MINUTES
OF THE
TWENTIETH SESSION
OF THE
BULGARIA
MISSION CONFERENCE
OF THE
METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
HELD AT
SHUMEN, BULGARIA, APRIL 27-30, 1911.

Press «POBEDA», Roustshouk
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SHUMEN, BULGARIA, APRIL 27-30, 1911.
OFFICERS OF THE CONFERENCE.

President: Bishop WILLIAM BURT, D. D., L. L. D.
Secretary: Tsv. Tsvetanoff, Pleven.
Statistical Secretary: Ivan Gantcheff, Shumen.
Assistant: G. N. Babadjoff.
Treasurer: Pavel Todoroff, Rustchuk.

CONFERENCE SOCIETIES.

Epworth League:
President: Ivan Gantcheff  Secretary: Christo Bojanoff.

Woman's Foreign Missionary Society:
President: Mrs M. J. Economoff.
Vice President: Mrs. F. G. Babadjoff  Secretary: Mrs. Z. G. Dimitroff.
Treasurer: Mrs. V. T. Count.

STANDING COMMITTEES.

Education: Stephen Getcheff, Jordan Economoff, Kate Blackburn.
Publication Committee: E. E. Count, St. Thomoff, J. J Setchanoff.
Board of Stewards: Pavel Todoroff, (1 year), J. J. Setchanoff (2 years), M. D. Delcheff (3 years).

NOMINATIONS FOR STANDING COMMITTEES FOR 1912.

Education. J. I. Economoff, Kate Blackburn, Ivan Gantcheff.
Sabbath Observance and Temperance. Z. G. Dimitroff, Ivan Todoroff, S. Getcheff.
Nominating Committee. J. J. Setchanoff, Tsvetan Tsvetanoff, Ivan Setchanoff.
PRELIMINARY MEETING AND GREETING.

On Wednesday evening, April 26th, a public reception and welcome was tendered Bishop and Mrs. Burt and the Conference in the church. A large and intelligent audience were gathered at the appointed hour. The pastor, Ivan Gantcheff, after the usual opening exercises arose and in an appropriate speech heartily welcomed the Conference to Shumen. He prayed that God’s richest blessing would rest upon its deliberations and that success would crown its every effort to establish God’s kingdom in Bulgaria.

In response to the above greeting, Stephen Getcheff spoke for the Conference its hearty appreciation of the cordial words of welcome, dwelling much upon the spiritual purpose of its annual session.

Pavel Todoroff then followed with especial words of welcome to Bishop and Mrs. Burt. He assured the Bishop that though the Conference had been highly favored by repeated visits from him, at no time was he more cordially welcomed than at the present moment.

The Bishop in return arose and expressed his sincere appreciation of the cordial sentiment. He took advantage of the presence of a large number of young people and gave them an earnest exhortation to make the best of their lives. He dwelt with special emphasis upon physical, mental and religious growth and stated that he was an eyewitness to the great progress of Bulgaria in recent years. He had seen her leaving other nations of the Orient far behind and traced in the moral movements of the day a significant spiritual awakening in Bulgaria. He felt sure that if the preachers were loyal to their spiritual vocations, Bulgaria would become a God-fearing nation.

DAILY PROCEEDINGS.

FIRST DAY.

Shumen, April 27th, 1911.

Opening. — The Bulgaria Mission Conference met for its twentieth session in the Methodist Episcopal Church in Shumen on the 27th of April, at 9 o’clock A. M., under the presidency of Bishop William Burt. After the singing of the 245th hymn, the reading of 1 Cor. 1, and prayer by Bro. Ivan Gantcheff, Bishop Burt gave some stirring and helpful thoughts suggested by the chapter which had been read. He noted with special emphasis these three points: 1. Every work needs men, but men with character. 2. Messengers for
the heralding and proclaiming of Christ, as coworkers with Him in His kingdom, to work for His coming again. 3. The need of spiritual strength.

The Lord's Supper was then administered, the superintendent and district superintendents assisting.

Roll Call. — The secretary of the last Conference called the roll and the following members responded to their names: J. I. Economoff, E. E. Count, Pavel Todoroff, Ivan Todoroff, Stephen Getcheff, Ivan Dimitroff, M. D. Delcheff, Bancho Todoroff, A. P. Meshkoff, Tsvetan Tsvetanoff, G. N. Babadjoff, Ivan Gantcheff.

Organization. — On motion of Ivan Todoroff, Tsvetan Tsvetanoff was appointed secretary.

On motion of Pavel Todoroff, Ivan Gantcheff was chosen statistical secretary with permission to chose his own assistant. He chose G. N. Babadjoff.

On motion of E. E. Count, Pavel Todoroff was appointed Conference Treasurer.

On motion, Stephen Thomoff was chosen to be the interpreter for the Bishop.

Bar of the Conference. — On motion of Ivan Todoroff, it was decided that the first three seats on both sides of the church should constitute the bar of the Conference.

Hours of Session. — On motion of Ivan Todoroff the hours of Conference session were fixed at 8:30 A. M. for opening, the first half hour to be spent in devotional exercises, and at 12 o'clock for adjournment.

Book Concern Dividend. — The Bishop announced that the dividend from the Methodist Book Concern for this Conference amounted to two hundred and eleven dollars. On motion of Stephen Thomoff, the check was ordered to be signed by the secretary and given to the treasurer to be held for its proper disposition.

Program. — On motion of E. E. Count, the printed program was made the official program of the Conference.

Standing Committees. — The names of the Standing Committees as printed on the program were approved by the Conference.

Episcopal Fund. — On motion it was decided that the amount of four dollars asked of the Conference for the Episcopal Fund, be apportioned by the District Superintendent among the various charges.

Connectional Fund. — E. E. Count was appointed to enter into correspondence with Dr. Hingsley concerning the Conference Claimants Connectional Fund.
MISSION CONFERENCE

Peace Commission. — Bishop Burt spoke of the good impressions made by the resolutions sent to the secretary of The Universal Peace Commission through Bishop Mallalieu. These resolutions were passed to the Committee on the State of the Work.

Bishop Burt. — The Bishop then addressed the Conference a few words of sincere fellowship. He alluded feelingly to the seven visits he had paid the Bulgaria Conference and to the possibility of his not returning again and then followed with sympathetic and earnest exhortation to greater endeavor.

Question fourteen. — The fourteenth question was taken up: «Was the Character of each Preacher examined?»

Superintendent. — E. E. Count was called, his character passed and he read his report of the work in general.

Lovetch District. — Ivan Todoroff, Superintendent. His character passed and he presented his report.

Rustchuk District. — Pavel Todoroff, Superintendent. His character passed and he presented his report.

Adjournment. — On motion Conference adjourned. The doxology was sung and the benediction was pronounced by Bishop Burt.

SECOND DAY. Friday, April 28th.

Devotional Exercises. — At 8:30 A. M. the Conference came together for devotional exercises which were conducted by M. D. Delcheff. After singing of hymn 215, the Bishop addressed the Conference upon the great mission of the Christian Church in the world. His remarks were listened to with great interest.

At nine o'clock the Bishop called the Conference to order for its business session. The Journal of the previous days session was read and approved.

Question Fourteen Resumed. — «Was the Character of each Preacher Examined?» The following preachers were called and their characters passed and they gave verbal reports A. P. Meshkoff, Z. G. Dimitroff, Ts. Tsvetanoff, Ivan Setchanoff, Bancho Todoroff, Ivan Dimitroff, Stephen Getcheff, Stephen Thomoff, M. D. Delcheff, N. N. Puleff.

Continued on Trial. — Question Six was taken up. «Who have been Continued on Trial?» After the reading of the results of the examinations of N. N. Puleff, they being satisfactory, he was passed into the studies of the second year.

Studies of Third Year. — Question nine, «What Members are in Studies of Third Year?» was taken up. Martin Rohachek was
called. The report of his examinations being satisfactory he was passed into the studies of the third year.

**Studies of the Fourth Year.** — Question ten, «What Members are in Studies of Fourth Year?» was taken up. The report of the examinations of Ivan Gantcheff was read and being satisfactory he was passed into the studies of the fourth year.

**Course of Study Completed.** — Question eleven «What Members have Completed the Conference Course of Study?» was taken up. The name of G. N. Babadjoft was called, his character was passed, the Examining Committee reported his examinations satisfactory, and he was elected to Elder's orders.

