Burma Christian Council

Fourteenth Annual Report

1928

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1928.
OFFICERS

Chairman—The Venerable Archdeacon W. H. Cowper Johnson, Bishopscourt, Rangoon.

Vice-Chairman—Saya U Ba Hlaing, Moulmein.

Honorary Secretary—Rev. C. E. Chaney, 121-D Mission Road, Rangoon.

Honorary Treasurer—Thra San Ba, Seminary Hill, Insein.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE


REPRESENTATIVES


Methodist Episcopal Mission.—Rev. C. H. Riggs, 27 Creek Street, Rangoon; Miss G. L. Stockwell, Thongwa, Hanthawaddy District; Saya U Shwe Hla, 256 Creek Street, Rangoon.

Young Women’s Christian Association.—Miss Pauline Heermance, General Secretary, 22 Brooking Street, Rangoon.

Young Men’s Christian Association.—W. B. Hilton, Esq., General Secretary, 263 Dalhousey Street, Rangoon.

British and Foreign Bible Society.—Rev. H. J. Harwood, Acting Agent, 262 Sule Pagoda Road, Rangoon.

Christian Literature Society.—Saya U Aung Ba, Seminary Hill, Insein.

Women’s Christian Temperance Union.—Miss E. Amburn, 2 Lancaster Road, Rangoon.

Medical Representative.—Dr. A. H. Henderson, A. B. Mission, Taunggyi.

Co-opted Members.—Dr. Ma Saw Sa, 15 Barr Street, Rangoon; Saya U Hla Bu, Judson College, Rangoon; Saya U On Kin, M. E. Mission, Thongwa, Hanthawaddy District; Mr. S. J. Obed, Y.M.C.A., 263 Dalhousey Street, Rangoon; Miss May T. Mack, 20-B 43rd Street, Rangoon; Rev. C. E. Olmstead, M. E. Mission, Thongwa, Hanthawaddy District; Rev. J. Mudge, Scotch Kirk, Signal Pagoda Road, Rangoon; W. F. Grahame, Esq., I.C.S., Rangoon; Saya U Toe Khut, M.L.C., A. B. Mission, Maubin; Saya U Cho, Inspector of Schools, Circle 1, Rangoon; Miss L. H. M. Laughlin, St. Mary’s, Kemmendine, Rangoon; U Maung Gale, K.S.M., B.A., Secretary to Government, Local Government Department; Miss S. E. Nicoll-Jones, Zewaka Lodge, 63, 45th Street, Rangoon; Dr. Sastri.
Proceedings of the Fourteenth Annual Meeting
of the Burma Christian Council

July 26–28, 1928

The Fourteenth Annual Meeting of the Burma Christian Council was held at the Central Y. M. C. A., 263, Dalhousie Street, Rangoon, on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, July 26th to 28th, 1928. The meetings opened on Thursday afternoon at 6 p.m. with a reception given in honour of Miss A. B. Van Doren, Secretary of the National Christian Council of India, Burma, and Ceylon. Light refreshments were served to about one hundred and fifty persons.

At 7-15 p.m. the Chairman called the meeting to order and introduced Miss Van Doren, who had spent a month in Burma visiting rural schools, and who gave us a very fine address on “Rural Education.”

The following members were present during all or some of the meetings:—Dr. J. E. Cummings (in the Chair), The Venerable Archdeacon W. H. Cowper Johnson, Rev. W. E. Wiatt, Miss A. O. Ragon, Rev. V N. Kemp, Rev. H. Crawford Walters, Rev. J. Mervyn Young, Rev. C. H. Riggs, Miss G. L. Stockwell, Miss Pauline Heermance, W. B. Hilton, Esq., Dr. A. H. Henderson, Mr. S. J. Obed, Miss May T. Mack, Rev. C. E. Olmstead, Rev. J. Mudge, W. F. Grahame, Esq., Miss L. H. M. Laughlin, Rev. H. J. Harwood, Mr. Moses, Saya U Tun Pe, Saya U San U, Thra San Baw, Rev. Peter Kin Maung, Rev. Po Tun, Saya U Shwe Hla, Saya U Aung Ba, Dr. Ma Saw Sa, Saya On Kin, Saya U Toe Khut, Saya U Cho, and Rev. C. E. Chaney, Honorary Secretary. Members of Standing and Ad Hoc Committees present were:—Rev. G. D. Josif, Saya U Ba Hlaung, Rev. M. A. Clare, Mrs. V. N. Kemp, Miss E. Power, Rev. D. C. Baldwin, Rev. J. R. Boyles, Dr. H. I. Marshall, Rev. C. K. Hughes, Mrs. C. E. Chaney, Miss Phoebe England, Miss Muriel Hollinshed. There were also a number of visitors present at all the sessions, including the following:—Miss A. B. Van Doren, Miss S. E. Niccoll-Jones, Miss C. E. Hesseltine, Mrs. W. E. Wiatt, Mrs. W. St. John, Miss S. T. Ragon, Mrs. H. I. Marshall, Mrs. C. H. Riggs, Mrs. C. E. Olmstead, Mr. Payne, Miss G. R. Anderson, Rev. C. L. Conrad, Rev. G. Appleton, Miss J. Roscoe, Mrs. W. H. Cowper Johnson, Mr. H. W. Smith, Mrs. M. A. Clare, Dr. and Mrs. J. C. Richardson, Rev. G. E. Stevenson, Miss Hurden, U Hla Bu.
Miss Moore, Mr. J. H. Whitt, Mr. Joseph Brough, Rev. F. R. Bruce, and Rev. W. W. Bell. Other visitors were present whose names were unknown to the Secretary.

FRIDAY MORNING

At 8 a.m., following the singing of the hymn, “A Mighty Fortress is our God,” the Venerable Archdeacon took charge of the devotional hour, choosing as his text the seventeenth verse of the third chapter of the Letter to the Ephesians. After a helpful and inspirational talk, the Archdeacon closed the service with prayer.

Dr. Cummings then brought the meeting to order and called upon the Secretary to read the report of our delegate, Thra San Ba, to the Jerusalem Conference. The Secretary moved that the report be accepted and approved with deep appreciation to our delegate Thra San Ba, for bringing such a comprehensive report to this Council. Mr. Appleton seconded the motion. Mr. Mudge felt that this report should be included in the printed minutes of the Annual Meeting, a copy of which is sent to every missionary in the Province, and Mr. Chaney accepted this suggestion as an amendment to his original motion.

RESOLVED: That we accept with deep appreciation the report of our delegate, Thra San Ba, to the Jerusalem Conference, and that we instruct the Honorary Secretary to include it in the printed minutes of this Annual Meeting.

Dr. Cummings announced that a full report of the Proceedings of the Jerusalem Conference would be published in September and would be put on sale at twenty-five shillings, but that copies ordered in advance from Edinburgh House, London, could be had for one pound sterling.

Mr. Walters then took the floor for half an hour with his paper reviewing the Findings of the Jerusalem Conference, in the course of which he propounded a number of suggestive questions to be considered in the subsequent discussion. After the singing of a hymn, “My Faith Looks Up to Thee,” the meeting was thrown open for discussion on these Findings. Dr. Cummings suggested that speakers be limited in time to five minutes and it was so agreed.

1. The first point suggested for discussion was “The Christian Message.” This topic was discussed briefly (See Secretary's Notes).

