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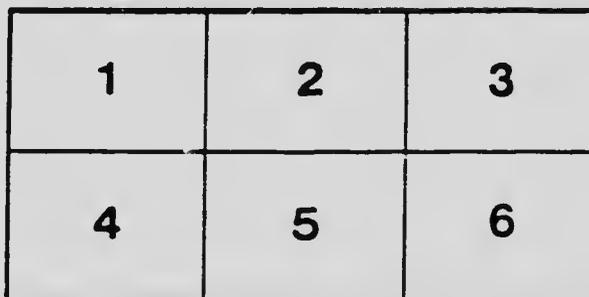
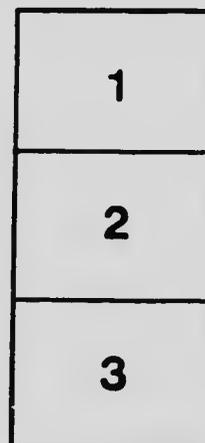
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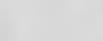
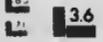
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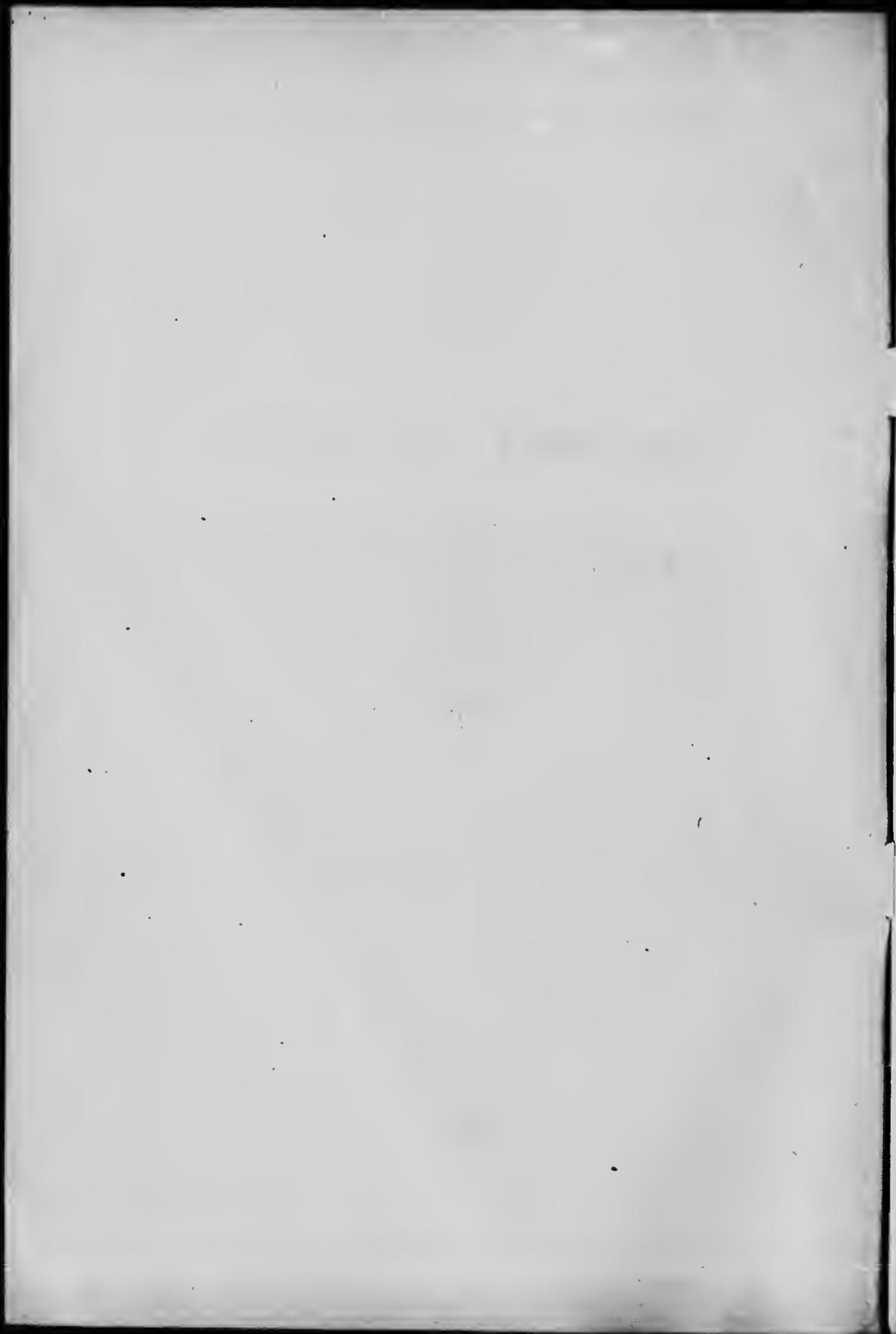
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**THE BRITISH COLUMBIA CONFERENCE OF THE
METHODIST CHURCH**

**PASTORAL ADDRESS
AND
COMMITTEE REPORTS**



1916



BRITISH COLUMBIA CONFERENCE

THE PASTORAL ADDRESS.

DEARLY BELOVED:—

Assembled again in Annual Conference it devolves upon us to bring you greetings in the name of our Lord and Master.

We do so with profound gratitude to Almighty God for His mercy and sustaining grace, vouchsafed to us throughout another year—a year of hardship, suffering, sacrifice and loss to most of our people; and yet, we trust, a year of spiritual enlargement. May it not be that these afflictions shall work out for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory?

