Minutes of the Burma Christian Council
Executive Committee.

June 9th, 1928.

The meeting of the Executive Committee of the Burma Christian Council was held at 8:15 on the morning of June 9th, 1928, at the British and Foreign Bible Society Rooms, 19 Sule Pagoda Road, Rangoon.

The following members of the Executive Committee were present:—Dr. J. E. Cummings (in the Chair), W. B. Hilton, Esq., W. F. Grahame, Esq., Saya U Toe Khut, Rev. Peter Kin Maung, Rev. C. E. Olmstead and Rev. C. E. Chaney, Honorary Secretary. Other members of the Council present were Dr. C. H. Riggs, Miss Pauline Heermance, Rev. J. Mudge, Rev. H. J. Harwood, Miss L. H. M. Laughlin and Mr. Moses; members of Standing or Ad Hoc Committees, Miss Roscoe, Rev. G. D. Josif, Miss M. E. Phillips and Dr. H. I. Marshall.

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman. Mr. Chaney led the devotional period, taking as his text the first three verses of the thirteenth chapter of First Corinthians, and closing with prayer after a brief inspirational talk.

The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted and approved as printed. The Secretary’s Notes for the meetings of November 5th, 1927 and January 21st, 1928, were read and approved.

CORRESPONDENCE.

1. For Information Only—
   
   (a) The Secretary explained the situation with regard to the selection of candidates for normal stipends, calling attention to the fact that heads of normal schools no longer had any power of selection, but that all authority lay in the hands of the Selection Boards of the eight Circles. He referred to Mr. Purser’s letter of protest to Government, his own letter of endorsement as Field Secretary of the Baptist Mission, and also Government’s reply stating that nothing could be done to relieve the situation at present. (See Secretary’s Notes, for further discussion.)

RESOLVED: That we instruct the Education Committee to make strong representations to the Education Department asking that the heads of normal schools shall have the privilege of nominating 50% of the candidates for stipends, and that we suggest that an attempt be made to secure the co-operation of the Roman Catholic Mission in making this request.
(b) Dr. Macnicol's letter concerning the report of the National Christian Council was deferred for consideration at our next meeting.

(c) Dr. Macnicol's letters regarding Islamic studies and the School for Islami were considered briefly. (See Secretary's Notes, for discussion.)

RESOLVED: That Dr. Macnicol's two letters regarding Islamic studies and the School for Islami be passed on to the Indian Departments of the various Missions engaged in Indian work, with the suggestion that they endeavour to make provision for sending a representative to this school for study.

(d) The Secretary read the main items from Dr. Macnicol's report for the year.

(e) The Secretary called attention to his list of the papers read and discussed at the Jerusalem Conference.

(g) The Secretary read his letter to Mr. Brander regarding the action taken with regard to the workers of the North East India General Mission, together with Mr. Brander's reply stating that these workers had been ordered to leave Burma.

2. Calling for Action—

(a) The Secretary read Miss Van Doren's letter regarding her proposed visit to Burma in July, together with his reply welcoming her to Burma. He suggested that the Executive Committee take formal action expressing their pleasure that Miss Van Doren is coming to Burma and referring the matter of itinerary to the Rural Education Committee.

RESOLVED: That we express our pleasure at the prospect of Miss Van Doren's impending visit to Burma and that we ask the Committee on Rural Education to take in hand the business of arranging for her itinerary while here.

(b) RESOLVED: That Miss Phillips be asked to act as Convener of the Committee on Christian Literature until the end of the current year, with the understanding that she will present the report for the year at the Annual Meeting in July.

(c) The Secretary read Thra San Ba's financial report for his travel expenses to the Jerusalem Meeting.

RESOLVED: That Rs. 50-7-0 be placed to the credit of Thra San Ba toward his travelling expenses to Jerusalem.

