On the motion of T. Hagger, this clause was adopted. It was spoken to by M. W. Green, T. Hagger, F. G. Dunn, E. Fisher, R. Conning, J. Tully, J. Pittman, A. C. Rankine.

On the motion of A. C. Rankine, seconded by G. E. Chandler, it was resolved, That the Conference express its appreciation of the splendid services done by Bro. Hagger in connection with scattered members, and that he be requested to continue the same.

XXVI. FUTURE WORK.

The retiring Committee would recommend that the work be continued in all the fields at present in hand, but that something be done in the incoming year in other places. In order to this, it will be necessary for each church now being helped to move towards self-support. It would be wise for some of the fields which have been helped for years to now take the responsibility of supporting their own evangelists.

Among new fields we would strongly recommend the following places, viz.: Boort, Murrumbidgee, Oakleigh and Hampton. In these places the local brethren are willing to shoulder as much of the responsibility as possible, and so should be helped. It would also be wise for the incoming Committee to give earnest consideration to Felton and Rochester, and the Upper Murray district.

This clause was adopted, and T. Hagger urged upon the Conference the necessity of undertaking work in connection with the fields suggested.

It was spoken to by M. W. Green, A. Mills, G. Manifold and Bro. Drake.

XXVII. SCOVILLE MISSION.

In June and July of 1912, Bro. C. R. Scoville and his associates in the work of the goodly visited Victoria and held their memorable mission. It is not too much to say it was the largest mission ever attempted by us, and under the blessing of God, was fruitful of great results.

It is within the memory of all, how night after night, for five weeks, the Hippodrome was filled and often to overflowing. Eternity alone will lay the good accomplished. The midday faroal meetings at Newport, Sunbury, McRoberts' sons, and elsewhere, and the many side meetings, all fitted in the fulfilment of the object of the mission.

The thanks of the Committee are due to the conveners of the various committees, to the choir and leaders for the splendid assistance rendered.

The churches in Victoria rose to the occasion and nobly supported the mission, as was evidenced by their interest, their presence and their financial support.

During the mission there were 1278 confessions, of whom 633 were baptised immediately, but many more have been baptised and received since. To God be the glory.

SCOVILLE MISSION BALANCE SHEET.

Receipts.	
To Contributions from Churches in Victoria	£376 4 8
Contributions from Individuals	20 4 0
Contributions, per Mr. T. B. Fischer	132 10 5
Contributions, Churches in West Aus.	25 9 4
Contributions, Churches in South Aus.	25 9 10
	£579 18 3
Expenditure.	
By Rent of Hippodrome	£274 4 4
Solicitors, Preparing Lease of Hippodrome	7 7 0
Expenses, including Erection and Dismantling of Platform, Choir Gallery and Baptistry, Hire of Pianos, Cleaning and Sundries	54 19 2
Printing, Advertising and Postages	130 1 3
Railway and Steamer Fares, and Incidentals	74 3 0
Churches at Brisbane and Toowoomba	8 10 6
Cash on Hand	30 4 4
	£579 18 3

Audited and found correct,

March 6, 1913. THOS. W. SMITH.

On the motion of W. C. Craigie this clause was adopted. In speaking to the clause he referred to the statement that had been made that the amount of the thank-offering given to Bro. Scoville, amounting to £417/5/1, ought to be included in the balance sheet. If this was done, it would make the cost of the mission amount to £767/9/-.

XXVIII. ATTENDANCE OF MEMBERS.

Number of meetings held, 12. H. Kingsbury, 11; A. R. Main, 9; W. C. Craigie, 11; M. McLellan, 12; A. R. Lyall, 10; W. H. Allen, 9; J. W. Baker, 10; F. G. Dunn, 11; C. M. Gordon, 6; B. J. Kemp, 12; A. Mills, 9; J. McGregor, 11.

On behalf of H.M. Committee, HORACE KINGSBURY, President. M. McLELLAN, Secretary.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

President, M. McLellan. Vice-President, Reg. Emms. Treasurer, W. C. Craigie. Secretary, T. W. Smith. Assistant-Secretary, A. R. Lyall.

Home Mission Committee: W. H. Allen, F. G. Dunn, B. J. Kemp, H. E. Knott, A. Mills, J. McGregor, J. C. F. Pittman.

Foreign Mission Committee: T. B. Fischer, Secretary. Assistant-Secretary, J. I. Mulford. Treasurer, R. Lyall. W. A. Kemp, F. M. Ludbrook, J. McColl, A. C. Rankine, Mrs. R. Lyall, Mrs. F. M. Ludbrook, Mrs. W. A. Kemp.

Temperance Committee: H. Barrett, J. G. Barrett, W. Beiler, W. E. Jones, L. Larsen, F. McClean, W. J. Way.

Bible School Union: President, J. C. F. Pittman. Secretary, I. Y. Potts. Treas., Chas. Mitchell. J. W. Parson, W. J. Woodbridge.

Advisory Board: W. C. Craigie, F. G. Dunn, R. Emms, T. Hagger, R. Lyall, A. R. Main, A. Mills.

Conference Sermon: H. E. Knott.

SATURDAY'S SESSION.

DEVOTIONAL MEETING.

A devotional meeting was held at 9.30 a.m., under the leadership of E. Davis.

BUSINESS SESSION.

At 10 o'clock the President resumed the chair and called upon T. W. Smith to open the meeting with prayer.

CHURCH EXTENSION REPORT.

During the year the church at Preston repaid the loan from the Committee of £341/18/9 advanced while the arrangements were being made for a loan on mortgage with accrued interest. The Committee were glad to be of service to the church rendered famous by their "chapel built in a day."

The brethren at Colac are making steady repayments on account of their loan, and have a scheme by which they hope to raise the total amount of their indebtedness of £500 in a few years' time. Two adjacent blocks of land to chapel are being acquired, which will greatly add to the value of the church property.

The church at Broadmeadows have handed over their building to the Committee to hold in trust for the members, and the title has been transferred to the Committee. It is hoped the work here will soon extend.

The brethren at Pakenham also are transferring

their church property to the Committee. The original trustees have died or resigned, so that the members thought it desirable to hand over the building to hold in trust for them.

Applications for assistance have been received from Kyneton, Boort, and Northcote. The first two are under consideration; while it has been decided to provide the fund for the Northcote building until such time as the trustees can obtain a loan on mortgage. Plans are now ready, and it is hoped that an early start will be made with the new chapel, which will be situated on the main thoroughfare in Northcote. The church has already paid for the land.

The Committee will be glad to receive donations to the Church Extension Fund, also loans from brethren without and with interest, where necessary, in order that the opportunities for assisting churches needing new buildings may be availed of as they occur.

The Committee have pleasure in acknowledging the valuable services of Bro. W. Meekison, of the church at Middle Park, whose services as honorary architect are most cheerfully given.

W. C. CRAIGIE.
A. MILLIS.
C. HARDIE.
R. LYALL.

Church Extension Committee.

The Church Extension Committee's report was adopted on the motion of R. Lyall, who gave some interesting particulars in regard to the details of the report. This was

seconded by G. E. Chandler, spoken to by W. C. Craigie, A. Millis, C. A. Anderson and T. Hagger, and carried.

TRUST DEED.

Resolved on the motion of W. C. Craigie, That all freehold or other property which may be held or may in future be acquired by the Church Extension Committee of the Churches of Christ in Victoria shall be vested in trustees who shall hold the same on the terms of a trust deed, which the Building Committee is hereby instructed to have prepared and submitted for approval at the next annual meeting. The first trustees shall be R. Lyall, C. Hardie, A. Millis and W. C. Craigie.

It was also resolved That the motion limiting the interest chargeable on loans by the Church Extension Committee to 2 per cent. per annum be rescinded, and that in future the rate of interest chargeable be left to the discretion of the Church Extension Committee.

TEMPERANCE COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

On behalf of the Committee we desire to place before you our annual report in connection with the Temperance work, and we are thankful, under

CONFERENCE CHURCH EXTENSION FUND.

RECEIPTS.	EXPENDITURE
Amounts Received to March, 1912—	Balance, Bank Overdraft, March, 1912 £138 10 10
Church, Colac—	Bank Charges and Exchange 0 17 6
Interest to Dec. 31, on money owing £11 0 0	Interest paid 12 15 0
Repayments, account money owing . . . 50 0 0	
Church Preston—	
Interest on money advanced 12 15 0	
Repayment of money advanced 341 18 9	
Donations on account Interest Fund 351 13 9	
Sundry Receipts 9 0 0	
Balance, Bank Overdraft 0 12 0	
£425 5 9	
20 17 7	
£452 3 4	£152 3 4

**CHURCH OF CHRIST, COLAC,
In Account with Conference Church Extension Fund.**

Balance owing to Fund, March, 1912 £550 0 0	Repayments to March, 1913 £50 0 0
	Balance owing to Fund, March, 1913 500 0 0
£550 0 0	£550 0 0

**CHURCH OF CHRIST, PRESTON,
In Account with Conference Church Extension Fund.**

Balance owing to Fund, 1912 £341 18 9	Repayment in Full £341 18 9
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CONFERENCE CHURCH EXTENSION FUND.

LIABILITIES.	ASSETS.
To Amount of Funds, March, 1913—	By Amount owing by Church, Colac £500 0 0
Donations £245 13 0	
Loans 215 0 0	
Surplus—Interest Received 12 9 5	
Balance—Bank Overdraft 473 2 5	
20 17 7	
£500 0 0	£500 0 0

R. LYALL, Treasurer.
Melbourne, March 10, 1913.

Audited and found correct,
THOS. W. SMITH, Auditor.

God's blessing, that we can report a successful year's service.

Owing to the Scoville mission, which commenced shortly after last year's Conference, and the prior preparation necessary for the churches, we were not able to commence our work as promptly as in previous years, and after the mission was over, we were further hampered by the fact that successful work was not possible until pressing local matters in various places were adjusted as the result of Bro. Scoville's effort.

Notwithstanding these drawbacks, we have had a very successful year, as the Committee have held directly 21 meetings. These do not include a number of others held by individual churches who have not reported to us, and in this connection we have also to thank Bro. T. Hagger, our State evangelist, for prominence given at the tent meetings in various parts of the State, pointing out the evils arising from the drink traffic.

We have also to thank our President, Bro. J. G. Barrett, for special help in various parts of Victoria, and assistance rendered when campaigning for the Victorian Alliance by helping the churches in taking preaching appointments in towns visited, and where possible holding a temperance meeting. In this connection also Bro. Scoville's great effort at the express wish of the Committee at the Hippodrome deserves special mention. Indeed, there were few addresses given there which did not contain either a direct or indirect reference, and the scathing denunciations of the traffic by Bro. Scoville will not be forgotten by those who heard him.

In accordance with our usual custom we addressed a letter to every church in the State requesting co-operation in our work. In this respect as well as in regard to correspondence sent there could be an improvement if church secretaries and officers would reply promptly. Sometimes replies are delayed, and even where buildings have been granted for the purpose of holding meetings the time has proved too short to work out the class of meeting the Committee desired. We trust, however, that the Committee in the incoming year will see an improvement in this respect.

At the first meeting of the Committee, the following officers were elected:—Bro. J. G. Barrett, President; Vice-President, L. Larsen; Treasurer, E. M. Hall; Press Correspondent, F. McClean; Secretary, J. H. Barrett.

The Committee requested the churches to observe the World's Temperance Sunday the second Lord's day in November, and the "Temperance Sunday Budget," issued by the Victorian Alliance, containing useful matter and the latest statistics on the liquor question, was forwarded to each evangelist. Special matter in several cases was asked for and forwarded. We also made a request for financial assistance for that body to help them carry on its important work. Eight churches responded, the amount collected being £10/12/5.

During the year 102 notices have been closed by the Reduction Board, and the people of the State will have to wait till 1917 before they can hold their first State poll, and express by their votes their opinion as to the traffic. It is of opinion that our churches should take immediate action and prepare for the 1917 poll; indeed, all the religious bodies of the State should take similar steps to combine against the drink traffic. The people's time is approaching, and probably after the exercise of their power, and with the spread of education, they will not be content with the Option, but will demand the more drastic reform of State Prohibition.

Once more we desire to thank the editors of the "Christian" and *Alliance Record*, Bro. F. G. Dunn, and J. G. Barrett, for space in their pages, and also to the workers who have assisted at meetings by addresses, and others who by their manual and educational efforts have contributed to their success.

We thank Bro. W. C. Thurgood for the use of his rooms for Committee meetings, and generally for his valuable and long-continued assistance in our work.

The Committee held six meetings, which were attended as follows:—J. G. Barrett, 5; L. Larsen, 3; E. M. Hall, 6; W. C. Thurgood, 6; J. H. Bar-

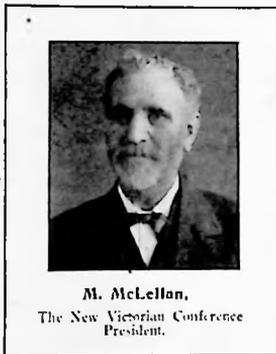
rett, 6; W. J. Way, 6; F. McClean, 3. It is only fair to state that Bro. McClean and Larsen were out of the State during a portion of the year on visits to neighboring States.

