BULGARIA

MISSION

CONFERENCE

8th Session
1899
THE MINUTES
OF THE
EIGHTH SESSION
OF THE
Bulgaria
Mission Conference
OF THE
METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH,
HELD AT
Rustchuck, Bulgaria, May 11th to 16th 1899.
ORGANIZED SEPT. 8, 1892.

PRESS "POBENA"
Rustchuck, Bulgaria.
1899.
CONFERENCE OFFICERS.

President:
BISHOP JOHN M. WALDEN.

Secretary:
STEPHEN THOMOFF, RUSTCHUCK.

Assistant Secretary:
Pavel Todoroff, TIRNOVO.

Statistical Secretary:
Krusto G. Palamidoff, Pleven.

Assistant Statistical Secretary:
Peter Vasileff.

Treasurer:
Mission Treasurer.
CONFERENCE SOCIETIES.

Epworth League:

President: Stephen Thomoff.

Secretary: Peter Vasileff.

Woman's Foreign Missionary Society:

President: Dobra K. Delcheff.

Vice-President: Eugene P. Todoroff.

Corresponding Sec.: Mrs. Chetvertakoff

Treasurer: Kate B. Blackburn.

COMMITTEES FOR 1900.

Trustees to Act on Property Matters: Trico Constantine, M. D. Delcheff, Stephen Getchoff, Peter Vasileff, Ivan Todoroff.

Committee on Publications: Trico Constantine, Stephen Thomoff, Ivan Todoroff.
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THE JOURNAL.

FIRST DAY.

Rustchuck, Wednesdey, May 10, 1899.

Opening. — The Eighth Annual Meeting of the Bulgaria Mission Conference was opened on Wednesday, May 10, 1899, in the Methodist Episcopal Church of Rustchuck at 9 o'clock a.m. Bishop John M. Walden D.D., LL.D., presiding. Bishop Walden administered the Lord's Supper, assisted by the Presiding Elders.

Roll Call. — Stephen Thomoff, Secretary of the last Conference, called the roll and the following members answered to their names: —


Bishop's Address. — The Bishop briefly addressed the Conference.

Secretary. — On motion of K. G. Palamidoff, Stephen Thomoff was re-elected Conference Secretary.

Statistical Secretary. — On motion of Trico Constantine, K. G. Palamidoff was re-elected Statistical Secretary.

Conference Treasurer. — On motion of Ivan Todoroff, Trico Constantine was elected Conference Treasurer.


Committee on Standing Committees. — On motion of Ivan Todoroff, it was ordered that the Presiding Elders constitute the Committee on Standing Committees, and with them be associated two other preachers, this Committee to report at the afternoon session.
Resolution. — Stephen Thomoff read the following resolution which was adopted by a rising vote: —

Resolved that as a conference we welcome with great joy for the third time our beloved Bishop John M. Walden. That we feel confident his warm interest in the cause of God's work in our Mission will further the advancement of God's work in the Mission and the winning of many souls for Christ.

Interpreter. — On motion of Ivan Dimitroff, Trico Constantine was re-elected official interpreter.

Book Concern Dividend. — On motion of K. G. Palamidoff, the cheque of the Methodist Book Concern for eighty one dollars was ordered and referred to the Treasurer.

Hours of Session. — On motion of Ivan Todoroff, it was ordered that the Conference open at 8.30 a.m., and adjourn at 12 m., the first half hour to be devoted to devotional exercises.

Communication from the A. B. C. F. M. — Stephen Thomoff read a communication from the Secretary of the A. B. C. F. M. south of the Balkans, inviting the presiding Bishop and a delegate from our Mission to attend their coming Annual Meeting beginning on Thursday, July 6th, 1899.

Rev. J. W. Baird's Address. — The Rev. J. W. Baird was requested to address the Conference. He spoke of the work of the A. B. C. F. M. south of Balkans and in Macedonia.

XIII. Question. — Was the Character of Each Preacher Examined? taken up.

The character of M. D. Delcheff, Presiding Elder of the Lovetch District was passed, and he read his report (see Reports).

The character of Trico Constantine, Presiding Elder of the Rustchuck District, was also passed and he read his report (see Reports).

Committee of Standing Committees. — On motion of M. D. Delcheff, Stephen Thomoff and K. G. Palamidoff, were associated with the Presiding Elders on the Committee of Standing Committees.

Adjournment. — On of motion K. G. Palamidoff it was or-
considered that when we adjourn it be to meet at 3 o'clock in the afternoon. Conference adjourned and the benediction was pronounced by Bishop Walden.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Opening. — The devotional exercises were conducted by M. D. Delcheff.

Standing Committees. — The chair stated that he noticed the Standing Committees were nominated last year and would, therefore, be read as they stood in last year's Minutes:

2. Education. — Stephen Thomoff, Pavel Todoroff.
3. Epworth League and Sunday Schools — Stephen Thomoff, M. D. Delcheff.
5. Sabbath Observance. — Trico Constantine, Peter Vasileff.

