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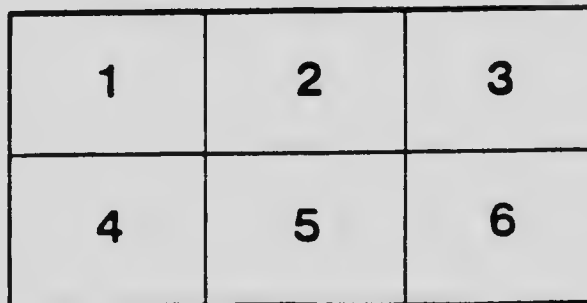
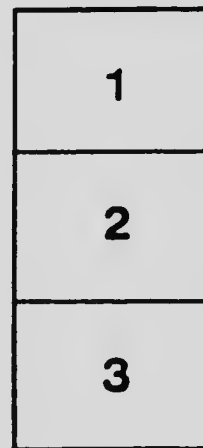
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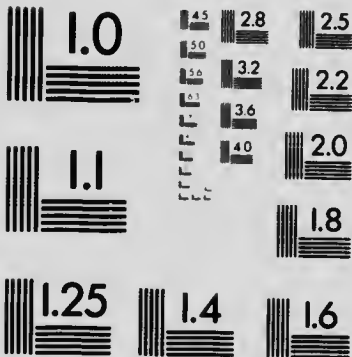
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OF THE METHODIST CHURCH

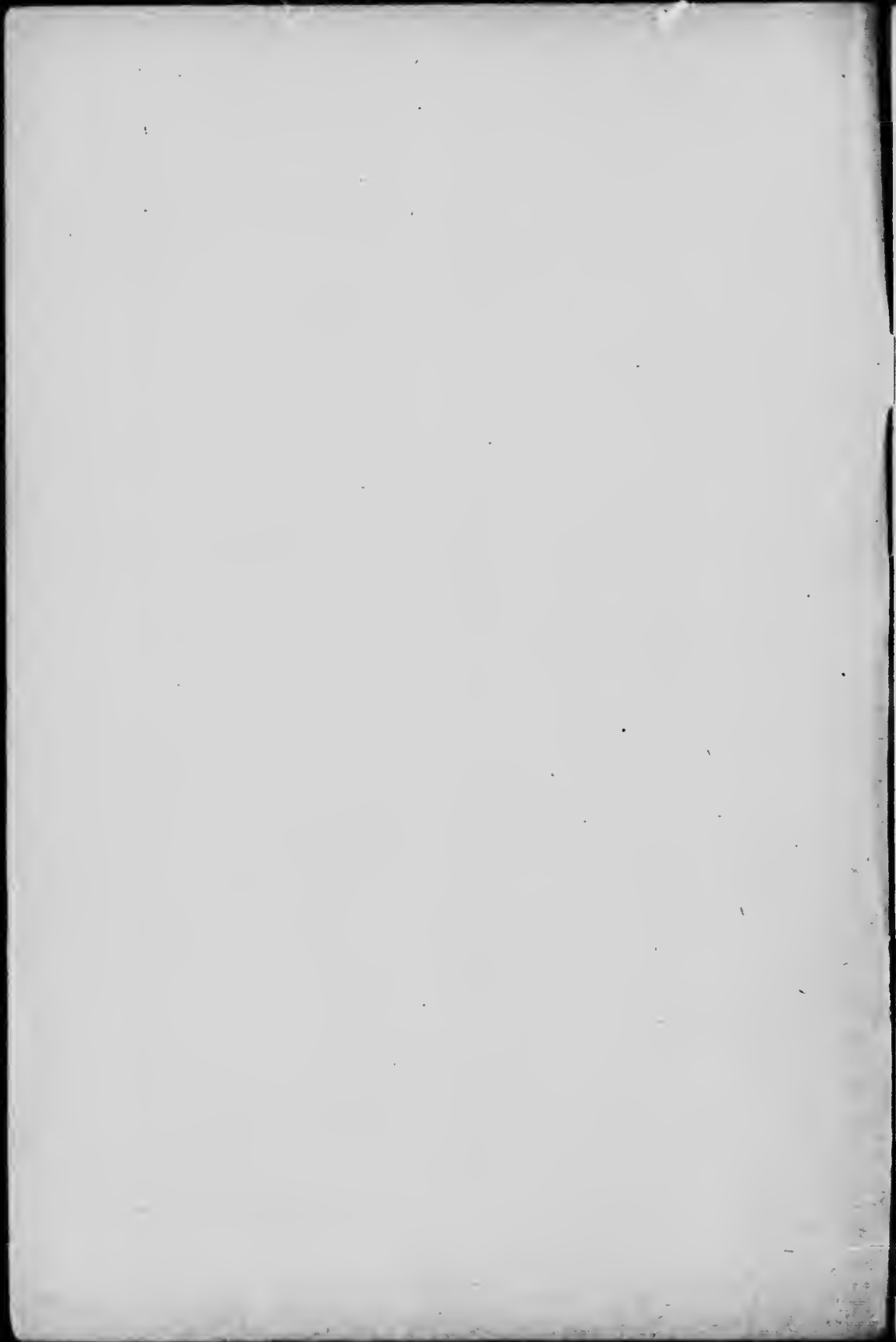
PASTORAL ADDRESS
AND
COMMITTEE REPORTS



PRESIDENT
REV. ROBERT WILKINSON

SECRETARY
REV. R. J. McINTYRE

1917



British Columbia Conference

VICTORIA, B.C., MAY, 1917

PASTORAL ADDRESS

MY DEAR BRETHREN:—

By the mercy of God we are once more assembled in annual conference together. It is especially fitting that we meet, from points near and far throughout the entire province, in this historic church, the mother of Methodism in the West, that we may review the work of our thirty-first year of activities as a provincial organization. May much inspiration come to us as we compare the present with the past, inspiration which shall impell us to further effort and sacrifice through the years to come.

During the past year, moving in and out among our people, we have been impressed with the heroism of pastor and people alike. These trying times in which we live have but quickened and intensified that spirit and enthusiasm which has ever characterized us as a Church; that spirit and enthusiasm which has made Methodism what she is to-day—the largest Protestant Church in the world and the largest Church of any kind in the English-speaking world. The fires through which we pass have both purified our hearts and consecrated our lives. Again we are being dominated by the heroic spirit which moved and inspired our forefathers in those early years when foundations were well and truly laid. Again we live to make our Church a power in the land, a power that seeks not the way of least resistance, but actuated by lofty enduring motives moves on in the face of all difficulties in its battles for the betterment of men. Again evidence is not wanting that our people are turning, as they have not turned for years, to the Christ who said, "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my word shall not pass away." A growing consciousness of an abiding Christ gives tenacity of purpose and firmness of step as we march on.

