Minutes of the Burma Christian Council
Executive Committee

January 19th, 1929

The Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Burma Christian Council was held at 8:15 on the morning of January 19th, 1929, at the Y. M. C. A. Hall, 268 Dalhousie Street, Rangoon.

The following members of the Executive Committee were present—Saya U Ba Hlaing (in the Chair), Thra San Ba, Miss M. E. Phillips, Rev. W. E. Wiatt, W. B. Hilton, Esq., Miss Pauline Heermance, Miss May T. Mack, Rev. Peter Kin Maung, Saya U Shwe Hla, Dr. J. E. Cummings, Mr. S. J. Obed, W. F. Grahame, Esq., and Rev. C. E. Chaney, Honorary Secretary. Other members of the Council present were—Rev. L. B. Rogers, Saya U Tun Pe, Rev. H. McD. Wilson, Rev. C. H. Riggs, Miss G. L. Stockwell, Rev. H. J. Harwood, Dr. Ma Saw Sa, Saya U Hla Bu, Saya U Toe Khut, Rev. C. E. Olmstead, and Miss L. H. M. Laughlin. The following members of Standing and Ad Hoc Committees were also present:—Rev. G. D. Josif, Rev. M. A. Clare, Rev. D. C. Baldwin, Rev. E. H. Cox and Mrs. C. E. Chaney. Among the visitors were Mr. T. L. Shen, Student Secretary of the Y. M. C. A. of China, Rev. W. W. Bell, Mr. Moses, Mrs. W. F. Grahame, and Mrs. W. St. John. Mr. Walters sent his regrets that he was unable to attend the meeting.

The meeting opened with the reading of the “Beatitudes” by the Acting Chairman, after which he led in prayer.

The minutes and Secretary’s Notes of the previous meeting were approved without re-reading.

CORRESPONDENCE

The Secretary read several letters for information only. (See Secretary’s Notes, Page 1.)

NEW BUSINESS

1. The Secretary read a letter dated December 2nd, 1928, from the Archdeacon W. H. Cowper Johnson, tendering his resignation as Chairman of the Council.

RESOLVED: That we accept with regret the resignation of the Archdeacon W. H. Cowper Johnson as Chairman of the Council, and appoint Saya U Ba Hlaing in his place to serve until the Annual Meeting in July.
RESOLVED: That Dr. Riggs be appointed Vice-Chairman of this Council in place of Saya U Ba Hlaing, to act until the Annual Meeting in July.

2. The Secretary announced that Dr. Mott is planning to visit Burma, arriving on the 19th of February and leaving on the 21st.

RESOLVED: That we express our congratulations to the Committee which succeeded in securing Dr. Mott's visit, and that we welcome Dr. Mott most heartily to Burma.

RESOLVED: That the following committee be appointed to make arrangements for Dr. Mott's visit to Burma:—Mr. Hilton, Saya U Hla Bu, Mr. Wilson, Dr. Riggs, Miss Heermance and the Bishop of Rangoon.

RESOLVED: That the whole question of a mass meeting during Dr. Mott's visit to Burma be referred to the Committee of Arrangements, as well as the possibility of having a meeting of the Council or group meetings on the day previous to his arrival.

RESOLVED: That the committee of indigenous members of the Council which was appointed to bring in a report on the Findings of the Jerusalem Conference at the Annual Meeting in July be asked to report at this meeting in February.

REPORT OF DELEGATES TO THE NATIONAL CHRISTIAN COUNCIL AT MADRAS

The delegates to the National Christian Council at Madras reported as follows:—

1. Dr. Cummings—General Impressions and Review of the Meetings. (See Page 4.)

2. Mrs. C. E. Chaney—What is an Indigenous Church? (Saya U On Kin who had planned to give the report was absent on account of illness.)


REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

1. Education. (See Page 7.)

In the absence of Mr. Walters, Mr. Chaney read the report which was approved.

RESOLVED: That the Education Committee be authorized to make another representation to the Education Department with regard to the inconvenience caused to Mission schools by the delay in the payment of Grants-in-Aid.
RESOLVED: That the Government's proposal to "compel buildings for which grants are given to be insured against fire" be referred to the Education Committees of the various Missions for an expression of opinion and then brought up to the Education Committee of the Council for action of some sort.