We are living in the days of war, and rumours of war; our country is giving of its noblest and best. From all our congregations the youth and flower of our manhood have gone forth, having heard the call of duty, to defend the very existence of our Empire and her honor, against the modern Hun. Twenty-three of the ministers and probationers have already enlisted, while many others have offered their services to their King and Country. Already some of our brave men have made the great sacrifice, while others have returned home wounded and maimed for life. Shall these suffer in vain? Surely not! After this Gethsemane shall come a resurrected world.

God who spoke in times past through the flood and captivity is surely speaking to the world to-day through this great war, calling upon men to forsake their false standards, base materialism and greed for gold, and to seek first the kingdom of righteousness.

We rejoice to see the human response to the Divine call, manifested in the great world temperance movement, wherein nations are putting away the abominable traffic in strong drink. Our great ally, Russia, has led the way in abolishing vodka; France has abolished absinthe; the British Government has taken strong measures to strangle the traffic, and in our own fair Dominion Province after Province has prohibited the traffic. We are confidently expecting our own Province of British Columbia soon to rise up and drive out this iniquitous business.

This awakening of the social conscience is also evidenced in the public protest against party patronage and kindred social vices, which in the past were regarded as necessary evils to be tolerated or even defended. Let us not be unduly disturbed by the exposure of these sins, but rather thank God that the day has dawned when these evils must go.

If these things are to be accomplished Methodism will need to gird on her armor and, standing shoulder to shoulder with those of other churches, march forward, as one great host to slay these monsters of iniquity.

In the fight for Prohibition we are greatly encouraged by the wise leadership of our forces by the Committee of One Hundred and bespeak for them the confidence of all our people as the conflict advances. We regard the Press as a mighty weapon in this great struggle. Bismarck used the Press to drive France to war in 1870; Germany is spending millions to win neutral nations to her side through the medium of the Press. We may expect our enemies in this fight for Prohibition to use the Press to aid their cause. We would urge you to banish from your homes those papers and magazines which are subsidized by the liquor traffic and bring their poison of pernicious advertisements and subtle editorials to beguile the people. We rejoice that in Canada some of our leading dailies refuse all such pernicious advertisements, and trust the day may soon come when this may be said of them all.

Another sector of our battle line that needs careful guarding is the observance of the Lord's Day. Many attacks have been hurled at this point, but our lines have held. We would urge all our people to keep holy the Sabbath day.

A glance through the statistical returns for the year shows a decrease in most of our departments, but when we consider the conditions prevailing throughout the Province we are constrained to rejoice that these decreases are not greater. The Woman's Missionary Society reports an increase of 20 per cent. in their missionary givings. Let us pray that in the coming year all these decreases may be converted into increases and devote all our energies to help realize our prayers.

The ranks of our ministry have been seriously depleted for the coming year. Besides the twenty-three who have enlisted, one has died during the year, and three have asked for Superannuation after many years of faithful service. A class of eight are coming for ordination, one as a missionary in China, one a native Japanese and one a native Indian, to labor among their own people. It is hoped that all our fields may be provided for, but this can only be done by heroic measures and a spirit of sacrifice, both by the ministry and laity alike.

Of all the calls of duty in these days none is more important or more vital than the call to prayer. It is still true "without Me ye can do nothing." Jesus ever exhorted His followers to pray. May the incense of prayer ascend from every heart and from every Christian fireside and from every congregation as the people gather together at the hour of prayer to lift up the hands of their pastor that Israel may prevail.

Finally, we commend you to the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that He may establish you in every good way and work to do His will, working in you to will and to do according to His own good pleasure.

R. F. STILLMAN.
President, 1915-16.

British Columbia Conference

THE METHODIST CHURCH HONOR ROLL.

MINISTERS.

Chaplains.

THOMAS C. COLWELL
 GEORGE O. FALLIS
 JOHN G. GIBSON
 THOMAS A. OSBORNE
 CHARLES E. BATZOLD
 FRANK BUSHFIELD
 J. HENRY HOBBS
 LORNE N. RICHARDSON
 JOHN H. WRIGHT
 C. WELLESLEY WHITTAKER

Probationers.

EDGAR L. BEST
 J. IRWIN BEATTY
 W. PERCY BUNT
 CHARLES D. CLARKE
 WILLIAM DEANS
 GARNET GIBSON
 GEORGE H. HAMILTON
 JOSEPH HERDMAN
 VICTOR SANBURN
 THOMAS F. TOWNSEND
 GEORGE TURPIN
 JAMES S. WEIR
 WILLIAM B. WILLAN

Reports of Committees

ANNUAL CONFERENCE MISSIONARY COMMITTEE

We beg to report on the various items referred to us as follows:

(a) Case of Rev. A. E. Redman, we recommend reference to the Conference Standing Missionary Committee.

(b) Case of Brentwood Mission, we recommend reference to the Conference Standing Missionary Committee.

(c) *Re* Industrial Schools among Indians in Simpson District, realizing the importance of this work we would recommend it to the favorable consideration of the General Board of Missions.

(d) *Re* property of the Vancouver Norwegian Mission, lots 38 and 39, Blk. 9, D.L. 196, being 138-142 Cordova Street East, Vancouver. There is at present a mortgage of \$2,500.00, \$150.00 interest past due and accruing to August 1st, 1916, \$1,500.00 taxes to December 31st, 1915.

We feel that this work is worthy of our heartiest support and we would recommend that an application be made to the Church and Parsonage Aid Fund for a loan of \$5,000.00, said sum to be secured by first mortgage on the property, and the entire proceeds to be used in discharging present mortgage and interest, paying arrears of taxes and any sum in excess of these items to be used for the prepayment of interest and for 1916 taxes. The property offers ample security for this amount.

Your Committee reviewed the missionary situation in the Conference as thoroughly as time would permit. Dr. White reported that the work of the Conference Standing Committee during the past year had been largely administrative.