The all-absorbing topic of the year has been the great world-war, and its very mention brings to memory the hearts that are heavy with grief and the homes that are dark with a great sorrow. One abiding comfort remains. Loved ones have suffered or died for the same enduring principles for which Christ lived, labored and died Himself.

Thousands of our land have died for the distinctively Christian principle that the rich shall serve the poor, the strong serve the weak and the wise serve the ignorant. They have given their lives gladly because they believe that service should be the standard of life; that it is the divine order, inaugurated by the Christ who came "not to be ministered unto but to minister." They have suffered, bled and died for the perpetuation of the Christian principle of service as against the dominance of the barbarous spirit of paganism, where greatness consists in power and wealth and force, the right of might to rule and enforce its laws upon an enslaved world. In what nobler cause could a man give his life? To die thus after a brief struggle at the front is grander far than to live a hundred years of selfishness and ease.

While we are here to-day thousands of our sons and brothers are battling to overthrow a "religion of valor," a religion which prostrates itself before a god of expediency and ignores the sacred rights of man; a religious fanaticism in which man exists for the State and not the State for man; a fanaticism in which the end ever justifies the means no matter how horrible; a religion which recognizes in its ruler no virtue but power and weakness his only sin, while in the ruled, weakness is a virtue, and any assumption of power or independence the greatest sin. In this battle surely our brave boys are fighting for the Christ and the establishment of His kingdom. If Christ's kingdom ever comes it must come here upon earth and we shall pray to silent skies for the coming of that kingdom if we fold our arms while the god of paganism rolls like a Juggernaut over the mangled lives of men. Hence this war is unlike the wars of old, which could end in some sort of mediation or compromise, seeing that no vital principles were involved. This war is pre-eminently the clash of two great principles, the conflict of two great ideals. The triumph of the pagan ideal would mean the curse of the entire world, including the people of the central kingdoms themselves. So essentially antagonistic are these ideals and so fundamental in the progress of the world that we are in the habit of characterizing the conflict as democracy against despotism, law against militarism, progress against reaction, nationality against the state, humanity against the negation of the moral law, right against might, the equal rights of all peoples and their cultures against the dominance of one people and one culture. Yes, truly our brave soldiers at the front are battling for the Kingdom of Heaven on earth when they fight for the re-establishment and strengthening of international law and the sanctity of treaties; for the re-establishment and affirmation of the laws of humanity, for the establishment of the principle of nationality and the rights of all peoples great and small; for these all are fundamental to the establishment of that kingdom. They battle to kill the pernicious doctrine that a sovereign state is irresponsible, because there is no higher

power to which it owes allegiance, and by their sacrifices they assert uncompromisingly that above all kingdoms is the Kingdom of God. They battle to down the pagan doctrine that outward force is ultimate arbiter and to prove to the satisfaction of all mankind that spiritual forces are supreme. In our frequent letters to the front shall we not repeatedly remind our boys that we constantly pray for their ultimate victory, and shall we not also enhearten them with the thought that they are indeed crusaders in Christ's kingdom of righteousness.

The wholesome reaction of the war continues unabated. Spiritual values have been emphasized until all feel more than ever the need of regenerated national life. Our fair province gives promise of soon becoming as healthful morally and spiritually as she has ever been beautiful physically. Strides have been taken already which the most optimistic never could have dreamed of three or four years ago. Momentarily we are expecting the present Government to bring forward a measure which shall set us free from a greater tyrant than the wolfish militarism of the Hun. This should afford special gratification to all Methodists, for, as a Church, we have not only been pioneers in this movement in Canada, but consistent advocates all through the years.

On the heels of this reform there comes another. Already are manifest signs of a healthful unrest and sounds of wholesome protest against a condition of political life which has made our fair province a by-word and a slander throughout the world, and her name a synonym for trickery and graft. As in the temperance campaign, so in this field shall we not strive to take first place as a Church in developing a vast army of citizens who shall place principle before party and purity before politics. Let us be patriotic enough to take pity on our bleeding country, and, if necessary, be willing to die politically in order that she may live.

Too great praise cannot be given our present Premier for his earnest personal efforts to abolish patronage from political life. This would indeed be a great step in the right direction and would doubtless speedily improve the political atmosphere which has poisoned so many promising lives, but should we not go yet another step and make illegal all special gifts for campaign purposes. We must confess to some embarrassment when we read of the high standards of our non-Christian neighbor across the sea, where special gifts are not permissible, and where political parties must depend upon membership fees alone for the securing of campaign funds. Not long since when Count Okuma was returned to power, a certain capitalist, Mr. Shirakawa, contributed \$5,000 towards election expenses in his party. This contribution was arranged for by Mr. Hayashida, secretary-general of the lower house. Both men were promptly arrested and Viscount Oura, an intimate friend of the latter, who was not

himself implicated in the affair, felt the disgrace so keenly that he resigned his portfolio and even his peerage and the headship of his family, dying socially, financially and politically for the honor of his country. The matter did not stop here. Count Okuma and his whole cabinet resigned, although there was not the slightest evidence connecting him with the transaction.

As the great Ruskin said, "Religion must be of a piece," and it is high time that we as pastors and people should see to it that our religious belief and profession agree with our business and political practice. Surely the time has come when we ought to be willing to stand together as Liberals and Conservatives for the purification of our political life; otherwise we are not worthy of the men who represent us at the front. Here is a task to challenge the manhood of those who remain behind. Can we do it? Yes, men always respond to something worth while. Shall we do it? Are we not sufficiently sick of present conditions? I think so. We have reached the parting of the ways. We must either follow Jesus in these matters as our brave boys charged up Vimy Ridge or else we had better call our Christian philosophy a failure—good enough perhaps in theory, and fine for sermon and harrangue, but impotent as a force for righteousness in the affairs of life. Our lads have covered themselves and their country with everlasting glory and shall we weaken before our enemies at home? Let one and all take a solemn vow to renew the fight for entire emancipation from political bondage, so that when our men return victorious from the front, they shall see that we, too, have had the courage of our convictions and have overthrown the enemies so long entrenched within.

M. Cambon in his Guildhall speech the other day uttered a significant phrase we do well to reflect upon. "War" said he "is a terrible thing, but it develops so many noble feelings and so much moral beauty, that people who have suffered from it without weakening, come out of it magnified and regenerated." Thousands of our boys are suffering without weakening and they shall return to us magnified and regenerated. Shall we as a Church lag behind while they march on in the development of all that is worth while in life and character? In such a case imagine their disappointment when they return; and consider a possible reaction which might prove their ruin in the day of peace, after they have so bravely survived the day of war. Downrightness, and uprightness, too, conviction and intensity of earnestness and purpose that will not be able to endure the merely artificial and formal must be the very manifest temper of the Church in the days to come, or it will not much appeal to the men who have been engaged in that terribly earnest business at the front. To them a religion that has no strength or virility in it, and that does not make

any tremendous demands for service and sacrifice, will not have much attraction. But the religion of Jesus Christ has strength and virility, it does make tremendous demands and if we rightly present and exemplify it there will be no danger about its appeal.

