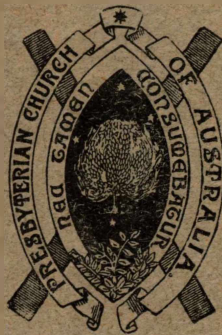


H. H. Steer
Traralgon

2320

MINUTES
OF
PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
OF THE
Presbyterian Church of Australia.



HELD IN ADELAIDE, SEPTEMBER, 1907.

SESSION SIXTH.

ADELAIDE:

VARDON & SONS LTD., PRINTERS GRESHAM STREET.

1907.

Parliament of Victoria
General Assembly
Printed and Sold by
The Government Printer
Melbourne

MINUTES

OF

PROCEEDINGS

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

ERRATA, Page 94.

CHARGES AND AGENTS.

VICTORIA.—Number of charges 200, instead of 209.
Total charges 451, instead of 460.
Ministers in settled charges 183, instead of 203.
Total in settled charges 397, instead of 417.

“Ministers in settled charges,” &c., should read:—“Ministers in settled charges—Increase, New South Wales, 9; West Australia, 2. Decrease—Victoria, 14; Queensland, 4; South Australia, 3; Tasmania, 1.”



HELD IN ADELAIDE, SEPTEMBER, 1907.

SESSION SIXTH.

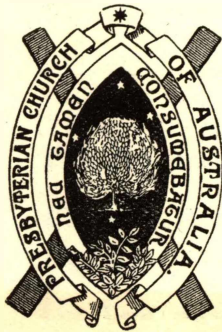
ADRLAIDE:

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1907.

W. H. VARDON & SONS
PRINTERS
GRESHAM STREET
ADELAIDE
SOUTH AUSTRALIA

MINUTES
OF
PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
OF THE
Presbyterian Church of Australia.



HELD IN ADELAIDE, SEPTEMBER, 1907.
SESSION SIXTH.

ADELAIDE:
VARDON & SONS, LTD., PRINTERS, GRESHAM STREET.

1907.

CONTENTS.

	Page
Officials of the General Assembly	3
Professors and Lectures of the Theological Halls ..	4
Notanda	5
Minutes of General Assembly	7
List of Committees	37
Appeal	42
Communication	46
Complaint	47
Overtures	50
Petitions	51
Reference	56
Reports	57
Returns	108
Financial Statement	109
Index	112

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
OF THE
Presbyterian Church of Australia.

Right Rev. the Moderator :

THE REV. PETER ROBERTSON, Ipswich, Queensland.

Clerk of Assembly :

REV. GEORGE TAIT, M.A., South Yarra, Melbourne.

The Procurator :

MR. JOHN GARLAND, M.A., LL.B., Sydney.

The Law Agents :

MESSRS. DAVIES & CAMPBELL, Melbourne.

Treasurers :

THE TREASURERSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE NEW SOUTH
WALES CHURCH, 23, York Street, Sydney.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
OF THE
Presbyterian Church of Australia.

THE THEOLOGICAL HALLS.

ORMOND COLLEGE, MELBOURNE.

Professor of Christian Philosophy and Apologetics and New Testament Greek
Exegesis—REV. J. LAURENCE RENTOUL, D.D.

Professor of Church History and Systematic Theology—

Professor of Hebrew and Old Testament Exegesis—REV. ALEXANDER SKENE,
M.A.

“Wilson” Lecturer on Elocution—REV. EDWARD RORKE, B.A.

ST. ANDREW'S COLLEGE, SYDNEY.

Professor of Hebrew and Exegetical Theology of Old Testament—REV.
ANDREW HARPER, D.D.

Professor in Apologetics and Ethics—REV. JOHN KINROSS, D.D.

Lecturer in Exegetical and Biblical Theology of New Testament—REV.
GEORGE MACINNES, D.D.

Lecturer in Historical Theology—REV. THOMAS E. CLOUSTON, D.D.

Lecturer in Systematic Theology—

“Steel” Lecturer in Pastoral Theology—REV. R. SCOTT WEST.

Lecturer in Ecclesiastical Law and Procedure—JOHN GARLAND, Esq., M.A.,
LL.B.

EXAMINERS.

FOR ENTRANCE EXAMINATION.

Scripture and Catechism—REVS. J. F. MACRAE and A. STUART McCOOK, B.A.

English—REVS. A. R. OSBORN, M.A., and W. J. HOLT, M.A.

Hebrew—REVS. J. V. MCNAIR and R. E. DAVIES, M.A.

Greek—REVS. R. NAIRN, M.A., and D. M. BARNET, B.A.

History—REVS. G. DAVIDSON, M.A., and D. MACRAE STEWART.

Logic and Philosophy—REVS. JOHN GRAY, B.D., and F. E. OXER, B.D.

Mental Philosophy—REVS. HUGH KELLY, M.A., and J. KINGHORN.

FOR EXIT EXAMINATION.

Theology—REVS. P. J. MURDOCH, M.A., and D. SMITH, M.A.

Church History—REVS. S. FRASER, M.A., and J. KEMP BRUCE.

New Testament Greek—REVS. J. GILLIES, B.D., and R. E. DAVIES, M.A.

Hebrew—REVS. J. COSH, B.D., and HUGH M. BURNS, B.D.

Apologetics—REVS. W. G. MACONCHIE, M.A., and E. N. MERRINGTON, M.A.,
Ph.D.

The Examination Board consists of the Examiners and the College Com-
mittee, with the Professors and Lecturers, members *ex officio*.

Entrance Examination, Melbourne, begins 4th February, 1908.

Entrance Examination, Sydney, begins 7th April, 1908.

Home Mission Examination begins 7th July, 1908.

Exit Examination begins 7th September, 1908.

NOTANDA.

Special attention is directed to the following matters.

PLACE and **DATE** of Meeting of next Assembly: At Melbourne,
on the fourth Wednesday of September, 1909, at 7 p.m.

INSTRUCTIONS. &c.—

Presbyteries	Minutes 35, 44
State Assemblies	Minutes 44, 50
State Assemblies of N.S.W. and Vic. ..	Minute 80
Theological Faculties	Minute 35

Committees—

Business	Minute 70
Directory of Public Worship ..	Minute 76
Finance	Minute 78
Public Questions	Minute 75
Queensland Executive B.M. ..	Minute 50
S.S. Hymnal	Minute 13
Year Book	Minute 46

REMITTS—

To State Assemblies and Presbyteries.

Home Missions	Minute 65
Home Mission Agents and Sacraments	Minute 64
Training Home Mission Agents ..	Minute 66

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Presbyterian Church of Australia.

MINUTES

OF THE

PROCEEDINGS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF AUSTRALIA.

SESSION SIXTH.

*At Adelaide, and within Flinders Street Church, on Wednesday, the
18th day of September, 1907, at 7 p.m.*

1. The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of ^{Opening.} Australia convened. Public worship was conducted by the Right Reverend the Retiring Moderator (Dr. Clouston), who preached from Revelation ii. 5. After sermon, the Assembly was constituted with prayer by the Moderator.

2. The Roll of Assembly, as printed in the White Book with ^{Roll.} changes reported since the printing of the book, was laid on the table, declared of interim authority, and ordered to be finally adjusted after the confirmation of the Minutes to-morrow morning.

3. The Moderator, having intimated that the Moderator and ^{Moderator.} ex-Moderator of the General Assembly, and the Moderators of the State Assemblies, had agreed to nominate for the Moderator's Chair the Rev. Peter Robertson, Minister at Ipswich, Queensland, the

Rev. P. J. Murdoch moved—"That Mr. Robertson's nomination be sustained, and that he be elected Moderator of this Assembly." The motion was seconded by Mr. T. W. Fleming, and carried on the voices.

Mr. Robertson was conducted to the chair, and delivered a suitable address.

Ex-Moderator.

4. On the motion of the Rev. W. S. MacQueen, seconded by the Hon. Jas. Balfour, the Assembly resolved—"That the cordial thanks of the Assembly be given to the ex-Moderator for the thoughtful and appropriate sermon preached by him at the opening of the Assembly, and also for his valuable services to the Church during his term of office."

Hours of Meeting.

5. It was agreed to meet to-morrow at 10 a.m. for the observance of the Lord's Supper, and at 11 a.m. and at 7.30 p.m. for ordinary business.

Business Committee.

6. The following were appointed the Business Committee for the Session, with instructions to meet each day at the close of the morning Sederunt:—The Clerk, Revs. R. G. Macintyre, Dr. Harper, John Burgess, P. J. Murdoch, Dr. Meiklejohn, Alex. Stewart, J. Barnaby, R. Thomson, G. Davidson, A. McCarlie, F. E. Oxer, A. Gillison, with Messrs. J. H. Balfour, Wm. Wood, J. M. Campbell, G. S. MacKay, W. J. Hill, James Longmore, S. Beattie, Rev. R. G. Macintyre, convener.

Selection Committee.

7. The following were appointed a Committee of Selection to nominate Assembly representatives on the Judicial Commission, the Board of Missions, and the Standing Committees—Revs. John Walker (convener), C. A. White, J. Barnaby, J. F. Macrae, J. Mathew, W. S. McQueen, Matthew Johnson, J. Barr, Mr. David Walker, Hon. Jas. Balfour, Messrs. T. W. Fleming, William Woodside.

The Committee of Selection was instructed to meet to-morrow (Thursday), at 9 a.m., and to give in the names proposed by noon.

Scrutineers

8. It was agreed that additional nominations may be received up to the close of Thursday morning's Sederunt, and that a ballot (if required) be taken on Friday at 2 p.m. The following were appointed scrutineers of the ballot, with instructions to prepare voting papers:—Rev. G. H. Balfour (convener), Rev. R. Thomson, Messrs. J. H. Balfour, T. W. Fleming.

Petitions.

9. The petitions of Mr. C. M. Hilson, Mr. E. H. McL. Shugg, and Mr. H. O'Sullivan were remitted to the College Committee.

The Presbytery of Belalie applied for authority to meet to-morrow morning at 9 a.m. The authority was granted.

The Assembly adjourned to meet to-morrow at 10 a.m. for the observance of the Lord's Supper, and at 11 a.m. for the transaction of business, which having been publicly intimated, the Sederunt was closed with prayer.

SECOND SEDERUNT.

At Adelaide, and within Flinders Street Church, on Thursday, the 19th day of September, 1907, at 10 a.m.

10. The members of the Assembly united in a Communion ^{The Com-} Service, conducted by the Moderator, assisted by the Rev. Dr. ^{munion.} Clouston and the Rev. D. Ross. At the conclusion of the service the Assembly was constituted with prayer by the Moderator.

11. The minutes of the First Sederunt were confirmed, and the ^{Roll.} roll was finally adjusted and sustained as follows:—

NEW SOUTH WALES.

ELECTED BY PRESBYTERIES.

PRESBYTERY OF BATHURST.

Rev. W. H. McCook, B.A.		_____
J. C. McNeill, M.A.		_____
B. D. Morris		_____

PRESBYTERY OF THE CLARENCE.

Rev. A. Chapman, M.A.		Mr. W. G. Mackney
E. Eldridge		W. T. Leeson

PRESBYTERY OF GOULBURN.

Rev. Charles Crane, B.A.		Mr. W. G. Crane
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PRESBYTERY OF THE HASTINGS.

Rev. W. Tassie		Mr. John Bryson
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PRESBYTERY OF THE HAWKESBURY.

Rev. J. H. Craig, M.A.		Mr. Jas. Angus
J. McKee		A. E. Baker
John Paterson		J. Knox

PRESBYTERY OF THE HUNTER.

Rev. D. M. Benjamin		Mr. John McDonald
C. E. James		W. T. Seaward
A. S. McCook, B.A.		_____

PRESBYTERY OF ILLAWARRA.

Rev. R. Miller, B.A.		Mr. Alex. Nicholson
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PRESBYTERY OF THE LACHLAN.

Rev. G. Paul		Hon. T. Brown
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PRESBYTERY OF MONARO.

Rev. J. D. Murray		Mr. J. C. Rylie
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PRESBYTERY OF THE MURRUMBIDGEE.

Rev. John Dykes		_____
W. H. Bradley.		_____

PRESBYTERY OF NEW ENGLAND.

Rev. A. P. Cameron, B.A.		Mr. J. Love
J. B. Rentoul		James Steel

PRESBYTERY OF SYDNEY.

Rev. W. H. Ash		Mr. Wm. Affleck
D. Bruce, D.D.		Capt. Robt Craig
T. E. Clouston, B.A., D.D.		Mr. W. G. Geikie
R. E. Davies, M.A.		Colonel Goodlet
Prin. Harper, M.A., D.D.		Mr. H. Gresham
J. Kinrose, B.D., D.D.		J. Morrison
J. Macaulay, M.A.		W. S. Park
G. MacInnes, M.A., D.D.		W. Semple
R. G. MacIntyre, M.A., B.D.		Wm. Wood
R. Scott West		

PRESBYTERY OF WAGGA WAGGA.

Rev. J. H. McGoun		Mr. John Ross
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PRESBYTERY OF YOUNG.

Rev. Jas. Goudie		Mr. H. V. Wigg
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ELECTED BY THE STATE ASSEMBLY.

Rev. J. K. Bruce		Mr. J. H. Balfour
J. Burgess, M.A.		J. H. Beatson
J. Cosh, B.D.		R. Burgess
J. Lamont, F.L.S.		John Cameron
J. C. MacDonald, M.A.		R. Davidson, M.L.A.
A. McKinlay		J. S. Dunlop
P. Norman		D. Elphinstone
R. Steel, M.A.		T. Irvine
C. H. Talbot		P. D. McCormick
J. Walker		John Mars
C. A. White, B.A.		D. Walker

VICTORIA.

ELECTED BY PRESBYTERIES.

PRESBYTERY OF BALLARAT.

Rev. M. G. Hart	Mr. J. Davies
W. Mabin	S. Jamieson
E. J. Welch	D. Steele

PRESBYTERY OF BEECHWORTH.

H. A. Buntine	J. J. Munro
Robert Jones	M. Smith

PRESBYTERY OF BENDIGO.

PRESBYTERY OF GEELONG.

Rev. A. S. Houston	Mr. J. Pettitte
J. McIntosh, M.A.	J. Wighton
J. V. McNair	

PRESBYTERY OF GIPPSLAND.

Rev. G. M. Connor, M.A.	Rev. J. Roberts
J. Garde	

PRESBYTERY OF GOULBURN VALLEY.

Rev. C. A. Fraser	Mr. G. Hossack
J. H. Hewitt, M.A.	M. K. McKenzie
Wm. Tait, M.A.	

PRESBYTERY OF HAMILTON.

Rev. J. A. Barber, B.A.	Mr. J. Smith
D. Millar	A. Turnbull

PRESBYTERY OF MACEDON.

Rev. J. L. King, M.A.	Mr. J. A. Beattie
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PRESBYTERY OF MARYBOROUGH.

Rev. G. Brodie, M.A.	
C. Jones	

PRESBYTERY OF MELBOURNE NORTH.

Rev. W. M. M. Alexander	Mr. Richardson Bennet
J. R. Anderson, M.A.	A. Ballantine
A. W. Butler	G. W. Ewen
W. R. Byers	A. McIntosh
G. Carson	T. Philips
W. Fraser, B.A.	W. Warrick
W. L. Grierson	T. W. Watt

PRESBYTERY OF MELBOURNE SOUTH.

Rev. G. H. Balfour, M.A., B.D.	Mr. J. S. B. Brown
W. J. Harris	W. Brunton
J. F. Macrae	J. Craigen
A. McDonald, M.A.	A. Jackson
H. G. Nicholls	A. L. Pryde
D. Ross, M.A.	
W. H. Steele, M.A.	

PRESBYTERY OF MORTLAKE.

Rev. D. F. Brandt	Mr. G. S. Mackay
S. Fraser, M.A.	H. F. Saunders

PRESBYTERY OF PENOLA.

Rev. D. A. Souter	Mr. A. Loutit
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PRESBYTERY OF WIMMERA.

Rev. Thomas Gray	
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ELECTED BY THE STATE ASSEMBLY.

Rev. J. Barnaby, M.A.	Hon. James Balfour
H. M. Burns, M.A., B.D.	Mr. A. Byers
T. R. Cairns, D.D.	J. M. Campbell
J. Matthew, M.A., B.D.	J. G. Cramond
J. Meiklejohn, D.D.	Rev. J. Henry
P. J. Murdoch, M.A.	Mr. H. Hopkins
Professor Rentoul, M.A., D.D.	H. H. Kemp
Rev. Hume Robertson, B.A.	N. Lyle
C. Robinson	Rev. S. G. McLaren, M.A.
Professor Skene, M.A.	Mr. W. McMeekin
Rev. A. Stewart, M.A.	J. Sinclair
Geo. Tait, M.A.	W. Wishart

QUEENSLAND.

ELECTED BY PRESBYTERIES.

PRESBYTERY OF BRISBANE.

Rev. Andrew Gillison, M.A.	Mr. John Gillespie
W. Sweyn Macqueen	George Hall
Peter Robertson	A. S. Lang

PRESBYTERY OF MARYBOROUGH.

Rev. John McKenzie		Mr. A. McKellar
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PRESBYTERY OF ROCKHAMPTON.

Rev. Alex. Hay, M.A., D.D.		Mr. G. R. Milliken
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PRESBYTERY OF TOOWOOMBA.

Rev. Joseph Lundie, B.A.		Mr. J. DeConlay
D. McLennan		A. Mayes

PRESBYTERY OF TOWNSVILLE.

Rev. Jas. Gibson, M.A.		Mr. R. J. Shilliday
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ELECTED BY THE STATE ASSEMBLY.

Rev. George Kerr		Mr. R. Hunter
Richard Kerr		Thos. Whalley

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

ELECTED BY PRESBYTERIES.

PRESBYTERY OF ADELAIDE.

Rev. M. Johnson		Mr. W. J. Hill
R. Thomson		S. Mills

PRESBYTERY OF BELALIE.

Rev. J. A. McLellan		Mr. Jas. Holdsworth
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PRESBYTERY OF THE ONKAPARINGA.

Rev. A. MacLennan, M.A.		Mr. John Murray
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ELECTED BY THE STATE ASSEMBLY.

Rev. G. Davidson, M.A.		Mr. T. W. Fleming
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PROCEEDINGS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE
TASMANIA.

ELECTED BY PRESBYTERIES.

PRESBYTERY OF HOBART.

Rev. J. Barr | Mr. R. S. Rogers

PRESBYTERY OF LAUNCESTON.

Rev. Stewart Byron | Mr. Samuel Beattie
A. F. M. Robb, B.A. | J. Wright

PRESBYTERY OF MIDLANDS.

Rev. F. E. Oxer, M.A., B.D. | Mr. Fred. Burbury

ELECTED BY THE STATE ASSEMBLY.

Rev. J. D. Brown | Mr. William Woodside

WEST AUSTRALIA.

ELECTED BY PRESBYTERIES.

PRESBYTERY OF FREMANTLE.

Rev. Robt. Hanlin | Mr. R. Bracks

PRESBYTERY OF THE GOLDFIELDS.

Rev. J. Dawson Edwards | Mr. A. Oswald Wilson

PRESBYTERY OF PERTH.

Rev. H. W. Burridge, M.A. | Mr. A. R. Gillespie

ELECTED BY THE STATE ASSEMBLY.

Rev. Alex. McFarlie | Mr. Jas. Longmore

12. On the motion of the Rev. S. G. McLaren the Assembly expressed its sympathy with the Rev. W. S. Rolland in the severe accident which has befallen him, its deep regret that he is, in consequence, unable to be present with them, and its earnest hope and prayer that by the blessing of God he may soon be restored to perfect health.

Rev. W. S.
Rolland.

13. The Report on a Sunday-school Hymnal was submitted by the Rev. W. H. Ash, who moved—"That the Assembly receive the report; continue the Committee and Convener; instruct the Committee to report to next Assembly; and add the following names to the Committee:—Revs. C. A. White, R. H. Waugh, R. Miller, J. Lamont, W. M. M. Alexander, and Mr. A. Jackson.

Sunday
School
Hymnal.

The motion was seconded by the Rev. Hume Robertson, and approved.

14. The Rev. Jas. Mursell and Rev. Wm. Bell, M.A., and Mr. Andrew Neill, deputies from the Baptist Union of Australia, were welcomed by the Moderator, and addressed the Assembly.

Baptist
Union.

15. It was moved by the Rev. Dr. Meiklejohn and seconded by the Rev. R. G. Macintyre—"That the Assembly cordially welcome the deputies from the Baptist Union of South Australia, and thank them for the words of greeting they bring; warmly reciprocate the brotherly feeling expressed, and pray that the blessing of God may rest upon the labors of the Baptist Church. The motion was carried unanimously, and the thanks of the Assembly were conveyed to the deputies by the Moderator.

16. The Report of the Selection Committee was received and ordered to be posted in the vestibule.

Selection
Committee

17. The Rev. A. McCarlie and Mr. Peter Robertson were added to the Judicial Commission to represent Western Australia; Rev. C. D. P. Taylor to the Board of Missions, to represent Western Australia; The Rev. J. H. Fordyce to the Code Committee to represent Western Australia; Mr. D. Ewart to the College Committee to represent Queensland; and the Rev. H. W. Burridge to represent Western Australia; Rev. Wm. Agnew to the Finance Committee to represent Western Australia; Rev. A. S. C. James to the Committee on the Reception of Ministers to represent Western Australia; Rev. E. G. Petherick to the Committee on Statistics to represent Western Australia.

18. The Report on Statistics was submitted by the Rev. Hume Robertson, who moved:—

Statistics.

That the report be received.

The motion was seconded by the Rev. C. A. White, and approved.

Home
Missions

19. The Report on Home Missions was submitted by the Rev. Principal Harper on behalf of the Convener. Principal Harper moved and Mr. Jas. Holdsworth seconded the following deliverance:—

That the Assembly receive the Report, thank the Committee, especially the Convener, for their diligence, and resolve:—

(1) That Home Mission agents, when ordained as elders, and authorised for this purpose by a Presbytery on the recommendation of the Home Mission Committee, shall be permitted to administer the Sacrament of Baptism, but these agents must report the details of each case in which they exercise this function to the Interim Moderator of the charge, or the Convener of the Home Mission Committee if there be no Moderator, and such power shall be exercised only in the district for which it is given, and only so long as those authorized are acting as the recognized agents of this Church.

(2) That Home Missionaries be not empowered to administer the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper.

20. Dr. Rentoul raised as a point of order that the deliverance not having been printed and circulated in accordance with Standing Order 88 could not be considered.

The Moderator left the point of order to the House.

It was moved by the Rev. J. Burgess and seconded by the Rev. Dr. Rentoul:—

That Standing Order 88 be suspended with a view to the immediate consideration of the deliverance on Home Missions.

The motion was unanimously approved.

21. It was moved as an amendment by the Rev. Dr. Rentoul and seconded by the Rev. J. Mathew:—

That the words "and the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper" be inserted after the words "Sacrament of Baptism."

22. At this stage the consideration of the deliverance was adjourned.

23. The Appeal of the Rev. G. Davidson and others against the findings of the State Assembly of South Australia in the matter of the Hawthorn Congregation was submitted by the Convener of the Business Committee. Appeal of
Rev. G.
Davidson.

It was moved by the Rev. R. G. Macintyre and seconded by the Rev. J. MacIntosh:—

That according to the Deed of Union, which makes the General Assembly of Australia supreme in doctrine, worship, and discipline, this Assembly has no jurisdiction in regard to this appeal.

24. It was moved by the Rev J. Burgess and seconded by the Rev. Dr. MacInnes:—

That the parties be heard on the question of the jurisdiction of this Assembly in this case.

The motion of Mr. Burgess was approved.

The hour of adjournment having come, the consideration of the case was postponed.

The Assembly adjourned to meet at 10 a.m., which having been publicly intimated, the Sederunt was closed with prayer.

THIRD SEDERUNT.

At Adelaide, and within Flinders Street Church, on Friday, the 20th day of September, 1907, at 10 a.m.

25. The Assembly met pursuant to adjournment, and was constituted with reading the Scriptures and prayer.

26. The minutes of the Second Sederunt were confirmed.

27. The Report of the Finance Board was submitted by Colonel Goodlet, who moved—“That the Assembly receive the report, Finance
Board.

authorise the payment of expenses of members of Assembly on the same basis as formerly, namely:— That members attending the General Assembly in September, 1907, have the following percentage of their travelling expenses (calculated upon the basis of second-class return railway fares) paid by the Church, namely—(a) Those paying less than £1, nothing; (b) Those paying from £1 to £4, to receive half; (c) Those paying £4 upwards, to receive three-quarters, provided that no one in Class (b) shall pay less than £1 himself, and no one in Class (c) less than £2: authorise the assessments for the General Assembly Expenses Fund on the following basis, namely:—New South Wales, £50; Victoria, £50; Queensland, £16 13/4; South Australia, £16 13/4; Tasmania, £16 13/4; Western Australia, £12 10/ per annum; resolve to forward the sum of £25 received from the Presbyterian Church of England to the Presbyterian Church of South Australia for bush work, and thank the Presbyterian Church of England for their donation.”

The motion was seconded by the Rev. Jno. Walker and approved.

28. The Petition of the Rev. W. S. Frackelton was submitted.

A communication from the Clerk of the State Assembly of Queensland was received.

Rev. W. S.
Frackelton

The Petition was received, and Mr. Frackelton heard in support of it.

It was moved by the Rev. R. G. Macintyre and seconded by Mr. A. E. Baker—

“That as the General Assembly of Queensland has acted in accordance with the law and general practice of the Church in declining to receive an appeal of which notice had not been given at the time when sentence was pronounced, this Assembly does not deem it advisable to interfere with that decision; and, therefore, declines to grant the prayer of the petition.”

It was moved as an amendment by the Rev. S. G. McLaren and seconded by Dr. Clouston—

“That all the words after ‘that’ be omitted, with the view of inserting the words ‘the petition be granted.’”

The amendment was rejected. The motion was approved.

From this decision the following members dissented: Rev. Dr. MacInnes, Dr. Clouston, J. D. Murray, Philip Norman, D. M.

Benjamin, John Dykes, S. G. McLaren, J. R. Anderson, D. F. Brandt, and Messrs. Thomas Brown and Henry H. Kemp.

The Rev. W. S. Frackelton not being present, the Clerk was instructed to intimate the Finding of the Assembly to him by letter.

The Assembly adjourned to meet at 7.30 p.m., which, having been publicly intimated, the Sederunt was closed with prayer.

FOURTH SEDERUNT.

At Adelaide, and within Flinders Street Church, on Friday, the 20th day of September, at 7.30 p.m.

29. The Assembly met pursuant to adjournment, and was constituted with reading the Scriptures and prayer by the Moderator.

30. The Report of the Business Committee was received.

31. A Conference on the Home Mission Work of the Commonwealth was held, and the Rev. H. W. Burrige, of Western Australia; the Rev. A. F. M. Robb, of Tasmania; the Rev. W. Sweyn Macqueen, of Queensland; the Rev. Frank Rolland, of South Australia; the Rev. J. Barnaby, of Victoria; the Rev. John Walker, of New South Wales, delivered addresses.

Home
Mission
Work.

It was moved by the Rev. F. E. Oxer and seconded by Mr. G. S. Mackay—

That the Assembly accord a cordial vote of thanks to the speakers for their very effective addresses.

The motion was approved.

The Assembly adjourned, to meet on Monday at 10 a.m., which, having been publicly intimated, the Sederunt was closed with prayer.

FIFTH SEDERUNT.

At Adelaide, and within Flinders Street Church, on Monday, the 23rd day of September, at 10 a.m.

32. The Assembly met pursuant to adjournment, and was constituted with reading of the Scriptures and prayer.

33. The minutes of the Third and Fourth Sederunts were confirmed.

33b. The Report of the Scrutineers and the Returns from State Assemblies were received, and the Judicial Commission, the Board of Missions, and the Standing Committees appointed in terms thereof.

Rev. W. S.
Frackelton

34. The Rev. W. S. Frackelton being present, was put at the bar and the Finding of the Assembly on his petition intimated to him. Mr. Frackelton intimated his submission to the Finding.

College
Committee,

35. The Report of the College Committee was submitted. The Rev. Dr. Meiklejohn moved, and Rev. J. Barnaby seconded :—

That the Assembly receive the report so far as submitted; agree to remit to the Executive its completion, including the results of the exit examination and the examination in connection with the Home Mission course, and the syllabuses for the examinations; instruct the faculties of the Theological Halls not to permit students to take their University course and their Theological course concurrently, except in very exceptional circumstances, of which the faculties are to be the judges; instruct Presbyteries before granting certificates to students for the entrance examination to the Theological Halls to satisfy themselves by examination as to their religious experience and their motives for seeking to enter the Ministry, and to see each year that they have had opportunity to attend the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, and that the Executive be requested to frame a suitable form of certificate; thank the examiners for the work they have done; sanction the following changes in the examiners:— The appointment of Rev. R. E. Davies, M.A., in place of Rev. David Smith, M.A., for entrance Hebrew; Rev. R. Nairn, M.A., in place of the late Rev. D. Paton, D.D., for entrance Greek; of Rev. D. Smith, M.A., in place of Rev. J. Auld, M.A., for exit theology; of Rev. J. Kemp Bruce in place of Rev. R. Scott West for exit Church history; of Rev. E. N. Merrington, M.A., Ph.D., in place of Rev. R. G. Macintyre, M.A., B.D. for exit apologetics; the Revs. J. Kinghorn and Hugh Kelly, M.A., being added to the list of examiners, the resignation of the Rev. T. S. Crawford, M.A., being received; that the Rev. R. E. Davies, M.A., take the place of the Rev. J. Kemp Bruce as Chairman of the New South Wales section of the College Committee; and that the thanks of the Assembly be given to the Rev. J. Kemp Bruce and to all who have assisted the Committee in the work of examination.