The Committee desire to place on record their appreciation of the very deep and sympathetic interest with which the General Board of Missions has dealt with our heavy requirement and their desire to meet (as far as their funds will allow) every reasonable request made to them.

The appeal of the General Board of Missions for 1915-16 was for \$700,000, and we understand that a similar amount will be required for 1916-17; and we would urge that a minimum increase of 10 per cent. for missionary givings be our objective for British Columbia, and in order to accomplish this we would recommend:

(1) That the President of Conference attend as many of the Financial District Meetings as possible, and assist in arranging Missionary Campaigns.

(2) That at the Financial District Meetings the missionary situation be very carefully considered and that plans be formulated at

such meetings for a missionary campaign on every field in this Conference.

(3) That such campaign cover two or three Sundays, and that missionary literature be distributed to stimulate and keep our people in touch with reliable information about our Church's missionary activities.

(4) That Quarterly Missionary Prayer Meetings be held.

(5) That a strong and sympathetic missionary committee be appointed in each circuit, and that an every member canvass for the General Missionary Fund be made.

(6) That where practicable the duplex envelope be used, thus ensuring regular and continuous contributions to the Missionary Fund.

(7) That all missionary money be remitted promptly to the treasurer of the fund in Toronto.

(8) The following table of percentage will show the percentage of decrease in contributions for the past three years:

1913-14.....	\$24,656 00	decrease 91½ per cent.
1914-15.....	17,421 00	decrease 30 per cent.
1915-16.....	15,392 00	decrease 10 per cent.

The fact of the reduction is directly traceable to the falling off of our largest contributors and to the changes in our population, and afford no cause for alarm or pessimism.

1. *Re* resolution of Rev. C. M. Tate *re* work among the Indians at the canneries on the Fraser.

Inasmuch as Rev. J. H. Armp, Associate Secretary, has the whole of the Indian work under review, we recommend that the resolution be forwarded to him, and that we request the missionaries on the fields mentioned to state their views on the matter to Mr. Armp by letter.

2. *Re* mission buildings at Nittinat and Clayoquaht.

As this matter has been the subject of report by various Chairmen to the General Board in former years, we recommend that the resolution be forwarded to the Board without comment.

3. *Re* Forward Movement lantern work.

We recommend that this Conference requests the Young People's Forward Movement to establish a depository of lanterns and lantern slides in the city of Vancouver; and that the supplies thus brought to this Conference be open for the use of all circuits and missions on the same basis as though they came direct from headquarters; we suggest that the pastor of Central Church be asked to take charge of the supplies and conduct all correspondence connected therewith; that a full report of the year's work be given to the next Annual Conference, and that in every way we endeavor to use this valuable asset to the missionary activities of the Church to its fullest extent.

A. E. ROBERTS, Chairman.

G. R. GORDON, Secretary.

STATE OF THE WORK.

The report was read, amended and adopted as follows. This Committee beg to report as follows:

1. We note with satisfaction the evidence of a growing interest in spiritual things and a change in the estimate placed on material things.

2. The union of so many young people with the Church during the year is a source of great interest and a cause for increased hope.

3. The question of prohibition, touching as it does, so many sides of our social life is a gratifying sign of the times.

4. The willingness of our brothers to face the issues of Empire and lay life on the altar for defence of liberty and free institutions, speaks louder than words.

5. Notwithstanding the many demands upon our people for Red Cross, patriotic and other funds, yet the connexional funds of our Church have been well sustained.

6. There never was a time when more earnest efforts were made for the betterment of the social life of the people. Dr. Moore, with his co-workers, has been able to place his finger on many sore points in the body politic and has already remedied some, and has measures under way to remedy others.

7. It is a great satisfaction to know that such splendid work has been done in Columbia College, and we commend it to the hearty support of all our people.

8. While the report of the Statistical Committee shows a slight decrease in membership, this, we believe, is largely or wholly accounted for by the decrease in population in the Province.

9. While times are dull and money scarce, this Committee desires to point out the fact that our missionary income is as high per capita, if not higher, than in former years, and when the war closes, we feel assured the Missionary Fund shall be larger than ever.

10. This Committee recommends to Conference that the request from Esquimalt regarding the immediate need of making further provision for the naval and military work, be laid before the Army and Navy Board and the Missionary Society.

SABBATH OBSERVANCE.

Your Committee beg leave to report as follows:

1. That we as a Church reaffirm our strong conviction that one of the foundations of stability in our national and Church life is the keeping holy the Lord's Day and observing it not simply as a day of rest, but of worship, and we deplore the prevailing tendency to make it but a holiday for all kinds of sports and amusements, making it very little different from other days. We would urge our congregations to set apart the Sunday after Easter as Lord's Day Sunday as

ordered by our Discipline, thereby showing forth the claims of the Lord's Day to our people.

2. In view of the prevalence of Sunday railway and steamboat excursions in the Province, and their detrimental effect on the sanctity of the Lord's Day, we urge upon our ministers and Quarterly Boards the importance of taking action in every case where the law is infringed, thereby securing better Sabbath observance.

3. We recognize the value it has been to Sabbath observance in the unorganized districts of the Province that it has been readily possible through the Attorney-General's Department to enforce the Lord's Day Act. At the same time we would impress upon our ministers and laymen the necessity of urging upon our mayors and councils their duty in seeing that the Lord's Day Act be carried out in cities and municipalities.

4. We note with gratification the efforts that are being made in the city of Vancouver for the enforcement of the provisions of the Lord's Day Act and commend highly the fearlessness of the Mayor and Police Commissioners, but regret that the rulings of the Courts are such that it seems impossible to close fruit and such like stores.

5. We heartily endorse the recent Provincial legislation providing for a weekly half-holiday, believing the same to be helpful towards a better observance of the Lord's Day as a day of worship as well as a day of rest.