In these momentous days there is still greater need of keeping a true perspective so that as a Church we may keep steady. World movements are in vogue, but there is no need of feverish fear that the end of all things has come. Nations are being remodeled in a day. Autocratic empires tumble with startling suddenness, but democratic forms of government rise as suddenly from the ruins. Oppression in many forms has unmistakably read her doom in the handwritings of God on the walls of an effete past. Old countries and old continents are rapidly being adjusted to new conditions. The world order is being quickly shifted, and the universe of thought and men being unified as never before in the history of the world. It is imperative that we should adjust ourselves as individuals to this changing universe of thought and men. Shall we not strive to correct our individualisms by the concensus of Christian thought and experience. To make the individual experience and the monetary mood alone our guide and inspiration inevitably leads us into all sorts of discord and disintegration, but if we, like our Master, grow more and more imperialistic in our spirit and our vision we shall be less liable to shipwreck of faith and more likely to succeed in making our little contribution to the betterment of men. We do well to remember that the Kingdom of Heaven is as leaven and signs were never more promising than at present that the whole lump of humanity shall yet be leavened with the gospel of the Son of God. As never before Christ is about to take His rightful place as King of the earth. Christ abides midst universal change. His promises abide "though heaven and earth shall pass away." Let all conspire to exalt Him in every word and deed.

British Columbia Methodist Conference

THE METHODIST CHURCH HONOR ROLL.

Ministers.

*EDWARD M. BURWASH, M.A.
 CHARLES E. BATZOLD
 FRANK BUSHFIELD
 EBERT C. CURRY
 *THOMAS C. COLWELL.
 *GEORGE O. FALLIS.
 *JOHN G. GIBSON.
 JOHN R. HEWITT, B.A.
 J. HENRY HOBBS
 GEORGE R. B. KINNEY, B.A.
 *THOMAS R. OSBORNE
 LORNE N. RICHARDSON, B.A.
 DAVID W. SCOTT
 FRANK H. STANTON, B.A.
 C. WELLESLEY WHITTAKER
 JOHN H. WRIGHT

*Chaplains.

Probationers.

EDGAR L. BEST
 J. IRWIN BEATTY
 W. PERCY BUNT
 EVAN BAKER
 CHARLES D. CLARKE
 WILLIAM DEANS
 GARNET GIBSON
 GEORGE H. HAMILTON
 JOSEPH HERDMAN
 J. CLIFFORD JACKSON
 J. HERBERT MATTHEWS
 WILLIAM RICKABY.
 VICTOR SANSUM
 THOMAS F. TOWNSEND
 GEORGE TURPIN
 †JAMES S. WEIR
 WILLIAM B. WILLAN

†Killed in Action.

The following resolution remembering those of our number who had enlisted and were now on active service, was, on motion of Revs. W. L. Hall and R. J. McIntyre, adopted by standing vote, with prayer by the President:

"At this solemn time in the world's history we cannot refrain from expressing our gratitude to Almighty God for the response made by our ministers and people to the unprecedented situation created by the war.

"In particular we take solemn pride in the fact that in all, fourteen ministers and sixteen probationers, a total of thirty, or approximately one-fourth of the effective strength of the British Columbia Conference, apart from supernuaries, have enlisted at the call of their country, as chaplains, in Red Cross work, and as combatants. This leaves us with virtually no students capable of meeting military requirements. Of those who went forward, one (Rev. J. S. Weir) has sealed his service with his life.

"In a moment of mingled exaltation and grief we remember also the sons of our ministers and people throughout the length and breadth of the land, who faltered not, but went forward at the call, and who have made the supreme sacrifice. We remember the words of One who said: 'Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.' To the families concerned we extend our heartfelt condolences. With them we glorify God for those who, joining hands and hearts, went forth as our representatives to break the power of the oppressor and, in the Providence of God, as we trust, to free humanity from the overshadowing menace of barbarism and brute force.

"In the midst of many perplexities, we recognize the hand of God in bringing together in a common understanding of the issues at stake, the two great groups of democracies speaking the English tongue. In this auspicious event, we see one of the momentous turning points of history.

"As ever, we pledge ourselves and our people in a common loyalty to King and country, and to the high causes at stake touching the whole future of humanity; and earnestly commend to our ministers and people the supreme importance of prayer, day by day, for the causes and countries concerned. The times call with trumpet voice to all to lay aside every hindrance, and the sin that doth so easily beset, all petty and party bickerings, that we one and all may seek after God and devote ourselves unreservedly to the work entrusted to our charge. In this way we shall be making the best preparation possible for a revival of religion."

Reports of Committees

REPORT OF THE STATISTICAL SECRETARY.

MEMBERSHIP.

In full Membership	13,984	
On Probation	910	
Total	14,894	
Number reported last year	14,805	
Net Increase		89

CONNEXIONAL FUNDS.

		Incr.	Decr.
Superannuation Fund	\$5,370	....	\$600
General Missionary	15,920	\$627	....
Educational	262	26	....
General Conference	847	....	84
General Sunday School	593	55	....
Contingent Fund	746	97	....
Social Service	1,352	352	....
General Young People's Society.....	157	....	16
Church and Parsonage Aid	10	1	....
Annual Conference	961	....	356
Women's Missionary Society	7,816	429	....
City Missions	415	....	210
Columbian College	3,228	....	....
All other purposes	118	....	....
Total	\$37,732		

CIRCUIT PURPOSES.

		Incr.	Decr.
Circuit Incidentals	\$6,130	\$1,155	....
Horse Keep	3,761	....	408
Removal Expenses	2,795	913	....
House Rent	1,998	....	173
Sunday Schools	18,814	334	....
Epworth Leagues	3,554	554	....
Ladies' Aids	23,504	3,353	....
Trustee Boards	68,285	12,462	....
All other purposes	10,830	....	....
Net Increase	\$140,671	\$12,304	

MINISTERIAL SUPPORT.

		Incr.	Decr.
By Circuit	\$60,247	....	\$4,884
By Missionary Society	52,984	....	4,204
Net Decrease			<u>\$9,272</u>
Total raised for all purposes	\$238,650		
Increase		<u>\$6,851</u>	

REPORT OF THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE MISSIONARY COMMITTEE, 1917.

The Annual Conference Missionary Committee met and appointed Rev. W. E. Dunham Chairman, and Rev. A. S. Colwell, Secretary.

As a first report, your Committee beg to submit the following recommendations:—

We desire to call your attention, first, however, to a comparative statement of our missionary givings, as to the increase and decrease of the different Conferences for the year.