It was moved as an amendment by the Rev. J. Mathew and seconded by the Rev. A. Stewart:—

That the following words be added to the deliverance: "and that Mr. Alex. Macdonald, having attended classes at the Theological Hall, Ormond College, as a student of the third year, in accordance with the requirement made by last General Assembly, authority be granted to the Presbytery of Macedon to take him on trials for license."

The amendment was approved.

The deliverance as amended was approved.

From the part of the deliverance relative to Mr. Alex. Macdonald the Rev. Dr. MacInnes and Mr. Wm. Wood dissented for the following reasons:—Because it is contrary to the constitution of the Church (see Article VIII., sections 1 and 4 of the Articles of Agreement), and contrary to the opinion of the learned Procurator recorded in minute 98 of the Session of 1906.

The Assembly adjourned to meet at 7.30 p.m., which having been publicly intimated, the Sederunt was closed with prayer.

SIXTH SEDERUNT.

At Adelaide, and within Flinders Street Church, on Monday, the 23rd day of September, 1907, at 7.30 p.m.

36. The Assembly met pursuant to adjournment, and was constituted with reading the Scriptures and prayer.

37. The Report of the Business Committee was approved.

38. A Conference on the Foreign Mission Work of the Church was held, and the Rev. Robt. Hanlin, of Western Australia; the Rev. A. Adamson, of Korea; the Rev. W. Fraser, of Victoria; the Rev. W. H. Ash, of New South Wales; the Rev. J. D. Brown, of Tasmania; the Rev. A. Gillison, of Queensland; the Rev. G. Davidson, of South Australia, delivered addresses.

Foreign
Mission
Work.

The Assembly adjourned, to meet to-morrow at 10 a.m., which, having been publicly intimated, the Sederunt was closed with prayer.

SEVENTH SEDERUNT.

At Adelaide, and within Flinders Street Church, on Tuesday, the 24th day of September, at 10 a.m.

39. The Assembly met pursuant to adjournment and was constituted with reading the Scriptures and prayer.

40. The minutes of the Fifth and Sixth Sederunts were confirmed.

41. A communication from the Associated Churches of Christ in South Australia was received

It was moved by the Rev. R. G. Macintyre and approved:—

Associated
Churches of
Christ.

That the Assembly receive the greetings of the Associated Churches of Christ in South Australia, and cordially reciprocate the kindly feelings expressed.

Methodist
Church of
Australia.

42. The Revs. Chas. Martin (President of the Conference), W. H. Hunter (ex-President), W. G. Clarke (Secretary), and Mr. F. Chapple, B.A., B.Sc., deputies from the South Australian Conference of the Methodist Church of Australasia, were welcomed by the Moderator, and addressed the Assembly.

It was moved by the Rev. P. J. Murdoch and seconded by the Rev. A. Stewart:—

That the Assembly cordially welcome the deputation from the South Australian Conference of the Methodist Church, rejoice in the good work being done by the Methodist Church in this land, pray that the blessing of the Lord may continually abide upon that work, and warmly reciprocate the Christian greetings conveyed by the deputation.

The motion was approved and the Moderator addressed the deputies in terms thereof.

Limitation
of Speeches

43. It was agreed that for the remainder of the Session movers of motions be limited to 15 minutes and all others to 10 minutes.

Federation
of Churches

44. The Report of the Committee on the Federation of the Churches was submitted by the Rev. Dr. Clouston who moved:

1. That the report be received.
2. That the Basis of Doctrine, as agreed on by the Joint Committees of the Congregational, Methodist, and Presbyterian

Churches, be sent to the State Assemblies and Presbyteries for information and suggestions.

3. That the Assembly learned with interest and satisfaction the negotiations that have been carried on with the representatives of the Church of England, but agree that after the conference to be held in October all further negotiations with that Church shall be carried on in common with the churches with whom the Committee has already been negotiating.

4. Reappoint the Committee.

The motion was seconded by Dr. MacInnes.

It was moved as an amendment by the Rev. A. Stewart and seconded by Mr. H. H. Kemp:—

That the following words be inserted after the second paragraph:—"That the Committees of the different States be requested to take into consideration the Victorian Committee's Statement on Doctrine, and the whole Committee to report on the matter to the Assembly.

The amendment was rejected.

It was moved as an amendment by the Rev. H. Robertson and seconded by the Rev. J. Burgess:—

That the words, "after the Conference to be held in October all further" in paragraph 3 be omitted with the view of inserting the words "as soon as practicable."

The amendment was approved, and the proposed words were inserted in the deliverance.

The deliverance as amended was approved.

45. The Business Committee was instructed to report with regard to the time and place of the next meeting of Assembly.

46. The following Committee was appointed to prepare and issue a Year Book for the Church:—Rev. Hume Robertson (Convener), C. A. White, and Messrs. W. Wood and A. L. Fryde. Year Book.

47. The consideration of the Report on Home Missions was resumed. Home Missions.

By leave of the House, the motion of Principal Harper was amended as follows:—

That the Assembly receive the Report, thank the Committee, especially the Convener, for their diligence, and resolve:—

To remit, in terms of Article III. of the Basis of Union, the following proposals to State Assemblies and Presbyteries—

(1) That Home Mission Agents, when ordained as elders, and authorized for this purpose by a Presbytery on the recommendation of the Home Mission Committee, shall be permitted to administer the Sacrament of Baptism, but these agents must report the details of each case in which they exercise this function to the Interim Moderator of the charge, or the Convener of the Home Mission Committee if there be no Moderator, and such power shall be exercised only in the district for which it is given, and only so long as those authorized are acting as the recognised agents of this Church.

(2) That Home Missionaries be not empowered to administer the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper.

The amendment of Dr. Rentoul was approved and the words "and the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper" were inserted in the motion after the words "Sacrament of Baptism."

It was moved as an amendment by the Rev. D. F. Brandt and seconded by Mr. Woodside:—

That the following words be added to the first proposal:—

Provided it be proved to the satisfaction of the Presbytery, in the case of the administration of the Lord's Supper that the Interim Moderator or other Minister of the Church cannot visit the Mission Station at least once a year.

A division on the amendment was taken when 44 voted for and 40 against it, and the amendment was declared carried.

It was agreed to omit the second proposal contained in the motion.

The following addition was made to the motion: — To instruct the Home Mission Committee to prepare a short manual on Baptism and the Lord's Supper for the special guidance of their Home Mission agents, whose duty it may be to administer these Sacraments.

It was moved as a further amendment by the Rev. R. G. Macintyre and seconded by the Rev. Jno. Walker that the following words be added to the motion:—

And further to instruct the Home Mission Committee to prepare a remit in terms of the proposal relative to Home Mission Agents, and report to a future Sederunt.

It was moved as a further amendment by Mr. W. Wood and seconded by the Rev. G. H. Balfour:—

That the following words be inserted in Mr. Macintyre's amendment after the word "Agents":—framing the remit so as to enable State Assemblies and Presbyteries to vote separately on the questions of Baptism and the Lord's Supper.

The amendment was approved and the proposed words inserted in the amendment.

The amendment as thus amended was approved.

The deliverance as amended was approved.

The deliverance is as follows:—

That the Assembly receive the report; thank the Committee, especially the Convener, for their diligence, and resolve: To remit in terms of ~~Article III.~~ of the basis of union the following proposals to the State Assemblies and Presbyteries: That Home Mission agents, when ordained as elders, and authorised for this purpose by a Presbytery on the recommendation of the Home Mission Committee, shall be permitted to administer the Sacrament of Baptism and the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper; but these agents must report the details in each case in which they exercise this function to the Interim Moderator of the charge, or the Convener of the Home Mission Committee if there be no Moderator, and such power shall be exercised only in the district for which it is given, and only so long as those authorised are acting as the recognised agents of this Church: Provided it be proved to the satisfaction of the Presbytery, in the case of the administration of the Lord's Supper, that the Interim Moderator, or other minister of the Church, cannot visit the Mission Station at least once a year. To instruct the Home Mission Committee to prepare a short manual on Baptism and the Lord's Supper for the special guidance of their Home Mission Agents whose duty it may be to administer these Sacraments. And, further, to instruct the Home Mission Committee to prepare a Remit in terms of the proposal relative to Home Mission Agents, framing the Remit so as to enable State Assemblies and Presbyteries to vote separately on the questions of Baptism and the Lord's Supper, and report to a future Sederunt."

The Assembly adjourned to meet at 7.30 p.m., which having been publicly intimated, the Sederunt was closed with prayer.

EIGHTH SEDERUNT.

At Adelaide, and within Flinders Street Church, on Tuesday, 24th September, 1907, at 7.30 p.m.

48. The Assembly met pursuant to adjournment, and was con-
tuted with reading the Scriptures and prayer.

49. The Report of the Business Committee was approved.

Foreign
Missions,

50. The Report on Foreign Missions was submitted by the
Rev. A. Stewart.

It was moved by the Rev. W. H. Ash and seconded by W.
Fraser—

That the Assembly receive the report; thank the Hon. Treas-
urer and the Hon. Auditor for their valuable services; thank
the Churches of New South Wales and Queensland for the promp-
titude and cordiality with which they complied with the request
of last Assembly and assumed special burdens of expense; direct
the Queensland Executive to continue existing arrangements with
the Rev. N. Hay for the supervision of the North Queensland
Mission; express regret at the small response to the Board's appeal
for special help to the Church of Western Australia in its attempt
to found an Aboriginal Mission at La Crosse Island, and request
each State Assembly take up a collection within its own bounds at
an early date for this object; fix the times of furlough in the North
Queensland Mission to be for each missionary three months re-
spectively in his third and sixth hot seasons on the field, and
twelve months including his tenth hot season, with similar periods
of furlough in successive cycles of ten years, and the furlough al-
lowances to be ordinary salary with the addition of second-class
railway or steamer fare to and from the district of his holiday, pro-
vided that the conference of the missionaries on the field approves
the arrangements made for conducting his work in his absence;
express satisfaction that the Board is now practically out of debt;
approve the annual payment to the beneficiary fund of the Mora-
vian Board of Missions of £7 per each of its missionaries on the
field; request the Churches of New South Wales, Queensland, and
Victoria to continue the existing arrangements for the support of
assistants at the several stations and determine that for the next
three years the annual assessment of the State Churches for the
Board's expenditure shall be in accordance with the report—Vic-
toria £414, New South Wales £255, Queensland £97, South Aus-
tralia £25, Tasmania £25, Western Australia £15.

The motion was approved.

51. It was moved by the Rev. W. H. Ash and seconded by the Hon. T. Brown—

“That the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia, now in Session, send its cordial greetings to the converts and worshippers in the lands where the missionaries of our Church are working, and assure them, and the missionaries also, of its deep interest in their spiritual welfare, and pray that God may abundantly bless them in their faith and labors; and instruct the Clerk to send copies of this resolution to the Conveners of the State Foreign Mission Committees for transmission to the various missionaries.”

Greetings
to Mission-
aries. &c.

The motion was approved.

52. It was moved by Mr. H. H. Kemp, seconded by Mr. J. M. Campbell, and approved—

“That the Assembly thank the Rev. A. Adamson for his inspiring address on the missionary prospects in Korea, and commends him and his work to the blessing of Almighty God.”

Rev. A.
Adamson.

53. The Rev. Dr. Rentoul, according to notice, moved—

“That the Assembly express its gratification that ‘The Church at Home,’ the book of Family Devotion and Prayer, which in 1903 at Sydney it sanctioned as to be published by the authority of the Presbyterian Church of Australia, has now been issued by Messrs. Hodder & Stoughton, in attractive type and form; and heartily recommend the volume to the Church’s members and adherents.”

Book of
Prayers.

The motion was seconded by the Rev. R. G. Macintyre and approved.

54. The following names were added to the Committee on the Federation of Churches:—Rev. R. Scott-West, Rev. Hume Robertson, and Mr. William Wood.

Federation
of Churches

55. The Report of the Committee relative to Religion and Morals and Sabbath Schools was submitted by the Rev. Hume Robertson, who moved—

Religion
and Morals

“That the Assembly receive the report, and express its entire sympathy with the anti-gambling movement now in progress in South Australia, and its hope that such legislation as has been already passed in New South Wales and Victoria may in due time be secured in South Australia.”

The motion was seconded by the Rev. W. M. M. Alexander, and approved.

56. The consideration of the appeal of the Rev. G. Davidson and others was resumed.

Appeal of
Rev. G.
Davidson

The Rev. G. Davidson, the Rev. W. Gray, and Mr. T. W. Fleming were placed at the bar, and were heard in regard to the jurisdiction of the Assembly in the case."

Parties were then removed from the bar.

With the leave of the House the Rev. R. G. Macintyre withdrew his motion.

It was moved by the Rev. J. Burgess and seconded by Mr. W. Wood—

"That inasmuch as the Commission of the State Assembly referred to in the appeal had full Assembly powers conferred upon it; and inasmuch as no member of the Commission appealed from its findings when these were adopted, this Assembly dismiss the appeal."

It was moved as an amendment by the Rev. S. G. McLaren and seconded by the Rev. J. Dykes—

"That all the words after the word 'that' be omitted, with the view of inserting the words: 'The Assembly dismiss the appeal, but direct the State Assembly of South Australia to delete the following words from the report of the Special Commission referred to in the appeal, viz., 'And that Messrs. Lyall and Bowden be not then eligible for any office in the Hawthorn Congregation or Sabbath School nor for a period of three years thereafter.''"

The amendment was rejected.

The motion was approved.

The Assembly adjourned, to meet to-morrow at 10 a.m., which, having been publicly intimated, the Sederunt was closed with prayer.

NINTH SEDERUNT.

At Adelaide, and within Flinders-street Church, on Wednesday the 25th day of September, 1907, at 10 a.m.

57. The Assembly met pursuant to adjournment, and was constituted with reading the Scriptures and prayer.

58. The minutes of the Seventh and Eighth Sederunts were confirmed.

59. The Report of the Committee on Reception of Ministers was submitted by the Rev. Dr. MacInnes, and approved. Reception
of
Ministers.

In terms of the Report it was agreed:—

1. That Rev. G. A. Hill, M.A., having completed his probation, be received as an ordained minister eligible for a call.

2. That Rev. A. H. Tolhurst, having completed his probation, be received as a licentiate, eligible for a call.

3. That the petition of Rev. W. A. Hobson lie on the table; that he serve a year's probation; and that on the completion of his probation his petition be finally dealt with by the Committee.

4. That the petition of Rev. W. J. Stevens be received, and that without further probation he be received as an ordained minister, eligible for a call.

5. That the petition of Rev. E. Fox be received; that he serve a probation of twelve months, dating from June 1, 1907; and that, at the close of his probation, his petition be finally dealt with by the Committee.

6. That the petition of Rev. C. Robertson be received; and that he be received as an ordained minister, eligible for a call.

7. That the petition of Mr. T. Davies, B.A., be received; and that he be received as a licentiate eligible for a call.

8. That the petition of Rev. T. B. McClement be remitted to the next General Assembly.

9. That Rev. G. R. S. Reid, M.A., having presented a presbyterial certificate, of date June 4, 1907, from the United Free Church Presbytery of Edinburgh, and a commission, of date June 4, 1907, from the Colonial Committee of the United Free Church of Scotland, be received as an ordained minister, eligible for a call.

- Finance. **60.** A Supplementary Report from the Finance Committee was received.
- Year Book. **61.** The Report on a Year-Book was submitted by the Rev. Hume Robertson, and approved.
- Article viii. **62.** The Returns on the Remits relative to Article VIII. (Minute 66 and Minute 97, 1906) were submitted. The Remits, not having been approved by a majority of Presbyteries, were discharged.
- Home Missions **63.** The Returns on the Remit relative to Home Missions were submitted. The Remit not having been approved by a majority of Presbyteries was discharged.
- Home Missionaries. **64.** The following Remit relative to empowering Home Missionaries to celebrate the Sacraments was approved:—

“Whereas the General Assembly of Australia has resolved in connection with the reference from the Church in West Australia anent empowering Home Mission Agents to dispense the Sacraments—

(1) That Home Mission Agents, when ordained as elders, and authorised for this purpose by a Presbytery on the recommendation of the Home Mission Committee, shall be permitted to administer the Sacrament of Baptism, but these agents must report the details of each case in which they exercise this function to the Interim Moderator of the charge, or the Convener of the Home Mission Committee if there be no Moderator, and such power shall be exercised only in the district for which it is given, and only so long as those authorised are acting as the recognised agents of this Church.

(2) That Home Mission Agents under the above conditions be also empowered to administer the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, provided it be proved to the satisfaction of the Presbytery that the Interim Moderator or other Minister of the Church cannot visit the Mission Station at least once a year.

(3) The Assembly sends down to State Assemblies and Presbyteries through State Assemblies these resolutions as Remits; and, further, since these resolutions, if approved, involve a change in the confession of faith, sends down as a Remit that an addition be made to the Confession (Chap. 27, Sect. 4), so that it shall read: “iv. There be only two Sacraments ordained by Christ our Lord in the Gospel; that is to say, Baptism and the Supper of the Lord, neither of which may be dispensed by any but a minister of the Word, lawfully or-

ained; (saving where the General Assembly has made special provision to the contrary, that the people of God may not be left without these sealing ordinances),” with the view of having it enacted in terms of Articles III. and IV. of the Basis of Union.

65. The Overture from the State Assembly of Victoria on a Board of Home Missions was introduced by the Rev. J. Barnaby and Dr. Meiklejohn.

It was moved by the Rev. J. Barnaby:—

“That the Assembly, deeming it the duty of the General Assembly to take responsibility for the spread of the Gospel throughout the Commonwealth, resolve—

(1) To approve the overture in as far as it raises the question of giving greater prominence to Home Missions in the Articles of Agreement.

(2) To amend Article IV. by omitting “and” after ministry, and adding thereto the words “and Home Missions in so far as is hereinafter provided.”

(3) To amend Article X. by adding thereto the following words, “and to take such steps as may be deemed advisable to raise money and otherwise assist the Home Mission operations of the Church.”

(4) To send these proposed changes in the Articles of Agreement to Presbyteries and State Assemblies, with instructions to report thereon to the next General Assembly.

(5) To instruct the Home Mission Committee to bring under the notice of State Assemblies the requirements of the more necessitous Home Mission districts.

The motion was seconded by the Rev. G. H. Balfour, and approved.

66. The Overture relative to the Training of Home Mission Agents was introduced by the Rev. J. Burgess.

It was moved by the Rev. J. Burgess and seconded by the Rev. R. G. Macintyre:—

“That the Overture be sustained and remitted to State Assemblies and Presbyteries in terms of Article XIII., with instructions to report to next Assembly.”

The motion was approved.

Board of Missions.

Training Home Mission Agents.

650

Hawthorn
Case.

67. The Parties in the Hawthorn case were put at the bar, and the Finding of the Assembly in the case intimated to them.

68. According to notice the Rev. G. Carson moved—

Hymnary.

“That it is desirable to arrange for an appendix to our Hymnary, in which shall be printed a copy of tunes familiarly associated with the hymns in Australia, and that a small committee be appointed to deal with the matter and report to next General Assembly.”

The motion was seconded by the Rev. R. Hanlin, approved, and the following committee appointed in terms thereof Rev. G. Carson (convener), R. Scott West, W. Beck, G. Davidson, R. Hanlin, W. Sweyn Macqueen, Colonel Goodlet, Hon. Jas. Balfour.

Complaint
of Presby-
tery of Syd-
ney.

69. The complaint of the Presbytery of Sydney against the Presbytery of Fremantle was submitted, and the Rev. Dr. MacInnes and Dr. Clouston were heard on behalf of the Sydney Presbytery, and the Rev. R. Hanlin and Mr. R. Bracks on behalf of the Fremantle Presbytery.

Parties were removed from the bar.

It was moved by the Rev. P. J. Murdoch and seconded by Mr. J. M. Campbell—

“That the Assembly dismiss the complaint on the ground that it has no jurisdiction in the matter.”

It was moved as an amendment by the Rev. S. G. McLaren and seconded by Mr. A. L. Pryde—

“That all the words after word ‘Assembly’ be omitted, with the view of inserting the words, ‘direct the Presbytery of Fremantle to forward to the Presbytery of Sydney particulars regarding the disjunction certificates and the other matters referred to in their minutes, or such of them as they now wish investigated; instruct the Presbytery of Sydney to deal with the matter in accordance with the laws of the Church, and when they have come to a decision to forward it to the Presbytery of Fremantle, and instruct that Presbytery, if the decision is satisfactory, as regards Mr. King, and is not appealed against to delete from their minutes all references to this case.’”

The amendment was rejected.

The motion was approved.

70. The Report of the Business Committee was submitted by the Rev. R. G. Macintyre, who moved in terms thereof—

"That the Assembly meet in Melbourne on the fourth Wednesday of September, 1909, at 7 p.m., in the Assembly Hall, Collins-street; that such Committees as find it necessary to meet in the interval should meet in Melbourne at such time as the Business Committee may decide; and that for this special meeting second class return fares be allowed to members of Committee."

Next
Assembly
and Com-
mittees.

The motion was seconded by Mr. J. M. Campbell.

It was moved as an amendment by Dr. Meiklejohn and seconded by Dr. Harper—

"That all the words after the word 'That' be omitted, with a view of inserting the following words: 'The General Assembly meet in Melbourne on the fourth Wednesday of September in 1909; that a Commission of the Assembly be held in Melbourne on the fourth Wednesday of September, 1909; that its members consist of the members of the following committees: College, Board of Missions, Home Missions, Reception of Ministers, Federation of Churches, and Finance; that the same rule with regard to expenses which applies to the representatives to the General Assembly be made applicable to the members of the Commission; that the Commission shall have power to deal with urgent business, but shall only dispose finally of such matters as this Assembly may remit to it.'"

The amendment was rejected.

The motion was approved.

71. The Reference from the State Assembly of Tasmania was stated by the Rev. P. J. Murdoch.

Reference
from Tas-
mania.

The Reference was received, and the State Assembly of Tasmania informed that the matter is one for its own decision.

72. The Committee on Sabbath Schools and State of Religion was reappointed.

Sabbath
Schools,&c.

The Assembly adjourned, to meet at 7.30 p.m., which, having been publicly intimated, the Sederunt was closed with prayer.

TENTH SEDERUNT.

At Adelaide, and within Flinders-street Church, on Wednesday, 25th day of September, 1907, at 7.30 p.m.

73. The Assembly met pursuant to adjournment, and was constituted with reading of the Scriptures and prayer.

Petitions
from
Students

74. The Report of the College Committee on the Petitions from Students was submitted by Dr. Meiklejohn.

The Report recommended:—

1. That the petition of Mr. C. M. Hilson be granted.

The recommendation was disapproved, and the prayer of the petition declined.

2. That the petition of Mr. E. H. McL. Shugg be granted.

The recommendation was approved.

3. That the petition of Mr. Horatio O'Sullivan be not granted.

The recommendation was approved.

4. That the petition of Mr. A. G. Wood be granted on condition that he pass the Entrance Examination.

The recommendation was approved.

Public
Questions

75. The Report on Public Questions was submitted by Dr. Clouston, who moved—

1. That the report be received.

2. That the committee be re-appointed, and instructed to attend to the issue of a manual on Presbyterianism (see Bluebook, 1906, page 125).

3. That the Assembly warn the members and adherents of the Church against the use of patent medicines and appliances for the purpose of preventing the birth of children, and point out the serious sin such a practice is in the sight of God, and with this view authorise the Moderator, in association with Dr. Harper and Dr. Clouston, to issue a pastoral bearing on this subject, and further urge legislation to curb this evil.

4. That the Assembly approve of the use of the Scriptures in the public schools, and of the access of ministers to these schools for the purpose of giving denominational teaching to the children of their own congregations; and hope that members of the Church in Victoria and Queensland may use their influence to promote legislation in this direction.

The motion was seconded by Dr. Harper, and unanimously approved.

Directory of
Public
Worship.

76. It was agreed to reappoint the Committee on a Directory of Public Worship; and to direct it to give further consideration to the subject.

77. The Report on the Record was submitted by the Rev. Hume Robertson, who moved—

“That the Assembly receive and approve the report, and express its confidence in and appreciation of the Editor’s able work; recommend the magazine to the Church throughout the Commonwealth; and reappoint the committee.”

The motion was seconded by Mr. J. H. Balfour, and approved.

78. It was remitted to the Finance Committee to consider the relations of that committee to the Foreign Missions Board, and report to next Assembly.

Finance
Committee
and
Foreign
Missions
Board,

79. The Committee on Sites in the Federal Capital was reappointed.

Sites,

80. By leave of the House it was moved by Mr. T.W. Fleming and seconded by the Rev. G. Davidson—

“That with a view of assisting the Church in South Australia in its present need in connection with Home Mission work, this Assembly requests the State Assemblies of New South Wales and Victoria respectively to allow the Assembly’s Commissioner, Rev. J. Walker, and the Director of Home Missions, Rev. D. A. Cameron, to each spend two or three months in South Australia in organising work at such times as may be most convenient to such assemblies.”

Mission
Work in
S.A.

The motion was approved.

81. The following were appointed the Business Committee to arrange for business necessary to be done previous to the meeting of next Assembly:—Rev. R. G. Macintyre (convener), the Clerk, the Law Agent, Rev. John Burgess, Rev. Dr. Harper, Rev. Dr. Clouston, and Mr. Wm. Wood.

Business
Committee

82. It was agreed to give the cordial thanks of the Assembly to the Arrangements Committee of the Church of South Australia, especially to the Rev. G. Davidson and W. Gray, for the generous hospitality exercised towards the members of Assembly; and also to express the Assembly’s thanks to the ladies and gentlemen who have so kindly opened their houses to members, and especially to the Hon. J. J. Duncan and Mr. James Marshall for entertaining the Assembly at their houses; and, further, to recognise the kindness of the office-bearers of Flinders-street Church, and the admirable reports of the Assembly Proceedings by the Press.

Thanks for
Hospitality

83. The minutes of the Ninth and Tenth Sederunts were confirmed.

The business of the General Assembly being concluded, the Moderator delivered a brief closing address.

Assembly
Closed.

The Assembly joined in singing the last three verses of the 122nd Psalm, after which the Moderator, having intimated that, in pursuance of the General Assembly's appointment, the next General Assembly of Australia will be holden in the Assembly Hall, Collins-street, Melbourne, the fourth Wednesday of September, 1909, at 7 p.m., the Session was closed with the Benediction.

Signed in the name and by the authority of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia.

PETER ROBERTSON, Moderator.

GEORGE TAIT, Clerk.



APPENDIX.

Committees of the General Assembly

Standing Committees.

I.—JUDICIAL COMMISSION.

Rev. J. Burgess, M.A.	Rev. H. Robertson, B.A.
" T. R. Cairns, D.D.	" J. Russell
" Dr. Clouston	" A. Stewart, M.A.
" A. Gillison, M.A.	" George Tait, M.A.
" Jno. Gray, M.A., B.D.	" A. J. Wade
" W. Gray	" John Walker
" Dr. Harper	Mr. J. A. Aitken
" Alex. Hay, D.D.	" J. Cameron
" Richard Kerr	" J. M. Campbell
" James Kinghorn	" T. W. Fleming
" Dr. MacInnes	" Robt. Gillespie
" R. G. MacIntyre, B.D.	" J. Kirkland
" W. Sweyn Macqueen	" G. S. Mackay
" J. Mathew, M.A., B.D.	" Alex. McIntosh
" Alex. McCarlle	" J. K. Reid
" P. J. Murdoch, M.A.	" Robt. Robertson
" F. E. Ozer, M.A., B.D.	Dr. MacFarland
Prof. Rentoul, D.D.	Colonel Goodlet
Rev. W. H. Roberts	Hon. James Balfour

The Right Rev. the Moderator, Chairman.

II.—BOARD OF MISSIONS.

Rev. W. M. M. Alexander*	Rev. F. H. L. Paton, M.A., B.D.
" W. H. Ash*	" R. H. Roberts
" T. R. Cairns, D.D.	" A. Stewart, M.A.
" J. Cosh, B.D.	" C. D. P. Taylor
" G. Davidson, M.A.	Mr. A. Byers
" W. Fraser, B.A.*	" T. W. Fleming*
" James Gibson, M.A. (Q.)*	" John Mackinnon
" Andrew Hardie	" W. S. Park
" J. Heyer, M.A.	" J. Storer, M.H.R.*
" Jas. Lamont, F.L.S.	" W. Wood
" W. Sweyn Macqueen*	Colonel Goodlet*

Rev. Alexander Stewart, Convener.

NOTE.—On the report of the Selection Committee and the Scrutineers the General Assembly appointed 8 members on the Board of Missions. Article VII. 1. limits the number to be appointed by the Assembly to 6. The names with an asterisk are those appointed by the Assembly.

III.—CODE.

Rev. W. M. M. Alexander	Rev. George Tait, M.A.
" J. Burgess, M.A.	" R. Thomson
" J. H. Fordyce, M.A.	" C. A. White, B.A.
" R. Kerr	Mr. J. M. Campbell
" R. G. MacIntyre, M.A., B.D.	" T. W. Fleming
" S. G. McLaren, M.A.	" J. Garland, L.L.B.
" P. J. Murdoch, M.A.	" W. G. Rae
" W. C. Radcliffe, B.A.	" R. G. Rogers
" Hume Robertson, B.A.	" W. Wood
" J. Russell	Dr. MacInnes

The Clerk and Mr. J. M. Campbell, Joint Conveners

IV.—COLLEGE.

Rev. J. Kemp Bruce	Rev. J. Meiklejohn, M.A., D.D.
" H. M. Burns, B.D.	" F. E. Ozer, M.A., B.D.
" H. W. Burridge, M.A.	" Chas. Robinson, B.A.
" J. Cosh, B.D.	" George Tait, M.A.
" J. Ferguson	" J. Walker
" S. Fraser	Mr. D. Ewart
" J. Gibson, M.A. (Q.)	" W. L. Ligertwood
" W. G. Macnochie, M.A.	Hon. James Balfour
" J. Mathew, M.A., B.D.	Prof. Edward Rennie, D.Sc.
	Dr. MacFarland

Rev. Dr. Meiklejohn and J. Mathew, Joint Conveners.

