South African Church Railway Mission.

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EDITOR'S NOTE.

Once again we must apologise for the omission of the English part of our magazine. In the hope that it would come we have delayed publication, but as this mail has brought no news of it we must go to press without it. The missing parts will appear later.

Also we are for the same reason unable to have our usual cover, so this issue will present a poor appearance. You know, doubtless, that it is very difficult to get goods out from England just now, and that we all have to be content to go without lots of things we should like to get and cannot.

LETTER FROM THE HEAD.


After careful consideration it has been decided to make Grahamstown our Headquarters, and we are hopeful that the arrangement will be for the welfare of our work generally. We have entered into an agreement with the Diocesan Finance Board by which the Grahamstown Diocesan Office will be used as our office for the transaction of our secretarial work, and, therefore, all future communications concerning the Mission should be addressed to me, "Diocesan Office, Grahamstown." For the well-working of the Mission it seems to matter little where the office is situated, as our interests are spread over so wide an area, and at Grahamstown we have been able to make exceedingly good provision for the routine work, which is no small gain. We are grateful to the Authorities of the Diocese of Pretoria for much kind help in the past, and regret even the seeming of any sort of severance: Johannesburg is a busy place and the Diocesan Office there is fully occupied with its own pressing affairs; Grahamstown, where life is not so pressing, has given us a warm welcome and treated us very generously. I hope to be able to spend quite as much, if not more, time in the Transvaal by the new arrangement.

As most of you know, our old friend Mr. Skey has gone to German East as Chaplain to the troops. While we sincerely congratulate him on his appointment, and in having an opportunity to do his bit in the great World Struggle now going on, it is with very real regret that we lose him as our Vice-Head. Mr. Skey's connection with the Mission has been almost from the beginning of things and his name is one of our household words, so that it is the more difficult to give him up: but things which, at ordinary times seem almost impossible, are more easily faced now, and in this way it is a pleasure to us to make the sacrifice. Everyone who knows anything about the Mission knows the keen interest Mr. Skey has in the work, and whether a member of the Staff or not our welfare will have a very warm corner in his heart. We hope eventually to find some opening by which his name will again appear as a member of the Staff and meanwhile we offer him our grateful thanks for what he has done for us and been to us in the past.
If it is unpleasant to say "Goodbye" to old and tried friends, it is very delightful to get them back; here is a bit of real good news. As the Bishop of Pretoria has taken Mr. Skey away for a special job, he has most kindly consented to make it possible for Archdeacon Rogers to be our new Vice-Head and Acting Head while I am away in England. We are grateful to the Bishop for his kindness; it is not necessary to say how very glad we all shall be to see the Archdeacon's name appearing once more as a member of the Staff: none can doubt his real interest, and it is a great pleasure to me personally to have his experienced help.

Miss Holmes has begun her work in the Transvaal and we are confident that it will be for the "strengthening of the cords."

Nurse Deeks duly arrived by the Balmoral Castle and has taken up her residence at Cradock: we are most fortunate in securing her services at such a time as this, and we feel sure that she will be heartily welcomed and used.

Mr. Seacome was due to arrive at Capetown just after I sailed for England, and will probably have begun his work south of Livingstone long before this issue is printed.

My visit to South-West Africa proved, even more fully than we expected, the great need for our getting to work there as soon as possible. It is no light task to take over 1,500 miles of railway in a conquered country and work them during, so far as is known as yet, a temporary occupation: but this has been done and the railway in South-West Africa is for the present, at any rate, staffed almost entirely by men from the Union and Rhodesia. There they are, hundreds of men, with wives and children in many cases, in a strange land. Only those who have seen can imagine the isolation and discomforts many of our Railway people have to endure there—only stern necessity would justify such a state of things, and the necessity is there. It is, today, just as important for us to "hold and administer" the country as it was for us to conquer it; and everyone in South-West Africa who is doing what he can has the satisfaction of knowing that he is doing his bit. We are all glad to know that Mr. Esdaile is already up there doing what he can for those who have gone at duty's call: he and they will need our sympathy and prayers and we feel sure they will not be forgotten.

I am paying a short visit to England for the Annual Meeting and to fix up various matters with the London Committee, and I am hoping to arrange for more workers to come out to help us. I do not expect to be away long, and if the present weather continues I shall not be sorry: it is very cold: the ground is white with snow and the ice is thick on the water: one good thing—it is not always winter. The African sun has its good points.
LIGHT FOR THE LINE.

NAAUWPOROT. C.P.

I wrote last for Light for the Line from East London, a month before Easter. I am glad to say that both on Easter Day and Ascension Day there were more communicants than last year. Numbers, taken by themselves, are very often a snare and delusion, but I think in the case of Ascension Day anyhow, the greater number of communicants is a sign that we are learning to keep that great festival better than in former years. For there were more communicants that day than for several years past.

While writing about services I would draw your attention to two or three alterations. Firstly, every Sunday (except the second Sunday in each month) there will be a celebration of the Holy Communion at 11 (without music). I believe a considerable number of communicants would wish to make their Communions more frequently and regularly, but they find it almost impossible to come at an early hour on Sundays or week days. To meet their needs I have started the Celebration at 11.

The second alteration to which I would draw your attention is the weekly prayer service. This is held each Wednesday evening (unless notice is given in Church to the contrary on the previous Sunday) from 7.30 to 8. The Bishop has appealed to churchpeople to meet together wherever possible on one day each week to pray for the Church, her needs and her work. I would therefore ask all churchpeople in Naauwpoort to support me in responding to the Bishop’s appeal, and to meet together on Wednesday nights for these short services of prayer.