RECEIPTS INTO GENERAL FUND FROM CONFERENCES.

	1912-13	1913-14	1914-15	1915-16
Toronto	\$158,786	\$160,413	\$158,302	\$157,685
London	79,290	83,862	91,989	89,870
Hamilton	88,821	94,526	100,472	102,736
Bay of Quinte	50,986	54,751	46,166	56,816
Montreal	76,779	74,239	68,489	70,550
Nova Scotia	18,283	18,280	18,052	17,814
New Brunswick	14,238	16,421	16,470	17,769
Newfoundland	18,117	18,878	16,498	18,127
Manitoba	46,945	36,282	36,016	38,695
Saskatchewan	31,994	31,825	31,564	39,344
Alberta	25,206	18,249	15,749	16,059
British Columbia	27,802	23,802	17,041	15,648
	<u>\$637,246</u>	<u>\$631,580</u>	<u>\$626,908</u>	<u>\$641,112</u>

(Above figures approximate to even dollars.)

2. That we desire to present to you the givings of the various Districts of our Conference for the years 1914, 1915, 1916 and 1917, the past quadrennium.

MISSIONARY GIVINGS—GENERAL FUND.

Districts	1914	1915	1916	1917
Victoria	\$5,125	\$3,867	\$3,053	\$2,897
Nanaimo	884	896	686	873
Vancouver East	3,422	2,476	2,039	2,333
Vancouver West	6,605	4,606	3,730	3,701
Westminster	2,529	2,028	2,016	2,290
Kamloops	991	604	442	592
Okanagan	2,259	1,163	1,040	1,095
West Kootenay	535	364	549	564
East Kootenay	282	144	323	309
Simpson	1,166	1,101	1,581	1,071
Prince George . . . . .	.....	172	185	198
Total	<u>\$23,798</u>	<u>\$17,421</u>	<u>\$15,648</u>	<u>\$15,920</u>

3. Then more particularly to the givings of our own Conference for the past five years:

MISSIONARY GIVINGS—GENERAL FUND.

1912-13	\$27,802 25
1913-14	23,802 44
1914-15	17,041 45
1915-16	15,648 13
1916-17	15,920 00
Objective, 1917-18	<u>\$20,000 00</u>

After making a very careful survey of the whole field, your Committee came to the conclusion that the time was opportune for British Columbia Conference to take a step in advance in our missionary contributions.

The following are recommendations relating to the increase of missionary giving:

REPORT OF MISSIONARY COMMITTEE:

1. We heartily endorse the objective adopted by the General Board of Missions for the raising of \$800,000 for missions by the whole Methodist Church of Canada. We recommend that the sum of \$20,000 be our objective for the coming year 1917-18, which is an increase of some \$4,000 or about 25 per cent. over this last year.

2. In view of the fact than an appeal is to made in all the Conferences of Canada for the inauguration of a simultaneous educational missionary campaign, we recommend to Conference that we, as a Conference, inaugurate in all our churches a campaign for missions on Sunday, October 14th.

3. That at the first Quarterly Official Board Meeting in concurrence with the Missionary Committee, plans be formulated for a missionary campaign on every field, and their programme be presented to the Financial District Meeting.

4. That a simultaneous campaign be carried on in every District where conditions permit.

5. That there be conducted on every field an "Every Member Canvass" for missions; that missionary literature shall be freely distributed and full information given to stimulate our people to consecrated and intelligent action for the accomplishment of our task.

6. That on all circuits and missions, the Missionary Committee be asked to meet in March, at which meeting a full report of all moneys raised for missionary purposes shall be taken in review to ascertain if the standard at which we are aiming is being realized; and if not, to implement it with further efforts to attain our objective.

7. That continued effort be maintained among all our Indian and Asiatic missions to enthuse all members in missionary givings, so as to give them the vision of self-support and the joy of helping others into the progressive light of Jesus Christ.

8. That we heartily commend the efforts of the General Board of Missions to formulate a plan of action to secure a source of income through legacies and annuities, and recommend our people earnestly to consider the claims of the Missionary Society when planning the disposal of their estates.

9. *Re Missionary Society Remittances:* That Annual Missionary Committee desires to call the attention of the Conference to Paragraph 349 of Discipline:

"The missionary money raised on any circuit or mission included in the work of the Home Department, shall be transmitted as soon as collected direct to the General Treasurer of the Society at Toronto, by P.O. Order, Express Order, etc.,

"Remittances shall be made as above, monthly if possible, or at least quarterly, or whenever fifty dollars shall have been collected; and the final balance as soon as the collections are completed, which shall be not later than the Annual District Meeting."

10. *Re Organization of the Indian Work*: After having taken the resolution from the Victoria District into consideration The Annual Conference Missionary Committee recommends the General Board of Missions to authorize the holding of a Conference of the Indian Mission workers together with the Conference members of the General Board, and such General Conference Officers that might be present; together with the Chairman of the Districts in which are Indian workers, such conference to be held to consider problems and issues of immediate concern, before the meeting of the next Annual Conference.

11. Regarding the resolution from the Victoria District *re Missionary Superintendent in British Columbia*: Your Committee recommends that this question be referred to a special committee consisting of the President and Secretary of Conference, the President of the Laymen's Association, Rev. T. H. Wright, and Rev. John Robson, to canvass the whole matter and report to the General Board and also to report to the Conference next year.

12. *In the matter of Retrenchment in Missionary Expenses*: This Conference desires to call the attention of the General Board to the fact that the amounts paid for rent are still maintained at the rate fixed during the days of high rentals, and would suggest that the amounts set apart for this purpose be brought more into harmony with present rental values.

13. *Appreciation of Dr. Endicott*: That your Committee desire to express our sincere appreciation of the helpful services rendered by Rev. Dr. Endicott, General Secretary of the Foreign Department, to the Committee and to the Conference during his visit among us. His timely councils, his untiring zeal, his deep spiritual conception of truth, his loyalty to the Church and the nation as manifested in the brotherly way in which he talked with us concerning the great problems confronting us, has deeply stirred our hearts.

We desire to assure him of our continued loyalty to him and to the cause he represents, and that as a Conference we shall do our utmost to realize the objective placed before us.

W. C. DUNHAM, Chairman.

A. S. COLWELL, Secretary.

SUNDAY SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORT.

1. Our total enrollment, as reported, is 22,360, which is a decrease for the year of 938. No doubt that some of this loss can be attributed to war conditions and removals from our province; but there are indications that much carelessness has been shown in the preparation of the circuit schedules, to the great disadvantage of this year's report.

We report 471 scholars as having joined the Church this year, and yet a total decrease of 224 in the column of "Present Number of Church Members." That 234 scholars have signed the pledge. In any case we are not to take a pessimistic view of the situation, when we remember the almost phenomenal increases which characterize our reports in the years immediately preceding 1915.

