

## The Convention at Kiating

DR. WALLACE CRAWFORD.

The Annual Summer Convention of the native church of the Canadian Methodist Mission in West China was held at Kiating from June 30th to July 3rd, inclusive. The aim of this convention is the deepening of the spiritual life of the Chinese Christians, and to this end the programme was arranged. About two hundred and fifty delegates, members of the church, came from different stations, and were entertained at the Hospital during the convention. These men and women, and there was a goodly number of the latter, came up to the convention "in the spirit," and they were not turned away empty. We heard them say as they came, "We are going to get God's blessing," and, coming in this spirit, they were not to be denied.

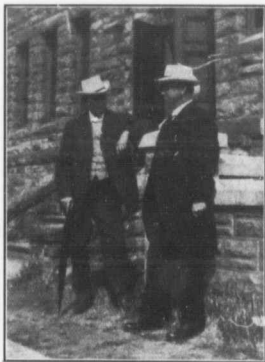
The programme was arranged with much thought and prayer, and did all that was expected of it. The time was divided according to the days set apart, and was followed exactly. We all felt the loss of two men from our midst—one upon whom the hand of God had been laid to do a nobler work above, Mr. Carson, and the other his brother-in-law, Mr. R. O. Jolliffe, who was absent down river. One of the features of the programme never to be forgotten was the tribute paid by the first class of evangelists to the work and wisdom of Mr. Carson, and it was not dry-eyed that any one of us listened to the testimonies of these men as they spoke of the way he had led them out and helped them in all their studies and shared his meals with them when on the road.

Thursday, the first day of the convention, was devoted to the strengthening of those who had been blessed in the previous convention at Jenchow. The topic was "The Need of Growth in Grace," and was well taken by all. Heretofore the Chinese have not shown any keen interest in things spiritual, but this gathering showed plainly that the church members are surely growing in grace. The second day was devoted to the topic, "Sin and Its Consequences," and a keen interest was taken in the subject and discussions. The following day was taken up with "Sin and Its Remedy," and all seemed benefited by the addresses. Sunday was the summing-up day, and enjoyed by all as a day of advancement in Christ's service. The early morning service and the late evening meeting were given over entirely to evangelistic work. Topics were also given on "Saving the Individual," "Home" and "Saving the Country." In addition, Normal classes were held daily for the instruction of the leaders in the Church, and any who were prospective helpers. These classes proved a great help to all those in attendance, and the future leaders of the cause went away with a much better idea of what was needed of a church helper.

A special feature of this year's convention was the difference in the assistance given by the church helpers. Last year at Jenchow the Conference was more of an individual's convention, but this year none of that was noticeable. Having received the blessing last year at Jenchow, those brethren were now ready to help their fellows to clearer vision, and it was a sight to warm the heart of the missionary, and reward the labors of the veteran, to see the future evangelists of our Church helping their brothers through the dark valley and up to a clear vision and a loving Saviour, where they could cast all their cares upon Him. This was a union convention, where the individual was lost, as it

were, and where mutual help was the aim.

While a visible visitation of the Spirit was not manifest, as at Jenchow last year, still all felt that the Spirit was there in mighty power, and many went away having received a closer insight into God's love, and with greater determination to follow only Him. We who were privileged to be present and have some small share in the gathering are thankful that not only another milestone in our mission has been passed, but that such evidence of God's blessing upon our labors is at hand.



## The Sunday School and Missions

By action of the General Conference, Par. 317 of the Discipline is eliminated and the following is substituted:

"Every Sunday school shall be considered as essentially a Missionary Society, auxiliary to the General Missionary Society of our Church.

"As such, the duty of every Sunday school shall be:

"1. To educate its members in the principles of missions.

"2. To inform the members in the facts of missions.

"3. To unite its members in prayer for missions.

"4. To train its members in giving to missions.

"5. To secure from its members recruits for missions."

"It is recommended that in every Sunday school there be formed a Missionary Committee by appointment of the Board of Management. The duty of this committee shall be to secure in the best possible way the five desired points enumerated above.

"It shall arrange for at least a quarterly Missionary meeting of the entire school, and shall have charge through its Secretary-Treasurer of all moneys contributed for the Missionary cause, these to be forwarded by the Pastor in the usual disciplinary way.

"It is recommended that wherever possible Sunday school classes be organized for Missionary study and gift, and that in every school where such class organization is found to be impracticable, a monthly offering for missions be taken in the whole school."

We ask every Sunday school officer and teacher to carefully study the above. It is the General Conference's statement of the case, and as such becomes at once the policy of the General Board. It should be acceptable to every Sunday school. It

is a long way in advance of what preceded it, inasmuch as it does not advise the formation of a Missionary Society in the Sunday school, but declares that the Sunday school is a Missionary Society. The aims of the school are simple, clear and comprehensive, and the committee plan is fitting to the smallest school, yet sufficient for the largest. If the policy and plan of the General Conference, as outlined above, are not perfectly understood by all, the General Secretary will be glad to advise and explain more fully.

## The W.M.S. and the Sunday School

In response to a memorial from the Woman's Missionary Society, asking for some financial aid for their work from the aggregate givings to Missions from the Sunday schools, the General Conference ordered that a sum equal to one-fifth of the total amount raised by the schools be paid over to the General Treasurer of the W. M. S. by the General Board of Missions.

This does not mean that individual schools must give twenty per cent. of their Missionary money to the W. M. S. There should be no misunderstanding on this point. It means simply that every school is to raise all it can for missions and pay the same to the pastor, who forwards it with the rest of the circuit Missionary money to the General Board of Missions. When the total amount contributed by the Sunday schools in the Church everywhere is made up, the Treasurer of the General Board is to pay an amount equal to one-fifth of the total over to the W. M. S.

We predict that the W. M. S., through its Conference branches and local auxiliaries, will greatly aid the Sunday schools in their Missionary study and work, and we anticipate an increase, both of interest and of gift, because of this practical co-operation.

## At Knowlton, Que.

Writing of the Summer Conference of the Young People's Missionary Movement, at Knowlton, Que., from July 12 to 19, Miss Ida A. Lambly, Montreal, reports a most successful meeting. She says that 55 delegates were in attendance, 26 of whom were Presbyterians, 17 Methodists, 8 Congregationalists, and 4 Anglicans.

"Four Study Classes, and an hour of Institute work each morning; recreation during the afternoon, and the Life-work Conferences each evening on the lawn, were most helpful.

"Returned missionaries told of their experiences, and plans for work were discussed, which gave to many a larger vision of the world's great need.

"The Montreal delegates resolved to ask the Canadian Council to hold an Institute in that city this fall, especially for the training of leaders. A review of our literature and mission fields was given at the rally of Methodist young people, and plans were made to help in every way possible the work of our own Missionary Society.

"It is felt that we are working under a great disadvantage in regard to obtaining necessary literature, and efforts are being made to establish a depository in Montreal.

"It is hoped that a much greater interest will be aroused in the work through the fall and winter by the delegates of this year, and that our Methodist young people will see to it that a full delegation will represent the work of our churches at the Knowlton Conference next year."

"The only time Jesus was watching was when a collection was being taken."