Rev. H. M. Burns, Secretary, Rev. R. F. Davies, Convener, New South Wales Section.

V.—HOME MISSIONS.

Rev. G. H. Balfour, B.D.	Rev. W. Sweyn Macqueen
" J. Barnaby, B.A.	" Robt. Mitchell
" D. A. Cameron, M.A.	" P. J. Murdoch, M.A.
" Dr. Clouston	" Philip Norman
" W. H. Cooper, M.A., B.D.	" F. E. Ozer, M.A., B.D.
" Alex. Crow	" R. Thomson
" George Ewan	" John Walker
" J. Ferguson	" C. A. White, B.A.
" J. Gibson, M.A. (Q.)	Hon. James Balfour
" Dr. Harper	Mr. W. Wood

Rev. John Ferguson, Convener.

VI.—FINANCE.

Rev. Wm. Agnew	Mr. David Walker
Mr. J. Cameron	" W. M. Walker
" J. De Conlay	" W. Wood
" J. G. Cramond	Dr. MacFarland
" T. J. Finlay	Captain Robert Craig
" Robt. Gillespie	Colonel Goodlet
" J. Kirkland	Hon. Wm. Anderson
" A. S. Lang	Hon. James Balfour
" W. L. Ligertwood	Hon. James Murdoch, M.L.C.
" A. L. Pryde	Senator Walker

Colonel Goodlet, Convener.

VII.—RECEPTION OF MINISTERS.

Rev. John Burgess, M.A.	Rev. W. Sweyn Macqueen
" Dr. Clouston	" P. J. Murdoch, M.A.
" W. H. Cooper, M.A., B.D.	" W. C. Radcliffe, B.A.
" R. M. Fergus, M.A.	" A. F. M. Robb, B.A.
" John Ferguson	" Hume Robertson, B.A.
" J. Gray, B.D.	" R. Thomson
" Dr. Harper	" John Walker
" A. S. C. James	Mr. A. S. Lang
" Dr. MacInnes	" A. L. Pryde
" R. G. Macintyre, M.A., B.D.	W. M. Walker

Rev. Dr. MacInnes, Convener.

VIII.—STATISTICS.

Rev. W. M. M. Alexander	Rev. R. W. Rock
" J. Barnaby	" W. S. Rolland
" D. M. Barnett, B.A.	" James Steele (N.S.W.)
" J. D. Brown	" C. A. White, B.A.
" R. Kerr	Mr. J. H. Beatson
" J. F. Macrae	" S. J. Carruthers, F.C.A.A.
" R. Miller, B.A.	" A. S. Lang
" E. G. Petherick	" W. L. Ligertwood
" Hume Robertson, B.A.	" W. M. Walker
" J. T. Robertson	" David Walker

Revs. Hume Robertson and C.A. White Conveners.

Special Committees.

I.—FEDERATION OF PROTESTANT CHURCHES.

Rev. J. Kemp Bruce	Rev. W. C. Radcliffe, B.A.
" Dr. Clouston	" R. H. Roberts
" R. E. Davies, M.A.	Right Rev. Peter Robertson
" John Edwards	Rev. J. M. R. Dale
" Dr. Harper	Mr. Jas. Allen
" James Kinghorn	" D. Ewart
" James Lamont, F.L.S.	" George Hall
" Dr. MacInnes	" A. S. Lang
" R. G. Macintyre, M.A., B.D.	" A. McKellar
Rev. Dr. Kinross	" J. S. Sword
" John Walker	" George Stupart
" R. H. Waugh, M.A.	
" R. Scott-West	Rev. G. Davidson, M.A.
" C. A. White, B.A.	" G. C. Love, M.A., B.D.
Colonel Goodlet	" T. Shanks, M.A., B.D.
Mr. William Affleck	" R. Thomson
" John Kirkland	" A. J. Wade
" W. G. Crane	Mr. A. H. Bryson
Dr. Robertson	" T. W. Fleming
Mr. W. Wood	" R. Gilchrist
	Professor Rennie
	Mr. T. W. Tassie
Rev. Dr. Cairns	
" W. Fraser, B.A.	Rev. W. Beck
" W. G. Maconochie, M.A.	" J. D. Brown
" J. Mathew, M.A., B.D.	" F. E. Oxer, M.A., B.D.
" Dr. Meiklejohn	" J. G. Millar
" P. J. Murdoch, M.A.	Mr. F. Burbury
" A. R. Osborn, M.A.	Mr. D. McKinnon
" H. Robertson	Hon. J. Murdoch
" A. Stewart, M.A.	Mr. J. K. Reid
Hon. W. Anderson	" F. Williams
" James Balfour	" J. Wright
Mr. T. J. Finlay	
" R. Gillespie	Rev. A. Crow
" W. F. Greenwood	" J. H. Fordyce, M.A.
" D. Love	" A. S. C. James
Rev. Dr. Hay	" A. McCarlie
" A. Gillison, M.A.	Dr. S. Macaulay
" D. McLennan	Mr. R. Bracks
" W. S. MacQueen	" F. A. Moseley
" Jas. McQueen	" R. Robertson
" S. Martin	
The Moderator, Clerk, and Law Officers members ex-officio.	
Dr. Clouston, Convener.	

II.—PUBLIC QUESTIONS.

Right Rev. the Moderator	Hon. James Balfour
Rev. Dr. Bruce	Mr. John Cameron
" J. Burgess, M.A.	" T. W. Fleming
" John Ferguson	
" Principal Harper	Colonel Goodlet
" Dr. Rentoul	
" C. H. Talbot	

With the Clerk and the Moderators and Clerks of the State Assemblies.
The Executive to consist of the members from the State to which the Moderator belongs.

The Moderator Convener.

III.—SABBATH SCHOOL HYMNAL.

Rev. W. M. M. Alexander	Rev. Jas. Steele, M.A.
" W. H. Ash	" D. Macrae Stewart
" C. Crane	" T. J. Smith, M.A.
" R. E. Davies, M.A.	" Jas. Walker
" R. M. Fergus, M.A.	" R. H. Waugh, M.A.
" J. Heyer, M.A.	" C. A. White, B.A.
" J. Lamont, F.L.S.	Mr. Neil Black
" Joseph Lundie, B.A.	" M. F. Culliford
" W. S. Macqueen	" Lachlan Fraser
" J. Mathew, M.A., B.D.	" W. F. Greenwood
" R. Mitchell (S.A.)	" E. H. Hume
" R. Miller	" A. Jackson
" F. E. Ozer, M.A., B.D.	" J. MacIntyre
" W. S. Rolland	" P. D. McCormack
" Hume Robertson, B.A.	" Robert Robertson
" J. T. Robertson, M.A.	" G. A. Steel
" W. Wishart	

IV.—SABBATH SCHOOLS AND STATE OF RELIGION.

The Conveners of the Sabbath School Committees, and of the State of Religion Committees of the State Assemblies.

Rev. W. S. Rolland Convener.

V.—RECORD.

The Conveners of the Sabbath School Committees of the State Assemblies.

Rev. W. S. Rolland Convener.

VI.—DIRECTORY OF PUBLIC WORSHIP.

Rev. J. Kinghorn	Mr. W. G. Geikie
" John Ferguson	Dr. Marden
" R. Steele, M.A.	Mr. S. J. Carruthers
" J. K. Bruce	

Rev. J. Kinghorn, Convener.

VII.—SITES IN FEDERAL CAPITAL.

Hon. Wm. Anderson	Colonel Goodlet
" James Balfour	Mr. Wm. Wood

VIII.—BUSINESS COMMITTEE.

The Clerk	Rev. Dr. Clouston
The Law Agent	" R. G. MacIntyre
Rev. John Burgess	Mr. William Wood
" Dr. Harper	

Rev. R. G. MacIntyre Convener.

IX.—TO NOMINATE THE MODERATOR OF THE NEXT ASSEMBLY.

The Moderator and ex-Moderators of the General Assembly, and the Moderators of the State Assemblies who are in office.

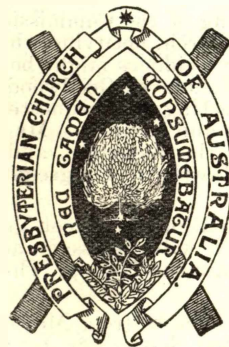
The Moderator Convener.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

AND OTHER PAPERS

PRESENTED TO THE

General Assembly of Australia.



ADELAIDE, SEPTEMBER, 1907.

APPEAL.

I.

APPEAL OF REV. G. DAVIDSON AND OTHERS FROM SOUTH AUSTRALIAN GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN RE HAWTHORN CHURCH, ADELAIDE.

At Adelaide, the eighth day of May, 1907, within Flinders Street Church, which day the South Australian State Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia being met and constituted, *inter alia*, called for report of the Special Commission appointed by the State Assembly, to deal with matters connected with the Hawthorn Congregation, which was read by Rev. W. Gray, as follows:—

1. The Commission was appointed by the General Assembly on May 6, 1906, pursuant to resolutions of which the following is the substance:—

That the Assembly having heard the parties in the case (petition with appeal from Messrs. Robert Strathearn, Joseph Bowden, Joseph A. Wood, and Donald Cameron, ex-officebearers of Hawthorn Congregation), dismisses the appeal and refers the whole matter to a Special Commission of the Assembly with Assembly powers to deal with it.

The following Special Commission of Assembly was appointed, viz:—Revs. J. A. McLellan, G. C. Love, A. McLennan, Messrs. T. W. Tassie, T. W. Fleming, and J. Murray. It was further agreed at the next sederunt that the Rev. W. Gray be added to the Commission, and that he be the Convener thereof.

2. The first meeting of the Commission was held at the close of the Assembly on Friday night, May 11, 1906, when it was resolved that the Commission sit *in camera*, and that its next meeting be on May 29, 1906.

3. Previous to the meeting of the Commission on May 29, 1906, a notice was affixed to the Hawthorn Church, notifying when and where the Commission would sit, and intimating that evidence might be given before the Commission by parties interested. The sessions of Goodwood Congregation and Chalmers Church were notified of the meeting, and requested to assist the Commission by producing relevant documents and records. Mr. J. Lyall, the four appellants in the Hawthorn case before the Assembly, and Mr. A. D. Sutherland, the "acting secretary" of the Hawthorn Congregation, were also notified and invited to give evidence.

4. The Commission met in Flinders Street Vestry at 2.30 p.m. on May 29, 1906, and continued in session, with necessary adjournments till 3 p.m. next day, when it came to a unanimous finding. Three meetings have been held subsequently.

5. The Commission had requests from Messrs. J. Lyall, J. Bowden, and W. J. Hill (Clerk of Goodwood Session) to be present at the investigation. These requests were granted.

6. The Commission examined eleven witnesses, viz.:—Messrs. James Lyall, W. J. Hill, Rev. Dr. Paton, John Wrighton, James Strathearn, John McLeay, Jas. Weymouth, Donald Cameron, Joseph Bowden, Robert Strathearn, and John Harper. It also examined about 90 documents, a large number of minutes of proceedings of Goodwood and Chalmers Church Sessions, the Presbytery of Adelaide, and the minute-book of the Hawthorn Congregation.

7. After careful consideration of all the evidence the Commission found:—

Firstly—That both Messrs. J. Bowden and J. Lyall have done much for the advancement of the Hawthorn Congregation; that Mr. Bowden was the pioneer along with the workers from the Goodwood Congregation for about eighteen months; that some time after Mr. Lyall cast in his lot with the congregation differences arose between him and Mr. Bowden, and by injudicious conduct on the part of both, and the want of mutual consideration for one another, strife was provoked; that their conduct led to the formation of parties on each side, which still further accentuated the difficulty of carrying on the

work; that Mr. Lyall ought to tender an apology to Miss Bowden for language he ought never to have uttered, and which the Commission believes he did in his haste; that the removal by Mr. Lyall of part of a page of the minute-book of the Hawthorn Board of Management, containing the list of subscribers, was wholly reprehensible, and the part so removed should be handed over forthwith to the Convener of this Commission.

Secondly—That the opportunity was not given, at the meeting held in the church on June 26, 1904, for the whole congregation to express an opinion as to the desirability of removing Hawthorn Congregation from under the supervision of the Goodwood Session, and the Commission, therefore, directs that the Hawthorn Congregation be placed again under the supervision of the Goodwood Session, and does hereby place that congregation under the supervision of the said session as a Home Mission Charge; that after June 30, 1906, all offices in the Hawthorn Congregation and Sabbath School be deemed vacant, and that a new election of Board of Management and other offices take place under the direction of the Goodwood Session; and that Messrs. Lyall and Bowden be not then eligible for any office in the Hawthorn Congregation or Sabbath School, nor for a period of three years thereafter.

Thirdly—The Commission appoints the Convener to preach in the Hawthorn Church on June 10 next, and to intimate the finding of the Commission to the congregation at both diets of worship, with direction that the Convener have notice of this made to the congregation on the previous Sabbath; and the Commission further directs that the pulpit supply after June 10 be undertaken by the Home Mission Committee.

And Lastly—The Commission earnestly counsels Messrs. Lyall and Bowden, and the whole of the people of the Hawthorn Congregation, "to study and practise the things that make for peace, and the things whereby one may edify another."

8. By direction of the Commission, the Convener conducted Divine service in the Hawthorn Church at the usual morning and evening diet, and read the findings and directions of the Commission to the congregation. He also intimated to the Goodwood Session, the Home Mission Committee, Chalmers Church Session, and to the Presbytery of Adelaide the fact that the Commission had placed the Hawthorn Congregation under the supervision of the Goodwood Session as a Home Mission Charge, with direction to the Home Mission Committee to regulate the supply.

In the name of the Commission,

W. GRAY,
Convener.

The copy of the above finding was sent to the Adelaide Presbytery, accompanied by the following letter:—

"Rose-terrace, Wayville, Adelaide, June 13, 1906. To Rev. G. Davidson, M.A., Clerk of Presbytery of Adelaide, Barton Terrace, N.A. Dear Sir—I send herewith extract minute of Finding of Special Commission appointed by the State Assembly to enquire into and deal with the case of the Hawthorn Congregation. This extract is sent to your Presbytery by direction of my Commission, and is for the information of the Presbytery. I wish to direct the attention of your Presbytery:—1. To the second paragraph of the finding, by which the Hawthorn Congregation is placed under the supervision of the Goodwood Kirk Session as a Home Mission Charge. I have also to inform the Presbytery that the Goodwood Session met on Monday night, June 11, and passed a resolution accepting this responsibility, and has begun steps to carry out the directions of the Commission. 2. To the last clause of the third paragraph of the finding, by which the pulpit supply is placed with the Home Mission Committee. The Home Mission Committee met on Tuesday afternoon, June 12, and has arranged for present supply. The Kirk Session of Chalmers Church has been notified through the Rev. Dr. Paton of the finding of the Commission. I have up to the present received no report of that Session having had the finding of the Commission under consideration.—I am, Dear Sir, yours truly (signed) W. GRAY, Convener of the Commission."

The Presbytery met on Tuesday, July 3, 1906, at 11 a.m., and was constituted with prayer by the Moderator.

Inter alia, the Clerk reported the finding of the Presbytery in full committee on the verdict of the Assembly's Commission on the Hawthorn case as follows:—The Presbytery, after careful consideration in full committee of the Presbytery of the finding of the Assembly's Commission dealing with the case of the Hawthorn Congregation, cannot concur in the said finding, on the ground that it is *ultra vires* and irregular; and more especially as it involves a serious encroachment on the rights, liberties, and privileges of members of the Church, Congregations, Kirk Sessions, and Presbyteries; and resolves to humbly petition the Assembly, and does hereby petition the Assembly to declare the finding of the said Commission null and void.

It was resolved that the finding of the Presbytery in full committee be the finding of the Presbytery. Mr. T. W. Fleming dissented, and the Rev. M. Johnson and Mr. W. J. Hill adhered to the dissent. The Rev. G. Davidson and the Rev. R. Thomson were appointed to support the petition at the Assembly.

On the motion that the prayer of the petition of the Presbytery of Adelaide be granted being put to Assembly, it was lost.

Rev. G. Davidson dissented from the finding of the Assembly, and appealed to the General Assembly of Australia, and craved extracts.

The Revs. R. Thomson and A. C. Sutherland adhered to the appeal.

The Clerk was instructed to furnish necessary extracts.

Rev. W. Gray moved the adoption of the report of the Commission.

This was seconded by Mr. R. Watt, and carried.

Rev. G. Davidson dissented, and appealed to the General Assembly of Australia, and craved extracts. Revs. A. C. Sutherland and R. Thomson adhered to the appeal. Extracts were directed to be furnished.

Extracted from the records of the South Australian General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia this 13th day of August, 1907, by me.

ROBERT THOMSON,

Clerk of Assembly.

At Adelaide, the 9th day of May, 1906, in the Flinders Street Church, which day the South Australian General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia being met and constituted.

Inter alia, Rev. G. Davidson gave in reasons for dissent in connection with his appeals against the findings of the Assembly in the matter of the Hawthorn Commission, of which he had given notice.

Mr. Davidson's reasons were as follow:—

I appeal on constitutional grounds, and on the assumption that the Rules governing the appointment of Commissions are those of the Constitution and Rules and Forms of Procedure of the Presbyterian Church of Australia—Standing Orders 106, Procedure in regard to Discipline, rule 42.

More particularly I appeal on the ground—

1. That the Commission appointed by the South Australian Assembly in 1906 did not take the place of, and was in no sense the Assembly, *i.e.*, its acts and deeds were not the acts and deeds of the Assembly, and its finding was not the finding of the Assembly in the sense that all the members of Assembly were represented in it and agreed to it either unanimously or by a majority.

Otherwise the finding of the Commission would not have been presented to the Assembly as a report, nor would the Assembly have allowed a Petition from the Presbytery of Adelaide against it to be received and discussed.

2. Even granting that the Commission was the Assembly in the fullest sense, its procedure was not in accordance with the procedure of the Assembly, inasmuch as it instituted proceedings, and came to a finding involving discipline, and carried out discipline—(a) On two persons whose names were mentioned and whose offences were alleged, and (b) on other persons whose names were not mentioned, and whose offences were not alleged; none of these persons being before the Assembly or known by the Assembly in connection with the case when the Assembly appointed the Commission.

3. The sentence passed by the Commission on these persons was suspension from privileges and suspension from office for three years and *sine die* respectively, and this sentence was passed without judicial process (Cf. Procedure in Discipline, rule 34).

4. The Commission also removed the Congregation of Hawthorn from under the supervision of a Session appointed by the Presbytery of Adelaide, thereby encroaching on the rights and liberties of the Presbytery.

Rev. W. Gray moved—That Mr. T. W. Fleming and Rev. W. Gray be appointed to defend the action of the Assembly when the matter comes before the General Assembly.

Rev. A. C. Sutherland seconded the motion, which was carried.

Extracted from the records of the South Australian State Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia, this 13th day of August, 1907. by me,

ROBERT THOMSON.

Clerk of Assembly.



II.

COMMUNICATION.

FROM ASSOCIATED CHURCHES OF CHRIST IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

Kilkenny, 19th October, 1907.

The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church.

Dear Brethren.

The Associated Churches of Christ in South Australia in Conference Assembled send you loving Christian greetings.

We wish you success, and trust that your deliberations as a Federal body may result in much benefit to your churches in the various States of the Commonwealth.

We, as yourselves have found it necessary from time to time, to meet in Federal consultation and discussion of weighty and important matters, and we trust your meetings may prove eminently successful.

Yours in Christ's service,

H. JAS. HORSELL,

Conference Secretary.

P.S.—Please accept, in conjunction with the above, greeting from the Federal Conference of Churches of Christ in Australia.—H. J. H.

III.
COMPLAINT.

COMPLAINT TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF AUSTRALIA BY THE
PRESBYTERY OF SYDNEY AGAINST THE PRESBYTERY OF
FREMANTLE, W.A.

On February 12, 1907, the following document was handed by Rev. Angus King to the Presbytery of Sydney:—

Presbyterian Church of Australia.

General Assembly of Western Australia, Within St. Columba's, Cottesloe.

On 19th October, 1906, a special meeting of Fremantle Presbytery was held, and duly constituted, the Rev. Robert Hanlin, moderator.

Inter alia, the following resolution was adopted:—Whereas, on the 3rd day of October instant, the Presbytery of Fremantle dissolved the pastoral tie which has subsisted during the past two and a half years between the Rev. Angus King and the congregation of East Fremantle, and authorized the issue of a Presbyterial certificate; and whereas the Rev. R. Hanlin was appointed interim Moderator, and at a special meeting of Presbytery, held this day, has reported that prior to Mr. King's departure for Sydney, on the 12th day of September last, he granted thirty-one (31) disjunction certificates to members in full communion, to take effect on the date appointed for the dissolution of the pastoral tie, without recording the congregation or congregations to which they were being transferred; and whereas Mr. King is not within the jurisdiction of the Assembly of Western Australia, and cannot be conveniently cited to explain the reason for these disjunctions, and other matters which have come to the knowledge of the Presbytery: Resolved that the certificate to be issued by the Clerk testify merely to the date of Mr. King's induction and the dissolution of the pastoral tie.

Extracted from the records of the Fremantle Presbytery this 23rd day of October, 1906, by

ALEXANDER McCARLIE,

Clerk.

As authorized by the foregoing resolution of Fremantle Presbytery, I hereby certify that the Rev. Angus King was inducted to the pastoral charge of East Fremantle on April 13, 1904, and that the pastoral tie was dissolved on October 3, 1906.

ALEXANDER McCARLIE

October 23, 1906.

Presbytery Clerk.

The Presbytery of Sydney resolved—"That the document be not received or sustained as a Presbyterial certificate; that it be handed back to Mr. King; that he be advised to procure a clear certificate from the Presbytery of Fremantle."

On February 12, 1907, at a subsequent stage of the meeting, a call from Chalmers Church to Rev. A. King was laid on the table of the Presbytery of Sydney, which resolved—"That the call lie on the table till next meeting."

On March 12, 1907, the Presbytery of Sydney ordered—"That the call lie on the table for another month."

On April 9, 1907, the Presbytery of Sydney received from the Presbytery of Fremantle the following document:—

Fremantle Presbytery.

I certify that the Rev. Angus King left the Presbyterian Church in Western Australia with the status of an ordained minister.

ALEXANDER McCARLIE,

Presbytery Clerk.

March 27, 1907.

This document was accepted and sustained by the Presbytery of Sydney as a Presbyterian certificate.

On April 9, 1907, the Presbytery of Sydney received the following document from the Presbytery of Fremantle:—

Presbyterian Church of Australia.

General Assembly of Western Australia.

Fremantle Presbytery, Cottesloe, March 22, 1907.

Which day and place the Fremantle Presbytery met and was duly constituted. Business: To consider a telegram received from the Clerk of the Sydney Presbytery, and worded—"Action of Fremantle Presbytery illegal; must either issue certificate or frame a libel."

In answer to a question it was elicited that no communication whatever, in writing, pertaining to the matter referred to in the telegram, had been received from the Sydney Presbytery.

It was agreed to reply to the telegram in terms of the following resolution:—"Whereas a telegram has been received from the Clerk of the Sydney Presbytery describing the action of this Court in connection with the certificate issued to the Rev. Angus King as 'illegal,' and calling upon the Presbytery to 'either issue a certificate or frame a libel'; and whereas no further communication has been received from the Sydney Presbytery, and doubt exists as to the purport of such telegram: and whereas this Presbytery is desirous of assisting the Sydney Presbytery in the matter now before it: Resolved therefore that the Clerk transmit to the Clerk of the Sydney Presbytery a copy of the resolution passed on October 19, 1906, and, at the same time, certify that the Rev. Angus King left the Presbyterian Church in Western Australia with the status of an ordained minister."

In pursuance of the purpose of the resolution of October 19, 1906, a second resolution was adopted as follows:—"Whereas no explanation has been received from the Rev. Angus King in regard to the issue by him of thirty-one post-dated certificates as mentioned in the resolution of Presbytery of October 19, 1906, and it does not appear that any explanation has either been sought by the Sydney Presbytery, or been given thereto by Mr. King: Resolved that the Clerk write to the Clerk of the Sydney Presbytery, requesting that due enquiry be made by that Court concerning the same, and that it report the result to this Presbytery."

Extracted from the records of the Fremantle Presbytery this 27th March, 1907, by

ALEXANDER McCARLIE.

Presbytery Clerk.

The Presbytery of Sydney "declined to make the enquiry suggested."

On April 23, 1907, the Presbytery of Sydney inducted Rev. A. King into the pastoral charge of Chalmers Church and Parish.

On July 9, 1907, the Presbytery of Sydney received from the Presbytery of Fremantle the following document:—

Presbyterian Church of Australia.

General Assembly of Western Australia.

At Scot's Church, Fremantle, on May 8, 1907, the Fremantle Presbytery met, and was duly constituted.

Inter alia, a communication was received from the Sydney Presbytery, declining to make a certain enquiry of Rev. Angus King. In connection therewith the following motions were carried:—

(1) That the Clerk be instructed to acknowledge receipt of the communication from the Sydney Presbytery. (2) That all the proceedings of 22nd March, transacted on the assumption that the telegram sent by Dr. MacInnes was official, be rescinded.

Extracted from the minutes of Fremantle Presbytery, this 29th day of May, 1907, by me,

ALEX. McCARLIE,

Clerk.

Thereupon the Presbytery of Sydney resolved as follows:—"A communication of date 8th May, 1907, was received from the Presbytery of Fremantle, intimating that it had rescinded its proceedings of 22nd March, 1907, as the issuing of a certificate of status to Rev. A. King, now a member of the Presbytery of Sydney, was part of those proceedings, this Presbytery resolved to complain of the action of the Presbytery of Fremantle to the General Assembly of Australia, and to request the Assembly to instruct the said Presbytery to delete the minute of 8th May, 1907, from its records: further, that the Presbytery of Fremantle be notified of this complaint."

Dr. MacInnes and Dr. Clouston were appointed to support this complaint in the General Assembly.

R. SCOTT WEST.

Moderator.

G. MacINNES,

Clerk.



IV.
OVERTURES.

1.

mfs
OVERTURE FROM GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF VICTORIA ON BOARD OF MISSIONS.

Assembly Hall, Collins Street,

May 29, 1907.

The Assembly met pursuant to adjournment at 10 a.m. and was duly constituted. *Inter alia*:—

The following overture to the General Assembly of Australia, relative to a Board of Missions, was introduced, and its adoption moved by the Rev. J. Barnaby:—

"Whereas there are wide districts in the Commonwealth which are destitute of Christian ordinances; and,

"Whereas the successful prosecution of Home Missions is vital for our Church and the Australian Commonwealth; and, whereas it is desirable that Home Missions should receive more prominent recognition in the Articles of Agreement of the Presbyterian Church of Australia; and,

"Whereas the State Assembly of Victoria has disapproved the Remit on the Board of Home Missions to change the Article of the Articles of Agreement IV.: The State Assembly of Victoria humbly overtures to the Venerable the General Assembly of Australia to take these premises into consideration, and would suggest the adoption of the proposal indicated as the proposed new article in the Remit, with the following changes:—

- "1. After 'administration of Home Missions' insert in the preamble 'as hereinafter provided.'
- "2. Omit 'general' before 'support' in paragraph 3.
- "3. After 'concerned' in paragraph 4, insert 'to originate new Home Mission schemes, or otherwise, as the General Assembly in its wisdom may deem best.'"

The motion was seconded by the Rev. Dr. Meiklejohn, and approved.

Extracted from the Minutes of the Assembly by

GEORGE TAIT.

Clerk.

August 6, 1907.

2.

OVERTURE ANENT AMENDING ARTICLES OF AGREEMENT *RE*
TRAINING AND LICENSING OF HOME MISSION AGENTS.

Whereas former Assemblies have approved of special arrangements for the training of Home Mission Agents, and whereas it is desirable to give these resolutions proper authority, the Presbytery of Sydney hereby humbly overtures the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia to insert the following new clause in Article VIII.:—

- 8a. These regulations apply to candidates for the ministry who are taking the usual course, but the Assembly may from time to time, with the concurrence of State Assemblies make special provision for the training, examining, and licensing of Home Mission Agents.

The Revs. R. G. Macintyre and John Burgess were appointed to support the overture in the General Assembly.

G. MacINNES, Clerk of Presbytery.

PETITIONS.

(1) REV. W. S. FRACKELTON.

Unto the Venerable the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia.

The petition of appeal of the undersigned William Scott Frackelton, a Minister of the Presbyterian Church of Australia, in the State of Queensland, resident at Brisbane, in the said State of Queensland, respectfully sheweth:—

1. On the 15th day of May, 1907, your petitioner presented to the Venerable the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the State of Queensland his petition of appeal unto the Judicial Commission of the Presbyterian Church of Australia against the Resolution of the Venerable the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia, in the State of Queensland, passed on the 10th day of May, 1907.

2. On the said 15th day of May, 1907, your petitioner received from Richard Kerr, the Clerk of the said the Venerable the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia, in the State of Queensland, a letter, of which the following is a true copy:—

[LETTER.]

Presbyterian Church of Queensland, St. Andrew's Church,

Brisbane, May 14, 1907.

Rev. W. S. Frackelton, Brisbane.

Rev. and Dear Sir—Herewith please find extract minute of General Assembly in reference to your appeal. Your petition and appeal is returned in accordance with said resolution.—I am, yours truly,

RICHARD KERR,

Clerk of Assembly.

The extract minute accompanying the said letter was in the words and figures following, that is to say:—

[MINUTE.]

Presbyterian Church of Australia, State of Queensland.

At Brisbane, May 13, 1907, and within St. Andrew's Church, the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Queensland being duly constituted.

Inter alia, the Clerk read a letter from Rev. W. S. Frackelton, forwarding an appeal to the General Assembly against the decision for his suspension, and asking that it be transmitted.