2. The second point suggested was “Rural Problems.” In presenting this subject Mr. Walters called attention to its particular appropriateness in view of the presence of Miss Van Doren, who had been visiting
the rural institutions of Burma for the past month. In order to stimulate discussion he then asked the following thought-provoking questions:—"Is it true to say that the rural areas in Burma are being neglected at the present time? Is it true that there are less missionaries in the rural areas at the present time than there were ten years ago? Is it true that there are too many missionaries in Rangoon? If the problem is a pressing one, how is it to be solved? What work is at present being done in experimental work in rural education?" A long discussion followed, in which many participated (See Secretary's Notes).

The meeting adjourned at 11-5 with prayer by Mr. Wiatt.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON

The session opened at 1 with the singing of the hymn "The Church's One Foundation." Saya U Shwe Hla of the Methodist Mission led the devotional service, taking as his scripture lesson a portion of the twelfth chapter of First Corinthians, and pleading for unity and co-operation among denominations.

The meeting was brought to order by Dr. Cummings at 1-15 and the Findings of the Jerusalem Conference were again taken up for discussion.

3. The third point suggested by Mr. Walters was the Finding on Education under its three headings:—"The Note of Life; the Note of Freedom; and the Note of Fellowship." This topic was discussed at some length, with especial emphasis on the personality, rather than the methods, of the teacher (See Secretary's Notes).

4. The fourth topic of discussion was the Relation between the Younger and Older Churches. In connection with this subject a question was asked with regard to the methods employed by the various Missions represented in distributing funds sent out by their Missionary Boards. The following replies were made:—


"Our funds are dealt with entirely by a representative Diocesan Council, to which members are elected by our regular Mission Stations, Parochial Bodies, etc. It is entirely on that democratic basis.
The funds are administered by the local Churches, not by the Missionary Society. We have various Boards, one on European Education, one on Indigenous Education, etc. On our Board of Missions, which deals with our Mission funds, the majority is certainly European, but it need not remain so if the people of the country will only realize the opportunity they have to elect their own representatives."


"We have an annual Synod at which all the funds sent out from England are distributed. This Synod is composed of ministers, whether European or indigenous. At present, of course, these are for the most part Europeans; at the last session of the Synod there were fifteen Europeans and eight Burmans. With regard to the distribution of the money, the funds for each station are made over to the superintendent of that station, whoever he may be. Last year we had only one Burman acting as superintendent of a station."

Rev. C. H. Riggs (for the American Methodist Mission).

"As far as our Mission is concerned I should say that all control lies in the hands of the local Churches, not in the hands of the Missionary Society. Our Conference is made up of missionaries and indigenous brethren, and they elect the members of the committee which has to do with the distribution of funds. This committee at present is composed in part of missionaries and in part of indigenous brethren. We are increasing the proportion of the indigenous representatives this year, and I presume will continue to do so year by year."

Rev. C. E. Chaney (for the American Baptist Mission).

"In our Mission the Board at home makes over the money in gross to the Reference Committee, which distributes it to the various stations and institutions, putting it to the credit of the missionary there in charge. So far as the further distribution of the funds is concerned, there is a great variety of methods, depending upon the attitude of the missionary in charge of the station. In some stations the money is handled entirely by the missionary; in other stations it is turned over, in whole or in part, to the indigenous Evangelistic Committee or Home Mission Society. At present our Reference Committee is
entirely made up of missionaries, but we are in the process of changing the above order of things and all the indications are that in the very near future the funds will be handed over to the people of the country to allot as they think best.”

Mr. Walters then opened the way for further discussion by a leading question:—“I should welcome an expression of opinion as to what we can do to give more prestige to the Church. Are there any reasons, other than financial ones, which have held back the indigenous church in growth and strength and dignity?” (See Secretary’s Notes for discussion on this topic).

The discussion was brought to a close at 3 p.m., at which time Saya U Cho, Inspector of Schools, read a carefully written and very instructive paper on the subject of “Compulsory Education.” Miss Van Doren requested the privilege of publishing this paper in the National Christian Council Review. Mr. Chaney moved a vote of thanks to Saya U Cho, and suggested that, provided Saya U Cho was willing, this paper be printed in the local press as well as in the National Christian Council Review.

RESOLVED: That we extend to Saya U Cho a hearty vote of thanks for his careful and technical paper on the vital subject of "Compulsory Education" and, with his consent, would authorize the Secretary to arrange for its publication in the National Christian Council Review and in the local press.

Saya U Tun Pe moved that Saya U Cho’s paper be translated into the vernacular and sent to the local vernacular papers for publication; Saya U Ba Hlaing seconded the motion.

RESOLVED: That Saya U Cho’s paper on “Compulsory Education” be translated into the vernacular and sent to the local vernacular papers for publication.

At 3-40 Dr. Cummings called on Miss S. E. Niccoll-Jones to take the floor with her paper on “Vigilance Work.” In appreciation of her very fine and moving address on this subject, Mr. Chaney moved a vote of thanks and suggested that this paper be published in the local press.

RESOLVED: That we extend to Miss S. E. Niccoll-Jones our sincere thanks for her timely paper on “Vigilance Work” and authorize the Secretary to arrange for its publication in the local press.

The Archdeacon, as President of the Vigilance Society, stated that they were very anxious to have the work of the Society more widely known and supported, not solely as a
Christian venture, but by all men and women of goodwill. He asked that any who might be interested in lending a hand would give their names to Miss S. E. Nicoll-Jones, or to Mr. and Mrs. Chaney, or to himself.

The afternoon session adjourned at 4-5 with prayer by the Venerable Archdeacon.

FRIDAY EVENING

The Reverend Mr. Mudge presided at the evening session, which was a joint meeting of the Christian Literature Society and the Christian Council. Following prayer and the singing of a hymn the audience were favoured with two piano solos by Miss Druitt of St. Mary's School, Kem mendine. In the absence of Miss Phillips, Mr. Brough read the Secretary's report and moved its adoption. In seconding this motion, Mr. Young of the Wesleyan Mission emphasized the need of developing a taste and a desire for good literature among the peoples of the country. Following the adoption of the Secretary's Report, Mrs. Rickard of the Baptist Mission sang very charmingly Dvorak's "Songs My Mother Taught Me."

Mr. Morrison, Treasurer of the Society, read his report and a motion to accept it was made. Rev. H. McDowall Wilson of St. John's College, Rangoon, seconded the motion and expressed gratification with the financial outcome of the year. He went on to speak briefly of the urgent demand for the right kind of books among the young people of Burma and the great lack of literature to supply this need, and expressed the hope that the Christian Literature Society would not slacken its efforts to produce suitable reading material. The Treasurer's Report was then accepted as read.

A collection was taken up for the work of the Society, and following this the Judson College Girls' Glee Club sang two numbers, an arrangement of Handel's "Largo" and "The Night Has a Thousand Eyes."

Mr. Mudge, on behalf of the Society, thanked all those who had participated in the program of the evening, and the meeting closed with the singing of the "Doxology" and the pronouncement of the Benediction.

SATURDAY MORNING

The morning session of the 28th opened at 8 a.m. The Reverend Mr. Mudge of the Scots' Kirk led the devotional service, opening with the singing of the hymn, "Jesus, Thy Radiant Form." After reading the 16th Psalm, Mr. Mudge gave
a brief inspirational talk urging that we, like the Psalmist, "set the Lord always before us." The service closed with prayer.

At 8-30 Dr. Cummings called the meeting to order for a business session.

**Routine Business**

1. The Secretary moved that in order to save time the reading of the Secretary's Notes be dispensed with.
   
   **RESOLVED:** That we refer the Secretary's Notes to the Executive Committee for approval at their next meeting.

2. Dr. Riggs moved the adoption of the printed minutes.
   
   **RESOLVED:** That we adopt the minutes of the last Executive Committee Meeting as printed.

3. **RESOLVED:** That we accept the program and agenda of this meeting as submitted by the Committee of Arrangements.

