

nevertheless, and by and by their doctrine and life will grow more into the lofty ideal revealed by Jesus. These views are the well-matured convictions of one who has been many years among the Brahmans, and who is deeply acquainted with Indian traits, history, and prospects. They deserve careful consideration. — *T. S. Doolittle, D. D., in Christian at Work.*

The Mission Field.

"Blessed are ye that sow beside all waters."—Isa. 32:20.

VIRGINIA TRACT SOCIETY.

A SEMI-ANNUAL SESSION of the Virginia Tract and Missionary Society was held in connection with the State meeting at Marksville, Va., May 10-15, 1888.

FIRST MEETING, AT 11 A. M., MAY 10.—President R. D. Hottel in the chair. Minutes of last meeting were read and approved. The Chair appointed the following Committee on Resolutions: W. J. Stone, R. T. Fultz, A. C. Neff. The President spoke concerning duties of officers in reporting and carrying out resolutions.

Adjourned to call of Chair.

SECOND MEETING, AT 9 A. M., MAY 11.—Committee on Resolutions reported as follows:—

Whereas, The Lord has spoken of the importance of selecting and training suitable persons to go out and sell our literature; and,—

Whereas, The success that has attended judicious labor in this direction in the past, shows God's approval of the effort; therefore,—

Resolved, That we acknowledge the hand of God in this work, and that we will try to encourage suitable persons to engage in it, believing that God will sustain and bless those who unselfishly labor in this branch of the cause.

Resolved, That, in harmony with the recommendations of the International T. and M. Society, the officers of the Virginia T. and M. Society appoint in each church a person who shall act as business agent for the State Society, and receive from the members their orders for papers and books for personal use, and deal directly with the State secretary.

Resolved, That we approve of the plan of first-day offerings for the support of our foreign missions, advised by the General Conference, and that we will heartily indorse and carry out the same.

Resolved, That we urge the importance of all our brethren's becoming members of the Tract Society.

Resolved, That we recommend to our librarians the use of the book lately prepared for their use; and to our members, the use of the pass-book lately prepared for them, in which to keep accounts of all their labor; and urge the importance of faithfulness in keeping this account, and reporting each quarter to the librarian.

Bro. Huffman spoke quite freely upon missionary and canvassing work, and read some very good letters from persons who have been receiving our periodicals, and by this means have been led to believe the third angel's message. Bro. Underwood read some extracts from the "Testimonies," in regard to canvassers, and spoke of the conveniences for carrying the truth to the world. He also spoke very encouragingly to ministers and canvassers, and believed it to be the will of God that all should engage in this branch of the work. Interesting remarks upon the first resolution were made by Bro. Stone, Neff, and others.

Adjourned to call of Chair.

THIRD MEETING, AT 2:30 P. M., MAY 11.—The resolutions were again taken up and discussed quite freely. Bro. Stone read the resolutions adopted by the International Society, in regard to T. and M. work. Bro. Underwood and others made remarks upon the same. Much was said in regard to church agents and first-day offerings.

Adjourned to call of Chair.

FOURTH MEETING, AT 4:30 P. M., MAY 13.—The last resolution was taken up. Bro. Stone, Huffman, and Hottel spoke at length of the importance of becoming members of the Tract Society, and urged that all become members and take part in the work. Bro. Stone spoke concerning the keeping of the new librarian's book, and thought all should have it, as there is danger of making many mistakes by carrying on the work in the old way. He also spoke about the members' pass-book, and said much in regard to keeping it. The resolutions were adopted.

Adjourned *sine die*.

R. D. HOTTEL, *Pres.*

AMY A. NEFF, *Sec.*

ARKANSAS TRACT SOCIETY ORGANIZATION.

A MEETING for the organization of the Arkansas Tract and Missionary Society was held at Springdale, Ark., May 15-21, 1888. Six meetings were held, the first of which was called at 10:30 A. M., May 16. On motion, Eld. R. M. Kilgore was elected chairman of the meeting, and J. M. Pool secretary. Eld. Kilgore spoke at some length upon the importance of the tract and missionary work, also the importance of having organization in our tract and missionary efforts. Statistics showing the strength of the work in Arkansas, were presented, by which it was found that there were eleven local societies, with a membership of 124. On motion, it was unanimously decided to organize a State tract and missionary society.

On motion, the Chair was authorized to appoint committees on constitution and resolutions, and on nominations.

At a subsequent meeting these committees were announced as follows: On Constitution and Resolutions, D. T. Jones, Clara E. Low, and E. B. Young; on Nominations, Wm. Martin, H. Hedrick, and J. H. James.

On motion, the Chair was authorized to appoint a committee on districting the State, which was announced as follows: J. P. Henderson, W. J. Kerr, and A. B. Mc Alexander. A committee, consisting of P. M. Ownbey, Wm. Wiswell, and Wm. Martin, was appointed to adjust accounts between the Missouri and Arkansas societies.

The Committee on Constitution brought in a report recommending the adoption of the constitution for a State society, as found in the Year Book for 1888. After inserting the word "Arkansas" in the blank of the first article, this constitution was adopted.

The Committee on Districting the State recommended,—

That the State be divided into four districts: Dist. No. 1 to include the counties of Benton, Washington, and Crawford; Dist. No. 2, Carroll, Madison, Newton, and Boone; Dist. No. 3, Garland, Hot Springs, Clark, Pike, Howard, Hempstead, Miller, Sevier, and Little River; Dist. No. 4, the church at Little Rock, and all the isolated members and companies in the State not otherwise provided for.