Resolved unanimously—That inasmuch as this appeal was not lodged when judgment was pronounced in accordance with the laws of the Church, it cannot now be received.

Extracted from the records of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Queensland by me,

RICHARD KERR,

Clerk of Assembly.

3. The said the Venerable the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia, in the State of Queensland, in rejecting the said resolution, acted on Rule III. of the Rules and Forms of Procedure in the Courts and Congregations of the Presbyterian Church of Queensland, and your petitioner submits and contends that the said rule has no application to appeals from the said the Venerable the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia, in the State of Queensland, to your Venerable Assembly, or to the Judicial Commission of the Presbyterian Church of Australia, and that the said petition should, if necessary, have been received and forwarded by the said the Venerable the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia, in the State of Queensland, for hearing and determination.

4. Your petitioner's said petition is forwarded with this petition to your Venerable Assembly. Your petitioner therefore humbly prays that you will be pleased to receive the said petition, and to hear and determine the said, or to forward the same to the Judicial Commission for hearing and determination. Dated at Brisbane this 7th day of August, 1907.

WILL. S. FRACKELTON.

WITNESS—(Signed) S. W. Brooks, J.P.

Documents accompanying this petition: I. Appeal to the Judicial Commission, presented to the General Assembly of Queensland; II., Supplementary report of the Presbytery of Brisbane of date April 30, 1907; III., Copy of citation addressed to Rev. W. S. Frackelton by the Queensland Assembly; IV., Copy of resolution passed by Presbytery of Brisbane of date February 5, 1907, and protest and appeal by Rev. W. S. Frackelton.

RONALD G. MACINTYRE,

Convener of Business Committee.

(2) MR. C. M. HILSON.

Unto the Venerable the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia.

The petition of the undersigned humbly sheweth:—

1. That your petitioner is now in the service of the Home Mission Committee of West Australia, and is at present supplying St. George's Church, Boulder.

2. That he is desirous of entering the Ministry of the Church.

3. That he now petitions the General Assembly to exempt him from at least four (4) of the seven (7) years extramural "Missionary" course operating in this State of West Australia, in consideration of having passed—(1) The Matriculation Examination of the University of Edinburgh before entrance as a student of medicine, the subjects being—1. English, including grammar, etc., with essay on given subject, History (Green's, certain parts), Geography, Arithmetic, Euclid (three books), Algebra, Mechanics, Logic (Jevons, certain chapters), Latin and French (grammar and translation from and into English in each case); 2. And having attended over a period of two summer and one winter sessions as a medical student, at same University, Lectures and Practical Classes in "Natural History," "Anatomy," and "Chemistry"; 3. Other experience gained in spiritual and other fields of usefulness.

4. That a statement, showing all points relative to above training, as well as information in general in support of the prayer of your petitioner, with accompanying credentials, etc., is herewith appended.

5. That your petitioner is married, and has two children, boys of five and three years approximately, and that he will have the assistance of his wife, who is in full sympathy with his work, and is a qualified medical and surgical and midwifery nurse (Victoria).

6. That the Rev. Dr. Cairns and other Ministers have urged this step as a means to early ordination, and that in the West the Revs. A. S. C. James and Crow, and the ministers of the goldfields, have strongly advised it so as to help the forward work of this State.

7. And your petitioner will ever pray.

CHARLES MACKINLAY HILSON.

March 16, 1907.

The foregoing petition is accompanied with the requisite documents, including an extract from a minute of the Goldfields Presbytery, W.A., recommending the petition "to most favourable consideration."

J. MEIKLEJOHN.

(3) MR. E. H. McL. SHUGG.

The petition of Edward Henry McLean Shugg, Student in Arts, to the Venerable the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia, to meet in Adelaide, S.A., on September 18, 1907, humbly sheweth:—

That your petitioner is 23 years of age, and that he is a member of St. Andrew's Church, Carlton. That after the full course of State School instruction, he attended St. Andrew's College, Bendigo, and from there matriculated at the University of Melbourne in November, 1900, passing in eight subjects, subsequently passing in Greek and Latin.

Petitioner became a resident student of Ormond College, and passed first year Arts in 1905. He contracted typhoid fever while doing Home Mission work at Berringa, and was unable to present himself for second year Arts in 1906, but resumed study this year, and hopes to complete the second year of his course in November next. Lack of sufficient means will prevent him from continuing his course next year.

The petitioner craves leave to sit for the next Entrance Examination to the Theological Hall in February, 1908, and proposes to complete his Arts course thereafter.

Trusting that the General Committee will grant him this permission, the petitioner subscribes himself,

E. H. McL. SHUGG.

Presbyterian Church of Victoria.

Presbytery of Melbourne North.

Assembly Hall, Melbourne, August 6, 1907.

The Presbytery met at 2 p.m. for ordinary business, and was duly constituted. *Sederunt*:—Revs. Hugh Kelly (Moderator), W. Fraser, and W. M. M. Alexander (Clerk), C.M.A.

Inter alia, the petition of E. H. McL. Shugg for permission to sit at the Entrance Examination in February, 1908, was taken, and the relevant documents read, and after the special circumstances of the case had been carefully considered, the Presbytery resolved cordially to recommend the petition.

W. M. M. ALEXANDER,

Clerk.

(4) MR. HORATIO O'SULLIVAN.

TO THE VENERABLE THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF AUSTRALIA.

I, Horatio O'Sullivan, do hereby pray that I may be ordained without further studies.

My reasons for so petitioning are: .

1. My health no longer permits me to apply myself to close study.
2. The Theological Hall Committee recommended me for ordination after three years further Home Mission work. It is *now 3 years* since I was last at Ormond. I attended the Hall 1902, 1903, and 1904.

I therefore pray the Venerable Assembly to confirm the recommendation of the Theological Hall Committee.

I remain,

Yours faithfully,

H. O'SULLIVAN.

St. Andrew's, Bendigo, 13th August, 1907. At which time and place the Presbytery met, and was duly constituted. *Inter alia*: A petition from Mr. Horatio O'Sullivan for transmission to the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia was received. The petition was for ordination.

After a lengthy discussion, the Clerk moved—"That the petition be transmitted simpliciter."

The Rev. T. Neilson seconded.

The motion was agreed to unanimously.

—Extracted from the records of the Presbytery of Bendigo by me.

DAVID TELFER, Clerk.

The Manse, Eaglehawk, 15th August, 1907.

(4) PETITION OF MR. A. G. WOOD.

UNTO THE VENERABLE THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF AUSTRALIA.

The petition of the undersigned respectfully sheweth—

That during a recent visit to Junee of the Rev. John Walker, Commissioner of the General Assembly of New South Wales, he showed me the possibility of studying for the ministry of the Church.

In view of my present condition and circumstances, such a possibility had never occurred to me, but after having given the matter earnest consideration, I decided that, if it were at all practicable, I would follow up the suggestion Mr. Walker made, and now respectfully approach your Reverend Court, through the College Committee, for leave to enter the Divinity Hall.

Presuming your Reverend Court will require as much information as possible concerning me, if this petition is to be considered, I beg to set forth briefly, herein, the facts of my life.

I am 34 years of age, Victorian born, of Scottish descent on my mother's side, of English on the side of my father (who is an Elder of the Church), and am a clerk, solely dependent upon an income of £170 a year. I am married, my wife being a daughter of the Rev. Charles Bell, of Wagga Wagga, N.S.W., and a niece of the late Rev. Alex. Yule, M.A., of Parkville, Melbourne, and have two children.

On account of the business movements of my father, I was educated at many schools, commencing at Brockley High School, London, and finishing (as far as schools were concerned) at Sydney High School. I passed the Junior Public Examination, Sydney, in 1889, the pass being, if I remember rightly, in history, English, French, Latin, arithmetic, and geometry. Two years later I passed matriculation, intending to enter the Arts Course, a brother, who has taken his B.E. degree, passing at the same time, a sister, now practising as a doctor in N.S.W., having passed the year previously.

My brother and sister had definitely decided on their careers, I had not; and as my father was unable to bear the expense of a University education for three of us at the same time, I entered the service of the National Bank.

Not caring to relinquish the idea of a University education, however, I attended evening lectures. My only time for study was after lectures at night. My home was at Neutral Bay, some considerable distance from the University. I was a growing lad, not over strong, and the late hours after the tiring work of the day on the Bank's outward exchanges affected my health. A bad attack of influenza, with its consequent depression, left me without hope of passing my first year examination in December, and an application to sit in March having been refused, I left the University.

I endured the Bank for six years, then resigned, and after filling various positions in accountancy (for which I have little taste, my inclinations from boyhood being all literary), was put in charge of the Correspondence and Advertising Department of McLean Bros. & Rigg, Ltd., Melbourne, which company went into liquidation in 1903.

Although fairly regular in attendance at church, and although the world might have said I was living blamelessly, I had not, up to the time of my marriage in 1901, given a great deal of thought to spiritual things. In that year, however, I settled down in East Malvern, Melbourne, the late Rev. William Gardner being then minister of the Ewing Memorial Church, and I became a member of the Church for the first time.

I can look back to no sudden conversion, but the able, wise and convincing teaching of Mr. Gardner (who became a very dear personal friend of my wife's and my own), combined with my wife's silent influence, slowly and surely urged me along the path to the Light.

On coming to Junee in 1905, after a period of unsettlement and adversity, I began actively to engage in Church work by taking a class in the Sabbath School, and since then have been made a member of Committee, Treasurer of the Sustentation Fund, and President of the Fellowship Association.

The Session some time ago asked me to conduct monthly services at two of our outstations, and a third has recently been added to this work, which I am doing at the present time.

My desire is to devote my life to the Master's service, and I now pray your Venerable Court to admit me to the Divinity Hall, accepting as qualification the work I have already done.

I enclose letters from the Rev. John Walker, the Rev. J. D. Landels and the Rev. R. H. Waugh, M.A., in support of this petition, as also a copy of a testimonial from Mr. J. H. Beatson, an Elder of the Church at Neutral Bay.

The N.S.W. Theological Hall Committee unanimously and cordially recommended this application to the favourable consideration of the College Committee and the General Assembly.

The petitioner therefore respectfully prays that your Venerable Court will take this petition into such favourable consideration.

And the petitioner, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

A. G. WOOD.

The letters referred to in the above have been received.

J. MEIKLEJOHN.



REFERENCE.

FROM GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF TASMANIA.

The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia in the State of Tasmania met *pro re nata* in Campbelltown on 13th November, 1906. Sederunt: Rev. F. E. Ozer, Acting Moderator, &c. *Inter alia*, the Committee of the whole on the Draft Code, the Rev. A. F. M. Robb moved the deletion of Rule 7 in the chapter on Home Missions, &c., which reads as follows:—"Home Mission Stations which either (1) have a Communion Roll of 50 *bona fide* members, or (2) pay from their own funds a salary of not less than £100 per annum, are entitled to one representative Elder in the Assembly and Presbytery."

The motion was lost, and the Draft Code was sent down to Presbyteries, &c. At the Assembly which met in Launceston on 19th March, 1907, the Rev. A. F. M. Robb moved the insertion of the words "for the present" before the words "Home Mission Stations." The motion was seconded by the Rev. F. E. Ozer and approved.

Subsequently the Assembly resolved, on the motion of the Rev. A. F. M. Robb, seconded by Rev. F. E. Ozer, to refer to the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia the question as to the competency of such a principle as that enunciated in the rule being embodied in a Code of a Presbyterian Church, and appointed Revs. A. F. M. Robb and F. E. Ozer to state the reference.

JOHN RUSSELL, Clerk of Assembly.

Eyandale, Tasmania, 13th September, 1907.

VII.

REPORTS.

(1) REPORT OF COLLEGE COMMITTEE.

Since last meeting of the General Assembly the Executive of the Committee met in Melbourne as occasion arose. The main business dealt with has concerned matters affecting either the regular students of the Church, or those working in connection with the Home Mission course.

According to the decision of last General Assembly two examinations were held for entrance to the Theological Hall, one in February, and the other in April. In the first examination nineteen names were entered, 17 for Ormond College, and two for St. Andrew's College. The following passed, and are arranged in the order of merit:—

Graduates: P. A. Seymour, B.A., Jas. W. A. Buchan, M.A., John T. Lawton, B.A., H. S. Legge, M.A., A. D. Walker, B.A., W. D. Marshall, B.A., F. J. L. Macrae, B.A.

Non-Graduates: G. A. Stewart, H. T. Balcke, G. E. Harrison, B. J. Buntone.

J. F. Sims failed in Moral Philosophy and History, W. Bett in Hebrew, D. S. Jones and James H. R. Halford in Moral Philosophy. In the supplementary examination—to which these students were entitled—all passed.

For the Entrance Examination, held in April, seven names were entered for St. Andrew's College, and two for Ormond College. The following passed, and are arranged in the order of merit:—

Graduates: A. Crowley, B.A., W. P. Stewart, B.A.

Non-Graduates: G. V. M. James, F. L. A. Schloeffel, and J. Flynn (equal), A. J. Carter, R. G. McCarron.

The following students are in attendance on the classes in the Theological Hall, who have not yet passed the entrance examination. In Ormond College: Alex. McLeod (Mental and Moral Philosophy). In St. Andrew's College: H. R. Grassick, R. B. Garner, J. S. Hamilton, B.A., J. A. Malcolmson, J. Walker, J. W. Yarnall, F. E. Yarnall.

The following students in attendance upon the Theological Hall of St. Andrew's College have yet to obtain the recommendation of the State General Assembly:—H. R. Grassick, F. L. A. Schloeffel, J. A. Malcolmson, F. E. Yarnall, J. W. Yarnall, J. Walker.

A. Crowley, B.A., has not yet sat for the Assembly examination in Greek.

As H. T. Postle (a student of the second year in Ormond College Theological Hall), who was asked by the last General Assembly to pass the University examination in Greek, gave evidence that he had done so, it was agreed to recognize him as a regular theological student.

The examination of Joseph A. Lee, Tasmania, in the first year of the course in lieu of the Hall, was passed and sustained. It was agreed that an examination in the same subjects be submitted in September to James Haynes, of Western Australia, whose case was dealt with by last General Assembly.

A request from J. T. Kelly, Ormond College, who had attended the classes of the first year in the Theological Hall, but who had not entered for any of the examinations, to be allowed to enter the second year, was not granted.

According to the decision of last Assembly, Alex. Macdonald (Woodend) was entered as a theological student of the third year.

In connection with the Home Mission Course, it was agreed that Thomas Thomas (New South Wales), who had taken the Home Mission course in connection with the New Zealand Presbyterian Church, should be regarded as eligible to sit for the Entrance Examination to the Hall. Cornelius Osmond, Western Australia, asked to be graded, in view of his previous

training as a third-year student. It was decided to submit to him the examination of the first year, and to grade him according to the results.

It was agreed that Walter Darby, whose request to be put in the fourth year was supported by a recommendation from the Victorian Home Mission Committee, be graded as a third-year student, with the prospect of being admitted to the Entrance Examination should the results show that he had done exceptionally well. The same decision was come to regarding R. D. Watson.

It was agreed that C. M. Hilson, of Western Australia, who had passed the Matriculation examination of Edinburgh University, and taken there one year of the medical course, be graded as a third-year student, and that his subsequent position should be determined by the results of his examination.

For the examinations in connection with the Home Mission Course, and which begin on August 6th, 76 names have been entered. Of these, 26 are in Victoria, 13 in New South Wales, 22 in Queensland, 4 in South Australia, 5 in Western Australia, and 6 in Tasmania.

In the work of examination it was agreed that Dr. E. N. Merrington be asked to take the place of R. G. Macintyre, B.D. (who resigned) in apologetics. That T. J. Smith, M.A., be asked to act this year in room of H. M. Burns, B.D., and that R. G. Macintyre be asked to act in room of J. Auld in Systematic Theology. The resignation of the Rev. David Smith, M.A., in Hebrew was accepted with regret. It was further agreed that the Rev. J. G. Davies, M.A., should be asked to act, along with Rev. T. S. Crawford, M.A., as examiner of Home Mission students in Logic, and the Rev. Hugh Kelly in Mental Philosophy.

In view of the fact that the Executive has not always before it the requisite certificates of applicants for the Entrance Examination to the Hall, it was agreed to bring the matter under the notice of the General Assembly and to submit also for its consideration the question of the desirability of there being an examination by Presbytery, or otherwise, of the religious experience of the candidate, and his motives for seeking to enter the Christian ministry.

It is with pleasure that the Executive records its appreciation of the efforts of the brethren in New South Wales to implement the Article of Union, which says: "It shall be the aim of the Church to have all its Halls equipped with not less than three Professors, such Professors to be separate from any pastoral charge," and are glad to learn that towards the accomplishment of this desirable end "already £5,000 has been subscribed."

J. MEIKLEJOHN.

SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT OF THE COLLEGE COMMITTEE.

Owing to a regrettable misunderstanding as to the date of the exit examination the returns are not complete in the subject Church History for the third year men of Ormond College and the second year men of St. Andrew's, and in consequence the percentages in that subject are not yet definitely determined.

The following third year men of St. Andrew's College passed in New Testament Greek, Apologetics, and Theology: John Paterson, M.A., with a percentage of 90, and for the whole examination, including Hebrew and Church History, passed last year, 84; J. C. Gibson, 67 per cent., and for whole examination, 64 per cent.; V. C. Duff, B.A., 54 per cent., and for whole examination, 59 per cent.

The following second year men of Ormond College passed in apologetics: J. McKellar Stewart, M.A., 92 per cent.; H. T. Postle, 77; T. J. Riddle, B.A., 75; J. Ferguson Colquhoun, B.A., 72; J. L. Cope, 66; A. H. Fletcher, 64; H. L. Balcke, 61; A. McLeod, 58.

The following third year men of Ormond College sat for Hebrew, theology, and Church history, their percentages so far as complete (including apologetics passed last year) being added in each case: E. E. Baldwin, B.A., 87 per cent.; W. C. Chapman, 81; A. E. Göller, B.A., 74; F. C. Vickerman, B.A., 73; A. S. Houston, B.A., 72; F. Chisholm, 70; H. E. Hunt, 68; T. V. Charlton, 67; C. R. Houston and A. A. Ross, 62; A. C. Sanderson, 55.

The following second year men of St. Andrew's College sat for Hebrew and Church history: E. N. McKie, B.A., percentage, so far as complete, 71; A. D. Walker, B.A., 66; H. R. Grassick, 62; F. L. A. Schloeffel, 56.

Fifty-eight men sat for the Home Mission examination held in all the States in August, and the returns of 54 of them may be regarded as complete. Unfortunately the returns of the four men who sat in West Australia are not yet to hand. Of the fifty-four, twenty-eight passed unconditionally, 12 out of 20 in Victoria, 7 out of 16 in Queensland, 3 out of 9 in New South Wales, 5 out of 5 in Tasmania, 1 out of 4 in South Australia.

Seventeen failed—6 in Victoria, 2 in Queensland, 5 in New South Wales, and 2 in South Australia.

Of the remaining 19, 2 are entitled to a supplementary examination in one subject. The standing of the other seven has yet to be determined by the executive.

Ten men have passed their fourth year, and one third year man has done so well as to gain exemption from a year. Thus, eleven men are entitled to sit for their entrance examination—5 in Victoria, 4 in Queensland, 2 in New South Wales.

A more detailed report of the examination will be printed in connection with the syllabus for the next examination in July, 1908. It may be stated here, however, that the results in English are much more satisfactory this year than last.

J. MEIKLEJOHN.

REPORT OF THE THEOLOGICAL FACULTY.

IN ST. ANDREW'S COLLEGE (UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY), 1907.

The opening lecture of the 1907 Session of the Theological Hall was delivered on Tuesday, March 19, by the Rev. Professor Harper, D.D., who took for his subject: "The Great Qualification for a Successful Ministry." There was a large attendance of ministers and other friends of the Hall. The enrolment of students was proceeded with, when 10 students entered upon the first year's course, 8 of whom had passed through the regular University course, and 2 were Home Mission agents under the new scheme adopted by the General Assembly of Australia. There were also 4 students of the second year and 3 of the third, making the total attendance at the classes 17—the largest in the history of the Hall, of whom 7 are graduates and 8 others are University men.

The classes met regularly till Friday, August 23, when the closing lecture was delivered by the Right Rev. Philip Norman, Moderator of the General Assembly of New South Wales, on "The Trend of Modern Thought as it affects the Student of Theology." During the State General Assembly the Rev. Dr. Dill Macky resigned the position of Lecturer in Systematic Theology, and it was arranged that the work of that class should, for the remainder of the session, be conducted by the Rev. Dr. Harper, with the assistance of the Rev. R. Scott West. The Rev. J. C. MacDonald, M.A., of Orange, delivered during the second term the Steel Lectures on Pastoral Theology, and at the invitation of the Faculty, the Rev. J. Anderson Gardiner, B.A., gave instruction to the students in Sacred Rhetoric. The other classes were conducted as usual, Dr. Harper lecturing on Hebrew and the Exegetical Theology of the Old Testament, Dr. MacInnes on the Exegetical Theology of the New Testament, Dr. Clouston on Historical Theology, Dr. Kinross on Apologetics and Ethics, and Mr. Garland on Ecclesiastical Law and Procedure. The attendance of the students was regular, and they performed the exercises presented by the lecturers in a satisfactory manner.

The Faculty once more appeal to the friends of the Church for funds for the additional equipment of the library with the new books which are appearing in every department of divinity. It is important that the students should have access to all the latest results of research.

T. E. CLOUSTON, President.

G. MACINNES, Secretary.

REPORT OF THE SENATUS OF THE THEOLOGICAL HALL,
ORMOND COLLEGE, FOR SESSION 1907.

The forty-second Session of the Theological Hall was opened in March with a lecture by the President, Professor Rentoul, on the subject: "Ancient Discoveries in Bible Lands, especially Egypt, in their Bearing on Religion."

During this session the subjects of Systematic Theology and Church History have been taught by the Rev. Dr. Meiklejohn and the Right Rev. Alexander Stewart, M.A., Moderator of the General Assembly.

Thirty-six students have been in attendance during the session, being nine more than last year, and the largest number on record since the foundation of the Hall. Twelve of these are graduates; and of the rest a good proportion are University men.

With one or two exceptions the health of the students has been good: and the attendance and diligence of all has been satisfactory.

All the students of the third year, having completed their course in the Hall, and having performed all the exercises and tests demanded of them, are authorized to proceed to the Exit Examination.

The students of the second year, having also completed their course in Apologetic and Christian Philosophy, are authorized to sit at the Exit Examination in that subject.

The "George Wilson Lectures on Elocution."—The Rev. E. Rorke, B.A., reports that "twenty-five students attended the class; that the attendance was for the most part regular, and the students gave diligent attention to the work. The competition for the George Wilson prize was very keen. Omitting the prizetakers, the difference between the remaining eight competitors only amounted to less than 10 per cent. The prizetakers are: First, Mr. J. Ferguson Colquhoun, B.A.; and second, Mr. J. L. Cope. The Rev. J. Matthew, M.A., B.D., was kind enough to assist the lecturer in deciding the competition."

The Theological Society has held weekly meetings during the session, consisting alternately of prayer meetings and addresses from visiting ministers, who dealt largely with the practical aspects of ministerial life and work. These addresses have been exceptionally helpful and interesting.

The Missionary Society has undertaken the support of an industrial assistant at the Mapoon Aboriginal Mission, North Queensland, and of a native teacher at Tanna, New Hebrides. The former costs £60 and the latter £6 per annum.

The usual Historical Class for undergraduate students has been conducted by Mr. E. E. Baldwin, B.A., the "John Thomson Hebrew Tutor."

The Library has been increased by the purchase of books and also by donations, especially by a splendid gift from Mrs. Ross, widow of the Rev. W. Ross, formerly minister of the Church at Lancefield. Mrs. Ross has given her husband's library to the College, part of it to be placed in the Library and the remainder to be given to the students.

The Library is open every day for study and reference, and it has been arranged that ministers and non-theological students shall have the use of the Library on payment of a small fee, and on conditions that will secure the primary claims of the students of theology.

The Assistant Librarian reports that 329 books have been lent out to students in the Hall during the session.

Neither ministers nor non-theological students have taken advantage of the facilities of the library on the terms specified.

The session was closed on the 16th August with a Communion Service for the students and a public address by the Moderator of the Assembly on "Our Country, our Time, and our Call."

ALEXANDER SKENE,
Secretary of the Senatus.

(2) REPORT OF HOME MISSION COMMITTEE.

I regret that in consequence of my protracted illness I have not been able to make this report as full as I could have wished, but my deputy, who undertook the work for me, has made it as full as the material to hand allowed. In order that the answers to questions may be intelligible, I append the list of questions sent to each State, viz.:—

1. What new fields has your Committee opened up?
2. What fields abandoned?
3. How many Home Mission districts erected into sanctioned charges and settled?
4. How many ordained ministers does your Committee employ?
5. How many Divinity Students?
6. How many Arts Students (Matriculated)?
7. How many Lay Agents—
 - (a) Studying under the General Assembly's Scheme?
 - (b) How many Agents has your Committee not under the scheme?
8. How many Agents had your Committee lost?
9. How many workers added to your list of recognized Lay Agents?
10. What has your Committee done to meet the recommendation of the General Assembly of Australia anent Thursday Island?

REPORT OF NEW SOUTH WALES HOME MISSION COMMITTEE.

During the year the Home Mission Settlement in Woolloomooloo (Sydney) has been inaugurated. Miss Eva Holland has been appointed Deaconess, and Miss Sarah McLean to assist in connection with the house which is the manse of the Palmer Street Church, and rented from the Committee of that Church.

The North-West District has been erected into a Home Mission District, with Rev. M. Henry, B.A. (late of Clunes) as Superintendent, and Rev. P. A. Smith in charge of the Gospel Car. Home Mission agents are to be appointed under the supervision of the Superintendent as the necessity arises.

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS.

1. New fields have been opened up by the Committee, viz., Coramba, Trangie (assistant), Tweed Heads, Gostford-Wyong, Scone (assistant), Wentworth, Broken Hill (assistant), Cowra (assistant), Temora (assistant)—in all nine.
2. Fields abandoned? None.
3. Home Mission Districts erected into charges and settled? Five, viz., Berrigan, Cessnock, Kyogle, Bingera, Howlong.
4. Ordained Ministers employed? Eighteen.
5. Divinity Students? Sixteen.
6. Art Students? Five
7. Lay Agents—
 - (a) Under Assembly's Scheme? Fourteen.
 - (b) Not under Scheme? Twenty.
8. Agents lost? Two.
9. Workers added to list of recognized Agents? Nil.
10. Nothing done about Thursday Island.

REPORT OF VICTORIA HOME MISSION COMMITTEE.

For the period under review the Committee has prosecuted along the usual lines its work among the Mission Stations. The number under its care is 90.

The scarcity of suitable men for the work has been a great hindrance,

and the difficulty was accentuated owing to the number of Home Missionaries who, by qualifying for the Theological Hall, retired from distant stations in the country. Notwithstanding the need for Agents, applications from men who were deemed unlikely to come up to the standard required in our Church were rejected.

Nine Home Missionaries passed the last Entrance Examination to the Theological Hall, Ormond College, and all of them are taking Greek and Hebrew in the classes.

Classes have been held at Ormond College for the instruction of Home Missionaries who are studying the Assembly's scheme of training, and steps are being taken to induce a larger number of the Agents to avail themselves of its advantages.

The Victorian Assembly has authorized a new department of the Home Mission, whose special duty shall be to foster and initiate work in the more densely-populated parts of Melbourne and suburbs. The aim is to strengthen existing congregational agencies, rather than to establish others, and a sum of £1,000 was voted from the Twentieth Century Fund to enable certain pressing needs in the way of building and equipment to be immediately met. The Rev. D. Macrae Stewart, Malvern, is the Convener of the new City Work Branch.

The services of the Director, the Rev. D. A. Cameron, have been of great service to the Committee, and have been warmly appreciated in the places he has visited. Half the Mission charges, and one-third of the effective congregations have been visited by him or his deputies.

The Victorian Church requires from its Licentiates a year of service in stations that have nearly attained the position of a charge, or have special features; by the application of this rule, men have been ordained and inducted in four places. One Licentiate was allowed to go to West Australia, and three have been promised to South Australia, and one to West Australia for 1907-8, if they are willing to go.

Festivals have been held in several centres; these have proved a valuable source of income, and have helped to arouse greater interest in the work of the Church.

The income from all sources for the financial year was £2,802 6s. 7d., and a collection for the Home Mission work in West Australia realized the sum of £207 19s. 5d.

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS.

1. Eight new fields have been opened, viz., Braybrook, Fairfield, Jerraloug, Kinglake, Mansfield, South Richmond, Wangerrip, Zuroke.
2. No field has been abandoned, but four have been temporarily suspended.
3. Two Home Mission Districts have been erected into Church Extension Charges—Dookie and Wycheproof.
4. The Committee employs nine ordained ministers and four licentiates.
5. Twelve Divinity Students.
6. Three Arts Students.
7. (a) Twenty-six Lay Agents studying the Assembly's Scheme—seven are in first year, five are in second year, eight are in third year, six are in fourth year.
(b) Thirty-one Agents not under Scheme.
8. Two Agents have left our service, one of whom has joined the staff of New South Wales.
9. Nine new workers added to our list of Agents.

REPORT OF TASMANIA CHURCH EXTENSION COMMITTEE.

The Mission Stations effectively manned and re-organized during the last two years show signs of consolidation and progress. We are still busy trying to revive several old and neglected fields. A new station has been made at Linda, on the West Coast, in response to the urgent request of the people. An important field in the eastern mining districts has been somewhat neglected, owing to the difficulty of finding a suitable agent, but we hope soon to set matters right. A serious attempt is being made to organize a cause in Newtown, an important suburb of Hobart, and the Committee is preparing the way for other forward movements.