4. Reports and Business growing out of them.
   
   
   (a) **Committee on Training of Missionaries.** *See Page*

   Mr. Wiatt read the report of this committee, together with two resolutions submitted for action to the Council. He moved the adoption of this report and of the modified course for the Burmese Language Examination as proposed by the Committee.

   **RESOLVED:** That the Report of the Committee on the Training of Missionaries be accepted and printed in the Minutes of this meeting.

   **RESOLVED:** That the Rules for the Examination of Missionaries in the Burmese Language be amended as follows, the changes to become effective from June, 1930:

   **Intermediate Examination**

   **Paragraph 1.** Instead of Synoptic Gospels, read "St. Luke's Gospel."

   **Paragraph 2.** Omit the "Way to Health," and insert the "First 100 pages of Wethandaya."

   **Advanced Examination**

   **Paragraph 1.** Omit "Wethandaya."

   **Paragraph 2.** Delete "—to be assigned beforehand" and insert "the day previous to delivery."

   The matter of a language school was then discussed. Miss Van Doren expressed the opinion that the feeling nowadays is that young missionaries
should study not only the language of the country to which they are sent, but also its Oriental Traditions, Social Organization, and Religious Heritage and Customs. She urged the importance of such instruction and stated that in India it was thought that the irreducible minimum of time to be spent in such study was two weeks. She hoped that eventually the missionaries of Burma would allot at least this long a period to the preparation of their new appointees for missionary work (For further discussion, See Secretary's Notes).

RESOLVED: That we ask the Council to arrange for a series of three lectures by experts, to be given during one day, at the time of the Annual Meeting next year, on the "Study of the Burmese Language," and "The Religious Background of Burma."

(b) Committee on Literature. See Page

RESOLVED: That we approve the printed report of the Committee on Literature as read at the Annual Meeting of the Christian Literature Society.

(c) Committee on Education. See Page

Mr. Olmstead read the report of this Committee and a lengthy discussion ensued (See Secretary's Notes).

RESOLVED: That the Report of the Committee on Education be accepted and printed in the minutes of this meeting.

RESOLVED: That the Education Committee be asked to confer with the managers of all Christian vernacular normal schools, with a view to securing a larger measure of control in the conduct of those schools.

(d) Committee on Rural Education. See Page

The report of this Committee was read by Mrs. Chaney. Mr. Wiatte moved its adoption, with the understanding that the resolutions contained therein would be considered separately.

RESOLVED: That the report of the Committee on Rural Education be accepted and printed in the minutes of this meeting.

RESOLVED: That we authorize Miss Van Doren, Mrs. Chaney, and Miss Hollinshead to represent this Council in their interview with the Director of Public Instruction, in asking that schools which so wish be allowed to undertake experimental work in rural education, and in suggesting that, in view of the importance of ruralizing the curriculum of vernacular schools,
it would be unwise to centralize the vernacular training in large towns or in Rangoon, as Government proposes to do with the Anglo-vernacular training schools.

RESOLVED: That the Committee on Rural Education as now constituted be continued throughout the coming year.

RESOLVED: That we suggest to the various Missions represented on this Council that they form Rural Education Committees if they do not already have them.

Mr. Josif suggested that such Rural Education Committees might be formed as Sub-committees of the regular Education Committees.

(e) Committee on Public Questions. See Page

Mr. Hilton read the report of this committee.

Mr. Chaney moved the adoption of the report and Dr. Riggs seconded the motion.

RESOLVED: That the report of the Committee on Public Questions be accepted and printed in the minutes of this meeting.

RESOLVED: That Mr. Hilton be asked to continue throughout the coming year as the representative of this Council on Public Questions.

(f) Report of the Secretary. See Page

The reading of the Secretary’s report was overlooked at the time of the Annual Meeting, but is included in the printed minutes, subject to the approval of the Executive Committee at its next meeting.

(g) Report of the Treasurer. See Page

The audited report of the Treasurer was read by Mr. Chaney, who is acting as Treasurer in the absence of Thra San Ba.

RESOLVED: That the Report of the Treasurer be adopted and printed in the minutes of this meeting.

New Business

1. Mr. Chaney moved that we refer the matter of cancelling our appropriation from the Indian Literature Fund to our own Literature Committee and to the Committee of the Christian Literature Society and ask for a report as to the exact situation at our next Executive Committee meeting.

RESOLVED: That we refer the question of cancelling our request for funds from the Literature Fund of the National Christian Council to our own Literature Committee and to the Christian Literature Society for Burma, asking that they report to us the exact situation at our next Executive Committee meeting.
2. The Secretary called attention to Dr. Macnicol's request that we arrange for a special Conference on the Findings of the Jerusalem Meetings after the National Christian Council meetings in December of this year. Mr. Riggs moved that we refer this question to the Executive Committee, and Mr. Walters seconded the motion.

RESOLVED: That we refer to the Executive Committee Dr. Macnicol's request that we arrange for a special Conference on the Findings of the Jerusalem Meetings after the National Christian Council meetings in December of this year.

3. The Secretary read Dr. Macnicol's letter requesting that the Burma Christian Council send five extra delegates to the National Christian Council meetings in December of this year at our own expense. Mr. Watt moved that we approve of sending as many additional delegates up to the number of five as our funds will permit, leaving the matter to the Executive Committee to decide, and that we urge that as many as possible of these representatives be Nationals.

RESOLVED: That we approve of the proposal to send to the National Christian Council meetings in December of this year, in addition to our regular quota of four, as many more delegates up to the number of five as our funds will permit, leaving the final decision with the Executive Committee; and that we urge that as many as possible of these representatives be Nationals.

4. The Secretary reported on the matter of Devolution, which was referred to a committee consisting of all the indigenous members of this Council at the last Annual Meeting, the Honorary Secretary having been asked to convene the first meeting of this committee.

RESOLVED: That we refer to the Executive Committee for action the Secretary's report for the Devolution Committee, together with the resolution proposed.

5. The Council next proceeded to the elections for the coming year. The Secretary presented the proposals of the Committee of Arrangements for Officers, Conveners of Standing Committees, Members of the Executive Committee, and Co-opted Members. The ticket was accepted with a few changes. The names of those elected, together with the full membership of the Council, are printed inside the front and back covers of these minutes.

RESOLVED: That the revised list of Officers, Conveners of Standing Committees, Executive Committee, and Co-opted Members be declared elected for the year 1928-1929.
6. Mr. Chaney read the proposed amendment to the Constitution providing for a doubling of the Council membership, and called attention to the fact that the purpose of this was to secure more indigenous members. As a better way of increasing the number of indigenous members without likewise increasing the number of missionary members, he suggested that Article IV Section 2, of the Constitution be amended to read "Co-opted members shall not exceed the number of representative members."

RESOLVED: That Article IV, Section 2, of the Constitution of this Council be amended to read as follows:—"Additional co-opted members, in the selection of whom special consideration should be given to the adequate representation of important interests. Co-opted members shall not exceed the number of representative members," the last sentence replacing the original statement, "Co-opted members shall not exceed half the number of representative members."

Mr. Wiatt suggested that the number of members on the Executive Committee be increased also.

RESOLVED: That we instruct the Executive Committee to consider the advisability of increasing the size of that Committee, and if thought advisable, to give notice of Constitutional amendment in time for the next Annual Meeting.

7. As a resolution growing out of Miss Van Doren's visit, the Secretary recommended that the Education Committee be instructed to bring in a recommendation to the next Executive Committee on the subject of Religious Education.