That the schools have not suffered in vitality is shown from the reported increases in average attendance of members; an increase of thirteen schools holding Decision Day services shows that interest in evangelistic work is not waning, and where such especial effort is not reported, we are persuaded that a more normal method of bringing the scholars into confession of Christ and into church membership is beginning to prevail among us. We are glad to report an increased contribution to the General Sunday School Fund of \$115, making \$596 in all. We believe that this amount should be greatly increased this year. We cannot but express satisfaction that a spirit of progress among ministers, superintendents and teachers is manifesting itself increasingly each year, especially in regard to co-operative work with other denominations, and in the adoption of the Canadian Standard Efficiency Test work.

2. We desire to report concerning the co-operative work as follows:

The Committee on Co-operation appointed by last Conference has been active throughout the year, and report most satisfactory progress. At an early date it was arranged that the Ocean Park Summer School should be placed on a co-operative basis, the Presbyterian Committee cordially accepting its share of responsibility for programme and attendance. The school was a great success in every way, and arrangements are well under way for this year's school, which promises to be even more successful.

A series of eight Co-operative Institutes for Greater Vancouver was held in November, with gratifying success. In March a second series of nine Institutes, including North Vancouver and New Westminster, was held, and again the efficiency of the plan was demonstrated.

At the request of the Joint Committee, Rev. J. P. Westman, our Field Secretary, made a tour of the interior of the province, promoting the work of co-operation and holding Institutes during February and March. All reports indicate that the co-operative plan is commending itself to the various denominations and localities.

Your Committee is pleased to report a recent visit of Rev. J. C. Robertson, General Secretary of the Presbyterian Sunday School Board to the province. While this visit was primarily in the interests of the Presbyterian Church, his addresses and advices confirmed your Committee's attitude on the principle and methods of co-operative Sunday-school work.

3. A tentative constitution for the Provincial Co-operative Committee work has been drafted and accepted by your Committee. We beg to recommend its endorsement by the Conference.

TENTATIVE SUGGESTIONS FOR A CONSTITUTION.

1. Name: This organization shall be known as "The British Columbia Sunday School Co-operative Committee."
2. Purpose: Its purpose shall be the promotion and direction of all departments of Sunday-school work which the denominations co-operating have in common, leaving each denomination free to carry on its own distinctive work in its own way.
3. Authority: Each denomination desiring to co-operate shall appoint its own Committee on co-operation, which Committee shall act as a unit and retain complete responsibility for its own work. All these various committees, acting together as one body, shall constitute "The British Columbia Sunday School Co-operative Committee."
4. Membership: Each denomination co-operating shall have on its Committee a number in proportion to its Sunday-school enrolment, with the largest number for any denomination fixed at four ministers and eight lay members, and each smaller denomination having a proportionate number, but each with at least *one* representative.
5. Organization and Officers: The Co-operative Committee shall appoint its own President, Secretary and Treasurer, and such other officers and committees as it may find necessary for the efficient carrying on of its work.
6. Provincial Convention: There shall be held annually a Provincial Convention for the promotion of Sunday-school work, to which every Sunday school in the province shall be entitled to send

one or more representatives, according to its Sunday-school enrolment. This Convention shall elect its own President, Vice-President and Secretary, which officers shall be *ex-officio* members of the Co-operative Committee. All the work carried on during the year by the Co-operative Committee shall be reported to this Convention.

7. Local Organizations and Conventions: Local Co-operative Committees shall be organized for the various cities and districts throughout the province, along the same lines as the Provincial Committee, and they shall arrange for Institutes or Conventions as may be necessary, and to these all Sunday schools in the district shall be entitled to send representatives.

8. Finances: All this co-operative work shall be carried out on a self-supporting basis. The Co-operative Committee shall have power to incur expenses only as far as they are guaranteed in advance by the various denominations co-operating, on a proportional basis accepted by all.

4. We recommend the following as constituting the Co-operative Committee for the ensuing year:

Rev. O. M. Sanford, Rev. Ernest Thomas, Rev. J. G. Brown, Rev. F. W. Hardy, R. Sparling, W. P. Argue, W. E. Pinchin, W. C. Findlay, J. A. Biggar, H. J. Knott, F. A. Tripp, G. A. Copeland.

5. Of the 938 reported decreases in Sunday School membership, 1,619 are in the period of 13 to 20 years of age. This shows a serious situation which the Church should examine and endeavor to meet. No effort must be spared to solve this great problem. The need is for an efficient leadership and a comprehensive and compelling programme. Last year the Conference gave endorsement to the Canadian Standard Efficiency Test programme and the Provincial Advisory Committee on Boys' Work. We are pleased to know that many classes have been formed in our Churches, and that most satisfactory results have been secured. We would again urge that our leaders give great attention to this programme, which is acknowledged to be the best ever presented to the youth of a nation. We anticipate a similar programme for girls to be published this summer: "Canadian Girls in Training."

6. We beg to nominate as our representatives on the Provincial Council:

R. Sparling, W. E. Pinchin, Rev. W. S. A. Crux, Rev. J. P. Westman, and the Conference Sunday School Secretary.

7. Realizing the necessity of developing in our Sunday School Scholars the right attitude toward the Kingdom of God in general and its various departments, in the matter of financial support, we urge our Superintendents and Boards of Management to adopt the best methods known for the realizing of these ends. Whenever possible a budget system should be adopted, monthly missionary offerings made and a generous support of the General Sunday School Fund secured. The spirit of giving should be greatly encouraged as a necessary element in Christian character.

8. We call attention to the "New Canadian Standard Teacher Training Course," and heartily urge its consideration and adoption as a means to the securing of efficient teachers for the various departments in our schools.

9. The Field Secretary: Again our Committee places on record its appreciation of the services of Brother J. P. Westman, our Field Secretary. During the year he has served our Conference well. His management of the Summer Schools, his visitation of our work, especially in sections which do not profit largely from Conventions and Institutes held in centres of population, his inspirational addresses in many gatherings of our workers, his tact in dealing with many situations which arise in a work so many-sided, his unflinching optimism, his helpful influence especially upon our young people, and we commend him to our whole constituency and solicit the fullest co-operation in his and our work.

10. In view of the fact that our Conference has no alternate representative on the General Sunday School Board, and in view of the absence from our Conference of the representative, Rev. F. W. Langford, now at College in Boston, and in view of the great development in our policy now taking place in the Conference, we beg to nominate Rev. O. M. Sanford as alternate representative, and to ask that he be permitted to represent our Conference at the next meeting of the General Board.

11. We recommend that Rev. O. M. Sanford be Conference Sunday School Secretary-Treasurer for the ensuing year.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S SOCIETY COMMITTEE REPORT, 1916-17.

