

W. Huey Steele

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



HELD IN SYDNEY, SEPTEMBER, 1920.
SESSION THIRTEENTH.

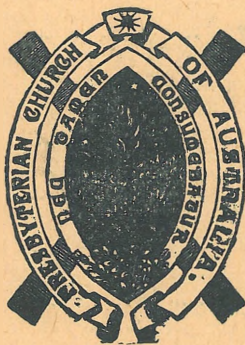
Sydney:

SAMUEL E. LEES LIMITED, PRINTERS AND STATIONERS, 68-70 WENTWORTH AVENUE.

1920.

Presbyterian Church
of N.S.W.
Committee on
Historical Records
Donated by the
Rev. W. Henry Spence M.A.

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



HELD IN SYDNEY, SEPTEMBER, 1920.

SESSION THIRTEENTH.

Sydney:

SAMUEL E. LEES LIMITED, PRINTERS AND STATIONERS, 68-70 WENTWORTH AVENUE.

1920.

CONTENTS.

	Page.
Officials of the General Assembly	3
Professors and Lecturers of the Theological Halls	4-5
Notanda	6
Minutes of General Assembly	7
List of Committees	46
Communications	55
Appeals	57
Overtures	64
Petitions	69
Reception of Ministers	74
Returns on Remits	84
Reports	85
Financial Statement	141
Index	155

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

OF THE

Presbyterian Church of Australia.

THE THEOLOGICAL HALLS.

ORMOND COLLEGE, MELBOURNE.

FACULTY.

- Rev. David S. Adam, M.A., D.D., Professor of Systematic Theology and of Church History.
Rev. J. Laurence Rentoul, M.A., D.D., Professor of N.T. Greek and Exegesis and of Christian Philosophy and Apologetic.
Rev. Alexander Skene, M.A., Professor of Hebrew and O.T. Exegesis and of Pastoral Theology.
Rev. John Barnaby, M.A., B.D., Neil Walter Black Lecturer on Paideutics and English Bible.
J. Howlett Ross, Esq., Geo. Wilson Lecturer on Elocution.

SENATUS.

- The Professors, with D. K. Picken, M.A., Master of Ormond College, Rev. John Mathew, M.A., B.D., Convener of Theological Hall Committee, and Rev. John Barnaby, M.A., B.D., Neil Walter Black Lecturer.
President—Professor Rentoul.
Secretary—Professor Adam.
Librarian—Professor Skene.

ST. ANDREW'S COLLEGE, SYDNEY.

- Professor of Hebrew and Exegetical Theology of the Old Testament—Rev. Andrew Harper, D.D.
Professor of Systematic Theology and Apologetics—Rev. Ronald G. Macintyre, M.A., B.D.
Professor of Exegetical Theology of the New Testament and Historical Theology—Rev. Samuel Angus, M.A., Ph.D.
“Steel” Lecturer in Pastoral Theology and the English Bible—Rev. G. R. S. Reid, M.A.
Lecturer in Voice Culture and Elocution—Mr. R. Bertram Kohm.
President of Faculty—Rev. Professor S. Angus, M.A., Ph.D.
Secretary of Faculty—Rev. Professor Macintyre, M.A., B.D.

EMMANUEL COLLEGE, BRISBANE.

- The Rev. George Ewan and the Rev. W. H. Waters, B.A., Lecturers in Practical Theology.
The Rt. Rev. James Gibson, M.A., Lecturer in Church History.
The Rev. Jas. Walker, M.A., B.D., Acting Lecturer in Old Testament Language and Exegesis.
The Rev. Richard Glaister, M.A., B.D., Lecturer in Systematics Theology.
The Rev. E. N. Merrington, M.A., Ph.D., Lecturer in Christian Philosophy and Apologetic.
The Rev. J. Vance, Lecturer in New Testament Language and Exegesis.
The Rev. Samuel Martin, M.A., Lecturer in the English Bible.
Principal—Rev. R. Glaister, M.A., B.D.
Secretary of Faculty—Rev. S. Martin, M.A.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
OF THE
Presbyterian Church of Australia.

Right Rev. the Moderator :

Rev. JAMES GIBSON, M.A., Minister at Ithaca, Brisbane.

Clerk of the Assembly :

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

The Procurator :

The Hon. JOHN GARLAND, M.A., LL.B., K.C., Sydney.

The Law Agents :

Messrs DAVIES and CAMPBELL, Melbourne.

Treasurers :

THE TREASURERSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE NEW SOUTH WALES
CHURCH, 23 YORK STREET, SYDNEY.

THEOLOGICAL HALL, PERTH.

The Rev. F. E. Oxer, M.A., B.D., Lecturer in Systematic Theology and Church History.
The Rev. G. N. Dods, M.A., Lecturer in Hebrew and O.T. Exegesis.
The Rev. W. H. Steele, M.A., Lecturer in N.T. Greek and Exegesis.
The Rev. A. Crow, Lecturer in Apologetics.
Lecturer in English Bible.
Principal—Rev. F. E. Oxer, M.A., B.D.

EXAMINERS.

ENTRANCE EXAMINATION.

Scrip and Shorter Catechism—Rev. Jas. Legge, B.A., and Rev. V. Clark Duff, B.A.
English—Revs. A. R. Osborn, M.A., and J. H. Terras.
Hebrew—Revs. M. McQueen, M.A., and D. M. Barnet, B.A.
Greek—Revs. E. E. Baldwin, M.A., B.D., and R. Nairn, M.A.
History—Revs. D. Macrae Stewart and G. Davidson, M.A., D.D.
Moral Philosophy—Revs. Karl Forster, M.A., and J. Edwards, M.A.
Mental Philosophy—Revs. J. H. Hewitt, M.A., B.D., and J. R. Blanchard, B.A.
English Literature—Revs. E. A. Swan, B.A., and J. Scott-Macdonald, M.A.

EXIT EXAMINATION.

Theology—Revs. W. Borland, M.A., B.D., and W. Grant-Forsyth, M.A., B.D.
Church History—Revs. H. S. R. Innes, and A. Dunn, B.A., B.D.
N.T. Greek—Rev. J. Gillies, M.A., B.D., and Rev. K. F. Partridge, M.A.
Hebrew—Revs. W. J. Holt, M.A., B.D., and H. S. Legge, M.A., B.D.
Apologetics—Revs. W. G. Maconochie, M.A., and A. C. Grieve, B.A.
Contents of Bible in English—Revs. J. Sinclair, B.A. and G. R. S. Reid, M.A.

H.M. AGENTS' EXAMINATION.

Logic—Revs. T. Scott Neil and W. Tait, M.A.
Greek—Revs. H. C. Matthew, M.A., and J. H. G. Auld, B.A.
History—Revs. Aeneas MacDonald, M.A. and J. J. Gilmore, B.A.
English—Revs. N. Miller, B.A., and W. Fraser, B.A.
Scrip and Catechism—Revs. H. S. Legge, M.A., and J. Marshall.
Mental Philosophy—Revs. Thos. Glass, B.A., and J. Barnet Steele, B.A.
Moral Philosophy—Revs. A. I. Davidson, M.A., and G. Chalmers.

ENTRANCE EXAMINATION.

Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane and Perth—February 8th, 1921, and March 29th, 1921.

H.M. EXAMINATION.

July 5th, 1921.

EXIT EXAMINATION.

September 5th, 1921.

NOTANDA.

Special attention is directed to the following :—

Place and Date of Meeting of next Assembly—At Melbourne on the first Wednesday of September, 1922, at 7.30 p.m.

Committees meet on preceding Tuesday and on Wednesday morning and afternoon.

Instructions, &c.—	Minute.
State Assemblies	98, 100, 101, 121, 127
Ministers ... ..	... 82, 83, 98
Sessions ... ..	... 82, 98, 134
Home Mission Agents ... ..	... 83

Committees—	Minute.
State H.M. Committees ... ..	... 68,69
Board of Missions ... ..	... 105
Finance ... ..	... 135
Public Questions ... ..	... 125
Immigration ... ..	... 123(a)
Business Committee ... ..	... 84
Book of Common Order ... ..	... 21

Remits—	Minute.
H. Missionaries and the Lord's Supper	66
(B.B., 1918, Minute 52, Page 74)	
Relative to Standing Order 4	114
Relative to Rule 7 of Rules on Spiritual Freedom	120

Requests—	Minute.
Moderator-General ... ..	... 80, 82

p 66
67

Presbyterian Church of Australia.

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

SESSION THIRTEENTH.

*At Sydney, and within St. Stephen's Church, Sydney, on Wednesday,
the 22nd September, 1920, at 7 p.m.*

1. The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia convened. Public Worship was conducted by the Right Reverend John Walker the retiring Moderator, and the Assembly constituted. Opening of Assembly
2. The Roll of Assembly was submitted by the Clerk, declared of interim authority, and ordered to be finally revised to-morrow morning. Roll
3. The Moderator intimated that the Moderator and ex-Moderators of the General Assembly, and the Moderators of State Assemblies had agreed to nominate for the Moderator's Chair the Rev. James Gibson, M.A. Moderator
4. It was moved by the Rev. Dr. Macintyre and seconded by the Rev. Dr. Rentoul : that the nomination be approved.
The motion was unanimously approved, Mr. Gibson was conducted to the Chair and delivered a suitable address.
5. It was moved by the Rev. Dr. Macintyre and seconded by the Rev. F. G. H. Brady :— Ex-Moderator
That the cordial thanks of the Assembly be tendered to the ex-Moderator for his valuable services to the Church during his term of office.
The motion was unanimously approved.
6. The Report of the Business Committee was approved.
7. A communication from the United Free Church of Scotland relative to the Assembly's resolution of sympathy with the proposed Union between the Church of Scotland and the United Free Church was received. Proposed Union
8. A letter from the official Secretary of the High Commissioner, covering a Resolution of the Presbytery of Cupar was submitted.

It was agreed to receive the communication and to ask the Moderator to acknowledge it.

Proposed
Federation

9. The Rev. Dr. Rentoul gave notice of his intention when the Report of the Committee on Federation with other Protestant Churches is before the House to move :

“ That all the words after the word ‘ That ’ be omitted, with the view of inserting the words :— ‘ In view of the results of the conflicting vote of Sessions and Congregations on the question— ‘ Do you approve of Union on the Proposed Basis ? ’ ” in view also of the manifest lack of desire for any such organic union of the Presbyterian Church with two other Ecclesiastical organisations so diverse from it in historic memories, creed, and polity, —in view, further, of the deep distrust evinced by our Assemblies, Presbyteries and People in its “ Basis of Doctrine and Polity,” as made manifest by the large number of amendments upon it, and the strong hostile vote in our Spiritual Courts—in view moreover of its incompatibility with our Supreme and Subordinate Standard and with the place of our Presbyterian Church in the great Brotherhood of the Presbyterian Churches of the British and other English-speaking lands, the Assembly disapproves the limited scheme of Organic Union now proposed with only two other of the Christian Churches, and urges, instead, the wider and more Christlike Union, by active and brotherly association, but with their autonomy unimpaired, of all the Evangelic Churches of Australia, in earnest and immediate concerted effort for the advance of the Kingdom of God in our Commonwealth, the prevention of “ overlapping ” where it exists, the supply of Christian ordinances in districts left spiritually neglected and in opposition to the sin, wrong, and moral corruption which abound in our land.’ ”

10. The Rev. P. L. Foster gave notice of his intention to move at a future Sederunt.

That the Clerk of the Assembly or the Convener of the Church Union Committee be instructed to lay on the table the full details of the vote that has been given by the people of Congregations as to :

1. The number of Congregations in each State.
2. The number of voters on the certified rolls of *each Congregation in each State*.
3. The Yes and No Vote of (a) each Congregation ; (b) each Mission Charge.

Statistical
Committee

11. Leave was granted to the Statistical Committee to meet to-morrow at the close of the Communion Service.

Adjournment

12. 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 ordinary business which having been publicly intimated the Sederunt was closed with prayer.

SECOND SEDERUNT.

At Sydney, and within St. Stephen’s Church, Phillip St., on 23rd September, 1920, at 10 a.m.

13. The Assembly met pursuant to adjournment. The Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper was observed, the Moderator presiding and the Revs.

John MacKenzie, G. R. S. Reid, C. D. P. Taylor, and Wm. Johnston assist-
ing; and the Assembly constituted.

14. The Minutes of the previous day and the Roll were approved. Roll

The Roll is as follows :—

NEW SOUTH WALES.

ELECTED BY PRESBYTERIES.

	BATHURST.	
Rev. A. Dunnett Robertson	|	
	THE CLARENCE.	
Rev. J. C. Milliken	|	Mr. John Cameron
	GOULBURN.	
Rev. George Tulloch Albert J. Carter	|	Mr. W. E. English
	THE HASTINGS.	
Rev. David Smith, M.A. J. H. Terras	|	Mr. John J. Gibson Robert Malcom
	THE HAWKESBURY.	
Rev. G. A. Hill, M.A. John Paterson W. R. Milne	|	Mr. J. R. Brown Hugh Reid Kenneth Campbell
	THE HUNTER.	
Rev. J. S. Rapkins Alex. Smith William Beck	|	Mr. D. Sneddon W. J. Ellis A. Gardiner
	ILLAWARRA.	
Rev. D. McKay Barnet, B.A. G. M. Torbett, M.A.	|	Mr. W. Warnock James Watt
	MONARO.	
Rev. J. L. Forbes, M.A., B.D.	|	Mr. J. C. Ryrie
	MOREE.	
Rev. W. Spence	|	Dr. F. S. Stuckey
	MURRUMBIDGEE.	
Rev. J. A. Craigen W. Robertson	|	Mr. Alex. Lang S. P. Wilson
	NEW ENGLAND.	
Rev. A. P. Cameron, B.A. H. S. Buntine	|	Mr. Peter Hannay
	NORTH SYDNEY.	
Rev. A. McKinlay J. J. Gilmore, B.A. D. P. Macdonald Geo. Chalmers	|	Mr. J. Sheddon Adam A. G. Baxter Dr. J. A. J. Murray Rev. J. F. Blair
	ORANGE	
Rev. C. F. McAlpine J. Keith Miller Alex. Simms, B.A.	|	Dr. Walker Mr. J. B. Coultts R. L. Currie
	THE RICHMOND.	
Rev. Allan MacKillop, B.A. Richard Miller, B.A.	|	Mr. William Gay Thomas Gibson

	SYDNEY.	
Rev. John Edwards, M.A. John Macaulay, M.A. C. W. Willis C. H. Talbot R. H. J. McGowan W. J. Gray, B.A. John Muir S. B. Reid	|	Mr. L. M. White W. F. Harrison C. A. Munro John Ramage J. P. Muir J. J. Henderson W. D. G. Fairbairn J. Silversides
	WAGGA WAGGA.	
Rev. James Macandrew, M.A. P. H. Widmer John Walker	|	Mr. Chas. McKay John Ross James Moncrieff
	YOUNG.	
Rev. James Goudie	|	Mr. W. F. Weeden
	ELECTED BY STATE ASSEMBLY.	
Rev. John Burgess, D.D. A. Harper, D.D. G. A. Gordon, B.A. R. G. Macintyre, D.D., O.B.E. J. H. Craig, M.A. John Ferguson G. R. S. Reid, M.A. A. S. McCook, B.A. D. F. Brandt A. Thain Anderson, M.A. W. G. Forsyth R. Scott West G. Cranston	|	Mr. J. H. Balfour J. H. Beatson G. A. Clifton W. G. Crane Wm. Scott J. Kirkland C. E. Rennie Wm. Wood H. Perdriau W. Affleck John Mars W. G. Geikie J. G. Mackee

QUEENSLAND.

ELECTED BY PRESBYTERIES.

	BRISBANE.	
Rev. James Gibson, M.A. James Cosh, B.A., B.D. G. K. Kirke G. Ewan	|	Mr. W. A. Morrow, M.A. A. S. Lang John Campbell Major T. MacLeod
	MARYBOROUGH	
	ROCKHAMPTON.	Mr. Andrew Dunn, M.L.C.
Rev. W. H. Smith, B.A.	|	Mr. J. H. Kessell
	TOOWOOMBA.	
Rev. Wm. Johnston, B.A. R. L. Reid	|	Mr. A. Mayes R. J. Shilliday
	TOWNSVILLE.	
	ELECTED BY STATE ASSEMBLY.	
Rev. E. N. Merrington, M.A., Ph.D. Wm. C. Radcliffe H. Robertson	|	Mr. G. R. Milliken Chas. Patterson J. K. Stewart

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

ELECTED BY PRESBYTERIES.

	ADELAIDE.	
Rev. George Davidson, D.D. J. Frew Brown	|	Rev. Wm. Gray Mr. John Drennan
	BELALIE.	
Rev. George Anderson, M.A. I. McD. Forsyth	|	Mr. Jas. Holdsworth J. A. Ogilvie
	ONKAPARINGA.	
Rev. H. E. Carey	|	Mr. A. E. Lampe

Rev. Robt. Mitchell H. D. Fearon	ELECTED BY ASSEMBLY. | _____	Mr. A. L. McEwin D. H. Dyke
-------------------------------------	------------------------------------	--------------------------------

TASMANIA.

ELECTED BY PRESBYTERIES.

Rev. J. Heyer	HOBART. |	Mr. P. R. Henry
Rev. W. J. Harris	LAUNCESTON. |	Brigadier-General Clark
Rev. Percy Hope, B.A.	MIDLANDS. |	Mr. Geo. Finlay
Rev. A. G. Roy	ELECTED BY ASSEMBLY. | _____	Mr. F. Burbury

VICTORIA.

ELECTED BY PRESBYTERIES.

Rev. R. F. Parry R. A. Green, B.A. R. Jones	BALLARAT. |	Mr. W. Rain A. E. White J. J. Watson
Rev. J. Gillan W. W. Ingram	BEECHWORTH. |	Mr. W. J. Munro R. E. Thompson
Rev. H. Bennett B. T. Buntine F. A. Hagenauer, M.A. G. R. Jones	BENDIGO |	Mr. G. S. Bissett H. Rees George Mackey S. Trend
Rev. J. B. Taylor, B.A. H. O'Sullivan	FLINDERS. |	Mr. R. Gibb
Rev. T. Worsley Maguire, B.A. C. Neville K. Forster, M.A.	GEELONG. |	Mr. W. Anderson T. F. Parkinson F. J. Leary
Rev. N. H. Joughin W. W. Smith	GIPPSLAND. |	Mr. H. Hopkins T. J. Sharply
Rev. G. McLean Shugg, B.A. Geo. Paul	GOULBURN VALLEY. |	Mr. A. H. Campbell Geo. Hosie
Rev. R. C. Foyster, M.A., B.D. J. Meers	HAMILTON. |	Mr. J. W. Murrell J. Riddock
Rev. F. C. Vickerman	MACEDON. |	Mr. F. J. Crow
Rev. J. A. Pawson Cyrill Phillips	MARYBOROUGH. * |	Mr. McPherson
Rev. P. J. Murdoch, M.A. J. Gillies A. I. Davidson G. M. Connor A. Heathcote Fletcher	MELBOURNE NORTH. |	Mr. P. J. Slater W. J. Stephen R. Ross W. Cattach Rev. W. Watt

	MELBOURNE SOUTH.	
Rev. David Ross, M.A. G. Carson J. A. Crockett A. Yule, M.A.	|	Mr. H. D. McBean F. H. Beresford A. Salmon W. G. Pollard
	MELBOURNE EAST.	
Rev. F. H. Butchers E. H. Chapple J. L. Cope P. L. Foster	|	Mr. W. B. House L. K. McNab D. W. Nicoll R. J. Oehr
	MELBOURNE WEST.	
Rev. J. T. Robertson, M.A. F. Milne, M.A. A. H. Tolhurst J. Alexander W. G. Fitzgerald	|	Mr. W. S. Robertson A. W. Spear W. A. Dott J. Munro J. Dyson
	MORTLAKE.	
Rev. W. D. Anderson R. Nairn, M.A.	|	Mr. E. A. Ubergang G. S. Davidson
	PENOLA.	
Rev. S. C. Hadley	|	Mr. V. G. Petherick
	SEYMOUR.	
Rev. Wm. Ride A. C. Weber	|	Mr. Jas. Morison F. J. Leete
	WESTERN PLAINS.	
Rev. A. S. Houston F. Tamagno T. V. Charlton	|	
	WIMMERA.	
Rev. F. G. Faram H. C. Matthew, M.A.	|	
	ELECTED BY ASSEMBLY.	
Rev. John Walker W. Fraser, B.A. J. Mathew, M.A., B.D. H. M. Burns, M.A., B.D. George Tait M.A., W. Goyen T. W. Leggatt J. A. Barber, B.A. Dr. Rentoul Dr. Adam D. A. Cameron, M.A. John MacKenzie, M.A. W. Thomson J. Barnaby, M.A., B.D. Hume Robertson, B.A.	|	Sir John MacFarland Mr. A. L. Pryde J. M. Campbell, LL.M.- R. K. Gillespie A. G. Proudfoot R. J. Crowther A. Mathieson D. K. Picken, M.A. Mr. W. Gray, M.A. Prof. J. Smyth Mr. D. MacMillan H. H. Kemp J. Kelso George McKay H. Hopkins

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

ELECTED BY PRESBYTERIES.

	ALBANY.	
Rev. C. E. Hipwell	|	
	FREMANTLE.	
Rev. W. F. Turton	|	Mr. E. A. Black
	GOLDFIELDS.	
Rev. E. G. Petherick	|	Mr. John Marshall
	PERTH.	
Rev. J. R. Thrum F. G. H. Brady, B.A.	|	Mr. William Christie F. W. Berry
	ELECTED BY ASSEMBLY.	
Rev. C. D. P. Taylor	|	Mr. J. Hilton

15. The following were appointed the Business Committee :—the Business
Committee
Revs. Dr. Burgess, P. J. Murdoch, F. H. Hegenauer, John Edwards, Dr. Davidson, J. R. Thrum, the Clerk and Mr. A. G. Proudfort, with Dr. Macintyre, Convener.

16. The following Committee was appointed to examine and report Returns on
Union
on the Returns on the vote on Union :—Messrs. A. G. Proudfort, J. Holdsworth, P. Henry, A. S. Lang, S. J. Carruthers, W. Christie, with Dr. Adam as Convener.

17. A letter from Mrs. A. M. Cudmore to the Rev. John Walker, of Ballarat, was received. It was moved by the Rev. Dr. Harper and seconded by the Rev. R. Scott West :—

That the Assembly has heard with admiration and sympathy the letter Arthur D.
Walker
Scholarship
from Mrs. A. M. Cudmore contributing £1,000 for a Theological Hall Scholarship for the training of men for the Ministry of the Presbyterian Church in memory of the late Rev. Arthur Dight Walker, B.A., who was killed in action in France in 1916, the memory of whom is held in reverence wherever he was known.

That the Assembly, through the Moderator, accept the gift of Mrs. Cudmore, to be handed over to the Council of St. Andrew's College, Sydney.

Further, that the Assembly assure Mrs. Cudmore of their deep appreciation of her gift and of the spirit in which it has been made.

18. It was agreed to send the following telegram to the Governor- Governor-
General
General :—

The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia, now in Session, express to your Excellencies their profound admiration of services to Australia ; assure you that your names will for long be held in honour and affection, and pray that the blessing of God may go with you and abide upon you.

GIBSON, Moderator-General.

19. A commission from the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Rev. John
Paterson
Church of New Zealand in favour of the Rev. John Paterson, of St. Paul's Church, Christchurch, was submitted by the Convener of the Business Committee.

The commission was received and Mr. Paterson welcomed by the Moderator, and associated with the Assembly.

20. The Report on a Book of Common Order was submitted by the Book of
Common Order
Rev. R. Scott West who moved :—

That the Assembly receive the Report, and thank the Convener and the Committee ; resolve that the name of the book be " Book of Common Order of the Presbyterian Church of Australia ; " authorise the Committee to arrange for the publication in book form of the above Orders ; re-appoint the Committee with the addition of the Rev. C. E. James, and the omission of the Rev. J. C. Coutie.

The motion was seconded by the Rev. P. J. Murdoch and approved.

21. It was agreed to authorise the Committee on a Book of Common Manual for
Young
Communicants
Order to prepare a Manual for young communicants ; and a booklet suitable for guiding parents in training their children in habits of devotion, and the Rev. W. Borland was appointed vice-Convener.

Hymnal

22. The Report on a Hymnal was submitted by the Rev. J. Mathew who moved :—

That the Assembly receive the Report and thank the Committee and especially the Convener ; re-appoint the Rev. W. H. Ash as Convener and express sympathy with him in his severe affliction ; re-appoint the Committee with the names of the Revs. W. Fraser, J. Heyer and A. I. Davidson added ; again urge upon our office-bearers and especially Sunday School Workers that they should adopt the book and do all in their power to bring it into general use ; authorise the Committee to make enquiry regarding the proposed new edition of the Church Hymnary and to open up communications on the subject and report to next Assembly.

Scrutineers

23. The following were appointed Scrutineers of Ballot :—Messrs. A. S. Lang (Convener), H. H. Kemp, D. Macmillan.

Selection Committee

24. The following were appointed a Committee of Selection to nominate Assembly representatives to the Judicial Commission, the Board of Missions, and the Standing Committees :—Rev. John Edwards (Convener), Geo. Chalmers, W. C. Radcliffe, Geo. Anderson, J. Heyer, A. Yule, W. Fraser and Messrs. Wm. Wood, A. L. Pryde, G. A. Clifton, and A. G. Proudfoot.

Leave to meet at 2 p.m. was granted to the Orange Presbytery.

Mr. J. C. McLelland

25. By leave of the House the Rev. A. McKinlay moved :—that the application of Mr. J. C. McLelland be referred to the College Committee to be reported on to a future Sederunt.

The motion was seconded and approved.

Beneficiary Funds

26. The Report on Beneficiary Funds was submitted by Mr. A. G. Proudfoot who moved :—

1. That the Report with the amendments indicated by the Convener be received and the Committee and especially the Convener be thanked and the Committee instructed to continue its work in accordance with the principles outlined therein.

2. That the earnest sympathy and interest of our Church throughout the Commonwealth be sought for the beneficent purpose in view and for the settlement of the problems connected with it now awaiting solution.

3. That the following additions and alterations be made to the Committee.

Additions : Rev. John Paterson (N.S.W.), Mr. A. M. Laughton (Vic.), Mr. W. G. Crane (N.S.W.),

Alterations : Rev. W. Gray (S.A.) for Mr. T. W. Fleming (S.A.) deceased. Mr. A. Mayes (Q.) for Rev. J. F. Lundie, who has left the State.

The motion was seconded by the Rev. G. Carson and approved.

Repatriation

27. The Report on Repatriation was submitted by the Rev. Dr. Rentoul who moved :—

1. That the Report be received and adopted.

2. That the Chaplains in each State who have so satisfactorily looked after the interests of returned soldiers in repatriation be thanked for their valuable work.

3. That the special thanks of the General Assembly of Australia be tendered to Senator Millen, Minister of Repatriation, for his administration of the Repatriation Act, for the fulfilment of his promises that, as experience showed the wisdom of extending and liberalising the provisions of the Act, he would ask Parliament to do so, and for the success that has resulted from the efforts

of the Department, through its staff, in securing the re-settlement in civil life of returned soldiers, specially in the vocational training section in cases where war disabilities unfitted the men for resuming their former occupations.

4. That, as the main purpose of the formation of this Committee has been fulfilled by the return of our soldiers, it be discharged, and the State Churches recommended to continue assisting the authorities in seeing to the welfare of discharged and disabled soldiers.

5. That the Assembly record its thanks to the Committee and especially to the Convener and also its sense of indebtedness to the womanhood of the Church for their helpful co-operation.

The motion was seconded by the Rev. Dr. Macintyre and approved.

28. The Report on Immigration was submitted by Mr. D. Macmillan Immigration who moved :—

1. That the Report be received and adopted.

2. That the Presbyterian Church of Australia expresses its gratification that the Prime Minister of the Commonwealth and the Premiers of the States have agreed to enact and pursue an energetic scheme of immigration, whereby emigrants suitable to our needs shall be secured and given assisted passages, so as to supply the clamant need of population in Australia.

3. That the Executive be instructed to correspond with the Home Church with the object of getting information about intending emigrants.

4. That the best practicable arrangements be made at the Ports of call as on a co-operative basis to meet immigrants on landing, and steps taken to notify Ministers of their arrival in their parishes.

5. That the State immigration Committees where immigrants have settled in country districts in recent years be required to arrange for these being visited by experienced Minister and Elders, and that the Home Mission Committees of these States be asked to defray the expenses of these visitations.

6. That the Immigration Committee be appointed as follows :—The Victorian Members to be the Executive :—Revs. D. A. Cameron, W. Borland, W. Thomson, F. L. A. Schloeffel, W. G. Gray, Wm. Huey Steele, J. Ninian Melville, J. Heyer and Messrs. D. MacMillan (Convener), C. MacKinnon, W. Gray, W. Wood, G. Lewis, John Drinnan, A. S. Barr, Charles Patterson and R. Henry.

The motion was seconded by the Rev. D. A. Cameron and approved.

29. The Report of the Finance Committee was submitted by Mr. Finance W. G. Crane who moved :—

1. That the Report be received.

2. Authorise the payment of the expenses of members travelling to the Assembly pro rata, as far as funds will permit, on the same basis as formerly, namely :—That members attending the General Assembly in September, 1918, have the following percentages of their travelling expenses paid by the Church (calculated upon the basis of second-class railway and steamer fares at the reduced rate allowed by the railway and steamship companies), proportion of steamer fares at second-class rates to be paid only where rail transit is not available, 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, the amounts to be paid pro rata in each section up to the amount which the funds at credit will allow.

3. Resolve that the honorarium to the Moderator be £50 per annum, and to the Clerk of Assembly £30 per Assembly.

4. Authorise the assessment for General Assembly's expenses on the following basis, namely :—New South Wales, £130 1s ; Victoria, £130 1s. ; Queensland, £38 5s. ; South Australia, £21 5s. ; Tasmania, £21 5s. ; Western Australia, £21 5s. Also authorise the transference from the General Assembly Expenses to the Travelling Expenses Fund, of such sum as may be required for the payment of the members on the basis set forth in Clause 2.

5. Authorise the transfer of the sum of £35 at credit of the account for bush work in Australia to the credit of the Home Mission General Revenue Account.

6. Authorise the payment to the Treasurership Committee of the New South Wales Church as Acting Treasurers, two per cent., for collection upon all revenue for all funds, with the exception of moneys received for capital and the income of the John Frazer Foreign Missions Endowment Fund Account ; also the sum of £26 per annum from the Home Mission Department for rent of room.

7. That the payments made by the Finance Committee on behalf of the Year Book be confirmed.

8. That the Finance Committee be authorised to make payment of the expenses incurred by the Committee for the Union of the Churches for printing, etc., and that the amount so paid be collected from the various States in the same proportion as for the General Assembly expenses.

9. That the Balance Sheets be approved.

The motion was seconded by Mr. D. MacMillan and approved.

30. The Report of the Business Committee was approved.

The Presbytery of Melbourne North applied for authority to meet on Sept. 28th, at 5 p.m.

The Presbytery of Launceston applied for authority to meet on Sept. 29th.

The authority in each case was granted.

30 (a). The Rev. W. Thomson gave notice of his intention at a future Sederunt to move :—

The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia desires to express its grateful thanks to the Ministers and Members of the Presbyterian Churches of Scotland and England for their hospitality and kind attention shown to the Soldiers of the Australian Imperial Forces when on furlough.

Both officers and men speak in the warmest terms of the hearty welcome they received and the unstinted and continued hospitality they met with in the homes of their entertainers, and for the spiritual good they received in the Congregations of the Church. Their gratitude was all the deeper and warmer when they remembered that in many cases the existing war conditions made the charge of guests an exercise of self-denial in time of trouble and means on the part of their hosts and hostesses. Notwithstanding this nothing has been left undone that could give our soldier men comfort and good cheer.

The safeguards from temptation thus provided were a tremendous influence in enabling our soldiers to resist temptation and maintain their rectitude and to enjoy themselves in wholesome pleasures and recreations when away from the discipline of camp, the discomforts of the trench and from the constraining and sweetening influences of home and kinsfolk. The parents and other relatives of our Australian soldiers along with the Australian

people generally unite with the Church of Australia in cherishing the deepest sense of gratitude to all our kindred in the Homeland, and especially to those in Scotland where our soldiers spent most of their holidays, for all the kindness shown to our men who took part in the defence of our liberties in the great war and were hospitably entertained by them on their furloughs from the battle fronts.