RESOLVED: That we instruct our Education Committee to bring in a recommendation to the next Executive Committee meeting on the subject of Religious Education.

8. Mr. Wiatt moved that the Chairman and Secretary be instructed to set the date of the next Executive Committee meeting. (Since the Annual Meeting the Chairman and Secretary have conferred together on this matter and have agreed that the next meeting of the Executive Committee shall be held on October 20th, 1928.)

RESOLVED: That we instruct the Chairman and the Honorary Secretary of this Council to set the date of the next Executive Committee meeting.

9. The Secretary moved a vote of thanks to all who had contributed to the Annual Meeting and work of the Council.

RESOLVED: That a hearty vote of thanks be extended to the following:—The Y. M. C. A. for their many courtesies in providing an auditorium and arranging to serve breakfast and other meals during the meetings; the British and Foreign Bible
Society for the use of their rooms for the Executive Committee meetings during the year; the National Christian Council in providing for Miss Van Doren’s visit to Burma, and Miss Van Doren for her valuable contributions along the line of Rural Education; Mr. Crawford Walters, Saya U Cho, and Miss Niccoll-Jones for their contributions to our program; the Venerable Archdeacon, the Reverend Mr. Mudge and Saya U Shwe Hla for their inspirational messages; the Committee which arranged for the reception in honour of Miss Van Doren; and all those who by their presence and assistance in other ways have helped in the work of the Burma Christian Council.

Mr. Walters moved a special vote of thanks to Dr. Cummings for his service as Chairman of this Council.

RESOLVED: That we extend a special vote of appreciation to Dr. Cummings, placing on record our thanks for the service he has rendered to all the Christian forces of this country as Chairman of this Council.

10. RESOLVED: That the Secretary be instructed to order two complete sets of the Jerusalem Conference Minutes to be kept in the office for the reference of members of the Burma Christian Council.

11. RESOLVED: That we instruct the Secretary to get into communication at once with the management of the World’s Student Federation and secure, if possible, a visit to Burma of Dr. John R. Mott, or, if this is impossible, to secure some one or two of the other well-known world leaders who will be attending the Student Conference to be held in India this year; and that we ask the committee which was in charge of the arrangements for Dr. Stanley Jones’ visit to Burma to undertake arrangements for the coming of these visitors, if secured.


The Secretary asked a question as to the proper procedure if at any time any one of our four delegates were unable to attend these meetings. Mr. Wiatt moved that the Chairman, Secretary, Mr. Walters and Mr. Riggs be empowered to fill such a vacancy.

RESOLVED: That if at any time any one of our delegates to the National Christian Council in India should be unable to attend the annual meetings there, the Chairman, Secretary and Heads of the Wesleyan and Methodist Missions shall be empowered to act as a committee to appoint a substitute.
Dr. Cummings spoke briefly, expressing his gratitude that so many had taken part in the meetings this year at such short notice. He felt that attendance at these meetings had increased, and wished also to stress the importance of full attendance at Executive Committee meetings, especially on the part of our indigenous brethren. He thanked the Council for their co-operation during his term of service and welcomed the policy of rotation in the election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman.

A motion to adjourn was made and carried at 12-20.

The Annual Meeting closed with prayer and the pronunciation of the Benediction by Dr. Cummings.

Respectfully submitted,

C. E. Chaney,
Honorary Secretary.

REPORT OF THE BURMA DELEGATE TO THE INTERNATIONAL MISSIONARY COUNCIL MEETING IN JERUSALEM 1928

Origin of the Conference

The International Missionary Council was formed after the upheaval of War by the creation of National Missionary and Christian Councils of Asia, Africa, and Australia, as well as of Europe and America. It has been through these years carrying on with increasing comprehension and momentum the great tasks lying obviously to their hand in the rehabilitation of foreign missions during these settlement years.

The vision seized the Committee of the Council at its meeting at Rattvik in Sweden two years ago of an expanded Council meeting, which while avoiding the stupendous expense and unwieldy magnitude of a world missionary conference like that of Edinburgh in 1910, could yet be sufficiently representative. If prepared for by adequate research and intellectual and spiritual work, it might face the total world-situation and arrive, through corporate fellowship and thought and prayer at a grasp of our Faith, and a statesman like conception of the processes by which it might be achieved.

The great subjects (the principal of which are the Christian Message, the Relation between the Older and Newer Churches, Religious Education, Racial Relationships, Rural Needs, Industry and the Home Base) were found after world-wide enquiry to be those on which east and west, north and south needed light. It was resolved that two-thirds of the delegates from the fields of the newer Churches should be nationals so that the
outstanding and crying need of an integration of what used to be the “sending” and “receiving” countries into a full conception of “sharing” each way, could be realized.

Here we discover the first reason for the choice of Jerusalem itself as the meeting place for the Council. It had met in Europe and in America. Asia must, it was felt, be the location. Jerusalem is at the axis where Asia, Africa, and Europe meet. It is close to the place where the Suez Canal links the East with the West. So geographically Jerusalem is an ideal site. It is also in the richness of its marvellous associations as the birth place of Christianity, and sacred to two other monotheistic religions—Judaism and Islam—ideal as the setting.

No happier choice could be made than the Mount of Olives as the place for deliberation and decision—the Mount of Olives, with the Holy City in sight on the west, and on the east all the superb spiritual landscape across the Jordan, recalling the spiritual heroism and adventure of Abraham, and the national leadership out of slavery of Moses; with on the north Judea with the thrilling messages of its prophets. And on the Mount itself and in the city the constant reminder of the life and death of Jesus, from his boyhood when he went to the Temple Area, the ribbon of the Jordan visible eighteen miles away, where he heard the voice of his Father, the wilderness of temptation at one’s feet, Bethany close by, where he lived in the House of Love, and the Mount of Olives to which it was his custom to come and pray with his disciples; and Jerusalem “compact together” with the Judgment Hall and Calvary where he suffered. All these brought back in insistent, spiritual recollection the realities of the faith by which we are called to live.

So as we travelled from the Jerusalem express into the dazzling sunshine of Palestine on the morning of the first day, we were swept into rattling Ford lorries that masquerade as omnibuses, past David’s Tower, around the head of the valley of Jhoshaphat to climb the long ascent of the Mount of Olives. Passing the British War cemetery with its thousands of graves of men who died in Palestine, we reach on the crest the majestic building erected by German missionary enthusiasm just before the War—a building vacated, after the earthquake, by the High Commissioner for Palestine governing under the League of Nations mandate. On the opposite side of the road we found, among the grey, old olive trees, the blazing anemones and delicate blue wild irises, white tents and long wooden hutm ents specially erected to sleep the delegates. From that field we gaze westward straight across a corner of the Garden of Gethsemane over the valley of the Kidron to the Dome of the Rock, the ancient Temple Area to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre and across the flat roofs and minarets of the Holy City.
Here on this quiet, historic Mount, there met together for two weeks 240 delegates from 50 countries of the world, representing practically all the missionary agencies of the Reformed Churches. The reality of this wonderful variety of the personnel startled even those most prepared for it. China and India; Africa and Korea; Japan and Germany; America and Finland; Sweden and Australia; South America and France; Switzerland and Madagascar; blended in a bewildering kaleidoscope of humanity such as even the interracial streets of Jerusalem had never seen at one time.

**Preparation for the Conference**

Realising the immensity of the tasks lying before them, the Committee left no stone unturned to make all sources of information relative to the Conference subjects available to the members before they came to the meeting. Experts were called in, preliminary papers on the subjects published in pamphlets and periodicals, and provincial councils prepared their statements.

