Bulgaria

Mission

Conference

9th session

1900.
THE MINUTES

OF THE

HINTH SESSION

OF THE

Bulgaria
Mission Conference

OF THE

METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH,

HELD AT

Rustchuck, Bulgaria, August 31st to Sept. 5, 1900

ORGANIZED SEPT. 8, 1892.

PRESS "POBEDA"
Rustchuck, Bulgaria.
1900.
CONFERENCE OFFICERS.

**President:**
BISHOP JOHN H. VINCENT.

**Secretary:**
STEPHEN THOMOFF, RUSTCHUCK.

**Assistant Secretary:**
PAVEL TODOROFF, TIRNOVO.

**Statistical Secretary:**
PETER VASILEFF, LOMPALANCA.

**Assistant Statistical Secretary:**
M. D. DELCHEFF, LOVETCH.

**Treasurer:**
MISSION TREASURER.
CONFERENCE SOCIETIES.

**Epworth League:**

*President:* Stephen Thomoff.

*Secretary:* Peter Vasileff.

**Woman’s Foreign Missionary Society:**

*President:* Dobra K. Delcheff.

*Vice-President:* E. Z. Dimitroff.

*Corresponding Sec:* E. P. Todoroff.

*Treasurer:* Kate B. Blaskburn.

**COMMITTEES FOR 1901.**

*Trustees to Act on Property Matters:* The Presiding Elders, Stephen Thomoff, Pavel Todoroff, Peter Vasileff.

*Committee on Publications:* Trico Constantine, Stephen Thomoff, Pavel Todoroff.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Where</th>
<th>When</th>
<th>Church or Conference</th>
<th>When</th>
<th>Began Work in Bulgaria Mission</th>
<th>Transferred to Bulgaria Mission</th>
<th>Address</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Constantine Trico</td>
<td>Minnesota</td>
<td>1879</td>
<td>Minnesota</td>
<td>1881</td>
<td>1884</td>
<td>1892</td>
<td>Rustchuck</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delcheff, M. D.</td>
<td>Nebraska</td>
<td>1891</td>
<td>Bulgaria</td>
<td>1893</td>
<td>1890</td>
<td>1892</td>
<td>Lovetch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dimitroff, Ivan</td>
<td>Detroit</td>
<td>1887</td>
<td>Detroit</td>
<td>1889</td>
<td>1886</td>
<td>1892</td>
<td>Sillistra</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dimitroff, Z. G.</td>
<td></td>
<td>1890</td>
<td>Bulgaria</td>
<td>1894</td>
<td>1890</td>
<td>1892</td>
<td>Sistov</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economoff, J. I.</td>
<td>Newark</td>
<td>1877</td>
<td>Newark</td>
<td>1879</td>
<td>1877</td>
<td>1892</td>
<td>Tarnovo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elieff, Gabriel</td>
<td>Germany</td>
<td></td>
<td>Germany</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Sevlievo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Getchoff, Stephen</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Shumen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tikcheff, Peter</td>
<td>N. India</td>
<td>1887</td>
<td>N. India</td>
<td>1888</td>
<td>1884</td>
<td>1892</td>
<td>Hotantsa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomoff, Stephen</td>
<td>Newark</td>
<td>1879</td>
<td>Newark</td>
<td>1881</td>
<td>1879</td>
<td>1892</td>
<td>Rustchuck</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Todoroff, Bancho</td>
<td>Detroit</td>
<td>1887</td>
<td>Detroit</td>
<td>1889</td>
<td>1886</td>
<td>1892</td>
<td>Pleven</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Todoroff, Ivan</td>
<td></td>
<td>1887</td>
<td></td>
<td>1889</td>
<td>1886</td>
<td>1892</td>
<td>Varna</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Todoroff, Pavel</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Tarnovo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vasileff, Peter</td>
<td>Detroit</td>
<td>1887</td>
<td></td>
<td>1889</td>
<td>1886</td>
<td>1892</td>
<td>Lom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meshkoff, A. P.</td>
<td>Bulg. Mn Con'</td>
<td>1895</td>
<td>Bulgaria</td>
<td>1897</td>
<td>1895</td>
<td></td>
<td>Sevlievo</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# CONTENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Appointments</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apportionments</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bishops Sermon and Addresses</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Book Concern Dividend</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>By-laws of Bulgarian Evangelical Churches</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conference Bar</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conference Officers</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conference Roll</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conference Societies</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Devotional Exercises</td>
<td>9, 11, 12, 13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disciplinary Questions</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economoff J. L.</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elieff Gabriel</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Episcopal Fund</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fraternal Delegate</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hours of Session</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>House Rev J. H.</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interpreter</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Official Record</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>XIII Question</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>XVIII</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>XXII</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>XXIII</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>XXX</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Report of Committees:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christian Literature</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Epworth League and Sunday Schools</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sabbath Observance and Temperance</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Topic</td>
<td>Page</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------------------------------------</td>
<td>------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State of Work</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W. F. M. Society</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Report of K. B. Blackburn, W. F. M. So</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot; &quot; T. Constantine, Pres. Elder</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot; &quot; M. D. Delcheff</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resolutions</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roll Call</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secretary of Conference</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Standing Committees</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Statistical Tables</td>
<td>39, 40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Statistical Secretary</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tonjoroff Rev. J. A.</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treasurers Report</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treasurer of Conference</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W. F. M. Society</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Rustchuck, Friday, August 31, 1900.

