OFFICIAL JOURNAL

OF THE

Congo Mission Conference.

1899.

June 1-3.
MINUTES

OF THE

CONGO

MISSION

CONFERENCE

HELD IN

Quíhongoa, Angola, Africa,

JUNE 1 to 3,

1899.

CHAS. W. GORDON, Presiding.

Wm. P. DODSON, Secretary.

MONROVIA, LIBERIA:
PRESS OF THE COLLEGE OF WEST AFRICA.
THE CONGO MISSION CONFERENCE.
Africa.
By Bishop Hartzell.

The Congo Mission Conference has its work in three sections of the African continent, all south of the equator, but so widely separated from each other that it is impossible for the workers to come together in annual session unless either those on the East or West Coast should make a journey of 8,000 miles and back again. Is there another Methodist Conference in the world in which it would require a journey of 17,000 miles for each of half its workers to attend? But the planting of these widely separated spiritual centres in the Southern half of the African Continent is only repeating the methods of the Christian Church beginning with the Apostles, who in "the world" of their day, planted the precious gospel seed far and wide, and as the fruitage came, organized spiritual centres for local permanence and aggressive work in the regions beyond.

The General Conference will be asked to organize the East Central Africa Mission Conference and leave the work on the West Coast under the old name, or perhaps change the name to the West Central Africa Mission Conference.

It is impossible for me to visit all the work of the Conference this year and give the necessary time to each part during the dry season or winter months when inland travelling is practicable. The seasons south of the equator are just the opposite in time to those north of it. July and August are our coldest months. The sun passes north of us instead of south as in Europe and North America.

So it was necessary for me to leave the older part of the work in Angola on the West Coast, to be looked after in Conference Session by the brethren there, and after holding the Liberia Conference, and looking after the work at Madeira Islands, to come to this Eastern Section and give several months to strengthening the work we had, accepting the magnificent concessions in lands and buildings given us by the British South African Company, meet the missionaries already sent out, and as best I could lay the foundations of what I verily believe is to be a new and great spiritual empire in this Dark Continent. Mrs. Hartzell is with me on this eastern trip, and adds her enthusiasm and faith to mine in this work.

The Angola District includes the work in South West Central Africa, Rev. Wm. P. Dodson is Presiding Elder. Rev. C. W. Gordon presided at the session held at Quinhonga, June 1-3, and arranged the appointments for that part of the work. The Presiding Elder’s report gives an encouraging outlook considering the fewness of the workers. The coming of the Rev. T. Waite and Rev. S. E. Brewwster was a great joy. Miss Cora Zentmire sent out by the W. F. M. S., was also gladly welcomed. The following are on furloughs: Rev. A. E. Withey and wife, Rev. Robt. Shields and wife. Bros. Mead and Shields and their wives are returning much benefitted by their rest. Brother Herbert C. Withey is now on his way to America, and a scheme has been arranged with the New York Board by which during 1900, Brothers Dodson, Gordon and the other veterans of that field can have well merited and absolutely necessary respites. The terms of continuous service among these Angola workers range from six to fourteen years.

There are a number of encouraging features in the work in Angola; the sources of support are more permanent and the ways of living are more in harmony with the best mission methods. The work is being concentrated upon a few central stations, and native helpers employed to man outstations under proper supervision. The native people are doing more towards supporting the work: good progress is being made in publishing scriptures and other literature in the Kimbundu language; the schools for apprentices
are increasing in numbers and efficiency: the value of property is being increased especially in Malange where the town authorities have given us an additional block of ground, and the native school is advancing.

The Inhambane District is on the East Coast and is also as is Angola, in Portuguese territory. Rev. E. H. Richards is Presiding Elder who with his wife, Brother and Sister Buckwalter and nine native helpers constitute our working force there. They have three central stations and several outstations, with large plats of land and fairly good buildings. They have regular district meetings monthly and the discipline is enforced as to membership. This accounts for the fewness of members, although the native and accessible population around them is very great. Hundreds of sick are given medical care every month. Here we must have cheap, hospitable outfits and trained nurses.

At Delagoa Bay two hundred and fifty miles down the coast from Inhambane, I have a cash donation of £7,500 for a church and parsonage, and a Cottage Rest for the sick.

The United States Consul, his Boston wife and several others plead with me to send them a man and his wife, and a Deaconess nurse for this work among the Europeans.

This town of several thousand people, with its Bay is the ocean port to the Transvaal. As English ascendency grows in South Africa, as it will and ought, that port will become a great centre of European population and commercial importance.

Masbounland District has its chief centres at Old Umtali and New Umtali in English territory. These centres lie about 500 miles north west of Inhambane, and over 200 miles inland from Beira a thriving port and town on the Indian Ocean. The two Umatalis lie ten miles apart in mountain valleys, and over 3000 feet above the sea, with a pass 800 feet high between them. They are in the centre of the Masbounland gold belt and among the many gold claims "pegged" or staked out, several are being worked with fair results and prospects. Seven months in the year it does not rain. The nights are cool and a north-east wind blows almost daily. In these September spring days the average morning temperature in the shade is about 64 Fahrenheit and at noon, about 80. Wherever irrigation can be had agriculture succeeds finely, and during the rainy summer months (November to March) corn and many other products can be grown without irrigation with success perhaps three years out of five. It is a splendid country for cattle, sheep and goats and no feeding is required. Horses do not do well; mules do better, and donkeys do the best of the three. In the immediate vicinity natives are not in abundance, but east towards the coast and north, there are multitudes.

New Umtali has 600 Europeans, a paper, several good stores, and the workshops of 400 miles of railroad now running from Beira through that town and within ten miles of Old Umtali, to Salisbury the capital of Rhodesia. Thus we have work among the Europeans. Rev. W. M. Elmes and his wife have for several months conducted a successful school. One service is maintained each Sunday and also a weekly prayer meeting. Here we must have an additional man for pastor at once. We have four lots valued at £4000.00 given by the government which will probably give a dollar for every one we put in for teachers, school equipments and buildings. With what the parents pay in tuition the school work will soon we hope be self-supporting.

By an amicable arrangement with the Wesleyan Brethren they have withdrawn from these two centers and will not occupy large sections agreed upon Northward and Eastward. So the field of American Methodism centers and widens!

Old Umtali lies in as beautiful a valley as can be found in East Inhambane when, for various governmental reasons the site of the town was changed, the owners of property were paid over £250,000.00 in compensation. When questioned Mr. Rhodes said: "We will turn the old site into a Mission." That reply whether intended or not was prophetic. Large portions of the buildings and property were removed, but as the result of my application and correspondence with Earl Gray and others the company reserved for Industrial Mis-
sion purposes eight good sized and several smaller buildings well adapted for our work, about one thousand acres of land adjoining the town, with perhaps 5000 acres more, nearly, the limits of which are yet to be fixed, are included in this magnificent gift to mission work in Africa. The buildings given us cost here, where materials and labor are high, perhaps $100,000.00. A conservative estimate of present value of buildings and land including lots in New Umtali would be $60,000.00.

We have at old Umtali Rev. J. L. Dewitt and wife, Dr. A. C. Hamnett, Miss Alice J. Culver, Mrs. Anna J. Arndt, appointees of the Missionary Society, and three additional white helpers. We employ from twelve to fifteen natives. Some of these are in school part of the time and all attend special religious services. It will require a year or two to get this splendid Mission Estate in shape for work. Our Mechanical Department will be a principal feature; carpentry, blacksmithing and agriculture are begun with native boys doing well in each. Our herd of cattle already numbers sixty-nine and we have nearly one hundred sheep and goats. Industry and local self-support we propose to insist upon. Our Hospital is open and is doing good work. Each Sunday morning we have services in our neat and comfortable church, for our own workers and the miners, farmers and other European neighbors. We have just secured a Post and Telegraph office. The African Transcontinental Telegraph line on its way to Cairo passes through our Mission Estates.