**Woman's Foreign Missionary Society.** — The Bishop invited Miss Kate Blackburn, Director of the American School for Girls at Lovetch, to read her report. After the reading of the report, on motion of M. D. Delcheff, it was voted that the report be printed in the Minutes of the Conference.

Pavel Todoroff presented the report of the Committee on visiting the Lovetch School. On motion of Ivan Setchanoff it was received and recommended to be printed in the Minutes.

**Adjournment.** — The Conference adjourned at 10.45 on account of the Bishop being called by important business out of the city.

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**THIRD DAY.**

**Saturday, April 29th.**

**Devotional Exercises.** — The devotional exercises were conducted by Bancho Todoroff, after which the secretary read the Minutes of the previous session, which were approved.

**Received by the Queen.** — Bishop Burt spoke of his visit to the Queen of Bulgaria on the previous day and referred appreciatingly to the cordial and hearty reception given him by her Majesty. He told of the lengthly interview which he had with her in the gardens of the palace «Euxinograd» beautifully situated on the Black Sea and assured the Conference that her Majesty took an intense and lively interest in all great movements intellectual, moral and religious in Europe and most especially in their relation to Bulgaria, whose interests she holds dearly at heart.

**Admitted into Full Membership.** — Question eight was taken up. «Who have been admitted into Full Membership?»

The presiding Bishop called the name of Martin Rohachek who answered satisfactorily the Disciplinary questions and after a few earnest words by the Bishop he was received as a full member of the Conference.
Superannuates. — In response to Question twentyfour, "Who are the Superannuated Preachers?", J. I. Economoff was called, his character passed and he spoke briefly.

Supernumerary. — Question twentythree was asked. "Who are the Supernumerary Preachers?", Pavel Todoroff notified the Conference that Tseno Georgieff, a supernumerary preacher, had left Drew Seminary and was now attending a Baptist Seminary. It was voted that he be left in the same relation until the superintendent of the Mission ascertain his present status.

Place of next Conference. — Question thirtytwo, "Where shall the next Conference be held?" On vote it was decided to hold the next Conference in Voyvodovo.

Time of next Conference. — On motion of E. E. Count it was voted to ask Bishop Burt to hold the next Conference early in the month of April, 1914, before the General Conference and at the same time to warmly urge the return of Bishop Burt for another four years, to Europe.

Report of Treasurer. — Pavel Todoroff read his report as treasurer of the Conference, which was approved.

General Conference Delegate. — E. E. Count read the following resolution for sending a delegate to the next General Conference in America. It was recommended that it should also be presented to the Central European Conference which will be held in Rome next September.

Whereas, the Board of Bishops of our church has repeatedly called the attention of the General Conference in their Quadrenial Addresses to that legislative body of our Church, to the incongruity of our ecclesiastical law which deprives Mission Conferences of representation in that body, and

Whereas, it is our deep-seated and abiding conviction that such a law is opposed to the fundamental principle of elective franchise contemplated in the democratic form of our ecclesiastical polity, and

Whereas, members of our Conference who once possessed this elective franchise, eligibility to election to the General Conference and privilege of representation in it, have become deprived of it, either by organization into a Mission Conference, or by the power of transfer reposed in a Bishop, and

Whereas, we firmly believe that the ministerial membership of all the Conferences of our church is in possession of an inalienable right of franchise given by the Constitution of our church and inherent in the Constitution itself, and in this right members of the Conferences are everywhere equal and cannot be deprived of it by any law of the church,

Therefore, be it resolved, that the Bulgaria Mission Conference petition the General Conference of our church at its next session to put the law of our church in harmony with its constitutional provisions and that we elect and if thought advisable by our Bishop, send a delegate to our next General Conference and, through the Central Conference of Europe, send a suitable petition to it praying that the discrimination against Mission Conferences be removed.
Ivan Setchanoff presented the report of the Auditing Committee which was approved.

Pavel Todoroff presented the report of the Committee on Sabbath Observance and Temperance which was approved.

Stephen Getcheff presented the report of the Committee on Education which was approved.

G. N. Babadjoff presented the report of the Committee on the State of the Work which was approved after making some necessary corrections.

Letters of Greeting. — Several letters of greeting were read to the Conference and it was voted that they be answered by illustrated post cards.

Ivan Setchanoff presented the report of the Committee on the Woman’s Foreign Missionary Society which was approved.

Tsvetan Tsvetanoft presented the report of the Committee on Christian Literature. On motion of Ivan Setchanoff another item was added to the report and it was then approved.

The Committee on the Epworth League read its report which was approved.

Delegate. — In view of unforeseen circumstances it was found that the previously elected lay delegates might be unable to attend the Conference in Rome. For that reason it was thought best to elect a second alternate. This was done by ballot and Mrs. M. D. Delcheff was elected.

Conference Stewards. — The term of Pavel Todoroff as Conference Steward having expired, he was again nominated for a term of three years. His being the only name presented for nomination the secretary was asked to cast the deciding ballot.

Minutes. — A committee was appointed to print the Minutes of the Conference consisting of the secretary, the superintendent and the editor of the Christian World. It was voted that the printed Minutes be made the official record of the Conference.

On motion it was voted that the Conference go into executive session.

EXECUTIVE SESSION.

Saturday, 11.40 A. M.

Question Five. — «Who have been Received on Trial?» The superintendent of the Lovetch District read a recommendation from the Quarterly Conference of the Pleven church that Joseph Tsitska be received on trial in the Annual Conference. Permission was given to the District Superintendent to give him work as a local preacher until the following Conference.
Special Session. — It was decided to hold an extra session to finish the work of the Conference, at 5 o'clock in the afternoon.

Adjournment. — Conference was adjourned with the singing of the doxology and the benediction was pronounced by the Bishop.

Afternoon.

Saturday, 5 P. M.

Opening. — The session was opened with prayer by A. P. Meshkoff.

Deaconesses. — Ivan Setchanoff presented the report of the Committee on candidates for deaconesses which was approved.

Students for the Ministry. — It was moved by E. E. Count and voted that the District Superintendents and Conference Stewards should form rules governing the matter of support for students preparing for the ministry.

Ivan Setchanoff presented the report of the Conference Stewards which was considered item by item and approved. (See report).

Marriage of Preachers. — On motion of E. E. Count it was voted that the District Superintendents be authorized to regulate the question of the marriage of preachers in the future, and that they accordingly formulate certain rules and regulations to be presented to the next Conference.

Statistics. — It was decided after looking over the Statistical blanks, to make any necessary corrections to them in the Minutes.

Statistical Report. — On motion of Ivan Todoroff it was voted that the items for the official statistics and reports be sent to the statistical secretary at least one week before the Annual Conference.

Statistical Secretary. — On motion of M. D. Delcheff, Ivan Gantcheff was chosen Statistical Secretary for the next year.

Delegate to Annual Meeting. — Ivan Todoroff was chosen fraternal delegate to the Annual Meeting of the Mission south of the Balkans.

Adjournment. — It was voted that after the reading of the Minutes and the regular service followed by the reading of the appointments by the Bishop, the Conference adjourn sine die.

The session was adjourned with prayer by the Bishop.

Sunday, April 30th.

The Love Feast held in the church at 9 o'clock under the leadership of Pavel Todoroff was in every way a soul-inspiring service.

The regular preaching service began at 10 o'clock. After the usual preliminary exercises, the Bishop preached a powerful sermon
from the text «Lord to whom shall we go? Thou hast the words of eternal life».

At the close of the sermon, the Bishop, assisted by the superintendent and other elders proceeded to ordain Geo, N. Babadjoff as elder, he having been duly elected to these orders by the Conference. The singing of hymn 228 and the pronouncing of the benediction by the Bishop, brought to a close the inspiring services of the morning.

Afternoon.

At three o'clock an interesting open-air service was held in the public park. The leader, Ivan Todoroff, forcefully presented the truths embodied in John 3:14. He was followed by G. N. Babadjoff, Stephen GetchefFF, and D. L. Balabanoff in earnest Gospel talks.

Evening. — At eight o'clock a crowded audience was present to hear the sermon by Tsvetan Tsvetanoft who took for his text Ps. 34:2. It was listened to with sustained interest throughout. At the close of the sermon Bishop Burt took the chair to bring the session of Conference to a close. His final words were so strongly pertinent that they elicited fervent amens.