Since the meeting of the Executive Committee the Honorary Secretary has received a communication from Government on the subject of Maintenance Grants to Aided Schools, in answer to his demi-official letter which was approved at the meeting of October 20th, 1928 (See Page 6 of October Minutes). A copy of Government's letter will be found on Page 7 of these minutes.

2. Literature. (See Page 8.)
   In the absence of Miss Phillips, the Secretary read the report which was approved.
   RESOLVED: That we suggest to the Literature Committee that they take under serious consideration the question of finding ways of using the funds which we have at our disposal, and that we ask them to submit to us a statement as to what manuscripts they have approved for printing, together with the approximate cost, and any other work they have in mind to carry out during the year.

3. Training of Missionaries. (See Page 8.)
   Mr. Watt read the committee's report which was approved.

REPORTS OF AD HOC COMMITTEES

1. Rural Education. (See Page 9.)
   Mrs. Chaney gave the report of the Committee, which was approved.
   RESOLVED: That we authorize the Rural Education Committee, without further reference to this Executive Committee, to send in their proposals to Government with regard to extension courses for certain selected Elementary Training Classes.

2. Public Questions. (See Page 9.)
   Mr. Hilton read his report which was approved.
   RESOLVED: That Mr. Hilton be empowered to take up with the Postmaster-General the matter of the sending of lottery tickets through the mails, and that he also be authorized to take up with the proper authorities the matter of the football competitions which are being featured in the daily papers of Rangoon.

REPORT OF THE TREASURER

Thra San Ba read his report (See Page 12), which was approved.
   RESOLVED: That the Special Fund in the hands of the Treasurer be reserved strictly for use in connection with special meetings such as those held during the period of Dr. Stanley Jones' visit to Burma.
MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

1. RESOLVED: That we appoint the following Committee of Arrangements for our Annual Meeting in July:—Saya U Ba Hlaing, Rev. C. E. Chaney, Rev. C. E. Olmstead, Mr. S. J. Obed, Miss Pauline Heermance and the Bishop of Rangoon.

2. Attention was called to the fact that our next meeting will be the one held on February 20th in connection with Dr. Mott's visit, and that at that time the date for the following Executive Committee meeting will be set.

3. Mr. Chaney presented his itemized bill of expense as a delegate from the Burma Christian Council to the National Christian Council at Madras.

RESOLVED: That we authorize the Treasurer to pay Mr. Chaney's bill of Rs. 203 for his expenses as a delegate to the National Christian Council at Madras.

4. Mr. Chaney called attention to the fact that he would be away from Rangoon during the greater part of February and March on an extended tour up country, and asked the will of the Council regarding the appointment of an acting Secretary.

RESOLVED: That Mr. Wiatt be asked to take over the duties of the Secretary of this Council during Mr. Chaney's absence on tour up country.

The meeting adjourned at 11:45 with prayer by Dr. Cummings.

Respectfully submitted,
C. E. Chaney,
Honorary Secretary.

GENERAL IMPRESSIONS OF THE NATIONAL CHRISTIAN COUNCIL

It has been my privilege as a delegate from the Burma Christian Council to attend five meetings of the National Christian Council of India, Burma and Ceylon, each of which has had a distinctive issue and revealed a great personality. Each meeting has been presided over by the Bishop of Calcutta, Metropolitan of India, who has added dignity, poise and weight to the decisions of the Council.

At Lahore in 1919 was adopted the Program of Advance, providing for an increase of Christian Literature in many vernaculars, under the guidance of Dr. Nicol Macnicol, Chairman of the Committee on Christian Literature, and for the past two years, Secretary of the Council. From this source we have obtained grants of about Rs. 1,000 a year for Burmese Christian Literature.

At Calcutta in 1920, when racial resentment was at its height, following the Amritsar riots, the Council was forced to make a statement of the Christian attitude, which was drafted in a note
by the Bishop of Bombay which revealed true Christian statesmanship.

At Poona in 1921, under the guidance of Dr. Oldham, the Council, which previously had been composed largely of missionaries, was re-organised on a basis of equal representation of Nationals and missionaries and was renamed the National Christian Council, and given a whole time secretary, Rev. William Paton, which led to wider measures of activity.