In November 1897, eighteen months ago—I rode into New Umtali ahead of the railroad after a long day of mud swollen rivers and drenching rains. As I saw the town lying in its superb valley surrounded by mountains I said: "Here is the place for American Methodism to begin her work in East Central Africa." Today viewed from the window where I write at old Umtali, is a mountain rising 1200 feet above where I sit, and 5000 feet above the sea. A few days ago I climbed to its summit. At its base were our mission buildings and beyond them stretches our Estate in the valley and mountain lands. In all directions as far as the eye could see were valleys and mountains, bathed in a soft and lazy blue atmosphere much like our own American Blue Ridge Mountains. As I stood entranced I saw rising before me coming empires of wealth and spiritual power, and I heard the murmur of multitudes of diverse tongues and races sure to occupy this vast continental plateau.

Old Umtali, East Central Africa,
September, 25th, 1899.
Officers and Committees.

President.
Chas. W. Gordon.

Secretary.
William P. Dodson.

Standing Committees.
ON ESTIMATING SUPPORT.—Chas. W. Gordon, Herbert C. Withey, Thomas Waite.
ON AUDITING ACCOUNTS.—Chas. W. Gordon, Herbert C. Withey, S. Elson Brewster.
ON MISSION PRESS.—William P. Dodson, Chas. W. Gordon, Herbert C. Withey, Robert Shields.
ON PUBLIC WORSHIP.—Herbert C. Withey, Wm. S. Miller.

Board of Examiners.
Amos E. Withey, President; Wm. P. Dobson, Registrar; Chas. W. Gordon.

OFFICIAL RECORD.
I CERTIFY, That on June 1, 1899, the Congo Mission Conference passed the following resolution:

Resolved, That we publish the proceedings of the Congo Mission Conference in pamphlet form, and that said publication be the official Record of the Conference.

(Signed,) Wm. P. Dodson, Secretary.
Full Members, Probationers, Teachers, and Helpers.

Full Members.

On Probation.
Revs. William S. Miller, A. L. Buckwalter, S. Elson Brewster, Thomas Waite.—4

Teachers and Helpers.
Mrs. A. E. Withey,* Mrs. S. J. Mead,* Mrs. W. P. Dodson, Mrs. Robt. Shields, Mrs. Mary B. Shuett, Miss Susan Collins, Miss Hilda Larson, Miss Cora Zentmire, Mrs. E. H. Richards, Mrs. A. L. Buckwalter—Referred to Bishop Hartzell for other names if any.

Native Helpers.
John Garcia Fernandes, Mattheus Inglez, Barnardo Augustine, Luzia Bernardo, and four others—Are there others in Zambezi District?

Summary.
Full Members, 9; Probationers, 4; Teachers and Helpers, Native Helpers; Total,

*Home on furlough.

Note.—The appointments of the Angola District were made by Charles W. Gordon, who presided in absence of Bishop Hartzell, who was in the East Coast and who held the Mashonaland and Inhambane District Conferences and made the appointments in them.

Angola District, South West Africa.

William F. Dodson, Presiding Elder.
(Post Office, Pungo Andongo, Africa, via Lisbon.)
Doudo—To be supplied.
Malange—Chas. W. Gordon, Superintendent and Business Agent.
S. Elson Brewster,* Mechanical Department.
Mrs. Mary B. Shuett,* Matron.
Miss Susan Collins,* Teacher.
Pungo Andongo—Mrs. W. P. Dodson,* Matron and Teacher.
Quoseua—Miss Hilda Larson, Teacher.
Miss Cora Zentmane,* Teacher (Under Woman's Foreign Missionary Society.)
Quinhongo—Herbert C. Withey, Superintendent of Station and Mission Press.
Thomas Waite, Mechanical Department.
Wm. S. Miller, Teacher and Business Agent.
Saint Paul de Loanda—To be supplied.
Tomba—John Garcia Fernandes,† and Matheus Inglez.†
Amos E. Withey, District Treasurer and Business Manager (In America).
Also in America on furlough—Samuel J. Mead, Mrs. S. J. Mead,* Mrs. T. Waite,* and Mrs. A. E. Withey.* In Ireland: Robert Shields, and Mrs. Robert Shields.*

Mashonaland District, East Central Africa.

Morris W. Ehnes, Presiding Elder.
(Post office Umtali, Rhodesia, Africa.)
New Umtali—To be supplied.
New Umtali School—Morris W. Ehnes, Principal; Mrs. Belle G. Ehnes,* Assistant.
Old Umtali School of Industry—J. L. De Witt, Superintendent.
Mission Hospital and Dispensary, A. C. Hammett, M. D.,* Physician, Alice J. Culver, Nurse.
Mission Home, Anna J. Arndt,* Matron.
Native Schools, Mrs. J. L. De Witt,* Teacher.

Inhambane District, South East Africa.

E. H. Richards, Presiding Elder.
(Post Office, Inhambane, East Africa.)
Gikuki and Gihuni—E. H. Richards,* Parangwana† and Mariano,† Kambini and Kapakule, A. L. Buckwalter, Mrs. A. L. Buckwalter,* Fazenda Angilazi† and Mabunibi, Makadweni and Doroti; Fixore† and Pakete, † Ngumpani† and Selina.

*Missionaries not members of Conference.
† Native Helpers,
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. M. W. Ehnes, J. L. DeWitt, S. Elson Brewster, Thomas Waite.
   (b) In Studies of Third Year.
   None.
5. Who have been Continued on Trial?
   (a) In Studies of First Year.
   A. L. Buckwalter.
   (b) In Studies of Second Year.
   Wm. S. Miller.
   (c) In Studies of Third Year.
   None.
   (d) In Studies of Fourth 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 Deacons 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.
   Herbert C. Withey.
9. What Members are in Studies of the Fourth Year?
   None.
10. What Members have Completed the Conference Course of study?
    (a) Elected and Ordained Elders this year.
    None.
11. What others have been Elected and Ordained Deacons?
    (a) As Local Preachers.
    None.
    (b) Under Missionary Rule.
    M. W. Ehnes, J. L. DeWitt.
12. What others have been Elected and Ordained Elders? (a) As Local Deacons.
    None.
    (b) Under Missionary Rule.
    M. W. Ehnes.
13. Was the Character of each Preacher Examined?
This was carefully attended to, as the name of each Preacher was called in open Confer-
ence.
14. Who have been transferred, and to what Conferences?
None.
15. Who have died?
None.
16. Who have been Located at their own Request?
None.
17. Who have been Located?
None.
18. Who have Withdrawn?
None.
19. Who have been permitted to withdraw under Charges or Complaints?
None.
20. Who have been Expelled?
None.
21. What other Personal Notation should be made?
Amos E. Withey, Sam'l. J. Mead and Robert Shields went home on furlough.
22. Who are the Supernumerary Preachers?
None.
23. Who are the Superannuated Preachers?
None.
24. Who are Triers of Appeals?
None.
25. What is the Statistical Report this Year?
26. What is the Aggregate of the Benevolent Collections ordered by the General Confer-
ence, as reported by the Conference Treasurer?
Collections for Missions $45.72; of this amount $11.17 was contributed by Natives.
27. What are the Claims on the Conference Fund?
Not answered.
28. What has been Received on these Claims, and how has it been applied?
Not answered.
29. Where are the Preachers Stationed?
See Appointments.
30. Where shall the next Conference be held?
Quihongoa.
CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS.

FIRST DAY—Thursday, June 1, 1899.

The Congo Mission Conference assembled at Quihongoa, Thursday, June 1st, 1899, at 3 o'clock p. m.

Bishop Hartzell, in a fraternal letter addressed to the Conference, stated that it would be impossible to be present. It would require three months to make the trip from Liberia to Angola, go into the interior, and reach Madeira Islands. This would make it impossible for him to give the necessary time during the dry season in Mashonaland, South East Africa, to enable him to inaugurate the work there, where large concessions in buildings and lands had recently been made to him by the British South African Company. He would also need time to visit the work at Inhambane and Delagoa Bay. He had recently been sick with the African fever but was now well and sent his Christian love to all. Each present heartily reciprocated the Bishop's greetings.

In the absence of the Bishop, on motion of Wm. P. Dodson, Charles W. Gordon was elected President.

Wm. P. Dodson was chosen Secretary.

The opening remarks of the President were as modest as they were sensible and the spirit of devotion was at once noticeable in our midst while he read paragraphs 127 and 128 of the Discipline.

The 805th hymn of our church hymnal was sung after which the President read from the 20th chapter of the Acts, following which he led in prayer.