The third alteration concerns the Sunday School. The teachers, on their own initiative, have undertaken to carry on the Sunday School on the Sunday that I am away at Cookhouse. Sunday School will therefore be held each Sunday at 3. I am most grateful to the teachers for this and all their other help.

I should like to point out that there is no reason why morning and evening service should not be held on the Sundays I am away, provided they were taken by some gentleman of the congregation, whom I could recommend to the Bishop, and to whom the Bishop would grant a licence. Of course, there could be no Celebration of the Holy Communion, as a priest is necessary for that.

May I appeal to parents to encourage their children to be more regular at the Children’s Eucharists at 9.30 on Sundays?

As regards finance, we still owe the Diocese about £23 for 1915 and the Railway Mission about the same amount. I am keeping the list of Easter half-crowns open for another week or two in the hope that those who wish to do so may still have an opportunity of sending in their contributions. May I also again point out that it would be a great help if those who cannot be present in Church on Sundays would give their offertory either to me or to one of the sustentation collectors?

During the quarter I have visited COOKHOUSE (three times), WILDFONTEIN and HANOVER ROAD, holding services on each occasion. I have also visited ARUNDEL, COLESBERG JUNCTION and SHERBORNE.

I cannot conclude this letter without expressing, on your behalf as well as on my own, our very deep sympathy with Mr. and Mrs. Hale in the sad death of their little three-year-old daughter. They have the assurance of our deepest sympathy and our prayers.

G. A. LEJEUNE.
My dear Editor,

Since my last letter in the April issue I have been able to put in regular visits to practically all centres of work. At BRONKHORSTSPRUIT, HA-
THERLY, DELMAS, RAYTON, KINROSS, MACHADODORP, DAL-
MANUTHA, SILVERTON, PAN, WONDERFONTEIN, ELAND’S
RIVER and ARGENT we have had, generally speaking, good congregations, though the cold weather now prevalent on this High Veld section has had the effect, in some instances, of reducing the numbers at the evening services. The cold up in these exposed districts on winter nights is really severe and on a good many occasions the water in the tank above my coach has been frozen. In the day time it is pleasantly warm, but after the sun goes down an over­coat is a real necessity.

At ELAND’S RIVER the experiment of a Sunday morning service was a very happy one and I was glad to work it in along with a visit to RAYTON, one of the regular cen­tres. In the latter place nearly all the children above eight years of age are either Boy Scouts or Girl Guides, under the keen leadership of Mr. and Mrs. Oakley respectively, and on the occasion of my last visit there we had another well-attended service for them when two more Guides, Marjorie Oak­ley and Annie Bye, were admitted and received their cards and badges. Anyone who for any reason is prejudiced against the Scout and Guide move­ments might visit RAYTON with advantage. Their conversion to a better mind would be certain and complete!

At KINROSS we had a record morn­ing congregation, the numbers being swelled by several people from Leslie, a little township some thirteen miles away which up to the pre­sent apparently has never had a service to itself or even a visit from a priest. Unfortunately with the amount of work I have already on hand I see no prospect as yet of altering this state of affairs, which is only too com­mon all over the country.

Holy Week and Easter I spent at WATERVAL BOVEN. With the ex­ception of Good Friday the Holy Week services were poorly attended, but on Easter Day there were large congregations both morning and evening and 15 people communicated, which I believe is a record for the place.

Turning to the low-lying Bush Veld country, hot by day even in this winter season and only pleasantly cool by night, I managed to put in services at MALELANE, KAAPMUÍDEN, KOMATIPORR, ELANDSHOEK and ALKMAAR, congregations being quite up to the average.

I must not close without mention of a trip, or rather two trips, up the Selati Line, that furthest outpost of civilisation in the Transvaal. For more than 200 miles out of Komatipoort there is no station, nothing save tiny sidings at long intervals. One of these, Newington, boasts what must be certainly one of the most curious “waiting rooms” in the world. It con­sists of a few boards placed high up in the fork of a tree. Here the benighted traveller may perch secure from the attacks of lions and other wild beasts which are so numerous in this region. I had expected to have to listen to weird sounds from the bush when lying out at night in the coach on these lonely sidings, and in this I was not dis­appointed. What I did not expect, however, was suddenly to hear, on one occasion, at high noon-day, strange, blood-cur­dling howls, apparently within a few yards of me, as I tramped through the thick bush country near GRAVELLOTTE on my way to visit a small white community of some half­dozen people in the vicinity. Being un­armed, however, I thought discretion
the better part of valour and did not turn aside into the thickets to identify the particular beasts responsible for the noise, keenly interested in Natural History though I am!

At TZANEEN, a little further to the north-west, I found 20 Britishers and held a service, the congregation consisting solely of men. The country hereabouts, and as far as DUIVELS-KLOOF, 15 miles further on, has a more settled look. At the latter place 16 people turned up to an evening service, the greater portion of the white inhabitants in fact. Next morning we had a Celebration with six communicants.

This part of the section is a particularly interesting one in many ways. Along the Selati Line one has ample opportunities of realising what isolated and lonely lives many of our fellow-countrymen lead. In other respects, at least to any lover of Nature, the country is a most fascinating one. Big game of all kinds roam quite close to the line and gaze with wondering eyes for a moment at the oncoming engine before dashing away into the bush. In many parts too the mountain and forest scenery is very fine.

Yours very sincerely,

V. Rossborough.

NORTHERN RHODESIA AND THE CONGO.

The coming of Mr. Seacome has now enabled me to give more regular visits to all places north of the ZAMBESI. BROKEN HILL has a monthly visit, and such places as the CONGO, LUSAKA, KALOMO, KAFUE and WANKIE are visited bi-monthly. Various intermediate places get their turns at intervals on week days. It is not always easy to work the section, partly because the train service has recently been somewhat curtailed; partly because the Coach has a way of getting hung up owing to full loads; and the need of sending it such big distances, when Mr. Seacome requires it. It has also been getting into such a bad condition that one does not like to face much travelling in it; but I am thankful to say the General Manager has sanctioned a thorough overhaul and repair, and we are hoping for great improvements as the result.