After a very careful study of the statistics as presented to the Committee, we are forced to recognize that our leadership has been weakened through the war. Many leaders are at the front, and as a result some societies have ceased to exist. We are convinced that there are several reasons for a decline on some lines as reported.

1. The absence of leaders—who have gone to the front.
2. The changing conditions in society which has caused a state of unrest, not only in the viewpoint but in the organization itself.
3. That many organizations have not been reported. Verbal reports lead us to take a much more hopeful view of the work than the records show. In senior societies we report a decrease of 700 members, while in the junior and intermediate, a decrease of 236.

In givings we show an increase of \$51.

As an aid towards the maintenance of the interest in this work we recommend as follows:

1. That all our senior societies take an active interest in the Canadian Standard Efficiency Tests for boys, and the Canadian Girls in Training for girls. These two programmes contain sufficient to interest our boys and girls in every community.

We also draw attention to the fact that many organizations taking this work have not reported so on the Schedule.

2. Inasmuch as we are facing new conditions, and that new demands are made upon us for the conservation of all our energies, we would urgently request our General Board to formulate a programme of Church activities including all organizations for the young people with a view to preventing overlapping as we have it existing to-day.

3. Inasmuch as we have one General Board for Sunday School and Y. P. S. work in the Dominion, we would recommend that in all our Annual Conferences we have one Committee which shall take charge of all work connected with our young people.

4. As a means toward the stimulating of interest in the society, we draw attention of all Y. P. S. Societies to the Rally Day Service, planned for the first week in November, and urge that every society

have by this date a definite progressive programme prepared for the winter term.

5. As a means towards the developing of leadership, we wish to place on record our appreciation of the good work done by the Summer School and Institutes, and commend them to all our Pastors and Leagues, making a suggestion that an effort be made to have a representative from each organization at some school.

6. Whereas Rev. W. H. Pearee has signified his willingness to visit the various leagues of the Province during the month immediately following the cannery season for the purpose of stimulating the Missionary efforts of our young people along the lines of Home Missions, providing his expenses are guaranteed by some responsible party or organization, and whereas from reports received relative to a similar visitation by Mr. Pearee a few years ago, we are informed that great benefit was derived by leagues visited, be it therefore resolved, that we recommend to the Conference the desirability of bringing this proposal to the attention of the various District League Executives throughout our Conference. In connection with this visit we would recommend that all our Young People's Societies heartily co-operate with the General Missionary plan for the inauguration of a campaign to commence in October, with a view towards the increasing of our missionary givings.

HENRY WILSON, Chairman.

H. J. KNOTT, Secretary.

STATE OF WORK COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

The Committee on the State of Work beg leave to report as follows:

1. As to Membership: Notwithstanding the unusual conditions prevailing in the Province, your Committee is able once again to express thankfulness for a gain in the membership. While the net gain was only 89, the total additions were 1,582 (673 being Probationers) 1,442 ceased to be members. Such results, in view of the present unrest and change give just cause for continued faith in the Spirit of God working in and through the consecrated effort of our ministers and people.

2. Sunday Schools: In this most important department, it is most gratifying to report the general increase of effort to establish the agencies of worship, instruction and control on sounder pedagogical principles and in harmony with the purposes of religious education. During the process of this reconstruction, statistical returns may not always be encouraging. But the vision of a definite aim and faith in a more scientific method will achieve results which very soon will register themselves in growing returns. The most loyal support should be given the men who are leading us in this important task.

3. The Young People's Societies: In this Department, our forces are at grips with the most difficult situation in the field of Christian effort. The necessity of adopting the present Young People's organization to the changing conditions requires careful consideration. To present a programme which will appeal to the idealism of Young People demands leaders of vision and consecration. The reports appear to be in accord with the general situation when they present results of a fluctuating nature. The problems of this Department appeal as no other to the professionalism of Christian master-builders. Let us follow the men who are leaders in this field. let us consecrate and concentrate our best thought and effort and win the young people to a life of Christian Service.

4. Financial: Here the returns bear corroborative evidence to the generally accepted belief that throughout our Province financial prosperity has "turned the corner and is now on the up-grade." For the three years 1914-15-16 the decrease in the amount raised

for all purposes was rapid and alarming, but this year a substantial increase, is indicative that the loyalty of our people to the work of the Church remains firm.

5. **Social Service and Evangelism:** The evidences of progress and the great interest manifested in the work of this Department give just cause for great satisfaction.

Your Committee feels that with the many and varied problems facing us, it is demanded that Methodism be true to her genius in providing Christian agencies, adequate to cope with ever-recurring needs.

Your Committee rejoices to record the splendid progress already made in this Department, and wishes to bear tribute to the most efficient leadership of the men selected by the Church, as leaders in this great field.

6. **Missions:** Your Committee believes that the Methodist people are ready to be called to a new advance in missionary work. The inspiration which has come to us through contact with our chosen leaders has given to us an impetus sufficient to guarantee more consecrated endeavor to achieve as a Conference our full share in this great task of our Church.

Recommendations: In view of the fact that the ground of this Committee covers so large an area, and since the data for same is not easily available, your Committee recommends that after the discussion on the State of the Work at the General Annual District Meetings, a Committee be appointed to present the findings to this Committee, that the work of preparing the report may be facilitated.

REPORT OF B.C. ARMY AND NAVY BOARD.

Your Committee expresses appreciation of the visit of Captain Oliver Hezzelwood, and note with pride and pleasure what has already been accomplished by the Army and Navy Board of our Church. The substance of Captain Hezzelwood's address and resolution of Conference we hereby incorporate as part of our report.

We urge that every care be taken on each field to preserve permanent records of enlistment, that these be inscribed on suitable Honor Rolls, and that the utmost advantage be taken of the opportunities thus presented for the inculcating of national ideals.

We are especially proud to learn from Captain Hezzelwood that British Columbia Methodism has so far measured up so as to meet more than her strict proportion of the half-million enlistments called for, which, however, will in no wise deter our constituencies from adding to the number. There are additional reasons for this, inasmuch as the Western Provinces have a larger percentage of men of military age.

We rejoice to know that in this time of crisis, the Christian Church has proved a great recruiting agency, and are especially gratified at the part played by the Ministry of the Methodist Church.

We beg to point out that the expected enactment of the Selective Draft presents a great opportunity for our ministers to proclaim afresh in all its meaning the glory and obligation of Service, and in this regard the Church will be rendering to the nation service of the highest importance.

It need not be said that we earnestly trust our Ministers will put forth every effort to keep in touch with the boys at the front, by regular correspondence from the Church, if possible once a month. The Pastor likewise should be among the foremost to welcome the boys as they come back. In this personal ministry for those who have gone forth and those who return we shall be fulfilling the highest mission of the Church.