Resolutions. — Ivan Setchanoff read resolutions cordially complimentary to the Bishop and Mrs. Burt which were adopted by a rising vote. They were in the nature of an address and read as follows:

To Bishop William Burt, D. D., LL. D and Mrs. Burt:

Yesterday we had the rare privilege of expressing our heartfelt feelings of gratitude and appreciation by a humble souvenir, for the services you have rendered the Mission, and the Bulgarian nation as well, during the last seven years. Permit us now through the living word to present this address which in the coming years of your life will re-echo our thanks and love to you.

Beloved Bishop, more than 50 years have passed since the Methodist Episcopal church of America sent out its first missionaries to Bulgaria. They began work in this very town of Shumen. During these years of preparatory and pioneer work the Mission has passed through various phases and trials so much so that at one time its very existence was at stake. But thank God from the time you took charge of the Mission, not only was the Mission preserved, but a new era of life and activity dawned upon it. Your ceaseless cares and wise measures have given a strong impulse to the work; your wise counsels and administrations together with your inspiring sermons given every year have widened our spiritual horizon and given us a new insight into the grandness of the evangelical ministry, while your faith and love for us and for our people have captivated our hearts and have enabled us to see in your person a very precious and rare friend of Bulgaria.

For all of this we render praise and glorify God, and we also express our heartfelt and lasting thanks to you and Mrs. Burt and
through you to the Missionary Society in New York and to the great Methodist Episcopal church in America:

Now as the time has come for you to return to America we can hardly bear the thought that this may be our last privilege of seeing you among us; no, for not only would we gladly see you among us for our next Conference to be held at Voyvodovo, but we would unanimously petition that you may be reappointed to Europe for the next quadrennium. Should however, God's wise providence decree otherwise, we feel sure that though at a great distance from us, you will still take a lively interest in God's work in Bulgaria and will cooperate for the realization of your long cherished plans for our country.

Expressing once more to you and Mrs. Burt our feelings of deep and lasting affection, we remain devotedly,

The Workers of the Bulgaria Mission Conference.
(Here follow the signatures of the Members and Workers of the Bulgaria Mission Conference).

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 the members and adherents of the Shumen church for their large hearted hospitality extended to us during the session of this Conference. We have greatly enjoyed the Christian communion and have deeply appreciated their brotherly kindness to us. We hope this Conference may be the beginning of a new and deeper religious life for all connected with the Shumen church and may lead to the manifestation of such an earnest and indefatigable zeal in God's cause in Shumen as will result in the evangelization of all the peoples living in the town. May God's richest blessing rest upon the Shumen church.

Telegrams. — Two telegrams of greeting were read, the one from the Varna Epworth League and the other from Lovetch.

Adjournment. — After encouraging words from the Bishop and the reading of the appointments the Conference adjourned.

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

William Burt, President. Tsv. Tsvetanoff, Secretary.

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CERTIFICATE OF ORDINATION.

This is to certify that on April 30, 1911, at Shumen, Bulgaria, assisted by Elders, I ordained to the office of Elder GEORGE N. BABADJOFF, he having been duly elected by the Bulgaria Mission Conference.

Shumen, April 30, 1911. William Burt, Bishop.
DISCIPLINARY QUESTIONS.

1. Is the Annual Conference Incorporated According to the Requirements of the Discipline? *As far as the laws of the land will permit.*

2. Who have been Received by Transfer and from what Conference? *None.*

3. Who have been Readmitted? *None.*

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

5. Who have been Received on Trial?
   a) In Studies of First Year. *None.*
   b) In Studies of Third Year. *None.*

6. Who have been Continued on Trial?
   a) In Studies of First Year. *None.*
   b) In Studies of Second Year. *N. N. Puleff.*
   c) In Studies of Third Year. *None.*
   d) In Studies of Fourth Year. *None.*

7. Who have been Discontinued? *None.*

8. Who have been Admitted into Full Membership?
   a) Elected and Ordained Deacons this year. *None.*
   b) Elected and Ordained Deacons previously. *Martin Rohachek.*

9. What Members are in Studies of Third Year?
   a) Admitted into Full Membership this year. *Martin Rohachek.*
   b) Admitted into Full Membership previously. *None.*

10. What Members are in Studies of Fourth Year? *Tseno Georgieff.*

11. What Members have Completed the Conference Course of Study?
   a) Elected and Ordained Elders this year. *George N. Babadjoff.*
   b) Elected and Ordained Elders previously. *None.*

12. What others have been Elected and Ordained Deacons?
   a) As Local Preachers. *None.*
   b) Under Missionary Rule. *None.*
   c) Under Seminary Rule. *None.*

13. What others have been Elected and Ordained Elders?
   a) As Local Deacons. *None.*
   b) Under Missionary Rule. *None.*
   c) Under Seminary Rule. *None.*

14. Was the Character of each Preacher examined? *This was strictly done as the name of each Preacher was called in open Conference.*

15. Who have been Transferred, and to what Conferences? *None.*

16. Who have Died? *None.*

17. Who have been Located at their own request? *None.*

18. Who have been Located? *None.*

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

21. Who have been Expelled? **None.**

22. What other Personal Notation should be made? **None.**

23. Who are the Supernumerary Preachers? **Tseno Georgieff.**

24. Who are the Superannuated Preachers? **Jordan Economoff.**

25. Who are the Triers of Appeals? **None.**

26. What is the Statistical Report for this Year? **See tabulated statement.**

27. What is the Aggregate of the Benevolent Collections Ordered by the General Conference, as reported by the Conference Treasurer? **Doll. 326.20.**

28. What are the Claims on the Conference Fund? **Doll. 500.**

29. What has been Received on these Claims, and how has it been applied? **Doll. 245.40.**

30. What is the Amount of the Five Per Cent of Collections for the Conference Claimants' Connectional Fund paid by the Treasurer to the Board of Conference Claimants? **Doll. 1.78.**

31. Where are the Preachers Stationed? **See appointments.**

32. Where shall the Next Conference be held? **Vayvodovo.**
APPOINTMENTS 1910—1911.

Elmer Ernest Count, Superintendent, Ulitza Krakra, 24, Sofia.

Lovetch District.
Ivan Todoroff, District Superintendent, Tarnovo.

Dubnik Circuit . . . . . . . To be supplied.
Etropole and Lupen . . . . To be supplied by D. L. Balabanooff
Gabrovo and Treynia . . . . A. P. Meshkoff . D. . . . . 6
Hibelle . . . . . . . Bancho Todoroff . E. . . . . 6
Lovetch and Troyan . . . . G. N. Babadjoff . E. . . . . 3
Murtvitsa . . . . . . . To be supplied by Joseph Tsitzka
Orchania . . . . . . . Z. G. Dimitroff . E. . . . . 5
Pleven and Circuit . . . . Pavel Todoroff . E. . . . . 1
Sevlievo . . . . . . . Stephen Getcheff . E. . . . . 7
Sofia . . . . . . . J. J. Setchanoff . E. . . . . 3
Tarnovo . . . . . . . Ivan Todoroff . E. . . . . 2
Vratza . . . . . . . To be supplied.

W. F. M. S.
Kate B. Blackburn, Principal of the Lovetch School.
Dora Davis Vice-Principal . . . . . . . .

Rustchuk District.
Tsvetan Tsvetanoff, District Superintendent, Rustchuk.

Hotanza . . . . . . . To be supplied by Atanas Mihoff.
Lom and Circuit. . . . . Ivan Dimitroff . E. . . . . 7
Rustchuk and Razgrad. . . . Tsvetan Tsvetanoff . E. . . . 1
Shumen Circuit . . . . Ivan Gantcheff . E. . . . . 2
Silistra . . . . . . . To be supplied.
Sistov. . . . . . . . Stephen Thomoff . E. . . . . 7
Varna and Baltchik. . . . . M. D. Delcheff . E. . . . . 2
Viddin Circuit. . . . . N. N. Puleff . P. . . . . 3
Voyvovodovo Circuit . . . . . M. Rohachek . D. . . . . 7

E. E. Count, Mission Treasurer.
Tsvetan Tsvetanoff, Book Agent.
J. J. Setchanoff, Editor of «The Christian World».
To preach the Missionary Sermon, Ivan Todoroff.
To preach the Conference Sermon, Bancho Todoroff.
Committee to visit the Lovetch School: Stephen Thomoff, B. Todoroff.