To begin at WANKIE: this place still comes within my section, though Mr. Seacome pays alternate visits. Since the School was built, we have enjoyed a vastly better place for Celebrations, and also, thanks to Mrs. Smith, the Sunday School is really excellent, 17 children, and all very keen and really learning something. Recently the evening service has been less well-attended, and I hope it is not going to prove true at Wankie that the more opportunities of worship people have, the less they appreciate them.

I have been able to pay only one visit to VICTORIA FALLS this quarter: but that was a very pleasant one, in company with Mr. Seacome. There was a really good attendance at the evening service, and a Celebration on the Coach. This time the workmen on the hotel put in a much better appearance.

At LIVINGSTONE, it is good to hear that Father Rand intends to start a monthly service for the Railway Camp. I was prepared to do something myself with this end in view, but it is far better that the resident priest should do it if he can. Let us hope they will back up his efforts, which involve considerable difficulties, as it means two services on Sunday evening. I had the pleasure of taking the service at Livingstone Church itself, the first Sunday that Father Rand began his new departure.

Till this quarter I have had to leave out KALOMO, with the more regret now that I find what a keen nucleus of churchpeople are there. Very nice ser-
Services were held in the schoolroom, and a Sunday School is already in existence. It is a great thing to have Miss Bailey in charge of the School, as she has been a great supporter of the Church, in Kimberley and Grahamstown, before coming to this quiet place. Mr. and Mrs. Goslin, at the Boma, very kindly put me up for two days, and I enjoyed a long ride on their horse, to take a Christening 17 miles away. Very enjoyable, but very stiffening! I was able to give Whitsun tide services here also.

CHOMA, I fear, I have not been to lately, largely because I feel that they must be very good there, as the result of so many passing visits from the priests of the MAFANZA Mission, where Bishop May has his Cathedral! Still, some time soon I hope to come and prove the truth of my suppositions. Of course, I know the people there already to a certain extent.

I paid my usual visit to PEMBA this quarter, though I waited till Mrs. Thorne and family were back from the Cape, seeing that from time immemorial we have had service in their house. Once again practically all residents, some eight in number, turned up, and Compline was said, with address, and hymns.

Still working north, at MAYALUKA I held the other day a long promised service in the KALAYA valley, some 10 miles out. Mr. Dent kindly put me up, and made all arrangements most excellently for the service and those who attended. All the families residing close by came, and another time we hope to have still more; but 23 including children is quite good for a start. It is to be regretted that I can find so few communicants in the district at present.

From here to KAFUE is a short way, and I must say that this place always provides a good congregation; people have a wonderful way of turning up in Kafue on the day of the service, accidentally. The farmers’ meetings held here give one good opportunities. It is sad to find practically no communicants here also; but perhaps it is not so surprising, as the Primitive Methodists have for a long time occupied the ground, through their Mission in the neighbourhood. They have at the present time a scheme in view for a Church for white people, and possibly a School. I only come here on week days, but the result seems quite satisfactory.

At CHILANGA, the local Boma, there are now two families of church people, and it was a pleasure to give them a Celebration on Ascension Day. Mr. and Mrs. Hatchwell from Mayaluka are now here, also Mr. and Mrs. Owen. I was the guest of Mr. and Mrs. Moffat Thomson, who gave me a most enjoyable time.

LUSAKA is only 10 miles from here, and gets a visit on a Sunday. Communicants will, I hope, be more numerous here after a little time, but at present there is great room for improvement. The evening service at the hotel varies greatly, which should not be the case. Still people are rather scattered, and the actual English community is not large. I am very gratified to Mrs. Baxter for beginning Sunday School work here, which I believe will be very successful and meet a distinct need. I was present the other day at their Empire Day festivities, which were really very successful and only showed how people could turn up when they liked!

From here to BROKEN HILL is a very sparsely populated country, and little but five-minute talks with gangers and pumpers is possible. I am practically making Broken Hill the central place on the section; the population and present Church attendance certainly justifies it. At the present I am glad to say there are quite a large number of communicants, when all attend who should, and I hope there may be more
soon, as the result of Confirmation classes lately started. At the present time, with the full consent and approval of Bishop May, who is bringing the matter up at home, we are ambitious enough to be considering a scheme for a Church; and although at the first meeting many difficulties and questions arose which must inevitably cause delay and reconsideration, yet I think that the general feeling in favour of a Church was manifest, and we may hope that eventually we shall be successful. One thing is clear, that the start must be well given by the English Church and its members, before any appeal to the inhabitants generally can be made.

I have to thank Dr. Storn for much hospitality, and for the help that he is so ready to give in all Church matters; also Mrs. Hewett, for kindly distributing Light for the Line, Magazines, etc., and helping in many ways. It has been a busy and an anxious time, and I think the future is very hopeful here.

Further north still, we come to Kashitu, now a depot for motor transport to the border, and the home of my friend Mr. Plant, the station-master, who is always most hospitable. I was sorry not to be able to get up a service for the men at the camp, but may have better luck next time.

At BWAXA MkuBwa the mine is now going ahead, and there must be 40 people in the place. I held my first service there recently, which was quite well attended, and I hope next time to have a Celebration also. It is difficult to find a Sunday in two months for this place, but it must be attempted.

The near neighbour of the mine is Ndola, where I have also held a service with fair results. A particularly horrid murder which happened close to my Coach just before had a very disturbing effect upon us all on this occasion. As usual, people were most kind, and made my visit very enjoyable.