6. As a Conference we wish again to express our appreciation of the efficient work of the Western Secretary of the Lord's Day Alliance, Rev. C. H. Huestis, M.A., D.D., and commend most heartily his services to the ministry and laity of our Church.

J. WESLEY MILLER, Chairman.

H. A. IRELAND, Secretary.

SUNDAY SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

In common with all other departments of our Church work, the Sunday school has been seriously affected by war conditions. This was seen first in the matter of statistics. For several years we have recorded with thanksgiving an annual increase in enrollment of about 10 per cent. This year we have to report a decrease of 1,167, leaving our present enrollment 23,298.

That the efficiency of the schools has been maintained is illustrated in the case of at least one district—Vancouver East—which while reporting a decrease in enrollment of 116 shows an increase average attendance in Sunday school of 52 over last year.

Financial reports show the effects of stringent money conditions. The total amount raised by the schools for all purposes, \$23,080, being a decrease of \$1,478. We think that when compared with other departments of Church finances, the showing is quite favorable. The only item of increase in the report is the missionary column, which

marks an increase of \$56.00 over last year. The total for missions from the Sunday school being \$2,194.

Our contribution to the General Sunday-school Fund was \$181.00, a decrease of \$68.00. We earnestly commend to our schools the duty of sustaining this important fund, and appeal for a much larger support during the coming year.

The old established lines of Sunday-school work have been well sustained, schools are well supplied with lesson help and other literature from our own publishing house. Boards of Management report regular meetings; temperance instruction receives much attention as shown by the fact that 814 signed the pledge during the year, with a present enrollment of 1,140 in this department. Missionary instruction is more general, and 39 schools having a missionary secretary or committee.

In respect to the more modern developments in Sunday-school work, we cannot accept the progress as satisfactory. Teacher training, by which, of course, we mean the continual recognition of such work as part of the activities of the school, the pursuit of a standard course of lessons, etc., is not being carried forward with much enthusiasm. Partial courses seem to have been adopted in some schools, but the consciousness of real need, at this point, must be brought more forcibly to the attention of superintendents, teachers and ministers. Efficient teachers are the paramount need of all schools, large and small.

Grading has made slow progress, but reports indicate that there has been an increase of thirteen in schools adopting some form of graded courses. We heartily commend the new graded department lessons issued by our General Board to all schools as a great advance, and as looking to a more complete system of graded subjects in the future.

That the home department is not very highly appreciated is evidenced in the small enrollment of 1,005.

Again we would commend to all Sunday-school leaders, the development of this unpretentious but most useful department, believing that every congregation has need of such.

That 469 members have passed into Church membership from the school indicates that some attention is given to recording spiritual results in the work. While statistics can never tabulate the actual and complete results, we believe that emphasis should be given to the importance of bringing our youth into the happy and vital relation to the membership of the Church, and again we commend to all ministers, Sunday-school workers and parents this great privilege and obligation.

We have reason for encouragement in the wider vision which has come to the leaders, both in our general and local work, and which will prevail in advancing the religious education to a place of supreme importance as the Church's chief normal evangelistic agency.

In harmony with this advance, we desire the Conference to place on record concerning the following matters:

1. That the Conference having been memorialized by the Vancouver Methodist Sunday-school Association to consider the advisability of entering into a co-operative movement with other Churches in carrying forward convention and institute work with a view to a larger co-operation than has hitherto been manifest, such memorial having been endorsed by a number of the districts in Annual District Meeting and a communication having been received from the Synod of the Presbyterian Church at its recent session, enclosing a minute of proceedings, approving the same end and means, we recommend that the Conference give endorsement to this principle, and appoint a committee of eight members to give practical direction to such movement in co-operation with committees from other denominations.

2. That we approve of the National and Provincial Advisory Committee for co-operation in boys' work, and note with satisfaction the progress of the movement in this Province, and realizing the urgent need of a better understanding of the "Teen age boy problem," we urge our workers to avail themselves of the conferences and studies provided, that a more efficient leadership may be developed in this special sphere. We heartily commend the Canadian Standard Efficiency Test for boys, and urge its adoption wherever practicable. We give hearty encouragement to the movement to provide a suitable programme for "Teen age girls."

3. That we learn with satisfaction of the institute and summer-school work carried on during the year in the various districts by our Field Secretary, Rev. J. P. Westman, as an inspirational and educative factor in our work; and believing that increasing results would accrue from co-operation with other denominations in this field, we would urge that wherever possible the principle of co-operation be applied, learning that such a summer school is now planned at Ocean Park for this summer. We earnestly desire the leaders in districts thus served to give their full support.

4. That the Conference learns with approval of the measure of instruction given in the matter of temperance, and of results shown in pledge-signing, and commends this policy to all our schools. At this eventful time in the moral history of our Province, we strongly urge that our Sunday schools make the largest possible contribution to the prohibition campaign by becoming centres of intelligent enthusiasm and media through which we may reach our entire constituency and influence.

5. That the Conference notes with satisfaction the increasing interest shown in the report concerning missions as evidenced in the appointment of Missionary Secretaries and Committees and in increased contributions. We commend to all our schools the policy adopted by our General Board in co-operation with the Missionary Society and urge that libraries and equipment be procured by our

schools, that a larger interest and efficiency may result in the coming year.

6. That whereas a memorial has been referred to this Committee requesting a pronouncement on the question concerning the hours for holding the Sunday-school session during the summer months, and such question having become a matter of serious agitation in some schools, and harmony of thought and action between schools being considered advisable, and whereas a resolution passed by the Laymen's Association of this Conference, favoring no change from the afternoon hour, has also been received by this Committee, we therefore beg to report that while we deem it advisable that the Conference pronounce arbitrarily on the question since local conditions vary, we are strongly of the opinion that the wider interests of our schools and communities are best served by general adherence to the prevailing afternoon hour, and we so recommend.