Conference Deaconess Board.
For one year:
Pavel Todoroff, Todor Semerdjieff, Kate B. Blackburn.
For two years:
E. E. Count, Marko Karatanasoff, Manola Economoff.
For three years:
Ivan Todoroff, M. D. Delcheff, Elena Z. Dimitrova.
Board of Conference Examiners:
J. J. Setchanoff, Stephen Thomoff, Tsv. Tsvetanoff, Ivan Todoroff,
A. P. Meshkoff, Pavel Todoroff, G. N. Babadjoff.
REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT.

Never since my arrival on the field have there been such evidences of a revival as there are at the present moment. It must be remembered that we are not laboring in a heathen country. It prides itself on being a Christian land. And yet as we look about we wonder whether there ever was a heathen land more in need of vital Christianity than the one in which we are living. It has been hard to overcome this feeling so fortified and nourished by national pride even among the evangelical believers. But the change is coming. No year more than the one just past has ever given so many evidences of the prophetic dawning. Pastors who in the past have been listening to the tale of the educational transition of Bulgaria as preparatory to evangelistic success have changed position on the question and are becoming enthused with an evangelistic passion for saving souls. The members of the churches are catching the fire and urging pastors to open up a more earnest, urgent campaign for the same object.

It has been a year significant for special spiritual effort. The Pentecostal week in June, of the calendar of the established church was chosen as a fit time to call pastors and people to a week of prayer and fasting. It was done. An appeal was sent to all the churches. The week was observed throughout the Mission. It proved to be a good preparation for what was the first session of its kind in the history of our Mission, namely, a mid-year Conference for the deepening of spiritual life and studying the best methods for directing the evangelistic passion. This was held in October. It proved to be a veritable uplift for those present. The men went back to their charges, resolved as never before to discharge the responsibility resting upon them and which they seemed to see in a new light. The fire caught at this Conference at Sistov soon kindled others at various points in the Mission. Letters came to me from members of the congregations stating that a new awakening was on hand because of a new and holy zeal of the pastor. Some who for years have been connected with our work wrote me that they had never before in this land seen such deep interest in spiritual things. I know not what statistics may reveal, but certain it is that God is
revealing Himself to human hearts in our Mission with such intensity of conviction as has not been known in our work here. In the great struggle we have had to uncover Satan dressed in the garb of sainthood and hiding behind the traditions of the established church.

While the above encouraging signs have been with us they seem to have aroused the very ire of Satan against evangelical work in this kingdom. For the first time in the history of evangelical work in Bulgaria, an attempt was made on the part of the Ministry in power to curb seriously the activity of the movement. The proposed law was referred to in the address from the throne at the opening of Parliament. It was compiled and printed and presented to the keeper of the archives to be called up and presented to the Sobranie by the Prime Minister. When the bill was mentioned in the speech of the king, it awakened the evangelicals to vigilance. We in the Balkan states have discovered this to be the price of our liberty. When we learned of the existence of such a bill we found it difficult to procure a copy. The Prime Minister has inadvertently stated that it was his purpose to have the bill go through Parliament before its contents had become fully known. Some of us succeeded in getting a copy though legations had failed. To our surprise it proved to be an inspiration of the Holy Synod, so-called, and most persecutingly obnoxious. Certain features of it read like a document of the mediaeval ages. Why such a retrogressive step should be taken by this land after so many years of tolerance guaranteed by the Berlin Treaty, while nations like France, Spain and Portugal were squaring their accounts with the enlightenment of the present day was a conception of the situation that staggered us. Yet here was a proposed law that put an embargo upon conversions to evangelical faith; it so restricted the erection of buildings as to render it quite impossible; even congregations were not to be organized under evangelical auspices except under restrictions that aimed at prohibition; preaching the Gospel in public was prohibited; collections for the support of the work was so vaguely stated when permissible as to make one feel that he was breaking the law to do it at all. Many other obnoxious features of the law there were even to the extent of making one feel that he was in constant danger of having the property of the cause he represented confiscated, this being the penalty for violating its provisions.

The attention of the various legations was called to the subject of the proposed legislation. They besieged the Minister of Faith who was Minister of Foreign Affairs as well. The offensively persecuting bill was withdrawn from the Parliament and the non-orthodox church-
es as the members of the established church like to call us, continue in the anomalous position occupied for years.

Some of us are coming to know the feeling of St. Paul when he said «I take pleasure in persecutions». A couple of years ago we sent one of our preachers to a town near Etropole. He wanted to go. He said he felt that God was calling him there. He took his wife to the town inn. The people as soon as they found out his mission gave him no welcome. They surrounded the hotel and with stones and clubs shouted that he must leave the hotel and the town. The appearance of the proprietor of the inn with a revolver on his hand and a threat on his lips put a quietus on the stone throwing and the preacher was allowed to stay. He has now won the hearts of the community. This last year he determined to carry the Gospel to a large village some distance from the town. The villagers gathered for the first time to hear the Gospel preached. His frequent visits soon brought an invitation for regular ones. But there was no place for meeting. The men would get one. A store was given up for the purpose. It has been crowded ever since. But the usual persecution set in. The priest of the village sought to drive him away. But our preacher had gotten hold of the people's hearts. They asked the pope why he had not ever given them the Gospel message? He was silent in the presence of their accusations. He threatened to have the man that rented the store excommunicated. But supported by the large number of villagers who loved now both the Gospel and its preacher, he defied the intentions of the priest. The priest himself is in danger of being driven from the village. There are those who feel that the whole village will soon turn to evangelical truth.

At Golentzi another village, our work spread so rapidly that the attention of the mayor of the town was drawn to its seriousness. He is a son of the pope of the town. The people, who had been meeting in various houses felt the need of a place of worship. They purchased land for the purpose. They collected money to put up a building. The mayor felt that he must check the life of the movement. He suddenly bethought himself that the town needed a town hall. Of course there was no place in the town where such a building could be erected but on the spot purchased for a church. Our people felt sure they had enough sympathizers to defeat the purpose of the mayor. Chicanery was resorted to. A meeting for an uninteresting object was advertised. A few of the followers of the mayor came together to consider the purpose of the meeting. It was then voted to take the Methodist land. Here then the zeal of a loyal people suffered a temporary setback by an act inspired by a priest of the
town. One young man from this humble place has felt called to preach the Gospel and has just entered the Samokov school to fit himself for that purpose.

We have an especially interesting work in Voyvodovo. Previous reports have spoken about this work. Most of the people living here are Bohemians and Slavonians. It is a joy to spend a Sabbath with them. Though like the children of Israel they are strangers in a strange land, still they have conceived the idea of evangelizing the neighboring villages of which there are a large number. Not far away was one that was not so free to accept their proffered services. One day last spring a number of them got into their springless wagons together with their pastor and the district superintendent and started for the town. They were met by the village clerk and the head school master who inquired their purpose. They replied that they wished to sing some of their Gospel songs, preach the Word and distribute some tracts. They were told less politely than forcibly that the people were not anxious to listen to their songs and the preaching of the Word, nor to read the tracts, and the best thing for them to do would be to retire to their wagons quietly, and hie themselves home.

It was last Autumn while visiting this good people that I heard the story. Somehow I became impressed with the feeling that there was one village which I wanted to visit for evangelical purposes more than any other just then and that was that selfsame village. I besought the people to arrange another trip to the town and to take me with them. The plans were completed. It was on a Sunday afternoon. Ten springless wagons were brought forth and filled with people. Hymn books, tracts and Bibles were put in with them. Sixty people at least were in the party. The hymns of these simple hearted and good people were constantly in their hearts and on the air. An hour’s ride brought us to the town. We called it taking Jericho. A large wide stream was at the edge of the town and between us and it. We waded it with our horses and wagons. It was our Jordan. We immediately began our songs, the best substitute for the ram’s horn. We then marched up to the very edge of the town and sang again. The curiosity of the town’s people was now aroused. They came out to greet us. One of the citizens of the town had been won some weeks before by the simple message. He was well thought of in the community. He was with us. He conducted us around the town, a peaceful but singing procession. At various points of the town, we would stop and sing. At the close of each song we would announce that there would be preaching in a short time in the public square.
So we gathered our congregation. The mayor of the town was there. So were others of its most prominent citizens. They listened attentively to the Gospel message. The walls of opposition had fallen down. Jericho was taken. Now we have access to that town whenever we wish to go.