The report was adopted after considerable discussion. The following resolutions were presented for discussion, and were adopted after considering each one separately, except the fourth, which was referred to the Board of Directors, and was reported at a subsequent meeting and adopted as herein recorded:—

Whereas, There will be a necessity for means in different departments of the T. and M. work, in carrying out the object of the Society; therefore,—

Resolved, That we adopt the plan of making donations on the fourth Sabbath of each month, for meeting expenses necessarily incurred by our local societies, in carrying forward the work devolving upon them.

Resolved, That we adopt the plan of making quarterly donations for the T. and M. work.

Resolved, That we recognize the necessity of making donations and offerings at the call of the Society, to meet the wants of the general work in the State, such as supplying public libraries and reading rooms with our books and periodicals, sending copies to men in public positions in the State, etc.

Resolved, That we as a Society adopt the cash system in our business transactions, and that we instruct our State officers and agents to come up to this system at the earliest moment practicable.

Whereas, It will be necessary for the Society to have a capital stock with which to do business; therefore,—

Resolved, That this Society recognize the necessity of having a reserve fund, with which to do a cash business with the offices of publication.

The Committee on Nominations reported, for President, J. P. Henderson, Little Rock, Ark.; Vice-President, J. M. Pool, Springdale; Secretary and Treasurer, Melissa T. Elmore, Springdale; Directors: Dist. No. 1, J. M. Pool, Springdale; No. 2, A. B. Mc Alexander, Hindsville, Madison Co.; No. 3, John L. Shockey, Malvern, Hot Springs Co.; No. 4, J. P. Henderson, Little Rock. After some discussion this report was, on motion, referred back to the committee, but at a subsequent meeting was adopted without change.

Committee on Resolutions presented the remainder of their report. The resolutions were considered separately, and were adopted:—

Whereas, It is important that every Seventh-day Adventist should use his talent and his opportunities to the best advantage in spreading abroad the knowledge of the truth; and,—

Whereas, This can be done more satisfactorily and more

successfully through the direction of the T. and M. Society than in any other way; therefore,—

Resolved, That we urge upon all our brethren and sisters the importance of becoming members of the T. and M. Society, and that we urge upon all T. and M. officers and upon all T. and M. laborers sent out by the Conference, the duty of organizing tract societies in all churches and unorganized companies of S. D. Adventists, and of uniting scattered ones with the societies most convenient to them.

Whereas, It is necessary that all the work done by the members of our local societies should be reported with care and diligence; and,—

Whereas, The new pass-book prepared in compliance with a recommendation passed at the last session of the International Society, furnished an easy and simple method of keeping a full account of all work done; therefore,—

Resolved, That we urge our people to use this pass-book, and impress upon them the duty of being faithful in reporting all work done.

Whereas, The canvassing work is one of the most efficient means of getting the truth before the people; and,—

Whereas, This work can be carried on without an outlay of means, and may even be made a source of profit to the canvasser and to the society; and,—

Whereas, The experience gained in the canvassing work will be invaluable to those who anticipate entering the ministry, or engaging in other branches of the work; therefore,—

Resolved, That we recommend that all our brethren and sisters who wish to labor in the cause, and who are not otherwise employed, engage in the canvassing work; and that all our young people seek employment in this branch of the work.

Resolved, That we instruct state officers to keep their books according to the system recommended at the last session of the International Society, and that our local societies each have a business agent.

These resolutions were thoroughly discussed, bringing forth to those present many new and valuable suggestions.

The Committee on Adjustment of Accounts recommended that the book account of \$45.62, and the periodical account of \$28.52, also the accounts of the business agents of the societies at Harrison and Springdale, amounting to \$16.45, be assumed by the Arkansas Society; and that the Arkansas Society take a bill of "Sunshine" from the Missouri Society, amounting to \$17.55. The report was adopted.

R. M. KILGORE, *Chairman.*

J. M. POOL, *Sec.*

ENCOURAGING TO MISSIONARY WORKERS.

[The following is an extract taken from a letter from a lady in Kansas, who, with her husband (a Methodist minister), lately accepted the truth, as a result of missionary work put forth by the workers at Battle Creek.]

DEAR HERALD: I want to tell you how glad I am that you ever came to our house, and that you still are coming, with those other silent messengers of peace, bringing to us glad tidings of great joy. What would we do now without you? I only wish we were more able to work. We become very restless in not being able to do more for the cause. But we are scattering those precious missives as fast as we can. As we receive, we give. A few will read. After many days we may see a great ingathering; so we will wait and work while we can. We have just received a *Camp-Meeting Journal*, telling of the meeting soon to be held at Emporia. How we would rejoice to go! It seems to me if we could only be in camp when Jesus comes, a glorious shout would go up to God and the holy angels.

Why is it we did not see the word so plain before? The Old Testament is a new book to us, and the New Testament a light that shines along our pathway, growing brighter and brighter all the time. I can but say, Why could we not have seen it sooner? But we know that God is in it. We have been Bible students nearly all our lives, but we now feel that the scales have fallen from our eyes, as they did from Paul's. And while we may not see as clearly as he did, we pray daily for the light to dispel all darkness. Oh, if we could only spend and be spent in this work, what a glorious life it would be! But God's will be done. We will try to have patience. We do want to see some of our people and get acquainted with them. We feel lonely, not that there are no Christians here, but they are not in sympathy with our views, though they read the same Scriptures, and think that in them they have eternal life, for they are they that testify of God and his Christ.

Mrs. L. BELKNAP.

"Think not thy worth and work are all unknown,
Because no partial pensman paints thy praise;
Man may not see nor mind, but God will own
Thy worth and work, thy thoughts and words and ways."