Opening. — The Ninth Annual Meeting of the Bulgaria Mission Conference was opened on Friday, August 31, 1900, in the Methodist Episcopal Church of Rustchuck at 9 o'clock p. m. by the Rev. Trico Constantine, Presiding Elder of the Rustchuck District. The chair explained the reason for the inability of Bishop Vincent to reach Rustchuck in time and stated he had been requested by telegraph to open the Conference.

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


Absent: K. G. Palamidoff (Supern.) and Gabriel Elieff (Superan.)

Secretary. — On motion of M. D. Delcheff, Stephen Thomoff was re-elected Conference Secretary.

Interpreter. — On motion of Stephen Getchoff, Trico Constantine was re-elected official interpreter.

Statistical Secretary. — On motion of Ivan Todoroff, Peter Vasileff was elected Statistical Secretary.

Committee on Standing Committees. — On motion of Ivan Todoroff it was ordered that the Committee on Standing Committees consist of three members to be appointed by the chair. M. D. Delcheff, Ivan Todoroff and Bancho Todoroff were appointed.
**Hours of Session.** — On motion of Stephen Thomoff it was ordered that Conference open at 8.30 a.m., and adjourn at 12 m. the first half hour to be devoted to devotional exercises.

**Conference Bar.** — On motion of Stephen Getchoff it was ordered that the first three seats on both sides of the Church constitute the bar of the Conference.

**Conference Treasurer.** — On motion of Ivan Dimitroff, Trico Constantine was re-elected Conference Treasurer.


**Standing Committees.** — The Committee on Standing Committees read their report as follows:

1. **Christian Literature.** — Stephen Thomoff, Pavel Todoroff, M. D. Delcheff.


3. **State of Work.** — Stephen Thomoff, Pavel Todoroff, M. D. Delcheff, Ivan Todoroff.


**Adjournment.** — On motion of Stephen Thomoff, Conference adjourned and the benediction was pronounced by Trico Constantine.
SECOND DAY.

Monday, September 3, 1900.

Opening. — The devotional exercises were conducted by M. D. Delcheff. Bishop John H. Vincent, who had reached Rustchuck the previous Saturday night, presiding.

XIII. Question. — Was the Character of each Preacher Examined? taken up. The character of M. D. Delcheff, Bancho Todoroff, A. P. Meshkoff, Pavel Todoroff, Trico Constantine, Stephen Thomoff, Z. G. Dimitroff, Peter Vasileff, Stephen Getchoff. Ivan Todoroff was passed. On motion of Stephen Thomoff, Peter Tikcheff's case was referred to the Committee on State of Work.

XXII. Question. — Who are the Supernumerary Preachers? taken up. J. I. Economoff and K. G. Palamidoff. On motion of Ivan Todoroff, K. G. Palamidoff's case was referred to the Committee on State of Work.

XXIII. Question. — Who are the Superannuated Preachers? taken up. Gabriel Elieff. The Secretary read a letter from Gabriel Elieff addressed to the Conference. On motion of M. D. Delcheff the case of Gabriel Elieff was referred to the Committee on State of Work.

Book Concern Dividend. — The chair stated that the cheque of the Methodist Book Concern amounted to 65 dollars. On motion of Ivan Todoroff the cheque was ordered and referred to the Conference Treasurer.

Episcopal Fund. — The chair stated that the amount assigned to the Conference for the Episcopal Fund is 4 dollars.

Presiding Elders' Reports. — M. D. Delcheff, Presiding Elder of the Lovetch District and Trico Constantine, Presiding Elder of the Rustchuck District read their reports. (See Reports).

W. F. M. Society. — Kate B. Blackburn, Principal of Lovetch Girl's School read her report. On motion of Stephen Thomoff it was ordered that the report be printed in the Minutes.

Rev. J. H. House. — In a brief address the chair requested the Rev. J. H. House of Salonica, Turkey, fraternal delegate of
the A. B. C. F. M. south of the Balkans to speak of the work in his Mission. Dr. House gave a highly interesting and stimulating account of the work of A. B. C. F. M. south of the Balkans and in Macedonia. The Conference expressed their thanks to Dr. House by a rising vote.

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

Adjournment. — Conference adjourned by expiration of time and the benediction was pronounced by Bishop Vincent.

THIRD DAY.

Tuesday, Sept. 4, 1900.

Opening. — Devotional exercises conducted by Ivan Todoroff.