J. G. BARRETT, President.
L. LARSEN, Vice-President.
J. H. BARRETT, Secretary.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

1912-13.

Receipts.	
To Balance last year	£0 13 3/4
Collection, Annual Demonstration	10 1 7
Collected at Meetings	2 1 1/4
Collected, Temp. Sunday, Vic. Alliance	5
	£23 9 3



Expenditure.

To Extra Lighting, Annual Demonstration	£0 5 0
Artists' Expenses	2 10 0
Artists' Expenses, Temp. Meetings	0 4 3
Advertising	0 15 0
Donation, Victorian Alliance	3 3 0
Printing, etc.	12 6 0
Postage	0 13 7
Temperance Sunday, Vic. Alliance	10 12 5
Cash in hand	13 6 0
	£23 9 3

E. M. HALL, Treasurer.

Audited and found correct,

ERNST GEO. KELSON.

Feb. 14, 1913.

The report was adopted on the motion of J. G. Barrett. The report was spoken to by J. Tully, L. Larsen, A. Mills, A. C. Rankine, G. Manifold and J. Pittman.

Resolved on the motion of J. G. Barrett, That this Conference, regarding the drink traffic as a menace to the State, a danger to the home, and a hindrance to the progress of the gospel, approves all lawful methods for its restriction, and pledges itself to use every means within its power to educate public opinion in order to secure its total prohibition. Further, it recognises the need of organising the Temperance forces of the State and the adoption of special propaganda work in view of the coming into force of the Local Option provisions after 1916, and pledges its support to the Victorian Alliance to further this great undertaking.

After adjournment for lunch the Conference reassembled. The first part of this meeting was devoted to a Bible School session. J. C. F. Pittman, President of the Union, took the chair, and the report of the Union was considered.

BIBLE SCHOOL UNION REPORT.

On behalf of the General Committee of the above Union, we desire to lay before Conference a brief account of work accomplished since last report.

Forty-five schools are now connected with our Union, which establishes a record numerically. These schools have in most cases appointed delegates, who together with officers appointed at our annual business meeting and at Conference comprise the above Committee.

This Committee meets on the last Monday in each month for the purpose of discussing matters that pertain to the best interests of the various schools. The average attendance is 30. Recently we have introduced into these meetings quarterly addresses on Bible School work by prominent brethren who are actively engaged therein, which should prove helpful to school representatives.

Annual Examination.—Our annual examination was held on August 12, and the number of entries received, 810, is the highest recorded in our history. Such a record, we believe, cannot be found in any of the Bible School Unions throughout the Commonwealth. These figures prove undeniably the growing interest that is being manifested in these examinations by the various schools in this State, as shown by the fact that 40 out of a possible 45 entered. Our Committee would like to see those schools who as yet have not joined, to do so during the present month. 413 competed in the above. Of this number 34 secured prizes, 100 certificates of merit, and 166 certificates, which is that 80 per cent. of those examined obtained awards.

Kindergarten Work.—This has been controlled in the past by a committee appointed by Conference, who through their secretary, Sister C. Jerrens, communicated with our Committee with the view of this Union taking over the work, as it was now run solely in the interests of the Bible School, which was not the case when it was first started. A special meeting was convened to consider their request, at which Bro. Sharp, acting as their representative, gave good reasons for us acceding to their wishes; no extra expense need be incurred if controlled by the Union. After a brief discussion, it was resolved to take over the kindergarten work. Stake in hand, together with £10/10, was handed over by the Kindergarten Committee to this Union, and it is our intention to assist those schools who desire to start kindergarten classes as much as we possibly can. Sister C. Jerrens has been appointed secretary of this department, with Sister D. Gladstone as visitor.

Our annual demonstration was held in the Christian chapel, Lygon-st., on November 25. This meeting was presided over by J. C. F. Pittman, President, who thanked the large and enthusiastic audience for their attendance, which was an evidence of their interest in Bible School work. T. B. Fischer, Past President, presented the prizes to the successful competitors, and the certificates to representatives of the various schools; he congratulated them on their brilliant achievements. During the proceedings an excellent programme, consisting of solos, recitations, action songs and other items, was rendered by the scholars, all of which were highly appreciated and enjoyed by the assembled throng.

Our third annual Teachers' Conference was held in the Christian chapel, Williamstown, on January 27, presided over by J. C. F. Pittman, President. It is estimated that about 400 attended this gathering. Although not so largely attended as our last one, which has been one of the grandest meetings ever held in connection with the above. So great is the interest that is being manifested in these conferences, that inquiries have been made already as to where our next should be held. Excellent addresses were deliv-

ered at our afternoon and evening sessions by Bren. Mamford, Hutson, Beiler, Kingsbury, Mulford and More, interspersed with solos by Sister Mrs. Thompson, recitation by Sister Winsor, and male quartette by scholars from the Hawthorn school. The officers and teachers of the Williamstown school are to be commended for the splendid arrangements they made.

Bible Sunday and Foreign Mission Children's Day.—Special services were held in most of our Lord's day Schools, at which collections were taken up to aid the British and Foreign Bible Society and Foreign Missions in benevolent work, and we have every reason to believe that the schools who took part in the splendid programme sent out by the F.M. Committee have benefited educationally as to the work that is being done by our missionaries in foreign fields.

Visitor's Report.—Our visitor, J. H. Drummond, has during the year discharged his duties most faithfully, and has visited all our city and suburban schools. Reports furnished state that most of these are to be found in a very fair state of efficiency. His visitations are much appreciated by the various schools, who are kept in touch with our work.

Recommendation to Conference.—At our last Executive meeting the following resolution was passed, viz.:—"That this Committee feels that the time has come when a day should be set apart each year to be known as 'Bible School Sunday'; that on this day special prominence be given to the work of Bible Schools, special addresses being given morning, afternoon and evening, and an offering made for the support of such work. The Committee thinks that the first Lord's day in May would be a suitable one, and that a portion (say 20 per cent.) of the offering be handed to the Bible School Union, the balance being used for local school work."

Executive Committee (appointed by Conference).—Number of special meetings held, 9. Attendance of members: J. Y. Potts, 9; J. C. F. Pittman, 7; Reg. J. Smith, 6; C. W. Mitchell, 6; J. G. Collins, 6; W. J. Woodbridge, 5.

Finances.—Our Committee regrets to state that our financial position is not as sound as we would like to see it. Kindergarten account, which is kept separate from the general fund, shows a credit balance in hand.

Our thanks are due to the S.A. brethren who composed the Board of Examiners in preparing questions, and allotting marks for our examination of 1912; to the officers of the Swanston and Lygon-st. churches for their kindness in allowing us the use of their buildings in which to hold our Committee meetings and public gatherings; to the editor of the "Australian Christian" for publishing our reports; to A. R. Main, for his excellent articles from week to week which appear under the heading of "In the Realm of the Bible School"; and also to Bren. S. Pittman, N. Haddow and Sister J. Dickens for services rendered at all our public gatherings.

In conclusion, we desire to express our deepest gratitude to our heavenly Father for blessings vouchsafed unto us during the past year, for the love and goodwill that have prevailed in all our deliberations, and also for the success that has attended the labors of the teachers in our Bible Schools.

On behalf of the Committee,
J. C. F. PITTMAN, President.
J. Y. POTTS, Hon. Secretary.

Resolved on the motion of J. Y. Potts, seconded by C. W. Mitchell, That the report of the Bible School Union be adopted.

This was spoken to by R. Emmiss, J. Tully, P. J. Bond, J. H. Drummond, A. Crichton, and Bro. Benson.

It was urged upon the Conference that more funds were required for carrying on the work of the Union.

In the course of his remarks, J. Tully spoke very highly of the Bible School page in the "Christian," conducted by A. R. Main.

Resolved, That it be a recommendation to the churches to have a Bible School Sunday, and from the collection taken up 20 per cent. go to the Union and 80 per cent. to the school.

KINDERGARTEN DISPLAY.

A kindergarten display was given by scholars from the Fitzroy Tabernacle, under the direction of Miss Swain. About 40 children took part in the display, and proved to be an excellent object lesson in regard to kindergarten methods of teaching.

"SPECIALTIES IN BIBLE SCHOOL WORK."

An Address by W. C. Beiler.

In the course of Bro. Beiler's remarks he spoke of the Bible School as an integral part of church activity, and advocated the presence of all ages in this important branch of church work. He urged the importance of the Bible School as a nursery for the church. The young hearts were impressed and made receptive of the gospel message. Moreover, it was from the school that the church must look for its future workers. He deprecated in the teaching of the school any study other than that connected directly with the Bible.

THE FOREIGN MISSION SESSION.

The President of the Conference resumed the chair and proceeded with the consideration of the Foreign Missionary report.

Bro. and Sister P. A. Davey, missionaries to Japan, were invited to the platform, and A. R. Main led the meeting in prayer.

FOREIGN MISSIONARY REPORT.

1. LOOKING BACKWARD.

The past year has probably been the busiest year in all the history of the Committee. The members have felt their responsibility in the many important matters which have arisen; but looking to God for wisdom, and to the brotherhood for co-operation, they have striven to the best of their ability to faithfully perform the great work they have been privileged to engage in.

T. B. Fischer moved the adoption of this division. He said the past year had been the busiest one on record. Nineteen meetings had been held. He desired to thank the churches for their splendid support in the work.

2. FIELDS OCCUPIED.

Our field is the world, and the Committee's operations extend far and wide. In some cases the Committee carries on work under its own auspices, whilst in other cases it supports Living Links, or natives under the American, British, or New Zealand Boards. They are represented in the following places:—

Oba, SOUTH SEAS. The Island of Oba is in the New Hebrides group, and lies 6 miles west of Macao, which in turn lies 5 miles due north of Pentecost. Oba is 21 miles long and 12 miles wide, and has a population of about 5000 Kanakas. Our schools are scattered over all parts of the island, no less than 45 teachers being engaged in the work at 43 localities. Our mission property and bungalow at Ndumdu, towards the south-west of the island, and is 60 miles distant by sea from Bannatnat, Pentecost.

PENTECOST, SOUTH SEAS. Pentecost is one of the pearls of the Pacific. The island has a population of about 5000. It is 34 miles long and 8 miles wide. We have our mission property at the south end of the island, at Bannatnat, where there is a mission bungalow, a chapel, and buildings for those receiving training as teachers. In other parts of the island we have schools established and taught by native teachers.

BARAMATI, INDIA. Baramati is a city of over 10,000 people, and is in the Bombay Presidency. There are twenty-nine millions of people at that presidency, and ten millions are but slightly touched by missionary effort. Baramati has a famous bazaar, which 45,000 people have been known to attend. The town possesses a school, council chambers, dispensary, and a number of heathen temples. It is the centre of a large district. Our property consists of a splendid bungalow, chapel, weaving room, native quarters, and several small houses built for Christian families. There is also a piece of land for cultivation, and sufficient land adjoining the bungalow for further buildings. We also have a small work at an outstation called Tandalwadi.

DIKSAL, INDIA. Diksal is also in the Bombay Presidency, and lies 18 miles by road from Baramati. It is a railway station on the Madras, Bombay railway line, a little south-east of Dhond, Kedgaon, and Poonia. Our property here consists of Bungalow, native quarters, and fields for cultivation. Around Diksal are numerous villages which are regularly visited with the gospel message.

DALTONGANJ, INDIA. This centre is in the Palaman district, and is about 1000 miles by rail from Baramati. It is in the centre of a district of 800,000 people, living in 3000 villages. 343,000 of these people are aborigines. The mission property there is owned by the British brethren, under whose control the mission is carried on. There is a fine bungalow on the property, in which some of our Australian brethren have taken a practical interest.

HARDA, INDIA. Harda is an important town in the Central Province, and is evangelised by the F.C.M.S. The property is very valuable, and consists of three bungalows, a chapel, a hospital, native homes, and primary and high schools. The work in this place was established 31 years ago. In location it is about 500 miles by rail from both Baramati and Daltonganj.

INGOME, SOUTH AFRICA. Ingome, Beilungwe, is the new field opened by the New Zealand churches, in Southern Rhodesia. Ingome is situated two weeks' trek from Bulawayo. The missionaries are working mainly among the Matabele, although, so far, building operations have engaged most of their time.

SHANGHAI, CHINA. Shanghai is under the F.C.M.S. The city has a population of 1,500,000, and presents mighty opportunities. It has great factories full of fertile employees. During the revolution it was the chief city of the revolutionary propaganda, and became a haven of refuge for hundreds of thousands, amongst whom the missionaries did a good work.

TOKYO, JAPAN. Tokyo is one of the great cities of the Sunrise Kingdom. Earthquakes and devastating fires are often known. The F.C.M.S. owns property there to the value of £5000. The city is a strong students' centre, and also has a strong Chinese and Japanese Y.M.C.A.

AUSTRALIA. Chinese missions are established at Perth, W.A.; Sydney, N.S.W.; Adelaide, S.A.; and Melbourne, Victoria. A splendid property, which cost £4000, is owned in Victoria, whilst money is also in hand in N.S.W. to purchase a suitable block of land when it can be found.

The Secretary spoke on the fields occupied. Much had been done, but large districts in the Foreign fields were still untouched by the gospel. In India, out of the 29 millions of people in the Bombay Presidency, in which our Australian Station is established, it is estimated that over one

third of the people have been scarcely touched by missionary effort.