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

Adjournment

THIRD SEDERUNT.

At Sydney and within St. Stephen's Church, Phillip Street, on the 24th September, 1920 at 10 a.m.

31. The Assembly met pursuant to adjournment and was constituted.

32. The Minutes of the previous day were confirmed.

Minutes

33. The Rev. A. I. Davidson gave notice of his intention when the Federation of Churches is before the House to move :

Federation of the Churches

To strike out the words in Clause 2 " Accept this vote as a mandate, etc.," and all clauses consequent thereon.

Also in Clause 4 :

Omit all words after " advisable " with the view of inserting :

" For encouraging inter Church relationships between the negotiating Churches along the lines suggested in Appendix II. of the Basis of Union with a view to promoting the spirit of Union, and for this purpose to keep in intimate relations with the State Committees and report to next Assembly."

34. The Report on the Returns on Union vote was received.

Returns on Union

35. A Deputation from the University Students' Union was introduced and welcomed by the Moderator. Mr. Thomas McDougall, B.A., Travelling Secretary of the Australasian Student Christian Movement addressed the House.

University Students' Union

36. It was moved by the Rev. J. Mackenzie and seconded :

Thanks to Mr. McDougall

That the Assembly thank Mr. McDougall for his address, express its sympathy with the Student Christian Movement, its appreciation of the Constitution it has made and is making to the Church in its work at home and abroad and heartily commend the work to its Ministers and people.

The motion was approved and the Moderator conveyed to Mr. McDougall the thanks of the Assembly.

37. Mr. McDougall on behalf of the Baptist Union conveyed to the Assembly its fraternal greetings.

The Assembly gladly received these greetings and heartily reciprocated them.

38. It was agreed to set a time-limit to speeches on the Union question: viz.:

Half-an-hour to the mover of the main motion and *twenty minutes* to the seconder—*half-an-hour* to the mover of the *first amendment* and *twenty minutes* to the seconder and *fifteen minutes* to each subsequent speaker.

39. The Report on the Federation of Churches was submitted by the Rev. Dr. Adam, who moved:

1. That the Assembly welcome the expression of the mind of the Church by a substantial majority of the State Assemblies, Presbyteries Sessions, members and adherents in favour of Union with the Methodist and Congregational Churches, so far as the basis of doctrine and polity sent down is concerned.

2. That the Assembly express its gratification at this forward step toward the realization of an ideal which has been before the Church for so many years, and accept this vote as a mandate from the Church to proceed to further negotiations with the other Churches concerned on such matters as are still necessary, and especially on such matters as are not provided for in the Basis now voted on in order that, when the whole scheme is completed, the mind of the Church may be expressed upon it in a final vote of the Church courts and people.

3. That in view of the present vote the Assembly declares that more intimate co-operation with the other negotiating churches is now practicable and urgently called for; that so far as the sanction of the General Assembly is necessary to such co-operation it grants the same and remits it to State Assemblies to take up this matter, in the light of the new situation now created in those spheres distinctly belonging to State Assemblies, so that the work of God may be more effectively forwarded, and, as one means to that end, the Assembly recommends conferences between the corresponding administrative Committees of the three Churches with a view to action being taken in common wherever possible.

4. That the Assembly reappoint the Committee with . . . as Convener, omitting the names of . . . and adding the names of . . . designate it henceforth "the Committee on Church Union." Remit to the Committee the proposed amendments approved by the Joint Committee and instruct it to confer further with the other negotiating Churches regarding these and any other proposed amendments on the Basis sent up with the approval of any State Committee on Union. Further enjoin the Committee to take such steps as may be advisable to keep the question of Union before our people and of encouraging co-operation between the negotiating Churches, and for this purpose to keep in intimate relations with the State Committees, and report to next Assembly.

40. The Rev. Dr. Rentoul moved and Mr. MacKee seconded as an amendment:

"That all the words after the word 'That' be omitted, with the view of inserting the words:—'In view of the results of the conflicting vote of Sessions and Congregations on the question—'Do you approve of Union on the Proposed Basis?' in view also of the manifest lack of desire for any such organic union of the Presbyterian Church with two other Ecclesiastical organisations so diverse from it in historic memories, creed, and polity, —in view, further, of the deep distrust evinced by our Assemblies, Presbyteries and People in its "Basis of Doctrine and Polity," as made manifest by the large number of amendments upon it, and the strong hostile vote in our Spiritual Courts—in view moreover of its incompatibility with our Supreme

and Subordinate Standard and with the place of our Presbyterian Church in the great Brotherhood of the Presbyterian Churches of the British and other English-speaking lands, the Assembly disapproves the limited scheme of Organic Union now proposed with only two other of the Christian Churches, and urges, instead, the wider and more Christlike Union, by active and brotherly association, but with their autonomy unimpaired, of all the Evangelic Churches of Australia, in earnest and immediate concerted effort for the advance of the Kingdom of God in our Commonwealth, the prevention of "overlapping" where it exists, the supply of Christian ordinances in districts left spiritually neglected, and in opposition to the sin, wrong, and moral corruption which abound in our land."

The consideration of the motion was postponed. 45

41. Rev. T. W. Leggatt gave notice that when the Report of the Board of Missions is before the Assembly he will move the following addition to the Deliverance : Missions Assessment

15. Approve of the Annual Assessment for two years from 1-10-20 to 30-9-22, being allocated as follows :

Victoria	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£900
New South Wales	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	700
Queensland	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	550
West Australia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	160
South Australia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	150
Tasmania	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	84
								£2,544

which is £600 p.a. less than the estimated expenditure, to meet which the Assembly directs that the Board make a special appeal through the State Foreign Missions Committee.

42. The Assembly adjourned to meet at 7. p.m., which having been publicly intimated, the Sederunt was closed with prayer. Adjournment

FOURTH SEDERUNT.

At Sydney, and within St. Stephen's Church, Phillip Street, on the 24th day of September, 1920, at 7.30 p.m.

43. The Assembly met pursuant to adjournment and was duly constituted.

44. The Report of the Business Committee was approved. Business Committee

45. The consideration of the Deliverance on the Report of the Committee on the Federation of Churches was resumed. Federation of the Churches

Dr. Rentoul's amendment was rejected, the voting being 74 for and 128 against.

The following gives the names of those voting :—

FOR

<i>Ministers.</i>	Rev. W. G. Fitzgerald	Mr. D. Macmillan
Rev. John R. Thrum	A. C. Weber	W. D. G. Fairbairn
Robt. Mitchell	George K. Kirke	C. E. Rennie
J. Gillan	P. H. Widmer	Jas. G. Mackee
G. Faram	Chas. F. McA'pine	H. Hopkins
A. G. Roy	A. S. McCook	Louis K. McNab
E. H. Chapple	Wm. Thomson	S. Trend
John Gillies	Thos. V. Charlton	W. G. Geikie
George Tulloch	F. A. Hagenauer	P. J. Slater
Hubert Robertson	D. P. Macdonald	W. J. Munro
Allan MacKillop	Jas. C. Milliken	H. O. McBean
H. S. Buntine	A. Thain Anderson	D. W. Nicoll
David F. Brandt	George Davidson	Robt. K. Gillespie
C. H. Talbot	William Beck	J. K. Stewart
R. J. H. McGowan	W. W. Ingram	John Drennan
J. Heyer	H. O'Sullivan	Wm. Wood
George Chalmers	J. Andrew Pawson	Wm. Rain
J. A. Barber	George Ewan	A. L. Pryde
John Burgess	S. C. Hadley	Peter Hannay
J. L. Forbes	Wm. Gray	Kenneth Campbell
George Carson	W. Watt	C. A. Munro
J. Laurence Rentoul		G. Hosie
Donald A. Cameron		Robert Gibb
P. L. Forster		W. T. Ellis
B. T. Buntine		W. J. Munro
Alex. Simms		F. J. Leete

Elders.

Mr. James Morrison
Wm. Christie

AGAINST.

<i>Ministers.</i>	Rev. A. Harper	Rev. J. B. Taylor
Rev. John Barnaby	Wm. Spence	T. Watt Leggatt
Albert J. Carter	John Paterson	F. Turton
John A. Crockett	G. Cranston	H. K. Douglas Fearon
F. C. Vickerman	A. Dunnett Robertson	H. E. Carey
A. S. Houston	David Ross	Ernest N. Merrington
Richard Miller	R. H. Green	W. C. Radcliffe
F. Milne	T. Worsley Maguire	James Cosh
William Ride	P. J. Murdoch	John Muir
Geo. Anderson	Wm. Fraser	James Macandrew
William J. Harris	R. C. Foyster	John Edwards
R. F. Parry	John MacKenzie	J. A. Craigen
A. P. Cameron	A. Yule	W. J. Gray
C. D. P. Taylor	J. L. Cope	C. W. Willis
G. M. Connor	John Alexander	George R. S. Reid
Hume Robertson	W. H. Joughin	W. Grant Forsyth
John Meers	John Mathew	James Goudie
Robert Jones	Robert L. Reid	Ronald G. Macintyre
E. H. McLean Shugg	George Tait	Jas. Keith Miller
F. G. H. Brady	F. Tamagno	J. J. Gilmore
W. R. Milne	John Walker	G. M. Torbett
A. I. Davidson	K. Forster	J. H. Craig
R. Nairn	C. Neville	D. Smith
G. A. Gordon	D. S. Adam	R. Scott West
	Hugh M. Burns	W. D. Anderson

Rev. W. Bennett	Mr. J. W. Murrell	Mr. A. Gardiner
C. E. Hipwell	W. Cattach	Charles Patterson
J. S. Rapkins	William A. Dott	A. E. Lampe
C. F. Phillips	Percy R. Henry	R. Ross
S. B. Reid	Joseph Riddoch	J. F. Crow
J. H. Terras	William Scott	W. J. Stephen
D. McKay Barnet	J. J. Henderson	D. Sneddon
Frank H. Butchers	A. G. Baxter	G. A. Clifton
A. Heathcote Fletcher	J. Campbell	J. A. J. Murray
Wm. Johnston	Henry H. Kemp	John Dyson
J. T. Robertson.	A. G. Proudfoot	John Kirkland
	John Campbell	G. R. Milleken
<i>Elders.</i>	E. A. Ubergang	A. Mayes
Mr. Walter B. House	A. W. Spear	F. H. Beresford
Hugh Reid	F. W. Berry	Alex. S. Lang
G. McKay	Walter G. Crane	F. Parkinson
Alex. Mathieson	R. J. Shilliday	A. H. Campbell
D. H. Dyke	J. P. Muir	W. S. Robertson
J. Holdsworth	A. Salmon	Walter John Clark

It was agreed to postpone the consideration of the Deliverance, and resume on Monday at 7 p.m.

46. The Rev. D. Cameron gave notice of his intention when the discussion on the Report on Federation is resumed to move: that all the words after the word Church in Clause 1 be omitted with the view of inserting the words: "but in view of the large amount of hesitation and uncertainty revealed in the voting resolves meanwhile to defer further action on the matter of corporate Union for five years—and appoint a General Committee to have authority to co-ordinate work among all Protestant Churches on the new Canadian and American basis of unity without denominational disintegration."

Notice of
Motion: Rev.
D. Cameron

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

Adjournment

FIFTH SEDERUNT.

At Sydney, and within St. Stephen's Church, Phillip Street, on September 25th, 1920, at 10 a.m.

The Assembly met pursuant to adjournment at 10 a.m. and was constituted.

48. The Minutes of the Third Sederunt were confirmed. The Rev. Wm. Beck gave notice of his intention at a future Sederunt to move:—

Minutes

To omit all the words after Churches in paragraph 1 of the Deliverance on the Report on Federation with the view to the insertion of the following words:—"but that in view of the strong dissatisfaction expressed with the Basis of Doctrine and Polity remits it to State Assemblies and Presbyteries for further consideration and instructs the Committee in the meantime to approach the Governing Bodies of the other Non-Roman Churches with a view to finding out what measure of Federation may be attainable.

The House sat in private.

Appeal :
Dr. Campbell
and others

49. The Appeal of Dr. T. G. Campbell and Messrs. A. J. Polson and Robert Lang against a finding of the N.S.W. State Assembly on 8th October last was submitted and parties placed at the Bar.

The House declared the Appeal incompetent.

Appeal :
Mr. J. Leaver

50. The Appeal of Mr. J. Leaver against a finding of the Presbytery of Sydney was submitted.

Mr. Leaver intimated that he fell from his Appeal.

Appeal :
Mr. H. Chesney
Harte

51. The Appeal of Mr. H. Chesney Harte against a finding of the Presbytery of Sydney was submitted and parties placed at the Bar.

Mr. Harte as Appellant and the Rev. D. F. Brandt and Mr. Henderson as Respondents were heard.

It was moved by the Rev. F. A. Hagenauer and seconded by the Procurator.

That the Appeal is incompetent.

The motion was approved.

Appeal :
Mr. F. W. Ross

52. The Appeal of Mr. F. W. Ross against a finding of the Presbytery of Sydney was submitted and parties placed at the Bar.

Mr. Ross as Appellant and the Revs. Dr. Macintyre and Dr. Burgess as Respondents were heard.

It was moved by the Rev. F. A. Hagenauer and seconded by Mr. Proudfoot.

That the Appeal be dismissed, the matter referred back to the Presbytery and in view of the condition of the Congregation, draw its attention to its own Rule No. 112 of Rules and Forms of Procedure as amended in 1916, B.B. Minute 46.

It was moved as an amendment by Mr. J. M. Campbell and seconded by Mr. Wood : that all the words after the word " dismissed " be omitted.

The amendment was approved.

The motion as seconded was approved.

Notice of Motion

53. Brigadier-General Clark gave notice of his intention at a future Sederunt to move :—

That it be a direction to the Business Committee to arrange that at the next General Assembly the first four days at least be devoted solely to the business of the Court.

Adjournment

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

SIXTH SEDERUNT.

At Sydney, and within St. Stephen's Church, Phillip Street, on September 27th, 1920, at 10.30 p.m.

The Assembly met pursuant to adjournment and was constituted.

Minutes

55. The Minutes of the fourth and fifth Sederunts were confirmed.

The Rev. George Tulloch gave notice of his intention when the Deliverance on Church Union is before the House to move :—

Omit all the words, in line two of section 4, " after names of . . . " with a view to inserting the following word, or other words :—

The Assembly disapprove of propoganda in Kirk-Sessions and Congregations of the Church on the Basis before us either by circular from this Committee or Official circulars from the joint Committee on Union without both sides of the case being fully and clearly presented, and hereby appoints a Committee from those opposed to organise Union on this Basis, to prepare answers to the statements of the Union Committee the cost of the printing and circulating of such answers to be a equal charge on the Fund of this Church with the circulars of the Union Committees. The Committee will be as follows :—Revs. Dr. Rentoul, Dr. Davidson, Dr. Angus, G. Ewan, E. F. Cameron, G. Tulloch, J. G. McKee, and Mr. Wm. Wood. Rev. D. A. Cameron, Convener.

56. Mr. L. McNab gave notice of his intention at a future Sederunt to move : Notice of Motion
re New Hebrides

That the Moderator be requested to Communicate with the Prime Minister and if it seem advisable to approach him by deputation to ascertain the present position and the future policy as regards the disposals of the New Hebrides.

57. A letter was received from the General Secretary of the Young Men's Association conveying the greetings of the President and Directors of the Sydney Young Men's Christian Association and extending to members of Assembly the privileges of the Association. Greeting from
Y.M.C.A.

The Assembly received and reciprocated the greetings and thanked the Association for extending to its members the privileges of members.

58. The Appeal of Mr. H. Chesney Harte against a finding of the Presbytery of Sydney was submitted. Appeal:
Mr. H. Chesney
Harte

Parties were placed at the Bar, Mr. Harte as Appellant and the Rev. John Edwards as Respondent were heard, and Mr. Harte was heard in reply and parties were removed from the Bar.

It was moved by the Rev. F. A. Hagenauer and seconded by Mr. A. G. Proudfoot : that the Assembly sustain the appeal in so far as it brings the matter before the Assembly and refers it back to the State Assembly to be dealt with under the strict rules of discipline.

It was moved as an amendment by the Rev. George Tait and seconded by Mr. J. M. Campbell : that all the words after the word " Assembly " be omitted, with the view of inserting the words " dismiss the appeal."

The amendment was rejected.

The motion was approved.

Parties were recalled and this decision intimated to them.

59. The Assembly adjourned to meet at 7 p.m., which having been a publicly intimated the Sederunt was closed with prayer.

SEVENTH SEDERUNT.

At Sydney, and within St. Stephen's Church, Phillip Street, on 27th day of September, 1920, at 7 p.m.

The Assembly met pursuant to adjournment and was constituted.

Business
Committee

60. The Report of the Business Committee was approved.

Reply from the
Governor-
General

61. The following reply to the Assembly's message to his Excellency the Governor-General was received.

891 Commerce House, Melbourne, 53 4/1 1 15p 24th.

I thank you for your most kindly message to her Excellency and myself from the General Assembly stop I regret that I cannot be present to bid farewell, and to wish all success to the work of the Presbyterian Church in Australia.

R. M. FERGUSON.

Deliverance on
Union

62. The consideration of the Deliverance on Union was resumed.

The Rev. D. A. Cameron moved and Mr. Wm. Wood seconded as an amendment :

That all the words after the word Church in Clause 1 be omitted with the view of inserting the words : " but in view of the large amount of hesitation and uncertainty revealed in the voting resolves meanwhile to defer further action on the matter of corporate Union for five years—and appoint a General Committee to have authority to co-ordinate work among all Protestant Churches on the new Canadian and American basis of unity without denominational disintegration."

The amendment was rejected.

The Rev. A. I. Davidson moved and the Rev. K. Forster seconded : that all the words of Clause 1 after " years " be omitted.

Dr. Adam intimated that he and his seconder accepted the amendment. The amendment was approved.

It was moved as an amendment by the Rev. George Tulloch and seconded by Mr. D. Macmillan : That the words in line two of section 4 after names of be omitted with a view to inserting the following or other words :—

1. The Assembly disapproves of propoganda in Kirk-Sessions and Congregations of the Church on the Basis before us either by circular from the Union Committee or the joint Committee on Union, without both sides of the case being fully and clearly presented and hereby appoint a Committee from those opposed to organise Union on this Basis to prepare answers to the statements of the Union Committee. The cost of the printing and circulating of such answers to be a charge on the funds of this Church equally with that of the Union Committee.

2. The Committee will consist of :—Revs. Dr. Rentoul, Dr. Davidson, Dr. Angus, G. Ewan, E. F. Cameron, D. A. Cameron and G. Tulloch, Messrs. Wm. Wood, J. G. McKee, D. McMillan, G. K. Kirke, L. P. Forster, Rev. D. A. Cameron, Convener.

The amendment was rejected.

The Rev. A. I. Davidson moved and the Rev. K. Forster seconded. That all the words after " advisable " in Clause 4 be omitted with the view of inserting the words :—

" For encouraging inter-Church relationships between the negotiating Churches along the lines suggested in Appendix II. of the Basis of Union with a view to promoting the spirit of Union, and for this purpose to keep in intimate relations with the State Committees and report to next Assembly."

The amendment was approved and the proposed word inserted.

The Rev. Dr. Macintyre moved and the Rev. John Walker seconded : That the following words be added to the motion :

“ Finally that the Assembly think it well to say that in all these negotiations this Church, in common with the other negotiating Churches, has in view and is looking forward, with the promised guidance of God's Holy Spirit to a more ample healing of the divisions within the Christian Church.

The amendment was approved.

The motion as amended was approved the voting being 117 for and 40 against.

The motion is as follows :—

1. That the Assembly welcome the expression of the mind of the Church by a substantial majority of the State Assemblies, Presbyteries, Sessions members and adherents in favour of Union with the Methodist and Congregational Churches, so far as the basis of doctrine and polity sent down is concerned.

2. That the Assembly express its gratification at this forward step toward the realization of an ideal which has been before the Church for so many years.

3. That in view of the present vote the Assembly declares that more intimate co-operation with the other negotiating Churches in now practicable and urgently called for ; that so far as the sanction of the General Assembly is necessary to such co-operation it grants the same and remits it to State Assemblies to take up this matter, in the light of the new situation now created in those spheres distinctly belonging to State Assemblies, so that the work of God may be more effectively forwarded, and, as one means to that end, the Assembly recommends conferences between the corresponding administrative Committees of the three Churches with a view to action being taken in common wherever possible.

4. That the Assembly re-appoint the Committee, as follows :—N.S. Wales : Revs. A. Harper, D.D., R. C. Macintyre, D.D., J. Burgess, D.D., R. Scott West, John Edwards, Angus King, John Paterson, C. A. Gordon, G. R. S. Reid, J. H. Auld, A. T. Anderson, W. G. Forsyth, W. J. Gray, John Macaulay ; Messrs. J. Kirkland, W. G. Crane, J. H. Balfour, J. H. Beatson, C. E. Rennie. Victoria : Revs. Professor D. S. Adam, D.D. (Convener), W. Fraser, J. Mathew, J. T. Robertson, P. J. Murdoch, J. Mackenzie, D. Ross, W. Goyen, Wm. Borland, R. W. Macaulay, D. Millar, A. McCharlie, John Gray, A. I. Davidson, K. Forster, R. C. Foyster, John Walker, Geo. Tait, Sir. J. MacFarland ; Messrs. Wm. Gray, H. H. Kemp, W. S. Robertson, John Anderson, J. M. Campbell, A. G. Proudfoot, Prof. Smyth, W. B. House, Brig.-General Clark. Queensland : Rt. Rev. J. Gibson, Revs. W. C. Radcliffe, D. McLennan, S. Martin, J. B. Galloway, Dr. Glaister, Dr. Merrington, Johnston ; Messrs. A. S. Lang, A. Mayes, R. J. Shilliday, Jas. Allen. S. Australia : Revs. G. Davidson, D.D., J. A. Seymour, S.T.D., G. C. Love, D. MacDiarmid, Wm. Gray, Geo. Anderson, H. E. Carey ; Messrs. J. Holdsworth, A. H. Bryson, T. W. Tassie, H. B. Thompson, Professor Rennie. West Australia : Revs. A. Crow, W. H. Steele, F. E. Oxe, W. F. Turton, F. G. H. Brady ; Messrs. Wm. Christie, E. A. Black, J. Hilton, John Marshall, R. Bracks, A. E. Baxter, Dr. Macaulay. Tasmania : Revs. J. Heyer, Macintosh Carter, G. B. Murphy, W. J. Harris, G. Baird ; Messrs. Henry Meredith, F. Burbury, McKinnon, J. K. Reid, F. Williams, J. Wright, Hon. J. Murdoch. Designate it henceforth “ the Committee on Church Union.” Remit to the Committee the proposed amendments approved by the Joint Committee and instruct it to confer further with the other negotiating Churches regarding these and any other proposed amendments on the Basis sent up with the

approval of any State Committee on Union. Further enjoin the Committee to take such steps as may be advisable for encouraging inter Church relationships between the negotiating Churches along the lines suggested in Appendix II. of the Basis of Union with a view to promoting the spirit of Union and for this purpose to keep in intimate relations with the State Committees and report to next Assembly."

5. Finally that the Assembly think it well to say that in all these negotiations this Church, in common with the other negotiating Churches, has in view and is looking forward, with the promised guidance of God's Holy Spirit to a more ample healing of the divisions within the Christian Church.

Dissent

62 (a) From this decision the Rev. Dr. Rentoul gave in the following reasons of dissent for himself and others :—

We dissent, and for the following amongst many serious reasons :—

1. Because the voice of the Church, as evidenced by the conflicting vote of Sessions and Congregations, to which the question—Do you Approve of Union on the Proposed Basis ? was submitted, proves that the mind and heart of the Presbyterian people are not in any hearty sympathy with the movement or with the Proposed Basis ; and the facts have never been placed fairly and adequately before them.

2. Because any forward step, affecting a proposed alteration of the Doctrine, Polity and Formula would in accordance with the " Deed of Union "—require amongst other conditions precedent at least three fifths of the Presbyteries in approval of it. This has not been secured.

3. Because, in face of such facts, as the vote of a majority of the Communicants of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria, rejecting the Proposed Union and Basis, and a similar hostile vote from almost all its larger Congregations, it is folly to move further in such a direction, and to do so would lead only to division, bitterness, and deadly injury to our Church's Spiritual and Corporate life. It would, if persisted in, rend our Church in twain.

4. Because the Proposed Basis of Doctrine is a betrayal or weakening of the central Doctrines of the Christian Faith and Hope, and disloyal to the fundamental elements of the creed of our subordinate standard.

5. Because the Polity is a betrayal of the Presbyterian Church's Government, and faith as set forth in its formula of ordination for Ministers and Elders, and would be a gross violation of our historic memories, and Ordination Vow, and a forfeiture of the place of our Presbyterian Church of Australia within the Brotherhood and Community of the Presbyterian Churches of the British and other English-speaking lands.

Signed J. LAURENCE RENTOUL, M.A., D.D.

W. D. G. FAIRBAIN
J. ANDREW PARSON
LOUIS R. McNAB
S. C. HADLEY
A. H. TOLHURST
GEORGE TULLOCH
F. J. LUTE
W. G. FITZGERALD
B. T. BUNTINE
P. LEWIS FORSTER
W. J. MUNRO
C. A. MUNRO
ALEX. G. ROY
D. F. BRANDT

DONALD A. CAMERON
ARTHUR C. WEBER
HARRY HOPKINS
L. M. WHITE
H. O'SULLIVAN
JAMES MORISON
WM. THOMSON
D. MACMILLAN
JOHN GILLIES
JOHN R. STEWART
ROBT. J. H. MCGOWAN
JOHN GILLAN
THOS. CHARLTON

62 (b) The Rev. F. A. Hagenauer dissented—Because in the Basis of Union Dissent. the Scriptures are nowhere definitely described as the word of God given by inspiration of God and as the only infallible rule of faith and life, neither in the relations of the Minister to the Doctrines of the Church are there definite provisions that Ministers at their ordination shall affirm that they will adhere to the doctrines of the Church. Neither are there any provisions for pledging the elders at their ordination.

The following were appointed to answer these Reasons :—Dr. Adam, Dr. Harper and Rev. J. T. Robertson.

63. The Rev. Hume Robertson gave notice of his intention at a future State Lottery Sederunt to move :—

That the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia views with alarm the suggestion that the Government of N.S.W. should augment its revenue by a State Lottery ; it is surprised that such a proposition should for a moment be seriously considered by any who are responsible for the civic and moral welfare of the people, seeing that lotteries, especially those authorised by a government, stand condemned by all authorities on social ethics and economics. The Assembly regrets to know that a large amount of money is sent out of N.S.W. and other States to Tattersall's and the Golden Casket ; it considers that, if New South Wales institutes a lottery, money from other States will be drawn to N.S.W., so other States may be expected in their turn to adopt lotteries, and thus all the evils that attend the receipt of revenue from the encouragement of the vice of gambling will be accentuated in our Commonwealth.

The Assembly considers that gambling has received great stimulus in N.S.W. by the adoption of the Totalisator, as is shown by the increase in revenue received by the government from this source. In 1913 it was £82,802, in 1919 £132,404. The Assembly would earnestly counsel not only the N.S.W. Government but all State Governments to seriously consider the prevalence of the gambling spirit with a view to the more strict enforcement of the existing laws against gambling, and where necessary to the enactment of further legislation. The Assembly would ask the Federal Government to use every power it possesses to prevent one State suffering from the gambling that may be authorised or permitted in another.

The Assembly directs that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Prime Minister and the State Premiers.

The Assembly adjourned to meet to-morrow at 9.30 a.m., which having been publicly intimated, the Sederunt was closed with prayer.

EIGHTH SEDERUNT.

At Sydney, and within St. Stephen's Church, Phillip St., on 28th Sept., at 9.30 a.m.

The Assembly met pursuant to adjournment and was constituted.

64. The Minutes of the Sixth and Seventh Sederunts were confirmed. Minutes

65. The Returns on the Remit relative to Beneficiary Funds were Beneficiary Funds submitted by the Convener of the Business Committee.

It was moved by Mr. A. G. Proudfoot and seconded by the Rev. G. Carson :

That the Remit be approved and the following added to Article XII. of the Deed of Union :—

XII. 2. It shall be lawful for the General Assembly if it thinks fit to make or secure financial provision for the benefit of Ministers of the Church

incapacitated by age or infirmity and of the widows and orphans of deceased Ministers of the Church and without limiting the generality of the preceding power to form a fund or funds for the said purposes or any of them, and also to require Ministers of the Church to contribute towards any such provision or fund, and to require Congregations or Churches to contribute thereto in respect of Ministers of such Congregations or in the employment of such Churches connected therewith, and to determine the amount of contributions. And also to legislate or pass regulations in respect of any of the matters hereby authorised.

Provided that no Minister within the jurisdiction of a State Assembly connected with or liable to join a beneficiary or provident fund thereof shall be required to contribute to any financial provision or fund of the General Assembly hereunder without the consent of that State Assembly.

The motion was approved.

Lord's Supper

66. The Returns on Remits relative to the administration of the Lord's Supper were submitted. The Returns showed that a majority of Presbyteries had not approved.

It was agreed to again send the Overture to State Assemblies and Presbyteries with instructions to report to next Assembly.

Home
Missionaries

67. The Returns on the Remit relative to the admission of Home Missionaries were submitted. The Returns showed that a majority of Presbyteries had not approved.

It was agreed to pass from the Overture.

College
Committee

68. The Report of the College Committee was submitted by the Rev. Jno. Mathew, who moved :

That the Assembly receive the Report and thank the Committee and especially the Convener.

Express deep regret at the loss sustained by the Committee and the Church through the death of the Rev. J. C. Coutie, B.A., who for nearly ten years had ably filled the position of Hon. Sec. to the College Committee.

Approve of the action of the Committee in granting special exemptions to returned soldiers and Y.M.C.A. agents with the A.I.F., and express satisfaction because the concessions granted have been justified in the main by the earnestness they have shown in their work and the general progress they have made.

Continue the authority given to the Committee to give exceptional treatment to returned soldiers.

Thank the examiners and the supervisors of examinations for the services they have rendered.

Approve of the decision of the Committee in answer to the enquiry made by Mr. H. R. Pearson, medical student, as a special case. And instruct the Committee to take into consideration whether medical degrees shall be added to Art and Science degrees as preparation for the Theological Hall and report to next Assembly.

Approve of the Committee's action in allowing an extra-mural course to be taken by Mr. R. H. Wilson, missionary at Mornington Island, owing to the very exceptional circumstances in which he is placed.

Endorse the action of the Committee in agreeing to Mr. Parson's attendance at the Theological Hall, St. Andrew's College, this year as a student of the second year.

Agree to accept Mr. A. S. Hutchings as a Home Mission student of the fourth year.

Resolve :

(1) That no candidate be admitted to the Home Mission Course of study as a regular student until he has attained the standard required for the Intermediate Certificate of the Universities with Greek as one of the subjects.

(2) That the Home Mission Course shall consist normally of three years and shall include such subjects as are required for University Matriculation.

These changes to take effect in 1922.

Resolve that in the case of students in the Home Mission Course who have passed in three subjects of one year, these subjects shall stand to them so that they shall not require to sit for them again.

Re-appoint the Committee with Rev. Wm. Borland, M.A., B.D., Convener, and clothe the Committee with Assembly powers in its own special sphere of work.

The motion was duly seconded.

69. It was moved as an amendment by the Rev. W. C. Radcliffe and seconded : that the following words be inserted in the motion after the word "Resolve" : "to remit the following proposals regarding the training of Home Missionaries to State Home Mission Committees to report through the College Committee to next Assembly. Amendment

The amendment was approved.

The motion as amended was approved.

70. The Petitions of Mr. L. Baines and of Mr. Thomas Mathers were referred to the College Committee with instructions to report to a future Sederunt. Petitions

71. The Petition of Mr. R. Cullen ; a letter from the Rev. J. K. Robertson—a letter from the Murrumbeena Session, and a Petition from members and adherents of the Murrumbeena Congregation were submitted by the Convener of the Business Committee. Petition of Mr. Cullen

It was moved by the Rev. P. J. Murdoch and seconded by Mr. L. K. McNab ; that the Petition be dismissed as incompetent.