XVIII. Question. — Who have Withdrawn? taken up. The chair stated that K. G. Palamidoff had of his own accord withdrawn, having the preceding day handed his parchments. On motion of Trico Constantine the Secretary was authorized to send K. G. Palamidoff a fitting testimonial of the work he had done.

Reports. — The reports on Epworth League and Sunday Schools and on Sabbath Observance and Temperance were read and adopted (see Reports).

Statistical Secretary’s Report. — The Statistical Secretary read his report which was adopted. (See Statistical Tables).

Gabriel Elieff. — On motion of Ivan Todoroff, Pavel Todoroff was associated with the Presiding Elders who were charged with the investigation of the written complaint presented by a member of the church in Sevlievo against Gabriel Elieff.

J. I. Economoff. — On motion of Stephen Thomoff, J. I. Economoff’s case was also referred to the above Committee.

Report. — The report on the State of the Work was read and adopted (see Report).

Rev. J. A. Tonjoroff. — The Secretary read a communication from the Rev. J. A. Tonjoroff of Philippopolis addressed to the Conference and drawing attention to our work among the young people. On motion of M. D. Delcheff the Secretary was autho-
rized to acknowledge the receipt of the communication and express to Mr. Tonjoroff the thanks of the Conference.

By-laws of the Bulgarian Evangelical Churches. — The Secretary stated he had received a copy in manuscript of the By-laws of the Bulgarian Evangelical Churches, south of the Balkans for examination by the Conference, more especially that part bearing on the relation with the government of the Protestant churches in the Principality. On motion of Trico Constantine it was ordered that a committee of five be appointed to look over these By-laws, the committee to report at an early date to the pastor of Philippopolis. The Presiding Elders, the Secretary, Pavel Todoroff and Ivan Todoroff were appointed.

Report. — The report on Christian Literature was read and adopted. (See Reports).

Adjournment. — On motion of Trico Constantine Conference adjourned and the benediction was pronounced by Bishop Vincent.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Opening. — Devotional exercises conducted by Peter Vasileff.

Report. — The report on W. F. M. Society was read and adopted. (See Reports).

Book Concern Dividend. — On motion of Trico Constantine it was ordered that the cheque of the Book Concern for 65 dollars be paid to the brother designated by the Conference in one installment. On motion of Stephen Thomoff it was ordered that the amount of the aforementioned cheque be appropriated to the support of Gabriel Elieff, the superannuated member of the Conference.

Committees. — The chair announced the following committees:

Trustees to act on Property Matters in interval of Conference: The Presiding Elders, Stephen Thomoff, Pavel Todoroff, Peter Vasileff

Committee on Publications: Trico Constantine, Stephen Thomoff and Pavel Todoroff.

Committee on Publication of Minutes. — On motion of Peter Vasileff the Secretary and the Director of Publications were
appointed a committee on the publication of the Minutes in English.

**Conference Epworth League.** — On motion of Ivan Todoroff, Stephen Thomoff was re-elected President of the Conference Epworth League, and Peter Vasileff, Secretary.

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

**Official Record.** — On motion of M. D. Delcheff it was ordered that when the journal is read it constitute the official Minutes of the Conference,

**Fraternal Delegate.** — Trico Constantine was elected by ballot Fraternal delegate to the next Annual Meeting of the A. B. C. F. M., south of the Balkans and Stephen Thomoff, Alternate.

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

**Resolved** that as a Conference we have been greatly strengthened by Bishop John H. Vincent's deep interest in the Mission and his wise counsels. We feel convinced that the addresses and personal talks of our honored Bishop have stimulated us to greater zeal in the work to which we are called, and that by God's blessing a new era of spiritual progress will be opened for our Mission. We invoke God's blessing upon his abundant labors and a safe return to his residence in Switzerland.

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

**Adjournment.** — On motion of M. D. Delcheff it was ordered that on the reading of the Appointments Conference stand adjourned sine die. Bishop Vincent read the appointments, (see Appointments) Conference adjourned and the benediction was pronounced by Bishop Vincent.

SUNDAY, September 2, 1900.

The Sunday services in connection with Conference were highly edifying. The love feast held from 9 to 10 a.m. was well attended, brethren from the village of Hotantsa having come on purpose to attend this and all the other services.
nies given were spiritually stimulating. Bishop Vincent then
preached to a full house from James 5:16: "The supplication of
a righteous man availeth much in its working." The sermon was
translated sentence by sentence by the official interpreter and
made a profound impression on all who heard it.

In the afternoon at 3 o'clock Bishop Vincent addressed the
young people of the church, and at 5 o'clock he gave his highly
instructive address on "Moody and Ingersoll — a Contrast." Both
of these addresses were translated in Bulgarian by the pastor,
and were greatly appreciated.

The Rev. J. H. House, Fraternal Delegate from the A. B. C.
F. M. Mission, south of the Balkans preached in the evening in
Bulgarian from Hebrews 3:12: "Take heed, brethren, lest haply
there shall be in any one of you an evil heart of unbelief in
falling away from the living God." The sermon was listened to
with great interest and we trust with spiritual profit.