In connection with the work in Japan, Sister P. A. Davey said that it gave her great pleasure to be present at the Conference, and help to represent Japan. She also referred to the importance of Japan to the Eastern world. It was regarded as the missionary key to the Orient. Though Japan was not yet willing to give itself to Christ it was quite willing to have Christ for Japan. Her seven years in Japan had made it dear to her, and she was glad to say that she was able at last to speak in the Japanese tongue.

3. DEPARTMENTS OF WORK.

Work on the field is many-sided, as we endeavor by all means to save some. The following departments of work are engaged in:—

EVANGELISTIC. This is the chief object of the work at every place, by every worker, all the time. Everything which is engaged in is for the great object of evangelising the heathen. The missionaries preach in the bazaars; speak to the people visited in the homes; tell the gospel story to those receiving medical treatment; preach by the wayside; itinerate and tour the villages; and in every way possible lift up Christ and him crucified.

EDUCATIONAL. On the island of Pentecost Bro. F. G. Filmer has established a training institution for the better equipment of the Kanaka teachers, and about 30 are now under instruction. At Diksal Bro. H. Watson has established a school under a native school master. The school opened the year with 10 scholars, and closed with 38 on the roll. The normal subjects are taught up to the 7th standard, and English to the 5th standard. Two of the older scholars and also the parents of one of the scholars have during the year been baptised into Christ.

The work among the Chinese in Perth, Adelaide, Sydney, and Melbourne, is also of an educational nature. We would thank the large staff of honorary teachers who sacrifice leisure in order to teach in the missions on the week nights. As the Chinese are taught the language of the land we live in, the language of heaven is not forgotten. The teachers' efforts make the work of Bro. Jone more effective. We have pleasure in recording our high appreciation of the work of Bro. W. J. James, our Australian Chinese evangelist. In Melbourne the work is under the able superintendency of Bro. J. Pittman, senr., and continues to have the devoted services of Miss A. B. as secretary.

In Japan, educational work is engaged in. The work of Bro. P. A. Davey is worthy of special mention. His personal statement on the educational work at Tokyo will be received with pleasure at this Conference.

INDUSTRIAL. At Baramati Bro. H. H. Stratton has under his control a weaving establishment where, with improved looms, saries are being made out, which are much sought after, and find a ready sale. This work supports several Christian families, and is self-supporting.

At Pentecost Bro. F. G. Filmer has cleared sufficient land to plant over 200 coconut palms, which in time will become a source of profit to the mission, apart from giving employment to natives. During last year 32 natives were employed in clearing and planting, at a total cost of £750. When in full bearing the palms are expected to prove a source of revenue.

COLPORTEUR. At Diksal the passing trains are regularly visited, and New Testament portions are sold and tracts distributed. In this way the gospel message reaches districts and homes untouched by any other missionary. The book room in the centre of Baramati continues to be well patronised, an average of about 150 per week average themselves of the papers, books and periodicals supplied to visitors.

ZENANA & CHILDREN'S WORK. Miss M. Thompson, at Harda, and Miss R. F. Tilley,

and Mrs. H. H. Stratton, at Baramati, and Mrs. H. Watson, at Diksal, are all engaged in these departments of the work. Miss M. Thompson has a wider influence in the zenana work than our first missionary of the Cross, Miss R. F. Tilley's work among the children is going to tell in the years to come. She is full in affection and treated with respect by the children of both high and low castes, and her classes amongst the children are breaking down prejudice and are extending the influence of the mission and its work.

BENEVOLENT & PHILANTHROPIC. In every field this class of work is engaged in. The Children's Day money is used for this purpose. Regular Christmas celebrations are held and gifts distributed; cases of need are relieved; medical comforts are provided, and employment is given to poor families when deemed necessary. Orphanages are supported at Baramati and Damoh, whilst Miss R. L. Tonkin, at Shanghai, has eight orphan or neglected girls for whom she is caring, and who are being trained to become Bible women.

MEDICAL. At both Oba and Pentecost hundreds of cases are treated by the missionaries in the course of the year. The most serious cases are taken, when necessary, to the Anbungh hospital.

At Baramati Bro. H. H. Stratton treated cases until July, and then closed the dispensary to release himself for other work.

At Diksal Bro. H. Watson has found the medical to be a great asset. 2313 treatments were given during 1912. Many a poor heathen sufferer has been relieved, and in low respects, and in some cases, loves the name of Jesus.

TRANSLATION. A little has been done along this line during the past year. Bro. A. T. Waters has translated and prepared for the press the following portions of the Word of God, in the language of the people at Ndindui:—Genesis, chapters 1, 2 and 3; Exodus 20: 1-17; John 1: 3: 1-23, 36. These Scriptures are now in the hands of the printer, and we believe will considerably help the work on Oba.

T. B. Fischer moved the adoption of this Division, and spoke of the work at Diksal, Baramati and Harda, giving instances of what he had seen in the medical, industrial and educational departments of the missionary enterprise. He also expressed regret at the projected departure of Bro. S. Wong, and hoped he would do a good work at Canton, his native town in China.

4. OUR MISSIONARIES.

Separated from home and country, our band of missionaries plead for our intercession at the throne of grace. Their names are household words amongst the churches.

MR. AND MRS. F. G. FILMER are hard at work on Pentecost. They are highly esteemed by all the workers of other missions in the islands. Their lives are full of wonderful experiences, and God is making them channels of blessing to many dark souls.

MR. AND MRS. A. T. WATERS are at present in Australia, after serving some months on the island of Oba. They originally labored amongst the Zulus in Africa, but at our request among the islands during the furlough of Bro. Filmer. The Federal Committee has accepted them for further service, and they return to Oba by the April steamer.

MR. AND MRS. F. G. GOODWIN labored on Pentecost and Oba for about a year, but returned to Australia in January, 1913, on account of serious illness. Bro. Goodwin had the joy of labors in the field, and was on Oba. The Committee met and decided exceedingly to receive the resignation of these two workers on account of Bro. Goodwin's health.

MR. A. B. CHAPPELL, our latest missionary, has only just settled at Oba, but writes optimistic

letters concerning this work. He studied at the College of the Bible, Glen Iris, and we are looking to him with confidence for the accomplishment of a good work in the future.

MR. AND MRS. H. H. STRUTTON have now been eight years at Baramati. Apart from his missionary work Bro. Stratton has become prominent in the official life of the town, being a councillor, and also chairman of the Government dispensary. The plague epidemic has kept Bro. and Sister Stratton very busy for the last few months.

MR. AND MRS. H. WATSON have occupied Diksal for about a year. The medical work of Bro. Watson had opened many a weary in the surrounding villages of the district, and as the patients have received treatment, they have been told of the great Physician, who alone can heal the sin-sick soul.

MISS M. THOMPSON is the Zenana worker at Harda, and has labored there for 21 years. We congratulate her on her length of service. She holds a high place in the estimation of her fellow missionaries, the women of Harda, and the Committees in the home land.

MISS R. F. TILLEY labors chiefly among the children at Baramati. On account of the city being deserted as a result of the plague, her work has been much interfered with for some months, but undaunted she visited the temporary structures in the fields and sought out the children, to teach them of the children's Friend.

MISS R. L. TONKIN continues at Shanghai. Her responsibilities are many, yet with a Christ-like spirit she has sought out orphans and neglected women and children, and gathering them into her home, is training them to become useful in the work at Shanghai.

MR. AND MRS. P. A. DAVEY, of Tokyo, Japan, are with us at this Conference. We welcome them back to their home land. We look upon them as most worthily representing the great Australian brotherhood in the land of Japan. We look forward to hearing, from their own lips, the story of the triumphs of the gospel in the land of the Mikado.

5. NATIVE WORKERS, ETC.

We are pleased to report a very large number of native workers, through whom a good work is being accomplished. Native workers, teachers, evangelists, and Bible women or others, are supported by us at quite a number of places. The Federal Committee is financially responsible for the support of native workers as follows:—

Oba, South Seas	45
Pentecost, South Seas	18
Australia	12
Baramati, India	12
Diksal, India	4
Harda, India	4
Dalgonang, India	3
Ingonoo, South Africa	1
Shanghai, China	1
Tokyo, Japan	2

On account of this report being presented to the Victorian Conference, we have pleasure in stating that Victoria supports as follows:—

- Bible woman, Shanghai, Sisters of Victoria.
- Bible woman, Dalgonang, Sisters of Victoria.
- Diocn, native evangelist, Shanghai, China, Mr. and Mrs. H. Pang, Carlton.
- Sustilbali, Bible woman, Baramati, India, Sisters of Victoria.
- Wanmanras Gudwara, evangelist, Baramati, India, College of the Bible.
- Rutbun Diksal, book-room evangelist, Baramati, India, Hat Bet Church.
- Vehor, evangelist, Baramati, India, Kanva Christian Endeavor Society.
- Native, Ingonoo, South Africa, College of the Bible.
- Madhira Prasad, Dalgonang, India, Newmarket Young People.
- Banshal, Harda, India, Sisters of Victoria.
- Sarabai, Bible woman, Harda, India, Sisters of Victoria.
- Mr. and Mrs. M. J. Shah, Harda, India, Easter Mission David.

TABLEAU STATEMENT OF THE FEDERAL FOREIGN MISSIONARY COMMITTEE OF CHURCHES OF CHRIST IN AUSTRALIA, FOR CONFERENCE, 1913.

Rackmania, Harda, India, Ballarat C.E. Native, Oba, South Seas, "Telford." Tokovindola, Oba, South Seas, Mr. and Mrs. P. Bryce, Cheltenham. Talymancon, Pentecost, South Seas, Bendigo.

ORPHANS.

In addition, a number of orphans and similar cases are supported by the Federal Committee, they being located as follows:—

- Shanghai, China, 8.
- Baramati, India, 11.
- Harda and Damoh, India, 4.

Victoria is represented as follows:— Mahodoo, Baramati, India, "Gratitude." Orphan, Baramati, India, Hawthorn C.E. John, Baramati, India, Victorian J.C. Endeavor. Vitu, Baramati, India, Victorian J.C. Endeavor. Nera, Baramati, India, Virginia Club, Swanston-st., Melbourne.

Whilst desirous of expressing our gratitude to all who have assisted in the support of any workers, we feel constrained to specially mention Sister Mrs. Zelius, senr., who for many years has regularly collected the money necessary for the support of Bible women at Baramati, Harda, and Shanghai, from the sisters of Victoria. Such devoted service will in no wise lose its reward.

6. CANDIDATES.

To successfully cope with the increasing needs of a grand work, it is necessary that the Committee should have candidates in training for future service.

We are pleased to report that there are now four in active preparation, in either hospital or college, who have been provisionally accepted for the world wide work. There are also several others in touch with the Committee with a view to service in the foreign field. The Committee would gladly hear from other prospective candidates, especially from those who might go out as medical, nursing, or educational missionaries. "Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he send forth more laborers into the harvest."

Divisions 4, 5 and 6 were grouped together. The Secretary had good words to say for all the missionaries. Bro. A. B. Chappell, one of the students of the College of the Bible, had been offered permanent engagement for work on Oba. Bro. F. G. Goodwin had returned broken down in health, but was improving, but would not be able to return to the Islands. To carry on the work, Bro. and Sister Waters returned to the South Seas by the next steamer. They had done well in their translation of parts of the Bible in the language of the people on Oba. It was being printed by the Austral Publishing Co. Bro. W. Janne was expected to return to Victoria shortly to help the work at Queensberry-st. Candidates were urged to obtain equipment as early in life as possible. He moved the adoption of these divisions.

7. FINANCIAL.

The Committee again thank the brotherhood of Victoria for the large offering received during the year. Our total receipts come to £1117/14/11, slightly exceeding those of last year, and up to that time constituted a record, viz. £1002/8/8. Full particulars will be found in the Financial Statement.

R. VISIT TO THE FIELD.

During the year the Organising Secretary, on behalf of the Federal Committee, journeyed to India. He visited all our mission stations, discussed problems with the missionaries, inspected new localities, and endeavored from personal observation to see "things as they are," and thus enable the Committee to deal with the various problems which face them from time to time. A series of articles on India have since been pub-

	FIELDS											TOTALS
	SHANGHAI, CHINA			INDIA			NEW HEBRIDES			CHINESE MISSIONS		
	BARAMATI	DINGSAL	HARDA	TOKYO, JAPAN	AOBIA	PENTECOST	ADELAIDE	MELBOURNE	PERTH	SIDNEY		
ESTABLISHED ...	1890	1905	1909	1882	1890	1907	1904	1900	1893	1905	1899	
Additions for year ...	65	*	5	2	69	177	54	1	1		3	377
Present Membership	215	*	13	124	592	800	350	6	37	10	36	3201
MISSIONARIES AND HELPERS												
Males ...	3	1	1	3	2	3	1					14
Married Ladies	2	1	1	3	3	2	1					12
Single Women	1	1	1	2	2	3						7
Native Evangelists	4		1	7	8							21
Native Teachers	7		1	35	13	45	18					119
Bible Women and Other Helpers	6		2	5	4							17
Total Workers	23		6	55	32	50	20					166
MEETINGS—												
No. of Locations ...	4			2	20	43	18	1	1	1	1	91
No. each Sunday ...							54	1	3	2	2	62
No. on Week Days ...							36	2	4	1	2	45
SCHOOLS &c.—												
Sunday Schools ...	3		1	13	20	1		1	1	1		41
Scholars ...	265			1048	986	30	4	20	6	1		2389
Educational ...	4		1	8	4	35	1	1	1			57
Scholars ...	208		38	611	327		21	12	67	4	36	1324
C.B. Societies	2			1								3
Members ...	57			82								139
MEDICAL—												
No. of Treatments			2313	18,743								21,056

*Figures include the F.C.M.S. with whom our Missionaries labor.