As members of Conference we desire to say, from the heart, out of all the stress and anguish of the time, that we have unshaken faith in an over-ruling Providence and in the ultimate triumph of Christian ideals.

It will be necessary to continue the Conference Committee, but we have no directions as to the mind of the Conference touching the question of personnel. Present members are: Revs. G. H. Raley, S. S. Osterhout, E. Thomas, W. L. Hall, G. Bell, W. Savage.

- G. H. RALEY, Chairman.
W. L. HALL, Secretary.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON MEMORIALS.

The Committee on Memorials and Resolutions met and dealt with the resolutions before it as follows:

Resolution *re* High Cost of Living: Recommended that this be passed on to the Social Service Committee.

“That a Small Committee be appointed to prepare a deliverance *re* High Cost of Living and kindred economic relationships.

Memorial *re* Conservation of Life: Recommended that this be passed on to the Social Service Committee.

“Whereas we are living in a time when the value of life is brought home to heart and conscience of the people of Canada as never before, and whereas it is a well-known fact that such diseases as tuberculosis, alcoholism and syphilis will be greatly augmented as a result of the fearful scourge of war;

“We therefore request the District Meeting to memorialize the ensuing Conference to urge upon the Provincial, Federal and Imperial Governments:

“1. That the liquor traffic for beverage purposes be at once and forever abolished.

“2. That a compulsory system of Health Insurance be adopted by the Provincial Government which would secure medical attendance to the working people of the country, both men and women, believing that this would shorten the periods of unemployment and prevent the poverty resulting therefrom.

“3. That a Certificate of Good Health be required before the application for a Marriage License be granted.

“4. That further efforts be made for the care of the child life of the nation, and the protection and safeguarding of the mentally defective and insane.

“5. That in order to detect and prevent incipient cases of infectious, malignant and fatal diseases, the Government be asked to make it compulsory upon every citizen to be annually examined by a competent Physician or Health Inspector.

“6. That the Government be urged to make every effort possible to secure the speedy restoration to their homes and civil occupations of the returned soldiers who have so nobly served their King and Country.”

3. Resolution *re* Missionary Superintendent: Recommended that this be passed on to the Missionary Committee.

4. Resolution *re* Change of Name of Central Church: Recommend concurrence.

“That this District Meeting recommend to the Annual Conference that the name of Central Church be changed to ‘The Turner Institute,’ as a fitting memorial to the great work accomplished in past days by the Rev. James Turner, the pioneer Methodist Missionary of the Upper Country and the Yukon.”

5. Resolution *re* Mortgage Fund: Suggested that this resolution be passed on to the General Conference with any expression that the Annual Conference may desire.

“Resolution of trustees of James Bay Methodist Church recommending Conference Fund to Carry Church Mortgages.

“At a meeting of the Board of Trustees of the James Bay Methodist Church, Victoria, B.C., held on May 2nd, 1917, the following resolution was passed unanimously:

“That we recommend to the Conference that if it is possible, means shall be taken to provide a fund whereby they can carry the Mortgages of the different Churches.”

6. Resolution *re* Granting the Right of Office to Women Members of the Church: Recommend concurrence that resolution be passed on to General Conference.

“The Quarterly Official Board of Centennial Methodist Church desire to memorialize the Annual Conference, through the District Meeting, that a recommendation be passed to the General Conference in favor of granting to women members of the Methodist Church the right to hold any office in the gift of the Church, including that of the Ministry.”

7. Resolution *re* Biblical Teaching in Public Schools: Recommend that Conference appoint a Committee to bring in a finding for the next Annual Conference.

“That whereas there would appear to be a need for a greater knowledge of the Bible among the children of our public schools, and whereas there is no provision made for such in the present courses of public instruction in our schools;

“This District Meeting would recommend that the Annual Conference shall take such action as would result in a petition to the Government asking that provision be made for the use of the

Bible or parts of the same as an alternative to the 'Reader' now in use. And that the Government be further petitioned that at all examinations conducted by the Government there be allowed a Bonus Paper on Biblical Knowledge, which knowledge shall be of such a character as may be obtainable from the Bible as a text-book."

"To Rev. Dr. S. S. Osterhout, President of Provincial Conference, Methodist Church.

"Dear Sir,—The Woman's Auxiliary to the M. S. C. C. in the Diocese of Columbia, have undertaken a campaign to further the knowledge of the Bible among the children of the Public Schools of British Columbia. The plan of campaign is:

"To petition the Government to introduce into the Public Schools, an alternative Reader, to be used in conjunction with the Reader already in use. This Reader to contain only stories from the Bible, and to be used solely as a Reader, not as a text-book. Preferably two such Readers to be in use—one from the Primer to the Third Reader—and one for the more advanced classes.

"Further to petition the Government to allow at all examinations conducted by the Government (which we understand to be, Entrance Examination, End of First Year in High School, End of Second Year in High School, End of Third Year in High School) a Bonus Paper on Biblical Knowledge. The questions on such paper to be of a nature that they may be answered from the Bible as text-book. The children to obtain the knowledge necessary from any source they wish, *i.e.*, the school is to be in no wise responsible for such instruction.

"For the setting and examining of such papers the Government to appoint a Committee—this Committee to have power to draw up a syllabus of Bible study suitable for the different grades, and to recommend books of reference for the use of the children."

Clause 1: Adopted.

Clause 2: Adopted.

Clause 3: Adopted.

Clause 4: Adopted.

Clause 5: Passed on without comment.

Clause 6: Laid on table for one year.

Clause 7: Adopted.

Report as amended, adopted.

REPORT OF MOUNTAIN VIEW CHURCH APPEAL.

To the Members of the British Columbia Conference of the Methodist Church:

Brethren,—By direction of the Conference Committee an allocation of the amount to each circuit of the Conference on the basis of the assessable funds contributed by each circuit as published in the Minutes of Conference, was made, sufficient to make up the amount of \$3,000 as decided on by the Conference of 1915.

A statement showing the amount required from each circuit was duly made out, also credit was shown for amounts paid last year. These statements when completed were sent to the Chairmen of the various districts, with a request that they be handed to the men in charge of the circuits. The following is the statement of amounts received:

Balance from last year		\$157 98
Fourteenth Avenue, Vancouver	\$14 00	
East Burnaby	4 98	
Moyie and Kimberley	5 00	
Sapperton Bal.	25	
Port Simpson	10 00	
Ladysmith	7 50	
Westminster—Chinese Mission	8 00	
Salmon Arm	24 50	
Golden	2 40	
Spillimichene	2 00	
Ferris Road	19 00	
Mount Pleasant, Vancouver	2 00	
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		99 63
		<hr/>
Total		\$257 61

This amount has been disbursed as follows:

Printing and Stationery	\$8 64
Postage	1 24
To Reduction of Mount View debt	247 73
	<hr/>
	\$257 61

Respectfully submitted,

R. SPARLING, Treasurer.

RESOLUTION *Re* MOUNT PLEASANT CHURCH AND MOUNTAIN VIEW CHURCH.