I must have exhausted more than my fair share of space, and still have not touched the Congo! Suffice it to say that I found Elisabethville crammed with people, including many non-Britishers, and the price of copper £127 a ton! It took me a whole week, Holy Week it was, to discover and visit the British residents, and eventually I held services at the Consulate on Good Friday and Easter day, and also at the workmen’s quarters. I did my best to have two services also at the Star Mine, but there was a lot of sickness about, and plans fell through. Mr. Denton Thompson was unfortunately away, but Mr. James kindly put up with me for a week, and everybody as usual showed me great kindness. I could not have visited the Star but for Mr. Watson, and Mr. Lewis kept me supplied with labour to cart my things about for services. Next time, I am arranging to visit Kambon as well.

I must apologise for being so long, but it is some time since a full account was given of these parts. I hope to be able to increase the circulation of our magazine up here by degrees. At Broken Hill we have already begun to improve.

E. F. W. Ninington-Ingram.

At Sibawa Siding,
Near Gwanda,
June 15th, 1910.

Dear Editor,

Today is a real “day off,” and I am not sorry as I have been pretty busy these last few days with the holding of services up and down the West Nicholson Line and on the Mines in the neighbourhood. I had hoped to have held Evensong to-night and to have celebrated to-morrow morning at the SIBAWA MINE about five miles from here, and the people from the Long John would probably have come over, but my letter must have mis-
carried—I entrusted it to the tender mercies of a mine boy—and I have had no word from them. So I am waiting here in peaceful idleness till the train returns from Bulawayo to-morrow to take me down the Line again to COLEEN BAwn. We have an improved service now of three trains a week, and after much planning I have arranged things so that I get to a different place each day for evening service and a Celebration in the morning, putting in my two Sundays at the Fred Mine and the Bush Tick. Well, my plans ultimately worked out as follows:—Down from BULAWAYO to GWANDA last Friday, up to BALLABA next day and a stiff 22 mile bike ride out to the Fred, back to Balla-Balla on Monday for services and up to the Rorke’s Farm, BUSH TICK SIDING, on Tuesday, down to WEST NICHOLSON (the terminus) yesterday, and up here to-day; down again to COLEEN BAwn to-morrow and up to BUSH TICK SIDING for Sunday, and then a last down trip to GWANDA on Monday for a Baptism and Holy Communion on Tuesday morning. Attendances have been very satisfactory this trip, that at Gwanda increasing from nine to 27, and on the Fred we had congregations of 15 and 17, all the miners rolling up in the evening, and three families from the district coming in in the morning. On my first visit there in April my arrival was quite unexpected, and the mine was nearly deserted on the Sunday; I had had to postpone the holding of services at GWANDA and so, hearing that a coach was leaving Balla-Balla on the Saturday, took that chance of going out. My drive cost me 17/6 and the coach people charged me 10/- for bringing back my bag—after I had taken the trouble to push-bike the distance myself! However, I am leaving a spare set of vessels and robes out there and can carry anything else that I want in a most useful shoulder-knap-sack that I came across the other day in the coach. I am finding tyre-troubles very serious—my original set which came out with me from England only lasted one trip, and now my new pair are letting me down every ride I take: the Fred expedition produced 16 punctures, as far as I could discover—and then the back tyre went flat again! So on Tuesday wanting to go out to the Bush Tick Mine from the Siding I borrowed Mr. Rorke’s donkey and managed to cover the four-odd miles in just over two hours: it was a stately progress, which cannot be said for the return journey, as a violent shy at a white road mark fetched me and the stirrup clean off, and my only consolation was that the donkey was white and easy to find in the moonlight. This afternoon while getting well on to the twenties in the puncture line the valve-seating has burst and there can be no more bike-riding for me till next week. My first trip was down this Line, and this is now my third visit, while I have also put in an additional service at ESSEXVALE, about 50 miles from Bulawayo, which is full of keen churchpeople—at least, the three farms, the cattle inspector’s and the police camp, which comprise the ‘township,’ produce 14 communicants between them, which is very wonderful in these parts which are so full of Presbyterians and Wesleyans. I find these good folk most ready to come to our services and I am sure they will soon get used to our English Church ways.

On the Wankie Line, to the north of Bulawayo, I have held services at NYAMANDHOLOVU, MALINDI, TSHONTANDA, WANKIE and the VICTORIA FALLS: the people are few and far between except at NYAMANDHOLOVU, which used to be a great Church centre, but which has so far produced on my two visits congregations of six and four! I must try to give a week or so to a tour of the
farms in the neighbourhood and see if we cannot get them to emulate that excellent farm-centre, FIGTREE. At WANKIE there is a large white population employed on the coal mine, and I hope that the combined efforts of Mr. Ingram and myself will lead to better numbers. I believe there are well over 100 white people there and so we ought to have a record congregation.

MALINDI is a most wild district with giraffes, elephants, hyenas, etc., in great profusion: there is one farm near the station—a five mile walk on a road literally inches deep in fine sand all the way—and Mr. and Mrs. Going are coming in next time for services.

To the south of Bulawayo, I have paid two visits to MAHALAPYE, the southernmost end of my section, and have held services at TOWANI, SERIBI, SERULI, SHASHI, FRANCISTOWN, RAMAQUABANE, PLUMTREE, COLDRIDGE, MARUTA, LEIGHWOODS, FIGTREE and neighbouring farms, and at the MATOPPOS. The gangers on this section have been most hospitable and have thereby made my work among them possible without the Coach: this Mr. Ingram sends to me when he goes up into the Congo, and I return it to him when he comes south again to Livingstone. This is her last trip before extensive repairs are taken in hand—quite time too as the engine-driver and guards never feel safe when she is on the train in her present rickety condition.