**Figures not to hand.

lished in the "Australian Christian and "Pure Words," and a lantern lecture prepared which will be delivered in the Melbourne and suburban churches desiring the same, between Conference and the July offering.

F. M. Ludbrook, in speaking of the "Visit to the Field," spoke in eulogistic terms of the work done by T. B. Fischer as Organising Secretary, and moved that a special vote of thanks be given to him. This was carried with enthusiasm.

9. STATISTICAL.

Figures do not always convey a true estimate of the work accomplished, but a perusal of the statistics published will help to convey an idea of the great work accomplished in the lands beyond the sea. (See schedule herewith.)

10. LITERATURE.

We desire to express our thanks to the Austral Publishing Company and to Bro. F. G. Dunn for the mighty power of the press in the pages of the "Australian Christian" and "Pure Words." We value very highly the immeasurable influence of the Foreign Mission page, and annual Foreign Mission numbers, and the many articles which appear on behalf of the cause of missions.

The Secretary has edited the Foreign Mission page and annual numbers as usual, besides composing the Children's Day exercise entitled "Children of China, or a Visit to the Flowery Land."

In addition, a new set of Foreign Mission post cards has been issued, and six new Foreign Mis-

sion tracts have been printed in preparation for the annual offering on July 6.

11. COMMITTEE.

The Committee appointed at the last Victorian Conference has met with regularity, and a most excellent and earnest spirit prevails. Most of the sires to express its indebtedness to the officers and caretaker of the Swanston-st. chapel for the use of the committee room.

The following is the record of attendance:— F. M. Ludbrook, 9; R. Lyall, 10; A. C. Bond, 17; J. McColl, 13; W. A. Kemp, 8; G. B. M. resigned, 3; J. J. Mudford, appointed Dec. 15, 1912; S. T. B. Fischer, 17; Mrs. R. Lyall, 15; Mrs. F. M. Ludbrook, 11; Mrs. W. A. Kemp, 10.

12. LOOKING FORWARD.

The past is but an incentive for the future. The Lord hath done great things, whereof we are glad, but we believe the future will bring even better days.

We are a growing brotherhood, and with the growth in numbers there is also a growth in evangelistic fervor, in missionary activity, and in liberality to the cause of world-wide missions. We have faith in God and the brotherhood believe that the best is yet to be, and that the coming year will show a year of great progress in the cause we hold so dear.

Stir me, Oh! stir me, Lord, for I can see Thy glorious triumph day begin to break. The dawn already gilds the Eastern sky. Oh! Church of Christ, arise, awake, awake! Oh! stir us, Lord, as heralds of thy day. For night is past—our King is on his way.

T. B. FISCHER, Organising Secretary.

FOREIGN MISSION FUND—VICTORIAN STATEMENT.

RECEIPTS.		EXPENDITURE.	
Contributions Received to March, 1913—		Amount Expended to March, 1913—	
From Churches and Members	£64 3 4	CHINESE MISSION, MELBOURNE—	
From Sunday Schools	65 10 2	Expenses of Mission	£43 4 1
From Endeavor Societies	28 2 2	Interest on Money owing on Mission	
From Mission Bands and Guilds	31 16 3	Building	39 10 0
From Chinese Brethren	52 3 0		62 14 1
From Victorian Sisters (collected by Mrs. Zelius)—		INDIA—	
For Miss Thompson's Bible Women (2)	14 0 0	Miss Thomp-son, for Bible Woman	8 0 0
For Miss Tonkin's Bible Woman	15 0 0	" for Second Bible Woman	6 0 0
For Mrs. Stratton's Bible Woman	8 0 0	Mrs. Stratton, for Bible Woman	8 0 0
For Mrs. Pittman's Bible Woman	5 0 0	Mrs. Pittman, for Bible Woman	5 0 0
		G. P. Pittman, for Native Preacher	10 0 0
Special Contribution for support of Chinese Native	42 0 0		37 0 0
Preacher in Canton, China, under direction of Bro.		CHINA—	
J. Ware	25 0 0	Miss Tonkin, for Bible Woman	15 0 0
		CHARGES—	
		Proportion of Allowance to Secretary	39 0 0
		Proportion Charges for Clerical Assistance	32 10 0
			71 10 0
			£186 4 1
		Balance included in Federal Expenditure	925 10 10
	£1111 14 11		£1111 14 11

R. LYALL, Treasurer.
Melbourne, March 10, 1913.

Audited and found correct,
THOS. W. SMITH, Auditor.

Divisions 9, 10, 11 and 12 and the Statistical Schedule were adopted in one motion by the Secretary. He emphasised the indebtedness of the Committee to Bro. Dunn and the Austral Co., as expressed in Division 10. The future was before them all, and the year promised even greater opportunities for work than any preceding one.

P. A. DAVEY.

P. A. Davey, our missionary in Japan, now on furlough in Melbourne, addressed the Conference. He referred to some things that had injuriously affected Christianity in Japan. Wrong work in the early days had done much to create prejudice. The greatest obstacle, however, was the indifference of Japanese to spiritual things. Racial antipathies had also much to do with retarding progress. There was also the evil which arose from the circulation of Western literature of an anti-Christian character. Japan also spent a lot of money on education, and teachers engaged in that work were as a rule antagonistic to Christianity. Notwithstanding these things there was a distinct Christian movement in Japan. It was live and real, and was making itself felt in the community. Leaders of thought were realising that the old Japanese faiths were unable to cope with immorality, and were turning their attention to Christianity as the only force capable of uprooting the evils which existed in Japanese society.

R. LYALL.

A. C. Rankine paid a tribute to the splendid work done by R. Lyall as Treasurer of the Foreign Missionary Committee.

CREATING A LANGUAGE.

Bro. Fischer, in speaking of the departments of work, referred to the fact that our missionary, A. T. Waters, had done an important piece of work in creating a written language for the people of Oba, in the South Sea Islands. He has translated into

this language several parts of our English Bible. In our missionary efforts we thus take part with other societies in creating a literature for the Islands of the Seas.

WORK AMONG THE CHINESE.

J. Pittman, in speaking of the work among the Chinese, bore high testimony to the character of the Chinese. He also referred to the fact that the Consul for China was a Christian.

Resolved, That the Churches of Christ in Conference assembled hereby express their sympathy with the Chinese Consul-General, and their sincere thankfulness for his providential deliverance.

S. WONG.

S. Wong, one of our Chinese converts, delivered a short address, and spoke of the splendid work done by the Chinese Mission. This brother can deliver a good address in well chosen English. He announced that it was his intention in a few months' time to return with his family to China, and while he expected to enter into commerce, he would do all he could to further the interests of Christianity among his fellow countrymen.

Resolved, That this Conference place on record its high appreciation of the services rendered by Bro. Wong to the work among his fellow-countrymen in Melbourne, expressing its regret at the loss sustained by his early departure for China, and wishing him and his presence and blessing of the Godhead in his new sphere of life.

F. G. GOODWIN.

A resolution was carried, sympathising with Bro. Gordon Goodwin in his illness.

CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR UNION REPORT.

Under the blessing and guidance of God, we present our annual report, and we trust the work

we have accomplished may help to extend his kingdom. With gratitude to God we record his ever-bountiful mercies, and acknowledge his providential care throughout another year.

The Christian Endeavor movement is one that binds the young people together in love, unity and loyalty to Jesus Christ. It develops all that is noble and Christlike, promotes prayer and Bible study, relief for the suffering and poor, and comfort for those that are sorrowful. These are but some of the characteristics of Christian Endeavor.

The numerical strength of the Union stands practically the same as last year, and the work of the committees connected with the Union is encouraging. Societies have been visited by members of the Council, and have given fair reports of the condition of them. One pleasing feature of our work is the marked increase both in energy and usefulness of the Junior work. As superintendents, Bro. Conning and Sister Sanderson have done work that will make itself evident in years to come. We are grateful to them for their self-sacrifice in the Junior cause, and I would urge on those who have the C. E. cause to help them in this grand work of bringing the children to Jesus. During the year five new Junior Societies were formed; every suburban society visited; supported two orphan boys; sent seven cases of goods to Pentecost for children; flowers taken to hospital, also successful rally and picnic. The Council have presented the Junior Committee with a banner for co-operation amongst the Junior Societies.

The Prayer Meeting, Lookout, and Sunshine Committees have been faithful in their work, and many kind words can be spoken of them in carrying out the duties entrusted to them.

The business of the Union is under the supervision of the Council, which consists of the officers of the Union, and two representatives from each society, and meetings are held monthly. The following officers were elected for 1913—President, Elmhurst Davis; Vice-Presidents, Brent Pittie, McKean; Secretary, C. W. Jennings; Asst. Sec. F. LePage; Treas., Miss Lee, P. M. Treas., Miss Melbourne; Visitation Convener, Bro. Rowlands; Junior Supts., Bro. Conning and Miss Sanderson; Press Corr., Bro. W. Brown.

We take this opportunity of thanking those who have assisted us in any way, especially the "Australian Christian" for notes on C. E. work, and the officers of the Lygon-st. and Swanston-st. churches for the use of the buildings when required.

Trusting in the Lord Jesus Christ for strength,

we promise him that we shall strive to do whatever he would have us do.

On behalf of the Council,

ETHELBERT DAVIS, President.
CLARENCE W. TIMMINS, Secretary.

The report was adopted on the motion of F. M. Ludbrook, seconded by J. H. McKeen.

THE AUSTRAL PUBLISHING CO.

Resolved, on the motion of C. M. Gordon, That this Conference most heartily congratulates the Austral Publishing Company on the attainment of its twenty-first anniversary, places on record its grateful appreciation of the magnificent work this company has accomplished in the past, and expresses sincerest wishes that with the increasing patronage of our brotherhood, and the continued blessing of God, it may long continue to discharge the noble mission to which it has dedicated itself.

A LARGER BUILDING.

Resolved, That next year a larger building be secured for the Friday meetings of the Conference.

PRESIDING AT MEETINGS.

A. R. Main expressed the opinion that it was the duty of the President to preside at all the meetings of the Conference, and if necessary he would move a resolution to that effect.

The President said that he did not think a motion was necessary, as it was the President's right to do so, unless he chose to waive it.

VOTES OF THANKS.

C. M. Gordon moved a comprehensive vote of thanks, including all who in any way had contributed to the success of the Conference.

Song and Benediction brought the business sessions of the Conference to a close.

WOMEN'S CONFERENCE.

The Victorian Women's Conference was held on Wednesday, March 19, in the Christian chapel, Lygon-st. There was a good attendance. W. H. Allen gave an address on "The Faith of Woman," and T. B. Fischer an address on "A Visit to Mission Fields." A full report of the proceedings will be given later.

CONFERENCE OF PREACHERS.

On the afternoon of the 19th, a conference of preachers was held in the Christian chapel, Lygon-st., A. C. Rankine in the chair. An interesting and helpful address was given by A. R. Main on "Some Books that Preachers Should Study."

TEMPERANCE DEMONSTRATION.

On Thursday evening, the 20th inst., a temperance demonstration was held in the Masonic Hall, Collins-st., the Hon. J. G.

Barrett in the chair. H. E. Knott, M.A., and B. W. Huntsman gave forceful addresses. There was also a good programme of songs and recitations.

HOME MISSION NIGHT.

On Friday, at 7.30 p.m., began the great Home Mission meeting in the Masonic Hall. The building was soon filled to overflowing. A song service, led by Nat Haddow, began the proceedings, until the Conference President took the chair. W. Morrow, President of S.A. Conference, led in the opening prayer, after which P. A. Davey read Rom. 10: 1-15.

G. Manifold had as his subject,

THE FIELD.

He urged us to specialise upon Victoria. This is a field of great opportunities; great because of their position right at our hand, and because of their ripeness, this being seen by the thrilling reports of our evangelistic team. The 200 unoccupied towns also show that the opportunity is large. There were many isolated disciples in these places, whose need made the call imperative. "Home Missions" mean that we must follow the people wherever they establish homes in this State. Immigrants also give us a great opportunity. Another opportunity was in the call of the poor, downtrodden and outcasts. The finest memorial of our Jubilee would be to establish a city mission whose doors would be open night and day. God speed the day when we shall give in tangible form a gospel unto the poor and outcasts.

Victoria was also a field of great opposition. There was the trinity of evils. We were called, not merely to pass resolutions against intemperance, impurity and gambling, but to use our brains, brawn and blood in fighting them. If the church did not throttle the liquor traffic, the liquor traffic would throttle the church. While the white slave traffic exists, it would not do to utter a smug "Alas!" and turn to our tea and toast. It would take effort to save the rising generation for Christ. The opposition of sectarianism must also be overcome, the greatest argument for Christian unity being the oneness of the Godhead. If we wished for victory, and to reap the great opportunities, then in spite of the oppositions we must "steam ahead."