At Calcutta again in 1926, when communal strife between Hindus and Moslems was at its worst, S. K. Datta made a great address tracing the origin and history of that bad feeling and indicating what Christians could do to help ameliorate conditions.

At Madras in 1928, the Findings of the Jerusalem Council were considered in the presence of Dr. John R. Mott, Chairman of the International Council, who had presided at Jerusalem, and in whose fertile brain the whole chain of Councils, Provincial, National and International, was conceived and brought into being.

Of these five meetings of the National Christian Council, I have no hesitation in saying that the last was the best, in the delightful spirit maintained, in friendly relations between all races represented, in united worship together, and in the deliberations of the Council. This was made possible for several reasons:

1. It was an enlarged meeting of the Council. The membership of the Council is sixty, but on this occasion it was enlarged to 131, of whom twenty-two were women and one-half were Nationals. The enlarged group brought together not only the old guard, but also many other people who met for the first time, and who added their fresh enthusiasm to measures for larger co-operation.

2. The Council was entertained together in the buildings of the Women's Christian College, Madras, where every arrangement was made for our personal comfort in its dormitories, for worship in its gem of a chapel, and for meditation in the quiet of its academic shades. There was fellowship in its dormitories, and reverent devotion at chapel, morning and evening. We dined together in the hall and deliberated together, each at a desk in the Council Chamber. In fact, it was easy to imagine that we were at college again, in the democratic atmosphere of intimate acquaintance where we soon came to know and to respect one another and to understand in a way which could not have been possible had we been scattered about the Town. The renewal of the college atmosphere in my last term of service was to me most refreshing, and I came to the conclusion, that were I a young lady in India, I would apply for matriculation at the Women's Christian College, Madras. It has a superb equipment of campus, buildings and staff.
3. There were splendid leading addresses on great themes: by Dr. John R. Mott on "The Rising Tide of Opportunity"; by K. T. Paul on "The Report of the Royal Commission on Agriculture," a report which every missionary who has to do with rural people should read and consider; by Dr. L. P Larsen on "The Christian Message," the Gospel is seed, Christianity the fruit. We are to sow a pure seed trusting to soil and climate to yield after its kind; by Mlle. de Deitrich, a meditation on The Christian Message, by a Joan of Arc in a mystic, quaker mood; by Rev. F. A. Cockin and Miss McDougall, Principal of the Women's Christian College, on "Religious Education"; by Mr. T. L. Shen of China and the Bishop of Dornakal on "The Older and Younger Churches"; by K. T. Paul and T. Z. Hodge on "Rural Problems"; by Miss Matheson and Rev. W Paton on "Industrial Problems"; by Max Yergan of South Africa and Miss Tilak, daughter of the poet of the same name, Bombay, on "Racial Relationships"; and by John R. Mott on "International Co-operation". About half an hour was allowed for discussion after each address.

4. The main concentration was on a single topic of the Findings of the Jerusalem Council, "The Relation Between the Older and the Younger Churches". For consideration of this question the Council was divided into four discussion groups under the following Chairmen:

(1) K. T. Paul—What constitutes an Indigenous Church?
(2) The Bishop of Dornakal—Relation of the Older and Younger Churches.
(3) Bishop J. R. Robinson—Finance.
(4) Rev. J. Banninga—Leadership.

Our delegates from Burma were apportioned to these groups as follows: 1. Saya U On Kin; 2. Saya U Shwe Hla; 3. Mr. Chaney; 4. Rev. Peter Kin Maung—and were asked to present to our Burma Council their reports on the questions considered. I will not encroach upon the matter of their reports, but will only say that so far as I heard the conclusions of each study group reported to the National Christian Council, sound conclusions appeared to have been reached. All of our delegates, except Mr. and Mrs. Chaney, missed the sessions the last day of the Council, because of the sailing of our steamer the "Tairea" Friday morning the 4th of January. I am told that "Tairea" is a Chinese word meaning good luck. The return voyage proved how hard it is even for a steamer to live up to its good name. We encountered two days of cyclonic weather, which laid our delegation low, from which they did not recover until we had sighted the coast of Burma, but I am sure all will agree that the meetings were an inspiration and that it would be fine for our work in Burma to hold a session of the National Christian Council at
Rangoon, and I suggest that when the buildings of Judson College are completed at Kokine, that would be an ideal place to entertain the National Christian Council, and that we begin to plan to invite it for the year 1932.