Another encouraging feature of the year's work is seen in the number of young men that God seems to be calling to enter His work in this land. For years the brightest young men in evangelical families have not felt their consciences stirred to enter this field of usefulness. It has been a constant subject of prayer with us that God will direct toward us worthy young men. In the face of these facts you can appreciate the joy we feel in announcing that this last year has discovered for us ten worthy cases of young men whose grand purpose is to give their whole lives to the spreading of the Gospel among their own countrymen. It is a fact that means much for the cause of Christ in Bulgaria in the future.

The Lovetch school has this year by far the largest number of students in its history. It is not officially recognized by the government but better than that it has the recognition of the people. The marked improvement seen in the young girls over those who graduate in the government schools is so noticeable that parents are anxious to place their girls under these influences.

The statistics, I feel sure will bear me out in the statement that this last year has been one of the most successful in the history of the Mission. If however we appeal to that which cannot be tabulated in statistics but nevertheless has its powerful evidence in the enhanced interest of the people and in the conscious presence of a spiritual power that figures cannot measure, then we feel constrained to say that this last Conference year has been the most successful in our history. Our gain in numbers has been forty seven.

As this is probably the last session of our Conference before the quadrennial meeting of the General Conference, it might be well to take a retrospective glance over the last four years and see whether four years of history can bring into relief a picture favorable to the present moment.

Our gain in membership during the four years has been some 56 per cent. Our gain in self support as a yearly contribution over the yearly contribution of four years ago is 44 per cent. As to new property we have built a new parsonage at Varna of considerable value and are now building a second one. We have likewise purchased lately a house and lot in Sevlievo. Then too a large piece of
property adjoining the main school property at Lovetch has been purchased for school purposes for 35,000 francs.

Four years ago we as a Mission had not yet opened up work in Sofia the capital of the nation and a question of many years standing was still unsettled, but now we are located in the city of Sofia, and the wisdom of the move that placed us there has been frequently proven.

These four years have seen the introduction of a mid-year Conference for the purpose of deepening spiritual life. Of such great benefit did it prove to be that a yearly session of this sort is a foregone conclusion.

During these four years the Methodist Brotherhood has been established and has come to stay. Likewise a young woman has been sent to study to become a deaconess. The inauguration of such movements reveals much of the Mission's prospects of success.

Four years ago there was hardly a young man in our Mission studying with the sole object in view of entering our work. Some of us then felt that the absence of recruiting forces to carry on the work when some of us older ones will be compelled to lay down the burden of our responsibility, was a question of such gravity as to make us contemplate it with discouraging seriousness. But now we are able to name some 13 or 14 young men who are studying with the object in view of entering our field of work.

These are nine of the features of our work that a four year's history of our Mission gives as a declaration of progress made in our work in this land. Such features spell in large characters, by the grace of God, SUCCESS.

May I add in closing, my unbounded thanks to Almighty God for the preservation of all our lives during the past year and for his evident presence in directing our work; and for the positive assurance he has many times brought us that his interest in our work transcends ours by the distance of infinitude. I then look forward towards the future feeling His guiding hand and with a clinching resolution to give him all my trust.

E. E. Count.
REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF RUSTCHUK DISTRICT.

Dear Brethren:

I have been around the district only twice during the year. That gave me very little opportunity to get well acquainted with the work of the various charges, and as there was nobody to supply the pulpit in my absence, I had to finish my trip in the shortest possible time. For that reason I could not be present even at the prayer meetings in some of the churches, but held quarterly conferences on any day during the week. Therefore for the greater part of my information I have depended on the pastors themselves.

Varna. The fourth Quarterly Conference was held in February much earlier than I expected. I had to go and consult with Bro. Delcheff about the new house of our Church Extension Society. It is now under construction and in three months will be ready for occupation.

Bro. Delcheff moved to Varna in May and began his work. Although in many places the summer church attendance decreases, in Varna, that being a summer resort on account of the sea baths, it is generally on the increase. During the entire year the meetings have been well attended by eager listeners to the Word of God. During the fall a business misunderstanding occurred between two of the members. As is natural in such cases the church was divided in its sympathies between the two, and it appeared for a while as if there would be a break up of the church. The faith of many was sorely tried, "yet", writes the pastor, "the church attendance did not decrease at all". At last the financial difficulty was settled but pride and ambition have not yet given place to a true brotherly reconciliation. The discouragements have been many but there are signs which point to a near future of refreshing times from the presence of the Lord. Seven persons have been taken into the church. The Epworth League is doing all it can for the spiritual elevation of its members. The pastor has visited Baltchik twice and held meetings in the home of one of our members. Besides meeting all its obligations the church has helped some poor people and fully supported a young man in the Samokov school.

Hotanza has been supplied by Bro. A. Mihoff. He reports that the meetings have been well attended throughout the year. The average attendance has been 40 adults. The Sunday School numbers 31 pupils. Occasionally people from other villages attended the meetings while in attendance at the farmer's league in Hotanza. Bro. Mihoff
has visited two nearby villages distributing tracts and talking to the people. In one of the villages he preached in a bár room. No additions have been made to the membership, but there are hopes of some of the young people uniting with the church in the near future. The people are well pleased with Bro. Mihoff both as a Christian and as a preacher.

Shumen. Right after Conference, Bro Gantcheff supplied Varna for some time. Then having passed through that ordeal which is the common lot to all mankind — namely marriage, he contentedly settled in all earnestness to his work in Shumen. The brethren were and are still delighted with him as their pastor. All testify that for many years past the attendance at the meetings has never been so large as during the present year. Generally the church is full of young and old people some of them being soldiers. There is perfect harmony in the church and all zealously working for the Lord. The great desire of the brethren to have a church bell is at last realized. A few months ago it was bought and hung in the belfry and ever since then to the utmost of its capacity it calls the people to the church. The prospects are encouraging for Shumen.

Silistra was not visited this year. A few days ago I met in Rustchuk the brother who preaches there and he expressed his regret that we had not been able to pay them a visit this year. He is inclined to come into our fold but is rather loath to comply with our rules.

Sistov seems to be living in the «Sleepy Hollow». We were in hopes that the fall conference of the preachers would shake up and awaken it a little, but all seems to be in vain. Bro. Thomoff writes that he has tried his best by personal talks, distributing tracts, etc. to draw the people to church but they will not come although approving and listening to all he says. He gave a lecture in the city theater on the subject of «Religion and Modern Culture» to an audience of about sixty most of them students from the commercial school. Some of the people seem to be searching for the light but have no leaders as yet. Bro. Thomoff finished the translation of the Discipline.

Lom. Our work in this place is greatly hindered by the Baptists who proclaim everywhere that the Methodists are not Christians, because they are not baptized in their way. We have been troubled also by the leader of the Christian church. But he has come to an inglorious end. All his following has left him because of his dishonesty. We dont expect any more trouble from him. Of late the heads of two families have become regular
attendants at our church, one of them bringing his whole family. The work in Golentzi is doing well. Two services are held each Sabbath day, one in the gipsy quarter and one in the Bulgarian. There are also two Sunday Schools with about 50 scholars in all. Great is the need of a suitable room for meetings. The former mayor who was very unfriendly and had taken steps to deprive us of our church lot is out of power now. The present mayor is friendly and we hope our lot will be restored to us so that we can put up the much needed house of worship. In Kovatchitza the Baptists worshiped with our people till the winter, but now they have separated. That made a little bad impression among the villagers but it will soon wear off. There also we need a large room for our services. Six persons have been added to the church and the pastor hopes to add more in the near future.

**Viddin.** The report from Viddin is encouraging. Bro. Puleff has been busy and active during the year. He has been thrice to a near by village where a good work is begun. A young man from that village was working in Viddin and occasionally visiting our meetings. Then he returned to his village taking with him a New Testament. He seems to have been converted. He called together his companions and began to teach them the Gospel. He ordered New Testaments for them and they began in earnest to search the Scriptures. Every Sunday he would call them in his father's house and study the word of God. But the village priest began to persecute them. He threatened to beat them. He called them infidels and worse than socialists. He told the father of the boy to stop him from that dangerous path. The father asked the priest, «Is that fellow who broke into your house and stole your money, better than my son?» «Yes», said the priest, «he is a better Christian, because he crosses himself and that shows him to be a Christian, while your son does not cross himself and and therefore, is not a Christian». Bro. Puleff visited that village lately, preached to those young men and took thirteen on probation. We trust God will bless and prosper his church in Viddin.