After the singing of a hymn, the chairman introduced A. Hutson as having come from the land of prickly pears, and also from the land of prickly thistles. His subject was

THE FORCES.

He said that the opposition against us should lead to better plans and efforts. What forces could we employ? We needed men. The home missionaries and the mission team are the captains. We needed the rank and file to march under them to victory. God and consecrated men and women form an unconquerable combination.

Every man a worker,
Not a single shirker
Nor habitual jerker.

Another force we had is the gospel; the hammer of God to break stony hearts; the fire of God to melt indifferent souls; Prayer was also a great force available with which we could move the hand of God. Money was a force we must use. We who are stewards of God must use the golden potate in his service, and not let our hands be paralysed when they get near our pockets. Finally, God was a force; and without him we could do nothing, but with him all things were possible.

A hymn was then sung, following which the chairman announced the officers elected for the year. He specially mentioned the election of M. McLellan as President, after 30 years' service as Secretary. Bro. McLellan responded to the welcome given him, briefly referred to some features of the past work, and asked the chairman to hold office until the close of the present Conference.

T. Hagger was then announced to speak upon

THE FUTURE.

He told us he would not attempt the prophetic role, but would mention things we should strive after. We should seek to have a church, properly equipped, united and happy, in every city and village of the State. Our lives should be characterised by godly fear and animated by missionary zeal, so that the gospel would be sounded in the slums, back blocks and foreign fields. This could not be attained by one big jump, but step by step we must progress. To reach this goal of our ambition we should cultivate a holy dissatisfaction with present attainments. Let us laugh at present difficulties, which are made to be overcome, and to draw out our grit. No matter what the difficulties were, *the work must be done*, for God had given the orders. We must be animated by a greater purpose, without which Victoria would never be taken for Christ. Prayer was the atmosphere in which our work should be carried on. If Muller built his orphanage by prayer, what could not 8800 disciples do? Loyal support must be given to organised Home Mission work. The programme before us was great: to stand by old fields and weak ones, and enter new districts. Let our motto be, "We can do it, and we will." Perhaps somebody else had done the work till now. Then give "Miss Somebody-else" a prolonged holiday, and do the work yourselves.

The offering was then taken up, which, in cash and promises, amounted to about £100.

R. Ennis led in prayer, after which the meeting closed by singing the Doxology.

FOREIGN MISSION NIGHT.

As usual, the Lygon-st. chapel was filled to its utmost capacity on Saturday night, when the Foreign Missionary work had the right of way. The President of the Conference took the chair at 7.30 p.m.

GREETINGS TO AND FROM CONFERENCE.

After the opening exercises F. M. Ludbrook, President of Federal F.M. Execu-

tive, read greetings which had been received from the South Australian F.M. Committee, from J. T. C. McCallum, of U.S.A., from Miss Thompson, and from A. B. Clappell. He explained that the shortage of greetings from missionaries was due to the early date of Easter this year. His last official act as F.M. Secretary, after 21 years of service, was to move "That the whole-hearted and affectionate sympathy of this meeting be sent to all the workers in Jesus Christ on the foreign field, with the prayers of the Conference that the blessings of God be continually with them." This motion was carried by the whole audience rising and singing "Blest be the tie that binds," after which A. R. Main led in prayer for the missionaries.

The chairman's remarks were confined to five minutes, and took the form of announcements.

BAPTIST REPRESENTATIVE.

N. L. Beurle, of the Camberwell Baptist Church, was then introduced to the meeting. He conveyed a greeting from the Baptist F.M. Committee, and congratulated the meeting upon its enthusiasm. He said that all could be proud of association in F.M. activity, for several reasons. Firstly, F.M. work makes us feel the need of union. Divided ranks are simply disastrous, and efficiency and consistency depend upon closer union. Again, F.M. work keeps us faithful to the essential truths of the gospel. The Saviourhood of Jesus is a thing one could never forget who had stood in the midst of heathenism, and seen the cleansing power of the gospel. Missionaries tell us of those who have been lifted by the message. Further, F.M. work makes us akin in the attack upon big things. The world-wide scope of the power of Jesus is seen, and we can go out in the name of the King to win the world for Jesus. Lastly, in F.M. work we lay aside all privileges but that of communion with God. The work is carried on without the expectation of return benefits such as are received in the home fields. We are brought into touch with the heart of Christ, and into communion with his sympathy.

The chairman thanked Bro. Beurle for his message, and gave him the greetings of Conference to convey to his Committee.

LECTURETTE ON INDIA.

After the singing of a hymn, T. B. Fischer gave a lecturette dealing with his recent tour to India. Lantern slides were shown of the work of our missionaries, of Mr. and Mrs. G. P. Pittman, and of the orphanage at Damoh. The scenes from native life were interesting, and those showing the awfulness of heathenism were very impressive.

The lecture was followed by a collection in cash and promises.

LECTURETTE ON JAPAN.

All listened to P. A. Davey with great attention as he lectured upon the work in Japan. When the portrait of the late Emperor was shown, the lecturer appropriately

sang the Japanese National Anthem. A photo of General Nogi elicited the information that suicide was considered the quickest way toward deification. Hence, after his death the general was deified. A picture was shown of a spot where 200 students had, for similar reasons, committed suicide since Mr. Davey's last visit to Australia. Christian teaching emphasising the value of human life was Japan's great need. Applause was given when we were told that the present Emperor is a man of progressive ideas, and will not hinder Christianity. The aggressive work in Japan was shown by pictures of Kindergarten, Sunday School, Y.M.C.A., and educational work. An international group of Sunday School children was exhibited, taken on an occasion when they assembled before the palace and sang "Crown Him Lord of All," while the Emperor attentively listened. On the same occasion a balloon with a streamer "God is Love" was flying over the palace. Greetings were received from F. M. Rains and A. McLean.

W. Morrow closed a most enthusiastic meeting with prayer.

CONFERENCE SERMON.

On Sunday afternoon the Conference Sermon was preached in the Masonic Hall by W. H. Allen, of the Swanston-st. church. The subject chosen by the speaker was "A Forward Movement." The building was crowded in every part.

CONFERENCE PICNIC.

The Conference Picnic was held at Glen Iris, in the grounds connected with the College of the Bible. Notwithstanding the inclemency of the weather, a goodly number were present, and managed to get a fair amount of enjoyment, notwithstanding the adverse circumstances.

CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR UNION DEMONSTRATION.

The Endeavor Union demonstration was held in the Masonic Hall, on Monday, the 24th. The building was well filled. The President, F. Davis, occupied the chair and gave an address on some of the planks of the Endeavor movement. J. H. McKean read the 12th chapter of Romans. The



Christ Heals a Suffering Woman.

And Jesus, immediately knowing in himself that virtue had gone out of him, turned him about in the press, and said, Who touched my clothes? And his disciples said unto him, Thou about in the press, and said, Who touched my clothes? And he looked round about to see her that had done this thing. But the woman, fearing and trembling, knowing what about to see her, came and fell down before him, and told him all the truth. And he said unto her, Daughter, thy faith hath made thee whole; go in peace, and be whole of thy plagues. —Mark 5: 39-44

chairman introduced Bro. Timmins, the new President, to the meeting, who expressed his gratitude for the honor that had been done to him.

The North Fitzroy Junior Endeavor used the banner which was presented by R. Conning.

T. B. Fischer, who was well received, gave a most interesting address on Indian life and characteristics. Miss Johnson, of Lygon-st., sang.

W. C. Beiler, of Williamstown, also addressed the meeting very acceptably.

GRAND CONCERT.

On Tuesday, the 25th, a grand concert was held in the Christian chapel, Lygon-st., under the auspices of the Church of Christ Musical Society. C. W. Mitchell occupied the chair. There was a fine audience. Great preparations had been made for a successful night, and none were disappointed. Apart from the items rendered by the choir, which included "Queen of the Night," "Hymn to Music," etc., the following artists rendered special items: Mr. Fred. Harry, Miss Eva Young, Madame Nellie McClelland, Mr. Horace Stevens and Mr. John Amadio, Mr. Nat. Haddow conducted the choir, with Miss Jeannie Dickens at the piano, and Mr. S. H. Pittman at the organ.

Victory at Stawell.

Thos. Hagger.

Some few years ago Bro. A. P. A. Burden on removing to the town of Stawell, Vic., gathered together seven disciples who were living in that place to break bread in his own home, and for two years and three months this faithful little band continued to meet without having one addition of any kind. Then they were joined by two others who removed to the town, and five isolated members had their names placed on the Stawell roll. With a total membership of 14, only nine of whom were resident, they secured the chapel. This building, which is a substantially built brick structure, was erected some years ago by the Spiritists; it afterwards became a band room, then a Primitive Methodist chapel, and at the time of Methodist union it became a band room again; when purchased by the brethren it had been unused for some time. Bro. A. W. Connor preached at the opening, and the first baptism then took place. After this the work was again left to the local brethren, the speaking almost entirely devolving upon Bro. Burden, and right nobly did they battle on in spite of the many discouragements they encountered. Eighteen months ago the Home Missionary Committee of Victoria located Bro. J. E. Shipway—a young man trained in the Bible College, Glen Iris—there, and he has done a fine work and has become very popular with the residents of the town, owing to his genial nature and his splendid work as a visitor among the sick and the troubled and needy. Under his ministry the church membership grew to 34.

For some years past the church has been anxious to have a tent mission in her town. This

has at last taken place, and the victory won exceeds the most sanguine expectations of the brethren. From February 16 to March 17, assisted by Bro. W. H. Clay as song leader and personal worker, the writer preached to an ever-increasing crowd of people, and the whole district has been stirred. Neither the weather, nor picture shows, nor concerts, nor political meetings interfered with the flow of people to the mission tent. One newspaper, in reporting a political meeting held in the local town hall by one of the Federal Senators, spoke of the poor audience which was attributed to the weather, "but it is significant that the same night Hagger the missionary spoke to a crowded audience." The last Sunday night of the mission large numbers could not get inside the tent, and many went home again. When an after meeting was announced and a few of the people left, the seats began to quickly fill again from the crowd standing outside.

There were 70 confessions, two baptised believers were added to the church, and there was one restoration. 36 of the 73 had been received into fellowship up to the last Sunday of the mission, and it is expected that most of the remaining number will be received during the next week or two. This is a great victory for so short a time in an old town of about 5000 residents. A crowded thanksgiving service was held in the chapel on Monday, March 17, when addresses were given by Bro. Burden, Shipway, Clay and Hagger, and presents were made by the church and converts to Sister Miss Pinkstone of Ascot Vale, who acted as pianist, Bro. and Sister Clay and Bro. Hagger. At this meeting 14 of the 70 made the good confession.

Stawell shows the value of the efforts of brethren in secular callings using the talents God has given them. This great mission would not have been held, and this victory would not have been won had Bro. Burden not started the work without waiting for a supported preacher. Many of our churches in this country have had a similar origin. It will be a bad day for the Restoration movement in these fair lands when all the platform work is left to men who are supported. The way of success seems to be the combination of the efforts of men wholly given to the work with those who are otherwise engaged, but who devote the ability they have to the work as they have opportunity. This work also shows the value of the present policy in our Home Mission activities—placing a man in a field and allowing him to concentrate on it till something worthy of the plea we advocate is accomplished.

May the converts at Stawell remain faithful. May many similar victories be won for the truth in the various States of the Commonwealth and in the Dominion of New Zealand.

The Preacher's Duty Towards Temperance Reform.

By Geo. P. Cuttriss.

A Paper read at the Adelaide Preachers' Meeting.

That the preacher has a duty to discharge in respect to temperance reform is commonly accepted. That he should be abstemious is obvious. He can no more separate himself from the movement to restrict and abolish the drink traffic than he can give over his belief in the Christ and remain a

minister of his gospel. This is palpable even to the most superficial reader of the Scriptures, who are our sole authority and guide. The preacher's text book abounds in strong condemnation of intemperance, particularly in examples of high honors being conferred on abstainers and in those chosen to serve God being specially praised. John the Baptist was from birth a total abstainer, and consequently was great in the sight of the Lord. Jesus testified concerning this preacher, that among them born of women there had never risen a greater.

The commonplace interpretation of a preacher's duty is that he should declare himself against anything and everything that produces effects of immoral nature. It is generally conceded that liquor traffic is the cause of that which deleteriously affects the moral, social and physical well-being of the people. Therefore the minister of the gospel as a servant of God should denounce the family-wrecking and soul-destroying business, and as a leader of the people endeavor to win the sympathies of all for the practice of the principles of total abstinence.

Of all the sinister influences at work in the world to-day the most colossal is intemperance. Words miserably fail to adequately convey the wreckage it has wrought in human life. It produces effects which tend to neutralise the uplifting influence of the preacher's message. Mr. Justice Hodges, of Victoria, wrote: "After nineteen years' experience in the criminal and divorce courts, I can only repeat what I publicly stated some years ago, 'that intemperance is either directly or indirectly responsible for more crime, more sin and domestic strife than all other causes put together.'" One cannot forbear quoting St. Augustine's lurid passage, in which he describes intemperance as "the mother of all mischief, the root of crime, the spring of vices, the whirlwind of the brain, the ruin of the body, the wreck of charity, the plague and corruption of the soul."