On the way to Jerusalem, delegates travelled together wherever possible and carried on discussions. A score and more of the delegates from China, for instance, blessed by smooth seas from start to finish of their voyage, met every day in thought and prayer, and this mental and spiritual preparation showed itself at the Council meeting in the cogency, the force, and the profundity of their contributions. Similarly a group of men from different countries on the continent of Europe met in Egypt for some study together in preparation for what lay before them.

**Spiritual Life of the Conference**

The spiritual life of the Conference was wonderfully rich and deep at once in its reality, its unity and its variety of expression.

Every morning at 7 o’clock groups met regularly either for silent meditation in the Chapel, for worship in the manner of the Friends in another room, and again in spoken prayer and song—prayer spoken in rich variety of language and nationality—as well as in quiet thought under the olives overlooking the city. The Conference enjoyed among other wonderful gifts from God marvellously perfect spring sunshine. At 11-00 the devotional service, led by different leaders with many partaking in prayer, came as a welcome relief to our heavily-burdened minds in the midst of the morning session.

On the opening Sunday afternoon Bishop MacInnes of Jerusalem in the grounds of the Galilee Church gave a devotional
talk on the city of Jerusalem which lay spread out before us. On Palm Sunday morning he took a devotional pilgrimage in song and prayer and praise from Bethany along the path our Lord walked and rode on His triumphal entry into Jerusalem. Late at night on Maundy Thursday we prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane with the moonlight above struggling against the clouds. On Good Friday morning many walked from the Ecce Homo along the Via Dolorosa in devotional meditation to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. In these and other ways the unique Christian associations of Jerusalem move themselves inextricably and forever into our spiritual experience. On Easter Sunday morning with the triumphant response of “He is risen indeed” to Bishop McConnell’s cry “Christ is risen,” we concluded the united Communion Service in which East and West, Anglican, Baptist, Methodist, and Presbyterian came together in a great united act of communion, after which Dr. Robert Speer delivered a ringing message on “the power of the Resurrection.”

Procedure at the Conference

There were two plenary sessions each day, one in the forenoon and the other in the evening. The former was in the form of a forum. After the message of the appointed speaker on the particular subject of the day, other delegates, who had sent in their names to the Chairman, were called upon to speak. It was a nervous time for all of us, for the five-minutes rule was enforced without discrimination upon all alike—whether bishops or laymen, experts or amateurs, Englishmen or non-Englishmen who had to wrestle with a foreign tongue. And it was a sight to see all of them trying to pack so much wisdom into so short a time, constantly labouring under the fear of the Chairman’s bell. Even then, there remained in each session scores of delegates who had no time to participate. Indeed with the limited time of the Conference, it was a most difficult problem to utilise to the fullest extent the very rich resources of thought and experience represented by the members.

In the afternoon the sections dealing with the different topics met in different rooms where all the delegates had the opportunity to voice their opinions and feelings, and where the issues were worked out in detail. The contributions in these sectional conferences were sifted by Committees which drafted statements to be presented to the full session for criticism and approval, and finally to be given out to the world as Findings.

The evening session was given to some massive statement on the realities of some single field or aspect. Dr. David Yui on the first evening presented a masterly paper on the Chinese
situation, followed the next night by Dr. Datta on "What is moving in the Heart of India;" then Dr. Temple on the third evening surveyed "The Historic Christian Fellowship," and at an evening meeting on Evangelism three representatives of intensely difficult fields—South America, India, and Persia—presented at once the problems and the miraculous triumphs of the Gospel-to-day.

Spirit of the Conference

The spirit of self-determination which has been the most explosive and transforming of the upheavals of the post-war period expressed itself vigorously in the open forums in a spirit of Christian frankness and fellowship from Asia and Africa, Latin America and the Islands. But it was handled throughout with the aim of genuine mutual comprehension and cooperation.

In the face of the problems created by the new attitude towards non-Christian systems including the power of secular civilizations, these religions and cultures were reviewed in a spirit of constructive understanding and of sympathetic insight. The aim was to discover their eternal values in the light of the Christian message. Not, however, with a view to a mere mosaic of elements from each, a "syncretism" as was feared by a certain number of delegates. Even the swiftest reading of the Message produced after these discussions will reveal how far that fear has been from being realized, and how—out of such a frank facing of reality—the supreme and unique place of Christ and of His life and death and resurrection as a redemptive act of God, shines more clearly and with more translucent certainty than ever.

The whole progress of modern psychology and of new principles and methods of education, as well as the drastically different attitude of Governments since the War to the education of subject peoples, was met by an attempt to frame a thorough-going re-orientation of the thought and practice of Christian missions towards religious education. Educational leaders of international repute like Professor Hocking of Harvard, Dr. Weigle of Yale, Dr. Thomas, Jesse Jones of the Phelps-Stokes Fund and Professor Eberhard of Berlin gave to the Council experience and invaluable leadership.

Similar processes of frank facing of new realities marked the discussion of the worldwide outreach of western industrialism into Asiatic and African as well as Island fields. Here the leadership of Mr. Harold Grimshaw of the International Labour Office and Mr. R. H. Tawney, author of "The Acquisitive Society" and collaborator in the Archbishop of Canterbury's report on industrial conditions was of untold
value. For they combined practical experience and scientific knowledge, the one of conditions of forced labour all over the world and the other of economics. This knowledge, blended with the first-hand experience from every Continent of missionaries and Y. M. C. A. and Y. W. C. A. and other workers, gives to the Findings on industrialism an unsurpassed blend of reality and Christian purpose.

The immense territory traversed between Edinburgh 1910 and Jerusalem 1928 was revealed nowhere more strikingly than in the discussions on the relations of the older and younger churches. At Edinburgh there were barely twenty-six representatives of the younger churches in a membership of over twelve hundred. At Jerusalem the proportion was almost fifty-fifty. Also, the emphasis is now swiftly moving from rebellious self-determination as against western mission organization to the idea of the Church as rooted in God in the soil of its country; at once an integral part of the Church universal yet radiating its life within its own nation, alert to the problem of its community, penetrating all phases of life, kindled with the missionary spirit and sharing its best with its fellow churches throughout the world. Vigorous emphasis was given to the fact that, even were the younger churches to become fully self-supporting, the occupation of new fields, the exploration of untouched areas, the erection and maintenance of the buildings, and service of hospitals, schools, research, literature, and every instrument of worldwide evangelism will call upon the western world for greater support than ever, in money and thought and prayer.

From this the thought of the Conference moved on naturally into the region of worldwide cooperation through the twenty-six national councils which were represented in this meeting alone. In this spacious field the consideration of the International Council as an organization held a central place.

Results

There is no question that great results have been achieved by this truly ecumenical Council. The fellowship that the members had experienced on the Mount of Olives in the deepest realities of life, the intimate interpenetration of mind with mind, of spirit with spirit, across the frontiers of language and race and communion, the transformation of outlook and expansion of horizon that every living man had experienced, these were enough in themselves to make the great cost of time, energy and money that the meeting had involved, abundantly worth-while. The results of united deliberation have been embodied in certain Findings—the most noteworthy of which is:
that dealing with the Christian Message—which will in due
course be published by the Council. These Findings give us
for Protestant Christendom a clear mandate, an expanding pro-
gram, a united world outlook that will be for this decade all,
and more than all, that the reports of the Edinburgh Confer-
ence in 1910 were to the years that followed it.

A Revelation of Goodwill

The meeting was a remarkable revelation of goodwill on
the part of many not directly connected with the Council. The
Jerusalem Patriarch of the Greek Orthodox Church placed his
summer palace and the Galilee Church on the Mount of Olives,
at the disposal of the Conference, while the Russian nuns
generously opened their convent to the women delegates; and
the Russian Archbishop’s Choir of priests and nuns came to
the Conference for the Easter morning service and shook the
souls of the hearers with the tragic and joyful notes of the
Passion Music.