**Voyvodovo.** The great need of this place is a large church building to accommodate the entire population of the village, which with little exception is already ours. The people have brought during the winter ninety cubic meters of stone, and, when ready to begin, they will need some financial help for the wooden material. They have paid their debts incurred during the drought two years ago, and if they could have good crops this year they will do much toward the new church. They are taking also steps to insure self support.
For that purpose they have made a special offering and bought two dekars of land which they will cultivate in common for the church. The women of the church have decided to give all the eggs which the hens lay on Sunday for a fund to support a Bible woman among their own countrymen in Bulgaria. A Bulgarian, the first convert in Rahova, has offered to the Epworth League 18 dekars of land, free of rent for five years. He also gave them nearly 100 franks worth of corn. The Epworth League will try to build a large room for its meetings. They visit near-by villages to sing and distribute tracts. Two persons were so pleased with their singing that they gave them 90 fcs. Several new members have been added to the church. Our friends are gaining the friendship and confidence of many people in Rahova and the villages around.

Rustchuk. Till the week of prayer our meetings Sunday and Thursday evenings were feebly attended as during the past two or three years. The week of prayer brought a change, the prayer meeting room being full almost every night. Then came an increase in the Sabbath evening services and I am glad to report that it has continued till now. And what is more encouraging, more new faces are seen in the church and some of them quite regularly. The Epworth League is doing well at present. Some of its members attend regularly the church services and listen attentively to the word of God. A temperance entertainment brought many outsiders to the church and we had an opportunity to distribute many tracts among them. There is an increase in the attendance at our Sunday School. On Easter Sunday we had a blessed time. Four joined the church on probation.

The Book Department with its accounts, receiving and filling orders, carrying packages to the post office, waiting from half an hour to two hours for deliverance of a package some times — has been a great consumer of my time. The midyear gathering of the preachers for conference and prayer at Sistov was, we hope, of benefit to all.

This conference year might be called a nuptial year for the district. Four of the pastors and preachers were married during the summer. But it has also brought sadness to some of the pastors. Bro. Delcheff's old mother was translated to the better land, and Bro. Rohachev's two weeks old baby boy was taken from them the day before I reached Voyvodovo for the last Quarterly Conference and it was my sad duty to conduct the funeral service. May God sustain and comfort the bereaved ones.
MISSION CONFERENCE

The churches from this district have heartily responded to Bishop Burt's call for a special offering for Korea.

Brethren, in concluding this brief report, let me remind you of our duty to be faithful to our trust. We have devoted our lives to this single work and it behooves us to use all our power and intelligence to do it in the most effective way. Whatever the opposition from interested persons, it is clear as day that prejudice is giving way and the people are hungering and thirsting for the pure Gospel. This is proven by the eagerness with which people buy the scriptures. Let us give it to them while it is day for the night cometh when no man can work.

I desire to thank the brethren once more for their hospitality and for their forbearance with me.

Respectfully submitted,

Pavel Todoroff

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF THE LOVETCH DISTRICT.

I am glad to report an encouraging year on the Lovetch District. God has in many ways shown His presence and favor. My sincere prayer throughout the year has been «May God bless His work abundantly» and God has answered our prayers.

During this Conference year I have visited my district twice, the first time with Brother Count. I was also accompanied by him on my second tour to a majority of the charges.

Sofia. I was in Sofia last September and also in March of this year. The first time I was there on the Sabbath. I preached once and gave a lecture on my impressions of the work I saw in Germany. Both were well received. My second visit was on a week day and I only held Quarterly Conference. The work has gone well and three have united with the church. The crying need in this city is a suitable church building, without which we cannot expect the work to go as fast as it should. Pastor Setchanoff whose time is partly taken by editing the Christian World has tried to do his best for the success of the church.
We work in Sofia under the hardest conditions which trip us at every step. An ill-smelling hall is not for preaching, and I again lift my weak voice to beg the church authorities as soon as possible to help us to build a home for Divine worship in order that the work may advance more rapidly. I also beg our beloved brother, Bishop Burt to do all he can on his part for this object. Sofia will always be the center of our work in Bulgaria and it is necessary to have there an equipment worthy of the cause.

Orchania. This church which for some years has been at a standstill has this year begun to show signs of life which promise more successful work for the future. The pastor is liked by the people who wish him to return for the coming year. On the 20th of March, Brother Count and I were there and we had very live meetings both morning and evening. Both of us were greatly impressed with the new life that the church has lately taken on itself.

Etropole. In this little city lives Brother Balabanoff who works the most of the time in the village Lupen. Here we have three members. We visited Etropole and administered the Lord’s Supper to these three members and to those from Lupen who had come for that purpose. The following day we went to Lupen. Although it was a work day, still we had a gathering of about fifty people and received four members on probation. The sermon of Brother Count was listened to with the greatest attention. When we had finished, the brethren seemed loath to depart. They have themselves rented a place for preaching right in the center of the large village. We were sent of with the greatest demonstrations of affection. After we had left, Brother Balabanoff said the whole village was talking of the truths we had preached. The following Sunday Bro. Balabanoff preached and received another on probation. This man told with tears how he regretted that his parents had not permitted him to come and see us and to hear the Word of God. Our members here are all young men of from 19 to 25 year of age. God has a work in this mountain village. The members rejoice in Bro. Balabanoff and wish him to return.

Pleven and the Villages. Our next visit took us to Dubnik, a large village of the Pleven circuit. Here Brother Tsvetanoff was awaiting us and we were soon on our way to the service of the evening. Although we were both suffering from colds, when we saw about a hundred people gathered, we again preached with encouragement. The sermon was listened to with the greatest attention, and some even had tears in their eyes. Brother Tsvetanoff has done good evangelistic work in the villages this winter and God has rewarded
him with the conversion of souls to Christ. The assistant mayor was at the meeting and invited us to preach in the gymnasium hall. From this village six members have been received on probation. The next day we went from Dolni Dubnik to Gorno Metropole and in the evening held a little meeting in the home of one of our Bohemian friends. The audience was small because of the rainy weather. The brethren here showered upon us their hospitality and affection. Here we have an encouraging movement among the Bulgarians and also among the Bohemians. There is great need of an active preacher to live in Dolni Dubnik and to visit Gorno Metropole and the surrounding villages. After a day's stay a wagon came from Murtvitz to carry us to their village. Although it was rainy on this day also we had a gathering of about thirty people in the home of one of the Bohemian brethren. Among the hearers was also the village priest. Our members here used to hold their services in the Lutheran church, but last January they withdrew from them. This so embittered the Lutherans against them that they threw stones against the windows of Brother Tsitzka and broke all the glass. However this has proved an encouragement to our members rather than a discouragement. They have bought a house which they will repair and make suitable for preaching. I hope that after this the work will become stronger. Since the Lutherans have no preacher, some of them come to our services to hear the preaching of Bro. Tsitzka. We hope that in time they will unite with us. Brother Tsitzka in addition to his daily work has preached regularly every sabbath and during the week and with Bro. Tsvetanoff has held revival meetings. While here we made a short visit to the village priest who received us with great affection. After this we went on to Pleven and the same evening both of us preached to an interested audience. The reports of the Quarterly Conference revealed that the work in Pleven circuit, especially in the villages is very good. Brother Tsvetanoff has visited besides the three mentioned villages, also a few others. In this circuit there have been eleven persons received on probation. There is great need of a suitable church here which we hope will soon be met, to make the progress of the work easier.

Lovetch. On the 25th of March we reached Lovetch and in the evening held Quarterly Conference. On Sunday we had such meetings as have seldom been seen in this church. Morning and evening the church was filled with listeners. After the morning sermon two children were baptized, we received two members on probation and administered the Lord's Supper. All the services were spiritual; inspiring and uplifting. This year is notable in this church for the
spiritual awakening. During the year eleven persons have united with the church.