In view of these facts, the moral energies of all Christian preachers should flow out in combating deluge to overwhelm this dreadful scourge of civilisation. He is as clearly bound to fight the liquor traffic and the customs that lead up to it as intemperance as he is to denounce the ordinary everyday inconsistencies and flagrant acts of wickedness.

The question as to how this huge evil is to be dealt with is importunate. It comes with knockings every year. There is no question more perplexing, no problem more alarming. It constitutes a mighty hindrance to the progress of the church, to the evangelisation of the world and the coming of the kingdom of Jesus Christ. This evil wastes character, wrecks homes, and destroys souls. "I dare not describe the least bad, much less tell the worst." This one thing is clear: The preacher must attack it. The duty will not be denied. The appalling prevalence of intemperance is not due to any lack of knowledge of its injurious consequences. Fifteen hundred physicians in the United Kingdom unhesitatingly affirm that alcohol taken in any quantity is a poison. Yet we do men and women drink? The question is difficult. Some drink to excess to drown sorrow, to engender pleasure, and many because their companions drink.

The facility which the public house system with the open bar offers to drinking is a feature of the problem which should attract the attention and enlist the sympathies of all preachers coming to

the betterment of the human race and the glory of God. Preachers should declaim against that act which permits the retailing of alcohol for five hours after the ordinary places of business are required to close. The habits that lead to intemperance are generally formed in the evenings or during holidays, and the evils that attend the dispensing of alcoholic beverages could be considerably lessened by limiting the hours for its sale. Preachers should urge the desirability of bringing licensed bars within the scope of the Early Closing Act, compelling the proprietors to close at 6 p.m., observe a statutory weekly half-holiday, and to close the bar portion of their premises on all public holidays. The open bar is a menace to morality and constitutes a formidable temptation to both young and old to enter on the road to intemperance. It behoves every wholesome-minded preacher to adopt every expedient for its discouragement. It is his duty to throw the weight of his influence in the direction of making it as easy as possible for an individual to be abstemious and decidedly difficult to be intemperate.

The preacher as a representative of Jesus Christ should do his part towards annihilating the cause which produces so much evil. He should antagonise the brewery, the bottle and the bar. He should so agitate the question that the public conscience will become so keen that intemperance will no longer be tolerated. The evil is full grown. It is undermining the columns of our church's strength. The immeasurable tide of intemperance is sapping the stamina of the nation. It is gnawing at the vitals of our home-life, as the ocean waves plunging and heaving at a sand-bank wear it down to the level of its bed. Preachers of the gospel, we must assume the role of the iconoclast, and strike at the very foundations of this institution. Let courage mount with the occasion. The very nature of our position demands it. The manhood, womanhood and childhood of our great Commonwealth cry aloud to us to raise our voices in condemnation of this prolific source of evil.

Prevention rather than cure is the aim of modern science. During the plague scare, the rat was caught and destroyed; thus the health authorities did strike at the root of the dread infection. Let us strike at this terrible scourge, and get rid of the cause of so much sin and misery. Too long have we been dealing with effects; let us now attack the cause. Let us on behalf of the people demand our right to a popular vote on all matters affecting the moral interests of the community. We should agitate to secure a State vote on the issue License or No License.

In this age of enlightenment, much is possible which before was not dreamed of. In the realm of intemperance reform we are witnessing the irresistible march onward that makes slowly but surely for the betterment of social conditions and the uplift of men. It were well that we bear in mind that as there is nothing for the cancer but the knife, the only thing for the liquor traffic is an appreciable restriction, or its abolition. In proclaiming and condemning the evils of intemperance we would do well to catch the spirit and emulate the example of our Master, the greatest preacher. He spoke to the diseased with healing, to the blind with the clay and spittle, to the leprosy leaved with comfort and sympathy, to the many chambers with the scourge. He drove them out of the temple and made no apology, neither did he give compensation for having interfered with their business. In like manner, let us preach

to the evils of intemperance with the "sword of the Lord," forgetting not to manifest in a practical way our interest in and sympathy for the victims of the traffic by endeavoring to open their eyes to see the baneful effects of intemperance, and eliminating the chiefest cause of all crime from their midst. We have been and now are constantly engaged in salvage operations; let us cease to be content with gathering up the wreckage along the shore of life, but remove the rocks on which so many souls are hopelessly stranded. Nervless and indefinite preaching in the face of this gigantic evil will not commend itself to men and women of heart and brain, much less to him who has commissioned us to preach the word.

The preacher has a moral message. Its interests extend to the whole man. It must be focussed on the social conditions under which men and women live. It has been said that "the easiest with the liquor traffic is in one way the work of the present day of the church of Christ, for unless it is done very little can lastingly be accomplished." The duty of the preacher in respect to this reform is plain. Let us seek to faithfully discharge it in the face of unpopularity, criticism or abuse, and may be the day will soon dawn when we shall see this fair land of song and sunshine swept clean of the greatest scourge of civilisation to-day.



[Correspondents are requested to condense their reports as much as possible.]

New South Wales.

NARRABRI.—On March 13 we held a social to mark the commencement of our People's Club, at which 15 adults were enrolled. Several more have signified their intention of enrolling. Lord's day, March 16, we had with us T. G. Cosh and J. W. Cosh, of Inverell. T. G. Cosh gave a very helpful exhortation at our morning worship, and the writer preaching at night. Interest is good all round, and steady progress is being made.—W. Waters, March 17.

BROKEN HILL (Wolfram-st.).—March 16, one from Bro. Warren's mission received into fellowship. Evening, record attendance for the year. Two made the good confession. Good Friday, nice service. Bro. Garner, who has been in hospital since making the confession at the mission service, was buried with the Lord in baptism. This was the writer's 23th anniversary as a preacher in this city, and one young woman confessed her faith in Jesus as the Son of God. Sister Miss Ball and Bro. Harvey sang the duet, "He Died of a Broken Heart," and Sisters Mrs. James and Miss Dingle, "Bearing His Cross." This morning Bro. Garner was received into fellowship, and Bro. Chapman gave the exhortation.—E. J. Tuck, March 23.

BELORE.—This morning we had W. Gale with us. His address was very much appreciated. This afternoon Bro. Stinson, the president of the Bible School Committee, addressed the school, and held the scholars' attention with his practical talk. The gospel service was good, quite a number of strangers being present. Bro. Saxby preached on "What Think Ye of Christ?" Sister Rachel De La Motte passed away on Wednesday evening last. She was severely burned through her clothes catching alight, and suffered very her hearts go out in sympathy with the much. Our hearts go out in sympathy with the members of her family in their bereavement, and we commend them to the care of our loving heavenly Father.—A.A.B., March 23.

HURSTVILLE.—Lord's day, March 23, the church met for worship on Lord's day morning. Bro. Saunders exhorting. The gospel service was conducted by Bro. Gordon. The balance owing on our fund has now all been paid off, and we are having that a building erected on it. On account of the inclemency of the weather, the picnic had to be held in the local hall, and as the sports programme had to be postponed, the same was held the following Saturday, but the children appeared to enjoy themselves.—Eleanor Winks, March 23.

ENMORE.—We were blessed to-day (Easter Sunday) in having again upon the platform the former evangelist, "The Waldon," who labored here so faithfully for 16 years. He gave us an uplifting address. A large number of Conference visitors were present. The following assisted in the meeting: T. R. Coleman and H. G. Harward—who read the lessons—E. J. Saxby and W. J. Williams, from the country, who engaged in prayer. It was a very inspiring service. Bro. Gale, evangelist, addressed the Bible School in the afternoon, and his address was much appreciated. H. G. Harward preached at night to a large audience.—A.E.L., March 23.

SYDNEY.—Among our visitors on March 23 were Bro. and Sister Fox, T. and J. Cosh, and Bro. Williams, of Inverell; Bro. Harrison, of Armidale; Bro. Collins, Manning River; Bro. Cyclesdale delivered a helpful address. Our hearty congratulations were extended to our aged Sister Morris, who had reached her 93rd year, and celebrated the day at the Lord's table in care of her son, Chas. Morris, of Ballarat. Bro. Swain, of Melbourne, preached at night. He delivered a splendid address on "The Broken Christ." At the invitation a man of mature years stepped forward and confessed Christ.—I. Bagley.

New Zealand.

DUNEDIN.—One conference last evening at the conclusion of P. D. McCallum's sermon, which was based upon Acts 2. Canvass of members of the church for funds for Roslyn building fund will close on April 3, when we hope to be in a position to commence the building. 100 present at Bible School yesterday.—L.C.J.S., March 17.

PITONE.—Good attendance at the breaking of bread. Our esteemed Bro. Madge, from South Wellington, spoke from the words "Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good." We were all very thankful to see our brother looking so well after his holiday, and hope that he will spend many years in New Zealand, and that God's blessing will rest on his labors. His subject for Bible meditation at our prayer meeting is the Scripture lesson used in the Bible School.—L. E. Wright, March 9.

MATAURA.—Three of our Bible School teachers who have had to retire from the work were honored by being presented with tokens of esteem at the close of the school yesterday. Miss Shanks, who has been connected with the school for many years, received an easy chair, and Mrs. Allen, Gold and Mr. Henry Osborne received gifts of books.—I.J.B., March 17.

NELSON.—Good meetings on March 9. Visitor, Bro. Lane. Bro. Knapp presided, the evangelist giving us a nice exhortation. After a splendid proclamation in the evening by Bro. Vercoo, one young woman stepped forward. Bro. Vercoo has tendered his resignation to the church, and is leaving at the end of July. The W.C.T.U. have been holding their annual conference here. Our Sister Knapp, who is the local secretary, has had a very busy time, and some of the other sisters have been helping in various ways. The quartette party rendered two items very sweetly at the opening of the session. Lord's day, March 16, very good meetings. Bro. Kruse, of Vivian-st. church, Wellington, was a visitor with us, and gave the exhortation, which was much enjoyed. The presiding brother, S. P. Lang, in a few words on behalf of the church, said good-bye to our young Sister Leonard, who is leaving this week for Sydney.—E.M.J., March 19.

OMARU.—The teachers of the Bible School invited the young people of the church to a social evening on March 14. There was a good attendance and interest. After addresses by Bren. Cunningham, supg., C. A. Batt and Hamilton, a number signified their intention of coming to the Bible Class on April 6, the first Sunday of Bro. Matheson's return. P. D. McCullum, Dunedin; J. M. Innes, Ashburton; J. R. Clarke, Gore; and C. A. Batt, Invercargill, have preached the word most acceptably: we are grateful to them for their help and to the churches they labor with for their services. Our aged Bro. Garrow, who was one of the pioneers of the work in Oamaru, passed away recently at a good old age—69 years. Distance and physical weakness have long prevented him from meeting with us. Bro. Garrow was in touch with the movement in the Old Country many years ago. Bren. Hamilton and R. G. Cunningham take the meetings on Lord's day, 23rd inst.—Easter time.—K., March 19.

West Australia.

FREMANTLE.—The 19th anniversary of the church was celebrated by a social on March 12. J. P. Anderson was chairman, and addresses were delivered by C. A. G. Payne, F. D. Pollard and H. J. Banks. 49 were added by faith and immersion during the year, chiefly by the Seoville mission. Our young Bro. Pollard, teacher, Modern School, Perth, has faithfully proclaimed the gospel for the past six months with encouraging results. The choir, under the leadership of F. J. Vanstan, received well earned praise for its part of the programme. The church is organized as follows: Bible School, Junior Endeavor, Choir, Sewing Class, Women's Mission Band and Band of Hope. Meetings are well attended, and prospects are bright.—James Leach, March 17.

Tasmania.

LAUNCESTON.—We are over rejoiced to report that we have at last secured a fine church home. The opening service will be held on the 30th. Still great crowds attending the mission, though this is the close of the ninth week. The tent, though seating about one thousand people, cannot contain the audience on Sunday evenings, there being hundreds standing around outside. Bro. Griffith has been faithful in his presentation of the gospel, abundant fruits being manifest, 235 conversions to date; 28 received into fellowship on Lord's day. The annual Tasmanian Conference is being held again this year in the North.—N. J. Warnham, March 22.

Victoria.

MELBOURNE.—Record gatherings at the worship meetings, and a record offering, are cheering signs of the church's vigor. A record attendance (60) at Bible School yesterday. Two previously recorded were welcomed to fellowship. We rejoice also that the writer's eldest son (Hartley) confessed Christ and was baptized. The choir, recently organized under Bro. Chas. Barnden's leadership, renders valuable aid. We are looking

forward earnestly to a tent mission with Bro. Hagger in May.—Hugh Gray, March 17.

ABBOTSFORD.—Sunday evening, seven confessions for Christ.

NORTH RICHMOND.—During the holidays we had the pleasure of a visit from the cricket team of the Geelong church. On Saturday, March 22, our own local church team played a match with the visitors, after which we had the joy of meeting together in a social evening. We can report an increase in the attendance at our services during the last few weeks. This is mainly due to the efforts of Bro. Hibburt, who has been delivering some very fine addresses.