Motion. — On motion of Stephen Thomoff, Kate B. Blackburn was added to the Committee on W. F. M. Society.

XIII. Was the Character of Each Preacher Examined? — continued. The character of the following members was passed and they made their reports: Stephen Getchoff, Bancho Todoroff, Peter Tikcheff, Peter Vasileff.

Adjournment. — On motion of Stephen Thomoff, Conference adjourned, the announcements were read and the benediction was pronounced by Bishop Walden.

SECOND DAY.

Thursday, May 11, 1899.

Opening. — The devotional exercises conducted by Peter Vasileff.
Minutes. — The journal of the first morning session was read, corrected and approved.

Conference Bar. — On motion of Trico Constantine it was ordered that the first four seats on one side, and the first three on the other constitute the bar of the Conference.

XIII Question. — Was the Character of each Preacher Examined? continued.

The character of the following members was passed:


W. F. M. So.—Kate E. Blackburn, principal of the Lovetch Girl’s School, read her report. (See Reports).


Adjournment. — Conference adjourned by expiration of time.
The announcements were read and the benediction was pronounced by Bishop Walden.

THIRD DAY.

Friday, May 12, 1899.

Opening. — The devotional exercises were conducted by Stephen Getchoff.

Minutes. — The journal of preceding session was read and approved.

XXIII Question. — Who are the Superannuated Preachers? taken up. Gabriel Elieff. The Secretary read a communication from Gabriel Elieff greeting the brethren of the Conference and giving a brief history of his life since his conversion. The Secretary also read a written report of his work in Sevlievo during the Conference year. On motion of M. D. Delcheff, Gabriel Elieff was continued in the same relation, and on motion of Trico Constantine, the Secretary was requested to convey to Gabriel Elieff the sympathy and respect of the Conference.

X Question. — What Members have Completed the Conference.
MISSION CONFERENCE.

Course of Study taken up. Anastas P. Meshkoff. His character was passed and he made his report. The Board of Examiners reported favorably in his studies, and on motion of Trico Constantine, he was elected to Elder’s Orders.

Adjournment. — On motion of Ivan Todoroff, it was ordered that when we adjourn it be to meet at 3 o’clock p.m. for an executive session.

Rev. J. W. Baird — The chair requested the Rev. J. W. Baird, the fraternal delegate of the A. B. C. F. M., to speak on the work in Macedonia in connection with the putting up by the people themselves of Meeting houses.

Report. — The report of the Committee on Temperance was read and adopted. (See Reports).

Bible Woman. — The Bible woman read her report.

Report. — The report of the Committee on the W. F. M. So. was read and adopted.

Conference adjourned and the benediction was pronounced by Bishop Walden.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Opening. — Devotional exercises conducted by Ivan Todoroff.

XXII Question. — Who are the Supernumerary Preachers? taken up. J. I. Economoff. The Secretary read a communication from J. I. Economoff giving the reason for his inability to attend Conference and stating that his voice was getting better, and he hoped it would be quite well by next year.

On motion of Trico Constantine, J. I. Economoff was continued in the same relation.

The chair then spoke of matters relating to the advancement of the work in the Mission and some of the preachers freely gave their views.

Adjournment. — On motion of K. G. Palamidoff, Conference adjourned, the announcements were made and the benediction was pronounced by Bishop Walden.
FOURTH DAY.

Saturday, May 13, 1899.

Opening.—Devotional exercises conducted by Bancho Todoroff.

Minutes.—The journal of the preceding session was read and approved.

Book Concern Dividend.—On motion of Ivan Todoroff, it was ordered that the Book Concern Dividend be appropriated for the support of our Superannuated Preacher, Gabriel Elieff.

Rev. K. G. Palamidoff.—The Rev. K. G. Palamidoff requested that he be given a supernumerary relation. On motion of M. D. Delcheff, he was given a supernumerary relation with appointment.

XXX Question.—Where Shall the Next Conference be Held?
taken up. Rustchuck was selected.

Report.—The report of the Statistical Secretary was read and adopted. (See Reports).

General Conference Assessment.—The chair stated he had received a communication from the Secretary of the General Conference stating that our Conference was assessed 4.00 Dols. for General Conference Expenses. On motion of M. D. Delcheff the Presiding Elders were authorized to apportion this amount to the several charges together with the benevolences.

Apportionments.—On motion of Stephen Thomoff the Presiding Elders were authorized to make the apportionments for benevolences for the several charges of the Mission.

Report.—The report of the Committee on Education was read, amended and adopted. (See Reports).

Adjournment.—On motion of K. G. Palamidoff, Conference adjourned, the announcements were made and the benediction was pronounced by Bishop Walden.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Opening.—Devotional exercises conducted by Anastas P. Meshkoff.

Report.—The report of the Committee on Christian Literature was read amended and adopted. (See Reports).
MISSION CONFERENCE.

Rev. J. A. Tonjoroff. — The Secretary read a communication from the Rev. J. A. Tonjoroff of Philippopolis wishing the Conference prosperity and success.

Motion. — On motion of Stephen Thomoff, it was ordered that when we adjourn it to be meet at 8 o'clock for an evening session.