JOHN E. CUMMINGS.

REPORT OF THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

To the Executive Committee of the Burma Christian Council
January 19th, 1929

Grave inconvenience was caused to Mission Anglo-Vernacular Schools during the quarter owing to the delay in the payment of the Government Grant. It is suggested that the Executive Committee of the Council should authorize the officers to represent to Government the serious difficulties caused by such failure to pay promised grants at the appointed time and to request that the interests of Aided Schools be safeguarded from such inconvenience in the future.

The Director of Public Instruction has been further addressed on the subject of increased aid to Anglo-Vernacular Schools as detailed in last quarter's report.

H. CRAWFORD WALTERS, Convener,
Education Committee.

Copy of letter No. 24 Q 29 dated the 17th January 1929 from the Secretary to the Government of Burma, Education Department, to the Director of Public Instruction, Burma.

SUBJECT:—Maintenance Grants to Aided Schools—
Representation by the Burma Christian Council for increase in the rate of.

In reply to your letter No. 25357/267. M. G., dated the 15th November 1928, I am directed to request that the Honorary Secretary of the Burma Christian Council may be informed that the Local Government regrets that for financial reasons it is unable to consider any proposals for the calculation of maintenance grants on a more liberal basis than at present. I am to add that in the opinion of the Ministry, the proposals submitted by the Honorary Secretary are prima facie open to objection on the ground that they would tend to encourage the multiplication of small schools and of sparsely populated High Departments and would thus result in the dissipation of funds, which could be more economically employed in supporting larger schools.
REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON LITERATURE

To the Executive Committee of the Burma Christian Council
January 19th, 1929

The Burma Union Press agreed to print one thousand copies of "The Adventure of Prayer" at a cost of three hundred and seventy-five rupees. About one-third of the book has been printed. It will be ready for sale in the near future at eight annas per copy. Two hundred of the one thousand copies will be bound (good cloth binding) and sold at eight annas plus the cost of binding.

"Ben Hur" is now in the hands of the translator but it will be some time before it is ready for the Press.

Because of a recent request for more copies of the tract entitled "Buddhism as it is" the committee decided to order a reprint of ten thousand copies.

At the next meeting we hope to be able to present a definite report concerning certain books which are being considered for publication.

MARY F. PHILLIPS, Convener,
Committee on Literature.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE TRAINING OF MISSIONARIES

To the Executive Committee of the Burma Christian Council
January 19th, 1929

The regular semi-annual examination in Burmese was held November 23rd and 24th in Rangoon and Mandalay. Owing to the inability of Mr. Dudley either to be present himself or to supply a substitute, the Mandalay committee co-opted Mrs. Garrad who kindly consented to serve.

Of those who sat for the Elementary Examination in Rangoon, two passed with credit, one passed, and one failed in one subject. Of those who sat in Mandalay four passed, one failed, one passed with credit, and one with great credit. The total number who sat for this examination was eleven: Three from the Methodist, one from the Anglican, three from the Bible Church Mission, three from the Wesleyan, and one from the Baptist communion.

Of those who sat for the Intermediate Examination in Rangoon, two passed with credit, and one with great credit. The one who sat in Mandalay passed. The total number who sat for this examination was four: three from the Anglican communion and one from the Bible Church Mission.

W. E. WIATT, Convener,
Committee on Training of Missionaries.
REPORT OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE ON RURAL EDUCATION

To the Executive Committee of the Burma Christian Council
January 19th, 1929

There is no action of this committee to present to the Council, but I wish to give you a few items of interest and information.

It is quite evident that the Elementary Training Class course is going to be extended to two years. There is a growing dissatisfaction with the present system which does not allow time enough to do any really effective work in changing the type of teaching which is needed for the Rural Schools.

Since the last meeting of the Council, communications on this subject have been received from the Director of Public Instruction. A letter from the Education Department to the Director of Public Instruction dated October 16th, 1928, has stated that while they think the time has not yet come for the general extension of the Elementary Training Class course, yet they are prepared to consider it for selected Training Classes, provided the courses are suitable and that the Supervisors and Teachers are competent to make it profitable for the students. This communication was forwarded to our committee calling for proposals for such a course. Miss Hollinshead made out a syllabus in some detail and forwarded it to the Department. As soon as our committee can meet, further suggestions will be made.