Question Four was taken up, namely:

Who have been received on trial?

The names of Morris W. Ehnes, James L. DeWitt, S. Elson Brewster, and Thomas Waite were called separately, their character passed, and on motion each was received on trial into this Conference in studies of the first year, their credentials being vouched for as entirely satisfactory by Bishop Hartzell.

On motion of Herbert C. Withey all lady members of the mission present in Quihongoa were invited to seats in Conference with the privilege of participating in the discussions,
Those thus included were Mrs. W. P. Dodson, Miss Hilda Larson and Miss Cora Zentmire.

The following Standing Committees were appointed:

The Board of Examiners was continued as follows: Amos E. Withey, Wm. P. Dodson, and Chas. W. Gordon.

A Committee on Dondo Property was appointed, with instructions to report to this Conference. The Committee were: Wm. P. Dodson, Wm. S. Shields and Thos. Waite.

The resolution of last Conference relating to the publication of the Minutes was adopted, namely:

Resolved, That we publish the proceedings of the Congo Mission Conference in pamphlet form, and that said publication be the official record of the Conference.

Resolved, That the publisher of the Minutes shall be the Secretary, and he shall be authorized to edit reports and other documents as shall be necessary.

A committee was appointed, composed of the Secretary and Wm. S. Miller, to provide for the expense of publishing the Minutes.

The time of daily session of Conference was fixed by common consent from 3 to 5 p. m.

Herbert C. Withey and Wm. S. Miller were appointed Committee on Public Worship.

On motion, Conference adjourned, and the President pronounced the benediction.

SECOND DAY—Friday, June 2.

Opening exercises were conducted by Wm. P. Dodson, the 756th hymn of Wesleyan Hymn Book being sung, followed by reading the 60th chapter of Isaiah and prayer.

Question Thirteen was taken up, namely:
Was the Character of each Preacher examined?

Zambezi District was called, Erwin H. Richards, Presiding Elder. His character passed, he being absent. (See Presiding Elders' Reports.)

Angola District was called, Wm. P. Dodson, Presiding El-
der. His character passed, and he presented his report (see report), which was received with appreciative remarks by the President.

The name of Amos E. Withey was called, his character passed, and his report as Manager and Treasurer was read by the Secretary, which was received and adopted, he being on his way to America on a furlough.

On motion the Treasurer was authorized, according to the recommendation in his report, to transfer (2048 $792 reis) to the "Out-going expenses of Missionaries" account.

He was also authorized to discontinue the "Commercial Endowment Fund" and to hereafter report in the assets of the Mission all merchandise, building material, etc., remaining on hand at the end of each year as "Mission Supplies" and thus form a part of the general net capital.

A fraternal letter to the Conference from Brother and Sister Withey written from Funchal, Madeira, was then read. (See fraternal letter.)

The name of Robert Shields was called, his character passed.

A fraternal letter from Bro. Shields written from Ireland was read.

The Secretary was requested to make suitable reply in the name of the Conference to those fraternal letters.

By common consent, time was extended to hear reports. Reports of Committees were taken up.

Committee on Dondo Property presented its report which was received and adopted (see report) and W. P. Dodson, Wm. S. Miller, Thomas Waite were appointed a Committee to thoroughly examine the property, make drafts and obtain estimates for a new building, and meanwhile to make necessary repairs.

Report of Committee on Estimates was read, and on motion it was received and adopted. (See report.)

Conference then adjourned and the benediction was pronounced by Wm. P. Dodson.

THIRD DAY—Saturday, June 3.

Opening exercises were conducted by Thomas Waite. The 681st hymn was sung, and the 7th chapter of the Revelation was read, followed by a fervent prayer,
Minutes of the first and second day were read and approved.

Committee on Public Worship presented the following report for services on the Sabbath which was accepted: Preaching in English at 9:30 a.m. by Rev. Thomas Waite. Sabbath School in Kimbundu and Portuguese at 2:30 p.m.

Communion Service at 5 p.m. conducted by Rev. Wm. P. Dodson. Report of Supt. of Mission Press was read, and on motion adopted. (See report.)

Question Five was taken up, namely:

*Who have been continued on trial?*

The name of A. L. Buckwalter was called. His character passed, and he was continued in studies of the first year, no information concerning them having been received.

The name of Wm. S. Miller was called. His character passed, and by his request, he was continued in studies of second year.

Question Eight was taken up, namely:

*What members are in studies of Third Year?*

The name of Herbert C. Withey was called. His character passed, and his request, he was continued in studies of Third Year.

Question Eleven was taken up, namely:

*Who have been elected Deacons?*

On motion M. W. Ehnes and J. L. DeWitt were elected to Deacons' Orders under the Missionary Rule, their recommendation being duly certified to by Bishop Hartzell.

Question Twelve was taken up, namely:

*Who have been elected Elders?*

On motion M. W. Ehnes was elected to Elders' Orders under the Missionary Rule, having been duly recommended, and his credentials certified to by Bishop Hartzell.

The books of the Conference course have not been on the field sufficient time for the proper study of them, and under the very trying circumstances of the past year it should not be expected of any one to prepare for examination on Conference Studies.

Nevertheless considerable study has been prosecuted, but not sufficient for examination in full.

Statistical Report was presented in part and referred to the Secretary. (See report.)

On motion, a committee of two were appointed, consist-
ing of Wm. P. Dodson and Herbert C. Withey to procure
ten well-bound Record Books, for use in the stations now
open and those that may be opened, and superintendents of
stations were requested to keep or have kept a record of
the principal events in the history of each station, includ-
ing, as full a summary as practicable from the establish-
ment of the station to the present time.

Said committee was authorized to provide for the pur-
chase of said Record Books either by private subscription
among the members of the Mission or in any other like
way that may to them seem best.

On motion conference adjourned to meet at 7 p. m.

**EVENING SESSION.**

Conference assembled at 7 p. m. and after prayer entered
into an informal talk upon matters relating to appointments,
and the difficulties presented on account of fewness of mem-
bers.

Question Thirty was taken up, namely:

*Where shall the next Conference be held?*

Quihangoa was again selected, it being, all things consid-
ered, the best under the present circumstances.

Questions 1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18,
19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 26, 27, and 28 were taken up and
severally answered, as shown in Disciplinary Questions pub-
lished elsewhere.

On motion it was ordered that Conference adjourn *sine
dic* after the reading and approval of the minutes, religious
exercises and reading of the appointments.

The minutes were read and approved.

The 526th hymn was sung, followed by prayer by Her-
bert C. Withey.

The President made some closing remarks, after which
the appointments were read. (See Appointments.)

The doxology was sung and the President pronounced
the benediction.

**WM. P. DODSON,**

*Secretary.*

**CHAS. W. GORDON,**

*President.*
REPORTS OF THE PRESIDING ELDERS.

Angola District.

To the Congo Mission Conference, assembled at Quihongoa, June 1, 1899.

In presenting the report for this year, I would first of all make grateful acknowledgement to Almighty God, for His constant love and mercy to us as a mission for over fourteen years, since we first came to this little known land.

"The earth is the Lord's and the fulness thereof:
The world and they that dwell therein,"

and he has extended His strong and tender care over us in many a trying hour, and blessed be His holy name.

Our beloved Bishop Hartzell cannot be with us in our present session, and although we shall greatly miss him on many accounts, yet I doubt not we all recognize the wisdom of his course, and feel assured he is being led by the Divine Hand.

It has been my pleasure to meet in Loanda and conduct to the interior the three incoming missionaries, the pleasure of whose presence we have with us to-day, and whom we most heartily welcome in the name of the Lord.

They are Miss Cora Zentmire, of Joy, Illinois, who goes to Quessua, sent out by the North Western Branch of the W. F. M. S., Rev. Thomas Waite of Valley Stream, Long Island, who remains at Quihongoa and Rev. S. Elson Brewster of Morristown, Ohio, who goes to Malange.

We have been praying the Lord of the harvest that He would send forth laborers into this His needy corner of the earth, and still pray that others may come, and find as these a place for which they are well fitted, and which sorely needs their loving and consecrated labors.