EXECUTIVE SESSION.

Conference went into an Executive Session.
The subject of what ought to be done for the advancement of the work in the Mission was resumed, the preachers who had not spoken, giving their views on it.

Fraternal Delegate. — Trico Constantine was elected by ballot Fraternal delegate to the Annual Meeting of the A.B.C.F.M. to be held at Samokov, beginning August 6-th of this year, and Stephen Thomoff, Alternate.

Adjournment. — Conference adjourned, the announcements were made and the benediction was pronounced by Bishop Walden.

EVENING SESSION.

Opening. — Devotional exercises conducted by Ivan Dimitroff.
Minutes. — The journal of the preceding morning and afternoon session was read and approved.

Report. — The report of the Committee on Epworth League and Sunday Schools was read and adopted. (See Reports).

Committee on Resolutions. — On motion of Ivan Todoroff, M. D. Delcheff and K. G. Palamidoff were appointed Committee on Resolutions.

Reports. — The reports of the committees on Sabbath Observance and State of the Work were read, amended and adopted.

Treasurer's Report. — The Treasurer read his report which was adopted. (See Reports).

Conference Epworth League. — On motion of K. G. Palami-
doff, Stephen Thomoff was elected President of the Conference Epworth League, and Peter Vasileff, Secretary.

Committee on Publication of Minutes. — On motion of Ivan Todoroff, the Secretary and the Treasurer of the Mission were appointed a committee on the publication of the minutes in English.

Committee to Nominate Standing Committees. — On motion of Peter Vasileff, the Presiding Elders were authorised to nominate the Standing Committees for the ensuing year.

Committees. — The chair announced the following committees:

Trustees, to act on Property Matters in interval of Conference: Trico Constantine, M. D. Delcheff, Stephen Getchoff, Peter Vasileff, Ivan Todoroff.

Committee on Publications: Trico Constantine, Stephen Thomoff, Ivan Todoroff.

Official Record. — On motion of Trico Constantine, it was ordered that when the journal is read, it constitute the Official Minutes of the Conference.

Motion. — On motion of Ivan Todoroff, the Secretary was authorized to acknowledge Rev. J. A. Tonjoroff’s letter to the Conference.

Resolutions. — Stephen Thomoff read the following resolution which was adopted by a rising vote:

Resolved that we, the members of the Bulgaria Mission Conference, do hereby express our heartfelt thanks to Bishop John M. Walden for his great interest in the advancement of God’s work in the Mission, and especially for the pains he has taken in recommending such measures as will bring about greater results than have hitherto been realised, and thus place the Mission on a firm foundation. That we wish him godspeed in his further visitations to the European Conferences, and a safe return to his native country where God’s abundant blessing may ever abide upon his labors.

M. D. Delcheff read the following resolution which was also adopted by a rising vote:

Resolved that the visit to our Mission Conference of the Rev.
J. W. Baird, Fraternal Delegate from the A. B. C. F. M., south of the Balkans, has given us the greatest pleasure. We appreciate his fraternal message and rejoice over the measure of success which the Mission he represents, is enjoying.

**Minutes.** — The journal was read and approved.

**Adjournment.** — On motion of Trico Constantine, it was ordered that on the reading of the Appointments Conference stand adjourned sine die. The announcements for the Sunday services were read and the benediction pronounced by Bishop Walden.

**SUNDAY, May 14-th, 1899.**

The Sunday services in connection with Conference were highly edifying. The love feast held from 9 to 10 a.m. was a season of great spiritual profit. More than 15 testimonies were given. Bishop Walden then preached to a full house from 2 Cor. 13:5, "Try yourselves whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves." His sermon was translated into Bulgarian sentence by sentence by the official interpreter. The sermon was followed by the ordination service in which Anastas P. Meshkoff was ordained Elder.


The Bishop then briefly addressed the Conference and read the Appointments (See Appointments). Conference adjourned and the benediction was pronounced by J. W. Baird.

The foregoing, a correct record of the Bulgaria Mission Conference, was made the official record.

**JOHN M. WALDEN,**

President.

**STEPHEN THOMOFF,**

Secretary.
CERTIFICATE OF ORDNATION.

This certifies that on May 14-th, 1899, in Rustchuck, Bulgaria, I, assisted by a number of Elders, did ordain Anastas P. Meshkoff as an Elder in the Methodist Episcopal Church.

Given under my hand this fifteenth day of May, A. D. 1899.

John M. Walden.
DISCIPLINARY QUESTIONS.

1. Who have been Received by Transfer and from what Conferences?
   None.

2. Who have been Readmitted?
   None.

3. Who have been Received on Credentials, and from what Churches?
   None.

4. Who have been Received on Trial?
   (a) In Studies of First Year.
      None.
   (b) In Studies of Second Year.
      None.

5. Who have been Continued on Trial?
   (a) In Studies of First Year.
      None.
   (b) In Studies of Second Year.
      None.
   (c) In Studies of Third Year.
      None.