I found that the Councils in India all seem to be taking the work of rural education very seriously, and by rural education they do not mean simply the work of a primary village school (though the first effort is to improve that), but they mean the Christian education of the whole rural community along all lines. Adult education is being especially stressed, and village night schools for adults are being held with much success.

ELsie N. Chaney, Convener,
Sub-Committee on Rural Education.

REPORT OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC QUESTIONS

To the Executive Committee of the Burma Christian Council
January 19th, 1929

Since the last meeting of the Council arrangements to meet the need of the homeless boys in Rangoon have progressed considerably. There is already one small home in operation at Kokine managed by Mrs. Luce under the auspices of the Children's Aid and Protection Society. The Y. M. C. A. undertook to meet the needs of the boys in the city, and we hope that within a month
or so this work will also be in operation. In time several places of this kind will be needed as all who have studied the subject agree.

Gambling and Allied Subjects: The question of gambling has been before us during the past few months. I noticed that one of those who offered themselves for election in the recent Municipal Election described the Rangoon Race Course as an open sore in the life of the community; and the Rangoon Times on Friday, November 2nd, in a leading article on Sport and Gambling in England and Burma stated that “In Burma betting is indulged in not as an intriguing pastime but too often with the vain desire to get rich quick. It soon develops into a passionate and desperate affair, with melancholy, debt and crime as close companions. The amount of legitimate betting facilities we can afford to have in this country is precisely nil, for every chance to gambling will be followed by ethical and even criminal unscrupulousness. Burma should cut down gambling facilities and on no account extend them. Betting in England brings in its train restlessness and unhappiness. In Burma the results are grimmer.”

There have been a number of unpleasant incidents as a result of gambling in Rangoon recently. On the 19th of May a man was stabbed in a gambling den, and since that time at least two gamblers have been shot; one was killed. Gambling will not be stopped until a strong public opinion has been marshalled against it. It is the duty of all Christian organisations to bring the evil results of gambling to the notice of the public as well as to bring this opinion to bear upon the authorities concerned to take stronger measures to deal with the evil.

I regret to say that in spite of our repeated protests to the Postal Authorities, the sending of lottery tickets through the post continues. I now suggest that we see the Postmaster-General personally and if necessary the Chief Secretary to the Government of Burma, to see whether anything further can be done.

I believe our efforts to prevent the endeavour to organise a public sweep stake have met with success. I have received no official communication about this, but the absence of further tickets would seem to confirm this.

There is one further matter that has come to our notice and that is in connection with the Football Results Competitions carried on by some of the newspapers both in England and in Rangoon. In a case recently held before the King’s Bench, it was decided that these football competitions were illegal and went on to state that these announcements will be received with relief by many people for various reasons. Many business men will be relieved that the competitions have been stopped as they will no longer be worried by a large portion of their staff spending time which they
should have devoted to their work, in puzzling out different combinations of teams likely to win, lose, or draw their matches on Saturdays, and then living in a fever, which, to say the least of it, was unlikely to improve the quality of their work. These competitions in Burma have already been referred to in this Council. It is undoubtedly as bad a thing for school boys to live in this fever of excitement as it is for men. Indeed we should say it is worse. Some few days ago a letter appeared in the Rangoon Gazette asking if the Government was going to take steps to make these competitions illegal in Rangoon. I think we ought to support this letter with one of our own.

The question of local option came before the public of Rangoon during the past few months in connection with the questionnaire issued by the Rangoon Social Service League to those who offered themselves for election in the Corporation of Rangoon. It was interesting to note that in reply to the question "Are you in favour of Local Option?", all those who replied said that they were in favour of Local Option; but in some instances they stated that they were powerless in the matter as Government reserved the right to pass orders. Here again one feels that it is more publicity and the strengthening of public opinion along this line that is needed.

W. B. Hilton, Convener,
Sub-Committee on Public Questions.
TREASURER'S REPORT

To the Executive Committee of the Burma Christian Council
January 19th, 1929

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