72. It was moved as an amendment by the Rev. F. A. Hagenauer and seconded by the Rev. George Tulloch : Amendment

That all the words after the words "Petition" be omitted with the view of inserting the words "be received, that the case be remitted to the Presbytery of Melbourne East with instructions to proceed regularly under Rules of Discipline, and that the request of the Petitioner in regard to the Minutes follow the case."

The amendment was approved and the proposed words were inserted.

The motion as amended was approved.

73. The Rev. George Tait, on behalf of himself and others dissented on the ground that the removal of Mr. R. Cullen from the office of the Eldership in the Murrumbeena Congregation was an act of administration and that within this sphere the General Assembly of Australia has no jurisdiction. Dissent

The names of the dissentients are as follows :

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------|
| GEORGE TAIT | W. FRASER |
| P. J. MURDOCH | HUGH M. BURNS |
| JAMES ROBERTSON | A. L. PRYDE |
| D. S. ADAM | A. S. LANG |
| WM. THOMSON | ROBT. GILLESPIE |
| HUME ROBERTSON | W. S. ROBERTSON |
| JOHN EDWARDS | ALEX. YULE |
| RONALD G. MACINTYRE | J. M. CAMPBELL |
| D. MACMILLAN | WALTER B. HOUSE |
| JOHN MACKENZIE | N. RIDE |
| WM. RAIN | |

Adjournment

The Assembly adjourned to meet at 7 p.m., which having been publicly intimated the Sederunt was closed.

NINTH SEDERUNT.

At Sydney, and within St. Stephen's Church, Phillip Street, on 28th day of September, at 7 p.m.

The Assembly met pursuant to adjournment, and was constituted.

Business Committee

74. The Report of the Business Committee was approved.

Board of Missions

75. The Report of the Board of Missions was submitted by the Rev. W. Fraser, who moved that the Assembly:—

1. Receive the Report. Give thanks to God that the Mission Stations are efficiently filled, for the health of our Missionaries, for the travelling mercies granted them, and for the measure of success which has attended their labours.

2. Express its warm appreciation of the work done by the Rev. N. and Mrs. Hey at Mapoon, its deep regret that owing to the state of their health they have been compelled to retire, and its hope that they may be long spared to enjoy their well-earned rest.

3. Approve of the Board's action in granting bonuses to Mr. Wilson and Mr. Beard.

4. Approve of the Board's proposals regarding:—

(1) The salaries of Mr. Love, Mr. Beard and the Assistants.

(2) The supplementing of the Rev. N. Hey's annuity by £32.

(3) The honorarium to the Secretary.

5. Approve of the principle on which the Queensland Executive proposes to distribute the additional Grant from the Queensland Government.

6. Express its appreciation of the Queensland Government's action in making additional provision to meet the needs of the Aborigines within its bounds.

7. Approve of the Board's action in retaining the unexpended balances of Messrs. Brown and Richter's salaries.

8. Express its appreciation of the efforts being made by Messrs. Beard and Paull to reduce the expense of the mission lugger and station at Port George IV.

9. Direct the Board to continue its enquiries regarding the feasibility of establishing a Hospital at Weipa.

10. Re-direct the Board to keep in view the issuing of Missionary Literature remitted to it by the Assembly in 1916.

11. Re-instruct the Board to draw up a Beneficiary Scheme for its Agents.

12. Approve of the Board's suggestion to discontinue the calling of more frequent meetings of the Full Board.

13. Thank the Office Staffs at Brisbane and Melbourne, the Treasurer, Accountant, and Auditor for their valuable services.

14. Bring before our people the claims of the Aborigines, and our duty to use our utmost endeavour to raise them physically and morally, and above all to lead them to a knowledge of Christ as their Saviour, and a realisation of the blessings of the Gospel.

15. Approve of the Annual Assessment for two years from 1-10-20 to 30-9-22, being allocated as follows :

Victoria	...	...	...	...	£900
New South Wales	...	...	...	...	700
Queensland	...	...	...	...	550
West Australia	...	...	...	...	160
South Australia	...	...	...	...	150
Tasmania	...	...	...	...	84
					£2,544

which is £600 p.a. less than the estimated expenditure, to meet which the Assembly directs that the Board make a special appeal through the State Foreign Missions Committees.

The motion was seconded by the Rev. G. H. Kirke.
The Rev. N. Hey addressed the House.
The motion was approved.

76. The Report on the Mission to the Jews was submitted by the Jewish Mission Rev. A. Yule, who moved :—

That the Assembly thank Mr. Ettmann warmly for the earnestness with which he has laboured, condone the irregularity of the Victorian Assembly in ordaining him, and declare his ordination valid. Urge all our people prayerfully and actively to support the work of winning Israel for Christ.

Re-appoint the Committee.

The Rev. E. C. Ettmann addressed the House.

The Moderator conveyed to Mr. Ettmann the thanks of the House.

The consideration of the Report was postponed.

The Assembly adjourned to meet to-morrow at 9.30 a.m., which having ^{Adjournment} been publicly intimated the Sederunt was closed with prayer.

TENTH SEDERUNT.

At Sydney, and within St. Stephen's Church, Phillip Street, on September, 29th at 9.30 a.m.

The Assembly met pursuant to adjournment and was constituted.

77. The Minutes of the Eighth and Ninth Sederunts were confirmed.

Minute

78. The Rev. J. T. Robertson intimated that his own vote and that of the Rev. R. Scott West, another teller, were not counted on the majority in the final vote of Union and asked that the fact be recorded. The request was granted. Tellers' Votes

79. It was agreed to make the consideration of the Appeal of the Rev. ^{Appeal} George Tulloch and that of the Rev. David Smith an order of the day for for 12 p.m. to-day.

New Hebrides

80. It was moved by Mr. L. McNab and seconded by the Rev. Dr. Macintyre :

That the Moderator be requested to Communicate with the Prime Minister and if it seem advisable to approach him by deputation including if considered desirable other bodies and interests both general and religious to ascertain the present position and the future policy as regards the disposals of the New Hebrides.

The motion was approved.

Letter from Rev.
T. G. Campbell

81. The Clerk laid on the table the following letter :—

Dear Sir,

In view of the decision of the Assembly in the case of Mr. Cullen's Petition, will you kindly instruct me as to what course I should take to have my case reconsidered ?

Thanking you in anticipation,

Believe me,

Your obedient servant,

THOS. GRAHAM CAMPBELL.

Rev. George Tait, M.A.,

Clerk of Federal Assembly of Australia.

The letter was received.

Religion in the
Home

82. The Report on Religion in the Home was submitted by the Rev. Dr. Macintyre who moved :

1. Express gratification at the increased circulation of the " Family Altar Card," and thankfulness that throughout the Church many households are preserving family worship.

2. Again urge all Ministers and Sessions to make arrangements to have the Card circulated in their Congregations.

3. Request the Moderator of Assembly, in any communications to the Church, to give a prominent place to the importance of home religion in these trying times, and to invite all ministers and home missionaries to bring the subject of family worship regularly before their people.

4. Appoint the following the Committee on Religion in the Home ; authorise the Committee to make all arrangements for the issue and distribution of the " Family Altar Card " ; and instruct the Committee to inquire into and report on all suggestions of new features and additional aids towards the furtherance of Family Worship and Religion in the Home :—Committee: Revs. Professor R. G. Macintyre and J. Sinclair (Conveners), Revs. G. R. S. Reid J. Oliver Dick, J. B. Galloway, W. Johnston, John Gray, J. F. Forrest, George Anderson, W. Huey Steele, George Baird, and Messrs. G. S. Mackay, W. G. Crane, W. Gillanders, A. Salmon, and R. K. Gillespie.

The motion was seconded and approved.

Year Book

83. The Report of the Year Book Committee was submitted by the Rev. R. A. Green who moved :

That the Assembly receive the Report ; that the Editor and the Convener and the Committee, and instruct them to continue to publish for the next two years on the same lines.

Approve the honorarium to the Editor and the arrangements made to place the affairs of the Year Book on a good footing.

Appoint the Rev. J. R. Fiddian as Convener of the Committee.

Again urge on Ministers and Home Mission Agents the desirability of securing as wide a circulation of the book as possible.

The motion was seconded by the Rev. G. Carson and approved.

84. General Clark, according to notice, moved : that it be a direction to the Business Committee to arrange that at the next General Assembly the first four days at least be devoted solely to the business of the Court.

The motion was seconded by Mr. J. Holdsworth and approved.

85. The Report of the Naval and Military Committee was submitted by the Rev. Dr. Rentoul, who moved :

That the Assembly receive and approve the Report. Express the Assembly's earnest thanks to the Committee, and through it to the Naval and Military Committees of the various States for the care and vigilance exercised by them in the selection of Chaplains for the Australian Imperial troops, and the Australian Navy during the great war, and of Chaplains for the other departments of the Military and Naval Chaplaincy Services. The Assembly desires to put on record with special emphasis its grateful recognition of the judgment, skill, and unremitting watchfulness with which the Chaplain-General aided by the Executive in Melbourne has guided and transacted the very many and often difficult duties connected with the Chaplaincy service during the five long years since the great war began, and of the Chaplain-General's personal toil in company with and relation to the troops and their welfare by sea, and in the Old Land and at the battle front.

The Assembly records with heartfelt admiration the zeal and valour of our Chaplains with the A.I.F. and in the Navy during the tragic dangers and sufferings of the war. It calls to remembrance the supreme sacrifice of life gallantly laid down in the great cause by Chaplains Andrew Gillison, W. G. Stevens, Alfred E. Goller, J. Kemp Bruce, and Albert E. Bates, and to their bereaved relatives conveys its deep sympathy and gratitude.

The Assembly once again, records warm admiration of and gratitude for the thousands of its noble sons who arose at the call of Country and righteousness, and gave their lives to sore suffering and wounds, and often to gallant death in that great struggle. And to the bereaved parents, wives, or other loved friends of the fallen or shattered it sends its message of affectionate regard.

The Assembly urges upon the Committee of N.S.W. the sacred duty of watching closely and affectionately the religious interests of our sons in the R.A.N.C., Jervis Bay, and at Duntroon.

Re-appoints the Committee, with the Chaplain-General as Convener, and with the Naval and Military Committee of the State Assembly of Victoria as Executive at Melbourne.

The motion was seconded by the Rev. A. S. McCook.

The consideration of the Deliverance was postponed.

86. The Appeal of Rev. George Tulloch against a finding of the New South Wales General Assembly was submitted.

Parties were placed at the Bar and Mr. Tulloch as Appellant and Dr. Macintyre and Dr. Burgess as Respondents were heard and Mr. Tulloch was heard in reply.

It was moved by Mr. Proudfoot and seconded by Mr. J. M. Campbell : that the Appeal be dismissed but that the Overture if signed by a member of the Court be received by the Assembly and set down for consideration with the other Overtures.

The motion was approved.

Question of
Privilege

87. Dr. Rentoul raised a question of privilege in connection with an interview of a reporter with Dr. Adam appearing in the Press. The Moderator ruled that there was no question of privilege involved.

The House sat in private.

Appeal.

88. The Appeal of the Rev. David Smith against a finding of the New South Wales General Assembly was submitted.

Parties were placed at Bar and the Rev. David Smith as Appellant, and the Revs. D. Brandt and C. E. Jones as Respondents were heard.

Questions were put and parties were removed.

It was moved by Rev. T. J. Robertson and seconded by Rev. J. A. Crockett.

That the Appeal be dismissed and the decision of the New South Wales Assembly confirmed.

It was moved as an amendment by the Rev. W. Gray and seconded by Mr. J. Shilliday.

That all the words after the word "be" be omitted with the view of inserting the word "sustained."

The amendment was rejected.

The motion was approved.

The costs of the Appeal were remitted.

Report on the
Reception of
Ministers

89. The Report of the Committee on Reception of Ministers was submitted.

The Report recommend that the prayer of the Petition of the Rev. A. L. Lloyd be granted. The recommendation was approved.

Rev. A. H.
Ballinger

90. The Report recommended that the prayer of the Petition of the Rev. A. H. Ballinger be granted and that the Presbytery of Perth be authorised to take Mr. Ballinger on trials for License.

The recommendation was approved.

Rev. W. S.
Williams

91. The Report recommended that the prayer of the Petition of the Rev. W. S. Williams be granted after a year's probation.

The recommendation was approved.

Rev. W. Evans

92. The Report recommended that the prayer of the Petition of the Rev. W. Evans be granted and that his service under the Home Mission Committee in Victoria be taken in lieu of the year's probation.

The recommendation was approved.

Mr. C. J.
Graham

93. The Report recommended that the prayer of the Petition of Mr. C. J. Graham be granted and that the Presbytery of Ballarat be authorised to take Mr. Graham on trials for License.

The recommendation was approved.

Mr. J. F. Kem
Yee

94. The Report recommended that the prayer of the Petition of Mr. J. F. Kem Yee be granted and that the Presbytery of the Hunter be authorised to take steps necessary for the ordination.

The recommendation was approved.

Mr. R. J. May

95. The Report recommended that the prayer of the Petition of Mr. R. J. May be not granted.

The recommendation was approved.

96. The Report recommended that the prayer of the Petition of the Rev. H. G. Ford be granted subject to his passing the Class and Exit Examinations of the second and third year without Hebrew. Rev. H. G. Ford

The recommendation was approved.

97. The Report of the College Committee relative to the Petition of Mr. J. C. McLelland was submitted by the Rev. John Mathew, who moved : Mr. J. O. McLelland

That Mr. McLelland in view of his disabilities mentioned in his Petition be allowed to enter the Theological Hall without passing the Entrance Examination and that in the Theological Hall he takes the course prescribed for Home Missionaries with the exception of Greek.

The motion was seconded.

It was moved as an amendment by Mr. Wm. Wood and seconded by the Rev. John Walker : that all the words after the word " that " be omitted with the view of inserting the words : " the prayer of Mr. J. C. McLelland's Petition be granted in that he be taken without examination and that the Presbytery of the Murrumbidgee be instructed to take Mr. McLelland on trials for License.

The amendment was rejected.

From this decision Mr. Wm. Wood dissented and gave the following reason :—That the decision is inconsistent with a preceding decision.

97 (a). The answers to the Reasons of dissent of Dr. Rentoul and others from the decision of the Assembly on Union were given in by Dr. Adam. Answers to
Reasons of
Dissent
The Answers are as follows :—

1. The first reason assumes that unless a vote of the Church is unanimous (or otherwise it must need be " conflicting ") it must be held to indicate that " the mind and heart of the Presbyterian people is not in hearty sympathy " with that which they approve in this case by a majority of 60 per cent. to 40 per cent. No refutation of such an assumption is necessary. A majority of 6 to 4 in favour of Union on the proposed Basis is sufficient to encourage the Church to proceed with the negotiations and endeavour by giving consideration to proposed amendments to secure a Basis which will gain the support of a still larger majority.

2. The second reason viz. : that the Deed of Union requires the approval of three-fifths of the Presbyteries for " any forward step affecting a proposed alteration of Doctrine Polity and Formula " is contrary to fact, and has been ruled so by the Moderator of the Assembly, and as his decision was accepted by the dissentients, without appeal to the House, it has been accepted by the dissentients. It is only before any proposed change in the subordinate standard is adopted that the approval of three-fifths of the Presbyteries is necessary. The decision of Assembly dissented against was not a decision to change the subordinate standard against which alone this allegation of the want of a sufficient majority of Presbyteries could have any relevancy.

3. The third reason of dissent assumes that if a small majority of the communicants in Victoria (together with a more decided minority of adherents) and almost all its larger (and more comfortable) Congregations are opposed to any movement the opinion and needs of even a three-fifths majority of the voters in the other States, and the votes of the smaller and less wealthy Congregations in country districts where the pressure of overlapping is especially felt are not to be given weight to. This assumption the Presbyterian Church outside Victoria is not prepared to admit, nor is it prepared to admit that the vote against Union in Victoria is final, if as the dissentients

say, "the facts have never been placed fairly and adequately before the people."

4. The fourth reason of dissent is sufficiently refuted by the fact that the Basis of Doctrine (which is in all essentials the same as that which has been adopted by the corresponding Canadian Churches as their Basis) has been approved by the appointed representative leaders of three Churches in Australia most firmly loyal to the evangelical faith.

5. The fifth reason of dissent is in part unintelligible. How can a Polity be a violation of historic memories? Where it is intelligible it is contrary to fact. The Polity in the proposed Basis is no betrayal of the Presbyterian Church government, but a reaffirmation and endorsement thereof, answering in every respect to the statements of representative theologians such as Hodge, Rainy, Paterson, as to what the essentials of Presbyterian Church Government are. So far from involving for a Church constituted with such a Polity forfeiture of a place within the brotherhood of Presbyterian Churches, it would, according to the declared opinion of leading ecclesiastics of Scotland and Canada, assuredly entitle such Church to be included within the family of the Presbyterian Churches allied in the Pan Presbyterian Alliance.

97 (b) The answers to the Reasons of dissent given in by the Rev. F. A. Hagenauer were also given in by Dr. Adam, the reasons are as follows:—

1. In the preamble to the statement of Doctrine in the proposed Basis of Union it is said:—"We affirm our belief in the Scripture of the Old and New Testaments as the primary source and ultimate standard of Christian Faith and Life." This is equivalent to declaring the Scripture to be the Word of God; for only the will of God, expressed by His Word can be to any believer in God, the "ultimate standard" of Faith and Life. Further, in Article II. of the Doctrinal Statement it is said:—"We receive the Holy Scriptures as given by inspiration to be a faithful record of God's gracious revelation and the sure witness to Christ." To suppose that the "inspiration" here spoken of can mean anything else than "inspiration of God," especially in view of what follows, viz.: "and we reverently acknowledge the Holy Spirit speaking in the Scripture to be the Supreme Judge in questions of faith and duty," is to trifle with matters that should be dealt with in a serious way.

2. Ministers at their ordination are required to answer affirmatively the question "Do you accept the statement of Doctrine of the united Church as in substance agreeable to the teaching of the Holy Scriptures," which Holy Scriptures the candidate affirms his belief in as "the primary source and ultimate standard of Christian faith and life." Further in the preamble to the Doctrinal statement, in the light of which the questions to candidates for the Ministry are to be put and answered, it is expressly stated "We the representatives of the Presbyterian the Methodist and the Congregational branches of the Church of Christ in Australia do hereby set forth the substance of the Christian Faith as commonly held among us" and again "we present the accompanying statement as a brief summary of our common faith"—all which goes to refute the allegation that no definite provision is made "that Ministers at their ordination shall affirm that they will adhere to the Doctrines of the Church."

3. It is true that no special provision is as yet made for pledging elders, as distinct from Ministers, at their ordination in any definite way such as by putting questions to them as to Ministers or otherwise. It does not follow, however, that elders are to be ordained without any such pledge. On the contrary as, according to our Presbyterian Polity, the eldership is

a form of Christian Ministry, the questions appointed to be put to "candidates for the Ministry" presenting themselves for ordination apply strictly to elders not less than to pastors. Should it be thought desirable to have a separate set of questions for "elders" at ordination, this can be done, prior to Union by a simple amendment or addition to the Basis, for which provision has been made by this Assembly or it may be left to be adjusted later by the United Church. This is therefore a trivial reason for dissent.

97 (c) The answers to the reasons of dissent from the decision of the Assembly on Mr. Cullen's Petition were given in by Dr. Rentoul and the Rev. F. A. Hagenauer. The reasons are as follows :—

Answers to
Reasons of
Dissent

1. The proceedings against the Petitioner complained of by him were in substance disciplinary proceedings and as such the right to review them comes within the Jurisdiction of this Assembly which has "functions legislative administrative and judicial supreme with regard to the Doctrine Worship and Discipline of the Church." (Article of Agreement IV.)

2. This Assembly in the exercise of the functions aforesaid has complete authority to decide finally whether this or any other case properly coming before it is within its jurisdiction or not.

3. In deciding thereon the Assembly is guided by the substance and not the form of the proceeding complained of. If in the opinion of the Assembly a case is one of discipline it should be so treated and dealt with and the fact that it has been incorrectly dealt with in a lower court or courts as one of administration does not bind this Assembly or impair its right to exercise the jurisdiction committed to it for the benefit of the whole Church.

98. The Rev. J. T. Robertson gave notice of his intention when the Report on Public Questions is before the House to move :—

Public
Questions

That in view of the world wide social unrest, the Assembly thinks dutiful to make pronouncement of what it conceives to be the Church's relations and obligations to community life.

1. The Church is an institution created by Jesus Christ for the purpose of bringing in His Kingdom on earth, and is composed of all those who desire to be His Followers. It is under obedience to Him to follow Him in a spirit of sacrifice and its supreme duty is to establish human brotherhood, to care for the weak and to maintain justice as between man and man.

2. The Church has come far short of the Christ ideal, and we acknowledge with grief and shame that among masses of the people she has not even created the impression that she was earnestly seeking to realise it.

The Assembly declares that the Church, however imperfect her expression may be, composed as it is of sinful men in a sinful world, has nevertheless as her master-purpose to work for the uplift of man after the example and teaching of Jesus.

3. The Church therefore has the right to claim that all who acknowledge Christ as the Supreme Leader of righteousness and, therefore, the Saviour of men should take their place within it. Their clear duty is to ally themselves with the institution established by Christ for bringing in the Kingdom of God upon earth, thereby strengthening its organised service and enabling it to be truer to its mission.

4. The Assembly urges its Ministers and office-bearers in their official as well as their private capacity to seek opportunities of showing that the Church is in deepest sympathy with the aspiration of men for better social conditions and a fuller social life. And further the Assembly recommends that State Assemblies should appoint special Committees to deal with social and industrial problems, and with the view of removing misconceptions

that exist regarding the attitude and aims of the Church, that such Committees should open up communications with societies and organisations outside the Church which have for their general aim the improved social condition of the people.

adjournment

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

ELEVENTH SEDERUNT.

At Sydney, and within St. Stephen's, Phillip St., on the 29th day of September, 1920.

The Assembly met pursuant to adjournment at 7.30 p.m., and was constituted.

business committee

99. The Report of the Business Committee was approved.

welfare of youth

100. The Report of the Welfare of Youth Committee was submitted by the Rev. J. Mackenzie, who moved:—

1. That the Assembly give thanks to God for all the signs of increasing interest throughout the Church in the problems of youth, congratulate New South Wales and Queensland upon the forward steps taken in reference to organisation, express its deepest appreciation of all the faithful service rendered by S.S. teachers and workers amongst the growing youth of our land and commend all to the Grace of God in Jesus Christ for the wisdom and zeal needed by them in their work; place on record its sense of the value of the work done in this Committee and throughout the Church by Rev. W. S. Rolland and extend its sincere sympathy to his bereaved friends.

2. That the Assembly having learned that the Australasian Graded Lessons are now in use in all the States of Australia (with one exception) under the sanction and approval of State Assemblies resolve to commend this course of lessons as suitable for use in the Presbyterian Churches of the Commonwealth, and express gratification that the Australasian lessons have met with such wide acceptance and have been received with so large a measure of approval.

3. That the Assembly express regret that full statistical returns covering Youth work are not available, urge this matter again upon the attention of State Assemblies, call the attention of the Statistical Committee to the injustice done to the work of the Church by the publication of incomplete returns and recommend Welfare of Youth Departments to confer with Home Mission Committees as to the possibility of appointing in each State one or more Home Mission S.S. Agents.

4. Instruct Welfare of Youth Department and Directors to confer as to ways and means of helping the weaker States in their efforts to strengthen and extend their youth work and report to next Assembly.

5. That in view of the gravity of the adolescent problem as it affects Australia the Committee be instructed to confer with State Welfare of Youth Departments (a) as to suitable course of study (b) as to the best methods of organising work amongst junior and senior adolescents and (c) as to the training of leaders.

That it be an earnest recommendation to State Assemblies that they provide (a) for the formation of all S.S. Scholars over fourteen years of age into organised classes with a measure of self-government and with week night activities when required, (b) for a vigorous work for young men carried on as far as possible by young men (with a corresponding work for your women) and (c) for the establishment of Fellowship Associations which shall aim at the cultivation of spiritual life and devotion through advanced Bible study and training for service especially amongst the young.

6. That the Assembly express its gratification at the establishment of so many Church day and boarding schools in which religious instruction is given a foremost place, and at the fact that efforts are being made to secure a larger measure of religious instruction in State Schools; and further that the Assembly reassert its conviction that no education is complete which does not include a knowledge of the English Bible and the foundation truths of the Christian religion.

7. That the following be the Welfare of Youth Committee:—Revs. P. L. Forster, J. T. Lawton, C. H. Talbot, Wm. Goyen, John Walker, John Sinclair, John Barnaby, F. A. Darling, J. B. Galloway, James Gibson, R. H. Roberts, D. McK. Barnet, I. E. Bertram, R. J. H. McGowan, W. Gray, A. Simms, N. H. Joughin, W. P. Turton, G. R. S. Reid, R. Blanchard, W. F. Shannon, F. G. H. Brady, Dr. Smyth, Messrs. W. A. Sanderson, W. Gillanders, J. I. Forsyth, T. W. Wilson, H. B. Thompson, W. Gray, J. Mackenzie (Convener.)

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

101. The Report of the Committee on Public Questions was submitted by the Rev. John Walker, who moved:— Public Questions

The Assembly rejoices in the earnest work being done by State Committees and Councils of the Churches in the interests of social and public morals.

Deplores the sign of increased disregard of moral restraint in various directions, which calls for more prayerfulness in the Church, greater watchfulness and self-control on the part of Christian men and women for the sake of example.

Commends the State Assemblies for showing much energy in *Temperance Reform*, the need for which is everywhere apparent, and our people are called upon to be in earnest in this great business.

Deplores the alarming growth of the *Vice of Gambling*, and the Assembly solemnly protests against encouragement given by some State Governments.

Rejoices in the efforts of the Victorian Committee in arranging Popular Lectures on various phases of Rationalism.

Directs the attention of State Assemblies to the Policy of the Roman Church in regard to Mixed marriages, which demands careful watching and strong action by all branches of the Protestant Churches.

Deplores the increase of *Sabbath Desecration*.

Decides to relieve the Moderator General from the Convenership of the Public Questions Committee, and appoints the Rev. J. T. Robertson, Convener, and the Moderator-General, the ex-Moderator-General, the Conveners of the Public Questions Committees of the State Churches, the Conveners of the Temperance, Life and Work, Religion and Morals, Welfare of Youth Committee, and Committees on Industrial Problems, with Revs. W. Borland, Hume Robertson, D. A. Cameron, G. Tait, P. J. Murdoch, and Messrs. A. G. Proudfoot, D. MacMillan, Alex. Matheson, and A. L. Pryde, as the Committee.

The motion was seconded and approved.

102. Leave was granted to the Home Mission Committee to meet to-morrow morning after the opening of the Sederunt.

The Assembly adjourned to meet to-morrow at 9.30 a.m., which having been publicly intimated, the Sederunt was closed with prayer.

TWELFTH SEDERUNT.

At Sydney and within St. Stephen's Church, Phillip St. on 30th September, 1920, at 9.30 p.m.

The Assembly met pursuant to adjournment and was constituted.

103. The Minutes of the Tenth and Eleventh Sederunts were confirmed.

It was agreed to furnish Mr. Cullen with an extract Minute of the decision on his case.

104. The Rev. J. L. Cope was added to the Committee on Beneficiary funds.

105. A Communication relative to the reconstruction of the Legislative Council of British Papua on an elective basis was submitted.

It was moved by the Rev. Dr. Macintyre and seconded by Mr. L. K. McNab :—

That this Assembly view with concern the information that the Government do not propose to appoint Special Representatives to speak for and to safeguard the interests of the native population of Papua and strongly urge upon the Government the advisability of doing so.

Instruct the Board of Missions to take such action as may be necessary to press this upon the Government.

The motion was approved.

106. The Report on Home Missions was submitted by Dr. Macintyre, who moved :—

1. That the Assembly receive the Report, and thank the Committee, especially the Acting-Convener, the Superintendent of the A.I.M., the members of the Inland Councils and their helpers, especially the Office Teams

2. Record its appreciation of the invaluable services rendered by the late Rev. Arthur J. Wade, the late Convener, and its sense of the great loss sustained by the Committee and the Church through his death.

3. Gratefully acknowledge the several legacies that have been received for the furtherance of the work of the Inland Mission, and the increased giving to the funds.

4. Express satisfaction at the steady development of the Inland Mission, and of the interest being taken in the Nursing Homes.

5. Approve the objective for the Nursing Homes, as set forth in the report.

6. Re-appoint the Rev. John Flynn as Superintendent for a period of six years.

7. Authorise the Finance Committee to pay year by year into the funds of the Inland Mission the grant made by the Presbyterian Church of England for Bush Work in Australia.

8. Commend the Inland Mission to the continued generosity of our people, in view of the increased expenditure, necessary by reason of the programme of extension, and the initiation of a Building Loan Fund.

9. Appoint the following as members of the Inland Councils in respective States, with power to add to their number :—

QUEENSLAND :—Rev. James Walker (Convener), E. Fox ; Messrs. N. McLeod, F. W. Lloyd, J. Campbell.

N.S.W.—Revs. G. Scott (Convener), W. G. Foreyth, D. Galloway, T. Morgan, Hon. T. Brown ; Messrs. W. Wood, J. H. Beatson, W. S. Park, J. Inglis.

VICTORIA.—Revs. J. A. Barber (Convener), Dr. Adam, J. Walker, J. Barnaby, D. A. Cameron, F. N. L. Paton, T. J. Smith, J. K. Robertson, F. T. Heriot, A. Irving Davidson, John Mackenzie, E. E. Baldwin, P. L. Forster, J. A. Forrest, J. Armour, J. T. Lawton, J. Alexander, D. Millar ; Messrs. F. J. Evans, Alex. Mathieson, G. King, W. P. Shaw, D. Macmillan, D. Steel, W. Gray, A. M. Ferguson, Lieut.-Col. Steel, O.B.E., A. J. Funell, H. M. Rolland, A. Gillespie.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—Revs. W. Gray (Convener), Dr. Seymour, F. S. Souter, R. Mitchell, Mr. Chessney, Dr. Duguid.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.—Revs. F. G. H. Brady (Convener), E. G. Petherick, J. R. Blanchard ; Messrs. G. F. Pitchford, J. G. Adam, Ray Davis.

The motion was seconded by the Rev. W. C. Ratcliffe.

The Rev. John Flynn addressed the House.

The motion was approved.

107. The consideration of the Naval and Military Report was resumed. Naval and
Military.

The motion was seconded by the Rev. A. S. McCook and approved.

108. The Report from the State Assembly of South Australia relative to the ordination of Mr. P. E. Wylde was submitted. Ordination of
Mr. P. E. Wylde

The Report was received.

It was moved by the Rev. Dr. Burgess and seconded.

That, inasmuch as the last General Assembly declined to grant the prayer of a Petition from the Presbytery of Belalie praying for the ordination of Mr. Wylde, and this decision was brought definitely before the South Australian Assembly, when dealing with a similar Petition from Port Pirie Congregation in May, 1919, this Assembly censures the South Australian Assembly for instructing the Presbytery of Belalie to ordain and induct him to the pastoral charge of Port Pirie ; further, that this Assembly declares that Mr. Wylde is not an ordained Minister of this Church, and the induction is therefore invalid.

109. It was moved as an amendment by the Rev. D. F. Brandt and seconded by the Rev. George Tulloch that the word "censures" be omitted with a view of inserting the words "regrets the action of." Amendments

The amendment was rejected.

It was moved as a further amendment by Dr. Macintyre and seconded by the Rev. John Walker : that all the words after the words "Port Pirie Congregation" be omitted with the view of inserting the words "declare the act of the General Assembly of South Australia and of the Presbytery of

Belalie to be contrary to the laws of this Church, but while expressly safeguarding this being considered a precedent agree so far to condone the offence as to recognise Mr. Wylde as a Minister of this Church, but not eligible for a call to any other Charge than that of Port Pirie without the consent of the General Assembly of Australia."

The amendment was approved, and the proposed words inserted.

The motion as amended was approved.

110. It was agreed that an extract of this Minute be sent to the State Assembly of South Australia and the Presbytery of Belalie.

111. The Overture from the Rev. George Tulloch relative to Rule 112 in the New South Wales Rules was submitted.

The Moderator ruled the Overture incompetent.

The Rev. George Tulloch challenged this ruling.

The House supported the ruling.

From this decision the Rev. George Tulloch dissented for the following reasons:—

1. The General Assembly alone can interpret the Rule 112 N.S.W. and declare whether it is contrary to the laws of this Church or is in accord therewith.