The return on furlough to their native land, has taken eight adults and three children out of our midst, during a period of a little more than a year for reasons of health, and in some cases to save life itself. Of those not recorded in previous report, Rev. Robt. Shields, wife and little son left Loanda Sept. 29th 1898 for Ireland, and on Feb. 27th of this year, our honored Manager and Treasurer Rev A. E. Withey and wife sailed from Loanda for Madeira, intending if the way opened to go on to America.

Mrs. Withey was so reduced by repeated attacks that her husband feared she would not be able to bear up until the arrival of the steamer, but by the blessing of God she was enabled so to do, and although she had resided in this land for fourteen consecutive years she seems to have sustained no permanent injury but at last reports was greatly improved and apparently going on to a renewal of health and strength. Letters and photographs from those who preceeded in their furlough bear testimony to the profitableness of a change of scene and air. I would mention here that this fact has been of great encouragement to me, and has somewhat reformed my opinions, having for years taken rather a gloomy view of this subject, the impression having taken hold upon me that disabilities from a continued stay in Africa were as deep scars on the constitution not susceptible to material improvement. But as I see object lessons to the contrary, it begets a fear, lest the ruling preference among us for the past years upon the field to remain without a break, may have cost precious lives whose loss we have had to mourn, and whose places have not been filled.

It is with humble gratitude that I record, although we have had our usual share of
sickness, and some physical languor consequent upon prolonged stay upon the field, we have had this year no death among our missionaries.

That sad experience however fell upon our Training Schools at Canandua and Quessua in the death of three precious girls, but was greatly mixed with joy in the state of mind and soul that possessed them. Truly they died well, confessing both to their preparation and their willingness to go, which seemed to them as perhaps it really was "far better." At least as I assisted in preparing two of them for the grave, and committed their bodies to the earth, I could but rejoicingly reflect that the labor of those who trained them for usefulness on earth, had by God's grace brought them safe to paradise, and their labor had not been in vain in the Lord. There has been an increase of one among us in the person of an interesting baby boy Mac Kenzie Dodson, born in Pungu Andongo, Oct 14th 1898, and I desire your prayers for him, that if God shall see fit to prolong his life upon the earth that he may become a burning and shining light, reflecting from his Savior hope and love to this dark land.

Our present working force upon the field including the three just arrived, is eleven missionaries. There are five children.

During the conference year the working force has been seven for the four stations that are now open, exclusive of presiding elder who has gone from place to place and assisted where most needed.

It is plain to see that this has been an inadequate force and as a consequence, departments necessary to all well ordered missions have in most cases of necessity had to be dropped out.

As individuals we have been of uniform good courage and have not argued with our circumstances, but simply gone ahead, and that results are not more apparent to us as it may honestly be to some who draw conclusion from a comparison of this with any other missionary field on earth, from all of which it essentially differs in many respects. The plain fact that as a Mission we are in distress is no matter for discouragement in one sense we are not in distress, in another we are, while carrying on that which has already been established we actively wait for men and women and means to help possess the land whose open doors we are distressed to enter. We are also in the midst of a change of administration suited to the stage to which we have come, and have arrived at that place where, the carf having made a turn in the road, it has not yet gotten under full headway. Patience, patience, but no discouragement. And now to facts concerning this year of mercies, and first, let it be remembered, that under such disabilities as we have labored, it is chief matter of praise that we have been enabled to hold fast that which we have.

The work in which we have been engaged is the daily schooling of our internus, the day school, and sewing school for those without the continuance of the training in our industrial and mechanical departments including building operations, visiting the sick and treating those who come to our doors, visiting and teaching in the villages, Sabbath services and Sunday Schools, etc., language work and preparation of the material translated for publication, beginnings made in condensing and reorganizing, and one new station opened, conducted by a native helper and his wife.

The faithful and effective work in our Training School for girls in Quessua in which are now combined that of Canandua and Quessua, conducted this year by Miss Larson and Miss Collins; to which I have already referred, has been a source of pleasure and encouragement, as I have noted its progress, witnessing the industry and order that prevailed, even with insufficient and imperfect accommodations. The daily round, the school, the morning and evening singing, scripture recitations and prayer, the bright and willing faces—the atmosphere in general, this and more are tokens to me of a brighter day that's coming. Miss Larson has also visited and taught in the villages, sometimes I fear, going beyond the limit of her health and strength.
Sabbath services have also been held at Quessua with increasing interest, and there has been an addition to the Training School.

At Malange, Brother Gordon while bearing the burdens of the station, and other business, and carrying on the religious services, has made the Industrial Department one of profit by careful management, and is preparing the way for advance. Mrs. Mary B. Shuett has been abundant in labors, and they testify to her faithfulness. I had the pleasure of spending nearly two months between Quessua and Malange, and we succeeded in obtaining from the town commissioners a valuable addition to our property in the latter place, which has enabled us to divide it into departments, a plan of the whole having been mapped out, and the execution of it begun. It embraces missionary dwelling, chapel, school, industrial department, mechanical department (which though related are distinct) and printing.

Brother S. Elson Brewster seems to be the providential man for the mechanical department at Malange, coming on the field just as the department is being organized, there being several bright boys for a good beginning, and I feel very hopeful as to results.

The mechanical department at Quihongoa now under the care of Brother Herbert C. Withey, Supt. of station, has been in operation for some years, and has been productive of good in many ways, while the profit derived by the boys is of inestimable advantage. Brother Thomas Waite the providential man for Quihongoa at this time, will labor in connection with Brother Herbert C. Withey, and at length relieve him, enabling him to take a much needed vacation. Our experience so far in the mechanical departments convinces me that their usefulness and far reaching effects can scarcely be overestimated. They have here as they will always where the advantages are husbanded be four fold in their effects. First they will furnish us mechanics to do our own building, and in our way, a commodity not to be found in this land outside of our mission.

Second the money thus spent in building will all the while be establishing a department of a mission instead of being spent outside on those whose interests are not with us. Third the interest created among the parents and near relations of apprentices, is striking. They see the boys that once sat lazily around the village in dirt and rags, now able to command respect by the ability to produce something useful, and they are driven in close sympathy with all the workings of mission, and attend in a body the services on Sabbath. Fourth the boys themselves during this apprenticeship, by contact with godly influences in the afternoon day school which is held for them, and the class for special instruction on Sabbath morning, the preaching service and Sabbath school, have their minds and hearts drawn out to things higher than mechanics, and becoming truly converted to God will be found to have gifts and graces that fit them for training in the native ministry, or as teachers in our schools, while those who return to their own people will stimulate their native villages to activities which cannot fail to produce their effect.

A deep underlying current for good is working, the influence of which already manifests to a considerable degree will I trust by the exercise of care and prudence, will extend in many directions, and be productive of much fruit.

The regular branches of missionary work are carried on at Quihongoa to as great an extent as the fewness of members will permit, and a sewing school for little girls conducted by Florinda Bessa an Afro-Portuguese converted in our midst whose patient and useful life daily honors her Master.

Brother Wm. S. Miller is engaged in the business and transport. He preaches and visits regularly an adjacent village called Machindi one of the outposts of the station. There are other villages not far removed from this station where schools can be established, that are waiting for teachers of ability and experience. Such a teacher could establish a school in a central location to serve for three or more villages, and a school once established would produce at least one teacher from its own midst who could in time be left in
charge, leaving the experienced teacher free to go and establish another school. We long to get the natives into the work of teaching each other, but the material is to be furnished by trained white teachers who can and will give themselves to this work.

At Pungo Andongo when present there, I maintained regular Sabbath services, and singing school on Wednesday evenings, assisted by our faithful native helper, Bernardo Augustine, who in my absence conducted the services who also has a daily class for Bernardo and family. Brother Bernardo also faithfully drills his family and several others morning and evening in the Catechism and the Scriptures. The same character of work is also daily carried on at Quessua by our faithful native worker there Matthias Ingles. The new station was opened in Ambacca at a place just across the Lucalla River called Tomba, where I preached to the people and made a beginning placing there our native helper Bro. John Garcia Fernandes, his wife and two children.

The people seemed to receive him gladly, some offering their children at once for school, and asking to be allowed to pay tuition, part of which was to be in advance in the shape of a garden of well grown mandioca to furnish an immediate start for the new pastor.

They also furnished a temporary dwelling, promising to build a native style mission house in the dry season, which promise I learn is now being fulfilled.