6. Who have been Discontinued?
   None.

7. Who have been Admitted into Full Membership?
   (a) Elected and Ordained Deacons this Year.
      None.
   (b) Elected and Ordained previously.
      None.

8. What Members are in Studies of Third Year?
   (a) Admitted into Full Membership this Year.
      None.
   (b) Admitted into Full Membership previously.
      None.

9. What Members are in Studies of Fourth Year?
   None.
10. What Members have completed the Conference Course of Study?
   (a) Elected and Ordained Elders this Year.
       Anastas P. Meshkoff.
   (b) Elected and Ordained Elders previously.
       None.

11. What others have been Elected and Ordained Deacons?
   (a) As Local Preachers.
       None.
   (b) Under Missionary Rule.
       None.

12. What others have been Elected and Ordained Elders?
   (a) As Local Deacons.
       None.
   (b) Under Missionary Rule.
       None.

13. Was the Character of each Preacher Examined?
    This was strictly done in open Conference.

14. Who have been Transferred and to what Conferences?
    None.

15. Who have Died?
    None.

16. Who have been Located at their own request?
    None.

17. Who have been Located?
    None.

18. Who have Withdrawn?
    None.

19. Who have been permitted to Withdraw under Charges or Complaints?
    None.

20. Who have been Expelled?
    None.

21. What other Personal Notation should be made?
    None.

22. Who are the Supernumerary Preachers?
    J. I. Economof, K. G. Palamidoff with appointment.

23. Who are the Superannuated Preachers?
    Gabriel Elieff.

24. Who are Triers of Appeals?
    Cases Tried in New York.
25. What is the Statistical Report for this Year?
   (See Tabulated Statement).
26. What is the aggregate of the Benevolent Collections ordered by the General Conference as reported by the Conference Treasurer?
   117.20 Dollars.
27. What are the Claims on the Conference Fund?
   182.88 Dollars.
28. What has been received on these Claims, and how has it been Applied?
   81 Dollars from Dividend Book Concern allowed to Gabriel Elieff.
29. Where are the Preachers Stationed?
   See Appointments.
30. Where shall the next Conference be held?
   Rustchuck.
APPOINTMENTS—1899—1900.

LOVETCH DISTRICT.
M. D. Delcheff. P. E. (Lovetch) 3rd year.

Lovetch ............... M. D. Delcheff .... E .... 4
Orchania ............... To be supplied
Pleven ............... K. G. Palamidoff (Supernum.) E .... 1
   Circuit ............, Bancho Todoroff .... E .... 3
Sevlievo and Gabrovo .. A. P. Meshkoff .... E .... 1
Tirnovo Circuit ........ Pavel Todoroff .... E .... 1

Kate B. Blackburn, Principal; Lydia A. Diem, Assistant Principal Girl’s School (W. F. M. Society), Lovetch.

RUSTCHUCK DISTRICT.
Trico Constantine, P. E. (Rustchuck) 4th year.

Lompalanca .......... Peter Vasileff ........ E .... 5
Rustchuck and Hotantsa
   { Stephen Thomoff .... E .... 1
   { Peter Tikcheff ........ E .... 1
Shumen ............... Stephen Getchoff .... E .... 1
Silistria and Tutrakan .. Ivan Dimitroff ........ E .... 4
Sistov Circuit ......... Z. G. Dimitroff ........ E .... 4
Varna Circuit ......... Ivan Todoroff ........ E .... 4

Director of Publications, Trico Constantine, Editor of Mission Publications, Stephen Thomoff.
MISSION CONFERENCE.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES.

CHRISTIAN LITERATURE.

Your Committee would recommend the following:

1. That the Committee on Publications be requested to make great efforts to improve the Christian World, and the Presiding Elders be requested towards the close of this year to take the vote of each preacher in their district as to whether the Christian World ought to be continued or not.

2. That two good books for young people be translated and published next year.

EDUCATION.

Your Committee, being deeply convinced, that for the growth of God's work in our Mission it is absolutely necessary that the number of preachers increase from year to year, would recommend the following:

1. That our pastors recommend all pious and able young men who feel called of God to preach the Gospel to take the course of the Literary and Theological School of Samokov in the Mission, south of the Balkans. All needy students from our Mission to be admitted in that school on the same terms as needy students from the Mission, south of the Balkans, so far as giving them work in the School is concerned.

2. That a small sum be granted by the Board in America for the support in the Samokov School of poor but worthy theological students from our Mission, and the pastors be requested to take in their respective charges the collection for Education, which collection is to be used for the same object.

3. In view of the fraternal relations between our Mission and the A. B. C. F. M. Mission, south of the Balkans, and in view of the fact that it is highly desirable the two Missions should coope-
rate in all matters relating to the advancement of the good work in both Missions, your Committee would recommend that the Missionary authorities of our church take into serious consideration the question of appointing and supporting in the Samokov School a capable teacher from our Mission, provided arrangements can be made with the Mission, south of the Balkans. Your Committee is convinced that should the above recommendation take effect the number of theological students from our Mission will increase every year.