2. This is a matter for the Assembly itself to determine and not for the Moderator to settle.

3 The Moderators' ruling will prevent the lower Courts from reaching the only Court competent to settle a matter of Church Law.

4. The effect of the ruling is that State Assemblies are declared to be the framer of laws which are unchallengeable by the members of the Church notwithstanding that they may enter into the domain of matters in which the General Assembly alone is declared to be supreme.

5. That the Assembly agreed at a previous Sederunt to send the Overture to the Court for hearing along with the other Overtures. The Assembly by not hearing the case has contradicted its decision.

112. The Overture from the State Assembly of South Australia relative to a Theological Hall was introduced by the Rev. Wm. Gray.

113. It was moved by the Rev. Dr. Harper and seconded by the Rev. J. Mathew:—

1. That the General Assembly approves of the proposal that Theological Students in South Australia should be trained in their own State, and while not prepared on so short notice to adopt this College as the College of our Church in South Australia, approve meantime of this suggested course and permit Students who have passed the Entrance Examination by the College Committee, attended the proposed classes, have sat for the College Committees other examinations and that students who pass be placed in the same position as students of the same stage in the recognised Theological Halls of the Presbyterian Church of Australia.

The motion was approved.

114. The Overture from the State Assembly of Victoria relative to Standing Order 4 was introduced by the Rev. George Tait, who moved: That the Overture be approved and sent to State Assemblies and Presbyteries to be reported on to next Assembly.

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

It was moved as an amendment by Mr. A. G. Proudfoot and seconded :
That the following words be added to the motion :

Provided that this amended provision shall not in any way affect any case or matter sub judice at the date when such amended provision shall be adopted.

The amendment was rejected

The motion was approved.

115. The Overture from State Assembly of Victoria relative to Standing Order No. 46 was received

116. The Rev. Hume Robertson, moved the motion relative to a State Lottery of which he had given notice, and which is recorded Minute 63.

The motion was seconded by Mr. A. S. Lang and approved.

117. The Overture from the Presbytery of Melbourne South relative to Suva was introduced by Mr. D. MacMillan.

It was agreed to remit the work in Suva to the care of the Synod of Melbourne on behalf of the General Assembly of Australia with authority to appeal for monetary and other assistance to the Church in all States.

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

THIRTEENTH SEDERUNT.

At Sydney, and within St. Stephen's, Phillip St., on the 30th day of September, 1920

The Assembly met pursuant to adjournment at 7.30 p.m., and was constituted.

118. The Minutes of the tenth and eleventh Sederunts were confirmed.

119. The Overture from the General Assembly of Victoria relative to Rule 6 of the chapter on Spiritual Freedom was departed from.

120. The Overture from the General Assembly of Victoria relative to Rule 7 of the Chapter on Spiritual Freedom was approved and sent to State Assemblies and to Presbyteries to be reported on to next Assembly.

121. The Overture from the State Assembly of Western Australia was submitted.

It was moved by the Rev. W. F. Turton and seconded by Mr. Berry :

The Assembly having heard the Overture forwarded by the Western Australian Assembly respecting its inability to overtake the work awaiting it in that State, expresses its sympathy with that Assembly, and commend its claims to such of the State Assemblies as may be in a position to render aid.

The motion was approved.

Petition of
Mr. L. P. Barnes

122. The Petition of Mr. L. P. Barnes was granted.

Petition of Mr.
E. D. Pearson

123. The Petition of Mr. E. D. Pearson was submitted.

Leave was granted to Mr. E. D. Pearson to sit for the Entrance Examination to the Theological Hall in 1921, subject to passing the examination of the First Year Arts in any two of the following subjects, viz. : Ethical Philosophy, History and English.

Immigration
Committee

123 (d) A communication from the State Assembly of New South Wales was received and remitted to the Immigration Committee.

Jewish Mission

124. The consideration of the Report on the Jewish Mission was resumed.

The motion was seconded by the Rev. R. H. J. McGowan and approved.

Motion
Minute 98

125. The Rev. J. T. Robertson submitted the motion of which he had given notice and which is recorded in Minute 98.

The motion was seconded by the Rev. G. H. Chapple and approved with the addition of the words " and instruct the Public Questions Committee to report on this matter to next Assembly.

Loyal Address

126. It was agreed that a Loyal Address be presented to the new Governor-General and the Moderator and the Clerk were appointed to draw up and arrange for the presentation of the address.

Statistics

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

The Assembly thank the Committee and especially the Convener for his work under the difficult conditions occasioned by the late receipt of some State returns and their incompleteness. The Assembly authorises the Committee to revise the schedule and urges State Assemblies to see that all the information required by this Assembly's Committee is obtained through their schedules. Direct State Assemblies to see that Presbyteries and those responsible for the oversight of Home Mission Stations take greater care in the examination of records of parishes and stations. They recommend the appointment of records Committees by Presbyteries. Instruct the State Assemblies concerned to take into serious consideration the diminution in the number of communicants. Direct the attention of the Public Questions Committee to the reference to it in B.B. 1918, p. 20.

The motion was seconded by the Rev. A. S. McCook and approved.

Next General
Assembly

128. It was agreed that the next General Assembly meet in the Assembly Hall, Collins St., Melbourne, on the first Wednesday of September, 1922, at 7.30 p.m.

Board of
Mission

129. Assembly powers, within its own sphere, were granted to the Board of Missions.

Official Organ

130. The Report on an Official Organ was submitted by Mr. J. M. Campbell, who moved : that the Committee be thanked and discharged. The motion was seconded by Mr. Wm. Wood and approved.

Business
Committee

131. The following were appointed a Business Committee to make arrangements for next Assembly :—

The Clerk, the Law Agent, Rev. Dr. Burgess, John Edwards, A. Thain Anderson, F. A. Hagenauer, P. J. Murdoch, Wm. Wood, A. L. Pryde, Rev. Dr. Macintyre (Convener).

132. The Report of the Selection Committee was received, adopted, and ordered to be printed in the Appendix. Selection Committee
133. The name of the Rev. George Carson was added to the Hymnal Committee. Hymnal Committee
134. The prayer of the Petition of Mr. T. Mathers was granted. Mr. T. Mathers
135. It was agreed to inform Sessions that the Voting Papers on Church Union need not be kept. Voting Papers
136. The Clerk was instructed not to print in the Appendix the papers in the Haberfield Appeal cases except the one which appeared in the White Book and to hold them in *retentis*. Haberfield Appeal Cases
- It was further agreed the Finance Committee be instructed to collect the cost of printing the Appeals and Petitions from the Appellants and the Petitioners.
137. The cordial thanks of the Assembly were given to the Minister and Office-bearers of St. Stephen's Church, to the Hospitality Committee of the Church of N.S. Wales, and to the Women's Missionary Association, as well as to all others who have extended hospitality to members. Thanks
138. The Minutes of the twelfth and thirteenth Sederunts were confirmed. Minutes
139. The business of General Assembly now being concluded the Moderator delivered a brief address. The Assembly joined in signing the last verse of the 122 Psalm, after which the Moderator having intimated that in pursuance of the General Assembly's appointment the next General Assembly will be holden at Melbourne in the Assembly Hall, Collins St., on the first Wednesday of September, 1922, at 7.30 p.m., the Session was closed with the benediction. Clos

JAMES GIBSON, Moderator.
GEORGE TAIT, Clerk.

APPENDIX.

COMMITTEES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

STANDING COMMITTEES.

JUDICIAL COMMISSION.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

Rev. J. Burgess, D.D.
J. Edwards, M.A.
A. T. Anderson, M.A.
Prof. Macintyre, D.D., O.B.E.

Mr. J. H. Balfour
J. H. Beatson
J. Kirkland
Wm. Scott

VICTORIA.

Rev. Prof. Rentoul, D.D.
P. J. Murdock, M.A.
J. Mathew, M.A., B.D.
J. MacKenzie, M.A.
George Tait, M.A.

Mr. J. M. Campbell, LL.M.
A. G. Proudfoot
H. H. Kemp

QUEENSLAND.

Rev. Jas. Gibson, M.A.
Principal Glaister, M.A., D.D.
E. N. Merrington, M.A., Ph.D.

Rev. Jas. Walker, M.A., B.D.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

Rev. J. Hall Angus

Mr. G. C. Ligertwood, LL.B.

TASMANIA.

Rev. W. J. Harris

Mr. F. Burbury

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

Rev. R. Hanlin

ELECTED BY ASSEMBLY.

Right Rev. the Moderator
Rev. David Smith, M.A.
W. C. Radcliffe, B.A.
A. S. McCook, B.A.
John Walker
F. A. Hagenauer, M.A.
A. Crow

Rev. J. Heyer
W. H. Steele
Sir J. H. MacFarland
Mr. A. S. Lang, F.A.I.Q.
W. G. Geikie
J. Holdsworth

Chairman : Right Rev. the Moderator.

Assessors : Revs. D. A. Cameron, J. Barnaby, M.A., B.D., John Ferguson, and Thomas Morgan.

BOARD OF MISSIONS.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

Rev. J. Paterson
R. J. H. McGowan

Mr. W. G. Geikie
C. E. Rennie

VICTORIA.

Rev. D. Ross
F. H. L. Paton
A. Stewart
T. W. Leggatt

Mr. R. K. Gillespie
Dr. Currell

QUEENSLAND.

Rev. Jas. Gibson, M.A.

Mr. G. K. Kirke

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

Rev. Geo. Davidson, D.D.

TASMANIA.

Rev. J. Heyer, M.A.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

Rev. W. F. Turton

ELECTED BY ASSEMBLY.

Right Rev. the Moderator
Rev. W. Fraser
W. C. Radcliffe, B.A.

Rev. Dr. Macintyre
J. A. Crockett
Mr. W. Watt
H. D. McBean

Convener : Rev. W. Fraser.

THE CODE.

Dr. Burgess Dr. Macintyre	NEW SOUTH WALES.	Hon. J. Garland, K.C. Mr. W. Wood
Rev. P. J. Murdock, M.A. George Tait, M.A.	VICTORIA.	Mr. J. M. Campbell, LL.M. G. S. Mackay
Rev. S. Martin, M.A.	QUEENSLAND.	Rev. Wm. C. Radcliffe, B.A.
Rev. Wm. Gray	SOUTH AUSTRALIA.	
Rev. G. B. Murphy, B.A.	TASMANIA.	
	WESTERN AUSTRALIA.	Mr. H. Scott
Rev. F. A. Hagenauer, M.A. A. Thain Anderson, M.A. James Walker, B.D. J. H. Craig, M.A.	ELECTED BY ASSEMBLY.	Mr. A. G. Proudfoot John Stinson W. A. Sanderson
Joint Conveners : The Clerk and Mr. J. M. Campbell.		

COLLEGE.

Rev. J. Ferguson D. Smith, M.A.	NEW SOUTH WALES.	Rev. J. Edwards, M.A. T. Tait, B.D.
Rev. J. Mathew, B.D. H. M. Burns	VICTORIA	Rev. J. Barnaby, B.D. Mr. D. K. Picken, M.A.
Rev. J. B. Galloway	QUEENSLAND.	Rev. Jas. Walker, M.A., B.D.
Rev. J. A. Seymour, M.A., S.T.D.	SOUTH AUSTRALIA.	
Rev. A. G. Macintosh-Carter, B.A., B.D.	TASMANIA.	
Rev. F. E. Oxer, B.D.	WESTERN AUSTRALIA.	
Rev. W. Borland, B.D. D. A. Cameron, M.A. W. G. Forsyth F. Milne	ELECTED BY ASSEMBLY.	Rev. J. Mackenzie J. Gillies G. R. S. Reid, M.A.
Convener : Rev. W. Borland, B.D.		

HOME MISSIONS.

Rev. W. G. Forsyth T. Morgan	NEW SOUTH WALES.	Rev. A. S. McCook, B.A. Mr. W. Wood
Rev. J. Barnaby, B.D. D. A. Cameron, M.A.	VICTORIA.	Rev. J. A. Barber Mr. J. R. Crowther
Rev. George Ewan	QUEENSLAND.	Rev. Wm. C. Radcliffe, B.A.
Rev. H. D. Fearon	SOUTH AUSTRALIA.	

TASMANIA.

Rev. P. Hope, B.A.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

Rev. A. Crow

ELECTED BY ASSEMBLY.

Rev. A. Thain Anderson, M.A. Prof. Angus, Ph.D. John Flynn Prof. Macintyre, D.D.	Mr. D. MacMillan W. S. Park J. H. Beatsen
---	---

Convener: Rev. A. Thain Anderson, M.A.

FINANCE.

Mr. J. H. Beatson W. G. Crane	Mr. J. Kirkland W. Wood
----------------------------------	----------------------------

NEW SOUTH WALES.

Sir John MacFarland Mr. D. Macmillan	Mr. R. K. Gillespie A. L. Pryde
---	------------------------------------

VICTORIA

Rev. Wm. C. Radcliffe, B.A.	Mr. A. S. Lang, F.I.A.Q.
-----------------------------	--------------------------

QUEENSLAND.

Mr. P. R. Henry	Mr. W. T. Tassie
-----------------	------------------

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

TASMANIA.

Mr. E. A. Black	Mr. J. K. Stewart J. G. Mackee L. K. McNab
-----------------	--

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

ELECTED BY ASSEMBLY.

Convener: Mr. W. G. Crane.

RECEPTION OF MINISTERS.

Rev. Prof. Angus, Ph.D. Prof. Macintyre, D.D.	Rev. W. G. Forsyth A. McKinlay
--	-----------------------------------

NEW SOUTH WALES.

Rev. Prof. Adam, D.D. J. Mackenzie, M.A.	Rev. J. Barnaby, B.D. Mr. A. L. Pryde
---	--

VICTORIA.

Rev. George Ewan	Rev. Wm. C. Radcliffe, B.A.
------------------	-----------------------------

QUEENSLAND.

Rev. J. A. Seymour, M.A., S.T.D.	Rev. W. Mabin
----------------------------------	---------------

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

TASMANIA.

Rev. W. H. Steele, M.A.	Rev. A. Thain Anderson, M.A. Thomas Morgan Mr. Wm. Wood
-------------------------	---

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

ELECTED BY ASSEMBLY.

Convener: Rev. Alexander McKinlay.

STATISTICS.

Rev. D. M. Barnet, B.A. F. A. Darling	NEW SOUTH WALES.	Mr. W. G. Crane Wm. M. Tulloch
Rev. W. H. Ash Hume Robertson, B.A.	VICTORIA.	Mr. L. K. McNab R. A. McIlwraith
Rev. Wm. C. Radcliffe, B.A.	QUEENSLAND.	Mr. A. S. Lang, F.I.A.Q.
Rev. Wm. Gray	SOUTH AUSTRALIA.	
Rev. J. Heyer, M.A.	TASMANIA.	
Rev. John Shaw	WESTERN AUSTRALIA.	
Rev. J. R. Fiddian A. D. Leckie J. A. Lee	ELECTED BY ASSEMBLY.	Mr. H. H. Kemp W. B. House A. L. Pryde J. H. Beatson

Convener : Rev. R. W. Macaulay.

YEAR BOOK.

Rev. D. M. Barnet, B.A. F. A. Darling	NEW SOUTH WALES.	Mr. W. G. Crane Wm. M. Tulloch
Rev. R. A. Green J. R. Fiddian	VICTORIA.	Mr. A. L. Pryde L. K. McNab
Rev. Wm. C. Radcliffe, B.A.	QUEENSLAND.	Mr. A. S. Lang, F.I.A.Q.
Rev. J. Heyer	TASMANIA.	
Rev. E. F. Cameron	WESTERN AUSTRALIA.	
Rev. J. Hall Angus	SOUTH AUSTRALIA.	
Rev. D. F. Brandt A. D. Leckie W. Huey Steele	ELECTED BY ASSEMBLY.	Mr. A. L. Pryde A. W. Glencross A. G. Baxter W. B. House

Convener : Rev. J. R. Fiddian.

SPECIAL COMMITTEES.

I.—CHURCH UNION.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

Rev. A. Harper, D.D.	Rev. A. T. Anderson
R. C. Macintyre, D.D.	W. G. Forsyth
J. Burgess, D.D.	W. J. Gray
R. Scott West,	John Macaulay
John Edwards	Mr. J. Kirkland
Angus King	W. G. Crane
John Paterson	J. H. Balfour
G. A. Gordon	J. H. Beatson
G. R. S. Reid	C. E. Rennie
J. H. Auld	

VICTORIA.

Rev. Professor D. S. Adam, D.D. (Convener)	Rev. K. Forster
W. Fraser	R. C. Foyster
J. Mathew	John Walker
J. T. Robertson	Geo. Tait
P. J. Murdoch	Sir J. MacFarland
J. Mackenzie	Mr. Wm. Gray
D. Ross	H. H. Kemp
W. Goyen	W. S. Robertson
Wm. Borland	John Anderson
R. W. Macaulay	J. M. Campbell
D. Millar	A. G. Proudfoot
A. McCarlie	Professor Smyth
John Gray	Mr. W. B. House
A. I. Davidson	Brigadier-General Clark

QUEENSLAND.

Rt. Rev. J. Gibson	Rev. Dr. Merrington
Rev. W. C. Radcliffe	W. Johnston
D. McLennan	Mr. A. S. Lang
S. Martin	A. Mayes
J. B. Galloway	R. J. Shilliday
Dr. Glaister	Jas. Allen

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

Rev. G. Davidson, D.D.	Rev. H. E. Carey
J. A. Seymour, S.T.D.	Mr. J. Holdsworth
G. C. Love	A. H. Bryson
D. MacDjarmid	T. W. Tassie
Wm. Gray	H. B. Thompson
Geo. Anderson	Professor Rennie

WEST AUSTRALIA.

Rev. A. Crow	Mr. E. A. Black
W. H. Steele	J. Hilton
F. E. Oxer	John Marshall
W. F. Turton	R. Bracks
F. G. H. Brady	A. G. Baxter
Mr. Wm. Christie	Dr. Macaulay

TASMANIA.

Rev. J. Heyer	Mr. F. Burbury
Macintosh Carter	McKinnon
G. B. Murphy	J. K. Reid
W. J. Harris	F. Williams
G. Baird	J. Wright
Mr. Henry Meredith	Hon. J. Murdoch

PROFESSOR ADAM, Convener.

II.—PUBLIC QUESTIONS, RELIGION AND MORALS.

Rev. W. Borland
Hume Robertson
D. A. Cameron
George Tait
P. J. Murdoch

Mr. A. G. Proudfoot
D. MacMillan
Alex. Matheson
A. L. Pryde

With the Moderator-General, the ex Moderator-General, the Conveners of the Public Questions Committees of the State Churches, the Conveners of the Temperance, Life and Work, Religion and Morals, Welfare of Youth Committee, and Committees on Industrial Problems.

The REV. J. T. ROBERTSON, Convener.

III.—WELFARE OF YOUTH.

Rev. P. L. Forster
J. T. Lawton
C. H. Talbot
Wm. Goyen
John Walker
John Sinclair
John Barnaby
F. A. Darling
T. B. Galloway
James Gibson
R. H. Roberts
D. M. K. Barnett
I. E. Bertram
R. J. H. McGowan
W. Gray

Rev. A. Simms
N. H. Joughin
W. P. Turton
G. R. S. Reid
R. Blanchard
W. F. Shannon
F. G. H. Brady
Dr. Smyth
Mr. W. A. Sanderson
W. Gillanders
J. I. Forsyth
T. W. Wilson
H. B. Thompson
W. Gray

REV. JOHN MACKENZIE, Convener.

IV.—INLAND MISSION.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

Rev. G. Scott (Convener)
W. G. Forsyth
D. Galloway
T. Morgan
Hon. T. Brown

Mr. W. Wood
J. H. Beatson
W. S. Park
J. Inglis

QUEENSLAND.

Rev. James Walker (Convener)
E. Fox

Mr. N. McLeod
F. W. Lloyd
J. Campbell

VICTORIA.

Rev. J. A. Barber (Convener)
Dr. Adam
John Walker
John Barnaby
D. A. Cameron
F. H. L. Paton
T. J. Smith
J. K. Robertson
F. J. Heriot
A. I. Davidson
John Mackenzie
E. E. Baldwin
P. L. Foster
I. A. Forrest
J. Armour

Rev. J. T. Lawton
J. Alexander
D. Millar
Mr. F. J. Evans
Alex. Mathieson
G. King
W. P. Shaw
D. MacMillan
D. Steel
W. Gray
A. M. Ferguson
Lieut.-Col. Steel, O.B.E.
A. J. Fussell
H. M. Rolland
A. Gillespie

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

Rev. W. Gray (Convener)
Dr. Seymour
F. S. Souter

Rev. R. Mitchell
Mr. Chesney
Dr. Duguid

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

Rev. F. G. H. Brady (Convener)
E. G. Petherick
J. R. Blanchard

Mr. E. F. Pitchford
I. G. Adams
Ray Davis

V.—HYMNAL.

Rev. C. Crane
F. Darling
G. R. S. Reid
C. H. Talbot
J. R. Fiddian, M.Se.
J. T. Robertson
W. Fraser
J. Heyer

Rev. J. Mathew, B.D.
Wm. Goyen
A. I. Davidson
Mr. L. Fraser
L. K. McNab
W. Gray
R. J. Oehr
Rev. G. Carson

REV. W. H. ASH, Convener.

VI.—BOOK OF COMMON ORDER.

Rev. George Cranston
J. B. Galloway
W. Borland
A. E. McDonald
Dr. Rentoul
P. J. Murdoch
D. M. Stewart
Dr. Angus

Rev. J. Mathew, B.D.
G. A. Gordon
Dr. Davidson
T. Tait, B.D.
W. H. Steele
D. Millar
J. Heyer
C. E. James

REV. R. SCOTT WEST, Convener.

VII.—BENEFICIARY FUND.

Rev. W. H. Steele, M.A.
G. Carson
W. Tait, B.D.
J. Ferguson
W. F. Turton
J. Heyer, M.A.
W. C. Radcliffe, B.A.
Dr. Burgess
G. A. Gordon
John Paterson

Rev. W. Gray
Mr. A. Mayes
W. Wood
R. A. L. Pryde
John Kirkland
Hon. John Murdoch
Mr. J. H. Beatson
A. M. Laughton
W. G. Crane
Rev. J. L. Cope

MR. A. G. PROUDFOOT, Convener.

VIII.—BUSINESS COMMITTEE.

The Clerk
The Law Agent
Rev. Dr. Burgess
John Edwards
A. Thain Anderson

Rev. F. A. Hagenauer
P. J. Murdoch
Mr. Wm. Wood
A. L. Pryde

REV. DR. MACINTYRE, Convener.

IX.—NAVAL AND MILITARY.

The Naval and Military Committees in the various States.

The Rev. Dr. Rentoul, Convener and Chaplain-General. The Victorian Committee, the Executive : Rev. W. Borland, Vice-Convener.

X.—RELIGION IN THE HOME.

Rev. G. R. S. Reid
J. Oliver Dick
J. B. Galloway
W. Johnson
John Gray
J. F. Forest
George Anderson

Rev. Huey Steele
George Baird
Mr. G. S. Mackay
W. G. Crane
W. Gillanders
A. Salmon
R. K. Gillespie

REV. DR. MACINTYRE, Convener.

XI.—IMMIGRATION.

Rev. D. A. Cameron
W. Borland
W. Momson
F. L. A. Schlooffel
W. G. Gray
W. Huey Steele
J. Ninjan Melville
J. Heyer

Mr. C. McKinnon
W. Gray
W. Wood
G. Lewis
John Drennan
A. S. Barr
C. Patterson
R. Henry

MR. D. MACMILLAN, Convener.

XII.—NOMINATION OF MODERATOR.

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

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

AND OTHER PAPERS

PRESENTED TO THE

General Assembly of Australia.



SYDNEY, SEPTEMBER, 1920.

COMMUNICATIONS.

I.—COMMUNICATION FROM UNITED FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND.

10 Albyn Place,
Edinburgh, 20th Nov., 1919.

The Rev. George Tait, M.A.,
Clerk, The General Assembly of the Presbyterian
Church of Australia,
Assembly Hall,
Collins Street, Melbourne, Australia.

Dear Sir, I have pleasure in enclosing Deliverance by the Commission of the General Assembly of the United Free Church of Scotland in acknowledgment of the Resolution of your General Assembly. The Resolution was submitted by the Rev. Professor Macgrégor, D.D., our present Moderator, and seconded by Principal Archibald Henderson, who is taking a very prominent part in the negotiations for Union in Scotland.

With all good wishes,

I am,

Yours sincerely,

R. R. SIMPSON.

At Edinburgh, the nineteenth day of November in the year One thousand nine hundred and nineteen, which day the Commission of the General Assembly of the United Free Church of Scotland being met and duly constituted.

Inter alia: A Resolution by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia anent Union of Scottish Churches, which arrived too late to be submitted to the Assembly last May, was submitted by the Moderator, and the Commission resolved as follows:—

That the Commission of the General Assembly of the United Free Church of Scotland acknowledge with gratitude the message of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia.

They have rejoiced in the prosperity of the larger enterprises which were made possible by the uniting of the various streams of Presbyterian life in Australia, and they have watched with sympathy and admiration the movement towards a wider association of the Churches in the Commonwealth, where the vastness of the territory and the scattered population creates for the Church of Christ difficulties of peculiar intensity. They trust that all the Churches engaged in these negotiations may have God's help and guidance in carrying them to a worthy issue.

They willingly admit that, in more than one relation, the Scottish Churches have benefited by the bold lead given by the Churches in the Dominions, where change and progress are somewhat less embarrassed by ancient traditions. On behalf of the United Free Church they welcome the help in prayer of their friends overseas for the coming together of Scottish Presbyterianism, in order that, as the needs grow more urgent, so, in unity of spirit, the Churches may be more ready to meet them.

Extracted from the Records of the Commission of the General Assembly of the United Free Church of Scotland by

R. R. SIMPSON, Kt.,

Cl. Eccl. Scot. Lib. Un.

II.—ORDINATION OF MR. P. E. WYLDE.

REPORT BY STATE ASSEMBLY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

At Adelaide, and within the Flinders Street Church there, on Wednesday, the Seventh day of May, 1919, the South Australian State Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia having convened by appointment.

Inter alia: The Petition signed by members and adherents of the Port Pirie Church asking the Assembly to grant ordination to the office of The Holy Ministry to Mr. P. E. Wylde within the bounds of this State, which was transmitted by the Presbytery of Belalie, was read by the Clerk. Rev. W. Gray moved, Rev. G. Anderson seconded and it was agreed that the Petition be received.

AT A LATER STAGE IN THE SEDERUNT.

The Petition from Port Pirie, consideration of which had been postponed owing to an order of the day, was now again taken up. Messrs. J. Holdsworth and J. A. Ogilvie, who had been appointed by the Presbytery of Belalie to support the Petition, now addressed the Court. After a number of questions had been asked and answered, Rev. W. Gray moved: That the prayer of the Petition be granted, authorises the Presbytery of Belalie to take Mr. Wylde on trial for ordination, and, if satisfied, to ordain and induct him to the Pastoral Charge of Port Pirie, provided that they are satisfied that the Petition now before the Assembly is a genuine call from the people, and that Mr. Wylde clearly understands that the ordination does not entitle him to a call elsewhere without the consent of this Assembly or the General Assembly of Australia. Rev. G. Anderson seconded.

The Moderator ruled that the motion could not be put, because he regarded it as *ultra vires* after the recent decision of the General Assembly on Mr. Wylde's case.

Rev. Dr. Seymour moved: That the Moderator's ruling be disagreed with. The Clerk seconded. The motion was carried, eleven voting for and eight against it.

Rev. W. Gray's motion was then carried, and the Clerk was instructed to forward extract minute to the General Assembly of Australia.

Extracted from Minutes of the State Assembly of South Australia by me,

J. HALL ANGUS, Clerk.

To the Clerk,

State Assembly, South Australia.

I hereby certify that Mr. P. E. Wylde was ordained and inducted into the Pastoral Charge of Port Pirie by a Commission of the Presbytery of Belalie, on the twenty-third day of July, 1919.

J. McD. FORSYTH,

Clerk, Presbytery of Belalie.

St. Stephen's Presbyterian Church,

Sydney,

29-9-20.

Rev. Prof. R. G. Macintyre,
Convener Business Committee,
Presbyterian General Assembly of Australia.

Rev. Dear Sir,

I would be pleased if you would bring before the Venerable Assembly a request which I think is necessary that I should have.

(a) -It is that the Assembly would inform me if they have had a charge against me presented to them.

(b) And further in view of the decision arrived at relative to my Petition I be given an extract of the minute as referring to it, and that my status as an office-bearer be defined.

I am,

Yours obediently,

ROBERT J. S. CULLEN.

P.S.—Would you kindly note my address is :

“ Dalkeith,”

Tranmere Avenue,

Murrumbreena, Victoria.

APPEALS

I.—APPEAL OF DR. T. G. CAMPBELL AND OTHERS AGAINST A FINDING OF THE NEW SOUTH WALES GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

Minute of State Assembly.

8-10-19.—The appeal of Dr. T. G. Campbell and Messrs. A. J. Polson and Robert Lang against a finding of the Presbytery of Sydney, on 12th November last, was called for.

The papers in the case were again read.

Parties were called. There appeared: Dr. Campbell and Messrs. A. J. Polson and Robert Lang, appellants; Revs. Dr. Macintyre, Dr. Burgess and Angus King, and Mr. John Kirkland, respondents.

Mr. Polson, Dr. Campbell, Dr. Burgess and Mr. Kirkland were heard. Questions were put. Parties were removed.

It was moved by the Rev. C. E. James and seconded:—

That the appeal be dismissed.

It was moved as an amendment by the Rev. G. Tulloch:—

That the word "sustained" be substituted for the word "dismissed," and that the motion read as follows:—

1. That the appeal be sustained.

2. That the Assembly disapproves of the Presbytery's action in ordering the Session of Haberfield to give Dr. Campbell a disjunction certificate without any charge having been made and proved against him.

The amendment was seconded, and on being put was negatived.

The motion was put and carried.

Parties were recalled, and this finding intimated to them.

Dr. Campbell and Messrs. Polson and Lang intimated their intention to appeal to the General Assembly of Australia.

The Revs. Dr. Burgess, Dr. Macintyre, and Mr. John Kirkland were appointed to answer Reasons and to represent the State Assembly in the General Assembly of Australia.

JOHN BURGESS, Clerk of Assembly.

Minutes of Presbytery of Sydney.

12-11-18.—Inter alia:—The House having resolved to sit in private, the doors were closed.

The Moderator called for the report of the Commission on the petition from Haberfield.

Parties were called to the Bar.

The report of the Commission was read and laid on the table by the Convener, the Rev. G. A. Gordon.

It was duly moved, seconded, and agreed:—

1. That the report be received.

2. That the prayer of the Petition for a Presbyterial Visitation be not granted.

It was moved, and seconded:—

3. That St. David's Session be instructed to furnish Dr. Campbell with a disjunction certificate and a certificate of status as an Elder.

It was moved as an amendment:—

That Dr. Campbell be asked to resign his Eldership in Haberfield Session.

The amendment was seconded, and on being put was negatived.

Clause 3 as moved was put and carried.

It was moved, seconded and agreed:—

4. That Mr. King be, and hereby is, advised to exercise more self-restraint towards those who, having the right to express their views, may differ from him.

5. That Mr. King be informed that the Presbytery cannot approve of his retaining the dual offices of Minister of St. David's and Secretary of the League of Loyalty.

6. That the Commission be instructed to meet with St. David's Congregation, and explain the action of the Presbytery.

The deliverance as a whole was put and carried.

The finding of the Presbytery was intimated to the parties by the Moderator.

Mr. S. A. Dougan dissented. Dr. T. G. Campbell and Messrs. A. J. Polson and Robert Lang dissented, and gave notice of their intention to appeal to the General Assembly for reasons to be given in.

The Rev. Angus King acquiesced, and intimated to the Presbytery that his position as General Secretary of the League of Loyalty would terminate at the end of December next.

17-3-'19.—Inter alia :—The House resolved to sit in private and the doors were closed.

The Moderator called for the reasons of appeal by Mr. A. J. Polson, Dr. T. G. Campbell, and Mr. Robert Lang.

The reasons were read by the Clerk, and after certain verbal emendations had been made, were received.

The Rev. Dr. Burgess, Professor Macintyre, Angus King and Mr. John Kirkland were appointed to answer the reasons, and appear in the Assembly on behalf of the Presbytery.