(d) The Secretary was instructed to send the material on the Day of Prayer, received from the National Christian Council, to the heads of the various missions to forward to the indigenous papers for translation and publication in the vernacular.
(e) Thra San Ba’s report on the Jerusalem Conference was deferred until the Annual Meeting when there will be more people present and more opportunity for discussion.

3. Secretary’s Brief Reports—

(a) The Secretary read his letter of welcome on behalf of the Council to his Excellency the Governor, together with the latter’s reply.

(b) The Secretary read his letter on behalf of the Council to Mr. Smiles, Editor of the Rangoon Gazette, expressing our appreciation of the stand he has taken in his editorials on the gambling question.

NEW BUSINESS.

1. Place and Time for Annual Meeting—

RESOLVED: That the Annual Meeting of the Burma Christian Council for 1928 be held at the Y. M. C. A., Rangoon, opening with a tea and reception in honour of Miss Van Doren on the evening of July 26th, and continuing throughout the 27th and the morning of the 28th.

2. Committee of Arrangements for the Annual Meeting—

RESOLVED: That we appoint the following Committee of arrangements for the Annual Meeting: The Honorary Secretary, Mr. Hilton, Mr. Harwood, Rev. Peter Kin Maung and Miss Heermance.

3. It was suggested that the Secretary send a notice to the papers as soon as possible giving the dates of the Annual Meeting. (See Secretary’s Notes, for further suggestions.)

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES.

1. Training of Missionaries—

In the absence of Mr. Wiatt the report of the Committee on the Training of Missionaries was deferred.

2. Education—(See Page 4)

Mr. Olmstead read the report of the Committee on Education, which was accepted. (See Secretary’s Notes, for discussion.)

3. Christian Literature—

Miss Phillips read the report of the Committee on Christian Literature, which was accepted.

RESOLVED: That we advise that the grant from the National Christian Council for literature be paid, hereafter, to the Treasurer of the Burma Christian Council, to be turned over by him to the Committee on Christian Literature.
REPORTS OF AD HOC COMMITTEES.

1. Rural Education—(See Page 6).

In the absence of Mrs. Chaney the report of the Committee on Rural Education was deferred. It arrived later by mail and is incorporated.

2. Public Questions—(See Page 7).

Mr. Hilton read the report of the Committee on Public Questions, which was accepted. He asked that the Honorary Secretary write another letter to Government regarding lottery tickets, inquiring what they have done to stop the issuance of these tickets at their source in India.

Mr. Chaney read the report of the Cinematograph Sub-Committee, which was accepted.

3. Gambling—

Mr. Chaney read a letter from Mr. Walters, Convener of the Committee on gambling, expressing his regrets that he was unable to attend the meeting, and stating that he had nothing to report.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

In the absence of the Treasurer Thra San Ba, the Secretary gave a report which was accepted. (See Page 9)

RESOLVED: That we ask Mr. Chaney to continue to act as Treasurer during Thra San Ba’s absence.

A motion to adjourn was made and carried at 11:05.

Mr. Fisher led in the closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

C. E. CHANEY,
Honorary Secretary.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

To the Executive Committee of the Burma Christian Council
June 9th, 1928.

At the time of the last quarterly meeting the Convener was in India en route to attend the meeting of the Religious Education Conference at Bombay, called by Miss Van Dorèn of the general staff of the National Christian Council to consider various matters relating to Religious Education in India and Burma and to formulate statements thereon to be forwarded to the Jerusalem meeting. It seems hardly necessary to give a written report here of the Conference at Bombay inasmuch as it has all been written up and printed together with the findings in the April
number of the Review. We do wish to express our personal gratitude to the Burma Christian Council for selecting us as their representative and giving us an opportunity of meeting with leaders in this Religious Education in India and making some contribution to the problems before us.