4. Your Committee rejoicing in the good work done in our Mission by the W. F. M. So., would recommend that the said society take the necessary steps to open Girls schools in the other points of the Mission, especially in Rustchuck.

EPWORTH LEAGUE AND SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

1. In view of the fact that the young people are a mighty power in every church, and that wherever they have been organized in E. L. Chapters they have been the means of doing great good, your Committee, while deeply regretting that some of the principal charges in the Mission are still without this mighty agency, would recommend that E. L. Chapters be organized in all charges in our Mission where there is a sufficient number of young men.

2. In regard to Sunday Schools, your Committee would emphasize the recommendations of last year and would further recommend that the pastors take steps to found S. S. libraries in the principal charges of the Mission. Your committee is glad to state that the Rustchuck and Lovetch S. Schools are already provided each with a library.

SABBATH OBSERVANCE.

Your committee would recommend:

1. That all our pastors insist strongly on the proper obser-
vance of the Christian Sabbath, and that they themselves set the best example to their people in that matter.

2. In order to the better observance of the Christian Sabbath on the part of the laymen, your committee would recommend that the pastors preach often on the observance of the Lord's Day explaining in their sermons the significance and design of the day.

STATE OF THE WORK.

Your committee would recommend the following:

1. That the necessary measures be taken to buy a place in Lompalanca and build a house of worship thereon, since it is greatly needed.

2. That, since the brethren in Hibelee have bought a place, if possible, they be helped with some money for the putting up of a church building.

3. That the Bulgaria Mission Conference request the Missionary Board to buy the parsonage in Shumen, and the money be given into the hands of the Trustees acting on property matters in the mission, that they may help those places where there is a need of getting church property.

4. That in view of the great need of a place of worship in Dobritch, a room be hired for that purpose. The brethren there desire that the preacher who is to visit them should know the Turkish language.

5. That the Missionary authorities be requested to increase the budget in order that the work may be extended among the Turks within the boundaries of our Mission.

TEMPERANCE.

Your committee having in view the economical crisis of our nation and the moral ruin resulting from the use of strong drink, would recommend the following:
1. That as much as possible all our preachers write or translate good articles on temperance and publish them in our paper, "The Christian World," or in "Home Friend."

2. That the pastors scatter temperance tracts among the people and their own parishioners.

3. That each pastor preach, during the coming year, a special sermon on temperance.

W. F. M. SOCIETY.

Your committee recommend the following:

1. That any pastor desiring the services of a Bible woman in his charge, make the desire known by communicating with K. B. Blackburn, treasurer of the W. F. M. S.

2. That every pastor and his wife urge the importance of the women being organized for more systematic and effective work among their sisters.

3. That the pastors visit all orthodox families in their charges in which is found a member who has been a pupil in the Lовetch Girls' School.
The following is the report of the Committee on Apportionments for 1899-1900.

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REPORTS OF THE PRESIDING ELDERS.

REPORT OF THE PRESIDING ELDER OF THE LOVETCH DISTRICT.

All work in life, no matter how small and insignificant it may seem in the eyes of the world, that it may come to a successful and prosperous end, requires that the worker himself put all possible endeavor and constant activity, not counting dear his time, his labor or whatsoever personal good, having always in view the briefness of human life and the end of all his actions. "Work while the day lasts, for the night cometh when no man can work," was the injunction of the model Preacher of righteousness and peace, "Who came not to be ministered unto, but to minister." It is quite probable that to day's opportunity may never again come before the worker. Is not the work of the Evangelical pastor still more important and more serious? His work must leave some impression on the immortal souls of all who either directly or indirectly come under his influence. The work of the preacher is a work for eternity and with this fact in view his activity should be greater and more energetic. To day he prays, reasons, plans, acts, works, for to-morrow he expects, hopes, longs for success of some kind, but has he no right? The Evangelical cause which is in our hands is the cause of Christ. Once being assured of this, we, the preachers of the Gospel, ought to arm ourselves with the "sword of the spirit which is the Word of God," having our "feet shod with the preparation of the Gospel of peace." With this aim in view, we parted here last year and each and every one went to his post of duty without fear and trembling to proclaim the precepts of the Lord. I trust and fully believe that the brethren of the Lovetch District have felt deeply the importance of the cause which has been entrusted to them during this past Conference year.
Lovetch District includes eight cities, 212 villages, with 318,631 inhabitants, and has only five preachers, two churches and three other places for public worship. At the beginning of the Conference year, we had planned to hold special meetings, at least in two stations where we have preaching places in order to quicken the spiritual life of the church members and draw more souls into the way of the truth; but for reasons not of our own-selves, our hope could not be realized for all the stations. The pastors, however, in their reports will tell us of the work done in their charges and of its success during the year.