JOHN EDWARDS, Presbytery Clerk.

Report of Commission of Presbytery on Haberfield Petition.

Your Commission, at several prolonged meetings with parties, went carefully into a great variety of matters brought up against the Minister, and heard testimony from a number of members, ex-members, and adherents.

They beg to report as follows :—

1. The present trouble in the Congregation arose immediately out of certain action taken by the Session in recommending that a Sunday School teacher, named Wendt, should cease teaching until after the war. This action was taken by the Session, and cannot be ground of complaint against the Minister as such.

2. There was later a meeting of Sunday School teachers about this matter. Feeling ran high before the Minister entered the meeting, and later became intensified. A remark by Mr. Barnett, in reply to an interjection by Mrs. King, was taken by the Minister as a reflection upon Mrs. King and her family in relation to the War. The remark was highly provocative, and the Minister acknowledges that under this provocation he took hold of Mr. Barnett and violently shook him, thereby indicating that for the time being the Minister lost his temper and acted in a way neither wise nor fitting.

3. In support of the general charge that people were driven from the Church through outbursts of passion on the part of the Minister, several incidents, trivial in themselves, were adduced to show that it was difficult to work with him. It may be, and we think it is, the case that the Minister is apt to press his own point unduly, but on the other hand some of the Congregation have taken up an attitude towards the Minister which has tended to create dispeace in the Congregation. There is clear testimony to the ability of the Minister as a preacher and a public man. He is a man of strong personality, naturally impulsive and forceful, and we feel that there has in some instances been a resentment and reaction to this which has given rise to friction and to the consequent desire expressed by some for the Minister's resignation.

4. The Minister acknowledges that after he knew of the action being taken by the Petitioners he decided, and intimated to some of these Petitioners, being Elders, that no more sittings of the Session would be held until this matter was settled. He did this on his own responsibility on the ground that in the atmosphere thus created between the Minister and a majority of his Elders it was inadvisable to attempt to conduct the ordinary work of the Session.

The above are the main grounds on which the Petitioners asked the Presbytery for a Presbyterial Visitation of the Congregation and enquiry into these and other matters not then specified.

5. In addition to the grounds specified to the Presbytery by the Petitioners, other matters were laid before your Commission in writing, one matter by Mr. Polson, and fourteen by Dr. Campbell. These were charges made only by the parties named and were not signed by any of the other Petitioners.

We went into these at some length, and while they bear out what we have already said in regard to the original grounds of petition, we consider that Dr. Campbell has been most reckless in the significance he has attached to the Minister's actions, and that he has dealt with the Minister's character in a way wholly unjustified by the evidence he put before us. There is nothing substantiated *prima facie* in any of these other matters which in our judgment calls for action by the Presbytery as regards the character of the Minister; but we cannot see how, in the face of the statements put into writing by Dr. Campbell in reference to the Minister, he, Dr. Campbell, can, with any hope of useful service, continue to be a member of Haberfield Session.

Certain documents affecting the relation of members, ex-members, and adherents to the Minister were put before us by Dr. Campbell, but it came out in evidence that these, with two exceptions, were composed by Dr. Campbell, though not all signed by him; that some of the names were adhibited by him on the authority of a telephone message; that in other cases he, in obtaining the signatures of parties, assured them that Mr. King would not be permitted to know who signed; and that some of these signatories were under 16 years of age, and even under 12 years of age. In these circumstances we cannot attach the weigh to these documents which they might otherwise carry.

In our judgment no good would arise from a Presbyterial Visitation, and therefore we recommend that the prayer of the Petition be not granted.

Relation of the Minister to the League of Loyalty.—In view of the amount of work that the Secretaryship of the League of Loyalty involves, your Commission has no hesitation in saying that it is quite impossible for Mr. King to hold the Secretaryship and at the same time adequately discharge his duties as Minister at Haberfield, and that these duties cannot, with due regard to the interests of the Congregation, be relegated to an Assistant.

In our opinion this should be clearly intimated to him, so that he may decide without delay as to his course of action.

12th November, 1918.

G. A. GORDON, Convener.

Reasons for Appeal.

1. Because the Presbytery of Sydney received the report of the Committee which took the evidence in the case, without the evidence being read to the said Presbytery, which is contrary to rule 77 which says—"No member of a court may vote as a judge in a case unless he has heard or read all the evidence." Only the members of the Committee present at the Preliminary Inquiry knew the contents of the evidence given, yet the Presbytery came to a judgment on the issues, without knowing the facts upon which the report of Committee was based.

This was also the case before the General Assembly in October, 1919, for whilst, as a right, we requested that all the evidence taken by the Committee be printed, and put into the hands of every member of the Assembly as a private paper, that was not done, yet the Assembly had the whole of the evidence in another appeal case printed and circulated amongst members of Assembly. The evidence in the case was not read as a whole, and the Assembly was largely in the dark on the whole question of the cause of the disaffection. We cannot believe that an impartial tribunal can come to a fair judgment without knowing all the facts.

2. That in our opinion the report of the Committee of Presbytery manifested very strong bias in favour of the Rev. Angus King, who, by his unchristian actions has caused a very serious cleavage in the Congregation, as the evidence clearly reveals. We leave the General Assembly to judge if section 4 of the Presbytery's finding meets the case, in view of all that came out.

We would respectfully submit that the evidence shows :—

- (a) That the cause of the trouble lay in Mr. King's FALSE STATEMENT to the Session regarding the position of Mr. Wendt, Jr., a teacher in the Sabbath School.
- (b) That Mr. King in the Sunday School on July 7th, 1918, grabbed one of the best workers in the Church by the throat and threatened to kill him, which fact is proved by the Statement of 23 Sabbath School teachers, who immediately left the Church.
- (c) That by this and other acts, he drove from the Church the best workers, including 9 out of 10 Elders, 27 out of 34 Teachers; and 33 Communicants, who signed a statement that they could not attend the Communion under Mr. King; also a document was placed in the Presbytery's hands, to the effect that 11 families had been driven away from the Church.

3. In view of the evidence in the above matters, can it be said that it was just and reasonable, to simply tell the Minister to exercise self restraint in relation to those who differ from him, and proceed to punish one of the complainants, without any charge whatever, or trial?

4. The action taken by the complainants, we were driven into, by the deplorable condition of the Congregation, with 9 Elders out of 10 away from the Church, and with no meetings of Session or Committee of management held, and no prayer meetings; and the trouble had created a scandal in the district. We, in consequence of the trouble, forwarded a Petition for a Presbyterial Visitation, signed by 9 Elders, but the Presbytery we contend unjustly refused to grant its prayer.

5. That up till this present trouble began, Dr. Campbell was never shown to have been the cause of any disorder, but rather a peacemaker, and it should be evident to the General Assembly, that, as Dr. Campbell had been one of the Minister's best supporters, some good reason led him to take certain action against the Minister, which seemed to be misunderstood and misinterpreted by both Presbytery and Assembly, but was caused by the position created by Mr. King.

6. We submit the Presbytery had no right to proceed or in any way interfere with the status of Dr. Campbell in the Congregation, of which he has been an Elder for 11 years, without duly charging him with an offence (if he had committed such) and regularly proving such against him under the Rules of Discipline of this General Assembly which the Presbytery did not do.

Dr. Campbell, along with us, is a complainant in this case, and if he had committed any offence, it was the duty of the Presbytery to formulate a charge and proceed against him. This Dr. Campbell would not object to, but it was not done; and we cannot see how the principles of British justice apart from the Christian conscience of the Church of God—can allow such injustice to stand. We are perfectly certain, if action were taken in a Civil Court, which we should deeply regret being driven to take, it would not be tolerated, but immediate relief would be forthcoming, as no court in the land could hold that expediency can take the place of justice.

7. That notwithstanding the emphasis laid upon the seriousness of the charges made by Dr. Campbell against the Minister, the Committee of Presbytery did not read over the evidence taken to the witnesses, nor request them to take the oath and sign the same.

8. That the rule 112 (New South Wales Rules) amended by the General Assembly of N.S.W., in 1916, under which the Presbytery's action is said to be justified is null and void, in view of the fact that it is not a rule of the General Assembly of Australia, which alone is supreme in matters of discipline; and as the interference of the Presbytery with Dr. Campbell's membership in St. David's Church IS A MATTER OF DISCIPLINE IT MUST COME UNDER THE RULES and forms under discipline to which this rule (112 N.S.W.) cannot be made to apply. It is in our opinion a very dangerous rule, for if a Presbytery can order disjunction certificates and depose Ministers and Elders without a trial, there can be no safety for professors, ministers or people in the Church, for they may at any time be turned out without a trial, simply on a vote taken by a Presbytery or General Assembly as a matter of expediency.

9. Our battle is not for ourselves, but for the Church of God, which we love, and we ask only for justice which has been denied us hitherto; but we trust the Supreme Court of our Church—on the evidence which we hope will be printed in full will reverse the decision of the Presbytery of Sydney and the General Assembly of New South Wales, and save the perishing Congregation.

A. J. POLSON, (Session Clerk.)
THOS. GRAHAM CAMPBELL.
ROBERT LANG.

Haberfield, N.S.W., 15th October, 1919.

Answers to Reasons for Appeal.

1. Preliminary to entering upon any merits of the case, we contend that in the action taken by the General Assembly of New South Wales it is the final Court of decision, and no appeal lies to the General Assembly of Australia, which is supreme as an appellate, Court only "with regard to the doctrine, worship and discipline of the Church" (Articles of Agreement IV.). The action taken had no reference to doctrine or worship and was not one of discipline, but an administrative act in the vital interests of the Congregation concerned, and is specifically provided for, not in the chapter on Discipline but in the regulations of the New South Wales Assembly as follows:—"The Presbytery may, subject to appeal to the State Assembly, resolve to dissolve the pastoral tie, or, if the unsatisfactory condition of the Parish is found to be due to the action of any office-bearer or member, it may remove such office-bearer from office in the particular Congregation, or may order disjunction certificates to be given, as the interests of the Congregation may require" (Rule 112 of New South Wales Code of Rules).

In accordance with this Rule the Presbytery ordered that a disjunction certificate be given to Dr. T. G. Campbell, and on appeal the State Assembly confirmed this decision. We maintain, on behalf of the State Assembly, that such decision is final.

2. The Petition of certain office-bearers, including the appellants, for a Presbyterial Visitation was based upon accusations involving the character of the Minister, and the Presbytery feeling that such matters should not be entered upon without evidence of a prima facie case, and in any event could not be properly dealt with at a public meeting of members and adherents, decided to appoint a special Committee of Presbytery to meet with the Petitioners and with any members and adherents whom the Minister and the Petitioners considered could supply information to enable the Committee to advise the Presbytery as to what action, if any, should be taken. For its own convenience the Committee took short-hand notes of the statements made to them, but these were not reckoned as "evidence" in the sense of the chapter on Discipline, parties were not required to make the "solemn affirmation," nor did they sign the statements. In making their statements parties were allowed a liberty beyond that permitted under the chapter on Discipline in the taking of evidence. To print this as "evidence" in the strict sense

of the term would have been most unfair to all parties and would have tended to defeat justice, but all parties were allowed access to these notes in stating their case before the State Assembly.

In the "other appeal case," referred to in paragraph 1 of Reasons for Appeal, a formal charge of disturbing public worship by displaying a placard in the Church gravely reflecting on the character of the Minister was made by the Presbytery against Dr. T. G. Campbell, evidence was taken according to the regulations in a case of Discipline, and Dr. Campbell having been found guilty was suspended from the office of the Eldership. The cases are not therefore on a parallel, for in the latter case evidence was taken on solemn affirmation and signed by the witnesses.

In any event the granting or not granting of a Petition for Presbyterial Visitation is a matter wholly within the power of a Presbytery subject to appeal only to the State Assembly.

3. The accusation of "very strong bias" in favour of one of the parties made against the members of the Presbyterial Committee is an accusation of mala fides which has been characteristic of Dr. Campbell throughout this case, wherein he took up the attitude that when he made accusations against the Minister's character the onus of disproof lay upon the accused.

The appellants ignore the following facts:—

- (a) That Dr. Campbell drew up most of the documents against the Minister, even when not signed by himself, and induced other people to sign them by telling them that the Minister was guilty of outrageous conduct unfitting him to be a Minister of the Gospel.
- (b) That to documents accusing the Minister of grave misconduct and calling for his dismissal he affixed the signatures of other people on the strength of telephone messages, such documents not having even been seen by these people.
- (c) That he secured signatures to a document demanding the resignation of the Minister by assuring parties that their names would be kept secret from the Minister.
- (d) That he induced children under 16 years of age, and some under 12 years of age, to sign a document saying that they had lost confidence in the Minister and demanding his resignation.

The above facts were clearly established, and such conduct on the part of an Elder who is also a Justice of the Peace and therefore presumably aware of the nature of his offence throws light upon the manner in which the principal appellant who styles himself "the mouthpiece of the scattered flock" has pursued his action against the Minister.

4. To the original Petition Dr. Campbell added 14 separate accusations, under his own name, reflecting upon the Minister, both in his conduct of his office and upon his personal character, and in not one of these was he able to shew a prima facie case, far less establish them. When given an opportunity of withdrawing them he refused to do so, and in these circumstances it seemed to the Presbytery that Dr. Campbell could no longer profitably function within Haberfield Congregation, and they took the very lenient course of ordering that he be handed a disjunction certificate and a certificate of status as an Elder which left him free to join a neighbouring Congregation with full status. If the Presbytery and State Assembly be blameworthy at all it is for undue leniency to Dr. Campbell, and it was only under provocation of later misconduct in disturbing public worship that the Presbytery felt compelled to suspend him sine die from office, a sentence upon which appeal unquestionably lay to the General Assembly of Australian, but upon which no appeal has been taken.

5. As has been already pointed out the action now appealed against is not one of Discipline, but of administration in the vital interest of the Congregation, and it would indeed be disastrous if the Church cannot safeguard the peace and welfare of a Congregation without proceeding to make a formal charge against the doctrine or personal character of the party concerned. The reference to "deposition of Ministers and Elders without a trial" is irrelevant in that Dr. Campbell has not been deposed from the Eldership. So far as the action appealed against is concerned he retains his status as a member and an Elder of the Presbyterian Church.

6. Whether the Rule of the Church under which the Presbytery acted be "a very dangerous rule" or not, it is the law of the Church of New South Wales to which Dr. Campbell is subject, and the Church will we believe administer its own laws with justice tempered with mercy even in the face of the implied threat by the appellants that they may feel driven to find relief in a Civil Court.

RONALD G. MACINTYRE.
JOHN BURGESS.

II.—APPEAL OF REV. DAVID SMITH AGAINST A FINDING OF THE NEW SOUTH WALES GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

Minute of State Assembly.

24-6-19.—The appeal of the Rev. John Watson against a finding of the Presbytery of the Hastings anent the removal of his suspension was called for.

The House sat in private.

The papers in the case were read.

Parties were called. There appeared: the Rev. John Watson, appellant; the Rev. David Smith, respondent.

Parties were heard. Questions were put.

It was moved, seconded, and agreed:—

That the appeal be sustained.

Parties were re-called, and this finding was intimated to them.

From this finding the Rev. D. Smith appealed to the General Assembly of Australia for reasons to be given in.

The Revs. D. Brandt and C. E. James were appointed to answer the reasons, and appear in the General Assembly of Australia on behalf of the State Assembly.

JOHN BURGESS, Clerk of Assembly.

Minute and Statement of Presbytery of the Hastings.

22-4-19.—Inter alia:—Called for the appeal of the Rev. John Watson.

After consideration, the Presbytery agreed to forward the appeal of the Rev. John Watson to the General Assembly with the following statement:—

“It is hereby certified, in the name and by the authority of the Presbytery of the Hastings, that on February 18th, 1915, papers containing charges against the Rev. John Watson by office-bearers at Gloucester sent to the Home Mission Committee were received from the Presbytery of Sydney to be dealt with by this Presbytery, and were dealt with at meetings on March 3, March 25, May 5, May 8, and May 11. That on June 2, 1915, at Gloucester, the Presbytery, after judicial process without libel, suspended the Rev. John Watson from the office of the Holy Ministry sine die. In this decision Mr. Watson acquiesced.

“That on March 20th, 1918, an application from Mr. Watson for the removal of his suspension, supported by various documents, was ordered to lie on the table till after the meeting of the General Assembly of Australia, notice being given of a motion that the suspension be then removed. That on October 23 this motion was made and negatived.

“That on March 19th, 1919, an application was received from Mr. Watson for the reconsideration of this decision, the application being accompanied by further letters. The Presbytery resolved by a majority, that, while expressing satisfaction with all that has been testified by the various commendatory letters, it does not feel justified in removing the suspension meanwhile. Against this decision Mr. Watson is now appealing to the Assembly of New South Wales.”

The Rev. D. Smith, M.A., and Rev. J. Davies were appointed to act as respondents for the Presbytery.

JAMES H. TERRAS, Presbytery Clerk.

Reasons for Appeal.

1. Because the original offence was not a light one;
2. Because twelve months after the censure of suspension was inflicted it is admitted that appellant was still addicted to drinking habits;
3. Because certain statements of the appellant in his reply, contradictory of evidence in the hands of the Presbytery, require further investigation, especially regarding Bega, Tenterfield, and Bellingen;
4. Because, inasmuch as appellant never held a Charge in New South Wales, but was Minister in two Charges in Queensland, in two in Victoria, and in one in South Australia, it is fitting that the General Assembly of Australia, which alone deals with the reception of Ministers, should deal with the question of the restoration of the appellant, who has been again resident in Victoria during the last two and a half years.

DAVID SMITH

Answers to Reasons for Appeal.

1. Admitting the offence was not a “light one,” it does not come under the heading of offences for which there is no forgiveness, and the Church should act in the spirit of its Master.

2. Rev. J. Watson admitted that after his suspension by the Presbytery he became what is generally known as "down and out," but from the day that the Salvation Army, in the spirit of Christ, opened its hospitable doors to him until his appeal was heard he did not again fall, but was kept by Divine Grace a period of three years.

3. The Assembly heard all statements that the appellant Watson and the respondent Presbytery had to make, and with such statements before it arrived at its decision by an overwhelming majority, two only voting in the negative. If Rev. J. Watson was guilty of injudicious actions at Bega, Tenterfield and Bellingen, such acts were committed prior to the Gloucester incident, and for them, as well as the Gloucester indiscretion, he has made such reparation as is possible.

4. Although Rev. J. Watson held no Charge in New South Wales, the alleged offence was committed in this State, and the Presbytery and Assembly had the full facts before them. The fact that Rev. J. Watson held Charges in other States does not in any way affect the issues of the case, because no evidence whatever of misdemeanour in the other States was produced. The General Assembly of N.S.W. was quite competent to deal with this case without reference to the General Assembly of Australia.

On behalf of General Assembly of N.S.W.,

DAVID F. BRANDT.
CHARLES E. JAMES.

III.—APPEAL OF REV. GEORGE TULLOCH AGAINST A FINDING OF THE NEW SOUTH WALES GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

Minute of New South Wales Assembly.

15-5-'20.—An Overture from the Goulburn Presbytery anent Article IV. of the Deed of Union was read.

The Rev. G. Tulloch was heard in support of the Overture, and moved that it be transmitted simpliciter to the General Assembly of Australia. The motion was seconded and negatived.

From this finding the Rev. G. Tulloch dissented and appealed to the General Assembly of Australia for Reasons to be given in.

JOHN BURGESS, Clerk of Assembly.

Overture anent Article of Agreement No. IV.

(Transmitted by the Presbytery of Goulburn, 31st March, 1920.)

Whereas it is clearly set forth in the "Article of Agreement," No. IV., of this Church that the General Assembly is supreme with regard to the discipline of the Church; and whereas the General Assembly adopted, on 30th September, 1918, the new rules on procedure in regard to discipline, which had been duly passed and approved by a majority of Presbyteries and State Assemblies, without which they could not have been finally ratified.

Be it known that the State Assembly of New South Wales, on the 11th day of May, 1916, amended its Rule 112, and inserted the following words: "or the Presbytery may, subject to appeal to the State Assembly, resolve to dissolve the pastoral tie, or, if the unsatisfactory condition of the parish is found to be due to the action of any office-bearer or member, it may remove such office-bearer from office in the particular Congregation, or may order disjunction certificates to be given, as the interests of the Congregation may require. Similar action may be taken in any case in which it appears to the Presbytery that the vital interests of the Congregation necessitate such action. Any case which involves the moral character or doctrinal teaching of a Minister office-bearer or member, can be dealt with only in accordance with the Rules on Procedure in regard to Discipline."

It is therefore humbly overtured to the Venerable the General Assembly by the Presbytery of Goulburn, through the State Assembly.

That in view of the fact that the General Assembly is supreme in all matters of discipline it be and hereby is declared as follows:—(1) That the matters set forth in amended Rule 112, New South Wales, are matters of discipline; (2) that in consequence the N.S.W. Assembly has no power to frame or adopt rules on such matters; and (3) that the rules, as set forth above, be declared in excess of jurisdiction, and therefore null and void, seeing they place in the hands of Presbyteries, and the State Assembly of New South Wales certain specific disciplinary powers, upon which it is declared no appeal will lie to this, the Supreme Court of the Church, and which may be applied (as in one case in point to

come before this Assembly on appeal) without any charge having been made and regularly proved against the persons condemned, which, needless to say, is contrary to the principles of this Church as well as a violation of common British justice, and will open the way for litigation in the Civil Courts in which the injured party will be successful.

The Presbytery representatives in the General Assembly of Australia were appointed to support it.

GEORGE TULLOCH, Acting Presbytery Clerk.

Reasons for Appeal to the General Assembly Against the refusal of the State Assembly of New South Wales to Transmit " Overture " anent " Article of Agreement "

No. IV. Forwarded by the Presbytery of Goulburn.

1. It is the duty of the State Assemblies to assist the Presbyteries of the Church in seeking an interpretation of, and if necessary, the removal of a rule which conflicts with the " Deed of Union " of the Church.

2. Rule 205—(p. 125 New South Wales) states :—" Members of inferior Courts have a right to move that Overtures be sent to the higher Courts, on any matter which they regard as of General Importance." As this is a matter of General Importance the action of the Assembly in refusing to transmit simpliciter is unconstitutional under its own rule.

3. As the question is of vital importance to all members of the Church the Presbytery of Goulburn should not be debarred from being heard on the facts by any act of the Assembly of which the Presbytery in question is a part.

4. The meaning of 112 (N.S.W.) is for the Supreme Court of the Church alone to determine, and as it is challenged as being a rule which touches discipline and not mere administration, the General Assembly should be given the opportunity of hearing parties, and so interpret the law that it will be understood throughout the Church, and the cause of unrest concerning it removed.

5. Rule 112 (N.S.W.) as amended has never been considered by the General Assembly and therefore no opportunity has been given to declare whether it is allowed under the " Deed of Union," or under VII. (Spiritual Independance), or whether it can be declared to embrace acts of administration only.

6. The General Assembly should settle the difference between discipline and administration, and here is an opportunity which the State Assembly by its act deprives the Presbytery of taking.

7. The question should be finally settled because of the danger of civil action if a Presbytery or State Assembly breaks the compact between Minister and people, or between Elder and people without a definite charge being made and proved, and upon which no appeal is declared to lie to this, the Supreme Court in matters of discipline.

8. If the Appeal is dismissed the State Assembly will be declared to be the framer of laws which are unchallengeable by the members of the Church notwithstanding that they enter into the domain of matters in which the General Assembly alone is declared to be supreme.

GEORGE TULLOCH,
Moderator of Presbytery of Goulburn.

May, 1920.

OVERTURES.

I.—OVERTURE FROM STATE ASSEMBLY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

At Perth, and within St. Andrew's Church, the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Western Australia met on Friday, the 14th day of May, at 10.30 a.m., and was duly constituted. The Moderator, the Rt. Rev. Robert Hanlin, presiding.

Inter alia : Mr. Crow moved that the General Assembly of Australia be overtured as follows :—

Whereas there are extensive territories within the State of Western Australia which are devoid of the ordinances of the Christian Church, and that the resources of the Western Australian Church are quite inadequate to the great need.

This Overture prayeth that the General Assembly of Australia will take these premisses into consideration and deal with the situation as in its wisdom it may see fit.

Extracted from the Records by me the 23rd day of July, 1920.

E. F. CAMERON, Clerk of Assembly.

II.—OVERTURE FROM THE PRESBYTERY OF MELBOURNE SOUTH ANENT SUVA.

Whereas the Congregation of Suva, Fiji, is attached to, and is under the care of the Presbytery of Melbourne South, which appoints and sends out a Minister to the Charge as required and generally for a term of three years :

And whereas the work at Suva and in the adjoining Islands requires development and financial assistance for which neither the Presbytery of Melbourne South nor the Church in the State of Victoria has funds available ;

And whereas the Presbytery is deeply impressed with the national importance of Christian work among people of British stock in Suva and in the Pacific Islands generally, especially in view of the Mandate to be received by the Government of the Commonwealth of Australia.

It is, therefore, humbly overtured to the Venerable the General Assembly of Australia by the Presbytery of Melbourne South to take these premises into consideration, with a view to the Assembly devising the necessary means to develop the work at Suva and in the Pacific possessions ; or deal otherwise with the matter as the Assembly may see fit.

I. SMILEY,

Clerk of Presbytery, Melbourne South.

Rev. D. Ross and Mr. A. L. Pryde were appointed to support the overture.

Relevant Documents. (1) Report of Mr. Jameson ; (2) Report and Balance Sheet of Suva Church.

A REPORT ON THE AFFAIRS OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN SUVA, PREPARED AT THE INVITATION OF THE PRESBYTERY OF MELBOURNE SOUTH.

ACCESS TO THE FACTS.—This was afforded by a visit to the Sunday School, several personal interviews with the Minister (Mr. Moulton) and various laymen, and one formally constituted meeting of the Board of Management, together with annual reports, audited balance sheets, etc.

RELATIONSHIP TO THE COMMUNITY.—I cannot stress too strongly the important relationship which the Presbyterian Church of Suva does hold—and should hold in larger, wiser fashion—to the white population of Fiji. It is the Free Church Cathedral and is responsible to God for the spiritual guardianship of the young people who go to Fiji from Presbyterian, Methodist, Baptist, or Congregational homes in other lands. The recognition of this responsibility is not lacking among our brethren in Fiji. They have given generously both in service and money to the support of their Church. But the Presbyterian body is not large nor strong financially. Nor has it been led of late by the young and vigorous Ministers, trained for the leadership of the youth of the Church, whom the times have demanded. In saying this I am in no way reflecting upon the Ministry of Mr. Moulton, who has commended himself to Church and community by many admirable qualities. It must be emphasized, however, that youth and vigour in leadership, as well as enlarged financial resources, will be required, if the Presbyterian Church in Suva is to take its rightful place in the Colony.

FINANCIAL POSITION.—In my letter of instruction I was asked to inquire into the financial position of the Suva Church, and ascertain what may be required in the way of financial assistance.

During 1919 the income was £658 16s. 5d., including £62 6s. from the Sustentation Fund, £30 from the Church of Scotland, £175 8s. 2d. from collections, and £323 7s., the proceeds of an extraordinary effort, a bazaar. Expenditure included the reduction of the debit balance by about £134, the stipend, £280, expense of bazaar, £66 16s. 5d., and repairs to Church and Manse, £42 5s. Total liabilities are set down at £206 8s. 3d., an amount which has been reduced by one-third since the close of the financial year. In analyzing this financial statement I recognize that the large amount received from an effort which, naturally, cannot be soon repeated, may give a false sense of financial security.

It seems that the grant from the Church of Scotland was formerly £200 per annum, was then cut to £50, and then to £30. There is no assurance of permanency even in this grant, the conditions being subject to review each year. On the other hand, the chances of favourable decisions are not prejudiced by the future relationship of the Church in Suva to the Church in Australia. (Mr. Grahame, the solicitor, informs me that the necessary papers in the matter are practically complete and will be coming forward by the next mail. It should be noted that there has been no change for the better in the local resources of the Suva Church to justify the reduction in the grant from the Church

of Scotland. Scottish planters, formerly close to Suva and contributors to the funds of the Church, have sold their estates in small holdings to Indian settlers and have removed from the Colony. No fresh sources of income have replaced those thus lost.

SUGGESTIONS.—If your Presbytery desires to extend the usefulness and ensure the solvency of the Church in Suva, the following suggestions may be of value :—

(1) With living at its present cost the stipend may well be raised from £300 to £350. Of this amount, £250 (in addition to the ordinary expenses of the Church) should be a charge on our brethren in Fiji. £100 may well be provided by an annual grant from Australia.

(2) There is an unencumbered property of a half-acre of land, a Church and a Manse. Both buildings are old and, though substantially covered by fire insurance, are liable to damage by hurricane. £250 could be used to advantage in putting the Church and organ in thorough repair, and in installing the electric light. Repairs to the Manse are urgent, but the building is so poor that entire reconstruction at a cost of about £800 must soon be faced.

(3) A large and well-conducted Sunday School meets in the Church building. To visit the School is to realize how much a School Hall is needed. Such a Hall would also be most valuable in the social outreach of the Church. The probable cost of the building is £1,200, towards which about £75 has been locally collected.

(4) Provision should be made for pastoral visits to the Scottish planters in distant parts of the Islands, men who might be saved to Christ and His Church by timely, well-directed effort. A fund for this purpose should include a travelling allowance for the Minister and the cost of a three-months' supply for the Suva Church. Probably £200 would be required to carry out this suggestion.

(5) No work in Suva is done for the Chinese, a needy and rapidly increasing element in the population. This should be laid on the conscience of the Church, but it is hopeless even to guess at an estimate of financial cost without a complete social survey of the class referred to.

Respectfully submitted,

2/6/20.

ALEX. JAMESON.

III—OVERTURES FROM GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF VICTORIA RELATIVE TO SESSION CLERK AND RULE OF DISCIPLINE.

At Melbourne, and within the Assembly Hall, Collins Street, the 31st May, 1920.

The Assembly met, pursuant to adjournment, at 7.30 p.m., and was duly constituted.

Inter alia: The Overtures from the Presbytery of Bendigo to the General Assembly of Australia were submitted by the Convener of the Business Committee.

It was moved by the Rev. G. Tait, by leave of the House :—

That the Assembly sustain Overture (1) in the following form: "Whereas uncertainty has arisen as to the tenure of office of a Session Clerk, it is humbly overtured to the Venerable the General Assembly of Australia to amend Standing Order 4 by inserting in line 5 as a new sentence: "The Clerk is elected by and holds office 'at the will of the Court,' or to deal otherwise with the matter as in its wisdom it shall see fit."

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

It was moved by the Rev. E. E. Baldwin :—That the Assembly sustain Overture

(2). The motion was seconded by the Rev. R. W. Macaulay and approved. The Overtures from the Presbytery of Bendigo are as follows:

(1) Whereas uncertainty has arisen as to the tenure of the office of Session Clerk it is humbly overtured to the Venerable the General Assembly of Australia to amend standing order 4 by the addition of the words "and shall hold office at the will of the court," or to deal otherwise with the matter as in its wisdom shall see fit, and you Petitioners will ever pray, etc.

(2) Whereas the Rules of Discipline have been repealed, and others have been substituted, it is humbly overtured the Venerable the General Assembly of Australia to amend Rule 6 of Rules to Effect Spiritual Freedom by altering the words "Rule 34" to "Rule 136," or etc.

RELATIVE TO STANDING ORDER 46.

The Overture from the Presbytery of Geelong, relative to Standing Order 46, was submitted by the Rev. E. E. Baldwin.

It was moved by the Rev. R. W. Macaulay seconded and approved :

That the Assembly sustain the Overture and forward it to the General Assembly of Australia with approval, and declare that the sense of it is that accepted by this Assembly.

RELATIVE TO RULES RELATIVE TO SPIRITUAL FREEDOM.

The Rev. G. Tait submitted the Overture to the General Assembly of Australia, of which he had given notice and which is recorded in the Minutes of the morning Sederunt of the 28th of May, and moved :—That the Overture be approved.

The motion was duly seconded and approved.

The motion is as follows :—“That the following Overture be sent to the General Assembly of Australia :—“It is hereby humbly overtured to the General Assembly of Australia, by the State Assembly of Victoria, to amend Rule 7 of the Rules to give effect to the Declaratory Statement on the Spiritual Freedom of the Church as follows :—“Omit all the words after the word ‘of’ in line 3 and substitute the following :—‘State Assemblies and Inferior Courts to exercise their administrative functions, as these are secured by the Articles of Agreement.’”