The Vicar of Francistown has resigned and I am taking temporary duty there, and hope the arrangement may last some time, as the people there are delightful and most regular worshippers when they have the opportunity. Plumtree makes a pleasant change from the rest of my work, and I have a keen Confirmation Class going there: we are all sorry to lose Mr. and Mrs. Carbutt on his appointment as Major to the Native Force now being raised for the Northern Border—or should it be for ——? His appointment shows that his great influence with the natives is appreciated, and we wish him every success and a return to Plumtree later on.

I have started a new centre on Mr. Robertson's farm, 13 miles from Figtree, and we had 22 at the first service there: the farmers were all most kind in driving me round from place to place in the neighbourhood, and they are talking of building a Church when the war is over. Just to mention one typical act of kindness—I was setting out at sunrise one morning to walk nine miles to breakfast on another farm, and nothing would suit my kind hostess but that she should be up at 5.30 to get me tea and hot buttered toast.

My first trip to the Matoppos was very pleasant, Mr. and Mrs. Dowsett continuing in my case the kindness that they have always shown to Railway Missioners. This place is 24 miles from the terminus and we had Holy Communion there before they drove me in for services at the Terminus Hotel: we had quite a good congregation though it was a bad Sunday, being only two days before the great Show at Bulawayo. The driver and stoker of the Sunday train turned up—and I was pleased to see the corresponding "officials" of the West Nicholson train at service there last night—one gets so little opportunity of ministering to them. Also they drove me back in good time to Bulawayo on the Sunday evening, and I thoroughly enjoyed the Choral Evensong at St. John's that night. I have never realised before the part that an organ plays in Church worship, it is too often a case of familiarity breeding contempt.

I must apologize for the length of this letter, but first impressions make one garrulous: only let me add that I had no idea when I came out what an extraordinary fascination this work has.

Yours sincerely,

RALPH S. SEACOME.
My dear Editor,

Since my last letter, I have completed the round of the Protectorate Railways. At Swakopmund I coincided with the visit of some of the officers of H.M.S. ______, which was a pleasant surprise. Their visit had an additional dramatic interest, as they made a furious cavalry raid from the Railway Station (which is inland) in a style worthy of the best naval riding traditions, through a community of Germans who at regular intervals of a fortnight expect the arrival of a German battleship. I have also thoroughly enjoyed my trip up the narrow-gauge northern line, Karibib, Grootfontein and Tsumeb, where the trees and grass are in delightful contrast with the more desert-like country. I was lucky enough to have a cart and four mules to convey me 45 miles across country from Grootfontein to Tsumeb, and by so doing to spend a day longer than the train allows at both places.

I had the sad duty of conducting the Burial Service at Windhuk twice in three days. The children have brought such brightness into the Protectorate that there is a peculiar pathos and sorrow for our whole community in the passing away of any of them, and a very representative gathering of railway people tried to express their sympathy with Mr. and Mrs. Ternent in the loss of their little girl, and with Mr. Growdon, the Permanent Way Inspector, whose little son of nine years old lost his life in a trolley accident on his way to school at Brakwater. I have seen for myself here in this country the sorrows of bereavement are accentuated by the conditions under which we are living here, far from our friends and relatives and without many of the conveniences and comforts we are used to. One can only hope and believe that if we go on trusting, we shall see the light of God's love and goodness behind the cloud. This very afternoon that I am writing I expected to be conducting the funeral of Driver Westgate, who died in hospital yesterday afternoon as the result of a derailment of the banking engine on return to Windhuk. He was a man of some age, with a long term of railway service to his credit, and our sympathies go out to his family in the Union. I greatly regret that I was unable to get to the scene of the accident in time to see him. I was hung up at Aris without information till I was too late. I believe that Mr. Batty (junior), who was fireman, saved the lives of every man on the train, in that he managed to cover two kilos to a ganger's cottage and telephone, in spite of injuries to his spine and a frightful shaking. Humanly speaking, on that gradient there was no escape for us.

I spent Good Friday and Easter at Windhuk and felt I was filling a gap. I managed to obtain a quantity of chrysanthemums, which helped outwardly at any rate to show the festival spirit. The Sons of England (Lord Nelson Lodge) kept St. George's Day by a parade in the morning, which was well attended. In spite of my habitual wanderings I am trying to fill the position of Chaplain to the Lodge.

And I managed to attend the United Sunday Schools Picnic, where the children enjoyed themselves thoroughly. I have also several times played football in goal for the Windhuk Railway A team, though I have to miss some of the most exciting fixtures.

Besides the places mentioned in the list of offertories, I have also visited ARANDIS, LEUTWIN, TSUMIS, REHOBOTH, and MARIENTHAL.

May I ask friends to note my new Windhuk address, at which I am eagerly expecting some Transvaal letters?

Yours very sincerely,

Everard Easdale.
WOMEN'S WORK.

DIOCESE OF GRAHAMSTOWN.

