

REPORT FOR THE DISTRICT

(Concluded from Page 1.)

Improvements. At Ardel, a site has been secured and a suitable church erected. It is a wooden structure with vines of pressed brick and is a monument to the zeal, devotion and generosity of the pastor and people. It is due that we make recognition of the generous assistance of Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Hader and G. L. Jones of Scranton, without whose help the work could not have been accomplished. Value, \$4,500, of which \$3,000 is paid and another \$1,500 subscribed.

At Canbodia we have suffered heavy loss. On the 8th of September, after an earnest effort, the last of a \$10,000 debt was paid and the people gave thanks to God and looked hopefully toward the future. A missionary society was organized for November 17th, and plans carefully laid for a successful and helpful service, but at an early hour the people came running together, not summoned as glad worshippers by the church bell, but as earnest workers or anxious workmen by the fire bell. In two hours, the beautiful church, hallowed by many sacrifices, prayers and shouts of praise, was a mass of smouldering ruins, and the people turned away with tear-stained faces, saying, "Our holy and beautiful house, where our fathers prayed there, is burned up with fire; and all our pleasant things are laid waste."

A Crushing Blow. It was a crushing blow, and will tell quite heavily against the missionary collection this year. The other denominations kindly welcomed us to their churches till other arrangements could be made. We are now comfortably housed in a hall which, through the kindness of Mr. W. Wall, we have free rent until we are rehoused. In this hour of depression, the church was greatly cheered by sympathy from outside friends. That princely giver, Hon. William Connell, whose generous hand has helped to lift our financial burdens, sent a check for \$1,000 and other gifts of smaller amounts have swelled the sum to \$3,000. This help, so freely given, means much that finds no expression in numbers and receipts. The society, with heretofore born of faith, faced at once the problem of rebuilding. Contracts are let and we hope, ere the summer ends, to be worshipping in our rebuilt church, under God's service and honor. The loss to the society above the insurance is about \$18,000.

Dunmore has expended \$200 in improvements and reduced the old debt \$200. At Forest City and Jermy, the debts reported "fully provided for," are at last reported "fully paid."

At Peckville about \$400 has been spent in improvements and an earnest effort made to cancel the indebtedness. \$200 has been paid, but a disastrous fire on March 27, which consumed the entire business portion of the town, will delay the payment of the balance.

At Poccano Lake a church is nearing completion, and the church at Goulandberg is being thoroughly repaired. Homestead has paid \$100 upon the indebtedness at that point. Unfonda has paid \$125. There has been about \$8,000 paid for building and improving, and about \$7,000 paid upon old indebtedness.

The Sunday school interests are well sustained throughout the district, and with rare exceptions our supplies are used. The Epworth Leagues are made a very helpful factor in our work, and the emphasis is constantly laid upon the devotional meetings and the spiritual work of the League.

An Encouraging Report. Rev. T. F. Hall, of the Oneonta district, gave an encouraging report. Rev. Dr. H. H. Dresser reported for the Owego district. In beginning he paid a touching tribute to Rev. William Edgar, on Sunday he preached with his usual vigor and on Thursday fell asleep in God.

The significance of the fact that the country is constantly losing its best blood to feed the city, was emphasized. Rev. Dr. Austin Griffin gave the prevailing report of the Wyoming district. It follows: Wyoming district Methodist union along with signs of vigorous life and commendable activity, as certain lines of evidence of healthy growth. It may be that in process of time we shall be able to adjust ourselves to the new order of things, and that the restlessness which now, to some extent, disturbs the rest of the church will be eliminated. A few of our churches are, I think, making diligent search and wide, strenuous efforts to secure absolutely perfect ministers. The splendid pastors of the district are, of course, going into the ultimate, and expect to attain unto it, and are steadily pushing. The demand for immaculate pastors is greater than the supply. We have not enough to go around. When our pastors faced a time limit of three or five years, a slight real or fancied infirmity or imperfection would not precipitate a demand for change. We occasionally also find a pastor whose ideal is a settled pastorate; he is looking for fields elsewhere, free from all petty annoyances and heart trouble, he may well indefinitely, a happy itinerant, "never more to roam." The demand for these perfect churches is greater than the supply.

Indeed, the absolutely perfect men or perfect churches are not numerous in our territory. I am an optimist; I believe that the best of the best twelve months the church of God has ever known on this planet. By the grace of God, the next year shall be better still. If the report of the last year was read, in connection with the report I hold in my hand, it would be evident from the former that this paper should chronicle an advance in our work. You are weary, and my heart is sick, of the splendid pastors of the district, great movements in the church, stars crowded, hundreds turned away, and the life is shrouded. In sixty days the prayer meetings are stranded, church members are discouraged, gaffs very light, for benevolence, less than last year, and the worn-out pastor has gone abroad for his health. It was my privilege, one year ago, to report some conversions in Wyoming district, and some success on the various lines of church work.