Extracted from the Minutes by,

GEORGE TAIT, Clerk.

IV.—OVERTURE FROM THE STATE ASSEMBLY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA
RE THEOLOGICAL HALL.

Whereas under existing regulations students in South Australia entering the Ministry of the Church are required to attend a Theological Hall outside their own State :

Whereas there are suitable men offering as students for the Ministry in South Australia who will find it extremely difficult, if not impossible, to attend a hall in another State in order to complete their theological course :

Whereas there is a University in this State open to all students to take the necessary subjects of the arts course, and a college of our own to prepare students for the University :

Whereas the non-existence of a Theological Hall in this State leaves the Church here without the object lesson and the stimulus for young men to think of the Holy Ministry which such an institution would provide :

Whereas the needs of the Church in South Australia are such that even students cannot be easily spared from the State while they are pursuing their studies at a hall in another State :

Whereas the exit examination of all students is under the control of the General Assembly, a uniform standard of education is guaranteed ;

Whereas the South Australian State Assembly, being seized with the importance of the considerations here set forth is prepared to provide a course of instruction that will fulfil the requirements of Article VIII. of the Articles of Agreement in the Deed of Union.

And whereas the said General Assembly when this matter was before it authorised this State Assembly to formulate a practical scheme for the establishment of a Theological Hall to train students for the Holy Ministry and to report to it :

It is, therefore, again humbly overtured to the Venerable, the General Assembly, by the South Australian State Assembly, that the General Assembly will take these premises into consideration, and recognise the scheme (hereto appended) for training students for the Holy Ministry in the Presbyterian Church, or deal otherwise with these premises as the Assembly in its wisdom may see fit.

PROPOSALS FOR CO-OPERATIVE STUDY SCHEME APPROVED BY THE GOVERNORS OF PARKIN
COLLEGE, ADELAIDE.

Preamble : Keenly desirous of strengthening the spirit of Christian unity between the denominations concerned, and fully alive to the great advantages of a well-considered scheme of co-operative teaching and study in connection with our respective theological institutions, the Governors of Parkin College submit the following proposals :—

I. The Governors are prepared to endorse a syllabus of co-operative study as herein-after set forth, and to receive nominations from the co-operating Churches of certain lecturers, with a view to their formal appointment as such.

1. Old Testament Introduction, Criticism and Exegesis, with Hebrew as required—

Rev. A. H. Bell, B.A., B.D., or other nominee of the Baptist Church.

2. New Testament Introduction, Criticism and Exegesis, with New Testament Greek as required—Rev. Principal Kiek, M.A., B.D., assisted by Rev. L. Rob-johns, B.A.

(It is distinctly understood that the above course will provide for adequate instruction in the contents of the English Bible).

3. Church History, including History of Christian Doctrine—Rev. J. A. Seymour, M.A., S.T.D., or other nominee of the Presbyterian Church.

4. Systematic Theology—Principal Kiek.

(In all these four subjects it is understood that two lectures a week will be delivered during the entire course).

5. Homiletics and Pastoral Theology—A nominee of the Methodist Church.

6. Apologetics and Philosophy of Theism—Rev. F. Lade, M.A., or other nominee of the Methodist Church.

(In these two latter subjects it is understood that one lecture a week will be delivered during the entire course).

7. Sermon Class.

(It is understood that a Sermon Class will be held weekly under the direction of the Principal, assisted by one of his colleagues).

In addition to the above regular courses the Governors are prepared to arrange for a number of short courses and to receive nominations of lecturer in certain cases. They contemplate that these courses shall occupy one term only—one lecture a week. Each of the six courses would, therefore, be given biennially.

8. Comparative Religions—Rev. C. Bright, or other nominee of the Baptist Church.

9. Christian Ethics and Sociology—Rev. W. Shaw, or other nominee of the Methodist Church.

10. History of Christian Missions—Rev. W. Gray, or other nominee of the Presbyterian Church.

11. Psychology and Paideutics—Rev. A. C. Hill, B.A., or other nominee of the Baptist Church.

12. History of the English Bible—Principal Kiek.

13. Elocution—Rev. G. Rayner.

It will be observed that under this scheme the number of lectures arranged weekly is twelve, or an average of three daily. The Sermon Class is included in this calculation. Room is therefore left for such supplemental instruction as the co-operating denominations may wish to provide for their own students.

It is understood that the lectures specified are to be given at Parkin College, unless otherwise specially approved by the Principal.

II. It is understood that the lectures specified will be open to the students of the co-operating denominations, and to such other persons as may be admitted by the Principal. On their part the Governors have pleasure in placing the facilities of the College at the disposal of lecturers and students.

Note:—The Principal will be glad if free use is made of his library, subject to the rules now operative.

III. It is understood that the Principal will always retain a general supervision of the scheme, and of all persons on the college premises. But he shall report any serious breach of discipline or corresponding disciplinary action to the denomination to which the offender belongs, if he be not an actual member of the College.

IV. The Governors recognise the right of the co-operating denominational authorities to withdraw any or all of their respective students from any course or courses of lectures, and further to supplement elsewhere the lectures provided at the College. The Principal will always be prepared to advise with the respective denominational authorities regarding the men in which they are interested, and to do all in his power to facilitate their studies along the lines approved by the denominational authorities concerned.

V. The details of the time-table and minor matters relating to the administration of the scheme will be adjusted by the Principal, in consultation with his colleagues, and subject to the final approval of the Governors. The Governors will always be prepared to consider sympathetically any suggestions from the co-operating denominations for the amendment and improvement of this scheme, while the Principal, in working the scheme, will constantly seek the brotherly co-operation and advice of his colleagues, without thereby abating his own final responsibility to the Governors.

VI. The Governors suggest that the Session shall consist of three terms of ten weeks each, corresponding to the terms kept at Adelaide University. They contemplate a theological course of three years.

VII. The Governors suggest that all the co-operating parties agree to abide by the scheme for at least three years from March, 1921. But, before the beginning of the 3rd year, they undertake to consult the other co-operating denominations with a view to the continuance, amendment, or abandonment of the scheme.

VIII. Since the Parkin Trust does not permit of any of the moneys belonging to the Governors being spent on other than strictly Trust purposes, the lecturers appointed by them on the nomination of other churches will in every case be honorary, from the standpoint of the Governors, each of the co-operating denominations making such arrangements as it may think fit for the remuneration of its own nominees. The Governors suggest that each co-operating denomination pay £5 a year to the Trust to cover its share of printing and other incidental expenses.

PETITIONS.

I—PETITION OF MR. A. S. HUTCHINGS.

Unto the Venerable the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia, The Petitioner of the undersigned, Alfred Sealey Hutchings of Cooma, in the State of New South Wales, Home Missionary, respectfully sheweth:—

1. That your Petitioner was a Home Missionary of the Methodist Church of New South Wales for a period of five years (5) and left the same to join the Presbyterian Church of New South Wales, in April, 1917.

2. That with the exception of two Sundays' supply work at Muswellbrook, the whole of your Petitioner's time in the Presbyterian Church has been spent in the work of the Cooma Charge, New South Wales. The whole of this Charge has been under his supervision.

3. That, not having been graded with a view to taking the Home Mission Course, your Petitioner asked leave to commence as a First Year Student; this request was granted. Your Petitioner sat for the first year's examination after only four months preparation and secured a pass with 53%. Second year's pass with 71½%. Third year's pass 69%.

Your Petitioner accordingly prays the General Assembly, in view of the above, and also in view of his experience in the work of the Church, together with the manifest blessing of God upon his work, to permit him to undertake the Fourth year's Home Mission course, and the Entrance Examination to the Theological Hall, St. Andrew's College in due course.

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

ALFRED SEALEY HUTCHINGS.

Cooma, August 18th, 1920.

Recommended by College Committee Executive.

HUGH M. BURNS,

Secretary College Committee.

II—PETITION OF E. DAVID PEARSON.

The Petition of the undersigned respectfully sheweth:—

1. That your Petitioner is in the twenty-sixth (26) year of his age.

2. That he became a member of the Presbyterian Church at Wandsworth in the Guyra-Wandsworth Parish in 1912.

3. That he has been closely connected with the work amongst the young people of the Church since he became a member.

4. That in 1914 he resumed his studies with a view to qualifying himself for service in the Foreign Mission Department of the Presbyterian Church.

5. That in 1915, temporarily he was compelled to relinquish his studies for health reasons; in 1918, however, being quite restored in health, he made application for work under the Home Mission Committee, but was advised to proceed with his University course.

6. That in 1919 he proceeded to matriculate and to do first year's Arts at the Sydney University. At the Matriculation Examination he passed in History and Mathematics but failed in Greek and English, and in the Arts course he passed the first year Greek.

7. That, acting on advice, your Petitioner this year proceeded to take Social and Ethical Philosophy and to repeat History and English at the University, as well as to prepare himself in Hebrew and the English Bible for the Entrance Examination to the Hall in 1921.

8. That if your Venerable Court grant this Petition he proposes to present himself for matriculation in March 1922, unless his matriculation is not previously granted him

by the Senate of the Sydney University; to which body he has already made the necessary application (See Univ. Calendar Chap. XX. Par. 2 (1)).

9. That he makes this application to your Venerable Court not that he desires his studies to be curtailed so much as that the Assembly may prescribe a course of training (E.G. including Medicine) which would sufficiently equip him, as soon as possible, for work in Santo where the need is so urgent.

Your Petitioner, therefore, prays that your Venerable Court having regard to the foregoing premises will:—

(1) Grant him leave to sit for the Entrance Examination to the Theological Hall in 1921.

(2) Prescribe such a course of study that shall qualify him and expedite his appointment to the Foreign Mission Service of the Presbyterian Church.

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

(Signed) E. DAVID PEARSON.

Sydney, 9/8/20.

III.—PETITION OF H. STANLEY PARSONS.

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

I, Herbert Stanley Parsons, do hereby humbly Petition the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia, praying that I may be accepted as a candidate for the Ministry of the Presbyterian Church of Australia.

I was born in the County of London, being now thirty years of age, married, without any family. I came to Australia in the year 1912. I was educated at the London County Council's Public School Fairfield Road, Bow, London, also at the Malmesbury Road, Central School, Bow and at Morley College, Waterloo Road, London. In addition I received private tuition from the Rev. H. Boswell and the Rev. B. Jackson of St. Stephen's North Bow, London.

In 1913 I was accepted, after examination in Character and Scriptural Knowledge, by the late Bishop of Armidale (Dr. Cooper) as stipendiary reader under the Rev. A. Johnstone, Vicar of Tamworth. A year later the Bishop appointed me a Reader-in-charge of the Parish of Listen, N.S.W.

In 1915 after passing the Entrance Examination, in Bible Knowledge both of the Old and New Testaments, Latin, Greek, History, English, Prayer Book, I entered St. John's Theological College, Armidale, taking the three years' course and obtaining in 1918 the Australian College of Theology Diploma Thl. with 2nd class honours.

The following are the subjects which formed the curriculum of the Three Years' Course.

1st Year:—Latin and Greek Grammar, Old and New Testament (History and Contents), Latin and Greek Translations, English Literature, History.

2nd Year:—Old Testament, History Contents, The Whole, Special O. T. Period, The Restoration, Ezra, Nehemiah, Haggai, Zechariah, Special O. T. Book, The Psalms, Book IV. and Ps. 84, 85, 87, 88, 89, Old Testament Criticism.

Latin.—Augustine's "De Catechizandis Rudibus."

Greek.—The Epistle to the Romans.

History of the English Church (54 B.C.—1901 A.D.)

3rd Year.—New Testament (History Contents and Textual Criticism).

Greek.—The Gospel According to St. Mark.

Apologetics.—I Bruce's Apologetics, Illingworth's "Reason and Revelation," Ragg's "Christian Evidences," Wood's "For Faith and Science" Batiffol's "Credibility of the Gospels."

Early Church History.—Period to 491 A.D.

The Thirty-nine Articles.

The Three Creeds.

The Church and Her Ministry and Lightfoot's Christian Ministry, Sere. The Ministry of the Church.

I am now at present attending St. Andrew's Theological Hall, Sydney, as a private student in the 2nd year. Having felt bound to leave the Anglican Church on account of my changed attitude to its doctrine and policy, I therefore pray that my Petition may be granted and that the Venerable Assembly will accept me as a candidate for the Ministry of the Presbyterian Church of Australia.

Yours humbly,

H. STANLEY PARSONS.

This is to certify, in the name and by the authority of the Presbytery of Sydney to the College Committee, that on the 10th August, 1920, the Presbytery resolved:—

That the Petition of Mr. Herbert Stanley Parsons to be received as a student for the Ministry be transmitted to the General Assembly of Australia with the recommendation that in the event of his passing the class and exit examinations of the second year, without Hebrew, he be received as a regular student to enter next session upon the work of the third year.

Certified this 14th day of August, 1920, by me,

JOHN EDWARDS,

Clerk of the Presbytery of Sydney.

Documents accompanying Petition:—(1) Reader's License dated 1st March, 1913; (2) Reader's License dated 2nd February, 1914; (3) Certificate of Licentiate of Theology, by The Australian College of Theology.

Petition of Mr. L. Baines.

To the Venerable the Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia.

The Petition of the undersigned Mr. L. Baines, of the State of N.S.W., respectfully sheweth:—

1. That your Petitioner was born in Lancashire, England, in 1889, is married, but no family.

2. That he arrived in Australia, in 1913, A.D.

3. That he was formerly a Member of the Methodist Church. That he had almost finished the full course of the Methodist Ministry, entering Leigh College, Enfield, in 1915. That he has passed six yearly Examinations, failing in one subject only, through sickness.

4. That the course taken included the following:—English, Language and Literature, in which he passed with honours; Greek Grammar, some classical Greek, also St. Mark, St. John, Acts, and Galatians—(Lightfoot's) Hebrew—Davison's Grammar and some translations; Philosophy—Welton's Logical Basis of Education, James' Psychology and MacDougall's Church History. (Fisher's).

He also did the usual Methodist in Systematic and Dogmatic Theology and Apologetics.

Certificates regarding Courses are attached.

5. That as regards practical work, he has the Methodist Church acceptably at Balmain, Hillgrove, Cooma, Nimbin, Narromine.

6. Having become convinced that the Doctrine and Polity of the Presbyterian Church, were most in accord with the N.T. teaching, and feeling that he could serve the Church in its Ministry, he resigned from the Methodist Church and joined the Presbyterian Church.

7. That since, he has served as an assistant under the Rev. James Carson and Rev. D. D. MacKilwraith, Grafton.

8. Certificates and letter from the Rev. F. W. Hynes and Principal W. E. Bennett, M.A., B.D., and others.

9. That your Petitioner prays your Venerable Assembly, to allow him to sit for the Entrance Examination into the Theological Hall; and on passing, to pursue the Course, with a view to the ministry of the Presbyterian Church.

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

L. BAINES.

Sydney, 25th Sept., 1920.

The Convener,

Reception of Ministers' Committee.

This is certify, in the name and by the authority of the Presbytery of the Clarence, the Presbytery resolved.

That the Petition of Mr. L. Baines to be received as a student and allowed to sit for the Entrance Examination, be transmitted to General Assembly of Australia simpliciter. Certified by me this twenty-fifth day of September, 1920.

JAMES C. MILLIKEN, Clerk of Presbytery.

Petition of Mr. Thomas Mathers.

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

The Petition of the undersigned humbly sheweth:—

1. That your Petitioner was born on 22nd April, 1891, at Glasgow, and is unmarried.

2. That he is a Home Mission Agent of the Presbyterian Church in N.S.W. That he commenced this work in 1913. and laboured at Double Bay, Merrylands, Wentworthville, and Helensburgh (where he is in charge at present).

3. That he was four years and nine months on active service with A.I.F.

4. That at present he is taking second year Arts Course at Sydney University.

5. Your Petitioner begs leave to make the following request:—That in as much as the next General Assembly of Australia will not meet until October, 1922, he may be permitted subject to taking the Entrance Examination to enter the Theological Hall of St. Andrew's as a second year theological student and be exempted from Hebrew, after he shall have completed his Arts Course.

That your Petitioner is well-known to several Ministers of the Church of N.S.W., who can give fuller reasons and particulars.

And your Petitioner as in duty bound will ever pray.

THOMAS MATHERS.

(2) Petition of Mr. John Clarence McLelland for Ordination.

To the Venerable the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of New South Wales.

The Petition of John Clarence McLelland the undersigned respectfully sheweth:— That I am at present serving the Church as a Home Missionary at Ardlethan, and have occupied such position continuously for the past eight years.

That I have occupied prior thereto for two years the position of a Home Missionary of the Church at Port Macquarie, Burren Juck and Narrandera, at which latter place I assisted the Rev. Arnold Boyd.

That prior to entering the service of the Home Mission Committee I was employed by Mr. S. J. Bull, of Sydney Solicitor and intended to eventually apply for admission as a Solicitor. I was however obliged to relinquish the idea owing to defective eyesight. I have consulted Dr. Gateward Davis of Sydney, Oculist, and have been advised by him that I am permanently incapacitated from undergoing the course of study prescribed for candidates for the Holy Ministry owing to my defective eyesight.

That I have had a good general education and have passed the Junior University Examination.

That I have worked the Charge of Ardlethan from small beginnings to its present status of a sanctioned charge.

That I am 42 years of age.

Your Petitioner therefore humbly prays that he may be ordained as a Minister of the Holy Gospel, either without examination or on such modified examination as the Venerable Assembly may see fit to prescribe.

And your Petitioner will ever pray.

Dated at Ardlethan this seventh day of April, 1920.

J. C. McLELLAND.

ARDLETHAN PRESBYTERIAN CHARGE.

Ardlethan,

17th March, 1920.

Rev. Arnold Boyd, M.A.,

Interim-Moderator Ardlethan Presbyterian Charge.

Narrandera.

Dear Sir,—At a meeting of the Committee of this Charge, held yesterday, the following resolution was unanimously carried:—"That this Committee, recognizing the long and faithful service of its Minister, Mr. J. C. McLelland, his education and attainments, and the fact that owing to defective eyesight he is permanently precluded from seeking ordination in the customary way, desire that he should be granted ordination without examinations as a special case and that this resolution be forwarded through the Interim Moderator to the Clerk of the Presbytery."

I shall be glad if you can give this matter your support. Any advice generally touching the position will be highly appreciated.

Yours truly,

DOUGLAS E. WALKER, Hon. Sec.

ARDLETHAN PRESBYTERIAN CHARGE.

As Session Clerk and Congregational Secretary of the Ardlethan Presbyterian Charge I certify that on Wednesday, 28th April, 1920, within the Presbyterian Church Ardlethan

at the Annual Meeting of the Charge, the meeting being duly convened and constituted by prayer, the following resolution, being moved by Mr. Walker and seconded by Mr. Menzies, was carried unanimously :—

“That this meeting heartily support the Petition of the Minister, Mr. J. C. McLelland, for ordination without examination or on a modified basis on account of his defective eyesight and the incapacity for protracted study occasioned thereby. That this meeting is convinced that its Minister possesses the spiritual, pastoral, intellectual, and educational qualifications necessary to qualify him for the privileges of the high calling of a fully ordained Minister of Our Church. That a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Clerk of Assembly for submission to the Venerable the General Assembly of New South Wales.”

Dated at Ardlethan this thirtieth day of April, 1920.

DOUGLAS E. WALKER.

Petition Re Mr. J. C. McLelland, within the Presbyterian Church, Urana, March 30th, 1920, which place and time the Presbytery of Murrumbidgee met and was duly constituted with prayer.

Inter Alia : A Petition was received from the Ardlethan Charge praying that a special case should be made of Mr. J. C. McLelland, Home Mission Agent of Ardlethan, with a view to his being ordained without examination. The Petition showed that he has laboured for over a long period at Ardlethan where he has been successful in raising what was once a portion of the Narrandera Charge into a separate and sanctioned Charge.

It was moved by the Rev. J. A. Craigen, seconded by the Rev. C. H. Hain that the Petition be favourably received, and that the Presbytery request that Mr. J. C. McLelland be allowed to enter the Hall as a first year student exempt from the Entrance Examination and from Greek and Hebrew.

The Clerk was instructed to forward the Petition with the Presbytery's recommendation to the General Assembly of New South Wales with the request that the Petition as recommended by the Presbytery be approved, and thereafter forwarded to the General Assembly of Australia.

The meeting closed with prayer.

Extracted from the Records of the Presbytery of the Murrumbidgee, this 31st day of March, 1920,

Urana.

By me,

J. A. CRAIGEN, Presbytery Clerk.

Petition from Robt. J. S. Cullen, Presbytery of Melbourne East.

The Manse,

Oakleigh, Victoria, 14/9/20

The Convener of the Business Committee,

Dear Professor Macintyre,—I am instructed by my Presbytery to transmit the enclosed Petition of Mr. R. J. Cullen to you, to be dealt with by the Assembly of Australia as in its wisdom it thinks fit.

I regret that it will be a little late in reaching you, but it was delayed pending Mr. Cullen's compliance with an injunction of the State Assembly.

Yours faithfully,

E. H. CHAPPLE, Clerk of Presbytery.

“Dalkeith,”

Tranmere Avenue, Murrumbeena, 26/6/20.

The Presbytery of Melbourne East.

Dear Sirs,—I would respectfully ask your honourable Court to have transmitted to the forthcoming General Assembly the enclosed Petition which I intimated to the General Assembly of Victoria in May I intended proceeding with. Trusting you will find the same in order.

Yours obediently,

ROBERT J. S. CULLEN.

The Right Reverend The Moderator, Fathers and Brethren of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia.

I, Robert James Stewart Cullen, a member of the Murrumbeena Presbyterian Church of Victoria, and your humble Petitioner, do pray and most respectfully request to claim the attention of your worthy and Venerable High Court that I be heard in the Complaint and Appeal which I make as hereunder.

My Complaint is :—That the action of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria, held in May, 1920, inasmuch as they have reversed the decision of the Commission of the State General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria held in November, 1919, in relation to my appeal thereto, and whereby I thus have had practically, as far as theirs, the General Assembly of Victoria's authority goes, my connection with the Murrumbeena Session severed therefrom as a Ruling Elder thereof, has done me a grave personal injustice ; but far and beyond all that, which, Sirs, I consider as a minor matter, the whole procedure I claim has been irregular, inasmuch as the initial stages were not at all consistent with the regularity of our Church Principles and Polity, more especially when such a judgment has been passed upon me, which calls for at least judicial process, whereby I might from the beginning know what I have had to contend against instead of being practically informed at the eleventh hour. And I venture to say that this line of action, if persisted in, will tend towards lowering the prestige of a worthy Church that has always had a standard of no mean calibre. And I further Petition your Venerable Assembly to have deleted from the Records of the Murrumbeena Presbyterian Congregation those minutes as recorded of the meeting held on April 15, 1919, the which therein as refer to myself, on the grounds that the same are not only mandatory, arbitrary and unjust, but a direct violation of the Principles and Polity of our Church. And finally, I am constrained to ask the protection of your Venerable Court to order the withdrawal of the charge which was so unconstitutionally proceeded with against me on April 15, 1919, and to have the Murrumbeena Congregation instructed to have deleted from its Minutes all records of the same.

Ever praying, as your humble Petitioner,

Believe me,

Obediently yours,

26-6-'20.

ROBERT J. S. CULLEN.

RECEPTION OF MINISTERS.

1 Rev. A. L. Cloyd —The Petition of the undersigned, very respectfully showeth :—

1. That he was born in 1877 in Howard County, Missouri, U.S.A., is married, and is a fully accredited Minister in good standing in "the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America."

2. That at the instance of his wife's relatives, who reside in Australia, he now seeks Ministerial recognition in the Australian Church. His purpose is strengthened by his pronounced liking for the Australian people and by the hope that his Ministry here will be blessed of God as it has been in America.

3. That your Petitioner's credentials can be fully and readily verified through the aid of connections and acquaintances in Australia—his wife having been brought up in the Presbyterian Church of Williamstown, Victoria, with which Church her father, Mr. A. S. Heriot (a well-known citizen, former Mayor, and Councillor, etc.) has been connected for fifty-five years.

4. That your Petitioner holds the following degrees : B.A. (Missouri University, 1914), and B.D. (Yale School of Religion—the Divinity department of Yale University, 1918.)

"Diplomas shown to Presbytery."

5. That after receiving the degree of Bachelor of Arts, your Petitioner spent four years in studying Theology—at Louisville, Princeton, and Yale, as follows : (attendance at the different institutions having been planned in advance to make for breadth of educational and theological outlook) :

(a) One year in the Presbyterian Theological Seminary of Kentucky (located in Louisville, Ky.), 1914-1915.

(b) Two years in Princeton Theological Seminary (located in Princeton, N.J.) —the most noted and most widely recognised Presbyterian Seminary in America, 1915-1916 and 1916-1917.

(c) One year in Yale School of Religion (located in New Haven, Conn.), receiving here the degree of B.D., 1917-1918.

"Work done at Yale is verified by diploma. Duly certified credentials of previous theological pursuits at Louisville and at Princeton, shown to Presbytery."

6. That his educational training, "previous to entering Theological Seminary, was as follows :—

(a) "Six years" in the common public schools of Missouri.

(b) "Five years" in an academy located in Salisbury, Mo. "Diploma shown to Presbytery."

(c) "Five years" in Missouri University, as follows :

One year : Sept., 1897-June, 1898.

One year : Sept., 1900-June, 1901.

Three years : Sept., 1911-Aug., 1914.

The intervals while not in school were spent chiefly in teaching and in making an extensive trip around the world.

7. That your Petitioner has a number of "University credits" not covered by the above-mentioned degrees, inasmuch that he lacks very little of having completed all requirements for the additional degrees of "B.S. in Education" at Missouri University, and of "M.A." at Princeton University.

8. That only a long absence from the United States (1903-1911), caused delay in completion of his training for the calling of the Ministry, and that four years of this time he was employed by the U.S. Bureau of Education in the Philippine Islands, as teacher and educational supervisor.

"Certified credentials of commendation and successive promotions in Bureau of Education, shown to Presbytery."

9. That your Petitioner was authorised as a "licentiate preacher" by the Presbytery of Missouri in 1912, and later was assured that his Presbytery was willing to give him full ordination under the so-called "extraordinary cases" provision of the Church constitution. (See "Constitution of the Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A." Part IV., Form of Government, Ch. XIV., Sec. VI., Page 376.) But preferring to enter the Ministry in the regular way, your Petitioner elected to wait until such time as he should have completed as much as (or more than) the regularly-required amount of theological study.

10. That since his ordination in 1917 he has met with continuous success in his Ministry of the Gospel, and only the long entertained purpose of coming to Australia has caused him to give up his work in the United States; and, furthermore, that he is "under no censure, or liability to censure, on any moral or doctrinal grounds" from the Presbyterian Church of the U.S.A.

11. That he owns and accepts the Westminster Confession of Faith, read in the light of the Declaratory Statement contained in the Basis of Union adopted by the Presbyterian Church of Australia on the 24th of July, 1901.

12. That he now prays your Venerable Court to receive him as a Minister of the Presbyterian Church of Australia.

With most sincere respect, your Petitioner remains,

Williamstown, Victoria.

A. L. CLOYD.

DOCUMENTS ACCOMPANYING PETITION.

1. Certificate of Stated Clerk of General Assembly of Presbyterian Church of U.S.A.
2. Newspaper account of ordination, and photo-print with news-item relative to departure for Australia.
3. Letter of identification from Mr. A. S. Heriot of Williamstown, Victoria.
4. Brief newspaper sketch of Petitioner's educational career, foreign travels, and Ministerial work.
5. Resumé of theological studies.
6. Resumé of studies pursued in academy (North Missouri Institute).
7. Copies of Recommendations.
8. Resumé of University studies.

CREDENTIALS SHOWN TO PRESBYTERY.

1. Directory of Hudson Presbytery, N.Y., U.S.A.
2. Three Diplomas—from North Missouri Institute, Missouri University, and Yale School of Religion, respectively.
3. Credentials of theological work done at Louisville, and at Princeton, respectively.
4. Credential of work done in Graduate School of Princeton University.
5. Credentials from the U.S. Bureau of Education in the Philippine Islands.

Office of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A.,

Witherspoon Building, Philadelphia, Pa., August, 1919.

To the Presbytery of Melbourne North

(State of Victoria),

of the Presbyterian Church of Australia.

Gentlemen of the Presbytery,—This letter is to certify that the Rev. A. L. Cloyd is a regular Minister in good standing, in the "Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A.," having his connection in Hudson Presbytery in New York State, and is "under no censure, or liability to censure, on any moral or doctrine grounds," so far as I have knowledge.

Yours sincerely,

WM. H. ROBERTS,

Stated Clerk of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A.

EXTRACT MINUTE.

"At Melbourne and within the Assembly Hall on Tuesday, February 3rd, 1920, at 2 p.m., the Presbytery met and was duly constituted.

Inter alia :—"An application for reception into the Presbyterian Church of Australia, was made by Rev. Alva Lee Cloyd, a Minister of the Presbyterian Church in the United States.

"It was moved by the Rev. J. Mathew that we recommend that Mr. Cloyd's application to the General Assembly of Australia be granted, and that we recommend him for employment to the Home Mission Committee of the Victorian Church. The motion was seconded by the Rev. T. Brown and agreed to."

Extracted from the minutes of the Presbytery of Melbourne North, by me,
G. M. CONNOR, Clerk.

(2) Mr. A. H. Ballinger —To the Venerable the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia.

The Petition of the undersigned, Arthur Henry Ballinger, Supplying for the Maylands Presbyterian Church, Perth, W.A. respectfully sheweth :—

1. That your Petitioner was born at Nurrabiel, via. Horsham, in the State of Victoria, on June 17th, 1886 and is unmarried.

2. That his early education was acquired through the medium of State School; that at the age of sixteen he was admitted into membership of the Methodist Church, and thence onward took an active part in the various office-bearing positions of that Church, becoming an accredited Lay Preacher on full plan at the age of nineteen.

3. That, recognising a call to consecrate his life to the Ministry, he entered, in the year 1909, as a private student, the Theological Hall, Queen's College, University, Carlton, Melbourne. At the same time he received private tuition in matters of a general education from Mr. Herbert Hewitt, M.A.

4. That, having passed the Synodal and Central Committee's Examinations, he was accepted as a candidate for the Methodist Ministry, and in 1910 was received into the Theological Hall for further training. He continued under the tuition of Mr. Hewitt.

5. That, in the years 1911-12 he was in charge as a Minister on probation of the Woodbridge Circuit, Tasmania.

6. That, in the years 1913-14 he entered upon the duties of assistant in Forth-Ulverstone Circuit, Tasmania. While thus engaged he completed and passed the Fourth Year's (Final) Examinations of the Methodist Conference.

7. That your Petitioner came under the Discipline of his Conference owing to the severance of a matrimonial engagement. The finding of the Discipline Committee was adverse to his continuance as a Minister on Probation.

8. That he thereupon made petition through the Presbytery of Launceston, Tasmania, to your Venerable Assembly for acceptance into the Ministry of the Presbyterian Church of Australia, full particulars of the nature of the charge brought against him being stated to the Presbytery.

9. That pending the reception of the prayer of his Petition, he was recommended by the Tasmanian H.M. Committee to the Victorian H.M. Committee for work in that State. The said Committee appointed him to the position of assistant in the Wangaratta Charge, 1915-1916. Of this Church he holds a Certificate of Membership, dated April, 1915. He was admitted to membership by Certificate of Disjunction from the Methodist Church.

10. That, by arrangement with the Committee of the Victorian Theological Hall and the sanction of the Victorian State Assembly, he entered that Hall as a private student. The Victorian Theological Hall Committee treated his status as that of one who has done two years of the Victorian Theological course. He proceeded to the Exit Examination in 1916, and passed with an average of 67 per cent. He was granted exemption from Hebrew owing to a severe illness overtaking him during the course of that year.

11. That, finding that the prayer of his Petition had not been granted by your Venerable Court, owing to the fact that no official recommendation of the Methodist Conference of Victoria and Tasmania has accompanied the said prayer, your Petitioner sought by Petition to the Methodist Conference of 1917 for a remission of the embargo laid upon him, and a recommendation to your Venerable Court.

12. That the Methodist Conference graciously granted the prayer of the Petition, and made direct communication of their judgment to the Right Rev. the Moderator-General of your Assembly.

13. That in the meanwhile the Victorian H.M. Committee made an offer of work in the State of Victoria, and an opening also presented itself for work in the Maylands Presbyterian Charge, Perth, W.A.