We shall all rejoice in the thought that our good friend and Editor, Miss Burt, has safely returned to this country again, and also we trust by the time these words are in print our Head may have nearly completed his return voyage. He writes from London that the money for the Railway Hospital Bed has safely reached him and he has put the matter in train, adding, "It will be delightful to think of having a Bed to ourselves in the new Hospital, which will be opened in June." I hope all the kind contributors will see these words. They will also like to know their example is being followed in Rosmead Camp, which means to have at least one bed all to themselves. Already the children have given a Patriotic Concert (under the able supervision of Miss Pool), and now preparations for a Sale of Work are in full swing, which promises well, including a Bag Competition for G.I.S. members and candidates, in which Naauwpoort is kindly joining. The War slides have recently been shown in a few places, where small sums have been collected towards the new work of our Mission in the S.W. Protectorate, but the sum total cannot be announced till next quarter. A new set of slides are expected from England entitled "How Harry won his wife as well as his V.C.,” which are sure to be popular, so any place particularly wishing to see them had better make an early application. Passion-tide slides were shown during the season, and the Boy Scouts are specially to be thanked for their ready help and reverent behaviour at Rosmead on Good Friday. Since Easter scenes from King David's life have been shown, but it is sad to add that the results of the Scripture Examination on this section are so small. Over 100 copies of the new paper have been distributed in the various schools on the Northern, Midland and Eastern Sections, so it is much to be hoped that scholars and teachers alike will make more strenuous efforts in this important study during 1916. Remember King George and Lord Roberts as examples of daily Bible reading. Several kind friends have supplied us with copies of illustrated papers, magazines, etc., for which we are always grateful in the Irish sense, which hopes for the future as well as looking to the past. We would specially thank both the Rev. T. R. Anstey and Mrs. Homan, of De Aar, and the Librarian of Pearston.

M. JOSEPHINE BECKWITH.

June, 1916.

At Cookhouse services have been somewhat irregular. As Mrs. Lejeune will not be able to come and play the organ for the present, I have now to be there on service Sunday to supply the music. The Sunday School is progressing and children come regularly. Mrs. Wise was ill for some time, and Mr. Eve kindly kept things going while Annie Erasmus is also helping.

At ALICEDALE we were glad to welcome Mr. Case on June 4th after so long an illness and hope he may now be strong enough to continue our regular services, which have been much missed. The children's Red Cross Concert was held successfully on June 2nd, and £3 was made, half of which was at once forwarded to the S.A. Red Cross Society. The remainder has been kept to provide materials for hospital comforts. A large number of bags and handkerchiefs have also been sent in made by the children at various places, and knitted comforts from the older folks.

Floods prevented me from taking the coach up the George Line during May as I had intended. A week-end was spent at Klipplaat and places between there and Uitenhage were visited instead. This fitted in with the Bible
exams., and I was able to take them at two places. Sixteen children entered for it, and this number could easily be doubled if they would only keep up the readings regularly. I hope they will for next year.

P. Glasier.

DIOCESE OF PRETORIA.

Six months have made one feel quite at home in the Transvaal, and the welcome I have received has been more kind than can easily be expressed—at any rate by one not possessing the pen of a ready writer. When I came up it was all absolutely strange to me: now, as I say, I feel quite at home. A good number of Sunday Schools are going on well and I hope we shall get more started as time goes on. Only once have my arrangements clashed with Mr. Rossborough’s, when we both got out of the same train. But then Mr. Rossborough kindly said he would take my children’s class so that I could go on to another place, so it did not matter after all.

I have been delighted to receive one or two letters from my old section, and have a warm corner for old friends. It is always said that comparisons are odious, so I shall not think of comparing the Transvaal and the Colony, but certainly the scenery below Waterval Boven and on the low veld generally takes a great deal of beating. It is grandly beautiful. I am looking forward to the spring when the flowers will be out. I am told there are any amount of wild flowers to be seen. If this should meet the eye of anyone on the section who thinks a Sunday School class could well be started at their place I shall be glad if they will let me know, and I will try to arrange it.

G. E. Holmes.

DIOCESE OF BLOEMFONTEIN.

The distribution of Almanacs this quarter has given me an opportunity of finding out how much such things are appreciated and how much they were missed last year. Even those people who did not get them till June evidently thought it was a case of much “better late than never.”

I seem to have travelled a very great deal lately and to have had no time to stay anywhere, but such is Railway life.

I was again disappointed in the number of children who went in for the Bible Exam. in May. So many fall off at the last, and only seven in my section went in for it, where about 18 started to read last year. I must hope for better results next time, as a lot of boys and girls are starting now and seem very keen.

Doubtless in the Head’s letter we shall see the good news that he has found some new workers for the Mission. He tells us that we may hope that one of the new clergymen will give part of his time to the Free State, which will be a great help to many who are now far from any Church and out of reach of the Sacraments.

By the kindness of Archdeacon Weekes the people at Lindley Road are to have a Sunday service in July, but it is more than 18 months since they had English Church services there.

I have now got a list of 19 men and boys from my section who are fighting in German East or overseas and whose names we remember individually whenever we meet for prayer. I should be very glad if mothers and wives and friends would send in the names of others at the front of whom I may not have heard.

M. E. Watson.

Room 10, Board of Executors, Bloemfontein.
I notice that I nearly always begin my letter by announcing some change in my Sunday plans; it is a good comment on the ever shifting conditions of railway life! But one reason for this month's change is a very happy one. English Church services are to be held regularly the first Sunday in every month at Wolwehoek and Coalbrook; service is to be at 11 a.m. at Wolwehoek and 3 p.m. at Coalbrook, so I hope to have my Sunday Kindergarten at the former place at 10 o'clock punctually on Sunday morning and I shall go on to Coalbrook for service in the afternoon. No change is made in the second Sunday, when I am at Meyerton and Natal Spruit; but I am wondering if the numbers attending at Theunissen really warrant a regular monthly Sunday, while I am hoping to start a Sunday at Brandfort instead of at the Glen, where many of the children have left.

I know you will think I am constantly thinking and speaking to you of one thing, the importance of the religious teaching that is given to the child in its earliest days by its parents, especially by his mother, and I am going to finish this time by copying out for you a part of a letter, written by an Army chaplain; I saw it in one of the home papers and it made a deep impression on me. He writes: "It is the early influence which makes all the difference to the men, and this influence seems in some mysterious way to reassert itself at those moments when the men and boys are face to face with the stern realities of life and death. In the hearts of each of these men there is a shrine, and in that shrine there is the picture of the old home, the Parish Church, the mother, the prayers that mother taught them. Whenever a man is dying, it is always for his mother that he asks, and I think it is right that the mothers of England should be told this and that they should realise how, to a large extent, the spiritual future of our country is thus in their hands.'"