Lovetch. — The Word of God in this place, where many of you have preached, also others who have finished their earthly toil, still others who have entered upon more hopeful fields of labor, has not been fruitless. We all have reasons to be glad knowing that the untiring efforts and toils of all former workers have been crowned with some success; but the signs for the future are still more hopeful. For three weeks, including the week of prayer, in this place were held special meetings of a revival character. Very good interest was shown from the very beginning not only from the church members, but from the attendants who were not ashamed with Bible and hymn book in hand to come regularly to the services and to search the Scriptures. The enemy, however, was not asleep but worked mightily to spoil the spirit of the meetings and with all possible means to draw from the meetings the attention of all who seemed interested. Some of our young members still suffer severe and fierce persecutions, but they have had grace from on high to stand firm and steadfast in the confession of their faith. I could not but record here the deep interest which the local Epworth League Chapter has taken in the work of the church. Its young members by their lives and deeds have tried to carry out its motto, "Look up, Lift up." The hope of our nation as well as of the church of Christ is centred on the young people of Bulgaria. And is it not time that we, the preachers of the cross, begin seriously to work for the upbuilding of a higher moral and spiritual character in the young people. The work of the W. F. M.
Society of the church has been a noble work this Conference year. Their example, their deep interest, and their self denial is worthy to be imitated by the sisters of our other churches in the Mission. Our Girls' School of whose success and prosperity we shall have the pleasure of hearing from its Principal, has been the strong support of the work among the women. The more it is bettered in every respect in the future the wider will its influence be felt.

As was said before, the enemy has put on his armour and continues to threaten the truth, but we know that the Word of God cannot be tied; therefore our hope for the future is brighter and clearer.

Orchaania. — Though we cannot glory in anything extraordinary, still the Word has been preached many times with boldness and the inhabitants of this place could not in the great day deny that they had not heard the preached word. They look up with respect to the work of the Gospel and its representatives, though their voice has many times been only a "voice crying." The pastor, Bro. Meshkoff, has visited one of the villages and has had opportunity to preach "in season and out of season." My personal opinion and my recommendation to the Conference is to keep this place, but to take good measures for more aggressive work for the future.

Pleven. — Pleven with the neighboring villages comprises quite a wealthy population. Some of its larger villages have a wideawake population. One day, in the week, market day, Pleven draws multitudes of people which gives the pastor a chance to work not only among the people of the town, but also among those who come from outside by selling Bibles and books. In this place also there are some young people who are attending the preaching of the Gospel regularly and the pastor hopes that the time is not very far off, when they will offer to be taken on probation in the church. The seed which in so many different ways has been sown here, one believes is gradually but effectually working into the hearts of the people. On account of the railroad, and the town being a centre of grain product, this city
will in time become a central place in the Lovech District. But let us not forget that the pastor here is holding religious services not in a building dedicated for that purpose. He welcomes his hearers in a private house. The need of a suitable place is greatly felt. Whoever the worker for the future might be, he could not invite people to his services and then not have room to accommodate them.

Pleven Circuit comprises several villages, of which the village of Dubnik is the central village. So far the services have been held in the private dwelling of one of the Russian Stundists who was driven out of Russia. The influence of that godly man is felt not only among the Protestants but also among the Orthodox neighbors. He has gladly opened his home to Bro. Todoroff to hold religious services, but it is only a private dwelling. We need greatly a room set apart for preaching, the cost of which will not be so very great and the friends are ready to help all they can. The pastor, Bro. Todoroff, will report more fully of the work there.

Sevlievo, as you all know has not been under the special charge of any one brother; but our good old faithful "father" and pioneer worker of the Mission, Bro. G. Elieff, in spite of his advanced years and feeble health has held regular services during the year, and seems as hopeful as ever, if not more so. During my last quarterly visit there, I noticed some very encouraging signs for a still better work in this place. The service begins at three p.m. but before the hour for service comes, there are outside in the yard just as many people as there are inside. The old sister, Mrs. Elieff, stays and sings with them before the hour of service. Surely it is not the melodious voice of the singers that gathers this attentive people, but an inward conviction and a desire to hear the pure Gospel preached in a plain and understanding manner. May this Conference, while it plans carefully for the advancement of Christ's cause in Bulgaria make some provision for this now so hopeful place in the Mission, and express its sympathy also toward Bro. Elieff, who has been in very trying circumstances this year because of the meagre salary he gets.
Tirnovo. — Our church in this charge has indeed been a lighthouse on the rocky shore. The pastor with his special way of working has succeeded to exert an influence on the higher and more intelligent class of the people. The young and energetic members of the church have successfully worked in harmony with their pastor and such an influence has been felt on the Tirnovo Society. The church has found its shepherd and the shepherd its flock. The church edifice has been well filled during the year. In the future when the city is connected by a railroad with the other important cities of the Principality, there will, no doubt, be many people of strong evangelical convictions who will be the strong pillars of the young church, thus proving it to be "a light set on high." We feel sorry that Gorna Oriaichovitza could not be occupied this year. Toward the close of the year there was granted a small sum of money, but it not sufficient to meet at least half of the expenses, the Pastor and the Presiding Elder thought best not to begin before Conference. Bro. Palamidoff, the pastor, is fully convinced that Tirnovo with Gorna Oriahovitza is one of the most hopeful stations in our Mission. We rejoice with him and may the banner of the Lord wave high over the famous ruins of the ancient glory of the Bulgarian nation, not only politically but religiously.