The Palestinian government provided an easy entrance, so
far as the customs were concerned, and stationed policemen on
the Mount of Olives to keep watch over the grounds and regu-
late traffic. By special permission of the Grand Mufti, the
spiritual head of the Moslems in Palestine, all the members of
the Council were allowed to visit the Dome of the Rock, that
most prominent and beautiful building in Jerusalem, on a cer-
tain afternoon—the time when the faithful assembled for prayer
and meditation and non-Moslems were not ordinarily allowed
to enter the area.

These acts of kindness were greatly appreciated, and they
made us feel that we had entered a new era when the force
of religious bigotry had been spent and goodwill had come to
its own in the hearts of many.

Dr. Mott

The success of the meeting was largely due to that veteran
and pre-eminent missionary statesman, Dr. John R. Mott, under
whose able and businesslike chairmanship the different and even
contradictory opinions of representatives from the four corners
of the world were merged into one harmonious stream of
thought, the main end of which was to discover the purpose
and wisdom of God in regard to the Christian Message to the
world. And when he was re-nominated Chairman for another
term of service, the Assembly Hall immediately resounded with
thunderous applause of the grateful and appreciative members.
Thus ended one of the most memorable assemblies of the present time; and with the thought of the disciples in that power of the Risen Christ, "beginning at Jerusalem" and going out to the ends of the earth and under the domination of a sense of humility and of elation at the tasks that lie ahead, the delegates parted. They came down from the Mount to the Valley of the Task. They have gone across oceans and continents to their separate tasks. Separate yet one as they see them in this new world-setting; one with the unforgettable consciousness of an unbreakable fellowship of fresh vision and renewed dedication; one above all in the certainty that the Christ who led these modern disciples up the Mount of Olives "as was His custom" to pray, goes out with them into all these fields of harvest and has said "Lo I will be with you all the days."

Respectfully submitted,

SAN BA.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON TRAINING OF MISSIONARIES TO THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE BURMA CHRISTIAN COUNCIL

July 26–28, 1928

There is not much to report. The regular examinations were held as usual, one in November, 1927, the other in June, 1928. The six who sat for the former were all in the intermediate class, and the four who sat for the latter were all in the primary class.

The Annual Meeting referred to the committee last year two resolutions for consideration, one on the desirability of organizing a series of lectures for new missionaries along the lines of the course given in Madras last year, the other a resolution of the Wesleyan Synod suggesting some changes in the Rules for the Examination of Missionaries in the Burmese language. The report on these will come before this session of the Council.

W. E. Wiatt, Convener,
Committee on Training of Missionaries.
REPORT OF THE LITERATURE COMMITTEE
TO THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE BURMA
CHRISTIAN COUNCIL

July 26-28, 1928

The plan which was adopted sometime ago for the cooperation of the Christian Council and the Burma Branch of the Christian Literature Society in carrying on the work of publication and distribution of Literature is still in operation. The Christian Council appoints as its Committee on Literature the General Committee of the Christian Literature Society, and that Society carries on the work of publication.

The departure from Burma of Rev. B. M. Jones who has served most acceptably as Convener of the Literature Sub-Committee of the Burma Christian Council and the Christian Literature Society made it necessary to select some one to act in his place until the time of the Annual Meeting in July. The Report of the Committee on Literature will therefore be comparatively brief.

During the year which has just passed the following publications have come from the Press:—

*Recreations in Astronomy (Burmese).*

*Hla Baw of the Police* (English).

*Hla Baw of the Police* is an English reprint of the Burmese publication entitled *Bo So Min* which has been very popular. The book was printed in English for the benefit of English speaking people and also that it might be sold in English speaking countries; and in that way help in advertising the work of the Society.

Some time ago a suggestion was made that a number of the short stories which have already been published be bound up in book form and used as gifts and prizes. That plan has been carried out and copies can be secured at the A. B. M. Press at Rs. 2/8 each.

The question concerning a wider distribution of the Literature which has already been published is a very difficult one. Colporteurs have been employed at various times to assist in the sale of the publications but none have been very successful. Shortly before Mr. Jones left for America an Indian was employed but his lack of knowledge of both English and Burmese was in part responsible for his failure to succeed. At the last meeting of the Committee it was decided to dispense with his services.

Plans are now being made for the publication of two more books in Burmese. The "Adventure of Prayer" is now being
translated into Burmese by Saya Ah Sou. About thirty-five pages have been completed and it is hoped that in the near future it will be ready to print. I am glad to report that Sayama Laura Ma Hmya has consented to translate "Ben Hur," the first edition of which was received from Mr. Jones a short time ago. If only it might be possible to find someone who could give more time to the writing of books and the selection of suitable material for translation, much more could be accomplished. I earnestly hope and pray that the time is not far distant when we will have a secretary who will give his full time to this most important phase of Christian Work in Burma.

MARY E. PHILLIPS, Convener,

REPORT OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE ON RURAL EDUCATION TO THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE BURMA CHRISTIAN COUNCIL

July 26-28, 1928

At no time during the year has it been possible for the four members of the sub-committee on Rural Education to meet together, but there have been four meetings during the year with two or more members present. Each member of the committee has contributed to the plans and suggestions by correspondence, however, and during my absence of two months Miss England very kindly acted as Chairman and Convener and she and Miss Hollinshed had one meeting during that time.

At the beginning of the year the committee had two lines of work not yet finished. The book on Bible study for village Sunday Schools, recommended by this committee, had been put into the hands of the Christian Literature Society and soon after, our last annual meeting it came out on sale. We understand it has been greatly appreciated by those who have used it and the Sunday School Union has adopted it as their Primary book. Just how widely it is being used in our jungle schools I do not know.

The members of the Committee had set themselves to continue the monthly contributions to the Church papers but in this we must confess to a partial failure. Very few of these articles have been sent in this year and the lapse has not been due to any one member. I think all have sinned in this.
The aggressive work of the sub-committee this year has been recommendations growing out of our study of the present needs of rural schools and their curriculum. In our report at the January Executive Committee meeting of the Council, we called attention to the lack of any physical maps of India or Burma in the vernacular and the urgent need of a handbook for teachers with helps and suggestions for employing several classes at a time—something which every jungle teacher has to do and in which they receive no training.

We also made definite recommendations looking toward the beginning of Compulsory Education in a very simple modified form. (January Minutes, Page 6) These were referred by the Council to the Committee on Education for "such action as they deemed necessary and advisable." Their reaction is printed in the June Minutes under the Education Committee report. In view of their objections that for a Christian body to press Compulsory Education might be interpreted as trying to force Christian Education on non-Christian children, we think it best to drop the matter.

The other recommendations made at the January meeting, also passed on to the Education Committee, evidently were not touched. (See Page 6)

The sub-committee at its last meeting in April suggested that an exhibition of handwork and class books be held for rural mission schools. I was out of town at the time of the June meeting of the Council and although I sent the recommendation to the Executive Committee meeting it was received a few hours after the meeting had finished. That must now wait over another year since there is now not time enough to give the schools notice.

On the strength of our annual report last year the Council passed the following recommendation: "RESOLVED: That in accordance with the suggestion of the Committee on Rural Education, this Council recommends to the various mission bodies affiliated with it that they give adequate recognition to the needs of Vernacular Education on their respective educational committees." We would be glad to hear from the various mission bodies as to what has been done regarding this.