Our staff has been strengthened this year by the addition of three

young men drawn from our own congregations. We are making efforts to stimulate our own men to offer their services for the Mission-field, rather than look abroad for agents. One practical difficulty is that we are often obliged to send our young, inexperienced missionary-students to places where they do not, and sometimes cannot, enjoy the supervision and help of an experienced minister, which they so much need, and which is so admirably provided for in our Presbyterian system.

Before next Assembly our Senior Missionary may be eligible for the first year of his theological course, and we shall be faced with the problem what to do with his wife and family (for he happens to be a married man), and with his charge, which is naturally an important one, during the six months he is away in Melbourne. We look to the Assembly to devise some means of meeting this difficulty, which must in a few years assume large dimensions, if the present scheme of training is adhered to.

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS.

1. Two; Linda and Newtown.
2. None.
3. None.
4. One.
5. One.
6. None.
7. (a) Six.
(b) One.
8. Three.
9. Three.

REPORT OF QUEENSLAND HOME MISSION COMMITTEE.

The work of the Committee has been confined to the supply of Home Mission charges, and of sanctioned charges which are vacant. The Committee has adopted no new methods of working, but has followed those which experience has shown to be adapted to our circumstances. There has been considerable activity in the Home Mission field during the past year, owing to the settlement of population in new centres, which the Committee desires to follow up with all possible speed. In the case of Cloncurry we have anticipated an increase of population, owing to the prospects connected with the opening up of the district by the railway now in course of building, and have stationed an agent there. The Committee has before it many possible new fields, into which, it is to be hoped, it will be able to enter without much delay.

Again we have to remark upon the altogether inadequate supply of ministers, and the consequent unduly large number of vacancies. Since this time last year only two ministers have come into the State; one, under call, from the Presbyterian Church of England, and the other from the United Free Church of Scotland. Since then, however, we have had the pleasure of licensing and ordaining one of our own students, the first in ten years. At present there are thirteen charges vacant, and the prospect of another being added soon to the list.

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS.

1. New fields? Seven.
2. Fields abandoned? None.
3. Erected into charges, etc.? None.
4. Ordained ministers employed? None.
5. Divinity students employed? None.
6. Arts students employed? None.
7. Lay Agents employed—
(a) Studying under Assembly's Scheme? Twenty-two.
(b) Not under Scheme? Three.
8. Agents lost? One.
9. Added to list of recognized Lay Agents? Six.

REPORT OF SOUTH AUSTRALIAN HOME MISSION.

In spite of unexpected difficulties, the Home Mission operations of the Church in South Australia afford grounds for thankfulness and hope. If not much additional work has been undertaken, the opinion may be ventured with confidence that the Church is recognizing the dimensions of the work that lies to hand. Several causes have contributed to this. In the shifting of population, consequent on the opening up of new agricultural hundreds, the Church recognizes an opportunity to recover, in measure, ground lost in earlier years. Then the action of last General Assembly, with the object of bringing the Home Mission work of the various States under its purview, has done much in directing attention to the spiritual necessities of the more remote parts of the Commonwealth, and to the common Home Mission obligation of the State Churches, as parts of the Australian Presbyterian Church. The assurance that the weaker State Churches would not be thrown entirely on their own resources in dealing with local needs, but would receive all available help and sympathy from the General Assembly, has also contributed substantially to the more hopeful outlook in South Australia. In the enumeration of the heartening influences that have been at work in this State a foremost place must be given to the powerful advocacy of Principal Harper, who visited nearly all our congregations in the interests of Home Mission work. The new agricultural hundreds present several desirable openings for Home Mission work. In the Pinnaroo and Lameroo districts, in the South-East, three important mission centres could at once be occupied, if the Home Mission Committee had the needed men and money. The West Coast and other parts of Eyres Peninsula could easily absorb four or five more; while the Far North still awaits development. An addition to the present staff of at least five or six ministers and the same number of lay missionaries will be required to work these proposed new spheres. Besides its own mission charges, six in number, the Committee has also to find pulpit supply for three promising suburban movements and three ministerial charges, which have lately become vacant. Available supply is so much below our needs that we are often indebted to preachers of other Churches for the manning of our vacant pulpits. Apart from the needs of the new fields, this lack of suitable agents has greatly hampered the work of the Committee during the past year.

Though interest in Home Mission work has increased, the financial response of congregations has not kept pace with the needs of the Committee. The present position in this regard shows that the Committee, in its endeavours to meet the growing needs of Church extension, has substantially exceeded its income. The ordinary revenue is £300, but the account is already in debt to the extent of nearly £400. To place the finances of the Committee on a satisfactory basis needs an income of at least £500. Special appeals are now being made to congregations to provide more adequate resources. But, even if the desired £500 per annum is secured, that will not enable the Committee to do anything for the proposed new centres on Eyre's Peninsula and in the South-East and northern parts of the State. The position amounts to this: that the work of providing ordinances in these remote but promising settlements is quite beyond local resources. The Church in this State requires substantial help before she can "go up and possess the land."

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS.

1. One suburban field.
2. None.
3. None.
4. One.
5. None.
6. None.
7. (a) Four. (b) Three.
8. None.
9. Two.

JOHN FERGUSON.

Convener.

(3) REPORT OF BOARD OF MISSIONS.

The Board of Missions, in reporting for the year ending 30th June, 1907, has again cause to call the Church to thankfulness to Almighty God for the share given to it in evangelising the heathen. The Board directs attention to the subjoined reports from the missionaries and the different Churches in the States of the Commonwealth.

At Mapoon the work is proceeding in its usual steady and successful way. At Weipa Miss Schick has retired from her position as teacher and been thanked by the Board for her valued services. Miss Schick left the station with Mr. and Mrs. Brown, who started on their much-needed furlough in July. Considerable changes have had to be arranged for carrying on the work at Weipa during their absence. It was originally intended that Mr. Galloway, assistant at Aurukun, would, with Mrs. Galloway, occupy the station. But Mr. Galloway has felt compelled to resign his position and to leave the field on the ground of its unsuitability to the health of his family, and he has come south. This is a matter of much regret to the Board.

The rearrangements made by Mr. Hey under the authority of the Queensland Executive are that Mr. and Mrs. Richter, who have by the blessing of God returned to the field restored in health, will take charge at Weipa with the aid of an assistant. At Aurukun, Peter Bee, formerly a native teacher with the London Missionary Society, and for eighteen months assistant to Mr. Hey at Mapoon, will, with his wife, take charge. He will be assisted by a native couple from Mapoon. Mr. Hey will have the chief oversight and direction of the station.

During the year some trouble arose through the recruiting of natives from the mission reserve at Mapoon. It is now fairly certain that this undesirable recruiting for the pearling boats will not recur. The Thursday Island press gave considerable assistance to the missionaries, and the Queensland Executive, in securing so favorable an issue from a great danger to the mission.

The Board, after consultation with the Queensland Executive on the request of the Moravian Board for the appointment of the Rev. N. Hey, of Mapoon as Superintendent of the North Queensland Mission, recommends, on the advice of the Executive, that the request be not granted since the appointment of Mr. Hey as Superintendent in the Moravian sense, would give him episcopal authority over the other missionaries, and make him responsible to the Moravian Board for the proper discharge of their duties. It further recommends that the existing arrangement be continued by which Mr. Hey is required to visit the other stations and to consult with and advise the mission workers, and that he report annually to the Board of Missions through the Queensland Executive.

The Board has now ascertained definitely that the Moravian Board of Missions charges itself with the education of the children of the missionaries so that no provision for this falls to be made from our funds. It is a fair set-off to such relief that our Board should contribute £7 a year to the Moravian beneficiary funds for each missionary—the amount annually charged to us which has made the apparent increase of our indebtedness to the Moravian Board under its long outstanding claim.

The contributions of the various States to the furlough expenses of the Rev. E. Brown have been: New South Wales, £100; Victoria, £42 3/6; Queensland, £31 8/; making in all £173 11/6. Mr. and Mrs. Brown are now either in Europe or on the way there. The Board recommends that permanent furlough arrangements hereafter shall be that after the third and sixth years of service respectively, a furlough of three months to be given, and a furlough of twelve months after the ninth year of service, provided that the conference of the missionaries on the field is satisfied with the arrangements made for the supervising of the absentee's station during his absence; and, further, that the missionary on furlough be allowed travelling expenses for his main journeys from and to his station, not exceeding second-class fare by rail or steamboat.

The Church of New South Wales, with great promptitude and generosity, complied with the request of last Assembly and found the money to pay Mr. Richter £120 due as arrears for his assistant at Aurukun, and undertook, in addition, the payment of the assistant's salary of £60 for the current year. This action has greatly eased the pressure threatened on the Board's finances. Like promptitude was shown by the Queensland Church in continuing to maintain the boat communications with the mission. The cordial acknowledgments of the Assembly are due to both churches.

The response to the Board's appeal on behalf of an aboriginal mission in Western Australia was unexpectedly, even pitifully, small. It amounted to £1 17/6. The Board recommends that the State Churches be asked for one special collection in every congregation in aid of this object.

FINANCE.

When the Assembly is in session its Board of Missions enterprise will be practically out of debt. The balance due so long to the Moravian Board may then be remitted without making the overdraft at the bank more than £25 when all other charges are met.

The Honorary Treasurer summarises the actual cost of the North Queensland Mission thus:—

Expenditure:

(1) Salaries, three missionaries	£600	0	0
(2) Assistants (three)	180	0	0
(3) Moravian Beneficiary Funds	21	0	0
(4) Expenses, &c., re J. G. Ward, boat	81	0	0
(5) Other expenses, average for last four years	41	0	0
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	£923	0	0

Receipts:

(1) Assistants supported by Victoria, New South Wales, and Queensland	£180	0	0
(2) Expenses J. G. Ward paid by New South Wales and Queensland	81	0	0
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	£261	0	0

Amounts collected by assessments on State Churches, £662.

If the Assembly approves the proposal made above for furlough travelling expenses, undertakes the maintenance of the boat service, makes a reasonable provision for preserving the mission properties, and adheres to the existing arrangement for the payment of assistants, the annual items to be levied for will be—

(1) Salaries of three Missionaries	£600	0	0
(2) Moravian Beneficiary Fund	21	0	0
(3) Boat service	80	0	0
(4) Property Repairs	40	0	0
(5) Furloughs	45	0	0
(6) General Working Expenses	45	0	0
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	£831	0	0

The statistics of membership supplied to the Board are—

Church of Victoria	27,185
Church of New South Wales	16,824
Church of Queensland	6,377
Church of South Australia	1,737
Church of Tasmania	1,714
Church of Western Australia	1,098
	<hr/>
	54,935

An approximate calculation from these figures indicates assessment as follows:—

Victoria	£414	0	0
New South Wales	255	0	0
Queensland	97	0	0
South Australia	25	0	0
Tasmania	25	0	0
Western Australia	15	0	0
	<hr/>		
	£831	0	0

It will be convenient, and the Board recommends, that these amounts be the annual assessments for the expenses named during the next three years.

The honorary officers of the Board, the Treasurer, and the Auditor have been most helpful in the work during the year, and should have their services owned by the Assembly.

ALEX. STEWART, Convener.

WEIPA.

The first thing that comes to mind in reviewing the past year is the directly spiritual.

In December three were admitted to Church membership by baptism. Two of these were young men, whilst the third was the infant son of one of the Christian women. The father, though not a decided Christian, was equally glad with the mother to dedicate their infant to the Lord. This being the first infant to be baptized by us, it gave us an opportunity to emphasize how completely the true Christian belongs to God, and to set before our little Church their obligation toward those who are born into the Church.

Six others, who, having asked for baptism, have been receiving special instruction with a view thereto, have by their lives shown their sincerity.

Thus, little by little, can be recorded some signs of spiritual progress.

But, as perhaps is natural, all is not bright. In fact, to us it seems often as though the dark predominates. Sometimes it seems as though for a season the enemy obtained full control of all the people, Christian and non-Christian alike. But after the darkness of night comes always the dawn of day, and anon we are cheered and encouraged: and thus, at the close of another year, we can be persuaded that our labour has not been in vain.

Medical and surgical skill has been required as usual. Our people are free from many diseases to which the more civilized races of the world are subject, *e.g.*, heart trouble and indigestion; but other things they share in common with others, *e.g.*, malarial fever, being quite as bad with them as with others. Bad colds and influenza are frequent visitors. Scarcely a day passes that there are not some attendants at the dispensary, the number varying from one to fifty. Then there being no doctor between Cooktown and Thursday Island we have been sometimes called upon to treat whites, who have come from inland. Amongst the staff there has been, we are thankful to say, less fever this year than usual.

Matters scholastic have gone on much as usual during the year, both with the day- and Sunday-schools and evening classes. In the day-school progress has been made in the three R's, though with blacks, as with most whites, arithmetic is vexatious, and, consequently, what is done in that subject is at the cost of much weariness and many a headache on the part of the teacher. On the other hand, being very musical, they learn new pieces readily, and are able to acquit themselves very creditably. Mr. Howard, the Chief Protector of Aborigines, inspected the school on November 21, and expressed himself pleased with what he saw and heard there.

The event of the year was the resignation of Miss Schick, whose official connection with the school ceased on the last day of June. This being therefore the last opportunity, it may not be out of place to speak of the ability and love which she brought to her work. The way in which she threw herself, literally, into her work, her devotion thereto, even to the detriment of her own health, could not well be surpassed. I am confident that it will be hard indeed to fill her place with one who brings to the work

such loving devotion as she. She departs assured of a very warm place in the affections of all who have been her pupils.

The industrial part of the work has been carried on under a great disadvantage, as, during a good part of the year, we were without an assistant. Agriculture was greatly handicapped by heavy floods, which on two occasions swept away large parts of the garden—soil, crops, and all.

One distinct advance was made by one man, who, in his spare time, made, with his wife's help, a small garden close to his house and cropped it. We then rewarded him by assisting to put a good fence around it.

Of general work we made again a large quantity of bricks, this time using saltwater instead of fresh, it being much more easily procured. A concrete floor was laid in the church, to replace the sand which was used before. A neat wire fence was put around the church and along one side of the paddock, nearest to the station buildings. The houses in the village were repaired as necessity arose, and the outside of the mission-house was repainted. A new and larger dormitory for the girls was partly built, the old one not being large enough for the thirty girls, who are now boarders.

As visitors we had the Chief Protector in his official capacity in November, Mr. and Mrs. W. S. Park of Sydney, and Mr. Hay, all as friends, in May. By their presence amongst us for a few days we were greatly cheered and benefited both in body and mind. Our people also greatly appreciated their kindness in coming amongst them, and seemed to enter into the spirit of the occasion. The children especially laid themselves out to give pleasure to the visitors in a manner we had never seen before.

Christmas was again made a festive season by the kind and loving gifts of our many friends in the Churches of the south. Without these Christmas would be little but a name, like other Church festivals, but with them it is a season of real enjoyment, and also an education in practical love and sympathy. Thus, again we would record our sincere thanks to all the kind friends who contribute thereto. May they indeed find that it is more blessed to give than to receive!

To Him who is our Lord and Master, and who orders all things for our good, we would ascribe all thanks for His mercy and love, which again has been unailing through another year. May His mercy still attend us, and bless our labours!

EDWIN BROWN.

MAPOON

In reporting on the work of the year under review the dominant note of the chord which we strike is gratitude to God and to the Church for all the mercies and sympathy we have experienced.

1. The total number of aboriginals under our care is about 400, of whom 200, including the children, have settled down, the remainder still come and go as they please.

Although the roaming instinct is very strong in some, yet they all, without exception, look upon the Mapoon Mission as their home.

The general behaviour of our people has been all that could be desired except where outside influences interfered. The health of the natives on the whole was not satisfactory, in spite of the great attention paid to all matters of general sanitation.

2. Religious services have been held every morning attended by all employed on the station. Every Sunday morning and evening divine services were conducted, and in the afternoon Sunday-school and Bible classes. During the week the first half hour in school both morning and afternoon was devoted to Bible reading and religious instruction. Every Wednesday night open air meetings were held in the native village, and Saturday was always closed with a prayer meeting in the church. In spite of many drawbacks and disappointments there is decided spiritual life among our people, and the influence of the Gospel is everywhere apparent.

During the year nine persons (four adults and five children) were added to the Church by baptism. With every new year new problems have to be solved. The young church, comprising now 44 members, has to be gradually educated to its responsibilities and privileges. Christian rules and ethics in

accordance with the national character have to be revised to keep up with the intellectual and outward improvements of the people.

3. The secular instruction in the day school was carried out by Mrs. Ward, according to the instructions of the Government, in a very effective and efficient way. The average attendance was 69, and, as 64 of the children are boarders, regularity of attendance is assured. Nineteen of these children are reformatory inmates, and are partly supported by the Government. Most of the remainder are adopted and provided for by various agencies in the church throughout Australia.

To the training and future settlement of the young a considerable portion of our time has been devoted, and the results have justified us in so doing. It is not so much what the children actually learn, but the discipline and methods observed and the attention and obedience to the rules that is of greatest value, because it makes them agents of civilization among their own people. Out of school hours both boys and girls received further suitable and practical instruction in the many departments of station life. Our half-caste girls are very much sought after as wives by the islanders under the care of the London Missionary Society. We even received applications from Europeans. The Weipa assistant will shortly be married to one of our reformatory girls, and thus will be enabled to serve the Mission in return.

4. A good deal of secular work was accomplished during the year, and it proved a mighty auxiliary for good, though at times a severe tax upon the missionaries' time and strength. The building, outhouses, including native cottages, comprising 45 buildings, have all been kept in repair, in addition to the boats used in fishing and other industries. The stock, as well as the gardens proved a splendid means to keep the people from idleness, and at the same time a source of income. In fact, we have been able to meet the running expenses of the mission boat, "J. G. Ward," ourselves, and I need not burden you, therefore, this year with a statement of expenses.

5. Our out station has been vigorously pushed forward to prevent stagnation. A comfortable dwelling for our industrial assistant has been erected, and we find by division of labor more can be accomplished than otherwise. It is too soon yet to tabulate results, but we are sure that only good can come out of it. Before finally concluding we would tender, once more, our best thanks to all our staunch friends all over Australia who have denied themselves many a pleasure and comfort to help us and our people. We are also very grateful for the kind consideration and sympathy extended to us by you and your Committee. Commending ourselves and the whole work in North Queensland to the further prayerful sympathy of the Church. In the name of the Mission Staff,

N. HEY.

AURUKUN.

This annual report will not contain many important facts. There has not been much improvement in the year passed. As the work here is entirely dependent on the missionaries (and the state of our health was a poor one) much progress cannot be seen.

THE SCHOOL.

has been kept almost continually from September to April, with the exception of March. The attendance has not been as regular as the year before, though the number of children has almost been the same. A good number of boys could no longer be taken to school as they had grown rather too big now, and some of the girls got married. A small number of new ones, however, appeared. Of a progress in their accomplishments can hardly be spoken, the majority have not come beyond reading the alphabet. Besides the fact that our black children are very unsteady, the need of a teacher, who can devote herself entirely to the teaching, was greatly felt. As long as we cannot keep school regularly, the children will not learn steadiness. A great blow to the school work was the fact that all the girls in the dormitory left us. Blacks from another place had spread the news that the Protector of Aborigines would take these girls away and marry them to South Sea Islanders. Their suspicion naturally reached its height when

we told them that we would take them with us to the church-opening at Mapoon, then they all disappeared. The old confidence is not yet won in the same measure as we seem to have before that. This as well as ill-health has prevented us from taking any girls as boarders again to us. As to the boys, they have stayed with us from September to Christmas.

THE MANUAL LABOUR.

never stopped as long as any of us could creep, though not so much was done as at other years. Still at the end of 1906 the Station was to a certain extent completed; the Mission premises are shut by a strong fence all around. Each part—yard, garden, &c.—is closed up separately. Also the Mission house is finished, and Aurukun looks more like a Station now, the stumps and trees all having been dug out. A number of people have learnt to become more useful, men as well as women. One man started to make a house for himself of his own accord, and he got on quite well. When, however, the old people began to pull his house down, and to take the timber as firewood, he got disheartened and left the work. The ruins have already disappeared. The teaching of washing and sewing has been a very slow work, but a number of women are now able to do it quite nicely.

THE SPIRITUAL WORK.

was done as before, by Sunday and week-day services, morning prayers, teaching hymns, and by the daily intercourse with the people. It is done as we believe in the simplest manner possible to reach the people. Nevertheless, we often feel that we are not understood. Two main reasons for that are that religion is too abstract for a people that have been so long without any worship, and whose finer feelings seem to have altogether died. So far I have not seen a sign of any Aurukun men bearing a bad conscience after having committed some wrong. Further, they are so used to have their thoughts everywhere, while listening, the heart being so full of thorns, that the good seed is choked. At times certain people seem to make a spiritual progress, but at other times again nothing is seen. Thus also the third year has been a sewing in hope.

MEDICINE AND MEDICAL TREATMENT.

Though the natives have their own doctors and medicine, they, at least the majority, only know too well that they would be better without them: and those that do go to the doctor only go because they fear them. So we have our hands often full with different cases of sores and ailments. Most of these sores are of a syphilitic nature. Syphilis is due to their very unclean and impure life, void of all morality. If the power of the Gospel could change their lives at once, we would not only get a healthier nation, but their dying out may be avoided. We are glad to report that the state of health has very much improved since the commencement of Aurukun, and that again none of our blacks died at the Station, not even in times of dengue epidemics, though some have been very low. Away in the bush, however, where people were not under the missionaries' care, a great number of strong young persons and some children were carried off. We are thankful for the help we can render to our people, and wished they would learn to understand by it the better the Great Samaritan's love towards them.

During the year passed we spent four months away from the Station, the Rev. D. and Mrs. Galloway having taken our place during our absence. We are very grateful for the time of rest, without which we would not have been able to continue our work here.

Commending our people and us again to the intercession of our friends,
I am, yours very sincerely,

A. RICHTER.

General Assembly's Foreign Mission Board.

From 19th July, 1906, to 26th July, 1907.

RECEIPTS.	£ s. d.	EXPENDITURE.	£ s. d.
To Ordinary Contributions—		By Balance from last year	170 17 8
Victoria to 30/6/07 (including £60 from Ormond College Missionary Society)	397 2 6	Salaries—	
New South Wales to 30/6/07 (including £180 for Rev. A. Richter's Assistant's Salary for three years)	374 0 0	Rev. N. Hey, to 30/6/07	200 0 0
Queensland to 30/6/07 (including £60 for Boatman's wages)	130 0 0	Rev. E. Brown, to 30/6/07	200 0 0
South Australia to 30/9/07	18 0 0	Rev. A. Richter, to 30/6/07	200 0 0
Tasmania to 30/9/07	18 0 0	Rev. N. Hey's Assistant, to 30/6/07	60 0 0
Special Contributions in reduction of Overdraft—		Rev. E. Brown's Assistant, to 30/6/07	15 0 0
Victoria	81 7 6	Rev. A. Richter's Assistant, to 30/6/07 (3 years)	180 0 0
New South Wales	48 1 11	Boatman's wages to 30/6/07	60 0 0
Queensland	17 6 6	Repairs "J. G. Ward"	62 5 2
South Australia	4 16 6	Expenses "J. G. Ward" (2 years)	19 2 0
Tasmania	4 16 0	Passages to Thursday Island, Rev. A. Richter's Assistant	19 8 6
Queensland—Expenses "J. G. Ward" (2 years)	19 2 0	Fittings, Rev. A. Richter's house	10 1 6
Queensland—towards repairs "J. G. Ward"	39 0 2	Cost of Drafts, &c.	8 19 2
New South Wales—do.	23 5 0	Interest on Overdraft	1 19 6
Collection at Demonstration at the time of the General Assembly	16 18 1	Convener's Expenses	1 0 0
Interest on Deferred Deposit Receipt	6 0 4	Expenses Convener attending General Assembly	5 5 0
Interest on Bequest late Mrs. S. L. Comrie	4 11 10	Bank Charges for Keeping Account	0 10 0
Sale of Native Weapons	4 0 0		
General Assembly's Expenses Fund and New Hebrides Maritime Service Board towards Convener's Expenses attending Assembly	5 2 0		
Balance	2 18 2		
	<u>£1,214 8 6</u>		<u>£1,214 8 6</u>

71

MORAVIAN BOARD'S DEBT ACCOUNT.

	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
To Balance from last year	76 6 3	By Moravian Board	100 0 0
Victoria	57 2 9	Balance in hand	86 15 1
New South Wales	34 5 1		
Queensland	12 5 0		
South Australia	3 10 6		
Tasmania	3 5 6		
	<u>£186 15 1</u>		<u>£186 15 1</u>
		*Account due the Moravian Board. £136 4/9.	

REV. E. BROWN'S FURLOUGH ACCOUNT.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
To Balance from last year	41	13	6	By Balance in hand	173	11	6
Contributions, N.S.W.	100	0	0				
Contributions, Queensland	31	8	0				
Contributions, Victoria	0	10	0				
	<u>173</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>6</u>		<u>173</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>6</u>

WEIPA BUILDING ACCOUNT.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
To Balance from last year	17	4	6	By Balance in hand	17	4	6

LA CROSSE ISLAND.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
To Contributions, Victoria	1	17	6	By Balance in hand	1	17	6

12

SUMMARY OF BALANCES.

CREDITS.				ASSETS.			
	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Moravian Board	86	15	1	Deposit in A.D. & M. Bank, due 13/9/10, in the name of the Federal Assembly's F.M. Board ..	172	9	9
Rev. E. Brown's Furlough	173	11	6				
Weipa Building	17	4	6				
La Crosse Island	1	17	6				
	<u>279</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>7</u>				
Less Debit Balance—							
General Account	2	18	2				
Balance in Colonial Bank	<u>276</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>5</u>		<u>172</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>9</u>

A. L. PRYDE, Treasurer.

I certify that I have audited the accounts of the General Assembly's Foreign Mission Fund, and that the above statement of accounts is, in my opinion, correct.
29th July, 1907.

WM. L. MOLLISON, A.I.A.V., Hon. Auditor.

APPENDIX.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

REPORT OF THE FOREIGN MISSIONS COMMITTEE.

In connection with our Foreign Missions work everything has gone on quietly, nothing very extraordinary happening.

THE NEW HEBRIDES.

The Rev. D. L. Paterson and his wife continue, with quiet steadiness, their work at Malo and Tutuba. The population of these two islands is about 1,300, and the ordinary attendance at the Sabbath services is about 1,000. The number of Communicants is 82.

During the year there has been considerable discussion in the daily papers concerning the alleged trading by the Missionaries of our Church in the New Hebrides. As far as our Missionary was concerned, we wished to ascertain the strength of it. The result of our inquiries was very satisfactory. Mr. Paterson unequivocally denies the charge as far as he is concerned, stating that he has never at any time carried on trade in any shape or form.

THE CHINESE MISSION.

The Rev. John Young Wai has been most assiduous in the prosecution of his labours in and around Sydney. He excels as a pastor. During the year he has visited the large and thickly-populated districts of Waterloo, Alexandria, Newtown, Rushcutters' Bay, and Rose Bay; in all the workshops and warehouses in the city; and the patients in the Sydney, Prince Alfred and Little Bay Hospitals, as well as at Callan Park, Gladesville and Parramatta Institutions.

Six infants and five adults have been baptised during the past year.

Mr. James Keim Yee has been very active at Newcastle and at West and East Maitland. His work has been carried on with varying fortunes. There are indications, however, that the tide has at last turned. Mr. Keim Yee spent his holiday in the New England district, where he has visited large numbers of his countrymen, whom he has interested in the work he is carrying on at Newcastle and Maitland.

THE SHOLINGHUR MISSION.

This is really the special field of our Women's Missionary Association, an organisation in connection with our Church which is responsible for a tremendous amount of work in connection with all the Missions of our Church. As regards the work of organisation at home, a very estimable lady from the Albury Church has been appointed as a travelling Organising Secretary. Miss Jessie Heath has already proved herself, both physically and mentally, well adapted for her office. Miss Heath, during the short time since her appointment, has visited the Presbyteries of the Clarence, New England, Monaro, Young, and Goulburn, and has formed no less than forty branches of the Women's Missionary Association. The number of these branches now stands at 116.

Miss Daisy Symonds, B.A., arrived in Sydney on the 8th December for her first furlough, after five years' service at Sholinghur. After three months of visibly required rest, Miss Symonds is now visiting and addressing congregations in the city and country.

The Zenana Mission has met with trials this year, and Miss McLean is feeling the strain of being left single-handed to oversee the school and Zenana work. To meet this the Association is sending out this year another lady to assist with the work there.

Early in the year they were faced with an organised opposition, which was most strongly felt in the village of Ramakrishnapet. Here the people seemed to have awakened to the power of the Gospel; and they determined to fight it, first by closing the school and Zenana, and second by driving the Christians out of the place. The conduct of these Christians, under the systematic persecutions they endured, was one of the most cheering of the

year's experiences. The school was reduced from 74 to 7 pupils in one day, and a rival school was opened. The opposition is now dying out. There are now 43 pupils in the school, and the enemy is confessing its inability to crush the power of Christianity.

The Caste Girls' School has made steady progress in Sholinghur, and the same may be said of the schools at Pauchama and Paranj. The master at Anthivaraliapuram has not been so faithful as usual this year. Still the results of the examinations were quite as good as at other schools. Besides the annual Government inspections, our Missionaries examine each school monthly, thus keeping both teachers and scholars up to the mark.

The Hospital is also doing splendidly. Miss McNeill's hands have been very full this last year. She has attended to 3,675 cases of importance. Altogether she has attended to an aggregate total of in and out patients numbering 14,895.

Miss Flora Butcher, M.D., entered upon her duties at the Sholinghur Hospital on the first day of the year. This was made possible by the munificent gift of Mr. and Mrs. W. S. Park, by whom the salary was guaranteed for two years.

JAMES COSH, Convener.

New South Wales Church.

FOREIGN MISSIONS.

Receipts and Disbursements, January 1 to December 31, 1906.