A letter from Brother Garcia tells of the exceeding wickedness of the people in general, but showing courage and good cheer, may God grant that in due season righteousness may prevail and God be glorified.

At the foot of the hill at Quessua mission, there is a group of men who will furnish material for more outposts, which I desire D. V. to open this dry season in accordance with the promise made to them by Bishop Hartzell when here. Two out of the number spoken to by the Bishop have now been settled, and so far are doing well. Let us help them by our prayers.

One of the chief pleasures and encouragements in my work this year, has been derived from reading and expounding the Scriptures to our native preachers and hearing and meeting their mental and spiritual difficulties.

The love and simplicity with which council and light upon God's word have been sought and received by them has often melted our hearts together, and brought us with tears of joy to our knees in prayer.

Taking the year all through there has surely been an increase in missionary activity in general, the sad reflection on every hand being: "Where is the man?" or "Where is the woman," to enter this and that open door.

But the morning breaketh. God led Bishop Taylor to begin, God is leading Bishop Hartzell to take up and thoroughly organize and put light and shape and point to things.

It was thought by the church a great deed, when in 1885 by her command, good Bishop Taylor led a handful of us into this wilderness.

- Is it a thing less great to those familiar with the difficulties of getting a foothold in this still unknown ill understood land that there is one left of them today?

The single day's act at Balaklava is thought worthy of a nation's gratitude to-day, and Tennyson's lines are as fresh as though the ink had just dried. They returned, "All that was left of them," having done nobly. Here a few remain—all praise to God alone, not in hopeless defeat, but in the certain victory to be carried on by God's people through all time; and if any return from the field, it is with the desire to catch a breath and inspiration from their native air, to again turn to the exile they so much love for Jesus' sake.

There is no seeking for glory save in the cross of Christ; no praise but the final: "Well done," but oh for the full and hearty sympathy and co-operation of God's children.

We need as missionaries on the one hand, and as a church on the other to get our convictions of action and of co-operation from God and not depend upon, nor have the spirit
in us to seek for merely outward indications of success, but to be the more humbled and settled in God when they break out and fully appear, experience teaching that they are sometimes deceptive. In my humble opinion here lies to a great degree the success or failure of missionary endeavor to-day, and I am thankful to notice in the "Gospel in all Lands" that our own and other missionary societies are waking up to this fact of such vital importance.

Not that the simple relating of facts and occurrences on the mission field is at all out of place, for this is very desirable as well as beneficial to all, but it is the gazing after the expecting, the depending on such things, to awaken and keep alive an interest which should come from the ground of the heart that has the re-actionary tendency to kill that which for a time it merely stimulates by excitement, and may not the difficulty of raising money, that often puts the Missionary Secretaries and the ministry to their wits ends to be traced in part to this? And is not the tendency to beget among missionaries themselves to substitute missionary enterprise for true zeal and that to their own hurt? For true zeal is the flame of love, and there is no other kind of zeal on a mission field that will hold out to the end. Now if the home sympathy and support, and the foreign missionary consecration be not for a moment moved either by apparent success or apparent delay of it from the grand conviction.

"Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory." Would not the command to "go," and the exhortation to "send" be more real? And can there be a surer ground for expectation that the Lord's treasury would overflow with means, and that men and women would go forth, in numbers and power, making Jesus, his command, his glory more distinctly their end? It may easily be replied: "It all amounts to the same thing in the end," all this cannot be. The right thing must be placed first. We are in the dispensation of the Holy Spirit, and anything substituted for confidence in him despite all mistakes and failures on the part of anyone or the need of economy, discipline, organization, enlightenment or what not. To a missionary sincere in his consecration to entertain any other motive, is to befog his course, and to place him sooner or later on a distressed sea, longingly peering through the mists to catch sight of his guiding star, and to hear his command and assurance: "Go ye" and "Lo I am with you" and again "ye did not choose me, but I chose you, and appointed you, that ye should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should abide."

Surely then if we are true to him who hath called us we need have no more doubt as to the results, than we have of the call itself.

Humbly submitted,

W P Dodson.

Inhambane District.

To Bishop Hartzell and the Congo Mission Conference:—

An annual report from the Inhambane District of the Congo Mission Conference is a difficult thing to write, from the fact that none of us ever see what is going on in the rest of the Conference, nor have we anything startling within our lines to report. We cannot stand "on the floors of the Conference," and unite with others in reading our various generalities,—in fact we are in doubt if our letter will ever see Conference, though that distinguished body will not sit for somewhat over two months. But while we have endeavored to be faithful there is yet so much that is left undone that we shrink from exposing our years work to even in the "minutes" report of the Congo Conference, lest some unwearied Brother may hope to light on our record and wonder why with all our missionary paraphernalia we have not amounted more. It is all nice enough when one feels "the glory of a hard days work, crown him from head to foot," but there are so many days when there is no hard work done, but in its place a weary wait, and rain, and
clouds, and no end of interruption. Still even these things must needs be on a mission field, and why not count them as so much real labor performed, since real labor would always be the more pleasant to undertake.

Our sort of native African, and the sort which inhabits up and down this whole Bantu Coast, may be hungering and thirsting for the Gospel,—he may be lifting up the Macedonian cry "Come over and help us," but if he is he is not aware of it any more than the barkeepers and saloon men of Christian America are aware of a similar effort on their part. He has reversed the whole course of nature till he has become a full-blooded brother of the sort recorded in the first chapter of Romans. He is stark naked for the most part and full of leecherous sores and his spiritual nature is so very low that his breath would pollute the waters of the Stygian Lake,—of which it is said it stunk so bad the birds were unable to fly over it. Not the man, but this condition of man cries out for the help of the Divine Christ, and any one but a scientific idiot knows that there is not one item in the whole realm of the entire universe that can help this depraved and most unnatural man but the applied blood of the Christ of the Christian Bible. Hence are we here; and hence we labor. There should be no marvel if we must needs begin at the bed-rock foundation, and labor steadfastly and long ere there is great to report that can be recognized as progress, as progress is understood in the minds of the most of those who have sent us here to represent their Christ and their religion to this religionless part of humanity.

We report, in the first place, the health of the missionaries.

The year has been an easy one for us all, till within the last two months when the rain set in with most unusual persistance, and the air has been filled with every sort of reviving and decaying vegetable matter, and there has been sore sickness on the part of nearly all the Europeans in the place. Still, we as a mission have suffered very moderately,—some of us not in the least,—save within the past month when Mrs. Buckwalter was taken violently with what soon proved to be hematuric fever. This disease is not fatal, but it is one of the most malignant forms of fever, and usually comes with very little premonition and is ended fatally or otherwise in three or four days. It is most difficult for us to manage, but with the free and abundant use of water, as well as medicines. Mrs. Buckwalter's fever yielded to treatment and she has been spared to our mission,—for which we are exceedingly greatful to our heavenly Father. Earlier in the year Mr. Buckwalter suffered from what in the beginning we took to be rheumatic fever, but which later we concluded to have been the natural results from projecting a rusty nail into his heel. His was a very painful illness and lasted for nearly one month. Two Englishmen have recently died of fever in our District, but there is no reason why they should not have died. They were very careless, and used liquors. This in addition to a new and trying situation was more than they could bear and succumbed early after their arrival here. Missionaries need to be sound in the beginning and to take diligent exercise while on the field and try to keep in order constantly. Once allow a little letting down in the way of physical exercise of a rather energetic sort, and there comes on an indescribable sort of laziness, well known in these parts, and which our English dub the 'Natal Fever,' when one feels most like loafing about, and is tired out trying to do that. An effectual cure for this variety of ills is an energetic use for a short space, of one's wheel, his horse or his feet. A little of this every day is worth almost as much as quinine—without which most of us would have to retire very early from our African fields of labor. We are happy to report in this connection that Mr. and Mrs. Buckwalter who had some six or seven years experience in Liberia affirm that our climate and general conditions of existence is highly superior to that of the Liberian country.

Concerning the work of our Stations we have this to report of them.