Miss Van Doren's visit was much anticipated by this Committee and has brought great help and inspiration. Finding that so little time could be given on the program of the Annual Meeting to this important subject of Rural Education, she asked that we might have a pre-conference to discuss it. Our Committee invited certain ones of the different missions who are in close touch with Rural Education to meet Wednesday afternoon and Thursday morning at the offices at our house.
We had twelve people present, and a small exhibit of handwork. We discussed present vernacular education under three heads, Curriculum, Training, and Supervision. These are some of the conclusions and findings of our Conference together:—

Curriculum

The present curriculum in rural schools does not seem well suited. We need a course and text books which will be "rurally minded." A plan was made by which Miss England and Mr. Olmstead would combine their present experiments in arithmetic and produce a new arithmetic adapted to rural schools.

In Reading all felt the need of some book to fill the gap between the story telling method of the beginners’ class and the prescribed readers which must follow. There again we found material available in some home made charts which Miss England is experimenting with and we hope that Mr. Bell with his wonderful machine will make copies of her work which will be available for others.

Rural projects were discussed. Miss Van Doren advised their use but warned us against introducing it too suddenly. Projects which would result in added furniture for the schools, in helps and exercise books for the younger pupils make a good beginning.

It was mentioned that the sub-committee on Rural Education might institute a circulating library for missionaries doing vernacular work.

Training

On the matter of training all felt that the present training classes are not near enough a rural environment to make them as valuable as they might be. Methods for remedying this were proposed.

1. Training classes to be stationed in rural areas and carried on under rural conditions.

2. When that is not possible, house the practice school in a typical jungle school house with only jungle equipment.

3. If neither of those can be done take the pupils of the Training class out to a jungle school for one or two months practice.

Government has recently sent out a communication asking opinion as to whether the Elementary Training Class course should be lengthened to two years. The conference expressed these views regarding that.

1. Present Elementary Training Class teachers could not use two years to advantage.
2. If two years are given we wish the extra year not to be added literary work entirely.

3. Certain schools which Government knows to be well equipped might try out the two year course with value to all.

4. Present Elementary Training Class teachers might be given a month's refresher course to prepare them for the added year and the vernacular normal school students who are likely to become Elementary Training Class teachers could have provision made for it in their last year's study.

Supervision

Supervision as such was hardly touched; but it was so closely related to training that constant reference was made to it. The kind of supervision which is the recognized aim for rural work is already being carried on by Miss England and Miss Hurden in the delta.

The matter of training and courses being bound up with Government attitude in the matter, certain questions regarding it arose and these are to be presented by Miss Van Doren in her visit to-day to the Director. We want to feel that in presenting these matters she can do so as coming from the Burma Christian Council.

1. Will Government allow some of the present training classes to carry on experiments in method and curriculum with the understanding that the pupils reach the required standards at the end of the training period? (We have two schools ready to try that if Government will give permission)

2. In view of the importance of ruralizing the curriculum of vernacular schools we protest against any proposal to centralize the vernacular training in large towns or in Rangoon, as Government proposes to do with the Anglo-vernacular training schools.

MRS. C. E. CHANEY, Convener,
Sub-Committee on Rural Education.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC QUESTIONS TO THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE BURMA CHRISTIAN COUNCIL

July 26–28, 1928

During the year under review several public questions have been brought to the notice of the Council. A second resolution
in connection with the alleged gambling on behalf of the University Fund was sent to the authorities concerned and there is reason to believe that steps were taken to suppress this evil. There was, however, a recrudescence of gambling in Rangoon during one of the Chinese festivals later in the year which I am glad to say the local press condemned in no uncertain terms. I was informed that there was also gambling carried on in connection with the farewell festivities to Sir Harcourt Butler at the Royal Lakes. The whole question of gambling and its effect on the lives of the young people of Burma still awaits investigation. The large amount of authorised gambling that is carried on in connection with racing in Rangoon and elsewhere is undoubtedly one of the contributary causes of crime and a thorough investigation into this is due.

The notice of the Council was drawn to the proposals to reopen the register for opium consumers and to legalise the sale of ganja in Rangoon, and a resolution was forwarded by the Council to the Local Government associating itself with those who had already opposed the proposals. I believe these proposals have now been dropped.

There is another question along these lines with which we should concern ourselves. That is the opening of premises for the sale of liquor. There was a recent proposal to open a shop in close proximity to the Excelsior Cinema in opposition to the wishes of those who live there. You will remember that we passed a resolution asking that no license should be granted when it was opposed by a majority of the residents of that neighbourhood. This is a reasonable request and we should seek to marshall public opinion in support of it.

The question of lotteries and of using the postal system for sending lottery tickets, especially to school boys and girls, was dealt with. A number of envelopes containing these tickets were received from various members of the Missions and forwarded to the Postmaster. Several sympathetic letters have been received from him in reply, the last of which stated that at the instance of the Rangoon Office the matter has been taken up by the Postal Authorities in India with the Malerkotla State from which the posting of such tickets has emanated, and it is hoped that their further circulation by post will be stopped shortly. I should be glad if those who continue to receive such packets will forward them to me so that we may keep this matter before the authorities is necessary.

There is a further question, that of the sending of what we considered to be obscene literature to school boys and girls in Burma. This matter was taken up with the Local Government Education Department and we were asked if we would
state a case against the offending party. On referring the matter
to a lawyer we were informed that we had little chance of
success in such a charge. The question is now awaiting further
evidence.

Progress along other lines of Public Welfare is a cause for
thankfulness. I would like to pay a tribute in this connection
to the work Miss Niccoll-Jones has been able to do since she
came to Burma.

The question of the Waifs and Strays of Rangoon to which
I referred in my last report is receiving attention and before
long we shall be able to report that steps have been taken to
meet this need. Public Bodies who have the welfare of the
city at heart are growing in influence and numbers not only
amongst Christians but amongst those of other religions as well.

There is, however, still much to be done. I was told by
an influential Burman a few days ago that a new menace has
arisen in the "Tea Shop." This, I admit, sounds as harmless
proposition but it is said that these shops with their groups of
young men who congregate to drink tea and tell immoral stories
constitute a problem which is increasingly attracting the atten-
tion of those who have the welfare of young men at heart.

Then there is the industrial problem:—Rates of pay, hours
of work, and living conditions which we ought to interest our-
selves in. There are perhaps other questions which will occur
to those present, and we shall be glad to have your help and
counsel in making this section of the Council's activities more
effective.

W. B. HILTON, Convener,
Sub-Committee on Public Questions.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY
TO THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE BURMA
CHRISTIAN COUNCIL

July 26–28, 1928

I understand that the purpose of a report from the Secre-
tary of this Body is that we may have a brief review of the
various interests which have come under the consideration of
the Council for the past year. This report may give but passing
mention of items which by reason of brevity give no suggestion
as to their importance.

Furthermore, we need to keep in mind the background of
our work. We are here as Christian Missions seeking to make
our religious and social contributions to the new Burma which is
rising out of the old and passing Burma. Here as well as throughout the whole Orient there is a leaven at work which is creating a new Burma much faster than any of us realize. The constant agitation for changes along political and social lines, as well as the new interest and activities within the ranks of indigenous religions are all symptomatic of the changes taking place, and indicate the trend of the New Burma which is to be. With all real progress Christian Missions are always in sympathy. We are here as Christian Missions seeking through evangelistic effort, educational contribution, the creation and distribution of literature, and philanthropic institutions, not only to make Christ known in such a way as to win the loyal acceptance of Him as Lord and Master, but also to do good to many who will never follow Him in this sense. We seek to make our contribution to the common good and uplift of humanity. In carrying out some of the phases of this our common task we can work better as separate units, while in other phases we can be more effective through co-operation. The Burma Christian Council offers an important channel for this co-operative effort.