Before leaving for Bombay we tried to secure from the representatives of the various missions on the Education Committee statements regarding two proposals for submission to Government, namely: (1) Mortgage Bonds and (2) Increase of Maintenance Grants to Mission Schools. The correspondence was so delayed however, that not until sometime after our return was it possible to get the information together. Finally on the 22nd March, 1928, a letter was sent to the Honorable Minister of Education for the Education Committee urging that the Government allow 75 per cent of the difference between Expenditure and Income from fees as a Maintenance Grant to Aided Schools instead of the present 50 per cent. The letter has not yet been acknowledged by the Department.

Relative to Mortgage Bonds some Baptist Mission representatives supported the Rev. C. E. Chaney's Mortgage Bond plans and others did not, while the Methodists and Anglicans voted that we should not press the matter. Hence no representation was made to Government.

The proposals of the Committee on Rural Education, referred to this Committee by the last meeting of the Executive Committee of the Burma Christian Council have been circulated to the members of the Education Committee with varying replies. The Anglican group voted that no representation on Compulsory Education should be sent by this body lest it be misinterpreted as an effort to force non-Christian children to attend Christian schools. Four Baptist members did not vote, and one united his opinion with the Methodists that something ought to be done. But as there is such lack of unanimity, we thought best to bring the matter again to the Executive Committee. At any rate the Rural Education Sub-Committee needs to go over the proposals and clearly state what their request is, and carry the discussion as to attendances to be required, the length of school year, etc., to some specific suggestions. That the Education Department is considering Compulsory Education seriously is evident from the several references to it in the recently published Quinquennial Report on Public Instruction in Burma; and if we wish to press the matter, we should have some clear-cut proposals to put before the Department. We therefore await further instructions.

Respectfully submitted,

C. E. OLMSTEAD, Convener,
Committee on Education.
REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON CHRISTIAN LITERATURE

To the Executive Committee of the Burma Christian Council
June 9th, 1928.

Since the last meeting of the Committee "Recreations in Astronomy" (5000 copies) in Burmese has come from the Press, and is now on sale at the A. B. M. Press at four annas per copy.

"The Adventure of Prayer" is now being translated into Burmese but it will be some time before it is ready for the Press.

Mr. Jones has recently sent the first instalment of "Ben Hur", which is to be translated into Burmese and presented for publication.

A colporteur was employed shortly before Mr. Jones left Burma but a question concerning the wisdom of retaining him has arisen in view of the fact that the average sale of books to date has been much less than his monthly salary.

M. E. PHILLIPS, Convener,
Committee on Christian Literature.

REPORT OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE ON RURAL EDUCATION

To the Executive Committee of the Burma Christian Council
June 9th, 1928.

Not having my files at hand, I find it difficult to write, from memory, a full report of the meetings of this committee held since the last report given at the meeting of the Burma Christian Council in January. There have been at least three meetings during that time, but all the members have not been present each time.

Certain recommendations which are in the works will be presented to the Council at its Annual meeting; but one which will need to be acted upon at once, if it is to be of any value, is that an exhibition of handwork and class books be held for all our mission rural schools. We call attention to the fact that while such exhibits are usual for Anglo-Vernacular Schools, the Vernacular Schools have little of such incentive offered them. This plan would also have the advantage of being confined to Mission Schools only, which should help to cultivate a healthy pride in Christian Vernacular education.
If the Council would give this its support, the committee would undertake to work the plan in this school year and notice should be given at once for the exhibition could not be held later than December.

This might necessitate a small outlay in prizes and certificates of merit. Would the Council be willing to grant a small sum for that?

Further report of what the Sub-Committee has planned and done will have to await my return, and the annual report.

Respectfully submitted,

(MRS. C. E.) E. 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
June 9th, 1928.

The active gambling which took place last year has to a large extent been put a stop to. There was however an unpleasant recrudescence of this early in the year when it was stated that gambling booths were in full vigor in some of the main streets in Rangoon. It was during the Chinese New year. Probably some of you saw references to it in the local press. I visited the scene but unfortunately too late. The gambling was over. There was no protest against this by any "body" except the local press which waged a good warfare against it.