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

JOHN H. VINCENT,
President.

STEPHEN THOMOFF,
Secretary.
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.
       None.
   (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?
    K. G. Palamidoff.

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. Economoff,

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?  
   $358.20 Dollars.

27. What are the Claims on the Conference Fund?  
   165 Dollars.

28. What has been received on these Claims, and how has it been applied?  
   65 Dollars from Divident Book Concern allowed to Gabriel Elieff.

29. Where are the Preachers Stationed?  
   See Appointments.

30. Where shall the next Conference be held?  
   Tarnovo.
APPOINTMENTS—1900—1901.

LOVETCH DISTRICT.
M. D. Delcheff, P. E. (Lovetch) 4th year.

Lovetch ............... M. D. Delcheff ........ E ... 5.
Orchania ............... To be supplied
Pleven ............... Bancho Todoroff ........ E ... 4.
Sevlievo and Gabrovo , A. P. Meshkoff ........ E ... 2.
Tirrovo Circuit .......... Pavel Todoroff ........ E ... 2.
Kate B. Blackburn, Principal Sirli School. (W. F. M. Society), Lovetch.

RUSTCHUCK DISTRICT,
Trico Constantine, P. E. (Rustchuck) 5th year.

Lompalanca ............... Peter Vasileff ........ E ... 6.
Rustchuck and Hotantsa , \{ Stephen Thomoff ........ E ... 2.
Shumen ............... Stephen Getchoff ........ E ... 2.
Silistria and Tutrakan .. Ivan Dimitroff ........ E ... 5.
Sistov Circuit ............... Z. G Dimitroff ........ E ... 5.
Varna Circuit ............... Ivan Todoroff ........ E ... 5.

Director of Publications, Trico Constantine, Editor of Mission Publications, Stephen Thomoff.
REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

CHRISTIAN LITERATURE.

Your Committee would recommend the following:

1. That old and worn out Bibles and parts of Bibles be sold at greatly reduced prices, and those entirely injured be given away.
2. That every pastor be supplied with various tracts, old and new for sale and free distribution.
3. That one more colporter be appointed.
4. That the publication of the "CHRISTIAN WORLD" be continued, it having been ably conducted the past year, and measures be taken to improve the illustrations.
5. That popular tracts against infidelity and socialism be published.

EDUCATION.

Your Committee 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 enter the Literary and Theological School at Samokov. 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 the Board in America be requested to make a grant of three hundred dollars for the support of such needy students from our Mission, in the Samokov school.
3. That the money collected by our pastors for educational purposes be used for the support of such young men.
EPWORTH LEAGUE AND SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

Your Committee would recommend that wherever there is a sufficient number of young people they be organized into Epworth League Chapters.

In regard to Sunday Schools, your committee would recommend:
1. That S. S. libraries be founded in all the churches, and for that purpose the Director of Publications be requested to give, free of charge to each Sunday School a copy of all the Mission publications.
2. That the publisher of the small S. S. prize cards in America be requested to leave blank the space for the golden texts on all the cards ordered for Bulgaria, in order that the texts may be printed here in Bulgarian.

SABBATH OBSERVANCE.

Your Committee would recommend:
1. That each pastor pay special attention to the proper observance of the Christian Sabbath by his people, by talking personally to any that may be inclined to desecrate that holy day.
2. That each pastor preach at least twice during the year on that subject.

TEMPERANCE.

In view of the fact that, from year to year, intemperance increases among our nation and ruins many morally and materially, your committee would recommend:
1. That each pastor, as far as possible, talk, preach, write and translate articles against intemperance.
2. That some tracts on temperance be translated and printed, or bought from the other Mission by the Director of Publications.
STATE OF THE WORK.

Your Committee are glad to state that in the last few years the work has been very encouraging in Lompalanca, Hibelee and Gorni Dubnik, but we are sorry to say that the Board has not been ready to grant the small sums asked for the support of the work in those places. We would therefore most earnestly recommend the following:

1. That the necessary measures be taken for buying a lot and building a house of worship in Lompalanca, as soon as possible because the need is most urgent.

2. That since the brethren in Hibelee have bought a place, some money be appropriated for the building of a chapel in that place.

3. That a man having perfect command of the Turkish language be sent as a preacher to Dobritch where the brethren speak only Turkish.

4. That a house of worship be erected in the village of Gorni Dubnik where the work is very encouraging. The brethren now worship in a room which can seat only 20 persons, while the average attendance is more than 40.

W. F. M. SOCIETY.

Your Committee recommend the following:

1. That in view of the need of capable, trained and experienced Bible women in the Mission, the W. F. M. S. be requested to send a worker from America, who shall have special charge of this work.

2. That every pastor urge the importance of the women being organized for more systematic and effective work among their sisters and that the pastors report the result of their efforts to the secretary of the Conference W. F. M. Society as early as possible.