Brethren and coworkers, from what has been said, I believe you feel that the work of Christ is developing and widening its influence in most of the charges of this district and that before the preachers there lies important work to be accomplished for Christ during the coming Conference year.

At the close allow me to express to the brethren of the Lovetch District my thanks for their kind sympathy to me and my work during my quarterly visits to their charges. I desire also to assure them of my sincere prayers and good wishes for their and our "abounding in the work of the Lord."

Respectfully submitted,

M. D. DELCHEFF,
Presiding Elder of Lovetch District.
RUSTCHUCK DISTRICT.

In the order of time and in accordance with the laws and usages of the Methodist Episcopal Church, we are called together to give an account of the work we have been doing during the past year. This we propose to do in the brief time we are allowed to occupy.

Hotantsa, the only village station in which a pastor lives, has five Methodist families, four or five Baptist families, and two Lutheran families. All these three denominations worship in our humble chapel. They also furnish in the main the pupils for our Primary School which is supported by the W. F. M. Society of the M. E. Church and is superintended by its representative, Miss Kate B. Blackburn. I am sorry to say that those who send their children to our school by preference do not contribute anything by way of tuition for the education of their children. But as education is obligatory in the Principality and all are taxed for this purpose it may be questionable whether they can afford to contribute toward maintaining two schools in the same village. However, a little more tact and persistent effort in this direction by those whose right it is to attend to this matter may lead the friends there to do what has been done in the past history of the school and in a measure justify our support of the same.

Lom still continues to be more prosperous than any other charge in the District. Aside of the fact that some additions have been made both on probation and in full membership during the year, there is a movement among the people in two of the adjacent villages which gives promise for a religious revival in the near future. At the last Quarterly Meeting a goodly number of these people came on the Sabbath to enjoy the means of grace and went away to their homes late in the afternoon filled with a holy joy. The pastor continues to enjoy the love
of our people and the esteem of the outside citizens. He is not a man who can scandalize the cause of the Church. His return for another year is unanimously requested.

Rustchuck has not prospered either numerically or spiritually as we would wish it. Past neglect to put the real strength of the church in its true light has been a cause of injustice to the society. Many of the enrolled members of the register do not live within the area of Rustchuck, and do not contribute to the material interests of the church. Steps must be taken to correct this. I am sorry to say that the financial condition of the church does not indicate any growth in liberality during the year as the statistics will show. The pastor for the coming year must be given an opportunity to demonstrate what can be done with the "Central Station" of the Mission in this as in other respects by his being disconnected from any other kind of work which might be a cause for his not being able to show better results in the future. I am glad, on the other side, to say that with the Sunday School during the latter part of the year a marked improvement has taken place both in numbers and in systematic arrangement of the work. I trust better things are in store for Rustchuck during the ensuing year.

Shumen backward in all things, except in politics, remains unmoved by the eloquent presentation of the gospel truth by Bro. S. Thomoff. In conversions there is nothing to cheer us up. The brethren are trying to put in a bell in the church tower and thereby stir up the indifferent citizens of that military centre. On special occasions we can always have a good turn out to our services. Still, the city is a populous one and is the place where our first missionaries, Drs. Long and Prettyman, commenced their missionary labors. The work in this place ought vigorously to be prosecuted.

Silistra has made no substantial additions to its membership. The unsuitable room for our services is a drawback to our work there. Imagine a small room whose entrance is through a bed-room, hence in order to get to it you must pass through two consecutive doors, and then place yourselves in the position of
an Orthodox Christian with his idea of what a church ought to be like, and try to persuade yourselves that you are now in a Christian Church! We must provide better accommodation or we must give up the place. Yet, would it be wisdom to abandon a place where we have 2-3 families, and send the preacher to some new place where we have no members to begin anew under the same inconveniences, so far as a suitable preaching place is concerned? Perhaps so; who can tell?

Sistov does not give promise for a large ingathering of converts. The high aristocracy of the leaders of society has stamped out the spirit of freedom of thought from the common people to examine the truth for themselves. Aristocracy, however, has received its humiliation, and pride its fall, in that many of the powerful of former days have failed financially and thereby have lost their terrorizing influence over the common people.

May their fall in material things be the augury of the spiritual rising of those whom they have kept under bondage in the past. The redeeming feature of the place is, that it is the seat of the only Commercial School the state maintains, and the young men like to attend our meetings. Sistov, however, is only the centre of the circuit bearing the same name. The pastor has under his care three villages belonging to his charge of whom Hibbellii is the most promising. Here a suitable lot has been bought for the double purpose of building a chapel and a parsonage on it. The brethren there will need help from outside in order to accomplish this noble undertaking.

Varna closely follows suit with her sister cities classified formerly as of first category. The description of Rustchuck and Sistov is fully adapted to Varna. In the city great spiritual stagnation prevails. To be relieved of the discouraging condition of things in the city we must take a general view of the work being done on the circuit, and we shall find that Dobritch has made some progress and the call comes to us for assistance to secure better accommodations for our meetings there. The pastor's report will bear out my statement. Baltchik also has given us some encouragement. We think the pastor ought to
visit these two places more frequently. Varna has beside our own preacher four Armenian preachers at present, all of whom can use the Turkish language, while one of them has a good command of the Russian also.