The young men who come into the church give good guarantee of its growth in the future. Our girl's school in this city which is closely united with the success of the work of the church has made marked progress this year. There are more students than there have ever been before. There is also more spiritual life. The result of this is that some of the students have decided to live for Christ. The two missionaries, Misses Blackburn and Davis who have been on a furlough in America the last year have returned with new strength to perform their work with greater energy. They as well as all the teachers work in the greatest harmony for the good of the church and school. The new building which the W. F. M. S. has bought has helped to increase the number of students. Brother Babadjoff besides his spiritual work has also made progress financially. We expect the future to be even brighter and more successful.

Sevlievo. This year God has visited also the Sevlievo church. The pastor Brother Getcheff has been greatly encouraged in his work by the conversion of six persons. I have visited Sevlievo this year three times, twice for Quarterly Conference and once in February when we bought the house. When I have been present the room has been full of hearers who with tears have listened to the Word. On two of these occasions Bro. Count has been with me and has talked encouragingly of the good spiritual feeling. At the last service after the preaching, we received four persons on probation. The inconvenient and inadequate place for preaching has been a great hindrance, but now that we are provided with our own place, we feel that work will have greater success.

Gabrovo. From Sevlievo, Brother Count went back to Sofia and I visited Gabrovo alone. I noticed as I have on other visits that Gabrovo being the seat of much socialism and unbelief is a very hard place in which to make a way, but nevertheless there are encouraging signs. The pastor Bro Meshkoff, has worked hard and has succeeded in interesting many in the word of God. I have twice preached to an audience of fifty people. Just now one man is taking a lively interest in studying the Word of God. The Bible Woman, Miss Evanka Duinski works earnestly among the women, and they have hopes that God will bless their work. I preached here to an audience of thirty. The encouraging sign in Gabrovo is that this year there are more people ready to listen to the Gospel.
Hibelee. I have visited this place twice alone. My impression is that the work here is at a standstill. Although Bro. Bancho Todoroff has tried in various ways to increase the audience his success has been but small. There is strong opposition from the village priest and he tries in every way possible to prevent the villagers from going to our church. Bro Todoroff has received two members on probation this year. He has also visited other villages and with his wife has held two lectures in the village school with good effect. The people are fully in sympathy with our work but they lack courage to take a stand because they are sure that persecution will follow.

Tirnovo. As the pastor of this church I will say that nearly two months of the year I have been obliged to be away from my church, visiting the district. Notwithstanding this I have tried to do my best. I have preached two or three times a week throughout the year, have given two lectures in the church and one in the city theater to a large audience. Because of the church being so far to one side of the city the attendance at the services has been only average. During the year three persons have united with the church. I have visited five of the neighboring villages where I have preached and lectured. I see a great need for a traveling evangelist to go about the cities and villages.

I am glad to say that God has given good health to all the brethren which has permitted them to perform their work. They have all circulated our literature and the Scriptures.

I heartily thank the brethren of the district for the cooperation which they have given me and for their hospitality which they have shown me in their homes.

My earnest prayer is that God may bless His work in our land.

Respectfully submitted,
Ivan Todoroff.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE WOMAN'S FOREIGN MISSIONARY SOCIETY IN BULGARIA.

Although not present personally, most gratifying reports were given us of the excellent commencement exercises of the American Girls' School in Lovetch, held June 16/29, 1910, under the direction of Miss Elder. We cannot express too highly our appreciation of the efficient service rendered by Miss Elder during the eleven months which she so generously gave to the work in Bulgaria and we also
desire to express our thanks to this Conference for evident appreciation and cooperation with her during our absence.

School opened for the present year on September 1/14, 1910. The enrollment is as follows.

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<th>Class</th>
<th>I.</th>
<th>II.</th>
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<th>Specials</th>
<th>Total</th>
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<td>Pupils</td>
<td>6.</td>
<td>8.</td>
<td>14.</td>
<td>9.</td>
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<td>58.</td>
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Of this number 48 are boarding pupils and 10 are day pupils. This includes the special music pupils, one of whom left the school in December owing to the removal of her parents from Lovetch.

The property purchased for the school in 1909 came into our possession in July 1910, but neither the time nor the means at our disposal permitted an equipment of the entire building for use this year. However, we did furnish rooms sufficient to accommodate four teachers and ten girls.

Providence permitting, we are planning more extensive repairs and remodeling during the coming summer and hope to be able to receive more girls next September. At present every bed is taken. Excellent health has prevailed from the beginning of the year. The local income for the current year is as follows.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Receipts from the boarding department</th>
<th>francs</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>›››› day pupils</td>
<td>12027.50</td>
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<tr>
<td>›››› music pupils</td>
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Total 13775 frances

The following tabulated list of receipts for the past five years may be of interest.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Local income reported in</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>›››› 1907</td>
<td>4780</td>
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<td>›››› 1909</td>
<td>8888</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>›››› 1910</td>
<td>9904.50</td>
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<tr>
<td>›››› 1911</td>
<td>13775</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

We are truly grateful for this steady advance.

Miss Dafinka Economova is the new member of the faculty. The teachers have worked together harmoniously and faithfully and all deserve commendation. The literary society organized last year has held its meetings regularly under the supervision of Miss Economova.

Much interest has been shown in the monthly rhetorical exercises of the girls. Owing to the larger number of pupils, two class meetings have been held weekly for the girls and both have been well attended.
Three of our pupils have been received as probationers in the church and ten have become members of the Epworth League. Many others have manifested a live interest in spiritual things.

Briefly said, we are having a good year and to God be all the glory.

Respectfully submitted,
Kate B. Blackburn.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES.

Visiting Committee to the Lovetch School

It is rather difficult for a committee whose members live outside of Lovetch to make a right estimate of the school in a single visit of a day or two. In order to see the school work at its best and get acquainted with its real wants, the committee ought to be able to be present at a number of class exercises, conversations with principal, teachers etc. As it was neither possible or convenient for the committee to do so, we were satisfied by being present only at the commencement exercises. Yet we saw and heard many things which convinced us that the school is improving and progressing.

The evening before commencement a musical concert was given, which proved beyond doubt, not only the thorough instruction given the pupils by the music teacher but also the aptitude of the Bulgarian girls to learn and perform the intricate pieces of music.

The Commencement program was good and well carried out. The graduating girls read excellent essays which showed much reading and thinking. The large audience showed its appreciation by hearty applause.

The program of the school is now equal of that of the government girls' gymnasiurns and we hope the two good ladies at the head of the institution will take all the necessary steps toward government recognition of the school.

That the school is growing in favor is shown by the number of pupils from all parts of Bulgaria.

We are glad to state that the teachers corps is being improved by new university graduates. That will no doubt raise still higher the standing of the school. We are glad also to state that together with the mental development the school is earnestly endeavoring to develop the souls of the young girls and give them an honest and upright Christian character, without which the usefulness of everybody is greatly curtailed: We have great hopes for the future of the school.
In behalf of the Conference we desire to express our heartfelt thanks to the W. F. M. S. in America for the great good they are doing our people by means of this Christian institution.

**Temperance and Sabbath Observance**

Although we do not believe in the compulsory observance of the Sabbath day, we are glad that the new law for the holidays will compel the people to observe the Lord's day. We recommend that all our preachers hold at least two sermons during the year upon observance of the Sabbath day, that they distribute tracts and talk personally with the people.

Also that the tract on Sabbath observance be printed, the expenses to be met by the various churches and every church to take a specified number of tracts for distribution.

We are glad to report that upon the temperance question there has begun to be a great interest shown all over the nation. A temperance society has been organized in Sofia consisting of citizens and students and in some places even the socialists have given temperance lectures. This is good news and should encourage the continuance of the work by preaching, sociables, tracts and personal conversation.

**Education**

Your committee gladly reports these facts.

1. During the past year several young men have signified their desire to consecrate themselves to the work of God. We beg the pastors to encourage other young men to do the same.

2. We suggest that the churches and Epworth Leagues try to provide assistance for those who wish to consecrate themselves to God's work but who have not the means for their education.

3. The pastors are requested to, observe Children's day (the second Sunday of June) with a special program and to take a collection for the educational fund.

**State of the Work**

Your committee recommends the following:

1. Taking into consideration the great educational service and blessing which came through the midyear spiritual conference of last year, in Sistov, we recommend that another such be held also during the present Conference year. But in view of the fact that it is time to hold the Summer School during this summer in Varna, in order to save time and expense, we recommend that the Summer School and the midyear conference be held at the same time.
2. We recommend that a day be set apart for fasting and prayer during the fall.