20th June, 1916.

C. MAUD HEDDY.

COLLECTIONS AT SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

Machadodorp, 5/-, 4/6, 3/4; Bronkhorstspruit, 1/3, 9d.

CHILDREN'S PAGE.

My dear Children,

Although this magazine is rather late I find that the examiner has not been able to send the results of the Bible examinations in time for it. So I am afraid many of you will be greatly disappointed not to see your names down yet. However, when I do get the lists I will manage to let those who have prizes and certificates know before the next magazine comes out.

I am very glad to be in your sunny country once more. In England you see hardly any men except soldiers and sailors. Women and girls and boys are doing the work that men are doing here, even quite hard work in the fields and on the farms: looking after the horses and cattle, ploughing, sowing, reaping and all sorts of things you would think they could not do. And they are doing it so well that everyone is surprised. In the towns there are not any men in the shops unless they are so old as to be too weak to work in the munition factories, so all the shops have girls who do everything, only just enough men being left to move the heavy cases about. On the railway girls do all the ticket-collecting and serve in the ticket offices as well as clean the carriages. Quite young boys, too, are working very hard in the munition factories and women and girls are there too, thousands of them, working at making shells and cartridges for our army and navy.

Then of course there are lots more women and girls, some poor and some
rich, working at the clothes for the wounded and all the bandages and all things needed for the hospitals. So you see that everyone is busy doing his or her bit for this great war.

We in South Africa have our soldiers to help, and I feel sure all of you are trying to do something. When the war is over, as we all hope it will soon be, you will be so happy to remember that you did what you could for the brave men who went into such terrible dangers to save our Empire from ruin and to protect Belgium and Serbia from the Germans. I spoke to some little Serbian boys who had been taken to England for safety. The bigger ones could talk French, and they told me that they had marched out of the parts of their own country which the Germans had destroyed and had been taken care of by their own priests and safely got to England. They said the English people were the kindest people in the world. It made me proud to be English to hear these poor little homeless boys speak so gratefully of what the English are doing to help them and their country.

There are lots of things I could tell you about that I know you would like to hear, but I must not say any more to-day. If any of you want at any time to know of any bit of work you can do to help, you have only to write and ask me and I will help you to do your little share. The best of it is that we can do something that does not want money to do it with, so those of us who are not able to give money can give something that may do just as much good and perhaps more. I am sure you all think, when you pray, of all who are in danger and join with all those thousands of people all over the Empire who every day pray that God will guard and guide the men who are fighting for all that is true and right.

Your friend,

THE EDITOR.

Guild of the Good Shepherd.

New Members.

Eric, Harry, Valerie and Beryl Barrett, Lindley Road; Myra and Christophel Loch, Lindley Road; Isabella, Philip and Stephen Marais, Lindley Road.

BAPTISMS.

DIOCESE OF GRAHAMSTOWN.

At Naauwpoort:

Sept. 19, 1915—Roger Charles Lear.


May 14, 1916—Verna Joyce Hitchcock.

At Hanover Road:

April 26, 1916—Caroline Stephen.

DIOCESE OF PRETORIA.

March

31—Fred Barlow, at Sundra.

Theunis Johannes Kraft, at Eloff.

Annie Gertie Dorothea Green, at Eloff.

April

11—Stephen Peter Fourie, at Nelspruit.

May

8—Donald Stanley Leman Scott, at Bronkhorstspruit.

13—Cecilia Emily St. Clair Buchan, at Machadodorp.


June

16—Edward George Smith, at White River.

18—Rusia Maria Pulvenis, at Nelspruit.

DIOCESES OF S. & N. RHODESIA.

March

29—Zacharias Johannes Martinus Watson, at Mayaluka.

Patrick Dan Hatchwell, at Mayaluka.

April

10—Frederick Biggs Cooper, at Kalomo.

23—Winifred Virginia Horner, at Lubambashi.

Margaret Horner, at Lubambashi.

May

30—Hazel Kathleen Wilde, at Chipongwe.

Feb.

27—Beatrice May Rabbetts, at West Nicholson.

May

1—Annie Busby, at Tshontanda.

22—James Albert Will, at Sandown.

Gladys Will, at Sandown.
LIGHT FOR THE LINE.

DIocese of Kimberley.

March
29—Andrew John Smith, at Macloutsi.
30—Lena van Wyk, at Seribi.
Clara Shoefly, at Seribi.
May
7—Jacobus Johannes Lottering, at Mahalapye.

S.W.A. Protectorate.

April 7, at Usakos:
Hector Louis Cruse.
Richard Agnew Jones.
May 4, at Omaruru:
Maurice Woolf.
May 28, at Windhuk:
Edna Lorrie Bentley.

Holy Matrimony.

May 11, at Serulii: Jacob van Wyk and Maria Shoefly.
June 9, at Argent: James Alexander Shaw to Elsie Helen Williams.
June 13, at Nelspruit: Adrian Jacobus Kraftt to Jacoba Elizabeth de Klerk.

Burials.

At Windhuk, March 21: William Franz Growdon, aged 9 years.
At Windhuk, March 23: Ethel Margaret Tement, aged 15 months.

May they rest in peace, and may everlasting light shine upon them.

Collections and Donations.

Diocese of S. Rhodesia.