Not Justified by Facts. That report was fictitious and the statements were not justified by the facts. If the reported successes of last year, other things being equal, are not apparent in practical results of the year, our saving of last year should fill the hand of the respern this year. There should be a higher grade of Christian character, mightier faith, greater love and grander achievements, our king. To report conversions, added membership, material improvements, and simply "hold the fort," does not meet the obligation of a ministerial post, to whom the church looks for leadership in the conquest of this world for His Son. Think of our facilities. We are living at a time when forty years of life is more than eighty years of a half-century ago. Money has come into our possession all the way down the line of Methodism. We have millions of money. The prestige of victories. The resources of Pentecost. The personal grace and leading of the invisible Christ who said "I will give you an sin with me in heaven and earth," and "I will be with you always." "Be of good cheer, I have overcome the world." We have the inspiration of a sublime purpose "To spread Scriptural holiness over the lands." We believe it is large fruitage which glorifies the Savior. It is the Scriptural revival, the forward movement in the church of God, which blesses the matchless worth of our Redeemer.

With these convictions burning in my heart, I submit the following report of the workers and the work for the year for the Wyoming district. Our district now comprises 50 pastoral charges, manned by 47 pastors, appointed by the bishop, and 37 assistants. Each man has solemnly declared his belief he is called of God to be an ambassador for Jesus Christ. We have 80 congregations worshipping in 73 churches and 7 school houses. We have 62 chapters of the Epworth League; 24 Junior League, and 24 Sunday schools. We have Woman Home and Foreign Missionary auxiliary societies, Brotherhood of St. Paul, etc., as accessories. These constitute our field forces. In addition to the ordinary difficulties which always confront the church in the prosecution of her work, we have met the following extraordinary adversities: More than the usual number of labor strikes this year. The cholera epidemic (the small-pox) has been more or less epidemic in nearly all our cities and towns in the Wyoming and Lackawanna valleys.

Places That Suffered. This vicissitude has greatly interfered with the work of the pastors and churches. Plymouth, Lackawanna, Lackville and Tussockanook suffered the most. In these places all church work was closed for a time and all church work suspended. Revival work was either entirely abandoned or seriously hampered. In at least eighteen of our charges, the most devoted and best workers in many years have swept through our valleys,

carrying an immense loss of property and a few lives. Plymouth, West Nanticoke, and Central church, Wilkes-Barre, were within the sweep of the waters and suffered by them. Amid these calamities, however abundant, mercies have covered the year. While contending with these adversities, our faithful pastors and loyal people have not faltered, but bravely withstood the shock and by unflinching faith and the rich blessing of God, have won.

A new church has been erected at Wanamie, costing, with lot for parsonage, \$5,400, all provided for on day of dedication. Great achievement for that society, and made possible by the labor of an indefatigable pastor and a little band of loyal people. A new church and parsonage on Main avenue, Scranton, costing about \$20,000, will be ready for dedication May 4. This splendid property, which will bear the name of Embury Methodist Episcopal church, Scranton, will supersede the old Hamilton street church.

The location is in the midst of a delightful residential part of the city, with a rapidly increasing population, bringing about it a very substantial constituency. This category has the assured promise of a magnificent future. The house and lot at Cedar avenue, in the same city, has been sold, and a very eligible lot and house secured on Pittston avenue. The church will be removed immediately to this lot and used for the present until a new church is erected. Cedar avenue charge passes from the list and St. Paul's Methodist Episcopal church, Scranton, takes its place. The former location of these churches was unfavorable in the extreme. The new churches, in point of location, are all that could be desired; indeed, the company in distant strategic points in the city. The pastors have shown excellent judgment and wise diplomacy in bringing about these changes, and deserve much commendation for their faithfulness.

Churches Reconstructed. The following churches have been thoroughly reconstructed or renovated: North West Nanticoke, Nanticoke and Parish Street, Wilkes-Barre. Improvements, such as refurnishing, new seats, painting, new lighting facilities, etc.; Central Green, Moosic; three churches on Centennial road, Maple Grove, Fort Lynde, Ashley, Corcoran, Rendheim, Dorr Memorial.

New parsonages at Glen Lyon and Embury; parsonage enlarged at Alderson, and one pointed at Nanticoke, West Pittston and West. The amount expended this year in building or improving churches and parsonages is \$53,000 in round numbers.