Mover by Rev. R. F. Stillman, seconded by Rev. R. J. McIntyre:

"Whereas Mountain View Church, South Vancouver, is in imminent danger of being lost and its bondmen financially ruined owing to liabilities amounting to over \$21,000;

"And whereas the ex-President of Conference has approached the Mount Pleasant Church with a view to their saving Mountain View Church:

"And whereas Mount Pleasant Church, through its delegates, has agreed to undertake this task, provided their present pastoral supply and organization remain undisturbed;

"And whereas Mountain View Church is agreeable to the above proposal;

"Therefore be it resolved that this Stationing Committee recommend to Conference that Mount Pleasant Church, Vancouver, be set apart for Special Mission Work, as per Dis. Par. 151, Sub-sec. 5."

Carried unanimously.

Moved by Rev. R. F. Stillman, seconded by Rev. R. J. McIntyre:

"That the above recommendation of the Stationing Committee be adopted." Carried.

REPORT *RE* DR. ROBSON'S DIARY.

Your Committee beg to report that Dr. Robson's Diary (extracts and annotations) will be published this year. Revision involved much labor, demanded every care. It is hoped the work will be found a source for the beginnings of many things in the development of the Province as well as the founding of a church. It is a unique record of missionary activity full of human interest. As the publication is a considerable undertaking, requiring funds, it is hoped that all who have subscribed will pay their subscriptions forthwith, either to Mr. Ernest Robson, 201 Broadway West, Vancouver, B.C., or to Dr. White, Sardis, B.C. Those interested in the publication of the unique material have this opportunity of subscribing. Increase in cost of production and the size of the work will require that the

book be issued at a price of \$3.00. We recommend that the Committee be re-appointed: Drs. White, Sanford, Sipprell; Revs. A. E. Roberts and Lashley Hall. Arrangements are in hand for the further safe-keeping of the diary and documents. We recommend the payment of vault rent from the Contingent Fund until such time as other arrangements can be made.

JAMES H. WHITE, *Chairman.*

W. LASHLEY HALL, *Secretary.*

BRITISH COLUMBIA LAYMEN'S ASSOCIATION REPORT, 1916-17.

The Laymen have carefully reviewed the work of their organization for the past year, and beg to submit the following report:—

As per the Minutes of our 1915-16 Report, many matters of importance were up before the Association for discussion, such as the Prohibition Question, Franchise for Women, and Church Taxation. All the questions have been acted upon during the past year, and while all have not been finally dealt with, we believe the activities of this Association have not been in vain. Records of the work of the intervening months were not available at the early sessions, but have since been received. Our organization, however, has operated throughout the past year with a small balance showing on the right side of the ledger.

The election of officers was held May 16th, resulting as follows:—

President—G. R. Gordon;

Vice-President—C. E. Mahon;

Secretary-Treasurer—W. E. Pinchin;

and the following as Executive: H. H. Cairns, G. Copeland, and R. G. L. Clarke.

Resolutions Committee: Bros. Erskine, Castleman, Lee.

Temperance Committee: Bros. Knott, Cairns, Bell.

The Association also desires to extend its deepest sympathy to those who have suffered bereavement by their husbands, fathers, sons and brothers being called upon to pay the supreme sacrifice.

RESOLUTIONS.

1. The Laymen's Association recommend that the Conference send to the relatives of the following laymen who have passed from us during the year, suitable memorials expressing the loss which the laymen feel in the deaths of John Calvert, Sr., of Salmon Arm; Hon. Ralph Smith, of Vancouver; and Peter McLachlan, of Prince Rupert; and Frank L. Vosper, Vancouver.

All these men were faithful and efficient workers, and we feel that it is but a just recognition of their service which they have so long and faithfully rendered to our Church, that we place on our records this appreciation.

2. We recommend that a Committee consisting of Dr. Osterhout, Dr. A. M. Sanford, R. W. Harris and G. R. Gordon, be appointed by Conference to administer the affairs of the Rev. James Turner, deceased.

3. We strongly recommend that the Methodist Church through its ministers and laymen make a strenuous effort to bring the children of our Sunday schools into active membership with our church.

4. Resolved, that this meeting of the British Columbia Methodist Laymen in annual conference urge the Federal Government of the Dominion of Canada to legislate for the purpose of compelling any person suffering from, and any medical practitioner knowing of, any person suffering from any venereal disease, to report same privately to the Medical Health authorities of either city or province in which such disease is experienced; and be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Premier of Canada.

Memorials Committee: Bros. G. R. Gordon, A. B. Erskine, and T. R. Pearson.

By the large number present, being over eighty in attendance, an unusual interest was manifested by our laymen this session relative to the spiritual life of our Church, Church finance, membership and records. Our retiring President, Mr. G. Copeland, gave a very impressive address, calling attention to the need of a quickening of spiritual life and service, social and province-wide; also the needs of communities, and deploring the scandals which are evidenced at the present time.

The President, Mr. G. R. Gordon, read a paper entitled "The Right Hand of Fellowship: Its Importance to the Church and Its Members." Many helpful suggestions were offered, and a strong plea was made for a fuller co-operation of all our members.

Mr. H. J. Knott gave a very interesting paper on "Prohibition," laying special emphasis on the community and home life of our Province, pointing out the necessity of the total abolition of the liquor traffic if the best is to be accomplished.

Our Association at this point expressed its full confidence in the Committee of the People's Prohibition Movement.

Dr. Raynor introduced a resolution from the Wesley Church, Victoria, memorializing our association to take action regarding Church finance. This resolution was forwarded to the resolutions Committee, recommending that as far as possible free-will offering be practised by our Church organizations.

Mr. Plant introduced a resolution from the Vancouver East District asking that a better system for recording and following the members of our churches be found, and thereby stop the tremendous leakage which is occurring at the present time.

A resolution from the Alberta Laymen's Association on motion was received and forwarded to the Church Property Committee.

Brothers G. R. Gordon, A. B. Erskine and T. R. Pearson were appointed a Committee to frame suitable resolutions relating to the decease of Brothers Rev. J. A. Wood and James Turner. Our Association went on record as feeling a deep sense of loss by the departure of these brethren.

The address of the Rev. Dean on the Church, its Mission and Mission Work, was the basis for a very helpful discussion led by Bro. A. B. Erskine. Important questions such as "Why do men stay away from church?" "Should our morning service be conducted along the line of a Bible School, and the evening service given over to a service of song?" The great truth which the meeting carried away was, What impressions are we as Christians leaving upon the stranger within our gates?

The resolution from Brother F. C. Stephenson *re* Missionary Society was sent on to the Missionary Committee.