3. That pastors visit all Orthodox families in their charges, in which is found a member, who has been a pupil in the Lovetch Girls' School.
APPORATIONMENTS.

The following is the report of the Committee on Apportionments for 1900-1901.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CHARGES</th>
<th>Self-Support</th>
<th>Missionary Society</th>
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<td>10.00</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Reports
of the
Presiding Elders.
REPORTS OF THE PRESIDING ELDERS.

REPORT OF THE PRESIDING ELDER OF THE LOVETCH DISTRICT.

I deem it my pleasant privilege to state, at the beginning, that God has preserved the health of all the brethren in the Lovetch District, and the interest of his own work. All have enjoyed good health, and a unity of spirit has prevailed among the churches. Pastors and flock, united in the bond of Christian love, have lived with one purpose in one brotherhood.

The treasurer of the Mission has, at various times, given small amounts of money for most needed repairs on Mission buildings in Tarnovo, Orchania and Lovetch. All the Mission property in the Lovetch District is in good condition at present.

Although we cannot boast of extraordinary results in the success of the work during the Conference year, we have had some signs of awakening, which have encouraged the workers in their efforts to visit homes, hospitals, prisons etc., and preach the blessedness of Christ's kingdom. Our prayer is that of the Psalmist, "Establish thou the work of our hands upon us."

Lovetch. The Christian Society in that place has now better means for Christian activity than ever before: the church, the S. School, the Epworth League Chapter, and the Girls' School, have been, with their beneficent influences, a mighty power for scattering the good seed of the kingdom. During the time of the special meetings held for two weeks about New Year's, twelve expressed a desire to follow Christ. Some of these are earnest and faithful in God's work and their own salvation. Great blessings came out of those meetings, both for the members and
for the church. The S. School, under the superintendence of Mrs. Delcheff, has been well attended, and is in every respect successful. The Epworth League Chapter, under the wise leadership of Miss Blackburn, assisted by the presidents of the various departments, has been shedding light over many dark and unhappy homes, its members having tried fully to live up to the motto of the League: "Look up and lift up." The activity of its young members will surely tell for good in the future of the church of Christ in that place.

The Girls’ School, of which you will hear from the principal, and with which the W. F. M. Society of the Church is closely connected, has been a valuable help in the work.

All have worked in concert for the common blessed cause.

It will not be out of place to mention the Summer School held by the preachers of the two Missions in Lovetch, during the month of August 1899. The meetings proved profitable and instructive to many of the citizens. Mr. Sabat Bagdassarian, the Stundist Evangelist, also held services in the church. His meetings were attended by large audiences.

Orchania. The work in this place has greatly suffered on account of Bro. Y. Tsvetcoff not being able for a long time after the close of Conference to make up his mind, whether to accept or not his appointment to that place by the Bishop. Finally during the month of November Bro. V. Petroff, a former Mission colporter, went with his family to that place to preach and sell books in the neighbouring villages and towns. His meetings have been especially encouraging. He has already several adherents in the village, who are faithfully searching the word, and three new followers in Orchania. Bro. Petroff has also influenced some of the fallen members of the church, and there is hope of their being revived. The S. School is attended by quite a few children. Although he is greatly annoyed by the priests, and many times is absent from town, he has done a good work in that hard field and his Christian influence will tell upon the inhabitants of the place. It is desirable that the Presiding Bishop autho-
rize the future Presiding Elder of the Lovech District to employ Bro. Petroff as a worker in future in that place.

**Pleven.** The members of the Conference know that the worker in Pleven was permitted to spend a part of his time in his private affairs. Although Bro. Palamidoff was compelled to be absent from the city and the church quite often, he always took measures that the work should not suffer. He has worked conscientiously and earnestly in that place, and in spite of his divided time and unsuitable place of worship, the meetings have been well attended, and encouraging. Who would not desire that Bro. Palamidoff give his whole time to the work? We are sure in such a case better success would attend his efforts, and especially if a larger and better looking house were provided for preaching. I hope that the committee on the State of the Work will make the necessary recommendation for a more suitable place of worship in Pleven.

**Pleven Circuit.** I leave Bro. B. Todoroff to report the success of the work in the circuit, while I shall only mention the need of a larger room in the village of Dubnik. That village is only sixteen kilometers from Pleven, and the R. R. has a station there. Both the pastor and the brethren exercise a good influence among the villagers. Many are sending their sons and daughters to “the Protestants” to learn something good, because they preach the pure word of God. To many in that village the word of God is truly a power, that renews the whole man. Many appreciate that, but as I have said, we must have a more suitable place, where not only few, but many would go to hear the word preached. I have been greatly encouraged by the earnestness of the Christians whenever I went in that village.

**Sevlievo-Gabrovo.** Bro Meshkoff moved late from Orchania, on account of Bro. Tsvetcoff’s failure to go to that place. In Gabrovo which, Bro. Meshkoff has visited quite regularly, there are signs of good work, but he has not succeeded in renting there a special place for holding meetings. The people in that town are wide awake on the church question. That place in due
time may become a good soil for religions work, if only a place be rented, and the preaching of the Gospel be commenced in earnest, I hope Gonference will decide that a preacher visit that place at least once in a while, trying, of course to rent a meeting place. Bro. Meshkoff's work will not be fruitless.