RECEIPTS.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	DISBURSEMENTS.	£	s.	d.
Credit Balance, January 1st, 1906				5	2	0	New Hebrides Missions	374	11	10
General Missions—							Aborigines Missions	471	11	3
Church Collections	218	2	6				Chinese Missions	506	13	8
Sabbath Schools Collections	261	11	5				Zenana Mission	302	18	0
Per Missionary Association	163	4	0				Sundry Local Missions	47	12	6
Donations, &c.	255	12	5				Sundry Expenses	94	8	2
				898	10	4				
New Hebrides Missions				235	0	2				
Aborigines Missions				135	14	5				
Chinese Missions				125	15	4				
Zenana Mission				218	1	5				
Sundry Local Missions				47	12	6				
Grant from W.M.A. Cookery Book Account				131	19	3				
				£1,797	15	5				
								£1,797	15	5

VICTORIA.

REPORT OF FOREIGN MISSIONS COMMITTEE, NEW HEBRIDES
BRANCH.

The past year has been one of great sorrow to our whole Church. In January we suffered a severe blow in the death of Dr. John G. Paton, a loss sustained not only by us, but by the whole Christian Church of Australia. For more than forty years he had been closely associated with the Foreign Mission work of the Church, and it was owing to his increasing labours and whole-hearted consecration that the Church holds its present position in connection with the work in the New Hebrides. He was intensely loyal to his own Church, but he was ready at all times to assist the Churches of the other States when making special efforts in the interests of their Missions. The Assembly resolved at its recent meeting to erect a memorial hospital at Vila to perpetuate the name and life-work of one who under God did so much to bring the heathen to the knowledge of Christ.

We suffered a severe loss also in the death of Dr. James Paton, of St. Paul's, Glasgow, who had rendered a good service in connection with the "John G. Paton Mission Fund Committee," and also in the selection of our agents. One of his last acts was the selection of Dr. H. E. Bolton, our new Medical Missionary.

We regret also that the Rev. T. W. Leggatt has been obliged, through illness in his family, to retire from the position he has held on Malkula for the last twenty years. He was an earnest, devoted and successful Missionary.

Over against these losses we are thankful to be able to report the settlement of Dr. H. E. Bolton at Vila, continued good work of our various Missions, and the appointment of Rev. Frank H. L. Paton, B.D., as Mission Agent. We feel that he will carry forward the good work done by his father, and from his personal knowledge of the work being done in the New Hebrides, we are satisfied that he will sustain and increase the interest of our people in our general Mission work. At the request of "The John G. Paton Mission Committee" he has gone to visit the Home Churches, and when in Great Britain he will endeavour to select a successor to the Rev. T. W. Leggatt, if no suitable man can in the meantime be secured in Australia.

T. R. CAIRNS, Convener.

CHINESE-KOREAN BRANCH.

The Superintendent of the Chinese work presents a very gratifying report. During the year there have been 14 baptisms, and several are under instruction for the ordinance. Excellent work has been done by all the Agents. At Brunswick the attendance has increased. A fortnightly service for men has been started in the city, in Hefferman's-lane, the attendance being about 70.

Amongst the Aborigines the work has been carried on assiduously at Ramahyuck and Coranderrk. The Government, however, has decided to remove the natives from Ramahyuck, and our Mission there now closes.

In Korea the work is most encouraging. During the year the Revs. G. Engel and A. Adamson were granted furlough. Mr. Engel spent the time in Victoria, doing excellent deputation work. Mr. and Mrs. Adamson went first to England, but are now in Victoria.

Again the Medical Mission has made splendid progress. The native Christians have built a church there.

The Margaret Whitecross Paton Memorial Hospital Fund, instituted by the P.W.M. Union, has brought in about £1,000. In addition to this £200 has been received by the F.M. Committee for the same object. We hope soon to have the hospital erected.

Miss Scholes has been sent out by the P.W.M.U. to assist Dr. Currell.

The Women's work at Old Pusan has been very successful. There a new building has been erected for school purposes. Effort is being made to send another clerical Missionary for the Chinju district, and we hope to be able to report success at next meeting of Assembly.

W. FRASER, Convener.

Victorian Church.

For twelve months, to 31st March, 1907.

RECEIPTS.	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
New Hebrides Branch—including New Hebrides, Amy Gertrude Russell, Dayspring Maintenance, and Native Teachers' Funds	2,695	10	11				
Chinese Branch—including Chinese, Aborigines, Korean, Korean Medical, North Queensland, and Caroline Kay Funds	1,836	17	5				
Presbyterian Women's Missionary Union Fund	1,642	10	9				
Deficiency	301	11	4				
	£6,476	10	5				
					£6,476	10	5

TASMANIA.

REPORT OF TASMANIAN FOREIGN MISSIONS.

Our work is proceeding quietly, with satisfactory results. Following on the visit of the late J. G. Paton, there has been an improved response on the part of our Church to the claims of Foreign Mission work. We have made further progress in the payment of our arrears, and should soon be able to take up a stronger position. While the financial statement shows a credit balance in the General Fund, this is more than covered by arrears owing to the Maritime Service Board, which we are now meeting. The fact that our expenditure has been concerned so largely with the payment of old liabilities has robbed our work of a great deal of its inspiration. But it is a source of gratification to all to feel the hope of better things.

Last June (1906) Mr. Norman Cooper was appointed as assistant to the Rev. T. E. Riddle. He was ordained to the eldership before leaving. Our thanks are due to the Rev. T. E. Riddle, the New Zealand Missionary, for giving oversight to our field. Had it not been for his generous offer, the probability is that we should have been in a serious difficulty as to future actions. The thanks of the Assembly were also accorded to Mr. H. Rosburgh, a Christian trader, whose work and influence have been very helpful to our Missions.

Memorial minutes were also drawn up touching the death of the Rev. Dr. J. G. Paton, and of the Rev. Dr. Jas. Paton. Our cause had benefited largely by their warm personal interest, and we also feel the great loss we have sustained in their removal to the better land. The Rev. R. M. Fraser our late Missionary, is now stationed in the charge of Bothwell and Kemp ton. In the New Hebrides the condition of affairs in our field is satisfactory, and reports are encouraging. We provide £50 annually for native teachers, and in order to give us a good working balance in both funds, we are asking our congregations this year to raise £200.

J. HEYER, Convener.

Hobart, July 15, 1907.

Church of Tasmania.

Abstract of Receipts and Expenditure for 12 months ending 31st December, 1906.

GENERAL FUND.

RECEIPTS.	£ s. d.	EXPENDITURE.	£ s. d.
Collections and Donations	246 9 10	Balance from last year	29 18 11
	<u> </u>	Salaries and Expenses	155 12 3
	<u>£246 9 10</u>	Balance Credit at 31/12/ 06	60 18 8
			<u>£246 9 10</u>

NATIVE TEACHERS' FUND.

RECEIPTS.	£ s. d.	EXPENDITURE.	£ s. d.
Balance from last year	33 8 0	Salaries and Expenses	50 13 6
Contributions	29 8 0	Balance Credit, 31/12/ 06	12 2 6
	<u> </u>		<u> </u>
	<u>£62 16 0</u>		<u>£62 16 0</u>

QUEENSLAND.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON HEATHEN MISSIONS.
ABORIGINAL MISSION.

Although this Mission belongs to the whole Church of Australia, our interest in and obligations for its welfare are none the less real. Since it is carried on within our own borders, and we are thus brought into closer touch with it than other State Churches can be, our concern for its welfare should not be less than theirs.

Changes which have been found to be necessary in connection with the working staff, the illness of Mr. and Mrs. Richter at Aurukun, the approaching furlough of the Browns, the appointment of Mr. and Mrs. Galloway, and the need of more helpers yet to carry on the work, have exercised the Committee acting on your behalf, and also as the Executive of the Foreign Missions Board.

Satisfactory progress is being made in spite of difficulties, and though several of these still remain unsolved, it is the expectation of the Committee that they will be overcome, and that the work on which the blessing of God manifestly rests will still go forward, and in the future bear even more fruit than the past has shown. Good fruit has been borne already in the steadfastness of those who have acknowledged Christ as their Lord and Master, and there is the promise of a fuller harvest in the many more souls which have been added to their number.

Before the meeting of the General Assembly at Sydney in September last, your Committee felt called upon to bring the financial condition of the Mission before the Foreign Missions Board, as, on the basis of membership, the share of the total expenses of the Mission borne by our Church was out of all proportion greater than that undertaken by the other State Churches. On the promise that a scheme for placing the whole financial burden on a proportionate basis would be submitted at the next meeting of the General Assembly, your Committee agreed to continue to maintain the "J. G. Ward," and to pay the boatman's wages till the end of September next, when it is hoped that the system of proportionate assessment will come into force.

The financial condition was scarcely so good at the close as at the beginning of the year. For the next few months we shall have to bear an extra strain. It is hoped that this will be met by increased liberality, and the reduction of expenditure in connection with the Kanaka Mission. We look forward with hope, not with fear.

KANAKA MISSION.

At the beginning of last year, the Federal legislation regarding the employment of South Sea Islanders in the Commonwealth and their return to the Island homes brought the Committee face to face with the question of the continuance of the Mission. The whole matter was discussed, the Government approached through the Premier, statistics obtained, and financial requirements calculated, and the Assembly in May last authorised the Committee to close the Mission as circumstances would warrant, and to make a special appeal for such assistance as would permit it to be closed free of debt.

After mature consideration, it was resolved to bring the Mission to a close with the end of the year, and steps were taken to do so, but at the suggestion of the Rev. James Gillespie, of Pioneer, and the Rev. J. McL. McIntyre, the Missionary, it was decided to continue the work till the end of January, 1907, at which date your Kanaka Mission work definitely closed.

The special appeal was fairly responded to, thirty Charges sending sums amounting to £84 16s. 8d. The Colonial Sugar Refining Company, Limited, which has always befriended the Mission, donated £20, and the Australian Estates and Mortgage Company, Ltd., £10 10s. These, with the gifts of the Presbyterian Women's Missionary Union, and of the Islanders themselves, helped to lighten the load, and at the close of the year the debit balance had fallen below £30.

Your Committee cannot, and they believe that the Church will not, pass from this much blessed portion of the work which God has enabled us

to do in this land without placing on record the high esteem in which the Rev. J. McL. McIntyre and Mrs. McIntyre are held by the whole Church for the faithful discharge of the duties relating to their work, and their whole-hearted devotion and self-sacrificing labours for the uplifting of those dark-skinned brothers and sisters brought to dwell among us. Eighteen years' service, almost unbroken by the shortest of holidays, is not only a strain upon life, which few could bear, but a test of love to both God and man, which can have few equals even in the annals of the Mission field.

The Committee also take this opportunity of placing on record their appreciation of the unwearied helpfulness of F. J. Stevens, Esq., of Colton Vale, and their indebtedness to him.

When we think of the civilising and Christianising influence of this Mission, and of the fruit which it has borne and will continue to bear long after its name may be forgotten by men, what shall we render unto God that hath counted us worthy to undertake it for Him and hath blessed us in it?

PETER ROBERTSON, Convener.

Queensland.

ABORIGINAL MISSION FUND—GENERAL ACCOUNT.

DISBURSEMENTS.			RECEIPTS.			
	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
Jan. 1, 1906.					To Balance	£116 9 3
To Balance			106 11 10		Jan. 1, 1907.	
Dec. 31, 1906.					Dec. 31, 1906.	
To G.A.A.'s Board of Foreign Missions—Share Expenses—					By Queensland P.W.M.U., Salary of Mr. Brown's Assistant	45 0 0
North Queensland Mission..	70	0 0			“ G.A.A.'s Board of Foreign Missions, Refund of Expenses of Rev. P. Robertson's Visit to Stations	29 12 0
“ Share Board's Overdraft and Debt to Moravian Board	26	0 6			“ Congregations, &c.	12 1 0
“ Salary of Rev. E. Brown's Assistant	30	0 0	126 0 6		“ Donation, “A Friend,” Bundaberg	1 0 0
“ Mrs. Ward, for support of Children at Mapoon	10	10 0			“ Sale of Post Cards	4 1 0
“ Rev. E. Brown, do. do. Weipa	7	10 0	18 0 0		“ Contributions for support of Children at Mapoon	13 10 0
“ Church Offices Account, share of Expenses	7	12 8			“ “ “ “ Weipa	7 10 0
“ Office Rent Account, share	1	6 0			“ Share of Assembly Revenue Fund	32 8 7
“ Petty Cash, Postages, Telegrams, &c.	1	8 11			“ Balance	116 9 3
“ Share of Bank Exchange, &c.	0	11 11	10 19 6			
			£261 11 10			£261 11 10

KANAKA MISSION FUND ACCOUNT.

Dr.	£ s. d.	Cr.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Jan. 1, 1906.		Dec. 31, 1906.		
To Balance	104 8 8	By Congregations		87 8 6
" Salary of Missionary	200 0 0	" Sabbath Schools		12 15 10
" Printing	1 12 6	" C.E. Societies		3 1 0
" Rent of Mission Church Site	0 10 0	" Polynesians, Walkerston		32 10 0
" Church Office Account, Share of Expenses	7 12 8	" Donations—		
" Office Rent Account, Share of Rent	1 6 0	Australian Estates and Mort-		
" Petty Cash Account, Postage, Telegrams, &c.	1 13 5	gage Co.	10 10 0	
" Share of Bank Exchange, &c.	0 18 2	Colonial Sugar Refining Co.	40 0 0	
		Queensland P.W.M.U.	35 0 0	
		Individuals	2 0 0	
			-----	87 10 0
		" Share of Assembly Revenue		
		Fund		64 17 1
		" Balance		29 19 0

	£318 1 5			£318 1 5

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

REPORT OF FOREIGN MISSION COMMITTEE.

Your Committee regrets having to chronicle the death of Dr. Paton, the Convener of this Committee, which occurred on February 14, 1907. Owing to Dr. Paton's illness, Rev. G. Davidson was appointed to act as Convener some time before Dr. Paton's death. Your Committee also regrets having to record the death of Mrs. Macmillan, which took place on Tanna on January 29. This event was unexpected, and has been a great shock to all. Dr. J. G. Paton, through whose pleading the Church in this State took up Foreign Mission work in the New Hebrides, has also gone to his rest, mourned by many. Letters of sympathy were sent to the relatives of Dr. D. Paton and Dr. J. G. Paton on the occasion of their death, and a letter of condolence was also sent to Mr. Macmillan as soon as the news of Mrs. Macmillan's death reached South Australia.

The Committee has been greatly exercised about the funds. The year was begun with a debit balance of £65 13s. 11d., which has increased to £127 12s. 8d. Apart from liquidating this deficit, the Committee will require not less than £275 per year to carry on the work for the New Hebrides.

The Committee has twice had a conference with the P.W.M.U. The following recommendations were adopted at the last conference held in Chalmers Lecture Hall, November 19, 1906:—

1. That an estimate of funds required annually be made and put before the congregations.

2. That the Assembly be asked to reduce the levy made on the fund for Assembly's expenses.

3. That the Assembly be asked to devote one half the sum bequeathed by the late W. H. Duncan to meet the present overdraft on the Foreign Mission Account.

4. That Mr. Macmillan be asked to send a quarterly letter for congregations.

5. That a Foreign Mission meeting be held on a week night quarterly in one of the city churches, representatives to be appointed by the Foreign Mission Committee, and the Executive of the Presbyterian Women's Missionary Union to form a committee to arrange for these meetings.

Mr. Macmillan has already responded to the request for a letter for the congregations, and the first one was published in the "Banner" in April. On account of the illness and death of the Convener (Dr. Paton), the proposal to hold a quarterly meeting has not been given effect to yet.

Friends in Strathalbyn and France (through these Strathalbyn friends) support two orphans at Mapoon. Several congregations contribute to the support of the Zenana Mission.

A box of Mission goods, valued at £75, was sent to Tanna just before last Christmas. The branches of the P.W.M.U. at Mount Pleasant, Flinders street, Goodwood, Norwood, and Chalmers Church contributed to this valuable box of goods. The Chalmers Union also sent a gift of suitable goods to Mapoon.

Your Committee can report with satisfaction a remarkable advance in the work on Tanna. There has been nothing like it since Mission work began on that hard field. The churches there are crowded, converts are asking for baptism, and the people are asking for teachers, a thing almost unknown before on Tanna. This applies to all the Mission centres on Tanna, including the district allotted to this Church. At the present time the opposition encountered by Mr. Macmillan comes, not from the heathen Tannese, but from a white trader. But in the face of this opposition the Christian natives have repaid the outlay incurred by this Church in 1904, £27 7s. 6d., for printing a hymn book, and they have set themselves the task of raising money to defray the cost of a large new church at White Sands.

The deficit has since the meeting of Assembly been wiped out by a special appeal and the allocation of £125, part of the late Mr. W. H. Duncan's bequest.

The following obituary minutes were passed by the Assembly, and copies sent to the families affected:—

Mrs. Thomson Macmillan, died January 29, 1907. The Assembly heard

with deep sorrow of the death from malarial fever of Mrs. Macmillan, the wife of our church's missionary on Tanna, New Hebrides. Mrs. Macmillan held a high place in the esteem and affection of the members of this Church and she was no less beloved by her fellow workers on the islands and the natives of Tanna. She was the elder daughter of the late Professor Robertson, D.D., United Free Church College, Aberdeen, and, like her husband, was born in India, in which country their parents were missionaries. She entered upon her work on Tanna early in 1898, and in spite of repeated illnesses and a good deal of discouragement in the early days worked bravely on, proving a true helpmeet to her husband and a loving friend to the natives. She had many qualifications for mission work: an attractive presence, a sweet voice, and a cheerful and a winsome manner. Never was she known to speak unkindly to anyone. She bore the discomforts and discouragements of mission life without complaint, and with a brave heart faced the parting from her children, which is one of the sorest trials of a missionary's lot. Beneath all her brightness and mirth, there was a deeply religious spirit, and a passionate longing for the salvation of her people on Tanna. Our Church has lost a noble and devoted worker, but that lonely grave will bind that island more closely to our hearts, and inspire our prayers and efforts with greater fervency and zeal that Tanna may speedily be won for Christ. The Assembly commends her bereaved husband, children, and relatives to the grace of God, "the Father of all mercies and the God of all comfort who comforteth us in all our tribulations." (2 Cor. i. 3, 4).

The Assembly desire to place on record their great sorrow on account of the death of their esteemed father and brother, Rev. David Paton, M.A., B.D., D. D., who for a period of nearly thirty years took a prominent part in the deliberations and schemes of the Church. The active part Dr. Paton took in the theological education in connection with Union College, and in connection with Academical studies in the University, was symbolic of the interest our Church has always taken in these studies, and was highly appreciated by the Assembly and by the community. For many years he was convener of the Home Mission Committee, and in this position he rendered valuable service to the Church, as latterly, when convener of the Foreign Missions Committee. In the Councils of the Church the influence of Dr. Paton was great, owing to his general culture, studious habits, self-possession, his clear grasp of principles, and his love of peace—all these tending to the promotion of wise measures and maintaining goodwill. The Assembly deeply sympathise with Dr. Paton's esteemed widow and his family in their great loss and pray that the Great Head of the Church may be their Comforter.

The Assembly desire to enter upon its records its deep sense of loss at the passing of the Rev. John G. Paton, D.D. The story of the life and labour of this eminent missionary is enshrined in one of the notable Christian biographies published in recent times. For his long life and his arduous labours, carried on amid many perils and privations, and not least for the saintliness of his character, this Church gives thanks to Almighty God. Dr. Paton not only laboured abundantly in the mission field, but was greatly used in arousing interest in the cause of missions in the Christian Church in this and other lands. The Assembly remembers with gratitude that it was due to Dr. Paton's earnest advocacy and encouragement that this Church was led to send her first missionary to Tanna, where she has had the privilege of being represented for five and twenty years, and where in these days the Divine blessing is manifestly with her in the conversion of the heathen. In common with the Church in other States and lands this Church acknowledges the goodness of God in giving to the Christian Church such a life of faithful service, and in making it the channel of His Grace to so many Christian people, as well as to the heathen in the New Hebrides. To his family and immediate fellow-labourers we tender our deep sympathy, and pray that the work carried on so long by this servant of God may continue to have the Divine inspiration and blessing.

By authority of the Committee

G. DAVIDSON, Convener.

South Australia.

Balance-sheet for year ending March 31, 1907.

FUND FOR MISSIONS TO THE HEATHEN. NEW HEBRIDES MISSION.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
March 31, 1907.				March 31, 1906.			
To Collection at General Assembly Meeting, 1906	4	9	7	By Balance	65	13	11
“ Repayment of Books by Tannese	18	19	9	March 31, 1907.			
“ Contributions from Congregations	216	15	7	By Rev. T. Macmillan, Stipend to 1/6/07	200	0	0
“ Balance	127	12	8	“ Maritime Service Expense	69	16	6
				“ Convener's Expenses	0	2	6
				“ Printing	2	7	6
				“ Allowance for Medicine	4	8	1
				“ Travelling Expenses Delegate visiting Melb.	3	0	0
				“ Proportion of Printing Blue Book	6	4	6
				“ Assessment General Assembly Expenses Fund	14	8	0
				“ Exchange, &c.	1	16	7
	<u>£367</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>7</u>		<u>£367</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>7</u>

NEW HEBRIDES NATIVE TEACHERS' FUND.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
March 31, 1906.				March 31, 1907.			
To Balance	12	0	0	By Helen Lyall Memorial Fund	12	0	0
March 31, 1907.				“ Balance	7	8	0
To Donation	7	8	0				
	<u>£19</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>0</u>		<u>£19</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>0</u>

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

The Presbyterian Churches and Mission Stations of West Australia have had a year of severe and prolonged trial. For sixteen months trade has been very depressed, and this has told severely upon our congregations and their ability to help Churches and Missions. Not only so, but ministerial changes have been so frequent that Church organisations have been sadly interfered with. Our Foreign Mission work has necessarily been confined to Church and Sunday school collections.

Up to the present the result of the appeal made to the Churches in the Eastern States for funds to enable us to undertake work among the Aborigines of this vast State has not been told us. The privileges and the responsibilities of this great and necessitous work have thus far been denied us.

When our vacant churches are supplied with ministers, and our Mission Stations with Agents, we shall hope to take our full share of the great missionary work.

The past sixteen months will not soon be forgotten by the churches of West Australia. The depressed state of trade and commerce has so invaded the homes of the people that church weaknesses can be easily explained. Our churches and Mission Stations know the meaning of self sacrifice, and from all our congregations sorrowful regrets at inability to strengthen Foreign Mission Funds reach us. We need men and money to meet the growing demands of this vast State, and the severely felt need has necessitated the going of the Rev. A. Crow to Great Britain and Ireland. We fully believe there are brighter days coming, and their advent will certainly mean an increased enthusiasm for Foreign Missions.

CHARLES D. P. TAYLOR, Convener.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE RECEPTION OF MINISTERS.

1. Rev. G. A. HILL, M.A.—Your committee was appointed a commission with Assembly powers to deal with this petition. Owing to the difficulty of getting a full meeting of the commission, and owing to the fact that Mr. Hill's period of probation would not expire till the Assembly was about to meet, it was thought better to send on his petition again to the Assembly, to be finally dealt with. Mr. Hill has now served the Home Mission Committee of New South Wales for twelve months to the satisfaction of that committee. Your committee recommends that he be received as an ordained minister, eligible for a call.

2. Rev. A. H. TOLHURST has served the Home Mission Committee of New South Wales for twelve months to the satisfaction of that committee. Your committee recommends that he be received as a licentiate, eligible for a call.

3. Rev. J. ADAMSON.—The last General Assembly referred Mr. Adamson's petition to this Assembly. The Presbytery of Maryborough, Q., has recommended that the petition be not granted.

Presbytery of Maryborough,

Gympie, May 13, 1907.

At St. Andrew's Church, Brisbane, by leave of the General Assembly, the Presbytery of Maryborough met and was duly constituted on May 9, 1907.

Inter alia, it was moved, seconded, and agreed to—"That inasmuch as the Rev. Mr. Adamson had left the work of the Church, and become a candidate for the State Parliament, that the petition *re* his admission into the Presbyterian Church of Australia be not recommended.

Extracted from the minutes of Presbytery by me,

JOHN VANCE,

Clerk of Presbytery.

Your committee understands that Mr. Adamson has since been elected a member of the Queensland Parliament. Your committee recommends that the petition be not granted.

4. Rev. W. A. HOBSON.—This petition also was referred by last General Assembly to this Assembly. Mr. Hobson has been absent for a year in England. He has now returned to Australia, and is prepared to serve the Home Mission Committee of New South Wales. Your committee recommends that his petition be finally dealt with after he has served a twelve-month's probation.

5. Rev. W. J. STEVENS.—The petition is as follows:

Subject: Petition of Rev. W. J. Stevens to be received as a Minister of the Presbyterian Church.

Unto the Venerable the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia.

The petition of the undersigned humbly sheweth:

1. That the petitioner, William Johnstone Stevens, was born at High Wycomb, Bucks, in 1868, and is, therefore, thirty-eight years of age; that he is married and has one child.

2. That the petitioner received his early training for the ministry in the Methodist Church of New South Wales; was received as a candidate for the ministry in 1888; served the full divinity course at Newington College under the late Principal Fletcher, passing satisfactory examinations in the following subjects: (a) Theology: (1) Field's "Handbook," (2) Pope's "Compendium," (3) Watson's "Institutes," and (4) Principal's lectures; (b) Languages: Greek, White's "Gospel of Matthew;" Latin; (c) Homelitics: (1) Wesley's sermons, (2) Principal's lectures; (d) History: (1) Fisher's "History of Church," (2) Angus' Bible Handbook; (e) Christian Evidences: Redford's "Christian Plea Against Modern Unbelief" (portion). After completing his divinity course your petitioner was appointed, first, to Bega Circuit, and, second, to Sunny Corner, from which latter circuit he voluntarily resigned to take up commercial pursuits, though still preaching and teaching as opportunity offered.

3. That your petitioner in 1903, living then in Brisbane, accepted work under the Congregational Union of Queensland, and was appointed to the Gympie Church. In 1904, having satisfactorily completed the extra-mural course, and passed the ordination examination in the following subjects: (a) Clark's "Outlines of Theology;" (b) Horn's "History of the Free Churches;" (c) Expositor's Bible, Vol. I.; (d) Bainton's "Congregational Handbook," he was publicly ordained to the work of the Christian ministry by the hands of the officers of the Congregational Union, viz., Rev. W. J. L. Closs, B.A. (President), Rev. H. C. George (ex-President), Rev. L. L. Wirt, B.D. The fogs of Gympie proving too severe, and being threatened with recurrent bronchitis, &c., it became necessary to seek a change of climate, and in January, 1906, he voluntarily resigned his pastorate.

4. That your petitioner in May, 1906, being thoroughly recruited in health, and having decided that the Congregational system is not sufficiently homogeneous, and does not lend itself to the Home Mission work so much needed in the States, applied to the Brisbane Presbytery of the Presbyterian Church, and was sent in June, 1906, to supply the Esk charge. Here your petitioner has remained since, to the satisfaction (as far as he is able to judge) of the members and adherents of the Church.

5. That your petitioner believes the doctrine and polity of the Presbyterian Church to be Scriptural, and, therefore, authoritative, and undertakes, if received, to honor and loyally serve its interests in every way.

Your petitioner accordingly prays your venerable court to admit him into the ministry of the Presbyterian Church of Australia.

And your petitioner, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

WILLIAM J. STEVENS.

Esk, Queensland, April 4, 1907.

Documents accompany petition: I. Methodist Conference Minutes, 1888, page 7, acceptance as candidate; II., Methodist Conference Minutes, 1890, page 14, appointment to Bega; III., Methodist Conference Minutes, 1891, page 18, appointment to Sunny Corner; IV., Certificate of Ordination from Congregational Union of Queensland; V., Congregational Year-Book, 1905 (see pages 21, 30, 32); VI., Commendatory letter, Rev. W. J. L. Cross, B.A., ex-President Queensland Congregational Union; VII., Commendatory letter, Rev. A. J. Griffith, M.A., President Queensland Congregational Union; VIII., Letter of invitation from officers of Esk charge.

W. J. S.

The certificate of the Presbytery of Brisbane is as follows:

Queensland Presbyterian Church.

Presbytery of Brisbane,

Brisbane, June 6, 1907.

This is to certify, in the name and by the authority of the Presbytery of Brisbane, to the General Assembly of Australia.

That on the 4th of June, 1907, the Presbytery resolved that the petition of the Rev. W. J. Stevens be forwarded, with all relative documents, to the General Assembly, with the recommendation that the prayer of the petition be favorably considered, and that Mr. Stevens be declared eligible for a call at once.

GEORGE HALL,

Presbytery Clerk.

Your committee recommends that the petitioner be received on probation for twelve months, and that his petition to be received as an ordained minister be finally dealt with at next Assembly.

6. Rev. E. Fox.—The petition is as follows:

Unto the Venerable the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia.

The petition of the undersigned respectfully sheweth that your petitioner was born in Bradford, Yorkshire, England, on January 28, 1852; was accepted as a candidate for the Methodist Ministry by the Conference of 1875; was trained at Newington College in 1875-76; ordained in 1876; and completed theological studies and examinations in 1880. Received the following ministerial appointments: Tonga, Friendly Islands Missions, 2 years; Molong, New South Wales, 3 years; Hay, New South Wales, 3 years; Kempsey, New South Wales, 3 years; Cootamundra, 2 years; rested 1 year; Granville and Liverpool, 3 years; Balmain, 3 years; Newcastle, 3 years; Darlington, 2 years; Newtown, 3 years. Was appointed by the conference of 1907 to Morpeth, but being dissatisfied by the Methodist form of appointment to a charge by Conference, and also with the burdensome change entailed by the itinerancy, I resigned my connection with the Methodist Church at the close of conference in order that I might be free to make my present overture. I have examined the Presbyterian form of Church government, doctrine, and worship, to which I give my cordial approval. I am under no censure nor fear of censure by the Methodist Church of Australasia; but by resigning from the Methodist Ministry I forfeit my interest in the Worn-Out Preachers and Widows' Fund, which at my status amounts to £80 per annum. I herewith forward in proof of ordination my ordination Bible. Your petitioner accordingly prays your venerable house to admit him to the status of an ordained minister of the Presbyterian Church of Australia; and your petitioner as in duty bound will ever pray.