3. That the churches be urged to hold during the fall and winter revival meetings.

4. To ask the superintendent of the Mission to appoint persons to visit the churches to hold revival meetings. The expenses of such visits should be paid from place to place by the churches, Sunday Schools or Epworth Leagues.

5. We recommend that the resolutions on World-wide Peace and Arbitration be approved, omitting the fifth point.

**World-wide Peace and Arbitration**

Resolved: First, that we recognize and sympathize with the movement which endeavors to refer all international differences to arbitration.

Resolved, that we strongly disapprove and regret the great sums which are spent every year for increasing the navies of the greater powers.

Resolved, that we beg the parents and teachers in general to instruct our youth to maintain right notions concerning this work so that they may be convinced how wrong it is to shed man's blood.

Resolved that we wish to express our great appreciation of the noble generosity of Mr. Andrew Carnegie, through which the magnificent palace of the Hague Tribunal becomes possible.

**Women's Foreign Missionary Society**

Your committee first of all expressed their regret that some of our churches have not organized a Woman's Missionary Society, and because of that have omitted entirely the woman's prayer meetings.

We recommend

That such societies be organized in such churches as do not already have them.

2. That all the pastors hold from time to time missionary meetings that they make a deeper impression and gather a larger sum of money for the Woman's Missionary Society.

That they from time to time preach missionary sermons.

**Christian Literature**

Your committee having in view the good of the Christian World recommends.

1. To continue the publication of the Christian World in the same form and print as now, with the suggestion that the Sunday School lessons be shortened so as to give simply the meat and most interesting parts of every lesson.
2. To print the coming year so far as our means will permit, tracts with purely spiritual lessons.


Committee on Deaconesses

In expressing our heartfelt joy over the fact that a candidate for deaconess has already been sent abroad, your committee would recommend:

1. That the pastors should consider it their duty to be wide-awake in finding suitable persons for deaconesses and to present them for approval.

2. That the Conference be asked to do as much as possible for the support of the deaconesses.

Conference Stewards

Your Committee recommends that in accordance with the recommendation of the Sofia Methodist Episcopal Church fifty francs be given to Mrs. M. P. Vasileff the same as during the current year, until the time that her eldest son, Samuel is drafted for military service. During the time of his service it is recommended that she be allowed eighty francs monthly.

In accordance with the Discipline we recognize the right of Bro. Jordan Economoff to a claim upon the superannuates fund, but considering his material circumstances as explained by himself, we recommend that he be allowed, if it can be secured from the Connexional Fund, fifty francs monthly.

We also recommend that according to the recommendation of the Sevlievo Quarterly Conference, Mrs. Gabriel Elieff be allowed ten francs monthly as in the past.
Auditing Committee

Your committee has the honor to report that they have audited the accounts of the Conference Treasurer and have found them correct in every respect.

ANNUAL REPORT OF TREASURER

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April 21, 1911.

PAVEL TODOROFF.

REPORT OF THE BOOK DEPARTMENTS

Books Sold

- Scriptures fcs. 641.15
- Our Books 336.15
- Other Books 356.10

1333.40

Printed and Bought

- Tracts and Books p.p. 170004
- Christian World 115200

285204

PAVEL TODOROFF
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## Statistics № 3.

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<th>PASTOR’S SUPPORT</th>
<th>Support of Conference Claimants</th>
<th>Support of District Superintendents</th>
<th>Support of Bishops</th>
<th>Current Expenses</th>
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### Statistics

#### No. 4.

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#### BENEVOLENT COLLECTIONS (DISCIPLINARY)

#### OTHER BENEVOLENT COLLECTIONS

- Woman's Foreign Missionary Society
- Local Educational Interests
- Local Tract Society
- Special Collections for Korea
- For the Poor
- Other Benevolent Collections
- General Conference Expenses
- Grand Total
### Conference Sessions of Bulgaria Mission

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<th>Year</th>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Place</th>
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CONFERENCE ROLL AND PASTORAL RECORD


Babadjoff, G. N., 1905—'08 Vidin; 1909—'11 Lovetch.

Delcheff, M. D., 1890 Rustchuk; 1891 Razgrad; 1892 '04 Shumen; 1895 Rustchuk; 1896 Lovetch; 1897—'00 P. E. Lovetch Dist. and Pastor Lovetch; 1901—'04 P. E. Rustchuk Dist. and Pastor Rustchuk, Director Publications; 1905 '07 P. E. Lovetch District and pastor Tarnovo; 1908 '09 Tarnovo; 1910 '11 Varna.

Dimitroff, I., 1886 '88 Lovetch; 1892—'91 Orchania; 1892 '04 Bala; 1896 Silistra; 1897 '02 Silistra and Turtakan; 1903 Turtakan; 1904 Vidin; 1905—'11 Lom.

Dimitroff, Z. G., 1888—'94 Hotanza; 1896 Shumen; 1896—'01 Sistov Circuit; 1902 '05 Hibelee; 1906 '07 Lovetch; 1908—'11 Orchania.

Economoff, J. I., 1877 '89 Teacher Amer. School; 1890—'91 Sevlievo; 1892 '93 Book Dept.; 1894—'95 Lovetch; 1895—'01 Supernumerary; 1902 '03 Superannuated; 1904—'05 Vratza; 1807 Director of Publications and asst. pastor Rustchuk; 1908—'11 Superannuated.

Gantcheff, Ivan, 1908—'09 Asst. Rustchuk; 1910—'11 Shumen.

Georgieff, Tsone, 1903 Vratza; 1904 Bulgarian Army; 1905 Asst. Tarnovo; 1906 Asst. Rustchuk; 1907 Vratza; 1908—'11 Supernumerary.

Getcheff, Stephen, 1875—'76 Orchania; 1877—'85 Lovetch; 1886 '88 Shumen; 1889 Troyan; 1890 Lovetch; 1891—'02 Pleven; 1893 Lom; 1894—'98 Pleven; 1899—'04 Shumen; 1905—'11 Sevlievo.

Meshkoff, A. P., 1895—'98 Orchania; 1899—'01 Sevlievo and Gabrovo; 1902—'03 Lovetch; 1904 Pleven; 1905—'07 Hotanza; 1906—'11 Gabrovo.

Rohachkek, Martin, 1905—'11 Voyvodovo.

Setchanoff, Ivan, 1908 Lovetch; 1909—'11 Sofia, Editor Christian World.

Thomoff, Stephen, 1879 Tarnovo; 1880—'91 teacher Sistov; 1892 Sofia; 1893 Rustchuk; 1895 Thelog School and editor Mission books; 1896 Rustchuk; 1897—'98 Shumen; 1899—'00 pastor Rustchuk and editor Missions Publications; 1901 Rustchuk, pastor and editor <Christian World>; 1902 '04 Varna, pastor and editor <Christian World>; 1905—'08 Sistov, pastor and editor <Christian World>; 1907—'11 Sistov.

Todoroff, Bancho, 1877—'88 Orchania; 1889 Lovetch; 1890 teacher Sistov 1893 Pleven; 1894—'95 Tarnovo; 1896—'99 Sevlievo; 1897—'03 Pleven; 1905—'07 Lovetch; 1909—'11 Hibelee.

Todoroff, Ivan, 1886 Varna; 1887—'91 Shumen; 1892 Tarnovo; 1893—'95 Sistov; 1896—'01 Varna; 1902—'04 Sistov; 1905—'07 Shumen; 1908—'09 Dist. Sup't. Lovetch District and Pastor Shumen; 1910—'11 Dist. Sup't. Lovetch District and pastor Tarnovo.

Todoroff, Pavol, 1893 Shumen; 1897 editor Mission books and <Christian World> and Director American Pension, Rustchuk; 1898 editor <Christian World>, Mission books and Pastor Rustchuk; 1899—'00 Tarnovo; 1901—'04 Presiding Elder Lovetch Dist., Pastor Tarnovo and editor Mission books; 1905—'06 presiding Elder Rustchuk Dist., director publications, pastor Rustchuk; 1907—'10 Presiding Elder Rustchuk Dist., and pastor Rustchuk; 1911 Pleven.

Tsvetanoff, Ts., 1903—'04 Sevlievo; 1905—'10 Pleven; 1911 Pastor Rustchuk, Sup'r. Rust. Dist. and editor of publications.

PROBATIONERS

Puleff, N. N., 1910—'11 Viddin.