CARLTON (Lygon-st.).—Conference Sunday brought with it the usual large number of visitors to our meetings. One received into fellowship by obedience. The meeting for worship was an uplifting one. Bro. Percy Davey, from Japan, spoke with great earnestness upon his theme, "Christ died for us," and in the course of his address said he was impressed with the deep spiritual atmosphere that pervaded the meeting. In the evening Bro. W. Morrow, the President of the S.A. Conference, also gave a fine discourse, his subject being "The Royal Road to Success." The large choir led by Bro. Nat Haddow and assisted by Sister Jeannie Dickens at the piano and Bro. S. H. Pittman at the organ, rendered some beautiful anthems, and Miss Morley also sang a gospel solo. The Dorcas sisters were happy as usual in providing dinner and tea for the visitors, which has been their custom for many years past.—J.M.C.

WEDDERBURN.—Good meetings, all day. Visitors, Bro. and Sister G. Cosh, S.A.; Sister Miss Hodgson, Tas.; Sister Mrs. Penny and Bro. Winter, Melbourne. Golden offering at present stands at over £27. One baptized, believer received the right hand of fellowship.—F.F.P., March 23.

HAWTHORN.—Bro. H. M. Clipstone addressed the church last Lord's day morning, and Bro. Abercrombie preached at night. Amongst the members present as visitors we noticed Sister Pitts, Ballarat; Sister Peck, Bayswater; Sister Clipstone and Sister Gilmour, Shepparton; Sister Hall, Castlemaine; Sister Allan, Doncaster.—A. C. Rankine.

CHELTENHAM.—The annual Bible Class competitions in solo singing, prepared and impromptu Scripture readings, essays and addresses brought forth 25 competitors, and created a great interest. Bro. Nat Haddow judged the solos, and the evangelist the other items. Good meetings on Sunday. Visitors, Sisters E. Organ and Albany, from Lygon-st., and Bro. Young. At night after the service we viewed some hand painted stereoscopic views on the death and resurrection of Christ.—T.B.F.

BERWICK.—At the close of Bro. Bennett's powerful address on "A True and a False Report" on Sunday night, 23rd inst., another young lady made the good confession.—E.H.

MELBOURNE (Swanston-st.).—Our meetings on Sunday were a great help to us all. Fine meeting in the morning, when Bro. P. A. Dickson, from S.A., spoke. In the evening the building was crowded to the doors, a large number being turned away, unable to get in. Bro. Gilbert Chandler gave an eloquent gospel address. After the service the choir rendered Stainer's "Crucifixion," which was greatly appreciated by all present. The tenor and bass solos were sung by Bren. J. Buckley and J. Hare. As in past years the sisters provided dinner and tea for the visitors, of whom we had a large number from the country and various States present. On Sunday morning two young ladies were received into membership, having been baptised by Bro. Allen on the previous Sunday evening.

MIDDLE PARK.—Fair meetings on Sunday. Two confessions at close of evening service. B. W. Housman preaching. We expect A. R. Main to preach on Sunday evening next.

MERIDITH.—Last Lord's day Bro. W. Cambridge was with us, speaking morning and evening. At the conclusion of a very able discourse on "Three Crucified Men," a young lady from Abbotsford (who has been seeking the way of

truth), and one young man nobly confessed the blessed name, and were hurried with their baptism on Easter Monday night by the speaker.—A. McKay, March 25.

ASCOT VALE.—Since last report we have been pleased to state that our Lord's day and evening meetings are well attended. On March 16 we had the privilege of having at our mission service missionaries from the New Hebrides and Japan, viz., Bro. and Sister Waters and Bro. P. A. Davey. The latter delivered a most impressive discourse on Christian work in Japan. On the previous Thursday evening Bro. and Sister Waters spoke of their work in the New Hebrides. These addresses were much appreciated. On Lord's day morning, March 23, we were pleased to have with us Bro. Robt. Conning (fourth member), Thos. McCullum (Bet Bat), and Dr. Kelly and Baird (Geelong). At this service McCullum, who is a member of this church, is at present assisting Bro. Leng in the Mission field in Korea, an excellent address on the subject, "Go Forward." Our good speaker, conducted by H. E. Knott have been attended large audiences. His discourses have been earnest and impressive, and must in the near future bear fruit. We regret to announce the death of Sister Mrs. Wines. Our sympathy goes to the bereaved family. The Bible School, under the superintendency of W. A. Kemp, who is supported by a faithful band of teachers, is doing a splendid work in this locality. We have a fine kindergarten class conducted by Sister Miss McGee, which is highly spoken of by Sister Jerrard, the secretary of kindergarten work in connection with the Bible School Union.—J.Y.P., March 24.

South Australia.

WALKERVILLE.—Morning meetings were very small, owing to the very trying weather and sickness amongst us. We had a good time with Bro. Brady presiding, and Bro. Dabb presiding. The school and evening meeting were small. We had Bro. Baker, from Prospect, speaking on the resurrection.—J.H.T., March 23.

HENLEY BEACH.—Last Lord's day, March 16, splendid meetings all day. Bro. Cosh presided. Bro. Gore exhorted. Our Bible School is well increasing. Last Lord's day some new members made a total of 100 on the roll. Last evening the kindergarten teachers gave a very interesting evening on children's work. We were drawn illustrating. Bible lessons would prove very beneficial to the young children. To-day, small meeting this morning. Bro. Gore presided. Bro. Gore exhorted. To-night a very good meeting. Bro. Gore preached to a large audience on the resurrection of Christ. Misses Mabel and Hilda Lawrie sang a duet, which proved very acceptable.—W. Stedman, March 23.

EASTERN WELL.—Devine addresses have now been made with the Congregation in this centre. The writer conducts meetings in their hall every other Lord's day; people attend splendidly. It is hoped in this way to bring the plea before people and render service to the Lord. The crusade for members at Henley Well (Hd. Mantung) is proving successful. No far 13 have been found. We expect later to go far further on the prospects of the cause in the growing district.—L. J. Curtis, March 23.

YORK.—We held our S.S. anniversary service and although the weather was rather oppressive we had good attendances. This morning W. J. Ham presided, and E. J. Paternoster gave the address to the children. In the afternoon Miss G. to the Bowden Kindergarten, gave a talk to the ones, and Mr. Steve Wickes gave the evening address. W. C. Brunker preached with interest. All the services were interspersed with singing by the scholars, under the leadership of C. Field. We held our S.S. picnic on Sunday Monday at Ridge Park.—W.G.J., March 23.

BALAKLAVA.—The special Easter service last Sunday were well attended. The address the morning address was "The Secret of a Wonderful Death," and at night Bro. Ewers presided.

"The Significance of the Resurrection." In the afternoon and night the school, under the leadership of Mr. O. Binlayson, splendidly rendered some special singing. The Northern Conference meets here on Tuesday and Wednesday this week, and the church is busy preparing for it.

LOCHIEL.—The mission conducted by W. L. Ewers closed with 15 additions (14 confessions and one formerly immersed). The attendance greatly improved with better weather at the close of the mission, and on Sunday reached 140, and Monday night 150. At the anniversary meeting addresses were given by H. M. Tuck and G. Bridgman, and after a short address by the missionary, six made the good confession. A Sunday School has been organized with over 30 scholars, with W. Greenfields as superintendent, and G. Baker as secretary. The following were elected as deacons of the church: W. Greenfields, W. McGregor, W. Harding, with Bro. Will McGregor as secretary. The church has now a larger vision, and a bright future is before it. Last Sunday Bro. G. Bridgman conducted the services, and there was one confession, making a total of 23 additions in the past few months.—W. L. Ewers.

KADINA.—On Good Friday we held our S.S. picnic on Mr. Allen's farm. It was the largest attended picnic we have ever had in Kadina with our school. Everybody enjoyed themselves. The teachers and officers worked hard all day to make the scholars and friends happy. This morning we had the following visitors: Sister Mrs. Holland, junr., from the Broken Hill church; also Sister Miss Alice Read; Bro. and Sister Cornelius, of Grote-st.; Bro. Sando, junr., Norwood; Bro. Assembler, Prospect. At the close of the writer's address this morning two sisters, Mrs. Ball and Mrs. Pearce, junr., from Moonta, were baptised. They made the good confession last Lord's day evening. We are still hoping that a preacher will soon be sent to Moonta. A glorious work can be done in that splendid town.—E. G. Warren, March 23.

West Moreton Circuit Conference.

The annual Conference of the West Moreton Circuit (Old.) was held on March 17. There were present W. Berlin, President, Rosewood; Albert Henriksen, Vice-President, Ipswich; Mount Walker; August Henriksen, F.V. Primus, Rosevale; H. Berlin, W. Bade, Rosewood; J. Hulise, A. Lamprecht, J. Green, Marburg; J. Smeching and O. Adernmann, Vernor; J. Whiffler, Ipswich. Visiting brethren were present from Tammyvale, Warwick, Ma Ma Creek, Ipswich and Brisbane. Bro. E. G. Bulgin and evangelist Barnard were also in attendance.

The proceedings were opened by H. U. Rodger, at 10 a.m., with devotional exercises.—Correspondence included a letter from T. G. and Mrs. Mason, Junr., N.S.W., forwarding greetings. Similar greetings were received from the Secretary Queensland Church of Christ Executive and others.

F. Primus, Rosevale; A. Henriksen, Mount Walker; H. Berlin, Rosewood; and H. Lamprecht, Marburg, reported the work done by people in the different places towards reducing the debts on the various buildings. In the Mt. Walker delegates' report Bro. Henriksen announced that they had had several attempts to reduce the debt on the local church. H. Rodger had been appointed special collector, and he had succeeded in raising £45 for this purpose. The secretary gave a summary of the work during the past year in the various churches, and progress was reported. The work of the circuit had been extended to Westral View.

Delegates from Mount Walker, Rosevale, Marburg, Rosewood, and Ipswich gave reports on the membership at their respective churches and Sunday Schools.

Bro. Lamprecht thought a committee from the churches should be appointed to investigate the financial position of the church name. The president said that it would be impracticable to have the matter cleared up, as they had formerly

endeavored to do so and had failed. Bro. Rodger moved, as an amendment, that the past be let alone. The debt at present was £150, and he thought they should make a special effort to get the liability wiped out. Bro. Primus seconded the amendment, which was carried. A. Henriksen, Rosevale, and the President and Treasurer each promised a donation of £10 towards reducing the debt. Other promises were: Mrs. Neuton, £1; Bro. Hulise, £1; Miss Lohberger, £1; Bro. Whiffler, £5; Mr. Primus, £1; Bro. Rodger, £1; Mrs. Christensen, 5; W. Bade, £1; H. Berlin, £1; Mr. Adams, £1; J. Joolan, £1; Jno. Green, £1; Mr. Bade, £1, thus making a total of £51 towards the reduction of the debt.

The Treasurer, Bro. Albert Henriksen, submitted a detailed report showing the receipts from the various centres as follows: Total receipts from all sources for evangelistic purposes only, £130/1/4; actual corresponding expenditure, £130 1/8. Funds raised for all purposes were: Mount Walker, £56/6/3; Rosewood, £33/7/7; Marburg, £36/3/6; Rosevale, £56/1/3; Vernor, £6; Ipswich, £5/5/9; total, £141/4/4.

Lunch was served at 12.30 p.m. A devotional service was then conducted by E. J. Bulgin.

Bro. Henriksen, Mount Walker, reported on the progress of the church in his centre, where the prospects for the future were exceedingly bright. As some church goers had to travel 15 miles, it was decided to extend the sphere to Warroll View. He was pleased to say that a goodly amount had been raised by Bro. Rodger for the reduction of the debt on the local church. He hoped that at next Conference the debt would be clean wiped off.

Bro. Primus, Rosevale, said that at Rosevale they had not a great membership. They had tried to do more, both spiritually and financially. The Sunday School membership was 27. The financial statement from Rosevale collected credit on that centre.

Bro. Henriksen, Vernor, spoke on behalf of Mt. Walker and Rosevale, and on the Labors of his grandson, who was recently at Rosevale on a holiday.

H. Berlin spoke on the progress of the church in Rosewood. During the past year they had re-established the Sunday night services. The preacher and brethren from Ipswich deserved great credit for the way in which they exerted themselves in this connection.

Bro. Lamprecht, Marburg, said that at Marburg "things were going well." Last year they had membership of 24 and at present 15. The people were all good workers, and all worked in harmony. The Sunday School was started last year, but very little support was accorded from Marburg, and as the most of them resided in Kirchoelm, it had been abandoned. Now it had recently been started in Marburg again, and was growing rapidly.

Bro. Smeching, Wanora, said they were very thankful to the Executive and Bro. Rodger for making for re-establishing the church at Vernor. He was intending to keep up the morning services after the Conference, but the membership was small. The membership of the Sunday School numbered 10, and three teachers undertook the work. He hoped the good work would be extended.

Bro. Whiffler, Ipswich, said great credit was due to Bro. Rodger for the way he worked in their centre. Their membership at present numbered 10, and they were handicapped by having no set place of worship. The Temperance Hall was utilised, and this was only available at 11 a.m. on Sundays.

The President said he had been a delegate to the Federal Conference at Melbourne. He referred to Bro. Wm. Henriksen, who had been at Ipswich, tending the Bible College for less than 12 months, and yet he would have been engaged as an evangelist and he had preferred to remain in Queensland. He had decided to return, and he, the speaker, could say that the students had anything but an easy time of it. He had visited the College for three days when he was in Melbourne, and he loved them all to support that institution, from which their preachers came. It was a privilege which their preachers came. It was a privilege that the boys could be sent there and trained. He

felt the hardship when he had to get up there in the church and preach the gospel. He referred in most encouraging terms to Bro. Rodger, and asked all present to assist their preacher as much as possible.