EBENEZER FOX.

The certificate of the Presbytery of Sydney is as follows:

This is to Certify.

In the name and by the authority of the Presbytery of Sydney. To the Committee on the Reception of Ministers.

That on the 11th June, 1907, a report was received from the committee on the petition of Rev. E. Fox to be received as an ordained minister, and in

accordance therewith the Presbytery resolved to transmit the petition to the General Assembly of Anstralia, with a strong recommendation that the prayer thereof be granted.

Certified this 13th June, 1907, by me,

G. MacINNES,

Clerk of the Presbytery of Sydney.

Your Committee recommends that the petitioner be received on probation for twelve months, and that his petition to be received as an ordained minister be finally dealt with at next Assembly.

(7) Rev. COLIN ROBERTSON.—

The petition is as follows—

Te Aroha, New Zealand, August 18, 1907.

TO THE VENERABLE THE FEDERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF AUSTRALIA.

The petition of the undersigned Colin Robertson humbly sheweth—

That he was trained for the ministry in the Theological Hall of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria, and was licensed 1884 and ordained 1885 by that Church.

That he served the Presbyterian Church of Victoria for seventeen and a half years—ten years in Barrabool Hills and seven and a half in Cranbourne.

That he left Victoria in 1904, bearing with him Presbyterial certificate regarding his work both in the Presbytery of Geelong and in Presbytery of Melbourne South.

That he also bore with him a certificate from the Home Mission Committee of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria.

That he settled in New Zealand in the Parish of Whangarei, and laboured in that parish, first for six months without a call, and then for two and a half years as minister of that district.

That he took up work in Te Aroha, New Zealand, and did good work in that field.

That he now sends to the Committee of the Federal Assembly a Presbyterial certificate from Presbytery of Auckland.

That all the above certificates testify to his success in his work and earnestness in the cause of Christ.

That it is mainly in the interests of his family that he is now constrained to return to Australia.

That he has always, although in New Zealand, kept himself in touch with the work going on in the Presbyterian Church of Australia, and more especially with the work going on in Victoria.

He still retains his interest in the "Widows and Orphans" and "Infirm Ministers" Funds of that Church.

That he now asks the Federal Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia to take the above facts into consideration and to grant him the status of a minister eligible for a "call" without the twelve months' probation usually required by the law of the church.

(Signed) COLIN ROBERTSON.

The certificate of the Presbytery of Auckland, N.Z., is as follows:

Presbyterian Church of New Zealand.

Presbytery of Auckland.

That the Rev. Colin Robertson was minister of Whangarei, within the bounds of this Presbytery, for about 2½ years, and left the congregation in a much healthier and stronger condition than it was in prior to his induction:

that he has recently been employed working up a change that could only support a Home Missionary, and that in the short period of six months he has organised it and raised it to that state of prosperity that it is now in a position to call a minister; that he leaves the district of his own free will and choice, carrying with him the esteem of the people; and that he now leaves the bounds of the Presbytery in the enjoyment of full ministerial status, and of the confidence of his brethren, who wish him much happiness and prosperity in whatever sphere he may hereafter be placed, is certified in the name and by the authority of the Presbytery of Auckland this thirteenth day of August, one thousand nine hundred and seven years.

by ROBERT SOMMERVILLE,

Clerk of Presbytery.

Documents with petition: 1. Letter from Rev. G. B. Munro, Moderator of the Presbyterian Church of New Zealand. 2. Copy of letter from Rev. P. J. Murdoch.

The Presbytery of Sydney on 10th September, 1907, recommended that the petition be granted; also the Presbytery of Melbourne South.

Your Committee recommends that Mr. Robertson be received as an ordained minister, eligible for a call.

(8) Rev. T. DAVIES, B.A.—

The petition is as follows:—

Katoomba, August 8, 1907.

TO THE SYDNEY PRESBYTERY.

I hereby make a petition to be accepted as a licentiate preacher of the Presbyterian Church of Australia.

I am a licentiate of the Presbyterian Church of Wales, from which I enclose a transfer paper. I am a native of Ruthin, North Wales, and am 36 years of age.

I was educated at the University College of Bangor, North Wales, where I took my B.A. degree with honours in Philosophy.

I then went to the University of Oxford, and spent three years at Mansfield College, where I took the full theological course.

During my second year at Oxford I entered upon post graduate research work in Philosophy with a view to writing a thesis for the degree of B.Sc. In this part of my work the Board of Faculties of the University appointed Dr. Fairbairn, of Mansfield College, and C. C. I. Webb, M.A., Master of Magdalen College, to supervise my work.

Because of ill-health I failed to finish this work while at Oxford, but I am still hoping to finish it. I have yet the privilege of having the above-named persons as my advisors.

In December, 1905, I came to Australia for the sake of my health. Now that I have recovered, and have medical permission to restart work, I humbly make this petition, because I am strongly advised to stay in this country rather than return to England.

I am, yours respectfully,

THOMAS DAVIES.

P.S.—I am also sending the following documents: (1) Letter of transfer from the Presbyterian Church of Wales. (2) Diploma (B.A.), University of Wales. (3) Letters from the Rev. R. G. Macintyre, M.A., B.D. (4) Letter from the Rev. R. E. Davies, M.A., (5) Letter from the Rev. R. Redmond, B.A.

The Presbyterian certificate is as follows:—

Liverpool, April 3, 1907.

In accordance with a resolution unanimously passed at the regular session of this Presbytery, held to-night at Crosshall-street Chapel, we hereby introduce to the English Presbyterian Church of Australia—

Mr. Thomas Davies, B.A., who is a licentiate preacher of the Welsh Calvinistic Church of Wales. Some months back a letter of transfer was given Mr. Davies to the Welsh C.M. Church in Australia, and we understand that he is now asking to be received into the English Presbyterian Church. We trust that his application will be successful.

For the Liverpool Welsh C.M. Presbytery.

JOHN DANIEL EVANS, Moderator.

T. REES JONES, Clerk.

Your committee recommends that the petitioner be received as a licentiate eligible for a call.

The Presbytery of Sydney on 10th September, 1907, recommended that Mr. Davies' petition be dealt with forthwith.

(9) Rev. Mr. McCLEMENT.—

The petition is as follows:—

Barrington, via Gloucester,

August 26, 1907.

Rev. G. MacInnes, D.D., Sydney.

Dear Sir—Yours of the 17th received Saturday. It wouldn't be possible for me to get my certificate of dismissal from my Presbytery in the States before the meeting of the Assembly next month. If the Church will receive me pending its arrival, I shall send for it at once. I began to study for the ministry when I was pretty well advanced in life. I took three years of seminary work, two at Auburn, New York, and one at San Francisco; and was graduated from the latter by being given a certificate. I had not taken the full course, and was not entitled to the diploma given the regular graduate. After I left the Seminary I felt that my preparation had not been sufficiently comprehensive, and decided to go to college. In the fall of the year that I left the Seminary I was ordained by the Presbytery of Puget Sound, Wellington. After my ordination I went to Westminster College, Fulton, Missouri, and stayed there a year. I had to work my way through school without any assistance. The pressure at Fulton was so great that I decided to try the ministry of N. Dakato the following year, work having been offered me by the Synodical Superintendent of that State. I preached Sundays regularly while I was there. At the end of the first semester the building in which I was stopping caught fire, and all my earthly possessions went up in smoke. I felt slightly discouraged, and managed to get funds enough to take me to New York, where I stayed 3½ years. I was at Union Theological Seminary, and took work at Columbia University for three years in conjunction with my work at the Seminary. My work at the University was in philosophy, ethics, sociology, economics, psychology, anthropology, &c. I took a good deal of work in ethics and philosophy. At the Seminary my work was not along the lines that I had taken in the other Seminaries. It was mostly in history. The history of dogma, philosophy of religion, apologetics, ethics, &c. In all I have spent eight years in preparation for the work of the ministry. I have not a B.A., for a degree could not be had at Columbia University without a knowledge of mathematics and other subjects such as I did not possess. I knew that the subjects chosen by me would be of more value to me in the practical work of the ministry than the subjects without which I could not receive a degree. Hoping this is sufficiently full to meet all the requirements of the code, I herewith make application to the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia to be received as a minister into its connection.

I am, very sincerely yours,

THOS. B. McCLEMENT.

This certificate accompanied the petition:—

Auburn, Washington, U.S.A.,

May 31, 1907.

To Whom it May Concern.

This is to certify that the Reverend Thomas B. McClement is a member in good and regular standing of the Presbytery of Puget Sound of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America, and has filed with me, as Stated Clerk, a request for regular dismissal to the Presbytery of Sydney, Australia, to be acted upon at the next meeting of the Presbytery of Puget Sound.

W. CHALMERS GUNN,

Stated Clerk of the Presbytery of Puget Sound.

Other documents are:—1. Certificate from Rev. W. Leslie Clay, convener of the Home Mission Committee of the Presbytery of Victoria, British Columbia. 2. Letter from Rev. J. M. Millar, moderator of the Presbytery of Victoria, B.C.

The Presbytery of Sydney on 10th September, 1907, recommended that the petition lie on the table of the General Assembly.

Your committee found that there was no Presbyterian certificate, and resolved to send on the petition and other papers simpliciter.

Barrington, via Gloucester, September 17, 1907.

Rev. G. MacInnes, D.D., Adelaide, S.A.

Dear Sir—I was born in Ireland, age 39, worked as a dry goods clerk before I began to study for the ministry. I am not married, and, consequently, have no children. I was ordained with the laying on of hands. I was ordained by the Presbytery of Puget Sound. I have forgotten the exact date of my ordination, but it occurred at the full meeting of the Presbytery in September, 1901, in Calvary Church, Seattle, Washington. I am sorry that this information was not incorporated in the petition, and hoping that it may reach you before the close of the Assembly.

I am, yours very sincerely,

THOS. B. McCLEMENT.

10. Rev. JAMES WALKER, M.A., B.D., was received by the Home Mission Committee of Queensland under Section A of the Regulations, from the Presbyterian Church of England.

11. Rev. MEYER HERMANN was received by the Home Mission Committee of Queensland, under Section A of the Regulations, from the United Free Church of Scotland.

12. Rev. ALEXANDER SUTHERLAND BROWN was received by the Home Mission Committee of New South Wales, under Section A of the Regulations, from the United Free Church of Scotland.

13. Rev. WILLIAM LEWYS DAVIES was received by the Home Mission Committee of New South Wales, under Section A of the Regulations, from the Welsh Presbyterian Church.

In the name and on behalf of the Committee,

G. MACINNES,

Convener.

(5) REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON STATISTICS.

In presenting their report the Committee would draw the attention of the Assembly to the great advance in collecting returns that has been made by Tasmania and South Australia. We regret to say that the West Australian returns are still very incomplete. Apparently the schedule issued by that State is not the one recommended by this Assembly and adopted by all the other States; no returns are given by West Australia as to the number of churches, of Sunday School buildings, of Sunday Schools, nor of the number of preaching stations, of Sabbath services, of average attendance, &c. The loss of the information is a present, and still more, a future loss as comparisons in years to come will be impossible. Every year that the use of a full and complete schedule is postponed is a year lost in the education of our Ministers and office bearers as to the systematic tabulation of accurate information and in the consequent increase in the efficiency of our Church work. The Church aims at a thorough Parochial and Presbyterian system so that every Presbyterian in the Commonwealth may be on her register, the work done in every charge and mission station shown, and the amount contributed through and for our Church disclosed.

Accurate and complete statistics are universally recognised as of the utmost importance in all departments of national life, and our Church must show she is alive to this fact. Your Committee wish to recommend the card system as an excellent means of enumerating Presbyterians, preserving congregational records of families and children, and of preventing our people being lost to the Church when removing from parish to parish or from State to State.

CHARGES AND AGENTS.

	Presbyteries	Charges.	Ministers in Settled Charges.	Ministers Emeriti.	Ministers without Charges.	Students.	Mission Stations.	Ministers not in Charge in service of Church.	Home Missionaries.
N.S. Wales ..	14	160	146	10	17	12	23	8	5
Victoria	14	209	203	28	18	37	90	5	57
Queensland ..	5	40	28	1	7	2	19	1	25
South Australia	3	16	12	3	2	0	10	1	6
West Australia	3	20	13	0	0	0	42	1	10
Tasmania	3	15	15	1	—	6	10	0	6
	42	460	417	43	44	57	194	16	109

The Presbyteries remain the same.

Ministers in settled charges:—Increase, N.S.W., 9; Victoria, 14; West Australia, 2. Decreases—Queensland, 4; South Australia, 3; Tasmania, 1.

CHURCH BUILDINGS, &c.

	No. of Churches.	Schools.	Houses.	Debt.	Insurance.	Value.	Sitting Accommodation.	Sittings.	Other Sitting Accommodation.
N.S. Wales	357	89	115	£61,408	£213,300	—	58,586	5,854	—
Victoria	498	172	189	110,864	131,192	£730,058	8,4065	14,502	21,956
Queensland ..	92	42	29	11,686	46,619	127,552	14,977	1,637	3,500
South Australia	29	8	14	2,189	12,998	32,611	5,900	413	—
West Australia	—	—	10	9,516	—	—	—	—	—
Tasmania	34	16	13	3,144	24,062	51,459	5,700	235	—
			350	193,743					

In this table the only complete information is the debt, but it would afford us a good index as to our position compared with last year were the returns all trustworthy. The large reduction of debt in Western Australia (1905, £18,855) suggests the incompleteness of that return. Tasmania, too, according to the figure given, has reduced her debt by £2,591, Queensland by £3,112, South Australia by £36, while N.S. Wales has increased hers by £152, and Victoria by £5,282.

Churches.—Increase: N.S. Wales, 8; Queensland, 8; Victoria, 11.

Schools.—Increase: N.S. Wales, 4; Queensland, 7; Victoria, 23.

Mansees.—Increase: Queensland, 3; Victoria, 2. Decrease: N.S. Wales, 1.

Taking our estimated number of Presbyterians as given below for each State we find that N.S. Wales has sitting accommodation for 40 p.c. of all Presbyterians, Queensland for 24.2 p.c., S.A. for 31 p.c., Tasmania for 48.3 p.c., and Victoria for 52.8 p.c.

POPULATION, 1906.

	Estimated Mean Population.	Estimated Presbyterian Population.
N.S. Wales	1,514,390	147,000
Victoria	1,227,072	195,000
Queensland	532,783	61,800
South Australia	376,335	19,000
Western Australia	250,811	21,000
Tasmania	180,634	12,000
	3,091,025	455,800

ORGANIZATION.

	Elders.	Deacons and Managers.	District Visitors.	Sustentation Fund Collectors.	Women's Societies.		Temperance Societies.		Fellowship Associations.		C.E. Societies.		Literary Societies.	
					No.	Member- ship.	No.	Member- ship.	No.	Member- ship.	No.	Member- ship.	No.	Member- ship.
N.S. Wales	746	2,625	121	1,030	187	4,090	53	3,632	74	2,039	39	1,084	35	1,258
Victoria	844	4,445	246		236	6,365	98	6,167	115	2,697	69	1,365	56	2,116
Queensland	260	595	24	153	47	944	19	1,260	6	106	51	1,373	6	178
South Austral	76	197	11	34	27	405	5	231	4	107	6	181	4	71
West Australia	39	166	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	69	—	155	—	—
Tasmania	70	203	—	—	7	161	4	104	4	111	2	48	5	124
	2,035	3,231							5,129		4,705			

Elders show an increase of 58, thus distributed: Gain, N.S.W., 31; Queensland, 17; Victoria, 17; Tasmania, 5. Loss—W.A., 9; S.A., 3. N.S. Wales has 200 more managers, Victoria, 5; Queensland, 30; S.A., 65; W.A., 16.

RELIGIOUS ORDINANCES.

	Preaching Centres.	Sabbath Services.	Weekly Services.	Prayer Meetings.	Average Attendances.				Baptisms.	Marriages.	Funerals.
					Morning.	Evening.	Afternoon.	Prayer Meeting.			
N.S. Wales	1,192	26,239	3,823	2,925	15,167	20,357	18,445	1,371	2,950	1,372	787
Victoria	971	39,423	2,238	2,735	27,313	30,047	12,639	3,055	2,675	1,259	1,583
Queensland	286	6,752	715	1,190	4,520	5,027	1,651	402	881	365	288
South Australia . .	46	2,864	175	217	1,329	1,651	429	32	78	56	52
West Australia . . .									198		
Tasmania	65	2,631	637	208	1,656	2,371	358	272	303	160	115

Of the preaching centres occasional services are held at 240 places in N.S.W.; 77 in Victoria; 80 in Queensland; 6 in South Australia; 6 in Tasmania.

Increase in totals of preaching stations—N.S.W., 79; Queensland, 43; South Australia, 12; Tasmania, 1. Decrease—Victoria, 20.

Sabbath Services.—Increase: N.S.W., 1,708; Victoria, 286; Queensland, 840; South Australia, 185.

Average Attendance Morning.—Increase: Queensland, 206; decrease, N.S.W., 104; Victoria, 678. Evening.—Increase: N.S.W., 37; South Australia, 609; decrease, Queensland, 271; Victoria, 356.

Afternoon.—Increase: N.S.W., 7,165; Victoria, 503; Queensland, 518; S.A., 220. Taking the estimated number of Presbyterians and assuming that the Presbyterian birth-rate is normal in the several States, we find that the probable number of Presbyterian births for 1906 was—N.S.W., 4,000; Victoria, 4,900; South Australia, 459; West Australia, 630; Tasmania, 360; Queensland, 1,620. Estimating the number of Presbyterians who have died in each State we get the following probable deaths:—N.S.W., 1,453; Victoria, 2,421; Queensland, 590; South Australia, 195; West Australia, 249; Tasmania, 134.

That the returns for Baptisms and Funerals do not faithfully represent the ministrations of our ministers is manifest when we compare the number of marriages stated by the schedules with the actual number of marriages celebrated by Presbyterian ministers in the several States; these were as follows:—New South Wales, 1,493, a difference of 121; Victoria, 1,433, a difference of 203; Queensland, 487, a difference of 122; South Australia, 119; South Australia (in whole State 119), in South Australian Church 81, a difference of 25. West Australia, 162; Tasmania, 185, a difference of 25. If about marriages of which an accurate record must be kept, our information is so faulty, what must it be in regard to Baptisms and funerals; yet the large margin that exists between the probable Presbyterian births and deaths, and enumerated baptisms and funerals furnishes matter for consideration.

While no satisfactory basis of comparison as to the progress of the Church can be based upon unreliable returns, those of the marriages as furnished by the various Government departments enable us to determine how far in this direction the services of our ministers are in demand.

	Total No. of Marriages.	Per cent. of Presbyterian Marriages.		Per cent of Presbyterians to Pop. (1901)
		1906.	1904.	
N.S. Wales	11,551	12.92	13.4	9.9
Victoria	8,930	16.047	17.2	16.2
Queensland	3,588	13.57	14.4	11.7
South Australia	2,679	4.44	5.05	5.2
S.A. (Vic. Church)	122	31.14	—	—
West Australia	2,261	7.16	8.9	8.2
Tasmania	1,398	13.23	14.07	6.8

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP. &c.

	No. of Households.	Persons therein.	Communicants.	Admissions.			Renewals.			Presbyterians.	
				First Time.	Certificate.	Renewals.	Certificate.	Death.	Otherwise.	Over 16.	Under 16.
N.S. Wales	18,945	73,547	16,824	1,149	611	130	493	180	466	28,856	24,991
Victoria	30,057	110,038	27,601	1,449	1,221	206	1,190	425	454	30,154	29,413
Queensland	4,023	14,850	6,277	281	158	37	138	62	97	2,739	3,241
South Australia . .	1,455	5,625	1,777	87	59	19	23	18	26	—	—
West Australia . . .	—	—	1,039	102	114	20	42	—	—	1,893	—
Tasmania	1,629	4,149	1,691	140	104	3	48	29	23	1,372	1,038
			55,209	3,208	2,267	515	1,334				

The number of households and individuals tabulated shows that we are a long way from a systematic enumeration of the people under our spiritual charge; a comparison of the individuals with the estimated number of Presbyterians in our population table tells us how much is yet to be done. Our communicants show the following increases:—N.S.W., 790; Victoria, 416; Queensland, 470; South Australia, 74; and decreases—West Australia, 59; Tasmania, 23. It will be observed that the difference between the totals of admissions of removals does not correspond with the total increase, which is 1,668; the members last year numbered 53,541. The net gain of members admitted should be as follows—N.S.W., 751; Victoria, 507; Queensland, 179; South Australia, 98; Tasmania, 147. The communicants' rolls are evidently not too carefully kept.

WELFARE OF YOUTH.

	No. of Schools.	No. of Teachers.	Scholars on Roll.	Average Attendance.	Vols. in Library.	Attending Bible Classes
Victoria	541	4,097	38,755	26,822	68,579	4,004
N.S. Wales	346	2,142	20,840	14,965	27,637	1,499
Queensland	124	986	8,954	6,976	9,713	294
South Australia . . .	33	205	1,686	1,388	5,484	187
West Australia	23	205	2,065	1,416	—	—
Tasmania	38	206	1,880	1,105	2,121	315
	1,105	7,841	74,170	52,672		

Schools.—Increase: N.S. Wales, 11; Queensland (decrease), 9; South Australia (decrease), 1; West Australia (decrease), 1; Tasmania (decrease), 1; Victoria (decrease), 44. Total decrease 45.

Teachers.—New South Wales (decrease), 19; Victoria, 102. Increases: Queensland, 47; South Australia, 49; Tasmania, 17; West Australia, the same. Total decrease, 8.

Scholars.—Decrease: New South Wales, 866; Victoria, 403. Increases: Queensland, 806; South Australia, 525; West Australia, 52; Tasmania, 196; total increase, 301.

The marked decrease of Sunday-school scholars in New South Wales and Victoria is to be ascribed mainly to the fall in the birth-rate during past years; in the former State it is anticipated that for the next three years there will be a continuous decrease averaging something like 2,300 a year in the enrolment of native-born children of school ages at the public schools, and in 1909 the enrolment number will probably be less than that of 1904 by upward of 12,000. As the decline in the birth-rate was more marked in Victoria, we must look for a corresponding decrease in children available for Sunday schools in that State.

Scholars Joining the Church.—Victoria, 172; Queensland, 99; West Australia, 14; Tasmania, 28; no returns from the other States.

FINANCE.

	Revenue for Congregational Purposes.		Stipend.	Home Mission.	Foreign Mission.	Sabbath School Revenue.	Charitable.	Total Congrega- tional Revenue.
	Ordinary.	Special.						
N.S. Wales -	£48,092	£13,066	£42,177	£729	£1,261	£1,342	£384	£67,588
Victoria -	80,394	17,352	60,968	1702	2,460	7,368	6,480	116,725
Queensland -	14,582	4,502	9,924	252	213	1,469	99	22,397
South Australia -	4,619	676	4,198	75	143	—	—	—
West Australia -	—	—	3,455	—	—	270	—	4,619
Tasmania -	4,260	654	3,894	—	275	368	341	6,437
			124,616					

Ordinary Revenue.—Increase: New South Wales, £3,472; Queensland, £552; decrease, South Australia, £842; Victoria, £3,086.

Stipends. Increase: New South Wales, £1,162; Victoria, £572; Queensland, £913; South Australia, £296; West Australia, £21; Tasmania, £145. Total increase, £3,107.

Total Revenue.—Increase: Victoria, £736; Queensland, £3,769; Tasmania, £878. Decrease: New South Wales, £9,974.

Capital Funds and Credit Balances.—New South Wales, £109,606; Victoria, £345,026; Queensland, £12,099; South Australia, £13,927; West Australia, £241.

The average contribution per member on the stipend total is £2 5/17. as against £2, 5/3 last year.

HUME ROBERTSON,
C. A. WHITE, } Joint Conveners.

(6) REPORT OF FINANCE COMMITTEE, 1907.

Your Committee has the honour to submit herewith the audited balance-sheets and report.

In the General Assembly Expenses Fund the credit has decreased from £62 0s. 2d., as reported to the Assembly of 1906, to £30 10s. 11d., and this notwithstanding an increase in the assessment, and unless care is taken in connection with expenditure for printing, etc., it will be necessary to make a further increase in the assessment. There is an outstanding balance of £16 13s. 4d. due to this account from the Tasmanian Church.

The amount received for Church Hymnary Royalty for the year ending March 31, 1907, was £71 19s. 5d. This, with £18 0s. 4d. interest, forms the revenue in this account. The credit balance reported to last Assembly was £552 5s. 3d., and after making the transfer for the expenses of last Assembly, and adding the revenue, as above, the present credit is £444 4s. 5d.

The amount paid for travelling expenses in connection with last Assembly (held in Sydney in 1906) was £198 0s. 7d. It will be noticed that there is again a shortage in revenue, as compared with expenditure, in this account, and unless some other means are taken to obtain funds for the payment of the travelling expenses of members, it will only be a matter of time when the fund will be exhausted. As formerly, the travelling expenses account is set forth in balance-sheet form, and the total paid out on account of expenses of representatives of the various States to the General Assembly shows a total of £198 0s. 7d., as against £186 12s. 6d. of the previous year. Your Committee recommends that the expenses for this Assembly be paid on the same lines, and on the same proportion as for last Assembly, namely:—"That members attending the General Assembly in September, 1907, have the following percentages

of their travelling expenses (calculated upon the basis of second-class railway return fares) paid by the Church, viz.:—(a) Those paying less than £1, nothing; (b) Those paying from £1 to £4, to receive half; (c) Those paying from £4 upwards, to receive three-quarters, provided that no one in Class (b) shall pay less than £1 himself, and no one in Class (c) less than £2."

It is further recommended that instruction be given to assess the State Assemblies for the General Assembly's expenses on the same lines as formerly, to wit:—New South Wales, £50; Victoria, £50; Queensland, £16 13s. 4d.; South Australia, £16 13s. 4d.; Tasmania, £16 13s. 4d.; Western Australia, £12 10s. per annum.

Your Committee would also, as formerly, ask directions regarding the sum of £25 received from the Presbyterian Church of England for Bush Mission work in Australia, the amount being at present held in suspense.

In the Home Mission Account the revenue was £21 19s. 11d. and payments £21 12s. 6d., leaving a balance, including a former credit, of £8 17s. 11d.

In the Assembly held in Sydney in 1906 a collection of £16 18s. 1d. was taken up on behalf of Foreign Missions, and the amount was forwarded to the Treasurer of the Board of Missions.

On behalf of the Committee,

JOHN H. GOODLET,

Chairman.

SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT OF FINANCE COMMITTEE.

In connection with the remit regarding the increase in the Travelling Expenses Fund, the committee resolved to suggest that the Assembly should enjoin upon congregations the desirability of adopting the hymnary, and thus secure to the Church an increase in the royalty revenue.

The committee cannot see any other means at present of increasing the revenue, but would remind the Assembly that, should the meetings continue to be held annually, a large increase in the assessment will become necessary.

(7) REPORT OF THE PUBLIC QUESTIONS COMMITTEE.

The Committee has given attention to several matters of considerable importance. Last year the Assembly resolved that a manual of Presbyterianism should be issued at a small cost for wide circulation throughout the congregations. This has not yet been done. Those to whom the preparation of the book was entrusted are doubtless engaged in the work; but it is desirable that it should not be overlooked.

In view of the recent report of the Commission with regard to patent medicines, it is incumbent upon our Church to utter a solemn warning against the sale and use of such of them as are intended to prevent the birth of children. From the report of the Commissioners it would appear that in this new country, where the conditions of life are easier than elsewhere, the vice to which these drugs subserve is most lamentably common. Large sections of our population evidently deliberately enter upon marriage, and then, in defiance of both God and nature, refuse the burden of parenthood. The callous selfishness of such a course is in itself shocking; but when we see, as we must do, that a continuance and spread of it will mean the decay and ultimate ruin of our race and nation, the call to the Churches and to all other associations of loyal and self-respecting men and women, to protest against the evil is most urgent. It is to be hoped that the General Assembly will warn the people of the country against countenancing or even tolerating this evil, and that it will demand legislation to curb this evil thing, one of the very enemies the Christian Church had to overcome at its birth.

Further, the Committee is glad to see that two of the State Parliaments, Victoria and Queensland, are pledged to bring in Bills to authorize an appeal to the people as to the introduction of Scripture-reading into the State schools. In both cases, this will probably lead also to an extension of facilities for giving denominational religious instruction by the ministers or other agents of the various Churches. If carried, this would give these two

States the benefit of the system which has been so warmly appreciated in New South Wales, and more recently in Western Australia. Your Committee would heartily approve of such a step: for in New South Wales, where this plan has been thoroughly tested by the experience of 30 years, nothing but good has come from its adoption. There have been no complaints of proselytism, nor of undue zeal on the part of teachers, for or against the doctrines of Christianity; and peace on this burning question has been secured.

T. E. CLOUSTON,

Convener.

(8) REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON SUNDAY-SCHOOL HYMNAL.

I have to make the following report on behalf of the Committee:—

It has not been found possible to hold a meeting of the Committee during the year. But as the Assembly at its last session gave instructions for enquiries to be made "as to the feasibility of compiling and issuing a hymn-book for the use of all the Sunday-schools of the Protestant Churches of Australia," a good deal of correspondence has been carried on by the Convener with the representatives of the various Churches. As a result—

The Archbishop of the Church of England in New South Wales appointed three of his clergy to meet your Committee.

The Congregational Union of the same State also appointed three delegates.