Feb.—West Nicholson, £1/11/3.
March.—Francistown, £2/2/6; Nyamandlovu, 6/-; Figtree, £1/9/-.
April.—Plumtree, £1/16/6; Fred Mine, £2/8/6; Balla-Balla, 9/-; Essewale, 10/6; Gwanda, 16/-; West Nicholson, £1/10/9; Plumtree, £4/3/3; Figtree, 18/3; Essewale, 12/-; Wankie, £1/7/9.
May.—Francistown, £2/2/6; Figtree, 5/-; Sandown, 19/9; Leithwoods, 1/6; Matoppos, 18/9; Essewale, 11/3.
June.—Plumtree, £1/1/9; Gwanda, £1/5/9; Fred Mine, £2/5/9; Balla-Balla, 9/6; Bush Tic Siding, 7/-; West Nicholson, 9/3; Colleen Bawn, 7/6; Intabendenye, 17/6; Bush Tic Mine, 17/-; Gwanda, 1/-.
Donations and Sustentation Fund, £15/5/6.

DIOCESE OF KIMBERLEY.

March.—Mahalapye, £2/4/9.
May.—Mahalapye, 15/3.

Diocese of N. Rhodesia.

Kalomo, £2/16/6; Ndolo, 11/-; Kwela, £1/3/6; Congo, £7/2/6; Broken Hill, £8/5/6; Lusaka, £2/19/-; Kaf, £3/0/6; Mayabuka, £2/17/-; Pemba, 11/9; Chilanga, 7/-; Wankie, £4/18/6.

DIOCESE OF PRETORIA.

From March 19 to June 25.—Bronkhorstspruit, £3/0/3; Waterval Boven, £5/18/-; Malelane, £1/4/9; Kaapmuiden, 7/-; Delmas, £2/6/10; Kinross, £1/18/9; Machado, £1/10/10; Nelspruit, £1/3/11; Tsumeb, £4/8/-; Komatipoort, £1/7/6; Rayton, £1/8/7; Elands River, 12/9; Duivels Kloof, 18/3; Tzanne, 10/6; Hatherly, £1/10/-; Dalmanutha, 8/6; Elandshoek, 12/6; Pan, 8/3; Wonderfonteine, 6/-; Silverton, 17/2; Akkaar, 7/-; Argent, 13/6.

Collections total ... ... £31 19 1
Offerings ... ... ... 9 7 6

Grand total ... ... £41 6 7

S.W.A. Protectorate.

Offertories and Donations, February 29 to June 16.—Tses, 7/9; Windhuk, 5/-, £1/8/3, £2/2/8, £4/7/2, £1, £2/0/4; Usakos, 19/4, 3/9, 7/6, 7/-; Swakopmund, £1/4/9; Walvis, 4/6; Karibib, £1/4/8, £1/5/-, 19/2; Okohandja, £1/4/11; Omaruru, 9/7; Otavi, £1/16/6; Grootfontein, £1/12/10; Tsumeb, 9/1; Kalkveld, 7/3; Otjwaraong, 12/-; Kalkrand, £1, 5/-; Kettenshoop, £3.

Light for the Line.

Subscriptions, 2/- per annum, 2/6 post free, can be paid to the Editor or to any of the Mission Staff or Local Agents.

Subscribers are requested to notify any change of address.

Local Agents are asked to send names and new addresses of any removals from their list, or change in numbers required, to the Editor, The Hermitage, Grahamstown, also to apply at once to the Editor if the Magazines do not reach them duly.

Members of the Staff are asked to send in to the Editor, every quarter, names of new members of Guild of Good Shepherd, Mothers' Union, and G.F.S. for insertion in Light for the Line.
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Craddock—Mrs. Judd.
Port Elizabeth—Miss Hannam, Sundridge, Park Drive.
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Middleton—Mr. Wadmore.

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Platrand—Mrs. Gill.
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Bloemfontein—Miss Howell, S. Michael's School; Mrs. Martin.
INTERCESSIONS.

Your prayers are asked:—
That God will guide those who are responsible for the future of the Railway Mission.

For past and present members of our staff who offered their services in the war:—Eustace Hill, chaplain in German S.W. Africa; George Knapp Fisher, chaplain to H.M.S. Chatham; Arthur Austin.

Prayer in Time of War.

O most mighty God and merciful Father, Whose never-failing Providence ordereth all things both in Heaven and earth, we Thy humble servants commend to Thy Fatherly care all who are at this time engaged in warfare. Let Thy holy angels succour and defend our soldiers and sailors. Watch over and comfort all who are near and dear to us. Have pity on the sick, the wounded, and the dying. Guide and direct the Government of our country. Give success to our arms; and grant in Thy own good time, that peace may be established on a firm and righteous foundation, for Thy glory and the furtherance of Thy kingdom; through Jesus Christ, our Mediator and Advocate. Amen.

(Ap of St. Andrew's.)

A Prayer for Schools in this Time of War.

O God our Father in heaven, strong and full of love to all, we Thy children pray Thee to bless our country in this sad time of war. Watch over all those who have gone away from us to fight in our country's cause, especially the father or the brother of any of us, or of other children like ourselves. Keep them safe, if it be Thy will, in all times of danger, and bring them home again to us in peace. Be with all the wounded and the sick, and ease their pain. Take care of us also, who stay behind in this quiet land. Thou hast something for us to do; help us to do it. Give us grace to be good and unselfish and loving, that we may cheer those about us who are anxious or unhappy. Look down in mercy upon those who are now fighting against us. And soon, if it please Thee, make glad all the whole world with Thy blessing of peace; for Jesus Christ our Saviour's sake. Amen.

O God, who lookest down in thy fatherly love upon the nations of the earth, assuage the pains of warfare, restore the sick and wounded, relieve those that are in anxiety, comfort the bereaved, and in Thy mercy forgive the sins of all, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.
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