Bro. Rodger said he had given up business to take up the work of the Lord, and it was a pleasure to do his work. He moved that the secretary write a letter to Bro. W. Henriksen, expressing their appreciation of his services to the circuit when he was on holidays with his parents. Bro. Primus seconded the motion, which was carried.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

President, W. Berlin; Vice-President, A. Henriksen; Secretary, Bro. Tribbeck; Treasurer, Albert Henriksen.

WOMEN'S CONFERENCE.

The 14th annual Queensland Sisters' Conference was held during the afternoon. The President, Mrs. W. Berlin, presided. Correspondence included letters of greetings from the West Moreton Conference, Sister Mrs. Houston, Glamorgan Vale, Sisters of the Church of Christ, Zillmore, and the Sisters of the Church of Christ, Brisbane. It was moved that a letter of congratulation be sent to the church at Charters Towers, and a letter of sympathy to Sister Mrs. Bruce Gilmore. The Secretary's report was very encouraging, and she was heartily congratulated on the good work done by her. Letters of thanks were authorized to be sent to Miss Zahl for her essay on Christians' walk, and to Mrs. Mason for her essay on the Christian's life service. Sisters Miss Zahl and Mrs. Lamprecht were appointed delegates to the next Toowoomba Conference. Mrs. Berlin was re-elected President; Mrs. Houston and Mrs. Christensen, Vice-Presidents; Mrs. Primus, Secretary; Mrs. Berlin, Treasurer. The same matters were re-elected to carry on for the penny per week collections, namely, Marburg, Mrs. Hulise; Rosewood, Miss Zahl; Mount Walker, Mrs. Jenner; Rosevale, Mrs. Christensen; Vernor, Mrs. Adernmann. It was agreed to hold a half-yearly meeting in September at Mount Walker. The collections from the penny per week per member totalled £12/4/4, made up of: Rosevale, £5/2/-; Rosewood, £2/3/6; Marburg, £2/0/3; Mt. Walker, £1/3/6; Mrs. Houston, 5/-; total, £12 14/3.

NIGHT SESSION.

Tea was served at 5.30 p.m., and a public meeting was held at 7 p.m. The speakers were Bro. Barnard, Ma Ma Creek, who took for his subject "Christian Sacrifice"; Bro. Nightingale, Annandale, Church of Christ, subject, "The Divine Plea of the Churches of Christ"; and Bro. Forbes, Albion Church of Christ, subject, "Evangelical Address." The meeting was presided over by H. U. Rodger. He accorded a hearty welcome to all present, numbers of whom were outside his own church, but he felt pleased at seeing such a gathering. He especially mentioned that the thanks of the Conference were due to the Queensland Times for sending a reporter to the Conference, and he moved a hearty vote of thanks to that journal for their kindly action. The motion was carried.

Obituary.

DENNISON.—Bro. Dennison, of Carterton, fell asleep in Jesus on Feb. 18. For some years he has been isolated from the Vivian-st. church, but he never lost his interest in the Lord's work. Our brother was among the pioneer members of the church in Wellington, and filled such offices as elder, superintendent of the Bible School, leader of the singing, and leader of the young people's work. As an elder he had a high ideal of Christian life and service; his counsels were wise, his admonitions firm and kind. He has gone from us, having fought a good fight, and kept the faith. A number of the old members of the Queensland (now Vivian-st. church) were with him when the call to higher service came. We tender our sympathies to the bereaved in their sorrow.—S. H. Madge, Wellington, N.Z.

Here and There

FEDERAL MISSION AT LAURCESTON.

A. P. Wilson cables:—"Two hundred and fifty confessions; going another week; Princess Theatre used Sunday afternoon and evening, seventeen hundred present, Oriflith excellent; after church meetings started at theatre."

The present issue of the "Christian" has four extra pages.

Conference reports have the right of way for a little while.

R. Harkness, after a brief rest, has returned to his work at Tumby Bay, S.A.

Look up "Coming Events" and see if your church is on the lists for a lantern lecture on India.

Len Gole wires the following from Queensland—"A most successful Conference, optimistic, progressive and uplifting."

It was a graceful act on the part of the Conference to elect Bro. M. McLeelan as its President after his thirty years' service as secretary.

Scamphore, S.A., church building should be completed next month. S. G. Griffith is expected to commence a mission there about the middle of May.

T. J. Gore was 74 years old last Lord's day. There were good meetings at Henley Beach, S.A., where the church is making fine progress under his care.

W. A. Strougan has resigned his work on the Tweed, N.S.W., and will assist the Harward mission at Lyville during April. His present address is 399, Bowling, Moore Park, N.S.W.

Owing to Sister Franklyn's continued illness, Bro. Franklyn has resigned his work at Paddington, N.S.W. He would be glad to hear of an opening in a dry, inland town, preferably in New Zealand or Queensland.

Victorian Women's Conference Executive.—All new delegates are reminded that the Executive meeting will be held in the hall, Swanston-st., on Friday, April 4, at 2.30 p.m. A cordial invitation extended to all sisters.

Notable progress is being made at Wallaroo, S.A., where J. Walshire is preaching to good audiences both in the open air and in the hall, with frequent additions. The great need is a church building, and plans for this are well under way.

The leader of song in the Victorian Conference gatherings was Bro. Nat Haddow, of the Lygon-st. church. He has rendered good service in this direction for many years. A word of praise is also due to S. H. Pittman for his services as organist.

The Adelaide ecclesiastical firmament was dull last Lord's day evening, several of the principal stars being invisible. Among those were: J. E. Thomas, in Perth; G. T. Walden, Sydney; J. A. Dickson, Melbourne; and H. J. Horsfall, Victor Harbor.

The Launceston church has bought the building which was formerly used by the Catholic Apostolic Church for £600. It is a fine looking building, with plenty of ground, and situated in a good part of the town. It is a vast improvement on the old moving place. The church itself will raise about £200 towards the payment, the remaining amount will be arranged for.

A forward movement in the distribution of tracts has been inaugurated by the brethren in West Australia. From a letter headed "Tract Scheme" we learn that "a company of brethren and sisters are financing the delivery of 10,000 tracts per month. The tracts will be carefully chosen, accurately checked, and suitable for all kinds of distribution." This is a movement in the right direction, and might well be followed by other States. If we want to make headway we must distribute our literature.

All the meetings of the Victorian Conference were well attended. Indeed, at some of the meetings numbers had to be turned away. Even the new Hall, which holds about 1000 people, was not sufficiently commodious to hold all that came to the Home Mission demonstration on Friday night. It has been abundantly demonstrated that even for our business sessions the Lygon-st. chapel is not large enough. A motion was therefore carried that a larger building be secured next year, more particularly for the Friday's sessions.

Peter Orr, secretary of the church at Launceston, writes:—"Pleased to state that through the kindness of the Federal Executive, who made all arrangements and advanced the deposit, the building has been secured and will be opened on the 30th. It is to cost us £800. Over £200 has already been promised amongst the members here. A brother in Victoria has offered to give £50 a month as £350 has been raised, and an additional £50 if we succeed in raising another £350 by Easter, 1914. We make an earnest appeal for help in this direction."

Bible School Union (Vic).—The first general committee meeting for year 1913-14 of the above Union will be held next Monday, March 31, in the Christian chapel, new hall, Swanston-st., at 8 p.m. All delegates are requested to attend. At this meeting honorary members' cards, which are now ready, will be handed to representatives of their respective schools. In the event of any alteration in the names of delegates for year 1913-14 being made in any of the schools connected with this Union, will secretary of said school kindly notify the Union Secretary thereof on or before night of meeting?—J. Y. Potts, Hon. Sec., B.S.U.

L. J. Curtis, a former student of the College of the Bible, but who had to give up on account of ill-health, sends us the following:—"With this I am forwarding brief report of work out here. The work is grand, but to one who has his farm work to attend as well it is hard and trying. Nevertheless, hopes are high, and people seem deeply interested. They ask much of our reason for not taking collections from outsiders, and also our position on the Lord's Supper and baptism. We pray and hope that the result will be further flowing of the Lord on their part. Pleased to hear that the Austral has attained the age to vote. The "Christian" has made great and rapid progress, and is by far the best religious journal published, because her pages speak for pure religion and complete obedience to Christ. May you be spared long to edit its pages and defend its mission—the propagation of truth. Happy in making the successful opening of College. No doubt the year is budding in promise. Bro. Main's report causes rejoicing specially to an old boy."

ALL DAY MEETING.

While in all the other States Conferences were being held on the 21st, brethren in Adelaide were assembled in an all day meeting "for the deepening of the spiritual life" in Grottesst. chapel. The theme for the day was "A Restoration of New Testament Religion," and the motto, "Back to Christ." There were six sessions. From 11 to 12, "The Primitive Spirit of Prayer," 12 to 1, "The Primitive Worship," 2 to 3, "Some Primitive Grace," 3 to 4, "The Primitive Unity," 4 to 5, "Primitive Sacrifices," 5 to 9.15, "The New Testament Evangelism." Each of these sessions had a separate chairman and four speakers dealing with subdivisions of the topics. Lunch and tea were partaken of in the school-room in family fashion. A number of brethren and sisters availed themselves of this opportunity of social and Christian fellowship. The speakers and chairmen were: T. I. Daley, J. Udale, E. A. Rhodes, E. McPhee, E. J. Paternoster, junr., J. Anderson, Bro. Parker, from Victoria, W. Garratt, R. S. Cabbell, W. T. Manning, H. D. Smith, C. Norman, E. J. Paternoster, senr., G. Wilson, A. M. Endbrook, W. Miller, H. R. Taylor, T. J. Gore, P. Hiley, J. Tinkler, C. J. Hoag, T. H. Brook, W. A. Day, W. J. Taylor, and A. J. Day. R. Norman rendered much help in leading the singing, and was assisted in the evening by a number of his Mile End choir. It was a good Friday.

Under the heading of "Letters to the Editor," Mr. Geoffrey Palmer offered some very fair criticisms regarding Churches of Christ in the London *Christian World*. The following is a reply to one of them:—

THAT "DISCIPLE" SERMON.

To the Editor of *The Christian World*.

Sir, Mr. Geoffrey Palmer kindly supplied me with the names of his two witnesses to the alleged fact of a certain sermon having been preached in which it was affirmed that "He that is not baptised shall be damned." I have communicated with both, and have had very courteous replies from them. I was quite prepared to hear that they had received impressions that had led them to wrong conclusions. Their letters bear this out. I willingly acquit both them and Mr. Palmer from any intention to misrepresent. And I trust their action, when they have read the statements following, will warrant this confidence. I have submitted copies of the two letters (without name and addresses) to the evangelist and to the officers of the church where the sermon was said to have been preached. The minister and officers of the church have signed the following statement:—

"Concerning a statement made in *The Christian World* of January 2, 1913, by Mr. Geoffrey Palmer that a sermon had been preached in a certain Church of Christ connected with the Disciples of Christ (afterwards said to be by Mr. Jas. Small in the Mornington-rd. Church of Christ, Seaford) teaching that 'He that is not baptised shall be damned,' we hereby assert that no such teaching was given during the mission in October last, as stated; and that if anyone has drawn any such conclusion from what was said, his impression is wrong; and further, that the repetition of such a statement is a gross misrepresentation of the position of the Disciples of Christ. (Signed) G. H. Walker, Buckner, Minister, J. Geop, J. C. Hildreth, David Lamont, C. N. Coop, R. W. J. G. Hildreth, Curwen, F. Geop, Deacons. (Mrs.) R. Lee. (Mrs.) M. D. Geop, Deaconesses."

The evangelist writes in part as follows:—"I did not preach any such doctrine, and now have in a twenty-six years' ministry in the Church of Christ. I should look upon it as a terrible crime if I heard any man preach it. As to my interpretation of Mark 16: 16, I emphatically deny that I ever drew the conclusion that a person not baptised will be damned. I said that very often that a man is not lost because he is not baptised. (Signed) James Small."

I trust, Mr. Editor, that my part of this unpleasant discussion is at an end in Yours faithfully, Le-He W. Morgan, "Wringdill," Priory road, Hornsey, N.

COMING EVENTS.

"Through India with a Camera" is the title of the Lantern Lecture to be delivered by the Secretary of the Foreign Missionary Committee in the churches as follows:—

Wednesday, April 2, North Richmond
 Wednesday, April 23, Doncaster.
 Wednesday, April 30, Abbotsford.
 Wednesday, May 7, Footscray.
 Tuesday, May 13, Windsor.
 Monday, May 19, North Melbourne.
 Wednesday, May 21, South Melbourne.
 Wednesday, June 4, Prahran.
 Tuesday, June 10, Moreland.
 Wednesday, June 18, South Yarra.
 Watch for other dates in other churches, and remember the annual P.M. offering on July 1.

Church of Christ, Hampton, just Meets in the Hampton Hall, Hampton-st., just through railway gates. Morning at 11; evening at 7; Sunday School at 3 p.m. Brethren visiting the district will be most cordially welcomed. J. H. Tinkler, Secretary.

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