7. Believing that the spirit of true worship has not had a large development in many of our schools, and believing also that such worship is a matter of vital importance, especially to the young life under our care, we beg to commend to the most serious consideration of all our ministers, superintendents and other leaders the necessity of providing an adequate service in the school session, cultivating and expressing the spirit of worship.

8. We beg to record our satisfaction that our General Secretary, Rev. S. T. Bartlett, has visited our Conference during the year and touched our work at various centres, giving stimulus to our workers and deepening the sense of unity throughout our connection.

9. Your Committee desires to express appreciation of the enthusiastic devotion of our Field Secretary, Rev. J. P. Westman to the work of Sunday-school advance. His genial disposition, optimism and power to enthuse his associates make him a welcome visitor to all our circuits and missions, and we urge local workers to make the best possible use of his co-operation, that the best interests of the whole work may be promoted.

10. We recommend that Rev. O. M. Sanford be Conference Sunday-school Secretary for the coming year.

Chairman—R. Sparling.

Secretary—Rev. O. M. Sanford.

Field Secretary—Rev. J. P. West.

Your Committee begs to nominate as members of the Committee on Co-operation in Sunday-school Work the following:

Rev. O. M. Sanford, Rev. E. Thomas, Rev. J. G. Brown, Rev. F. W. Hardy and Messrs. R. Sparling, W. P. Argue, W. R. Lett and H. J. Knott. Carried.

REPORT OF SUNDAY-SCHOOL TREASURER.

Collections from Sunday schools for General Fund.....	\$481 00
Forwarded to General Board Treasurer (by schools)	\$398 65
Paid to General Fund (Rev. J. P. Westman)..	82 35
	<hr/> \$481 00

LOCAL CONFERENCE ACCOUNT.

Received from Conference Anniversary, May 29th, 1916..	\$25 46
Paid Rev. J. P. Westman on expense account.....	10 00
	<hr/>
Balance, cash on hand	\$15 40

O. M. SANFORD, Treasurer.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S SOCIETIES.

PREAMBLE.

In reviewing the work of the year we find that in common with many other departments we are compelled to report a decrease. Many of our members have gone to the front and thus our attendance has been greatly lessened. On the whole the work has been well sustained. It is impossible to give an exact report, as some have not yet sent in their schedules. If all reports were in we believe we would nearly balance with last year.

We are convinced that if our societies are to do the work expected of them, we must put all our activities upon a sound educational footing. The change of viewpoint in these years has forced upon us, more than ever, the necessity of understanding the principles for which we live. We would suggest:

1. That a greater emphasis be placed upon the Rally Service when the programme of the season may be presented and discussed. This programme should include Bible study, the Cultivation of the Devotional Life, Christian Culture, Training for Leadership and Service through Missions, Stewardship, Extension, Recreation, Community Work, Citizenship and Evangelism. This will develop them on all four sides, physical, mental, social and religious.

2. We believe that greater attention should be paid to the organizing of our Juniors and Intermediates. We note an increase of five Junior Societies during the year.

3. Inasmuch as there has come to us many requests regarding the relation of organized classes in the Sunday school to our Young People's organizations, we would suggest that in every congregation a committee be appointed to inquire into all local conditions with a view toward preparing a programme which shall be co-related in such a way as to be supplemental, not conflicting or competing.

We want one inclusive organization of and by all the young people of the local church, this must have for its aim the production through training and influence of true Christian character expressed in right living and efficient serving.

4. Believing that the work of missions in its broadest sense is the primary work of the Church of Jesus Christ, and realizing that the missionary spirit is fundamental to the effectiveness of the impact of His Church upon the world, and that there can be no loss to the power of our membership in their duties as citizens in their home communities by the emphasizing of our missionary responsibilities, but rather a gain, and knowing that the Epworth League is the natural clearing house of all activities among our young people, and the natural medium for expression of comradeship in the expeditionary forces in training for service in the Kingdom of God at home and abroad, we recommend:

(a) That all Leagues send delegates to the summer schools, that leaders may be trained to carry on educational work in the home church.

(b) That the districts campaign their fields, using the lantern missionary slides and literature always at their disposal. In connection with this recommendation we express our gratitude to Rev. F. C. Stephenson for the offer of lantern and slides, and recommend the District Epworth League officers to undertake the organization and prosecution of the campaign.

(c) We recommend to our League the *Missionary Bulletin* and its monthly missionary topics as splendid aids in the creation of a missionary spirit, and would urge its introduction into all our Leagues.

(d) We would urge that joint meetings of the Epworth League Missionary and Sunday-school Missionary Committees be held for co-operation in missionary educational work and purchasing missionary books, maps, lantern slides and other equipment.

(e) We would further recommend that the support of the Districts be given as follows:

Vancouver Island, Port Simpson and Prince George Districts, to Rev. R. E. S. Taylor of our West China Mission.

Vancouver East and West Districts, to the S.S. *Thomas Crosby*, Westminster District, to Captain Oliver.

Kamloops and Okanagan Districts, to Rev. W. H. Pierce.

Kootenay District, to the *Iwyll*.

R. WILKINSON, Chairman.

H. H. HOBSON, Secretary.

CLASS LEADERS AND LOCAL PREACHERS.

Your Committee, having in view the part played by local preachers in the historical development of the Methodist Church, the desirability of keeping in touch with one another the local preachers scattered throughout the Conference and the need for increasing their efficiency in our work, recommend:

1. That a Conference Local Preachers' Union be constituted.
2. That a standing committee be appointed who may get into communication with local preachers throughout the Conference and formulate a constitution to submit to next conference; and
3. That the following brethren be the Committee: R. H. Cairns, William Savage, C. J. South, Arthur Lee and T. J. Cox.