1. The transferred station of Gikuki is our oldest station. This work was founded by
the writer in 1884 at Mongwe, some ten miles up the sea coast from here, the ground of which site we still possess. Our present site is far superior to the old one in every way, and besides we can readily reach the old site by boat. During this year, ending Dec. 31st, '98 which period we are reporting,—we have purchased the building which now represents our mission on this station. The funds were entirely provided by Mrs. Margaret W. Blinn of New York and the home will bear her name. It cost $1500, and is a two story building, with nine spacious rooms,—the upper story ceiled throughout, but not the lower story.

We have added one room on the veranda, and a water tank below. We have also an iron roofed barracks for a boys' house, and an ordinary hut or two for general purposes. The land is small, being less than three acres, but it cost $150 in gold. The site near us, not nearly so fine recently sold for $500 in gold. We think we have as fine a site for a mission as there is on the coast. We have the nucleus of a boarding school here, which will become a proper graded seminary as soon as we can obtain funds and buildings for the purpose. At present we have 16 boarders, several of whom are supported by private donors in America. The Presiding Elder and his wife are in charge of this station, and have held the regular weekly and Sunday services of the year without a failure. (N. B. This report covers only the last half of the year at Gikuki, for we did not get possession till June 1st.) Our baptized natives at Gikuki number only one, and he is a leper,—all the others are out at work on other stations. Our probationers however, number 21, of whom several will probably become full members at our next Quarterly meeting. The medical work at Gikuki ought to be made an important factor in our mission work. During our possession of this station we have treated about two hundred cases per month, and if we had the proper equipment we might have a hospital anywhere in the country, and it goes without saying that there ought to be one. If a hospital with its medical attendant fully equipped could be provided for the mission it would give us a national standing and an excellent reputation for good. We are sent here on the supposition that we will be able to relieve mental distress, and why should not physical distress be relieved first, so far as possible?

2. Makodweni Station,—some 30 miles a trifle North or West from Gikuki is our second station founded, but after the first two years, viz: '85 and '85 and a part of '87. It has remained for the most part without a resident missionary. Tizore, our ablest native assistant has had charge of this field and has done exceeding well for a native, and in the absence of any missionary. There was originally a tract of land here some three miles long by a mile wide bounded on the farther end by a lake some ten miles wide, but the lake has disappeared and the Machopa brethren from the Limpopo region have taken possession of most of the land. We shall be able to gain possession again easily when there is a white man on the ground to see to it. Our native Christians on the place have over one hundred acres under cultivation and support themselves altogether in this way. This year we purchased for $250.00 an excellent and large iron house, ceiled throughout and tiled roof for only about what the iron and tiling alone should cost. This building was erected by our Congregational brethren at a cost of over $2000,—so I am told—was sold by them for $500, and now repurchased by us for $250. If the house were occupied it would be safe from the farther invasion of the termites; as it now is the flooring is fast disappearing.

On this station there are six baptized native Christians,—real church members, and 12 probationers in good standing with three more under discipline for unbecoming conduct. Three of their real church members are out on other stations and will be counted there. There is a splendid working force here and they need a white missionary sadly enough. On their behalf, as well as on the part of those of us in this field who are white, we feel that it is very necessary to have another white missionary in this field.
3. Kambini Station in charge of Rev. A. E. Buckwalter. This station is our ablest managed station and has had pretty continuous supervision of a resident white missionary. This station is supposed to contain 70 acres, but it has been infringed upon by the natives resident round about so that its present boundaries do not include more than half that amount. However we are able to purchase from the government as much as we like at about half a cent per acre per annum, and knowing this we do not care to press the natives for what is of small amount to us. The house at Kambini is old. It has held some six or seven generations of missionaries, and it is well nigh time we had a new one. The house cost our mission $600, and the land cost $150 more. We purchased from Portuguese friends and had to pay their price. The little Church at Kambini has held on very regularly since it was founded, more than ten years ago. Their members are out in the world and some are able and efficient. At the present time there are four baptized native Church members at Kambini and ten probationers. None are under discipline. The regular services have been faithfully conducted, both daily and weekly, and the attendance is probably the largest of any station. The medical work on this station is of serious importance and demands prompt and regular attention on the part of those in authority over us. Mrs. Buckwalter is equal to a trained Nurse and has a yard full of patients almost as regular as the day. One month during our residence there with them, she treated over 600 cases. We ask for a regular appropriation for the medical work at Kambini,—we cannot do less than call your attention as vividly as possible to this very important branch of our work on this station.

A month before our last quarterly meeting a new station was opened at Kapakule. This is not more than five or six miles from Kambini and lies nearest the sea. Kambini, Makodwini, Kapakule and Dorote are nearly in a right line North and South and on a ridge of hills parallel with the Bay of Inhambane. Gikuki and Gihuni are on the Bay. Angilazi a faithful and energetic Christian of Kambini, and his wife Mabumbi, of the old Gikuki Church, were requested to found a station of their own. They have done so, securing the land, and putting up their own buildings without any assistance from the missionary so far save a salary of nearly £4.00 a month. This rate of wages we are obliged to pay, since it is the market value here of the sort of men we wish to employ, and our Free Methodist brethren and our Anglican Brethren of this vicinity have covenanted not to exceed this amount for ordinary services from the natives. Any of our men will receive five times this amount, should he choose to go to the gold fields, where he might find a useful employment above ground. Foods are also exceeding dear for us, on account of shipping to the gold fields. Kapakule will rank for the present as a branch of Kambini-Station. There are now on this station two baptized Christian natives, and seven probationers. The work here is very promising and we are glad we have made the effort. They are now building a chapel, but as it is only begun this item will naturally fall into our next conference report.

Dorote is naturally a branch of our Makodwini Station. It lies about 8 miles South, and is finely situated on a high hill overlooking a long valley. Ngumbane and his wife Selina, both former members of the Makodwini Church have this work in charge and they have made an excellent beginning. In less than a month, from their beginning they reported at our last quarterly meeting thirteen converts, who are our probationers. The work has taken hold nicely and we hope for a goodly harvest at this station. They too are building a chapel. One ugly native entered their church (which is their private dwelling as well) during service upset the water pots, talked very loud, ate their cooked Sunday dinner, and behaved like his "Father" to such an extent that the preacher thought he ought to report him to the Presiding Elder which he did. This official went to see the magistrate presiding over the District, and his "Honor" arrested the man and set him to private service about his camp, so that for these two months past we have not
heard of his “attending Church.” Our Portuguese officials have invariably been very kind to us foreign Protestants within their domains. We thank them for this and hope to prove ourselves worthy of their kindness, and beneficial citizens of their colony.

Gihuni is naturally a branch of our Gikuki Station. It is located about five miles from Gikuki, on a right line between Gikuki and Kambini. The Bay has a strange back-set around the peninsula on which we are situated so that both Gikuki and Gihuni are on the Bay properly speaking. Farangwana, and his wife Mariano with their two baptized children hold this station. Farangwana has been very ill with fever since he undertook this work and has had to return to Gikuki for some six weeks, so there is little to report of this station, save that it is begun, and will figure from henceforth in our conference minutes.

Aside from these persons reported we have belonging to our Church of Inhambane, several who have taken temporary residences in other parts. We have in Natal in the training Schools of the Congregation Brethren, Muti and Tafulo his sister. Muti is now finishing his fourth year there, and Tafulo has just gone. At Delagoa Bay, with our Swiss Brethren we have Zamuteya a Church member, and two probationers. There are also one member and three probationers of ours on the Gold Fields who will soon return to us. All who are reported in this paper are faithful at the time of writing, and some are already to be taken into full membership.

The following table shows our record at our 4th Quarterly Meeting for the year 1898.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Community</th>
<th>Members</th>
<th>Probationers</th>
<th>Collection</th>
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</thead>
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<tr>
<td>Makodwani</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>$4.62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kambini</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>8.18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kapakulu</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dorote</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>13</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gihuni</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At other points</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Collections</td>
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<td>(one dollar 6,400 Reis.)</td>
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Our native helpers are:
- Tizore and Paketi at Makodwani
- Angilazi and Mabumbi at Kapakulo
- Ngumbedi, and Selina at Dorote
- Farangwana and Mariano at Gihuni
- Pazenda at Kambini, total, four men with their wives, and one woman.

These all draw salary from the mission treasury at the present time.