Annual Meeting of July 29th, 1927

The opening of the Annual Meeting was under a heavy cloud caused by the death of the much beloved Dr. Kingsley. In honour of her the afternoon tea at the Y. M. C. A. was cancelled. Suitable resolutions were made a matter of record in the minutes.

The subject of Devolution of Responsibility from Mission Bodies to Indigenous Bodies was the main topic of discussion. Rev. Peter Kin Maung, Thra San Ba, and U Shwe Hla read papers dealing with this topic, which were followed by discussion from the floor. The Council also, after a year of deliberation, put itself on record as in favour of Local Option in the matter of the sale of intoxicating liquors. A resolution to this effect was forwarded to Government. U Kin Maung, Burma’s representative at Delhi, gave us a very interesting paper on Modern Trends of Buddhism, which was followed by discussion. The Education Committee submitted a report on Government’s trend in educational matters, out of which grew much interesting debate. Some of the matters were referred for further study and action to grow out of it. One item is the need to present the growing urgency for Government to provide a larger proportion of the difference between income and expenditure as a basis for maintenance grants to aided schools.

Executive Committee Meeting of November 5th, 1927

In the interest of economy in printing and on account of the growing amount of business, the Secretary was authorized
to keep "Secretary's Notes," etc., in typewritten form in addition to the printed minutes. Copies of these notes are sent to each of the Missions concerned. This meeting was marked by the retirement from service in the Burma Christian Council of the Bishop of Rangoon and Mr. Purser, both of whom have given much invaluable service to the Burma Christian Council and are greatly missed from our councils. Both have returned to England not expecting to return to Burma. A record of our deep appreciation of them was made in the minutes. We elected as our delegate to the Educational Conference in Bombay Rev. C. E. Olmstead, and as our delegate to the Jerusalem Conference Thra San Ba, whose report has been read to this Council. The World Conference of Missions held last March and April in Jerusalem is doubtless the biggest and most important religious gathering of the year and the Findings of that Conference are the chief topic of discussion at this Annual Meeting. At this meeting the last report concerning the gambling in connection with the raising of the University Fund was filed. But action was taken looking toward enforcing the law concerning the non-use of the mails for the use of lotteries. A flood of this material has been entering Burma from India. Arrangements were also made for another short visit in the city from Dr. Stanley Jones.

Executive Committee Meeting of January 21st, 1928

A committee was appointed to represent the views of the Burma Christian Council to the Cinematograph Committee of the Government during its visit to Burma. In general we favoured the report of the Council of Women and the report sent in by the Y. M. C. A. The Educational Committee was instructed to send a letter to Government requesting that the Government bear three-fourths of the difference between income and expense in aided schools. A letter of welcome and greeting was sent by the Council to His Excellency Sir Charles Innes, the newly arrived Governor, to which a cordial reply was received.

Executive Committee Meeting of June 9th, 1928

The present system of allotting vernacular normal stipends came up for discussion. A strong plea was sent in to the Department for a revision of the present basis of allotments. This matter will doubtless receive further attention since our request has not been granted. The matter of passing lottery tickets through the mail was further taken up with the Postal Department and we have hopes that it will be stopped at the sending office. Government's reply with regard to increasing
the proportion of difference between income and expense for aided schools is practically a refusal, and it remains for the Council to make further representations on this matter.

Closing

In the above report no reference has been made to the work of the Literature Committee or the Committee on Training Missionaries. This does not indicate that nothing has been done. The Literature Committee has accomplished considerable, but since they are working largely in co-operation with the Christian Literature Society, one needs to review the work of that Society to get the results. The work of the Training of Missionaries is necessarily largely routine and uninteresting to the general reader. The rules and syllabus for the examinations were altered at the last Annual Meeting. I have only referred to the major items of importance of the work the Burma Christian Council is doing. These items have been chiefly concerned with educational matters, public questions, and some miscellaneous items.

Last year my report was handed to the Press after it had been read and approved by this body. It drew forth two articles attacking certain expressions in it. One phrase was perhaps a bit unfortunate because it was capable of two interpretations. However, I should have been glad to have answered my critic could I have done so as an individual rather than as a representative of this Council. The Jerusalem Report has done it for me and far more effectively, even to the use of such expressions as “national conscience” and “social conscience.”

Respectfully submitted,

C. E. Chaney,
Honorary Secretary.
TREASURER'S REPORT

Note.—For greater convenience in keeping track of separate funds, the Treasurer is reporting under three heads. Therefore the balance reported last meeting of Rs. 620-5-1 appears in this account under two amounts in separate accounts of Rs. 280-5-1 and Rs. 340.

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<td>8</td>
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<td>Post and Gazettes</td>
<td></td>
<td>9</td>
<td>4</td>
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<td>Thra San Ba, T. A.</td>
<td></td>
<td>50</td>
<td>7</td>
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<tr>
<td>June Minutes</td>
<td></td>
<td>39</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Invitations, etc.</td>
<td></td>
<td>6</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Credit Balance</td>
<td></td>
<td>383</td>
<td>7 10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Literature Account    |          |             |          |
| From Miss Phillips    | 1,429    | 10          | 0        |
| Credit Balance        |          | 1,429      | 10 0     |

| Special Fund          |          |             |          |
| Balance Forward       | 340      | 0           | 0        |
| Credit Balance        |          | 340         | 0 0      |

| Summary               |          |             |          |
| Net Credit Balance    |          | 2,153       | 1 10     |
| Bank Credit           |          | 2,163       | 12 1     |
| Owing to Secretary    |          | 10          | 10 3     |

|                |          | 2,163       | 12 1     |

Audited by—

C. E. ChaneY,  
Honorary Acting Treasurer,  
Burma Christian Council.

28th July, 1928.
STANDING COMMITTEES

(The name of the Convener is given first in each case.)

I. Christian Education.—Rev. H. Crawford Walters and the following elected representatives of the constituent bodies engaged in educational work:—


II. Christian Literature.—Miss M. E. Phillips, and the members of the Christian Literature Society General Committee as follows: Miss L. H. M. Laughlin; Mrs. V. N. Kemp; Miss E. Power, 2 Lancaster Road, Rangoon; Rev. C. E. Chaney; Rev. G. E. Stevenson, M.A., St. Philip's Church, 245 Dalhousie Street, Rangoon; Rev. W. St. John, Ph.D., Judson College, Rangoon; Rev. G. S. Jury, Judson College, Rangoon; Rev. G. Appleton, B.A., St. Michael's Mission, Kemmendine; Rev. D. C. Baldwin, 2 Lancaster Road, Rangoon; Rev. H. J. Harwood, 25 Godwin Road, Rangoon; Thra San Ba; Rev. F. R. Bruce, 22 Sandwith Road, Rangoon; Rev. Peter Kin Maung; Saya U Aung Ba.

III. Training of Missionaries.—Rev. W. E. Wiatt; Rev. C. H. Riggs; Rev. E. H. Cox, St. Barnabas Mission, East Rangoon; Miss H. Phinney, 1 Beale Road, Insein; Wesleyan representative for Upper Burma, Rev. H. Crawford Walters.


REPRESENTATIVES TO THE NATIONAL CHRISTIAN COUNCIL

For term expiring July, 1930 .. .. Dr. J. E. Cummings.
" " " 1932 .. .. Saya On Kin.
" " " 1932 .. .. Rev. J. M. Young.
" " " .. .. Rev. Peter Kin Maung.