14. That he entered upon work in Maylands on the 1st November, 1916, and has continued therein up to the present time.

15 That, finding that the prayer of his Petition had not been again granted by your Venerable Court, owing to the fact that the official recommendation of the Methodist Conference was not deemed wide enough in its interpretation, your Petitioner again sought by Petition to the Methodist Conference of 1919 for a wider interpretation.

16. That the Methodist Conference again graciously received his Petition and resolution was carried reaffirming its former decision in the matter. It was also clearly and emphatically stated "that any objections previously felt were now not to be reckoned with."

17. That your Petitioner would respectfully submit that the finding of your Venerable Court was not unanimous in its decision as to the prayer of his Petition. A dissentient vote being recorded.

18. That, your Petitioner is emboldened to again approach your Venerable Court to grant the prayer of his Petition, inasmuch that he has served in the capacity of "locum tenens" in the Maylands Charge to the full satisfaction of the Congregation and Presbytery, and is urged and encouraged to do so by the Assembly of Western Australia.

19. That certificates as to his scholarship, character, and work are hereto appended. He, therefore, prays your Venerable Court to receive him as eligible to apply to the Presbytery of Perth, W.A. for license to preach the Gospel. Your Petitioner as in duty bound, will ever pray,

A. H. BALLINGER.

Maylands, 26-4-'20.

PAPERS ACCOMPANYING THE PETITION.

Certificate of Membership.

Sessional Certificate of the Exit Examination.

Extract from the Minute-Book of the Kirk Session, Maylands Presbyterian Church.

Extracts from the Agenda Paper and Minute Book of results of Final Probationary Examinations of the Methodist Conference.

Official Recommendation from the Methodist Conference of Victoria and Tasmania.

Reaffirmation (with covering letter) of Official Recommendation by Methodist Conference of Victoria and Tasmania.

Extract from Minute Book of the Congregation, Maylands Presbyterian Church.

Recommendation of the Perth Presbytery, Perth, W.A.

Recommendation of the General Assembly of the State of Western Australia.

Extract from the Minute Book of the Kirk Session of the North Perth Presbyterian Church.

Letters of commendation from the H.M. Committee of Western Australia, Kirk Session, St. George's Church, Boulder, Launceston Presbytery, Revs. L. I. Fielding, F. S. Woods, Farquhar Chisholm, G. Nisbet Dods, M.A., Mr. A. C. Solomon.

At Perth, and within St. Andrew's Church, on Thursday, the thirteenth day of May, 1920, the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Western Australia met and was duly constituted.

Inter alia :—The Petition of Mr. A. H. Ballinger to the General Assembly of Australia was laid on the table by the Clerk. The Rev. A. Crow moved and the Rev. A. J. Eipper seconded the following motion :

"That this Assembly cordially recommends the prayer of the Petitioner (Mr. A. H. Ballinger) to the General Assembly of Australia.

"The motion was spoken to in terms of high appreciation of the work and character of Mr. Ballinger. The motion was carried unanimously."

Extracted from the Records by me this fourteenth day of June, 1920

E. F. CAMERON, Clerk of Assembly.

(3) **Rev. W. Llewellyn Williams.**—Unto the Venerable the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia.

The Petition of the undersigned respectively sheweth :—

That since September 16th, 1915, he has been a Congregational Minister in full standing, having been ordained on that date at Lyndhurst Road Congregational Church (Dr. R. F. Horton, M.A.), London.

He was born in Glamorganshire, South Wales, on November 14th, 1884 ; and is unmarried.

His early education consisted of that provided by the now defunct Board School of England and Wales.

After leaving school he was engaged for several years in the mining industry of South Wales.

At the age of twenty-three he felt the call to devote himself to the work of the Christian Ministry.

Shortly afterwards, he entered a Preparatory School for the training of Ministerial Students.

In 1909, he succeeded in passing the entrance examination into New College, London (Divinity School, London University), of which the Rev. A. E. Garvie, M.A., D.D. (Chairman of the Congregational Union of England and Wales) was and is, the Principal.

He remained there for the full course extending over a period of six years.

During this time he studied the following subjects:—Mathematics under Professor H. J. Harris, Esq., B.A.; English and Logic, under Professor James Johnson, Esq., M.A.; Latin and Greek, under Professor G. W. Kilner, Esq., M.A.; Psychology, Ethics, Ecclesiastical History, History of Religions and Christian Ethics, under the Rev. Professor H. H. Scullard, M.A., D.D.; Biblical and Historical Theology. Apologetics, Homiletics, Pastoral Theology, Philosophical Introduction to Religion, Sociology, under the Rev. Principal Garvie, M.A., D.D.; Old Testament (Hebrew grammar and text Exegesis, History and Criticism) one year, under the Rev. Professor W. H. Bennett, M.A., D.Lit., D.D. (now Principal of Lancashire Congregational College) and two years under the Rev. Professor W. A. Davies, M.A., B.D.; New Testament (Greek grammar and text, Exegesis, History and Criticism), under the Rev. Professor H. T. Andrews, B.A., D.D.; Elocution, two years under Professor Richardson, and one year under F. C. Field Hyde, Esq., I.R.A.M.

He obtained final honours in Christian Ethics, Ecclesiastical History, and Theology.

He won the senior Kendall-Binney prize for an essay on "The Evangelical Revival."

He also received the ten pound book prize for general efficiency in his final year.

In response to an urgent appeal for men, sent by the Congregational Union of Western Australia to the English Colleges, he, with three others, offered himself for service in that State, and was accepted.

He was ordained on September 16th, 1915, as before stated, at Lyndhurst Road Congregational Church, Hampstead, London; Dr. Garvie presiding.

On November 7th, 1915, he entered upon his Ministry at the North Fremantle Congregational Church.

In February 1917, he received and accepted a call to the Johnston Memorial Congregational Church, Fremantle.

During the first three years of his Ministry there, he received into Fellowship, thirty-eight new members—thirteen by transfer and twenty-five on confession of faith.

When he entered upon his Ministry at Fremantle, there was a debt on the Church of £450, a debt which had remained stationary for seven years. In January, 1919, he determined to remove this incubus; and in the following September, by his own personal effort, the whole of the amount had been subscribed, and the debt liquidated.

He has been a member of the Executive Committee of the Congregational Union for three years and a-half, Secretary to its Board of studies for over two years; and, since October of last year, its Chairman-Elect.

For several years he has been possessed of a profound admiration for Presbyterianism; with the passing of the years that admiration had deepened, until at last it has come to hold for him an irresistible attraction.

He believes the polity of Presbyterianism to be superior in many respects to that of Congregationalism, and better adapted to meet the moral and spiritual needs of men. Moreover, he is firmly convinced that he can be a more effective Minister of Jesus Christ in the Presbyterian Church than in any other.

Your Petitioner has therefore tendered his resignation as Minister of the Johnston Memorial Church, and also as a member of the Congregational Union of Western Australia.

He now respectfully approaches your Venerable Court praying for admission into the Ministry of the Presbyterian Church of Australia.

W. LLEWELLYN WILLIAMS.

June 10th, 1920.

EXTRACT MINUTE.

Presbytery of Fremantle, Scots Church, Fremantle, 11th June, 1920. At which place and time the Presbytery met and was duly constituted:—Sederunt Revs. W. F. Turton, Moderator, etc.

Inter alia:—Clerk read Petition from Rev. William Llewellyn Williams to the General Assembly of Australia praying for admission to the Ministry of the Presbyterian Church of Australia.

Credentials and certificates were laid before the Presbytery.

Clerk stated that Rev. R. E. Chapman chairman of the Congregational Union of W.A. had informed him of the esteem in which Mr. Williams was held by his brother Ministers, and their unqualified regret at his resignation.

Clerk stated that Rev. R. Hanlin, Minister of Fremantle, but now a patient in Perth Hospital, spoke in highest terms of the work of Mr. Williams and considered that he would be an acquisition to our Church.

Rev. W. Huey Steele moved that "The Presbytery in forwarding the application of Rev. W. L. Williams, having read and examined his certificates and credentials, knowing of his power as preacher and pastor, knowing also the high esteem in which he is regarded by his brethren in the Congregational Ministry as well as by the two Churches of which he has been Minister, cordially endorses the application and strongly recommends and earnestly hopes that Mr. Williams will be received by the General Assembly of Australia." This was seconded by Mr. R. Bracks and carried.

Extracted from the minutes of the Presbytery of Fremantle this 12th day of June, 1920, by,

W. HUEY STEELE, Clerk of Presbytery.

CREDENTIALS.

New College London—Divinity School, Certificates of Honour. In Church History, Christian Ethics; and in Theology.

Exit Certificate; Kendall Binney Prizeman, 1914; Duly qualified. Certificate of Ordination, 16th Sept., 1915. North Fremantle Congregational Church: Engrossed letter of appreciation of a year's work. Johnston Memorial Congregational Church, Fremantle: Engrossed letter of thanks for clearing off the debt of £450 after nine months' work.

(4) Rev. William Evans.—Unto the Venerable the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia.

The Petition of the undersigned humbly sheweth:—

1. That your Petitioner was born on the 13th November, 1882, at Strathloddon, Victoria, and that he is a married man, having one child aged seven (7) months.

2. That he is a fully ordained Minister of the Congregational Church at present exercising his Ministry in the Church of that order, worshipping at Gardiner (Melbourne.)

3. That his Education began with the ordinary curriculum of our Victorian State System, a course which he completed to its highest degree. This proved a stimulus to deeper yearnings which in the goodness of God he was privileged to satisfy at a later period, when his life's ideal took shape in a clear call to the Christian Ministry. He then completed a course of secondary education in accordance with the University requirements for Matriculation. In due time he became a student of the Congregational College of Victoria, at that time under the Principalship of the Rev. Dr. Gosman. Here he completed his Theological Course which occupied a period exceeding four years. In addition to this, he undertook the Arts Course in the University of Melbourne, whence he graduated B.A. in 1915. During the last year, i.e. 1918, he sat for the first examination for the degree of B.D. passing the year with Hebrew, English Bible, Greek Testament, Church History, and Apologetics. This year he hopes to complete that course, taking as subjects: Hebrew, and O.T. Introduction, Greek Testament with general introduction, Biblical and Historical Theology, Church History, and Patristics (Latin Text).

He very respectfully directs attention to the conformatory documents herewith produced.

3a. That the early life of your Petitioner was passed amid an environment remote from the privileges for which he yearned in the depths of his soul. The only employment available was that offered by the mining industry, hence he was occupied for two or three years with various tasks upon the surface. It was, however, the ambition of a seafaring relative that your Petitioner should serve the sea, ultimately qualifying for the office of the Master Mariner. He accordingly served in the capacity of ordinary seaman on board a full-rigged sailing vessel, but was compelled after a voyage to the East and to North America to do violence to the ancestral tradition. The next four or five years were spent in commercial life (in a clerical capacity mainly), during which period the purpose of God became clear, and he employed his leisure with diligent preparation for the Ministry.

4. Immediately on recognising the voice of God in his soul, your Petitioner commenced to declare his witness. Never once was he permitted to have a doubt as to the origin of that joyous impulse, and he was sent by the Congregational Church to the service of its Home Mission. This occupied about eighteen months just prior to his entering the College. As a student he continued to preach, occupying almost all the pulpits in the Congregational body. On the completion of his student career, he was solemnly ordained to the office of the Ministry in the presence of the representatives of the Congregational Union, and College officials, the local Congregation, and visiting friends. This public ordination took place in the Church at Gardiner, over which, for nearly 3½ years, your Petitioner has exercised pastoral care.

5. Your Petitioner humbly seeks admission to the Ministry of the Presbyterian Church because he believes the polity of that honoured body to be more adapted to the needs of a world encompassed with infirmity. He is convinced that it is not good for Churches to be alone. He finds that to exaggerate the idea of the local Church tends to induce a mischievous individualism, and tends also to deprive both Church and Pastor of the benefit of administrative sagacity from without. Congregational Churches possess in their totality a goodly share of these virtues, but such resources cannot be drawn upon, hence there is a vast store of potential energy lying unused, and certain to remain so while it is unable to reach the local Church along the channel of authority. Your Petitioner humbly believes that much local blundering could be corrected, and very much avoided if the local Church was susceptible of this collective sagacity. Your Petitioner, moreover, is disillusioned concerning the "infallibility" of the local Church—The feeble recognition given to the "Church Meeting," for which stupendous claims are advanced, is crushing evidence that people have lost—irrevocably lost—both the capacity and the desire for legislative responsibility,—and the very best Church meeting only serves to show that ability in practical concerns is by no means a necessary implicate of the deepest piety. To your Petitioner, Presbyterianism appears to employ the golden mean and to be fortified therefore against the extremes of an ill-informed plebeian self assertion on the one hand, and that of a prelatical despotism on the other.

6. Your Petitioner cordially believes that Presbyterianism is in a position to preserve the Apostolic charter, which elsewhere has been surrendered. He believes in an Apostolic succession, not of officials designated by sacramentarian fictions, but of believers distinguished by a spiritual attitude and "temper" which is the product of a sound, self-consistent body of doctrine. He believes in a "Depositum Fidei," reposed, not in arbitrarily chosen officials, but in the Universal Reason. He believes that those apriori demands which appear in the whole history of Philosophy are sacred and must not be violated. These though universal are significant for and intelligible to Christian Faith alone. They point us to the essential attributes of God, and these are confirmed in the Scriptures. These fundamental principles, (however modified in the pulpit message), are treasured in the great standards of the Westminster Divines. Your Petitioner feels that in departing from this valid, rational starting point, the modern Apologetic has become vague and irrelevant, and has drawn down upon the Church the ridicule of that popular rationalism which has displayed so keen a scent for logical inconsistency. These grand conceptions which underlie the old standards seem to produce greater reverence for God, and a more robust spirituality. Such a temper Presbyterians and Independents once had in common (in spite of external rivalry), and this, in the view of your Petitioner, is the sole evidence of a true Apostolic succession. Independence, having no standard, and therefore no doctrinal anchor, has lost her historic identity, her historic temper, her power, and sooner or later must discover that a mere scheme of Polity divorced from her ancient theological definiteness of temper, will not appeal very powerfully. Your Petitioner has marked this loss of identity with deep sadness. For him, the main elements in the Reformation Theology are Apostolic, and these he rejoices to find in the Confession. He is fully aware that in the actual work of preaching, many of them require cautious handling. Nevertheless, he feels that a scheme of doctrine, based upon Scripture, and preserving inviolate the fundamental demands of the Reason, is the first and greatest need of a preaching Church.

7. Your Petitioner very respectfully desires to make it clear that he has not suffered unpleasantness by reason of views which are divergent from those which prevail among his Congregational brethren. He has not been thrust into isolation. Nor has he been subjected to persecution. It is not as a martyr that he approaches the Venerable, the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia. Of the fulness of Congregationalist generosity has he received, and kindness succeeding kindness, and he cannot make any transition without casting many a longing, lingering look back towards a people who have always befriended him, and who with a devotion nowhere surpassed are nobly struggling (against formidable impediments) to maintain a magnificent testimony for the Saviour whose supremacy they acknowledge, not in word merely, but in lives of beautiful devotion. Your Petitioner cherishes towards Congregationalism something akin to the holy feeling one would have in the presence of a tender Mother by whose self-suppression he has been nurtured, but whose work is done, and with the closing of that lovely life, the old home is disintegrated. The love of that Congregational Mother will abide with your Petitioner, who cannot make supplication to the Venerable, the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia without confessing his great obligation.

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

WILLIAM EVANS.

12th April, 1919.

EXTRACT MINUTE.

Assembly Hall, Melbourne, 14th April, 1919, which day the Presbytery of Melbourne South met and was constituted with prayer. Sederunt Revs. W. A. Stevely, Moderator, etc.

Inter alia:—The Rev. P. J. Murdoch, for the Committee appointed in connection with the Petition of the Rev. W. Evans, reported that they had met with Mr. Evans and had suggested the re-casting of the Petition, which was now laid on the table with relative documents: further that they recommend that the Petition be sent to the General Assembly of Australia and that Mr. Evans be commended to the Home Mission Committee for temporary employment. He moved accordingly with the addition “that the Presbytery recommend that the Petition be granted.” The motion was seconded by Mr. A. L. Pryde and adopted.

Extracted from the minutes of the Presbytery of Melbourne S. by,

P. J. MURDOCH, Clerk.

Note.—The Committee saw Mr. Evans' diploma from the University of Melbourne.

DOCUMENTS.

1. Certificate from the Registrar of the College of Divinity. 2. Certificate from Rev. W. I. L. Cross. 3. Extract from Report of Congregational College.

(5) **Mr. Charles J. Graham.**—Unto the Venerable the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia.

The Petition of the undersigned respectfully sheweth:—

That he was born at Ballan, Victoria, in the year 1862, and is married.

That in 1898, he was ordained an Elder of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria, and was, for two years Session Clerk.

That in 1901, he was accepted as agent, by the Home Mission Committee, and appointed to the Heywood Mission, and intended to continue his Theological studies, but realising the needs of a widely scattered district, his whole energy was devoted to reorganising the Congregations.

The people responded to your Petitioner's efforts, and it was soon found necessary to provide more suitable accommodation for the growing Congregation. A building scheme was undertaken, embracing four Churches and a Manse. These were erected; and left—at the close of five years—practically free from debt. During this time, many names were added to the communion roll, and the Hamilton Presbytery, on more than one occasion, wrote, complimenting your Petitioner on the work accomplished.

That the strenuous work involved in his first charge, made it impossible for your Petitioner to pursue any definite course of study, such as he had contemplated.

That in 1906 he was appointed assistant to the Rev. S. H. McGowan in the Korumburra Charge, where under his supervision—a large School Hall, and Church, were built.

That in 1909, he was transferred to the city for special work, and for three and a half years had charge of the Montague Mission.

During that period, the Congregations were enlarged, and the names of thirty-five members, were added to the Communion roll, on profession of faith.

That in 1913, he was appointed to Young Street Mission, Fitzroy, where the social and spiritual work of the Mission, were carried on, to the satisfaction of the Home Mission Committee.

That in 1916, he was transferred to Stanley, Tasmania, where he laboured for sixteen months.

That, for the past two years, your Petitioner has been assistant to the Right Rev. John Walker, of St. Andrew's Kirk, Ballarat.

Your Petitioner attaches letters, bearing on his work and character, and humbly prays your Venerable Court to take these premises into favourable consideration, and raise him to the status of a Minister in full standing.

And your Petitioner as in duty bound will ever pray.

CHARLES J. GRAHAM.

LETTER OF COMMENDATION:—St. Andrew's Session, Ballarat, Rev. John Barnaby, Rev. Charles Neville, Rev. R. Arthur Green, Rev. J. G. Wilson.

Within St. Andrew's Vestry, on Tuesday, June the 8th, the Presbytery of Ballarat met, and was constituted with prayer.

A Petition was received from Mr. C. J. Graham, asking for admission and ordination to the Ministry of the Presbyterian Church.

It was moved by the Right Rev. John Walker, and seconded by the Rev. J. G. Wilson, that it receive the approval of the Presbytery, and that it be sent on to the General Assembly of Australia, with a strong recommendation for acceptance. The motion was approved.

Extracted from the records of the Presbytery by me, on the 16th day of June, 1920.

EDW. G. WELCH, Presbytery Clerk.

(6) *Petition re Ordination of Mr. J. F. Kem Yee.*—Unto the Venerable the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia.

The Foreign Missions Committee of the Presbyterian Church of New South Wales respectfully sheweth :—

1. That the Presbyterian Church of New South Wales at the meeting of the General Assembly in May, 1920, authorised its Foreign Missions Committee to approach your Venerable Court with a request for authority to the Presbytery of the Hunter to proceed to the ordination of Mr. James Fong Kem Yee.

Mr. Kem Yee was born in Canton, China, in 1862. He left China for Australia in 1878, and while in Australia was brought to the knowledge of the truth as it is in Christ Jesus, and was baptised in St. John's Presbyterian Church, Ballarat, in 1883. For some time he continued his occupation of gold mining, but later was induced to study in preparation for mission work among his own countrymen in this land. He began work as a Missionary among the Chinese in New South Wales in 1888, and has laboured in the Newcastle and Maitland district for a period of thirty-two years.

2. That he has carried on his work faithfully and successfully, earnestly preaching the gospel, and by his life and conduct commending the gospel to his fellow-countrymen.

3. That in recognition of his long and faithful services, and for the better discharge of his work, it is desirable that authority should now be given to ordain him into the Christian Ministry, and to this end your Petitioners pray that the General Assembly will grant the necessary authority.

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

In name and by authority of the Foreign Missions Committee of the Presbyterian Church of New South Wales.

RONALD G. MACINTYRE, Convener.

Sydney, 25th June, 1920.

(7) *Petition of Mr. John Clarence McLelland.*—To the Venerable the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of New South Wales.

The Petition of John Clarence McLelland, the undersigned, respectfully sheweth :—

That I am at present serving the Church as a Home Missionary at Ardlethan, and have occupied such position continuously for the past eight years.

That I have occupied, prior thereto for two years, the position of a Home Missionary of the Church at Port Macquarie, Burren Juck and Narrandera, at which latter place I assisted the Rev. Arnold Boyd.

That prior to entering the service of the Home Mission Committee I was employed by Mr. S. J. Bull, of Sydney, Solicitor, and intended to eventually apply for admission as a solicitor. I was, however, obliged to relinquish the idea owing to defective eyesight. I have consulted Dr. Gateward Davis, of Sydney, Oculist and have been advised by him that I am permanently incapacitated from undergoing the course of study prescribed for candidates for the Holy Ministry owing to my defective eyesight.

That I have had a good general education and have passed the Junior University Examination.

That I have worked the Charge of Ardlethan from small beginnings to its present status of a sanctioned Charge.

That I am 42 years of age.

Your Petitioner therefore humbly prays that he may be ordained as a Minister of the Holy Gospel, either without examination or on such modified examination as the Venerable Assembly may see fit to prescribe.

And your Petitioner will ever pray.

Dated at Ardlethan this seventh day of April, 1920.

J. C. McLELLAND.

Approved by the Ardlethan Congregation and Committee of Management, 16th March, 1920, and by the Presbytery of the Murrumbidgee, 30th March, 1920. The Presbytery's resolution was as follows:—"That the Petition be favourably received, and that the Presbytery request that Mr. J. C. McLelland be allowed to enter the Hall as a first year student, exempt from the Entrance Examination, and from Greek and Hebrew."

On 28th April, 1920, the Ardlethan Congregation unanimously resolved "That this meeting heartily support the Petition of the Minister, Mr. J. C. McLelland, for ordination without examination or on a modified basis on account of his defective eyesight and the incapacity for protracted study occasioned thereby. That this meeting is convinced that its Minister possesses the spiritual, pastoral, intellectual, and educational qualifications necessary to qualify him for the privileges of the high calling of a fully ordained Minister of our Church."

This is to certify that on 19th May, 1920, the New South Wales General Assembly resolved to transmit Mr. McLelland's Petition to the General Assembly of Australia simpliciter.

JOHN BURGESS, Clerk of Assembly.

(8) The Petition of Robert John May, the undersigned respectfully sheweth :—

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

That I was born in Co. Derry, Ireland, 36 years ago, that I am a Presbyterian by birth and conviction. That at my birth I was given to God by my parents, and from my boyhood my great ambition has been that I might be a Minister of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

That I had a long serious illness which almost took away all hope that my great ambition would ever be fulfilled, as several doctors thought that my case was hopeless, and that I could not recover.

That after I had gained a little strength, and acting on medical advice, I came out to Australia almost seven years ago, and went to Queensland, where I spent over two years in the search for health.

That at last, by the Grace of God and a wonderful treatment which gave me relief in a great measure, I was enabled to enter the service of our Church in New South Wales, almost four years ago.

That since then I have supplied several charges proper, and have put my life and soul into the work, with what success I leave the attached letters to testify.

That I have a good general education, and have passed the highest standard of the National Schools of Ireland, and since then have read widely and studied with a view towards my goal. Have passed examinations in connection with Guild Classes, and gained over 80 per cent. marks in such subjects as "The Acts of the Apostles," and Stalker's "Life of Christ."

That I was entered as a student in the Home Mission Course for 1919, but could not sit the examination owing to the "flu." That I contracted the "flu." and had the serious chest complications so bad that my life was despaired of.

That I attended the Training Class in "St Andrew's" this year, and studied for and sat the examination in July, the results are not yet known to me.

That the strain of the intense study for examinations is more than I can bear, and tends to aggravate my old trouble so that I am compelled to come to the conclusion that I cannot continue the usual severe course of Training of Candidates for the Holy Ministry.

And I attach medical opinion and advice in this respect.

That your Venerable Assembly shall read and carefully consider in your heart: this my Petition. The several attached letters from different Charges wherein I have laboured. The attached medical certificate and my private personal letter.

That I do not want nor ask for pity, but I do plead for a Christ-like help and understanding.

That, after a pass in a modified examination without languages, your Venerable Assembly may in your Spirit-taught wisdom see fit to ordain me into the Holy Ministry of our Church.

I know that I am ordained of Christ. Amen.

And I, an humble follower of Jesus Christ, will ever pray.

Dated at Gilgandra this 16th day of August, 1920.

DOCUMENT: Private letter to the Assembly; Medical Certificate; Letter from Session Clerks, R. J. May, of Gilgandra, Cootamundra, Scone and Bland.

Presbytery of Orange,

18th August, 1920.

The Convener, Reception of Ministers Committee, Federal Assembly.

Dear Sir,—The enclosed Petition was laid on the table at our meeting of Presbytery to-day.

We decided to forward the Petition with a recommendation that the prayer thereof be granted.

Yours sincerely,

ALEX. SIMMS, Clerk.

Mr. May is at present Home Missionary at Gilgandra.

(9) **Rev. Harold G. Ford.**—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 Melbourne in the year 1884 ; is married and has one child.

That he passed through the ordinary State school education following on with tuition from private teachers. After being received by the Victorian Government to be trained in the engineering branches your Petitioner resigned to take up work in the Methodist Church as Home Missionary.

In the year 1913 he was received as a candidate into the Methodist Church.

He then did the prescribed course of examinations for Probationers of the Methodist Church obtaining honours in two years.

In addition to this he spent one year in King's College, Brisbane, under Rev. Scott Fletcher, M.A., B.Li.H.

He has been examined in and successfully passed the following subjects :—Church History, European History, Psychology, Apologetics, Homiletics, Ethics, Theology, Old and New Testaments, Exegesis, English Literature, New Testament, Greek, receiving special commendation for same from conference. Your Petitioner was ordained in February of this present year into the Ministry of the Methodist Church. He therefore prays your Venerable Court to receive him into the Ministry of the Presbyterian Church of Australia.

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

HAROLD GORDON FORD.

Rev. J. Edwards, M.A.

Dear Sir,—Since sending in my application for admission into the Presbyterian Church dated August, 1918, I would like to add the following to that application, viz. :—That I have done the whole of the second year Theological course in St. Andrew's Theological Hall. That I took all the subjects prescribed in the second year Exit Examination and passed with an average of 68 per cent. Also that I am now taking the third year course in the Hall.

Faithfully yours,

HAROLD G. FORD.

DOCUMENTS :—Certificates and letters from the Methodist Church. Letters from the Rev. John Matthew, the Rev. W. F. Craigie, the Rev. Mervyn Henderson.

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 10th August, 1920, the Presbytery resolved :—

“That the Petition of the Rev. Harold Gordon Ford be transmitted to the General Assembly with the recommendation that the prayer thereof be granted, subject to his passing the class and exit examinations of the second and third year, without Hebrew.”

Certified this 14th day of August, 1920, by me,

JOHN EDWARDS,

Clerk of the Presbytery of Sydney.

RETURNS TO REMIT.

I. BENEFICIARY FUNDS.—M. 44 ; B.B. 1918.

PRESBYTERIES APPROVING : Hunter, Hastings, Bathurst, Monaro, Richmond, Moree, Clarence, New England, Orange, Sydney, North Sydney, Wagga, Goulburn, Toowoomba, Townsville, Brisbane, Rockhampton, Hobart, Launceston, Midlands, Perth, Fremantle, Melbourne South, Melbourne North, Beechworth, Geelong, Goulburn Valley, Western Plains, Young, Hamilton, Macedon, Murrumbidgee.

PRESBYTERIES DISAPPROVING : Adelaide, Belalie, Gippsland.

ASSEMBLIES APPROVING : New South Wales, Tasmania, Queensland, Victoria.

ASSEMBLY DISAPPROVING : South Australia.

II. ADMINISTRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER.—p. 74, B.B. 1918.

PRESBYTERIES APPROVING : Hastings, Murrumbidgee, Monaro, Wagga, Goulburn (on condition that arrangements are made beforehand by Kirk Session), Toowoomba, Townsville, Brisbane, Rockhampton, Melbourne South (provided that missionaries be of at least three years standing and are ordained elders), Melbourne North (if prescribed form of service be used and due preparation of applicants), Beechworth, Adelaide, Belalie, Launceston, Gippsland, Geelong, Goulburn Valley, Ballarat, Hamilton, Macedon.

PRESBYTERIES DISAPPROVING : Hunter, Bathurst, Richmond, Moree, Clarence, New England, Orange, Sydney, North Sydney, Young, Hobart, Midlands, Perth, Fremantle, Western Plains.

ASSEMBLIES APPROVING : South Australia, Queensland.

ASSEMBLIES DISAPPROVING : New South Wales, Tasmania.

III. ADMISSION OF HOME MISSIONARIES : M. 126, B.B. 1918.

PRESBYTERIES APPROVING : Murrumbidgee, Monaro (clause 2), Moree, Clarence, New England, Sydney, North Sydney, Townsville, Rockhampton, Melbourne South (providing Committee have option regarding married men), Belalie (clause 2), Gippsland, (where approved by H.M. Committee), Goulburn Valley (clause 2), Western Plains, Macedon.

PRESBYTERIES DISAPPROVING : Hunter, Hastings, Bathurst, Orange, Monaro (clause 1), Wagga, Goulburn, Young, Toowoomba, Brisbane, Hobart, Perth, Fremantle, Melbourne North, Beechworth, Adelaide, Belalie (clause 1), Launceston, Geelong, Goulburn Valley (clause 1), Ballarat, Midlands, Hamilton.

ASSEMBLY APPROVING : New South Wales.

ASSEMBLIES DISAPPROVING : South Australia, Tasmania, Queensland, Western Australia.

REPORTS.

I—REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON AUSTRALIAN BENEFICIARY FUNDS.

At the close of the General Assembly of 1918 it had become clear that, to secure definite advance, the controlling bodies of our Church Beneficiary Funds in the different States of the Commonwealth should be requested to determine their position in reference to several important matters connected with the foundation of the Australian Fund. The field of provident assurance for our Ministers in New South Wales, Victoria (including in this connection Tasmania) South Australia and Queensland is already occupied by agencies of the Church in those States. In New South Wales pensions are provided for Aged and Infirm Ministers through a fund under the control of the Assembly, and for the widows and orphans of Ministers, by an optional fund associated with the Church, but not directly subject to the Assembly.* In Victoria there are two Assembly Funds, one providing for Aged and Infirm Ministers, the other for the Widows and Orphans of Ministers. In South Australia there is a small but efficient provident fund covering both forms of benefit. The Queensland Church has a recently established Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund (1st January, 1918), which had at date of its last Report 24 contributors. It is protected by its Rules from claims during the first seven years of existence, has received a donation of £1,500, and is endeavouring to raise the capital to £10,000 by voluntary gifts. With these State funds drawing on the Ministerial membership, and on the bounty of the Presbyterian people in the States mentioned, it was essential to the satisfactory establishment of an Australian Fund that an earnest endeavour should be made to bring about a definite understanding with their managers. Civil Governments with their taxing powers can act independently, as when the Federal Government established its Savings Bank Department beside the older State Institutions, and gained a large share of the public custom. The Church is dependent on voluntary contributions, and has no resources enabling it to adopt such a policy, even if it were desirable, whereas it is generally admitted that the duplication of Church agencies covering the same field is to be avoided as far as possible. Accordingly, the Convener, with the approval of the Committee, in October, 1918, issued a circular

*For particulars of its constitution, see this Committee's Report for 1916, A.B.B. 1916, p.153.

submitting questions to the Committees controlling the existing funds. The more important of these questions are set out below. In the case of New South Wales Widows' and Orphans' Fund, the questions, though the same in substance, were expressed with slight differences, so as to meet the special circumstances of the fund.