We further recommend that this committee take steps to secure a list of the names and addresses of the local preachers of the Province for publication in the Annual Conference Minutes.

And, further, that local preachers be given a place on the Annual Conference Programme.

F. L. CARPENTER, Chairman.
WILLIAM ELLIOTT, Secretary.

Amendment 1. To refer clauses 1, 2 and 3 to Local Preachers' Associations of Vancouver and Victoria.

Amendment to Amendment, to send copy of the report to Financial District Meetings for consideration.

Amendment to Amendment prevailed.

COMMITTEE ON MEMORIALS.

Re CHURCH TAXATION.

Whereas the Church of Christ endeavors to better the material and spiritual conditions of mankind, and in these particulars has done splendid service to home and State; and

Whereas the whole income of the Church is absorbed in extending its influence and service, no profit whatever accruing to any of its members; and

Whereas throughout practically all parts of the British Empire the Church enjoys exemption from taxation, excepting for local improvements or frontage taxes; and

Whereas section 201 of the Municipal Act permits any Municipal Council to exempt all improvements from taxation; and

Whereas some municipalities have already exercised that privilege, thus necessarily increasing the levy on land; and

Whereas this system puts the Church in the same position as business blocks earning revenue, and places a burden on her which always hinders, frequently cripples, and occasionally causes her to

discontinue her useful and necessary work in certain down-town districts.

Therefore, be it resolved that this Methodist Conference of British Columbia in annual meeting assembled, forward a petition to the Honorable the Premier and the Executive Council of British Columbia, respectfully asking that they have the Statutes so amended that all churches set apart for, and actually in use for public worship of God, together with the sites thereof, be exempt from general taxation, and a copy of this resolution be sent to H. Bose, Surrey, B.C., Secretary of the British Columbia Union of Municipalities, asking for the endorsement of such Union.

S. J. GREEN, Chairman.

Moved by R. H. Cairns and seconded by Rev. W. Bolton, in amendment to report of Memorial Committee, that a committee be appointed to gather data so that next year this Conference may be in a position to cast an intelligent vote on the question of tax exemption of churches. Lost.

Moved by Rev. J. G. Brown and seconded by George Bell, that a committee be appointed by the chair to prepare the statement of the case and to co-operate with all other interested bodies to give effect to the resolution already carried *re* church taxation. Carried.

The following Committee was appointed: Rev. R. F. Stillman, George Bell, William Savage, and Dr. S. S. Osterhout.

MARINE MISSION.

Your Committee beg to report that during the past year the *Thomas Crosby* was chartered to the Dominion Government for four months, the money thus received giving great assistance in meeting some heavy liabilities. During the period Captain Oliver, by launch, supplied the lighthouses and such other work as he was able to reach. During all the rest of the year the boat, with Rev. G. W. Dean on board, has done splendid work in carrying the Gospel to the lonely settlers on the Coast.

We would recommend that the following Committee of Management be appointed for the ensuing year: Dr. Osterhout, President of Conference; Dr. White, Superintendent of Missions; Dr. Sipprell, Rev. E. Thomas, Rev. A. E. Roberts, B. W. Harris, K.C., W. J. Hogg, E. W. Leeson, George Bell, W. N. Mitchell and Captain Oliver, Dr. J. C. Spencer and Rev. J. E. Dimmick.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

J. H. WHITE, Chairman
W. J. HOGG, Secretary.

RESOLUTION *Re* CROSBY MISSION.

Moved by Rev. T. C. Colwell, seconded by Rev. W. E. Kerr, that this Conference recommends to the Committee the appointment of a Financial Secretary in connection with the mission for the purpose of enlisting the financial assistance of the constituency to which the Crosby ministers. Carried.

FINANCE AND SYSTEMATIC BENEFICENCE.

We beg to report:

1. That no resolution was received for our consideration.
2. Your Committee note with very great satisfaction that the Divine Father has so blessed many of our people with the grace of giving that their contribution of the total of \$231,811 on the basis of full membership, averages about \$16.63 per capita, or about 32 cents per week.

Further analysis, however, shows that the missionary contribution only amounts to \$1.14, or about 2 1-5 cents per week per capita. This amount does not include the contributions of the W.M.S.

Columbia College contributions only 21 cents per capita.

Social Service and Evangelism, only 7 cents per capita.

These amounts we consider to be altogether insufficient to meet the demands of the work, or to the standard we should set before us.

Therefore, taking into consideration the fact that we have many munificent givers, and that as a consequence many members must come below the above-named averages, we would urge upon all Superintendents of Circuits and Official Boards the importance of renewed and persistent educational efforts in relation to missionary and other connexional funds that our people move on unto perfection in this grace.

The above report was amended to add \$701.00 missionary givings from Simpson District.

The report, as amended, was adopted.

A. S. COLWELL, Chairman.

T. G. BARLOW, Secretary.

MOUNTAIN VIEW CHURCH.

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

MEMBERS.—The financial condition of Mountain View Methodist Church was brought to the attention of the British Columbia Conference two years ago. The Vancouver City Mission and Extension Society, which had been in existence for some time, was asked by Conference to come to the assistance of Mountain View Church.

The Society accepted the task; but owing to financial stringency which had set in, together with the war breaking out in August of the same year, found itself unable to afford any immediate relief.

Later in the year the City Mission and Extension Society assumed for the time being a liability of \$2,000.00 due the Union Bank, by giving the note of the Society for two years. The brethren of the Vancouver churches gave their personal notes as collateral security.