Makodwani has a collection on hand, but hoping it might revert to their own native helper, it was not turned into the mission treasury at the last meeting. Our church and our probationers have just doubled during the past year, and we shall all do our ablest, that under the Divine guidance of the Father, through Jesus Christ His Son, we may always continue to increase both our numbers and our faith. We are hoping much from the near coming of our Bishop. His presence will shed light on dark points, encourage our native Christians and uplift us all in this glorious work. Praying always for our brethren in the conference, for our Church and those in authority over us, may the “God speed” of the Eternal God be with us all, now and forever.

Respectfully submitted,

Erwin H. Richards,
Presiding Elder.
Report of Mission Treasurer and Business Manager.

Gratitude to our gracious Father in heaven wells up from the depths of my heart as His dealings with us even in the necessary temporalities of Angola Mission during the year 1898 are considered, and their connection with our former history. It has been as it is with the mariners, who, after being tempest-tossed through much of his voyage finds a smooth sea, and clear sky for observations, and, that he is well on his course.

In the examination which has been rightfully going on as to the results of our labors in Angola, it appears to me that the struggle we have passed through in contending with the purpose of our great adversary that we should not exist as a mission has not been sufficiently weighed.

Whether or not we could have entered this field upon any other financial basis than the one adopted is a mooted question. No other seemed available and it was high time for somebody to occupy this large opportunity in Africa. For the first three years of our pioneer life during which we dealt with the problems and experiences connected with aclimatization, mastery of two languages, proving methods of labor, gaining the confidence of the people in the sincerity of our intentions, our support came mostly, through channels that were not permanent and then it became apparent that commerce must needs be the main channel of sustenance. Still it seemed to seek us rather than one seeking it; and we reluctantly adopted what we believed was a providential opening and it must be admitted that it has brought us into contact with tribes of nations, and helped to establish the confidence of the people in our honesty in a way no other method could have done. But, much trial has accompanied its prosecution, because: 1. The building stage of our mission lay heavy upon us with few to accomplish it. 2. Lack of teachers for schools, and evangelists to go among the people. 3. Lack of Capital. Of course those who were obliged to give their best strength and thought to building, and those who were required to prosecute the commercial branch, seeing other branches lacking, that are more directly missionary work would be continually tempted to think themselves out of their place, whereas, had every department been properly manned all would have gone on together with much less trial.

By 1894 a nominal capital of $7773$340 reis, ($5553.33) had been provided as a commercial capital; but as no provision could be made for completing buildings in process of erection, $2792$840 reis ($2031.16) of this was required to save said buildings from serious damage if they remained unfinished. This amount was not restored until late in 1897; so that from 1895 to 1897, deducting from our capital merchandise that was good, but dead assets as to immediate availability, we had very little working capital.

By the paralysis that fell on the old administration after July, 1894, nothing was supplied from abroad to increase our assets until 1897 when the inglow from the new administration began to be felt, but even this could not affect us in time to save us from a bad financial record for that year, 1897; but it ushered in the best financial year of our history, 1898. The record of the past year will demonstrate that if the few thousand dollars we sought to obtain in 1894, could have been granted to increase our capital, we would (D. V.) not have been dependent by this time upon either the old administration or the new, and would also have been fortified against the storms of trials which came upon us so unexpectedly from 1894 to 1897. But, blessed be God! we were enabled to count it all joy when we fell into these divers trials and the trial of our faith has been "more precious than gold;" and, doubtless, the way we have been led was best and safest for us; but our aim is to show that with all these vicissitudes through which we have passed, to which might be added many internal conflicts, known best to those who have grown up with the mission, it is only by the good hand of our God upon us: yea, a divinely wrought miracle that Angola mission did not founder in the tempestuous seas through which we have sailed; and for this we feel that great thanks should be rendered to Him whose "Arm,"
and the "light of whose countenance" still upheld us, "because He had a favor unto us."

EXHIBIT FOR 1898.

Total income from commercial transactions above wages of native clerks Rs. 4707,192

EXPENDITURES.

Business expenses including entire expenses of business manager. $246,935
Printing minutes of Congo Mission Conference Session of 1897 $300,000
Applied to Appropriations for 1898 $2,111,465

$2,658,400

Balance of Income above Expenditures $2,048,792

Rs. 4,707,192

EXHIBIT II.

INCOME.

Actual receipts from Missionary Society Rs. 3,056,685
Received from Bishop J. C. Hartzell for outgoing Expenses of mis-
sionaries $100,000
" " " Sunday purposes $1,598,631
" " " Rent of Loanda Mission property $241,696
" " " Tuition and etc., Qessua station $172,000
" " " from Profits of Commercial Endowment Funds $2,111,465
" " " Exchange on drafts $30,046

Rs. 8,586,583

EXHIBIT No. II cont.

EXPENDITURES.

Maintenance of missionaries and native children in Mission Rs. 2,350,000
" " Native workers $100,000
Presiding Elder—Family Expenses and travel 500,000
Missionary travel 100,000
Congo Mission Conference Expenses—Session of 1898 184,993
Out-going Expenses of Missionaries on leave of absence and etc. 1,376,060
Outlays on Real Estate—New buildings and land 1,165,940
Do. Repairs of old Property 872,272
Taxes on Real Estate and Industries 178,135
Machinery and Tools 358,944
Furniture 909,757
Medical Supplies 200,000
Removing Effects from abandoned Stations 158,455
Contingencies 132,027

Rs. 8,586,583
EXHIBIT III.

ASSETS OF ANGOLA MISSION.

(a) Real estate.
Balance due from sale of Canandua property. Rs. 80,000
Valuation of Dondo property. .................. 500,000
  "  "  Loanda  "  .................. 4,800,000
  "  "  Malange  "  .................. 2,475,000
  "  "  Pungo Andongo prop. .................. 2,000,000
  "  "  Quessua .................. 1,100,000
  "  "  Quihongoa .................. 5,650,000

Rs. 16,605,000

(b) Machinery and Tools in Stations .................. 2,000,000
(c) Furniture ........................................ 2,500,000
(d) Live Stock at Quihongoa and Quessua Stations .................. 260,000
(e) Mission Supplies—Merchandise and etc .................. 8,512,359
(f) Cash in hands of Mission Treasurer .................. 522,294
(g) Balances in hands of Dondo and Loanda agents .................. 1,417,515
(h) Balances of Expenditures in 1897 in Excess of appropriations
   Also taxes paid in 1898  .................. 1,267,818

Rs. 33,098,793

LIABILITIES.

(a) Endowment Commercial Trust Fund .................. 7,553,332
(b) Temporary accounts with 2 Dondo firms .................. 70,880
(c) Balance due Liverpool Agents .................. 497,199
(d) Mission Due bills outstanding Internal, for mission
    purposes only  .................. 668,500
(e) Special Gift fund by hand of J. C. Hartzell awaiting
    his disposal  .................. 1,907,372
(f) Excess of income from Endowment Com. Trust Fund
    above amt. required under apps. for 1898 from Local receipts  2,248,792

Present nett capital .................. 20,052,718

Rs. 33,098,793

It may be added that our income from 1898 from commercial transactions would have
been increased materially had we possessed a stock of goods in additional lines which our
capital would not provide. Many wished to deal with us more largely but we had not
the goods, and so has it been for many years.

The volume of business done has required the supervision of two missionaries who at
certain seasons have been fully employed therewith, while at other times opportunity is
found for other employments. Another missionary was required at Dondo four months
in the transport service. The remainder of the work has been done by natives, two of
whom exhibit qualifications for becoming good merchants. If the calculation could be
made between what employment of missionaries would be required for the bare necessities
of the mission (which will always be a considerable volume) and what is required for
the full volume of business that naturally flows to us it would be found that in one case
large expense is involved with no profit, while in the other case the expense is avoided,
and a surplus of gain obtained besides. Temporal necessities requiring much attention there
always are in any mission; and we know of missions in which as many missionaries are
required for these necessities as are required for our entire volume of business to which
missions, the service referred to, is a large expense. Even at the Pentecost seven men
full of the Holy Ghost were required for temporal affairs.
If the labor of those good men in their department had been magnified and talked about as much as our business operations it would have cast a mist over the history of that glorious day of the church of God; but as there were enough to attend to the spiritual interests who did not "serve tables," these labors were magnified instead, and the material matters sank into their proper inferior relation, and all went on together "in gladness and singleness of heart" and the whole multitude were pleased.

