

PRESIDING ELDERS' REPORT.

TO BE READ AT THE MORNING'S SESSION OF CONFERENCE.

Great Program Made by the Methodist First Year—Arrangements Made for a Mass Meeting in Behalf of the Prohibition Constitutional Amendment.

Rev. Wm. Mullen conducted the religious services at the opening of the third day's session of the Methodist Episcopal conference.

A telegram was read announcing the death of a brother of Rev. John A. Cooper, a member of the conference.

The Pennsylvania Seaman's Friend society has well expressed its aim in the words which have year by year appeared on the title page of the conference report.

This work the society proposes to do by the distribution of the Holy Scriptures, the circulation of tracts and religious papers; the loan of a library and the maintenance of a hall.

The value of these libraries has been manifested in the moral and intellectual elevation of the seamen, improvement in their behavior and the consequent relief of the hearts of many of them to a religious life and a sense of personal responsibility to God.

Home, located at 412 South Front street, Philadelphia, is regarded as one of the most attractive and desirable features of the society's operations.

It is our pleasure to note the terms of the labor of our brother, the Rev. G. W. MacLaughlin, D. D., the corresponding secretary.

Most heartily commend the Pennsylvania Seaman's Fund society to the liberality of our people, and recommend that the Rev. G. W. MacLaughlin, D. D., be re-appointed corresponding secretary.

At the conclusion of the reading Rev. MacLaughlin delivered an address in its interests. He gave an interesting account of its workings since its incorporation in 1848 and its end as well as the progress of the work.

The home orphanage and hospital continue to command the attention, confidence and patronage of the following churches in the district.

In Monroe county we established a mission two years ago and Rev. S. C. Stuard was appointed minister. He opened the new place of worship.

The prohibition constitutional amendment is now the great issue. I find the sentiments of our people to be that expressed by the bishop in these words: "It gives us pleasure to note that indications abound that our people occupy a distinct position on this subject and will hold no second place in the pending struggle for constitutional prohibition."

Summit Hill church is now completed; at Landford the people have gathered a few hundred dollars towards a church; Newquensing has \$1,000 towards a church; Much Chank enlarged its chapel and paid the expenses incurred; East Much Chank will this year cancel its debt; Stateville appointments have a new church; Clatsop has erected a new parsonage and expect to build a new church soon; Bethlehem has erected a new parsonage at a cost of \$4,000; at Quakertown the church has been renovated and repaired; East Sangor has bought a new parsonage and will build a new church; the Sangor church paid off their parsonage debt; Rev. Argyl have paid off the remaining debt; Richmond circuit has repaired their parsonage and improved the church; Cherry Valley will pay the remainder of the debt on the church on April 1st and will build an addition to the parsonage; Rev. Poomoo paid off the debt and has a balance to make improvements; Somerset are building a \$500 addition to their church; Holmesburg paid off the debt and put \$2,000 at interest; Frankford Central church put in a \$1,200 organ; Paul street spent \$2,000 for repairs and on the day of reopening more than that amount was subscribed; Cambria street expect to build a new church; Fifth street and New Hope paid off their debt; a number of other churches reported improvements, debts paid or partly paid and extensive improvements to be made this coming year.

The largest session on the district by convention were at Seventh street, Lancaster, Cambria street, Broad street, East Broad street, Cumberland street, East Allegheny street, Orthodox street, Quakertown, Wesley, Tamersville street and Monroe county mission.

It is a source of profound pleasure to note the cooperation of the people of the conference in Sunday school work and the rapid advances that are being made. In many places there is not room for the children who seek admission, and we lose vast numbers because of improper accommodation.

When we remember that 41,281 admitted pupils were enrolled in the membership of our churches from 1887 to 1888, we can see that Sunday school work should be carried on with greater effort to improve the children with their need of Christ.

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Religious Events. Bookman Sunday Schools 1888-89 Anniversary Celebration.

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