At the Annual Conference held in 1915, the matter came up for discussion. A committee was appointed, and after canvassing the situation, reported to Conference, advising an appeal to be made in every Circuit throughout the Conference for the sum of \$3,000.00. The Conference endorsed the report of the Committee, and the appeal was made. As a result of this appeal 59 Circuits responded out of 187 reported last year. These 59 Circuits contributed \$821.48. Had all Circuits responded in proportion to those heard from the greater portion of the amount would have been raised. This appeal was made, not as an assessment, but was purely voluntary.

Statement of Liabilities.

Mortgage loan to Confederation Life Association, interest at 7 per cent.	\$15,000 00
Mortgage due November 15th, 1916.	\$15,000 00
Interest and arrears of interest to November 15th, 1916.	2,230 60
Fire insurance premiums on Church buildings (amount of insurance, \$15,000.00)	308 20
Solicitor's fee	5 50
Note of Local Trustees to Union Bank, with interest to May 29th, 1916	425 15
Note of City Mission and Extension Society to Union Bank, with interest to June 1st, 1916.	2,041 30
Mortgage on Parsonage lots, including interest to May 15th, 1916	2,900 05
Balance due on Church seating.	400 00
	<hr/>
Total liabilities.	\$23,310 80

Of this amount the Church will assume \$825.15. Add to this \$2,041.30 now being carried by the City Mission and Church Extension Society.

sion Society, we have a total amount of \$2,866. Deducting this from total liabilities we find the remainder to be \$20,444.35. Deducting from this the amount of the mortgage \$15,000.00, the amount of liabilities not assumed or cared for is \$5,444.35. Of this amount \$2,900.05 is due on parsonage and \$2,544.30, the balance, is due on Church mortgage for interest and insurance.

We desire to place on record the fidelity and sacrifice made by the members of the congregation of Mountain View Church to bear the burden of financial responsibility under the most adverse conditions.

We would suggest as a measure of relief: That an appeal be made on all Circuits of the British Columbia Conference for the balance of the \$3,000.00 made last year. That said appeal be made on some date to be determined by this Conference.

Respectfully submitted,

CHARLES R. SING, Pastor.
R. SPARLING,

Treasurer of Conference Appeal.

Moved by R. F. Stillman and seconded by John Robson, that having heard the report of the Treasurer of Mountain View Fund, we request that the appeal of last year be continued and that in all our churches an appeal for the same be made until the apportionment is met.

REPORT OF TREASURER OF MOUNTAIN VIEW FUND.

To the Officers and Members of the British Columbia Methodist Conference:

BRETHREN,—I herewith beg to submit my report on the Mountain View Methodist Church Relief Fund, as authorized by the Conference of 1915.

Receipts.

From Districts—		
Victoria	\$79	65
Nanaimo.....	16	20
Vancouver West	156	98
Vancouver East	142	75
New Westminster	152	35
Kamloops.....	18	50
Okanagan.....	45	55
West Kootenay	57	75
East Kootenay	36	50
Simpson.....	86	25
Prince George	19	00
From private individuals	10	00
	\$821	48

Disbursements.

Printing.....	\$17 50	
Postage, stationery and clerical assistance in mailing circulars and envelopes.....	24 50	
Paid Confederation Life on account of arrears of interest on mortgage loan	600 00	
		667 00
Balance on hand.....		\$154 48

R. SPARLING, Treasurer.

A Committee consisting of Dr. S. S. Osterhout, R. Sparling, G. R. Gordon was appointed to act in Mountain View relief affairs.

OCEAN PARK.

On motion the report was brought before the Conference.

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

The Ocean Park property consists of 135 acres of land at Ocean Park, fronting on Semianco Bay.

It is subdivided into 402 lots, which were intended to be leased out to suitable persons to form a Chautauqua or summer school and camping grounds for the Methodist people of this Province. In addition there is a park fronting on the bay, consisting of about twenty acres, upon which there is built a pavilion where the summer school has been held in the past, and at the rear of the lots is a Park Reserve of approximately thirty acres, the whole property, including the lots and the park being 135 acres, as before stated. In 1913 a proposal was made to the British Columbia Conference, held at Vancouver, and a resolution was passed in the following words:

RESOLUTION *Re* BOARD OF TRUST.

It was moved by Rev. R. J. McIntyre, seconded by Rev. R. F. Stillman, that the Conference hereby confirm the appointment, under section 111 of the Doctrine and Discipline of the Methodist Church, 1901, of a Board of Trust consisting of the following:

Ernest W. Leeson,	Rev. R. Forbes Stillman,	Robert W. Harris, K.C.,
George Bell,	Rev. Albert M. Sanford,	Rev. R. Newton Powell,
John A. Lee,	George Deering,	

and such Board to have all powers and privileges contained in such section.

RESOLUTION *Re* OCEAN PARK.

Moved by R. W. Harris and seconded by A. M. Sanford, that the Conference recommend that the property and interests, commonly known as Ocean Park, be acquired by the Board of Trust appointed by Conference, and that the Board assume the liabilities existing against the same and that the Conference appoint a Committee of Management consisting of the following:

Rev. R. F. Stillman,	Rev. A. M. Sanford, D.D.,	Rev. Dr. S. S. Osterhout,
Rev. R. N. Powell,	Mr. George Deering,	Mr. E. W. Leeson,
Mr. N. G. Cull,	Mr. F. O. Canfield,	Dr. J. A. Gillespie,
Mr. W. J. Hogg,	Mr. C. L. Lightfoot,	Mr. John Horner,

whose duty it shall be to administer the Ocean Park property, subject to the approval of the Board of Trust.

May, 1914.

RESOLUTION *Re* OCEAN PARK.