We call for greater zeal and consecration to the work committed to our charge. Our own people are not slow to notice and criticize the perfunctory performance of our duties; on the other hand they appreciate the diligent application of might and main in the work of the ministry. The great desideratum is greater preaching capacities on the part of the preachers, more warmth in what they say and do, and more personal work for winning souls for the Master.

Brethren, we must divest ourselves of the spirit of jealousy and envy, and being filled with the spirit of mutual love take St. Paul's rule of "this one thing I do," which practically means, fidelity to the gospel of Christ. And our own Wesley says, "gaining knowledge is a good thing, but saving souls is better."

The time has also come when instead of building a church first and then seeking to gather a congregation, we should strive to first build a living church and let the people build the material structures with such outside help as can be secured. True, they must be helped, but they must first help themselves; they must take the initiative in these matters.

A good beginning has been started by Mrs. Nedda Dontcheva, the mother of our lamented brother Anton Dontcheff, in this direction, who has given 200 frs gold toward a new chapel. May her tribe increase in the Mission.

My relations with the brethren in the District have been uniformly pleasant for which I tender my sincere thanks to my brethren.

Respectfully submitted,

T. CONSTANTINE.
ANNUAL REPORT OF THE W. F. M. SOCIETY.

The atmosphere of uncertainty pervading the Bulgaria Mission for some years past has had its detrimental influence upon the work in charge of the W. F. M. Society, as well as upon that of the General Missionary Board. Notwithstanding all hindrances, however, our usual work has gone steadily forward during the past Conference year.

Upon my return to Bulgaria in July 1898, after an 11 month's absence in America, preparation was immediately begun for the new school year. The prospect was not the most encouraging, but on Sept. 7, 1898, the American Girls' School in Lovetch opened as usual. 52 pupils were enrolled, but after a few weeks one dropped out of the Primary department and later in the year one more was added to the II class thus making the number again 52.

They are classified as follows:

- Primary .................. 4
- I Class .................... 4
- II ........................ 6
- III ......................... 10
- IV ........................ 12
- V .......................... 10
- VI ........................ 6

Total ....................... 52

There has never been so large a number in the classes as this year, but for some years passed the enrollment in the Primary has gradually diminished, and it now seems evident that a continuance of the Primary longer than the present school year would not be justifiable or advisable.

The increase of the school tax for tuition and board to 300 levs has not diminished the number of boarders, which is 24, the
same as last year. Only 3 of the new boarding pupils do not pay the full tax. Of these two pay in part and one is entirely dependent on the society.

Receipts this year from pupils stand as follows:

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<td>Tuition of day pupils</td>
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<td>For Music lessons and practice</td>
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<td>German</td>
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The Lovetch chapter of the Epworth League has contributed 100 levs toward the support of a girl in the school.

Excellent health has prevailed during the year both among teachers and pupils. Our school work has moved forward successfully and harmoniously, and the Lord has been in our midst.

Two of our girls have been received as probationers in the church, and 16 as members of the Epworth League. In addition to those who are members of our church, a number of orthodox pupils have been regular attendants at the weekly class meetings, some of them frequently taking part in prayer and testimony.

We gratefully recognize and fully appreciate the helpfulness which the Lovetch pastor has shown in various ways during the year.

Miss Elenka Todorova has continued her services as teacher of the Hotantsa school. 21 pupils have been enrolled and she reports a fair degree of success among them.

In September 1898 Mrs. Tchetvertakova began work as Bible woman in Lom. The pastor there speaks in highest terms of the service she has rendered and rejoices over the success attending her labors. Her salary is paid in part from the treasury of W. F. M. S. and in part by the Woman's Missionary Society in Bulgaria.

In reviewing the work of the past conference year, we do not see the abundant harvest for which we have often longed and prayed, but we can clearly trace our Father's guiding hand and
feel assured that even our humble gleanings are precious in the Master's sight. To Him be all the praise for what has been accomplished in the past. To Him we look for whatever success is to be attained in the future.

Respectfully submitted,

KATE B. BLACKBURN.

Rustchuck, Bulgaria,

May 10, 1899.
TREASURER'S REPORT.

Receipts:

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Disbursements:

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Rustchuck, May 13-th, 1899.  

T. Constantine.
### GENERAL STATISTICS OF THE BULGARIA MISSION CONFERENCE FOR 1898—99.

#### CHARGES.

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<td>Pleven</td>
<td>Stephen Getchoff</td>
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<td>Pleven Circuit</td>
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<td>Tarnova</td>
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#### Figures represent Dollars and Cents. The Dollar is computed at 5 francs.
### General Statistics of the Bulgaria Mission Conference for 1898–99

#### Charges

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*Figures represent Dollars and Cents. The Dollars is computed at 5 francs.*