The Broad street church, Pittston, and their faithful pastor, are working with unwearying zeal and all things consistent with a phenomenal success in gathering funds for their much-needed new building. These are rapidly finding their way to the building district. We have held several jubilee services this year over the cancelling of old mortgages and judgment notes, where, in the midst of a happy singing and a cheering congregation, these burdens of debt were cremated—Lackawanna, Providence, Moosic, Taylor, Dornemann, Eatonville, Hampton Street. The last-named before they launched their new enterprise, paid off \$1,000 old debt. Other charges have cleared or greatly reduced their indebtedness. The amount paid on old debts during the year aggregates \$107,500. If the numerical gains, Dr. Pielpie are met, and I believe they will be, the district will have filled its apportionment of \$1-000 for Syracuse university and a good margin besides. Gratifying as are the results in material matters, our chief joy is in the salvation of souls. Our supreme business is to save men.

Special revival services have been held in nearly all the charges. Rev. W. T. Hall made a phenomenal record, having held twenty-two weeks of revival services. All the pastors, without an exception, have been faithful in this supreme duty. Thirty charges reported conversions in numbers from five to one hundred and seventy-five. Central church, Wilkes-Barre; Simpson and Elm Park, Scranton; and West Pittston, report the largest number. The aggregate as reported in converts is 1890.

Pastors Faithful. The pastors have all been faithful, abundant in labors; have given full proof of their ministry, as this report so far plainly demonstrates. Where all have been faithful, I hesitate about mentioning specific cases. The numerical results may show wide differences; the circumstances and instrumentalities, the devotion and faithfulness, should be, and, at the final reckoning will be, taken into account. We rejoice over 200 conversions in a church, but the circumstances and instrumentalities we are and whom we serve, may look down with special interest and loving sympathy upon a faithful, tireless pastor and little band of loyal co-workers, who, struggling in the face of great discouragements, win five souls for Jesus. They, too, are candidates for the heavenly honors and the crown. Will not the master say to those who have labored thus faithfully, "Well done, good and faithful servants; enter thou into the joy of thy Lord." The benevolent and faithful workers, and if all is not noted that we hope for and desired, it is not the fault of the past or presiding elder. Eighteen churches reported appointments for ministerial support during the year, and if the same number gives us, at the fourth quarterly conference are in there should not be a deficit of ministers on the entire district.

The Planets. There had become a depleted membership, renewals, and reduced in financial ability. It could no longer support even a student, say, Yaleville, an adjacent charge, was almost weak. I therefore initiated the two charges.

Another Brother. Rev. J. H. M. was appointed by Bishop Fowler and Forge charge. Within a little more than a month he has been ordained, and transferred to a Western conference. The charge is acceptably supplied by Brother Jonas Underwood, a superannuated member of this conference. Briefly summarized, the report of the conference in ministerial support: 21 churches advanced their missionary collections; 18 churches reported increased attendance in Sunday school; 14 churches, including the Epworth League, a charge advanced in collections for superannuated preachers. Paid for building and improving churches and parsonages, \$53,000. Paid on old debts, \$107,500.

Joined the Goodly Company. Brother Hiram, one of our honored and beloved sons, died on the 12th of March. He responded to the Master's call and he left behind him a record of a devoted life and a name that will live on forever in the hearts of those who have known him. Our hearts are full of grief and our prayers are for the rest and repose of his soul. He was a true and noble man, a true and noble man, a true and noble man. He was a true and noble man, a true and noble man, a true and noble man.

Work at New York. Last year nearly 500,000 steerage passengers have landed in New York alone. In the last year the immigration from desirable ports has decreased. They are not all bad, but by far the larger part consist of people who if they are not taken for Christ, will take our country for their own ways. Last week 21,000 landed. Last May over 50,000 came. They are going all over our country. By far the larger disreputable places in the great cities are kept by foreigners. The Bohemians are publishing newspapers for adults and little children which, are filled with doctrines of infidelity.

She describes the visits to the "pens" on the island. "It is the touch in passing," she said, "the closeness of living near God, so that when we touch these people we may lift them, help them." "The girls are kept a week and more and places are found for them. There are many applicants for these new owners to the land. The Home Missionary society would be doing a wonderful work if they did nothing more than the immigrant work at the ports. Miss Corbin then said: "The most practical foreign missionary work we can do is to convert the foreigners at our doors and send them back to their own people to do foreign work. It would save time and money