It was moved, seconded and carried that the Conference recommend that the property and interests, commonly known as Ocean Park, be acquired by the Board of Trust appointed by Conference, and that the Board assume the liabilities existing against the same and that the Conference appoint a Committee of Management consisting of:

Rev. R. F. Stillman,	Rev. A. M. Sanford, D.D.,	Rev. Dr. S. S. Osterhout,
Rev. R. N. Powell,	Mr. George Deering,	Mr. E. W. Leeson,
Mr. N. G. Cull,	Mr. F. O. Canfield,	Dr. J. A. Gillespie,
Mr. W. J. Hogg,	Mr. C. L. Lightfoot,	Mr. John Horner.

A considerable period elapsed before the property could be transferred, owing to the fact that the subdivision plans had never been filed and there arose difficulty in filing these plans under the "Land Registry Act." The matter was finally completed, and the plans filed and the property was conveyed to the Trustees appointed by Conference on the 6th of January, 1914. At the time the property was conveyed there were two mortgages, one on the westerly one-half in favor of Mr. John Horner, amounting to approximately \$8,000.00 and another mortgage on the easterly one-half in favor of George Marshall for approximately \$8,000.00. The Association had a floating debt of approximately \$3,500.00. The Marshall mortgage was past due and foreclosure proceedings were threatened. The former owners of the property had already negotiated a mortgage with Mrs. Alice B. Taylor, of Amherst, Nova Scotia, in the sum of \$10,000.00. This mortgage was completed by the present Trustees and out of the proceeds the Marshall mortgage was paid off and the balance was applied in reduction of the floating debt.

Before the property was taken over by the Trustees appointed by Conference, sixty-nine leases had been sold and agreements had been issued by the former owners agreeing to issue these leases when the purchase price of the leases had been paid in full. Some of these lease-holders have paid the purchase price of their lease in full and have received their leases covering a period of ninety-nine years without further liability except to pay a rental equal to the annual tax charge of the Municipality of Surrey. Upon the agreements for leases there is still outstanding and owing to the Association \$17,418.00.

The Association now owe, therefore:

Mortgage to John Horner, with interest approximately..	\$8,700 00
To Mrs. Taylor, mortgage, principal and interest.....	11,300 00
Taxes.....	325 00
Debt at Royal Bank.....	1,150 00
Sundry accounts	300 00
	\$21,775 00

Against these liabilities the Association has accruing on these leases as above stated \$17,418.00, and there is still unsold about two hundred lots, besides the two parks. This does not include the lots held by the original owners in settlement of their claim.

It has been impossible to recover the sale price of the leases from the present holders without entering into suit and it is felt by the Trustees that to commence legal actions against this large number of lease-holders would be fatal to the whole proposal. The Trustees further believe that no part of the leasehold money can be recovered during the next year. The mortgage to John Horner is past due; interest on Mrs. Taylor's mortgage is more than one year in arrears and foreclosure proceedings are likely to be started by her solicitors. Unless some complete reorganization of the proposal is effected the property will most likely be foreclosed before another meeting of Conference.

The following Trustees and other persons are each parties to a bond guaranteeing the mortgage to Mrs. Taylor, each person being separately liable in the sum of \$2,000.00, namely:

Rev. R. Newton Powell, C. L. Lightfoot,	Rev. Dr. S. S. Osterhont,
Rev. R. F. Stillman. George Deering,	Norman G. Cull,
Charles E. Reid. E. W. Leeson,	Rev. A. M. Sanford, D.D.
	William J. Hogg.

Unless a readjustment takes place these parties will undoubtedly be sued upon their several covenants to pay.

The Trustees are of the opinion that if the matter is allowed to proceed further in the name of the Conference, and if the lease-

holders are foreclosed, as they would be by the mortgagees if the mortgage money is not paid, a situation would be created which was never within the contemplation of Conference at the time the property was taken over.

The Trustees, therefore, recommend that they be allowed to form a company limited by shares for the purpose of taking over the Ocean Park property; that this company be formed with a capital of \$200,000.00, divided into 1,000 common shares of \$100.00 each having the power to elect three-fifths of the Directors of the company, and 1,000 shares of \$100.00 each preferred, having a preference of 5 per cent. per annum accumulative dividends payable out of the profits only of the company.

That Conference authorize sale of the Ocean Park property to this company in consideration of the issue to the present Trustees on behalf of Conference of the whole of the common shares of the company. That the preferred shares be available for issue to the present lease-holders and to persons having agreements for leases and upon agreement for leases.

The company would then be in a position to negotiate with the lease-holders and with those holding agreements for leases and with any other suitable persons with a view to renting the lots and camping grounds at Ocean Park for an annual rental sufficient to pay the interest and taxes upon the whole property and to eventually liquidate the entire debt of the property. The company would also have available for sale a large part of the preferred shares and an effort could be made to dispose of these preferred shares to the Methodist people for the purpose of liquidating the debt and for making such improvements as would carry out the original proposal to make Ocean Park a proper Chautauqua for the Methodist people of British Columbia and the Western Provinces of Canada.

Dated this 29th day of May, 1916.

On motion of William Savage and seconded by Rev. W. S. A. Crux, and resolved, that the permission of Conference be, and the same is hereby granted to the Trustees of Ocean Park to sell the whole or any part of the following lands, upon such terms and conditions as the Trustees see fit.

On motion of William Savage and Rev. A. E. Stephenson, the report as amended was received, and the Trustees were to confer with the Annual Conference Special Committee.

Resolved, that the report of the Trustees of Ocean Park as amended be received and that the same be referred to Annual Conference Special Committee with instructions to consult with the Trustees of Ocean Park, and with power to take such action in the matter as shall be agreed upon by both Conference Special Committee and the Trustees of Ocean Park. Carried.