In Sevlievo the brother has had some unpleasantness, that has hindered the work, but of late he reports larger audiences and more lively interest in hearing the word. Our prayer for that place in that "all things work together for good."

Tirnovo. The pastor, Bro. Todoroff preaches on Sundays to large audiences, generally from 150 to 200 people. The S. School in largely attended, there being more than 60 scholars. The hope of the church is in the young generation. Six persons have been taken on probation during the year. Both the pastor and the Quarterly Conference desire that regular work be opened in Gorna Orehovitza. There is hope for that place. My opinion is that not only should a worker visit that town, but that a place be rented for holding regular services. Many times people from Orehovitza come to Tirnovo in order to listen to the preaching of the Gospel. We cannot expect success without working and making some sacrifice.

Before closing this report, I desire to express my hearty thanks to the pastors of the Lovetch District for their kind relations and encouragements toward me during my visits to their charges in holding Quarterly Conferences.

My earnest desire and prayer to God is that He may bless their efforts and give success to His work in Bulgaria.

Respectfully submitted,

M. D. DELCHEFF.
Dear Brethren,—

We come before you with the report of this long Conference year with a sense of gratitude to the Heavenly Father for the opportunity He has given us to labor in His vineyard. We also humble ourselves that so little has been accomplished by us in a world where there is so much to be done, and this part of the world is no exception to the above statement. To-day the words of the Master are as true as when He uttered them, that "the harvest truly is great but the laborers are few." We have been honored with the command to thrust in the sickle into the great harvest, and how well and faithfully we have responded to this call God and the Church of Christ are the judges, and it becomes us to give diligence to the injunction of the great apostle in connection with the trust committed to us by the shepherd of the flock, saying, "Here, moreover, it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful." Personally I can freely confess, that as I look on the poor results of the year's labor, I am humiliated; and I believe, brethren, that you also fully share with me this sense of humiliation. But, then, let us give thanks to God that some of us, at least, have seen better results during the year and brighter hopes for the future.

Lompalanka has proved to be a genuine oasis in this spiritually barren and to a great extent fruitless Mission field. Seventeen new additions during the Conference year attest the power of the gospel of Christ to save souls even in Bulgaria where materialism, infidelity and ritualism, are doing so much to retard the spiritual awakening and the religious enlightenment among a people whose almost only conception of religion is cold and dead formalism. There are also encouraging signs among the neighboring villages of this town. It was my privilege, at my last visit to Lom to enjoy the simple, but truly pa-
triarchal hospitality of the people of one of these villages. It was truly my meat and my drink to expound the blessed Gospel of Jesus and to labor to give them a clearer light of the glorious design of Christ's salvation concerning them. The pastor, Bro. Peter Vassileff, is a true shepherd to these good people. May God more than fulfil the sanguinary expectations for greater success on the part of the Christian people in that place.

Rustchuck has made some advancement during the year. Some six persons have been taken on probation and one in full membership by the Pastor, Bro. S. Thomoff. The greatest drawback to the work in this place is lack of zeal and Christian activity on the part of the old members of the church. This is much to be regretted by all except by those whose zeal for criticism greatly outweighs their concern about their own spiritual upbuilding and the advancement of Christ's kingdom among their fellowmen. Such a state of things is distressing for all good people who pray and pay for the prosperity of Zion in all the earth. Another drawback is the existence of some four Evangelical societies: all weak, but all putting pretentions of superiority over the others, at least in their opinion. Of course, as a denomination we must work out our own salvation the best we can, and by means approved by all the laws of justice and morality.

To this charge was added at the last session of this Conference the Hotantsa Society by which the Rustchuck Pastor was made responsible for the carrying on the work with Bro. Peter Tickcheff as Assistant pastor. I regret to say that arrangement has not worked satisfactorily. The Bishop himself feared at the time the arrangement was made, that the village people would be neglected to a large extent. I suppose that this case will be referred to the committee on the State of the Work for consideration. In any case I trust there will be wisdom enough in the proper authority to bring order out of this chaos.

Shuuen has made some advancement during the year. Some have manifested greater interest in seeking the truth, and a few
others have been taken on probation. Altogether there are signs encouraging us to hope for better things in that place. The family of our principal member in the place has passed through great sorrow during the past year through the loss by death of two young and beautiful daughters within a few months. They died in the Lord and shall reign with Him for ever. The people in general are fanatical, but it is in such place that we can expect for better and speedier results from our labors.

Silistra has added to her membership an increase of four new members during the year.

We are happy to say that during the early part of this summer a more suitable room has been fitted up for our public service there by facilitating both the preacher’s family and the audience. Our friends in this place are very poor so far as the goods of this world are concerned, but some of them are of St. James’ “rich in faith” and “patience.”