The Baptist Church of New South Wales took no definite action, so far as I am aware, nor did the Methodist Church of Australia. At any rate no advice has reached me from these two bodies.

Letters were addressed to the Bishops of the Church of England in each principal city in the various States. The Archbishop of Melbourne was indisposed at the time my letter reached him, and nothing beyond a simple acknowledgment has so far come to hand from him. Extracts from the letters of the Bishops of Adelaide and Brisbane are appended hereto.

A conference of the delegates appointed by the Archbishop of Sydney was held in Sydney on 26th March last, with those members of your Committee who could be got together. Unfortunately the delegates of the Congregational Church could not attend, but they sent apologies. The members of your Committee who were present were much gratified at the desire shown by the gentlemen representing the Church of England in New South Wales to consider the scheme proposed, not only with fairness, but with sympathy. One great difficulty was that referred to by the Bishop of Brisbane in his letter. But it was felt that if a book for use by all the Churches were to be issued, the different Churches would need to make concessions to each other; and as Christmas and Easter, at least, are remembered by all the Churches, it was considered possible that the difficulty in question might admit of solution. It was admitted that in many country places, at any rate, not only children but adults of different denominations work together, and a hymn-book that all could use would be a manifest convenience.

The meeting, however, was only representative of portions of two Churches, and nothing more was possible than an interchange of views. Since the date named no further communications have reached the Convener, and it would seem to be better to give up, for the present at any rate, the idea of compiling what might be called a Union Hymn Book.

If the Assembly approve, the Committee can in future devote itself to the work of compiling a Hymn Book for use in our own Sunday-schools.

A very large number of different books are at present in use in our schools and in the homes of our people. It would be a manifest advantage to have an Australian book, suitable to the conditions and needs of our Commonwealth and people, bearing the imprimatur of the Assembly. The Assembly of the State of Victoria has forwarded to your Convener a motion

as follows: "That it is desirable to arrange for an appendix to our Hymnary, in which shall be printed a copy of tunes familiarly associated with the hymns." Your Committee, however, was only appointed to deal with the matter of a Sunday-school hymnal.

For the Committee,

W. H. ASH,

Convener.

EXTRACTS ABOVE REFERRED TO—

The Bishop of Adelaide:—"Having regard to the very important conference which is in progress between chosen members of your own body and of the Church of England, I consider the proposal mentioned in your letter premature, and certainly cannot at the present time give any support to it in this diocese."

The Bishop of Brisbane:—"It seems to me that there might be difficulties in compiling a hymn-book for use in Sunday-schools which would be acceptable through all the Protestant Churches of Australia, for I cannot but think that the various bodies might be found to differ in their views of what is practically desirable in the shaping of the children's thoughts. For instance, it is a method of our Church to emphasize the different sides of Christian truth by means of a succession of Seasons, Festivals, and Fasts, commemorating the great steps in the story of Redemption; and accordingly in our Sunday-schools we sing special hymns, suited to Advent, Lent, Easter, Whitsuntide, etc., and no hymn-book would be satisfactory to us in which these seasons, fasts, and festivals were not fully represented. Could we suppose that a book thus following the Calendar of the Church of England would be acceptable to all Protestant Churches? We have, as you know, several hymn-books in use in our Sunday-schools framed on these lines. I have heard of your proposal with interest, but it seems to me that the difficulty I have indicated above might form a serious obstacle."

(9) REPORT OF COMMITTEE RELATIVE TO RELIGION AND MORALS
AND SABBATH-SCHOOLS.

RELIGION AND MORALS.

Your committee has a somewhat difficult task in presenting a report on religion and morals for Australia, inasmuch as the reports from our various State Churches are necessarily brief, and touch only on outstanding subjects. The symptoms of religious growth or decay are not easy to detect from these reports. There may be apparent prosperity and progress in the Churches without any real spiritual depth. It was to a Church that imagined itself "in need of nothing" that the sternest call to repentance was addressed by the Head of the Church in early days; and on the other hand there may be deep spiritual life and active Christian work which never finds expression in the report of a bluebook.

A survey of the various reports, however, would lead us to the conclusion that our Churches as a whole are waking up to the importance of home mission work, and to the danger of our people lapsing into heathenism, especially in remote parts of the continent, and if this proceeds from a keen sense of the value of our Christian ordinances, and a real and very practical sympathy with those who are debarred from them, then it is a symptom of a deepening spiritual life among our congregations, showing itself in the gradual elimination of congregational selfishness and isolation from the needs of others.

In some of our Churches, too, an increased sense of responsibility for the masses of our city population is evident, and forward movements have been started in some of our largest centres, which are most promising. Money for mission buildings and for the support of lady workers to visit the sick and the poor and the degraded has been willingly and generously given, and all this indicates, we trust, a deeper love to the sheep that are being lost and to the Great Shepherd of the sheep, whose purpose in coming here was to seek and to save.

With regard to foreign mission enterprise, also, there appears to be progress, and while much still remains to be done, much has been done to augment the staff of workers and maintain them in various mission-fields, and if there be a more intense desire that "other sheep that are not of this fold" shall be brought in, may we not believe that this too, is a symptom of a greater sympathy with the purpose of God our Saviour, who "willeth not that any should perish"?

The reports show, especially in some States, an extraordinary increase in Sunday entertainments and outdoor amusements, which must seriously affect the general moral tone of the people, and be specially disastrous to the young. This seems to be peculiarly the case in Western Australia in the mining centres.

In New South Wales and Victoria legislation has been effected in connection with the liquor traffic and gambling, which has had an excellent effect in minimising the glaring evils which have been rampant for years.

The New South Wales Gambling Bill is the most drastic, prohibiting the publication of betting-odds before races, suppressing betting-shops and street-betting and betting with persons of illegal age, and practically confining all gambling within the precincts of the racecourse.

Your committee notes that by co-operation with the Councils of Churches in various States much has been done to encourage wise legislation, and many improvements have been suggested in the Bills presented to Parliament, which have been carried into effect.

The publication in New South Wales of a "Service-Book for Laymen" and in Victoria a "Book of Prayers" should be helpful to our people where the services of a minister are not available in the one case, and in the other where the head of a household finds difficulty in conducting family worship.

Your committee feels that while there is much to be thankful for in our Church life, there are many hindrances to progress and much temptation to sin and worldliness to be confronted, and hence there is a call for very earnest prayer that the Spirit of God may powerfully work in all our congregations, and that a spiritual warmth and glow may take possession of us as a Church. Only so shall our influence be felt in the community, and Australia be the better for the existence in it of our branch of the great Church of God.

SABBATH-SCHOOLS.

Your Committee is impressed with the large amount of good work being done by our teachers and Superintendents in our Sabbath-schools; but it is evident that there is a feeling abroad in some of our States that improvement is needed in certain respects. It is realized that if the teaching is to be effective, the teachers must be properly trained for the important duties of their office. A good deal is being done in our larger cities in this direction, but it is very difficult to secure any efficient training of teachers in smaller centres of population. In many country districts the problem is to find teachers of any sort, and it is little wonder, therefore, that the teaching is not what it ought to be. Much might be done, perhaps, by the distribution amongst teachers of manuals on the art of teaching, and doubtless many a teacher would be glad of hints on this subject. Your Committee notes that in New South Wales the Canadian Presbyterian handbooks are to be imported for local use.

In Victoria, a series of lectures to teachers has been arranged by specially qualified persons, in different centres, and good results have been obtained.

It is felt by some that the lessons of the International series are not entirely satisfactory, and that a properly graded system of lessons, in which the gradual development of revelation and the assured results of criticism for the advanced scholars should find a place. But the preparation of such a system would be attended with much difficulty, and would require considerable expenditure, so that it is not likely that the International series of lessons will be displaced for some time to come.

The disparity between the number of children attending our schools and the number of persons joining the fellowship of the Church for the first time is a matter to which attention is drawn in the reports, and it is a very serious question indeed. Superintendents and teachers should be strongly urged to impress upon scholars nearing the close of their Sabbath-school career the desirability of an open confession of their faith.

In some of the Churches a special Sunday in the year is set apart by the State Assembly on which the senior scholars are addressed on this subject and earnestly invited to make the great surrender. If this were generally done over the whole Church of Australia we might, perhaps, have to chronicle many more additions to our communicants' rolls from the Sabbath-schools.

In the Sabbath-school report of the Victorian Assembly the following paragraph appears:—"Quite a noticeable feature is the fact that the percentage of schools contributing to missions, either home or foreign, is far below what your Committee reasonably expects. The number who subscribe nothing at all is surprising." There are indications that a similar state of things is to be met with in other States. This is surely worth observing, and, if possible, rectifying. The need of an agent in connection with each Church, whose duty it would be to encourage and stimulate the teachers in their work, and develop the organization of the schools, is apparent. In Victoria this need has been met, but the financial difficulty, which in Victoria has been provided for by the bequest of the late Mr. Allan, seems to be an insuperable one at present in other States.

Presbyterian Sunday-schools' Unions have been established in several States under the happiest auspices.

Your Committee has been much gratified by the warm welcome given by the teachers and superintendents to the letter of kindly encouragement and thanks sent out by the Moderator last year, by instruction of the Assembly.

Many Press notices have indicated that the letter has been most gratefully received, and we would close this report with a warm commendation of the devoted and earnest workers in all our Sabbath-schools, who deserve from this Assembly most cordial acknowledgment of their self-denying and persistent toil.

W. S. ROLLAND,
Convener.

(10) REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE RELATIVE TO THE *RECORD*.

Your Committee has the honour to report that there is a slight increase in the total circulation of the magazine, as will appear from the accompanying statement:—

	1906.	1907.	Increase.	Decrease
Queensland	521	502	—	19
New South Wales	1,121	1,038	—	83
Victoria	6,513	6,915	402	—
Tasmania	251	243	—	11
South Australia	559	475	—	84
Western Australia	467	504	37	—
New Zealand	350	170	—	180
	<u>9,785</u>	<u>9,847</u>	<u>439</u>	<u>377</u>

Your Committee, however, cannot but feel disappointed that, though the General Assembly has repeatedly commended the *Record* to the ministers, superintendents, and teachers of our Sabbath-schools in Australia, we have to report a decrease in circulation in all the States, with the exception of Western Australia and Victoria. Indeed, if it had not been for a considerable increase of orders in Victoria, the total circulation would have shown a decided backward movement.

In the last Bluebook of the New South Wales Assembly, the following paragraph in the report of the Sabbath-schools' Committee occurs:—"The Committee's attention has been drawn to the very limited circulation of the *Record* in this State. It appears that only about 50 schools subscribe to the paper, the total circulation being only about 1,100. The Committee feels that the *Record* deserves to be more widely known, and would urge its more general adoption throughout our schools." When it is remembered that there are 346 schools in that State, with over 20,000 scholars attached to them, the present circulation of 1,038 seems very small.

Decreases, more or less, are reported, not only from New South Wales, but from Queensland, Tasmania, and South Australia.

Your Committee would earnestly urge upon the Church the importance of uniting our young people throughout the Commonwealth in missionary sympathy; and your Committee thinks that the sense of our being one Church in Australia, with common interests, and engaged in common service, would be much keener in our scholars if the little magazine were welcomed in every Sabbath-school. If it be our desire that the principle of union should take possession of our people all over this continent, should we not educate our children in this, and might not the circulation of one Sabbath-school paper everywhere do much in this direction?

It cannot be suggested that the reported decrease may be owing to decrease in material prosperity generally, for a condition the very reverse of this appears to prevail throughout Australia.

Your Committee is not conscious that there is any falling off in the attractiveness of the magazine. If, in the opinion of any, this is the case, your Committee would gladly welcome criticism and suggestions as to improvement.

It should be mentioned that, in order to deepen the interest of our scholars in missionary enterprise, prizes have been kindly given for the best essays on special fields of mission work by the Rev. J. B. and Mrs. Reid, in memory of their daughter, the late Mrs. Nicholls (Miss Ethel Reid), a former contributor to the pages of the *Record*, who devoted her life to China. It is to be regretted that so few of the scholars have entered as yet for these competitions; but representatives from several of the States have competed and received prizes.

Our warmest thanks are due to Rev. J. B. and Mrs. Reid for their interest in the magazine and its readers.

W. S. ROLLAND,
Convener.

(10) REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON DIRECTORY FOR PUBLIC WORSHIP

The Committee, after deliberation on the whole matter entrusted to it, and careful consideration of the Directory for Public Worship, prepared under the supervision of and authorized by the Federal Assembly, unanimously recommends the adoption of that book with the necessary verbal amendments.

JAMES KINGHORN,
Convener.

(11) REPORT OF YEAR BOOK COMMITTEE.

The committee consider it desirable that a Year Book be published, provided this can be done without any great charge upon the Assembly Fund. They accordingly recommend that the committee be authorized to take steps to publish a Year Book at an expense to this Assembly of not more than £20.

(12) FEDERATION OF PROTESTANT CHURCHES.

(13) JUDICIAL COMMISSION.

(No Report.)

(14) COMMITTEE ON THE CODE.

(No Report.)

(15) SITES IN FEDERAL CAPITAL.

(No Report.)

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE FEDERATION OF THE CHURCHES.

The Committee has been occupied during the year in the prosecution of negotiations with the Committees of the Congregationalist and Methodist Churches. The Basis of Doctrine prepared by the New South Wales Section was submitted to the Victorian Section. A number of amendments were suggested, and these were considered by the full Committee in Adelaide, and the Amended Basis is appended to the report, and the Committee resolved to ask the Assembly to send it down to State Assemblies and Presbyteries for information and suggestion. The Scheme of Polity is being elaborated, but is

not yet in a sufficiently forward state to be presented to the Assembly.

In November last a Conference was held with the Committee appointed by the Church of England. This was of a very pleasant and brotherly character. A further Conference is to be held in October. The Committee, however, considers that all further negotiations with the Church of England should be conducted only in conjunction with the Methodist and Congregational Churches, with whom it has been in correspondence for the last three or four years.

T. E. CLOUSTON, Convener.

PROPOSED BASIS OF DOCTRINE

ARTICLE I.—OF GOD.

We believe in the ever-living God, who is Spirit, and the Father of our spirits; infinite, eternal, and unchangeable in His being and perfections; the Lord Almighty, just in all His ways, glorious in holiness, unsearchable in wisdom and plenteous in mercy, full of love and compassion, and abundant in goodness and truth. We worship Him, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, three persons in one Godhead, and equal in power and glory. To Him be the glory for ever. Amen.

II.—OF REVELATION.

We believe that God is revealed in nature, in history, and in the heart of man; but that He has made gracious and clearer revelations of Himself through men of God who spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit, and that this revelation, gradually advancing in clearness and grace, reached its fulness in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh, who is the brightness of the Father's glory and the express image of His person. We gratefully receive the Holy Scriptures as the Word of God, given by inspiration to be the faithful record of God's gracious revelations and the sure witness to Christ; and we reverently acknowledge the Holy Spirit speaking in the Scriptures to be the Supreme Judge in questions of faith and duty.

III.—OF THE DIVINE PURPOSE.

We believe that the eternal, wise, holy and loving purpose of God embraces all events, so that while the freedom of man is not taken away nor is God the author of sin, yet in His providence He makes all things work together for the fulfilment of His sovereign design and the manifestation of His glory; wherefore, humbly acknowledging the mystery of this truth, we trust in His protecting and guiding care and set our hearts to do His will.

IV.—OF THE CREATION.

We believe that God is the creator, upholder and governor of all things; that He is above all his works and in them all; and that He made man in His own image, meet for fellowship with Him, free and able to choose between good and evil, and forever responsible to His Maker and Lord.

V.—OF THE SIN OF MAN.

We believe that man, being tempted, chose evil and so fell away from God and came under the power of sin, the penalty of which is death; and we confess that, by reason of this disobedience, we and all men are born with a sinful nature, that we have broken God's law, and that no man can be saved but by His grace.

VI.—OF THE GRACE OF GOD.

We believe that God, out of His great love for the world, has given His only begotten Son to be the Saviour of sinners, and in the Gospel freely offers His all sufficient salvation to all men; we believe that all who die in infancy, and all others given by the Father to the Son who are beyond the reach of the outward means of grace, are regenerated and saved by Christ through the Spirit; we believe that all who have heard the Gospel and are come to years of discretion can receive this salvation only through repentance and faith. And we praise God for the unspeakable grace wherein He has provided a way of eternal life for all mankind.

VII.—OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST.

We believe in and confess the Lord Jesus Christ, the only Mediator between God and man, who being the eternal Son of God, for us men and for our salvation became truly man, yet without sin: being conceived by the Holy Ghost and born of the Virgin Mary: unto us He has revealed the Father and made known the perfect will of God; for us He fulfilled all righteousness, by His perfect sacrifice of Himself upon the Cross He satisfied alike the eternal justice and the eternal love of God, and took away the sin of the world; for us He rose from the dead and ascended into Heaven; in us, united to Him by faith, He abides forever; over us, and over all for us, He rules; wherefore, unto Him we render love, obedience and adoration, as our Prophet, Priest, and King.

VIII.—OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of Life, who moves upon the hearts of all men, to restrain them from evil and to incite them unto good, and whom the Father is ever willing to give unto all who ask Him. We believe that He has spoken by holy men of God in making known His truth to men for their salvation; that, through our exalted Saviour, He was sent forth in power to convict the world of sin, to enlighten men's minds in the knowledge of Christ, and to persuade and enable them to obey the call of the Gospel; and that He abides with the Church, dwelling in every believer as the spirit of truth and holiness, of comfort and love.

IX.—OF REPENTANCE AND FAITH.

We believe that every one, who through the grace of the Holy Spirit repents and believes the Gospel, confessing and forsaking his sins, and humbly relying upon Christ alone for salvation, is freely pardoned and accepted as righteous in the sight of God, solely on the ground of Christ's perfect obedience and atoning sacrifice.

X.—OF THE NEW BIRTH AND THE NEW LIFE.

We believe that the Holy Spirit is the author and source of the new birth; we rejoice in the new life, wherein He is given unto us as the seal of sonship in Christ, and keeps loving fellowship with us, helps us in our infirmities, purges us from our faults, and ever continues His transforming work in us until we are perfected in the likeness of Christ.

XI.—OF THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE TO COME.

We believe that in the life to come the spirits of the just enjoy immediate communion with God and the vision of His glory; and that there shall be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and of the unjust, through the power of the Son of God; and that the bodies of all who are fallen asleep in Christ, as well as of the faithful who are alive at His coming, shall be fashioned anew and conformed to the body of His glory.

XII.—OF THE LAW OF GOD.

We believe that God requires of every man to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with his God; and that only through this harmony with the will of God shall be fulfilled that brotherhood of man wherein the kingdom of God is to be made manifest. We believe and acknowledge that the Lord Jesus Christ has laid His people by His grace under new obligation to keep the perfect Law of God, and has by precept and example enlarged our knowledge of that Law, and illustrated the spirit of filial love in which the divine will is to be obeyed.

XIII.—OF THE CHURCH.

We acknowledge our holy catholic Church, the innumerable company of saints of every age and nation, who, being united by the Holy Spirit to Christ their Head, are one body in Him, and have communion with their Lord and with one another; further, we receive it as the will of Christ that His Church on earth should exist as a visible and sacred brotherhood, consisting

of those who profess faith in Jesus Christ and obedience to Him, together with their children, and organised for the confession of His name, the public worship of God, the upbuilding of the saints, and the proclamation of the Gospel; and we acknowledge, as a part, more or less pure, of this universal brotherhood, every particular Church throughout the world which professes this faith in Jesus Christ and obedience to Him, as Divine Lord and Saviour.

XIV.—OF THE SACRAMENTS.

We acknowledge Baptism and the Lord's Supper, the two Sacraments instituted by Christ, to be of perpetual obligation as means of grace; made effectual only by the operation of the Holy Spirit, and always to be used by Christians with prayer and praise to God.

XV.—OF THE LAST JUDGMENT.

We believe that God will judge the world in righteousness by Jesus Christ, before Whom all men must appear, Who shall separate the righteous from the wicked, make manifest the secrets of the heart, and render to every man according to the deeds which he hath done in the body, whether good or evil, when the wicked shall go away into eternal punishment but the righteous into eternal life.

XVI.—OF CHRISTIAN SERVICE AND THE FINAL TRIUMPH.

We believe that it is our duty, as servants and friends of Christ, to do good unto all men, to maintain the public and private worship of God, to hallow the Lord's Day, to preserve the sanctity of the family, to uphold the just authority of the State, and so to live in all honesty, purity, and charity, that our lives shall testify of Christ. We joyfully receive the word of Christ, bidding His people go into all the world and make disciples of all nations, and declare unto them that God was in Christ reconciling the world unto Himself, and that He will have all men to be saved, and to come to a knowledge of the truth. We believe that by His power and grace all His enemies shall be finally overcome, and that the kingdoms of this world shall become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ.



RETURNS TO REMITS.

ARTICLE VIII. (BLUE BOOK, 1906, M. 97).

APPROVE: Presbyteries of Illawarra, Lachlan, Monaro, Wagga Wagga, Young, Goulburn, Hawkesbury, Fremantle, Toowoomba, Beechworth, Mortlake, Hamilton, Gippsland, Hobart, Goulburn Valley, Ballarat.

ASSEMBLIES of New South Wales, Queensland, Tasmania, South Australia.

APPROVE GENERALLY: Presbytery of Geelong; State Assembly of Victoria (but recommend that before adding the resolution to the paragraph I. of Article VIII. of the Articles of Agreement, the whole scheme for the training of Home Mission Agents be completed and fitted into Article VIII. of the Articles of Agreement and sent to Presbyteries and State Assemblies with the view of having it enacted in terms of Article XIII.).

DISAPPROVE: Presbyteries of Sydney, Murrumbidgee, Melbourne South, Melbourne North.

RETURNS TO REMIT ON ARTICLE VIII. (B.B. 1905, M. 97 1906, M. 66).

APPROVE: Presbyteries of Hastings, Hawkesbury, Hunter, Lachlan, Monaro, Wagga Wagga, Young, Sydney, Goulburn, Fremantle, Mortlake, Gippsland, Brisbane.

APPROVE GENERALLY: Presbytery of Melbourne South (but recommend that before adding it to par. I. of Article VIII. of the Articles of Agreement the whole scheme for the training of H. Mission Agents be completed and fitted into Art. VIII. and sent to Presbyteries and State Assemblies with the view of having it duly enacted in terms of Art. XIII.).

STATE ASSEMBLIES.—APPROVE: New South Wales (with the following proviso: That the Assembly approve, but suggest that the provisions be not inserted in the Constitution, but passed as resolutions), Tasmania.

RETURNS TO REMIT ANENT BOARD OF HOME MISSIONS (B.B. 1906, M. 84.).

APPROVE: Presbyteries of Hastings, Hawkesbury, Hunter, Illawarra, Lachlan, Monaro, Wagga Wagga, Young, Sydney, Goulburn, Brisbane, Toowoomba, Mortlake, Adelaide, Belalie, Onkaparinga.

DISAPPROVE: Presbytery of Goulburn Valley, Ballarat (as regards No. 2, but approve of No. 1).

STATE ASSEMBLIES.—APPROVE: New South Wales (with the following proviso:—That the Assembly approve, but suggest that the provisions be not inserted in the Constitution, but passed as resolutions), Queensland, South Australia.

APPROVE GENERALLY: Presbyteries of Murrumbidgee (except as regards New Article VIIA.), Beechworth.

DISAPPROVE: Presbyteries of Launceston, Hobart (both these Presbyteries recommend that Home Missions receive more prominence in Articles of Agreement), Hamilton, Gippsland, Melbourne North, Geelong, Melbourne South (recommend more prominent recognition of Home Missions in Articles of Agreement and suggest the adoption of the proposal in the New Article with the following alterations: (1) in the preamble insert "as hereafter provided" after "administration of Home Missions"; (2) in par. 4 insert "to originate new Home Mission Schemes" after "concerned").

STATE ASSEMBLIES.—DISAPPROVE: Victoria, Tasmania (but suggest that Home Missions receive a greater prominence in the Articles of Agreement than at present).

Mission Work in Bush of Australia Account.

JULY 31, 1907.

DR.	DISBURSEMENTS.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	RECEIPTS.	CR.	£	s.	d.
To	Payments per Instructions of General Assembly of Australia to Presbyterian Church in Queensland	12	10	0				By	Balance, July 31, 1906	25	0	0
	West Australia	12	10	0				..	Amount received from Presbyterian Church of England	25	0	0
..	Balance				25	0	0			£50	0	0
					£50	0	0	..	Balance	£25	0	0

MISSION WORK IN BUSH OF AUSTRALIA ACCOUNT. HOME MISSION ACCOUNT.

DR.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	RECEIPTS.	CR.	£	s.	d.	
To	Paid Passages to West Australia of Rev. George Logan	11	0	0			By	Balance, July 31, 1906	8	10	6	
	Mr Ernest Hogan	10	0	0			..	Collection at Assembly Home Mission Night	17	8	9	
					21	0	0	..	Donation—Mr. Alexander Donald	1	1	0
..	Printing Programmes of Meeting				0	12	6	..	Contribution from Home Mission Committee of New South Wales Church	3	0	0
..	Balance				8	17	11	..	Interest to December 31, 1906	0	10	2
					£30	10	5			£30	10	5
								..	Balance	£8	17	11

FOREIGN MISSIONS ACCOUNT.

DR.	£	s.	d.	RECEIPTS.	CR.	£	s.	d.	
To	Amount Remitted to Treasurer of Foreign Missions Board	£16	18	1	By	Collection at Assembly, Foreign Missions Night	£16	18	1

Examined and found correct.

CHAS. E. LITTLE, F.S.I.A.,
Official Auditor, Presbyterian Church, New South Wales.
Sydney, August 13, 1907.

TRAVELLING EXPENSES ACCOUNT

JULY 31, 1907.

DR.		DISBURSEMENTS.				RECEIPTS.		CR.	
		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.		
To	Paid Travelling Expenses to Meeting in Sydney, September, 1906—							By	Amount received from Church Hymnary
	Victorian Representatives	108	3	9					Royalty Account
	New South Wales Representatives	10	1	4					198
	South Australian Representatives	14	15	4					0
	Queensland Representatives	23	3	2					7
	Tasmanian Representatives								
	West Australian Representatives	17	18	6					
					197	10	7		
„	Printing Receipt-forms				0	10	0		
					<u>£198</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>7</u>		<u>£198</u>
									<u>0</u>
									<u>7</u>

110

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF AUSTRALIA.

CHURCH HYMNARY ROYALTY ACCOUNT.

DR.						CR.			
		£	s.	d.			£	s.	d.
To	Amount paid for Travelling Expenses as per separate account	198	0		By	Balance, July 31, 1906	552	5	3
„	Balance	444	4		„	Royalties received from Trustees in Edinburgh to March 31, 1907	71	19	5
					„	Interest to December 31, 1906	18	0	4
							<u>£642</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>0</u>
		<u>£642</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>0</u>	„	Balance	444	4	5

Examined and found correct.

CHAS. E. LITTLE, F.S.I.A.,
 Official Auditor, Presbyterian Church, New South Wales.
 Sydney, August 13, 1907.

INDEX.

	Minute.	Page.
ACCOUNTS		109
ADMISSION OF MINISTERS—		
Rev. G. R. S. Reid	59	
Rev. James Walker		93
Rev. Meyer Hermann		93
Rev. Alexander S. Brown		93
Rev. William L. Davies		93
APPEAL (Hawthorn Case)	23, 56	42
COMMITTEES APPOINTED—		
Standing Committees, List of		37
Selection Committee—Appointment and Report	7, 16	
Scrutineers—Appointment and Report	8, 33 (6)	
Special Committees, List of		39
Business Committee, for Session and next Assembly	6, 81	
Directory of Public Worship	76	
Federation of Churches	44	
Public Questions	75	
<i>Record</i>	77	
Sabbath School Hymnal	13	
Sabbath Schools and State of Religion	72	
Appendix to Hymnary	68	
Sites	79	
COMMUNICATION—		
Churches of Christ	41	46
COMMUNION SERVICE	10	
COMPLAINT	69	47
CONFERENCES—		
Foreign Missions	38	
Home Missions	31	
NOTICES OF MOTION, Matters Introduced by—		
Rev. W. S. Rolland	12	
‘The Church at Home’	53	
Appendix to Hymnary	68	
Limitation of Speeches	43	
OVERTURES—		
Board of Home Missions	65	50
Training Home Mission Agents	66	50

	Minute.	Page.
PETITIONS, &c.—		
For Admission to the Church—		
Rev. G. A. Hill	59	87
Rev. A. H. Tolhurst	59	87
Rev. W. A. Hobson	59	88
Rev. W. J. Stevens	59	88
Rev. E. Fox	59	89
Rev. C. Robertson	59	90
Rev. T. Davies	59	91
Rev. T. B. McClement	59	92
Rev. G. R. S. Reid	59	
From Students, &c.—		
Mr. C. M. Hilson	74	52
Mr. E. H. McL. Shugg	74	53
Mr. H. O'Sullivan	74	53
Mr. A. G. Wood	74	54
From Rev. W. S. Frackelton	28, 34	51
REFERENCE—		
State Assembly of Tasmania	71	56
REMITTS—		
Home Mission Agents and Sacraments	64	
Board of Home Missions	65	
Training Home Mission Agents	66	
REPORTS—		
Standing Committees—		
College	35	57
Finance	27, 60	98
Foreign Missions	50	65
Home Missions	19, 47	61
Reception of Ministers	59	87
Statistics	18	94
Special Committees—		
Business Committee on next Assembly	70	
Federation of Churches	44	104
Public Questions	75	99
Record	77	103
Sabbath School Hymnal	13	100
Sabbath Schools and Religion	55	101
Year Book		104
Directory of Public Worship		104
RETURNS TO REMITS—		
Article VIII.	62	108
Home Missions		108
ROLL	2, 11	
THANKS FOR HOSPITALITY	82	