It is well to consider in this connection that a considerable sum of money will be shortly required for outgoing expenses of worn-out missionaries who have had no vacation for fourteen years. To require this money of the Missionary Society who have so recently adopted us as missionaries, may involve some friction, in view of the many other demands; hence the treasurer recommends that authority be given to transfer the surplus of income from commercial transactions for 1898 ($7000 Rs.) to the "outgoing expenses of missionaries' account."

He also recommends the discontinuance of the "Commercial Endowment Fund" and that hereafter all merchandise, building material and etc., remaining on hand at the end of the year, be reported in the assets of the Mission as mission supplies and thus form a part of the general net.

In conclusion he urges that what has been such a providential factor in our past history may not be hastily abandoned; especially in view of our contracts with and obligations to native store boys, the accommodation of a large country district at Quihongoa, and the example of honest commerce carried on in the midst of crookedness.

May He whose we are and whom we serve guide us into all His ways of peace.

Respectfully submitted,

AMOS E. WITHEY,
Treasurer and Business Manager.

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Not approved. See below—J. C. Hartzell.

ESTIMATES FOR 1900.

I.—ANGOLA DISTRICT.

1. Allowance for Missionaries, on field and on furlough.

- Brewster, S. Elson: $300.00
- Collins, Susan: 300.00
- Dodson, Wm. P., wife and three children: 1,050.00
- Gordon, Chas. W. and child: 450.00
- Larson, Hilda: 300.00
- Mead, S. J. and wife: 600.00
- Miller, Wm. S.: 300.00
- Shields, R., wife and child: 750.00
- Shuett, Mary B. and child: 450.00
- Waite, Thomas and wife: 600.00
- Withey, Amos E. and wife: 600.00
- Withey, Herbert C.: 300.00

Total: 6,000.00

2. Allowance for Native Children.

- 25 at $30.00: 750.00

3. Allowance for adult Native Helpers.

- 4 at $50.00: 200.00
4. Furniture for all Stations.................................................. 500.00
   ................................................................. 1,450.00
   .................................................................. 6,450.00

5. *Loanda Station:*
   General Maintenance of property......................................... 100.00

6. *Dondo Station:*
   General Maintenance of property......................................... 100.00
   Material for Building...................................................... 750.00
   .................................................................. 850.00

7. *Quiongoa Station:*
   General Maintenance of property......................................... 100.00
   Material for Chapel...................................................... 750.00
   Tools for Mechanical Department....................................... 750.00
   .................................................................. 1,600.00

8. *Pungo Audongo Station:*
   General Maintenance of property......................................... 100.00

9. *Malange Station:*
   General Maintenance of property......................................... 100.00
   New Building................................................................ 1,800.00
   Removing old Building and re-erection for Mechanical pur-
   poses.}................................................................ 150.00
   Tools for Mechanical Department....................................... 750.00
   .................................................................. 2,800.00
   .................................................................. 12,900.00

10. *Quessua Station:*
    General Maintenance of property....................................... 100.00
    Estimates for work in Angola............................................ 13,000.00
    Less Amount to be raised on the field............................. 2,000.00
    .................................................................. 11,000.00

   Total Appropriation asked for work in Angola from the Soceity
   .................................................................. 11,000.00

II. —ZAMBIKI DISTRICT, EAST COAST.
    Left for Bishop Hartzell to fill out.

Quiongoa, June 2nd, 1899.

    Respectfully Submitted,
    C. W. GORDON, H. C. WITHERBY, T. WAITE,
    Committee.

The above is not approved by me, not because it is not needed, but because it is asking
more than the Committee can give with other claims to meet. See my amended Esti-
mate sent herewith.—J. C. Hartzell.
ESTIMATES FOR AFRICA, 1900.
CONGO MISSION CONFERENCE.
I. ANGOLA DISTRICT.

1. SALARIES:
   
a. Workers on the field.
      W. P. Dodson, wife and three children. $1,000.00
      C. W. Gordon and child. 400.00
      S. J. Mead and wife. 600.00
      W. S. Miller. 300.00
      R. Shields, wife and child. 700.00
      Mary B. Shuet and child. 350.00
      Thomas Waite and wife. 600.00
      S. E. Brewster. 300.00
      Susan Collins. 200.00
      Hilda Larson. 200.00
      Total $4,650.00

b. Workers on furlough.
   A. E. Withewy and wife. 500.00
   H. C. Withewy. 250.00
   Total Salary account. 750.00

   Total for 4 Native adult Helpers. 200.00

3. Property:
   a. Dondo Station—To rebuild house already necessary at Pornardey station, at head of Navigation. $500.00
   b. Pungo Andongo Station—Necessary repairs residence of Presiding Elder. 200.00
   c. Malange—For building on lot donated by town, and must be built to hold the property. 1,200.00
   Total for Property. 1,900.00
   Total for Angola Work. 7,500.00

II. UMTALI DISTRICT.

1. SALARIES OF MISSIONARIES.
   M. W. Ehnes and wife. 1,000.00
   J. L. DeWitt and wife. 1,000.00
   A. C. Hammett and wife. 1,000.00
   Alice J. Culver. 500.00
   Anna J. Arndt. 500.00
   Total $4,000.00

2. REINFORCEMENTS.
   Two teachers (man and wife) for New Umtali. 1,000.00
   Pastor for New Umtali, single man. 600.00
   Out going Expenses of 3. 1,000.00
   Total $2,600.00
   On Salaries of two white-men Assistants and 5 Native Helpers. $1,200.00

   Total $7,800.00
III.—INHAMBANE DISTRICT.

1. SALARIES OF MISSIONARIES.
   E. H. Richards and wife .................................. $1,000.00
   A. L. Buckwalter and wife .................................. 800.00
   E. H. Greeley .................................................. 500.00
   ___________________________________________________________ $2,300.00

2. On support to Native Helpers .................................. 200.00

3. Hospital Work.
   Building, Nurse and Medicines ................................ 3,500.00

Totals Congo Mission Conference.
   Angola District .............................................. 7,500.00
   Mashonaland District ......................................... 7,800.00
   Inhambane District ........................................... 3,500.00
   ___________________________________________________________ $18,800.00

J. C. HARTZELL,
Bishop in Charge.

Approved.
Old Umtali, Rhodesia, Africa,
September 13, 1899


The condition of the Mission Press at this date is as follows: Our partial outfit reported last year as having an approximate value of $400.00 has been increased by the shipment from New York, in January last, of a printing press and material valued in America at $536.23. In February there was shipped a supply of paper, etc., costing $44.54. These supplies have been delayed in transit, so that we have not yet received notice of their arrival in Loanda, consequently they have not become available to us.

The cost of the material was, we understand, covered by a grant from the Tract Society of our church, but no provision has been made for the expense of freight, duties and inland transportation. We are in correspondence with Bishop Hartzell concerning these items. It will be seen that the same reasons why we have not been able here-to-fore to publish our translations still holds good, but in the mean time we have not been at a stand still.

The process of revision, improvement and extension of our manuscript literature has gone steadily on, and it will be all the better for the delay when we shall finally be able to print.

The need of printed Ki-mounda hymn books, catechisms, etc., in our religious work, is more pressing than ever, and we ardently hope to be able soon to supply the need. It seems likely that the present Superintendent of Mission press will take a trip to America in the coming year, but it is his desire first to get the present outfit into shape at Quihongoa so that a first edition of hymn book and catechism can be gotten out; and in America, if God permit, it will be his effort to advance this interest as much as possible.

Respectfully submitted,

Quihongoa, June 3, 1899.

CHAS. W. GORDON.
## STATISTICS. CONGO MISSION CONFERENCE.

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<th>Names of Charges</th>
<th>Church Members</th>
<th>Pupils</th>
<th>Sunday Schools</th>
<th>Church Property</th>
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<td>No. of Full.</td>
<td>No. of Local.</td>
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### Recapitulation

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<tr>
<td>Inhambane District</td>
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This year: 54 55 12 26 181 6 7450 6 3750

Note. Malange District contributed $52 60 for mission and Inhambane District contributed $10 00 for same cause.