Sistove gives evidence of awakening and a promise of better things spiritually than I have been able to report during the past few years of my relation with the work there. The Pastor and his good wife seem to have drawn the esteem of some of the city people, who not only come to visit them socially, but also often attend the services. One lady especially has taken much interest in the circulation of God’s word, and she has been the means of selling some N. Testaments. The students of the Commercial School still continue to come to our services in spite of the prohibition of the School authorities. The village of Hibelle included in the Sistove Circuit is a good field to work up. The brethren there turn to this Conference for financial help to enable them to build a chapel and parsonage on a very eligible lot of which mention was made in the Presiding Elder’s report of last year. They worship for the present in a rented room, but how long they may enjoy even this luxury is a question. It is a worthy case and it ought to appeal to our Christian sympathy and prayerful solicitude.

Varma, “the golden gate of Bulgaria” is not the morning star
of Methodism, or any other ism. No forward movement is noticeable in the place. Here, as in some other places, the difficulty is with the older members, who instead of being able to reach others they need to be taught the first elements of Christian love and fellowship. Things must take a different and upward trend, or we fear God's cause is in peril of extinction in the place. We can not but lament over this state of things. Outside of Varna, on the other side, we have reason to thank our Heavenly Father for his tokens of encouragement.

At Dobritch and Baltchik we have some friends who look to us to supply their spiritual wants. They request that better provision be made for them in this respect, and pledge themselves to do their share financially toward securing this end. The Pastor, Bro. Ivan Todoroff, has visited these two places, as well as some others, several times during the year and has always written very hopefully about them. One difficulty, especially with the friends of Dobritch, is that they almost all use the Turkish language. They desire that a preacher should reside in Dobritch. The case rests with the Bishop now, I being only the bulletin board in the matter.

Brethren, year by year we are convinced of the great necessity of preaching the gospel to a sin burdened humanity, and God knows that Bulgaria needs the gospel truth which alone can give her people the true freedom as much as any other nominally Christian nation on the face of the earth. On every side we hear sensible people lamenting the decay of the moral supports of the Christian character; they confess that as a nation we are not becoming religiously better, but rather worse; they are beginning to feel their disease, but can not realize that it is only the gospel of Christ which has been appointed of God to be "the power of salvation to every one that believeth." We have been entrusted with the honor of being the heralds of this blessed truth. Let us sound it forth with the power and demonstration of the Spirit of God. Let us impress upon all the fact that to "as many as received him to them He gave power to
be called the sons of God, even to them that believe his name: which were born not of blood nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God."

Brethren, suffer the word of exhortation, if I repeat the statement, that not withstanding the fact that the great desideratum on the part of the people is preaching capacity in the preachers, yet my own conviction agrees with the conviction of godly and experienced men in the ministry, that personal labor with the individual is surest means of influencing and bringing men to Christ. This is the secret of success in the ministry of those who have made a name for themselves as skilful workers in the Lord's vineyard. Our spirit must agonize to bring spiritual things to come to pass. Let us do with our might what our hands find to do, and let us pray for what we may legitimately pray to God to make us a power in his wisdom and strength for accomplishing his high purposes. Let us heed the maxim of the founder of Methodism, who says, "to gain knowledge is good, but to save souls is better." May we be true toilers in this particular part of God's harvest field.

I hope that I have been helpful to my brethren in their labors.

I thank you, brethren, for your kindness to me during the past year.

Respectfully submitted,

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

The length of the past Conference year brings properly within this report the closing of two school years in our Lovetch Girls' School, namely on June 28, 1899 and on June 27, 1900. On the former date a class of 6 graduates left us to enter upon the duties of active life. For one of the number, however, only a few short months remained, until she was summoned to the life beyond. Although from an Orthodox home, we have assuring testimonies from those who were with her in her last days that the truths impressed upon her heart during her school life had taken deep root and were the solace of her dying hours. Another member of the same class was appointed teacher in an Orthodox school for the past year, and still another assisted in the Domestic department of our Lovetch School.

Our last school year opened Sept, 6, 1899 and ended June 27, 1900 (new style). As was intimated in our report one year ago, it was deemed best to discontinue the Primary department hitherto connected with the Lovetch School. However the number of pupils was not diminished, as the enrollment in the classes together with one special pupil made the same total as that of the Classes and Primary combined, in the preceding year. We had 25 boarding pupils, one more than the year before. Only one of the new boarding pupils was entirely dependent on the Missionary Society for tuition and board. The pupils were classified as follows:

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<tr>
<td>II</td>
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<td>III</td>
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<td>V</td>
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<td>VI</td>
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<tr>
<td>Special</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>52</td>
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Of these all continued to the close of the year, except one day pupil in the V Class, who left the school in April on account of ill health. From the above list it is seen that this year our school sent out 10 graduates, the largest class in its history. Among them are some with more than ordinary abilities, and it is our earnest prayer that they may use their talents for the good of the world and the glory of God. A number in this class have taken the whole course in our school. Some even beginning in the Primary and remaining with us 7 years. It was the opinion of many, that the opening of a IV class in the Lovetch city school would detract greatly from the attendance in the same class in our school, but it apparently had little effect, as that class in our school was larger than it had ever been before. Seven teachers including the principal have been employed.