There is however a feeling that things are changing for the better and that such a condition as was reported last year will not be possible during the present Governor's tenure of office. However we must be on the alert and move quickly when the law is broken. I shall be glad to receive reports from members and I am in a better position to investigate them now than I have been for the past few years.

The question of pernicious literature has been under consideration. We were asked by Government if we would state a case against the responsible party. I consulted Mr. Sidney Loo-Nee, and he replied that in his opinion there was not sufficient evidence to warrant this. I therefore replied to Government saying that we should have to let the matter stand over until more substantial evidence is obtained.

A few more notices of lotteries have been sent through the press but the number would seem to be decreasing. The remedy is for those who receive them to return them to the postal authorities stating that it is undesirable that these lottery tickets should be sent to school boys and girls.
The acquisition to Rangoon of Miss Nicol-Jones is I believe having a very good effect on the morals of the city. Recently a small home has been started by the Vigilance Society for the purpose of helping the girls that Miss Nicol-Jones comes into touch with. There is of course a great deal to be done and the Society would welcome and value the support financial and otherwise that members of this Council and the Missions represented can give.

In conclusion I would call your attention to the fact that during the past month or so three young men in Rangoon have committed suicide, two by hanging and one apparently through an overdose of opium. There were two Anglo-Indians and one Burman. The two who died by hanging left a note stating that they were tired of life as their luck was out. I mention this as it reveals a condition of things that gives cause for a good deal of anxiety. I have however no remedy to suggest or proposals to make regarding it at this time.

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

SPECIAL NOTICE

This Annual Meeting of the Council will be a very important one and the attendance of every member of the Council is desired. Others interested are welcome. The Findings of the very important World Conference of Missions at Jerusalem will be the chief topic of discussion. Miss Van Doren, one of the National Secretaries will be here to assist us in educational matters. 2nd class T.A. will be paid for all members who come and attend sessions. Be on hand for the opening Reception, Thursday evening 6:00, at the Central Y.M.C.A., July 26th.
TREASURER’S REPORT

To the Executive Committee of the Burma Christian Council
June 9th, 1928.

RECEIPTS.

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<th>Description</th>
<th>Rs</th>
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<tr>
<td>Balance from January 21st report</td>
<td>576</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4</td>
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<td>January 22, Receipts for Bishop's gift—special</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Receipts by sale of survey</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>9</td>
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<td>February 11, Contributions to Jerusalem trip</td>
<td>266</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>9</td>
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<td>&quot; 17, National Christian Council contribution</td>
<td>600</td>
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<td><strong>Total Rs.</strong></td>
<td>1,496</td>
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EXPENDITURES.

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<th>Description</th>
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<td>January 22, Gift to the Bishop of Rangoon</td>
<td>32</td>
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<tr>
<td>Printing Minutes</td>
<td>81</td>
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<td>&quot; 25, Paid Mr. Hilton for Stanley Jones Meeting</td>
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<td>February 20, Paid T Cook &amp; Sons for Jerusalem trip</td>
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<td>12</td>
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<td>&quot; 21, Advance self for trip to be accounted for</td>
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<td>0</td>
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<td>Balance handed to C. E. Chaney</td>
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<td><strong>Total Rs.</strong></td>
<td>1,496</td>
<td>0</td>
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9th June, 1928.

San Ba,
Honorary Treasurer,
Burma Christian Council.
(per C. E. Chaney)

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<th>Description</th>
<th>Rs</th>
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<tr>
<td>February 22, from Thra San Ba, Balance forward from Henzada Karens for Jerusalem trip</td>
<td>484</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>10</td>
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<td>March 2, Dues of S. P. G. Mission</td>
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<td>May 29, Dues from Y. M. C. A.</td>
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<td>Sale of Survey, A. B. M. Press</td>
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<td><strong>Total Rs.</strong></td>
<td>671</td>
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EXPENDITURES.

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<td><strong>Total Rs.</strong></td>
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9th June, 1928.

C. E. Chaney,
Acting Treasurer,
Burma Christian Council.