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for they know their language and customs. Mrs. Mogg urged the pastors to use their influence in favor of the Woman's Home Missionary society. Dr. I. H. Race added his appeal, telling of his knowledge of its work in the South, in the Ritter home, at Athens, Ga., where seventy girls are being trained. At the conclusion of the session, members were added to the Home Missionary society. Church Extension. Rev. Dr. Hard had the floor at the Church Extension anniversary. Rev. Dr. C. M. Giffin offered prayer. The responsive service was conducted by Samuel Shaw Esq., the treasurer of the board. Dr. Hard made an appeal for the work in his characteristic manner. Mrs. Julia B. Hayes, wife of the pastor of the Tabernacle church, of Binghamton, gave an excellent address on "What Has Church Building Done for Women?" She referred briefly to the customs of various religions where women are degraded or considered soulless when the birth of a daughter is the crown of the gods. "Where Christianity reigns, in the home she is queen, in the church she is priestess. All the great honor in which such women as Clara Barton, Frances R. Havergal, Frances Willard, Lady Somerset and May Tyson, are held result from the gospel of Jesus Christ and the church which it has built. Their work have tact and good sense common sense. Work at New York. Last year nearly 500,000 steerage passengers have landed in New York alone. In the last year the immigration from desirable ports has decreased. They are not all bad, but by far the larger part consist of people who if they are not taken for Christ, will take our country for their own ways. Last week 21,000 landed. Last May over 50,000 came. They are going all over our country. By far the larger disreputable places in the great cities are kept by foreigners. The Bohemians are publishing newspapers for adults and little children which, are filled with doctrines of infidelity. She describes the visits to the "pens" on the island. "It is the touch in passing," she said, "the closeness of living near God, so that when we touch these people we may lift them, help them." "The girls are kept a week and more and places are found for them. There are many applicants for these new owners to the land. The Home Missionary society would be doing a wonderful work if they did nothing more than the immigrant work at the ports. Miss Corbin then said: "The most practical foreign missionary work we can do is to convert the foreigners at our doors and send them back to their own people to do foreign work. It would save time and money

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BIDS FOR ALASKA STATION. Prof. Slaby and Count Arco Communicate with Gen. Greely. Berlin, April 18.—Prof. Slaby and Count Arco, of the wireless telegraphy system which bears their names, will send in a telegraphic bid to Brigadier General A. W. Greely, the chief signal officer of the United States army, on the establishment of a system of wireless telegraphy which the United States proposes to inaugurate in Alaska. This bid must necessarily be sent by cable, as the tenders open in Washington April 22. Slaby and Arco will forward a detailed proposal by mail. General Greely has informed Slaby and Arco, through Frank H. Mason, United States consul general here, that their cabled tender will be considered. Count Arco called upon Mr. Mason today to obtain the specifications for the Alaska project. He announced the decision of himself and Prof. Slaby to bid on the coast lines, but said they must know the topography of the country before bidding on the inland lines.

BIG IRRIGATION PROJECT. Explanation of the Proposed St. Mary Division Canal. One of the interesting and important irrigation projects recently recommended to congress by the secretary of the interior is the St. Mary Diversion Canal. This project contemplates taking water from St. Mary river, in northern Montana, which would otherwise pass northward into Hudson bay, and carrying it over a low, intervening ridge to the headwaters of Milk river. Milk river is a tributary of the Missouri. Its lower basin is a gently rolling country well adapted to raising hay, oats, wheat, and barley. Owing to the aridity of the climate, irrigation is necessary for successful farming here. Milk river, the only source of supply, is extremely low in summer when water is most needed. By the construction of an earth embankment, 50 feet in height, at the outlet of St. Mary Lake, sufficient water to irrigate 120,000 acres of land can be saved. By the building of a canal 27.4 miles long this water can be turned into the upper Milk river basin and used on the irrigable lands below. The cost of these works will be less than \$6 per acre, and the value of the land reclaimed at \$25 an acre, will be \$2,000,000, and will sustain a population of 30,000. For the complete development of the main irrigation system for the Milk River Valley, it is estimated that an expenditure of \$50,000,000 will be necessary, and that over 500,000 acres of land, which is now only fit for grazing purposes, can be brought to a high state of cultivation, and have a total value of \$13,000,000. The land thus provided with water will be capable of sustaining a population of 130,000.

WATER POWER IN WINTER. The hydrographer of the U. S. Geological Survey in New York state, Robert E. Horton, has taken up the interesting question of determining the volume of water flowing in the streams in the winter. When the swamps and springs, usually contributing to the rivers, are for the most part frozen and the sources of supply of many of the streams are thus in part cut off. Users of water power have hitherto required chiefly to know the least amount of water the streams would furnish in dry seasons in the summer time, before building their dams. It is coming to be realized that water power is of as great or even greater value in winter than in summer, partly because it is usually higher in price in winter. Another reason for the demand for information regarding the winter flow of streams arises from the increased use of water power for generating electricity. Electric light and street car companies require more power and use it through longer hours in winter than in summer. Measurements of the volume of flow of streams for water power companies are usually made in summer, seldom in winter, so that a great deal of information can be had regarding the rise and fall, low flow, freshets, and other aspects of rivers in the summer months, but very little indeed regarding them in the winter when the streams are frozen over or blocked with ice.

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