Sickness has Invaded the teachers' ranks, but the health of our pupils was never better than during the past year. The V Class made the best grades in their studies, but with the exception of one day pupil in the I class, none who continued the regular studies to the end of the year will remain in the same class. Some cases of rather severe discipline have been necessary, but on the whole our work has moved on successfully and without friction. Financially we report receipts from pupils as follows:

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<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>Tuition of Day pupils</td>
<td>400</td>
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<tr>
<td>For Piano lessons</td>
<td>600</td>
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<td><strong>5600</strong> levs</td>
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Two religious meetings were held weekly for the special benefit of the boarding pupils. Attendance upon these meetings was voluntary, and they were open to both Protestant and Orthodox pupils. Results proved that not a few of the Orthodox girls had a relish for meetings of a spiritual nature and their voices were frequently heard in prayer and testimony. 24 of our girls were members of the Epworth League, this proving a use-
ful and attractive field of labor. That much more is desirable in the line of spiritual life and advancement cannot be denied, but with grateful hearts for our Father's guidance in the past, we look with assurance for the help in devising still more effective means for influencing those committed to our care, in the future.

The Minister of Public Instruction favored us with a visit in April. In the heavy loss sustained by the removal of Miss Diem we were glad to secure the services of another Swiss lady, whose home is temporarily in Lovetch. The W. F. M. S. has appropriated funds and promises reinforcement by the sending of a new missionary from America, as soon as the right person can be found.

Miss Evanca Todorova again taught the Primary School in Hotantsa, and although the attendance was somewhat diminished she reports satisfactory progress on the part of her 14 pupils.

Mrs Tchetvertacova was Bible woman in Lom until Sept. 1899. She was then sent to Hibcle, where she worked until Feb. 1900, when she voluntarily left the work to preside over a home of her own. It is a source of regret that a suitable person has not yet been found to take up this important work.

The facts stated in this brief review of our work but faintly express the thought, prayer, desires and sacrifice interwoven in the toil of the past months. Failure to attain the height of our ambitions, the end of our longings, has not disheartened us. Discouragements thickly strow the pathway of every worker in the Master's vineyard. In the midst of perplexities and disappointments, as well as in moments of joyous victory, we have been able to say "It is a blessed service," and with hopeful, thankful prayerful hearts look for our reward to Him, who assured His disciples that even a cup of cold water given in His name, should not lose its reward.

Respectfully submitted,
KATE B. BLACKBURN.
TREASURER'S REPORT.

Receipts:

For Self Support, ................................... 1650
Missionary Society, ............................... 229
Mission Church Extension So...
  From Collections, .......................... 182
Rent Shumla House, ............................. 1200
Interest at 6%, ................................. 68. 80 1450 80
For British Bible Society, .......................... 36
Methodist Tract Society, .......................... 17
W. F. M. Society, ................................. 27 50
Mission Education Society, ......................... 11
General Conference, ............................... 20
Episcopal Fund, ................................. 18
Total Receipts, ................................... 3403 30

Disbursements:

To Preachers on Salaries, .......................... 1654
  Homer Eaton for Missionary Society, 278
  Bishops, ......................................... 19
  General Conference, .............................. 18
  Miss Diem for W. F. M Society, ................. 5
  Blackburn ......................................... 22 50
Methodist Tract Society, .......................... 16
British Bible Society, ............................ 38
Z. G. Dimitrof for Stoyan Dimitroff
  from Mis. Education Fund, ....................... 31 25
Mission Ch. Extension:
For Faxes .......................................... 200
  Repairs, ......................................... 25 20
  Insurance, ....................................... 13. 65 238 85
Total Disbursements, .............................. 2320 60

Rustchuck, Sept. 4 th, 1900.

T. Constantine.
### GENERAL STATISTICS OF THE BULGARIA MISSION CONFERENCE 1899 - 1900.

#### CHARGES

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<th>Probable Value</th>
<th>No. of Churches</th>
<th>No. of Parsonages</th>
<th>Probable Value</th>
<th>Paid for building and improving churches</th>
<th>Church, Sexton, Light, Fuel etc.</th>
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<th>Claims</th>
<th>Receipts</th>
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#### Rustchuck District

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<th>Probable Value</th>
<th>No. of Churches</th>
<th>No. of Parsonages</th>
<th>Probable Value</th>
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<th>Church, Sexton, Light, Fuel etc.</th>
<th>S. S. Lesson leaves</th>
<th>Claims</th>
<th>Receipts</th>
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*Figures represent Dollars and Cents. The Dollar is computed at 5 francs.*
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*Figures represent Dollars and Cents. The Dollars is computed at 5 francs.*