QUESTIONS.

"In the event of the General Assembly of Australia making or securing financial provision for the benefit of Aged and Infirm Ministers of the Presbyterian Church of Australia and the Widows and Orphans of Ministers under a scheme based upon actuarial advice.

"(a) Would the Church controlling your fund be prepared to discontinue the same as regards new entrants, while conserving the rights of existing members and beneficiaries so that Ministers of the Church under the jurisdiction of your State Assembly might thereafter be required to join the General Assemblies Australian Scheme ?

"(b) If the answer to question (a) is No, would the Church controlling your fund be prepared to enter into negotiations with the representatives of the General Assembly of Australia with the definite object in view of a Union of your fund with a fund or funds to be established by the General Assembly of Australia ?

"(Such a Union would necessarily require to be carried out under actuarial and legal advice and would probably involve a transfer of assets and liabilities the rights of members and beneficiaries at the time of Transfer to be properly conserved.)"

Dealing with the answers to these questions we find there are two funds, the management of which have expressed their willingness to discontinue operations as regards new entrants, viz. the South Australian Provident Fund and the Queensland Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund. As the membership of the former is very small and at the last valuation (1914) there was a surplus of £636 this would not be very difficult. The Reverend W. Gray who communicated the decision of the Committee states:—"Our fund would work itself out in time, but it would require an Act of Parliament or an application to the Court to dispose of the capital remaining." The Secretary of the Queensland Funds (Reverend W. C. Radcliffe) reports that his Church "would gladly discontinue its fund as regards new entrants and conserve the rights of existing members if an Australian Fund were established." He adds that "the Queensland Church may be regarded as willing to do anything to promote the beneficiary interest of Ministers." The effect of the discontinuance of these funds would be to conserve the benefits of all present and prospective beneficiaries, while making available the South Australian and Queensland Ministers of the future as contributors to the Australian Fund. The Victorian Church has declined to discontinue its existing funds as regards new entrants, but is prepared to negotiate with this Committee for amalgamation as mentioned in question (b) provided "all States that have funds are willing to unite." Neither of the New South Wales Managing Committees has specifically answered the questions but it is known to this Committee that negotiations have been proceeding for several years to bring about the union of the two local funds. Some responsible officers of the Church in New South Wales have expressed the opinion that this Union should precede the formation of an Australian Fund, but so far as the Convener knows there has been no definite determination on the subject. Much earnest thought is being devoted to the matter of local union of funds in New South Wales and its bearing on the position of the movement for an Australian Fund will be carefully considered by this Committee before presenting its report to the Assembly.

Reviewing the results of the despatch of our circular it will be seen that definite progress has been made in arriving at an understanding with the management of the existing funds, whether there will be a further immediate advance after the Assembly depends for the time being on the progress of our negotiations in New South Wales.

An interesting suggestion made by a member of the last Assembly has received attention from the Committee. He submitted that an Australian Beneficiary Fund could be conducted most effectively by arrangement with some leading life assurance office—the Minister and the Church (on behalf of itself its congregations and other agencies) providing the premium for the proposed benefit in equal shares. A simple scheme of this kind has been adopted in connection with the Presbyterian Ladies College, Melbourne, the Council of which offers "full time" teachers a plan of assurance by way of endowment policies, the premiums being paid equally by the Council and teacher. Such a scheme is suited to a case where the number of contributors is small, but we are advised that where a membership of 100 contributors is available the advantages of an internal Church provident fund are likely to outweigh those of an assurance company contract scheme. The ratio of expenses to revenue, in the case of a well conducted church fund, should be lower owing to the honorary superintendence, the absence of expenses for canvassing, and the small amount of advertising required. In Victoria, for instance, the

Another addition to our mission is one who like Mr. Love is well known to the Church, for he has already rendered it good service. Mr. Norman A. Paull helped in the opening of the mission at Mornington Island. Like the other new men he heard his country's call and was wounded. He was taking a course of vocational training, but when the news of the murder of Mr. Hall arrived he stepped into the breach, and was soon on his way back to Mornington Island. His appointment there was only of a temporary nature, and when Mr. and Mrs. R. H. Wilson arrived he returned to Melbourne. Failing to obtain a Clerical Superintendent for Port George IV. our thoughts turned to Mr. Paull, with the result that he is now colleague to Mr. Beard there. Still another addition to our staff is that of Mr. Malcolm Holmes who is now assistant to his father at Aurukun.

Mr. and Mrs. Holmes and their work are well known to the Church. When called upon they willingly released Mr. and Mrs. Dyer, that they might go to the help of the Halls at Weipa, and now Mr. Holmes is at Mornington Island relieving Mr. and Mrs. Wilson who required to pay a visit to Burketown.

The remaining members of the mission staff are Mr. and Mrs. Dyer, who willingly responded to the Board's call to go first to the help of the Halls and when owing to the Heys leaving it was necessary that there should be a European lady at Mapoon to take charge of the native women there they obeyed the call made upon them. Now that the MacCormacks are at Mapoon they have willingly returned to Weipa, where they are rendering most efficient service. We cannot speak too highly of their devotion and self denial.

Owing to strikes and the influenza epidemic the movements of our Agents who were on furlough, and those who were proceeding to take up work in the mission field has been attended with considerable difficulty, but it has only tended to bring into clearer relief their grit and resourcefulness. Mrs. Dyer who was spending part of her furlough at Broken Hill, being unable to secure a passage round to Sydney by sea, made the journey overland to Sydney, so that she might be on the spot to take advantage of any opportunity that might present itself there, and Mr. Holmes in his endeavour to get back to his work spent 5 weeks in quarantine, and yet, as he put it did not take the influenza.

It seems fitting whilst referring to the mission workers to notice the death of the Rev. J. B. Weir of Epi, New Hebrides. As fitting tributes to his memory are paid elsewhere in our Report it is perhaps sufficient to say that he was a man of a deeply religious nature, brave and self sacrificing; in the words of the closing paragraph of the New Hebrides Mission Synod's Minute regarding him:—"He possessed in a remarkable degree the gifts and qualifications of the missionary, and all these gifts he laid on the altar."

GENERAL.—It is with great regret that the Board has to report the death of one of its members, the Rev. W. S. Rolland, who for many years rendered most valuable service. Mr. Rolland was interested in Missions from his earliest years, and did much in a variety of ways to further the cause he had so much at heart. The lugger at Port George which bears his name is a visible token of his interest and endeavour to help forward the work of the mission, and promote the comfort of the missionaries.

Mr. Birtchnell another member of the Board has felt it necessary to resign his seat and the Board has, whilst accepting his resignation with great regret assured him of its appreciation of his long and much valued service.

Shortly after the Assembly met in 1918 the Board received Dr. Mott's reply to its communication regarding our Church's share of responsibility in the evangelization of non-christian lands, and facilities offered by the educational policy of China to thoroughly qualified teachers of all branches of higher education, Dr. Mott, in his reply states that "The most satisfactory results will be obtained if you send a deputation or deputations to the various fields in which you are specially interested," He also says, "It is of transcendent importance that well equipped Christians shall enter this door (i.e. the open door in China) through various paths so as to be in a position to dominate the situation, and thus to determine the ideals and plans for this most plastic and momentous period in life of China."

FRASER SCHOLARSHIPS.—These have been more fully taken advantage of during the past two years than formerly. Scholarships were granted to Mr. J. R. B. Love, now in Mapoon, to Miss Edith Kerr, now about to leave for Korea, to Miss Simpson, to Mr. W. F. Mackenzie, and to Mr. John W. P. Gillan, both sons of New Hebrides Missionaries, to Mr. E. David Pearson, and to Mr. Henry Roy Pearson, both of New South Wales. Mr. Collins, having failed to matriculate, has taken up Home Mission Work for a time, and Mr. W. F. Mackenzie having obtained a Manson Bursary, both have demitted their Scholarships.

STATIONS.—Interesting Reports have been received from all the Mission Stations, but the exigencies of space, and the cost of printing preclude their being incorporated in this Report. As far as possible they will appear in the Official Organs of the various States. We can only in what follows indicate the salient facts at the different Stations.

PORT GEORGE IV.—We are thankful to be able to report that the mission buildings at this station have now been completed as far as seems necessary, and the missionaries express themselves as thoroughly satisfied with the accommodation provided. Some alterations have been made in the older buildings which will add to the comfort of any married couple who may be sent there.

The engine also has been installed in the "Rolland" so that the voyages between Broome and Port George IV. should be made with greater regularity and with much more comfort than formerly.

Mr. Beard and Mr. Paull who are now in charge there have been re-arranging the working of the station by which it is hoped the objects of the mission will be better served, and at the same time the heavy working expenses reduced. They find the ground previously taken in too limited for economical working, and with the approval of the Board are taking in more which they hope to have ready for cultivation by the beginning of next season.

When Mr. Paull went to Port George IV. realising that both he and Mr. Beard were in the position of Assistants, and that friction might arise if their respective duties were not clearly defined, a statement was drawn up assigning to each the portion of the work for which the Board would hold him responsible. Mr. Paull agreed to this, but after his arrival in the field, and on consultation with Mr. Beard they mutually agreed to a re-arrangement of their respective duties. This new arrangement seems very satisfactory to both as their work is that for which they are specially fitted.

At times a large number of natives—about 200 are camped around the station. Native quarrels add considerably to the work of the missionaries, as they have to attend to the wounded.

The Western Australian Government as in the past, makes a per capita grant of £5 p.a. for sick and indigent natives and children, and Mr. Turton, Convener of the Western Australia Committee writes appreciatively of the satisfactory returns the missionaries have been able to send of late.

In Northern Queensland the work is being carried on at all the stations, although except in the case of Aurukun the workers are different.

MORNINGTON ISLAND.—On this Island consecrated by the blood of our missionary martyr Mr. and Mrs. R. H. Wilson took up their residence shortly after last Assembly, and have been doing their best to teach and train the natives. Their position is an isolated one, as few boats call at the Island. A whaleboat is wanted to enable them to communicate with the mainland should necessity arise during the absence of the "Morning Star." They believed also that it would be of great use in getting bech-de-mer, and in providing themselves and the natives with food. One is being built at Brisbane.

AURUKUN.—Mr. Holmes still carries on the work here in a most efficient manner. As Mr. and Mrs. Dyer were needed elsewhere, the Board appointed his son Malcolm as his assistant. During the past year the work of the mission has been greatly interfered with by the drought. The supply of water about the station completely failed, and it was necessary to send away the natives from the station till rain came.

Mr. Holmes has been appealing for some time for a lugger and a quantity of wire fencing. The former principally for the use of the natives for fishing, and the latter to form a paddock for cattle. Permission to procure both has been granted.

Mr. Holmes reports that the Church attendances have been increasing and he sees a great change in the lives of many of the people, not just all he would like, but what he believes, to be the dawn of better days for them.

WEIPA.—Since last Report the Board had brought under its notice the suitability of Weipa as a site of a Medical Hospital. In the Report of his visit to the Stations in the Gulf the Rev. M. Kirke urged its claims, and Mr. Holmes when in Melbourne supported the scheme. The Board made many enquiries on the subject and it was brought under the notice of the Queensland Government which at first seemed sympathetic, but so far has not been prepared to give any pecuniary help. As the Hospital would have been a great boon to the men working on the Government Stations it was hoped that it would have responded to our appeal. The Board is still keeping the matter in view.

Owing to the state of Mrs. Hall's health very little has been done at this station for some time. Mr. Bousfield who has been appointed Assistant-in-charge is a man of abounding energy and although but recently settled has been making things move. He is ably supported by Mr. Dyer, and if able to carry out his plans we should be in a position to make such a Report at a future date as would cheer the hearts of the Assembly.

MAPOON.—The work at Mapoon goes steadily forward. Mr. Love on taking charge wrote most appreciatively of the work of his predecessors. The Sabbath and Week-day meetings are well attended.

Rev. W. H. Steele, calculated that in 1918 the administration of the existing funds represented in one case, 4.1 per cent. and in the other, 4.3 per cent. of the revenue. Further, greater elasticity in administration may be looked for in the case of the church fund. When revenue falls short of expectations, benefits may be reduced, but usually, in an arrangement with an assurance company, the contract would be for payment of a fixed premium annually, and the Church would have to meet the payment. Also, the acquisition of a pension for a contributor who becomes permanently incapacitated before the annuity age is not easy to provide for in an annuity contract. Notwithstanding these disadvantages, when the membership is too small, for the proper operation of the law of averages, the assurance company scheme has compensating advantages.

Regarding the necessary amendment of the Articles of Agreement contained in the Church's Deed of Union set forth in the Overture submitted on this subject to the last Assembly and duly sustained, the complete returns to the Remit are not available at the date of this report, but it is understood that the amendment has received the requisite majorities of State Assemblies and Presbyteries so that the establishment of a fund will no longer be beyond the Assembly's legal powers. The authority conferred is broad enough to cover either an independent church fund or an assurance office contract scheme.

In connection with Missionaries, it is expected that with the establishment of the Australian Fund all Ordained Missionaries, not otherwise provided for, will join it, and in time the whole staff of Ordained Missionaries will be connected with it. The Question arises as to the position of non-ordained missionaries. Rev. T. Watt Leggatt has informed the Convener that there are five non-ordained men working among the aborigines who are not entitled to the benefits of any of the State funds. The Committee invites an instruction from the Assembly regarding the matter of the inclusion of non-ordained missionary workers in the Australian scheme, and if such a course is involved in the Assembly's decision, will note the matter for further consideration and legislative treatment.

With a view to developing interest in the movement for an Australian Fund the following statements of working principles prepared by the Convener may be found useful:—

(1) Benefits for (a) Aged and Infirm Ministers (b) Widows, and (c) Orphans of Ministers, should be included in the scheme. If it is impracticable to provide all these forms of benefit, preference should be given in the order named.

(2) All branches of benefit should be included under the one principal administrative authority.

(3) Contributions to the fund should be compulsory on all Ministers commencing duty under a prescribed age (say 50) not already connected with approved Church provident funds.

(4) Ministers over the prescribed age and below some higher prescribed age (say 55) to be allowed to join the fund with proper safeguards as regards increased contributions enabling the Minister "to buy his status" in the fund.

(5) The right should be reserved to the administrative authority to be satisfied as regards the condition of health of the contributor at the time of connection with the fund. The strictness of practice of administrative authority would depend on various factors, on which expert advice is now being obtained.

(6) The principle of the parity of Ministers to be accepted as regards their pension benefits, and if any grading is admitted at all "it should be according to years of service in the Presbyterian Ministry and not according to salary" (U.S. Official report 1920).

(7) As regards pensions to Widows' and Orphans' the number of children under a prescribed age (probably 16 or 18 years) may fairly be taken into account in fixing the benefits.

(8) The Minister his Widow and Orphans' should be entitled to benefits at least double what his personal contribution covers. The balance to be provided by (a) prescribed regular contributions by the Church whether through Congregations or other agencies (b) endowments collections, interest on investments, gifts and legacies, etc.

(9) The scale of contribution should be computed by an actuary and there should be regular periodical actuarial valuations at intervals of, say 5 years.

Until the negotiations with the various State Committees are more advanced the preparation of an outline set of rules has been deferred, but careful attention is being given to the scale of benefits with a view to the submission of a statement to the Assembly.

The Committee desires to thank Mr. A. M. Laughton, F.I.A., F.F.A., F.S.S., Government Statist of Victoria for professional assistance kindly given to the Convener. Mr. Laughton is willing to act as a member of the Committee provided he is not called on to carry out Executive duties. The Committee recommends that he be included in it.

The Committee urges the sympathetic consideration of the whole Church throughout Australia for the attainment of the beneficent purpose which it is endeavouring to secure. Members and Adherents in dealing with this matter are asked to study it and work for

it in a broad Australian spirit and to recognise especially the disability of the faithful Minister labouring for the benefit of his people in distant parts of the Commonwealth where the organisation of our Church is weak.

Dated the 26th day of August, 1920

For the Committee,

A. G. PROUDFOOT,

Convener.

II—BOARD OF MISSIONS.

In submitting its Report for the last two years the Board would express its gratitude to God for the great measure of health enjoyed by the Missionaries, His protecting care over them during the serious influenza epidemic, the travelling mercies granted them, and the measure of success vouchsafed to them in their work.

We report with very great regret the retirement of the Rev. N. and Mrs. Hey, owing to failing health, from the work at Mapoon, where they had laboured devotedly and with signal success for 28 years; the retirement also of Mr. and Mrs. R. Percival Hall from Weipa owing to Mrs. Hall's health being unable to stand the stress and strain of the work, after a very short period of service; and that also of the Rev. W. J. S. and Mrs. Rankine from Port George IV. for a similar reason, and after a like very brief period of service. Mr. and Mrs. Rankine had taken up the work at Port George IV. when Mr. and Mrs. R. H. Wilson felt compelled to resign in 1918, and it was hoped that they would be able to stay until the mission houses which were in course of construction were completed. This they were unable to do, but they managed to remain till Mr. George Beard had arrived in the field, and had got fairly into touch with the work.

By the retirement of the Rev. N. and Mrs. Hey, and their daughter Ina, who had been associated with them in the work for over a year, the last link in the connection of our Mission in the Gulf of Carpentaria with the Moravian Board of Missions has been severed, an event which cannot be allowed to pass without an expression of our indebtedness to that noble band of men for the help they gave in the establishment of our Mission in that region.

When the news reached the Board that the three families above referred to were desirous of being relieved the outlook did not seem at all bright as previous appeals for workers had not met with the response desired. The dark cloud however soon began to pass away. Our hearts were cheered by offers of service, and it was apparent that the work was to go on uninterruptedly at all the different stations, which are now being worked by a band of devoted men and women from whose labours we expect great results.

STAFF.—Regarding Mr. J. R. B. Love, who is now Superintendent at Mapoon, it is unnecessary to say much. His whole-hearted desire to benefit the aboriginals, his travels with that end in view in the interior of Australia, his filling a temporary vacancy at Port George IV., and his distinguished war service are all well-known to the Church. It was with great thankfulness to God that the Board received his offer of service, in which he stated his readiness to go wherever his services were most needed, and so, whilst he would have preferred to work among a purely heathen and aboriginal people, desiring like the Apostle Paul not to build on another man's foundation, but to preach the Gospel to those who had not already heard it, he willingly agreed to take up the work at Mapoon.

In the work at Mapoon he is assisted by Mr. and Mrs. MacCormack, of whose fidelity and devotedness he speaks very highly. Mr. Robert Miller MacCormack had been in business. In his spare time he engaged in evangelistic work in Melbourne, and cherished the desire to be engaged more fully in it. His wife to whom he was married on the eve of his departure for the mission field having the same desire had been in training for such work at the Rev. Lockhart Morton's College in Adelaide.

Other new workers are Mr. and Mrs. Bousfield, who have been appointed to Weipa. Mr. Bousfield is a graduate of Caius College, Cambridge University, England, and is a man of high ideals, he has had a very varied experience, having engaged in mission work among the Indians in the North-West of Canada, and gained farming experience at Darwin, in Australia. Like Mr. Love he heard the call of Empire and did his bit. Returning to Australia he came into contact with both the Rev. Fredk. and the Rev. Frank Paton, with the result that he offered his services which were accepted by the Board. His wife belongs to an old Brisbane family, and has a Diploma of Music. Mr. Bousfield has now tendered his resignation.

Still other new workers are Mr. and Mrs. George Beard. Mr. Beard has also had A.L.F. service. He had been on the land and is a brother of Mrs. Watson wife of our Missionary in Korea. Both are imbued with a real missionary spirit and are carrying on their work with great zeal.

Both the "J. G. Ward" and the "Namaleta" needed repairs which have been done. The "J. G. Ward" has been re-coppered, and is now again really fit for service. Mr. Love, feeling that the "Namaleta" would be of more use at Weipa than it was at Mapoon, asked the consent of the Board to transfer it there. This was granted.

FINANCE.—As ordered by last Assembly the Assessment was reduced as from October 1st, 1919, and has been paid in full by all the Churches (except W.A.), but it has not been sufficient to meet expenditure, so that the year which began with a credit balance of £1,870 13s. 5d., closed with a debit balance of £49 9s. 5d. The expenditures have been exceedingly heavy so much so that all our available balances have been absorbed, and the Board has been unable to carry out the Assembly's direction as to repaying the unexpended balances of Messrs. Brown and Richter's salaries to the Churches, as to have done so would only have made it necessary to make fresh demands on them to make up the deficiency. This has been brought about by various causes, one of which is that all our stations are now efficiently manned, which in itself is a matter for thankfulness. This however involved heavy expenditure, owing to the difficulties connected with travelling caused by strikes and the influenza epidemic. The high cost of living necessitated bonuses being granted to our missionaries at Port George IV. and Morningson Island. There have also been unforeseen outlays in the providing of boats, upkeep of stations, extra ration grants, and the excessive cost of material and labour involved in forwarding and erecting the house at Port George IV. The cost of erecting the house there was more than double what it would have been earlier, but that could not be foreseen. That heavy outlay is now done, and we need anticipate nothing in the future, but the ordinary apportionment for maintenance.

We were fortunate in securing a very fine couple for Port George IV. in Mr. and Mrs. George Beard; but as Mr. and Mrs. Beard had to leave four of their children, dependent on them, in Victoria, the Board was under the necessity of making an allowance towards their maintenance. This however has not exceeded the salary paid to their predecessor.

The installation of the motor engine in the "W. S. Rolland," and the necessity of employing a white captain have also involved extra expense, but the missionaries with the aid of Mr. H. L. Richardson of Broome are doing their utmost to reduce expenditure, and express the hope that they will be able at an early date to make the mission self-supporting.

The whole expenditure at Port George IV. is practically borne by the Board, as the West Australian Government only makes provision for the sick and indigent, and such children as are not otherwise provided for.

Mr. Holmes' salary as directed by the Assembly was increased to £200, and his son Malcolm was appointed his Assistant at a salary of £100.

As Mr. and Mrs. Wilson have no white assistance the Board provided them with the best procurable native help.

The Board would bring under the notice of the Assembly the necessity of increasing the salaries of its missionaries, as the present salaries were fixed at a time when living was not nearly so expensive as it is at the present day. The Board would recommend that:—

- (1) Mr. Love's salary be £240 p.a.
- (2) Mr. and Mrs. Bousfield's salary be £210 p.a.
- (3) Mr. and Mrs. Beard's salary be £240 p.a.
- (4) Mr. Hey's annuity from the Moravian Board be supplemented by £12 bringing it up to £100 p.a.
- (5) The Secretary of the Board be granted an honorarium of £20 p.a.

The Board also approves of the recommendations of the Queensland Executive, viz. :—

- (1) That the minimum salary paid to school teachers should be increased from £100 to £125 p.a.
- (2) That in harmony with the suggested increase to teachers there should also be an increase of £25 in the salaries paid to Assistants.

The Nathaniel Lyle bequest realised a sum of £952 10s. and was distributed to the various States on the basis of the Foreign Mission Revenue.

A further sum of £561 9s. 1d. was received and paid to the widow of the late Rev. Robert Hall.

The present position is—

LIABILITIES.

Rev. A. Richter	...	...	...	...	...	£230	0	0
Pensions	...	...	...	...	...	120	4	9
John Fraser Schp. Fd.	...	...	...	...	...	84	7	6

£434 12 3

ASSETS.				
Balance in Bank	...	...	...	£59 15 2
Salary Overpaid	...	...	...	75 0 0
Balance due from W.A.	...	...	...	250 7 8
				385 2 10
			Deficiency	£49 9 5

The estimate for the year beginning on 1st October is:—

Salaries	...	...	...	...	£1660 0 0
Wages of Boatmen and Repairs, Boats	...	...	...	...	462 0 0
Port George IV. Boat and Station Expenses	...	...	...	...	400 0 0
Fares and Freights	...	...	...	...	210 0 0
Printing, Postages, Drafts Victorian Office and W.A. Agency	...	...	...	...	130 0 0
Upkeep of Stations	...	...	...	...	100 0 0
General	...	...	...	...	150 0 0
Rev. N. Hey's Supplement	...	...	...	...	12 0 0
Secretary's Honorarian	...	...	...	...	20 0 0
					£3144 0 0

This amount is divided among the States as under:—

Victoria	...	...	...	...	£1430 0 0
New South Wales	...	...	...	...	925 0 0
Queensland	...	...	...	...	421 0 0
Western Australia	...	...	...	...	158 0 0
South Australia	...	...	...	...	120 0 0
Tasmania	...	...	...	...	84 0 0
					£3144 0 0

By the Assembly's direction a meeting of the Full Board was held in September 1919, which two members of the New South Wales Committee attended. As the Board's Secretary keeps the members in intimate touch with all that is done by the Executive in Melbourne by sending them full copies of all the Minutes, and as nothing of great importance would be undertaken without their being advised before hand, it does not seem necessary to incur in future the heavy expenditure such a meeting involves.

The Board recommends the Assembly to direct that the Fraser Bequest Capital Fund be realised and re-invested at a higher rate of interest.

The Board is gratified to learn that the Queensland Government has increased its grant to the three Stations at Weipa, Aurukun and Mornington Island from £300 to £500 p.a. and approves of the principle on which the Queensland Executive proposes to act in utilising the additional sum available.

The thanks of the Board are given to the Auditor, the Office Staffs in Sydney and Melbourne, and to the Executives in Brisbane and Perth.

Signed for the Board by direction,

W. FRASER, Convener.

W. WATT, Secretary.

STATE COMMITTEES' REPORTS.

VICTORIA.

The Victorian Church acknowledges the good hand of God upon the Church's missionary operations. In spite of many serious obstacles, good progress has been made in all fields. Many of these obstacles have arisen from causes beyond our control, but one of the most serious hindrances to the development of our work abroad has been the lack of adequate support at the Home base, resulting in insufficient equipment, and the understaffing of our fields. This has meant that the missionaries have had an altogether preventable strain put upon them during the year.

The death of the Rev. W. S. Rolland and Mr. W. L. Mollison were a deep sorrow and great loss to the Foreign Missions Committee as well as the Board of Missions.

Through resignation our Church has lost the Rev. Dr. Ewen and Mrs. Mackenzie and Nurses Swyer, Hope and Turner from the New Hebrides also the Rev. J. T. and Mrs.

Kelly with Miss Moore and Miss Eberey from Korea. These are all valued workers and have been a serious loss to the fields. In addition to that, although he has not yet left the field, the Committee has accepted with very deep regret the resignation of Dr. T. W. Hoggarth from Villa Hospital, New Hebrides. No fresh workers have been obtained to take the places of Dr. Mackenzie and Mr. Kelly; the P.W.M.U. has been able to secure new missionaries in the place of their workers and we are deeply thankful to report that new nurses have been secured for the New Hebrides and Dr. Hoggarth's place will be filled in the month of November by Dr. Vernon Davies who at one time held the Fraser Scholarship of the Board of Missions. Dr. Davies has seen service in France in the A.I.F. Miss Pye who worked among the Chinese women and children in Melbourne has demitted her charge after 26 years service. Her place has been taken by Miss Sears who has already established herself in the esteem of her people. Our Committee also shares the regret of the whole Church in the retirement of Rev. N. and Mrs. Hey from Mapoon and rejoices in the appointment of Mr. J. R. B. Love in his place. The Church was well served and gratefully thanks its Missionaries on furlough for their effective deputation work. We rejoice especially in the return of the Rev. F. J. Paton and Dr. C. I. McLaren as well as Rev. F. H. L. Paton from War Service. It was a great regret to us that soon after Mr. Paton returned he had to undergo a grave operation from which by the mercy of God he is now recovered. At last Assembly it was decided that there should be two permanent Secretaries and the Rev. T. W. Leggatt who had acted in Mr. Paton's absence, has been appointed as Joint Secretary until May, 1921.

During the year there has been an effort in conference with the P.W.M.U. towards more effective organisation of the methods of raising Foreign Mission Funds in Congregations and Presbyteries. In order to inform the Churches as to the need of Foreign Missions a Campaign of Education was organised during the latter half of 1919 and during that time Mr. W. J. Griffiths of Geelong suggested that 4,000 Presbyterians should give £1 each to wipe out the debt and provide a nucleus for future work. With the able help of Mr. J. M. Carroll of Melbourne over £1,000 has come from this source. Another effort was the organisation of a Missionary Exhibition with the double purpose of educating the people and increasing Foreign Mission Funds. The P.W.M.U. kindly offered to undertake the sole responsibility for the organisation. An Exhibition Committee was set up of which Mr. Leggatt was Convener and Mr. Clarke and Miss Leighton the Secretaries. The "Kirk at Work" Exhibition was the outcome and was held in the Town Hall, Melbourne, from April 22nd to 28th. It was a splendid success and its financial results brought in £1,000 to the Foreign Mission Funds and £500 to the P.W.M.U.

Another interesting development is that the Church schools are taking a definite share in Foreign Missions. The Presbyterian Ladies' College along with an anonymous donor who has contributed £100 a year since she went out, have undertaken the support of a former teacher, Miss Menie Campbell. The other Girls' Schools support a nurse at Villa and the Boys' Schools have undertaken the support of Mr. J. R. B. Love. It is hoped in this way to educate the young people to take a growing share in the work of extending the work of the Church abroad.

Owing to the enormous rise in the cost of living due to the war, the Commission of Assembly granted our missionaries in Korea a bonus of 30 per cent. on their salaries and allowances, and to our missionaries in the New Hebrides a bonus of £10 for each child under 18, which has lifted a great burden of strain and anxiety from our missionaries. The loss on exchange has also been made up to our Korean missionaries. The definite settlement of their salaries as well as the proposal to shorten the terms of service between furlough has been remitted to Mr. Paton to discuss with the Local Mission Council in Korea. The Committee is also dealing with the New Hebrides salaries and allowances.

In response to a request from the Local Mission Council, the P.W.M.U. have sent out Miss Campbell as a delegate to Korea and Mr. Paton has gone as Foreign Missions Representative. It was unfortunate that they could not be together in Korea, but, notwithstanding, great good will be established by their visit.

The great development of Foreign Missions and the failure of the Church to keep pace with the growth financially pressed very heavily upon the Rev. F. H. L. Paton who at the beginning of the year placed his resignation in the hands of the Committee that the Assembly might have a free hand in reorganising the Foreign Missions Office work. After conference and re-arrangement of the duties, at the earnest desire of the General Assembly, Mr. Paton consented to withdraw his resignation to the great joy of the whole Church. He expects to return from his visit to Korea about Christmas time.

By direction of the Assembly a strong Committee of business men has been set up who are dealing with the re-organisation of the financial side of the Committee's work. Their plan is to have representatives appointed in each congregation and Presbyteries, who will disseminate information and stimulate liberality in close co-operation with the Budget Scheme.

Our thanks, as in the past, are due to the women's organisations, the Senior Girls and Young People's Mission Bands, the Fellowship and all others who have given time

and thought and heart service. The Ormond College students too have maintained their interest in the work of Missions by the support of native assistance at Mapoon.

Another innovation has been the appointment of Representatives of the P.W.M.U. upon the Foreign Missions Executive which is an important step towards the unification of our Foreign Missions administration which is so desirable.

As our share in the work among the Aborigines is fully set forth in the Board of Missions Report. Nothing need be said, of that save that our Church rejoices in the enthusiasm and fruitful labours of our Missionaries.

The work among the Chinese is steadily carried on in the various places, and by arrangement with the Foreign Missions Committee of N.S.W. our Catechist at Beechworth will visit the Chinese resident in Albury.

In the New Hebrides there is still a great shortage of workers but it is gratifying to find that at its last meeting the Synod was so impressed with the faithfulness, devotion and ability of some teachers who had already served for many years that they have recommended these to be ordained to the native pastorate, the people of their districts undertaking their full support. These are Soppi at Villa, Judah at Malekula and Winzi at Malo. We still require a medical missionary for Tanna and there are also vacant stations on Malekula and Santo. Our Committee would rejoice greatly if Mr. A. K. Langridge, the devoted Secretary of the John G. Paton Fund could see his way to visiting the New Hebrides as desired by Synod.

In Korea the political situation appears to be easing. There are indications that the Japanese are in earnest in seeking to bring about reforms.

The business firm which supports Dr. McLaren at Chinju, and has made various generous contributions to our work in Korea, has made a further donation to enable us to bring our hospital thoroughly up-to-date in arrangements and equipment, and is also presenting the hospital with a motor car. In view of these generous gifts your Committee favourably considered the suggestion of Dr. McLaren that two out-station clinics should be opened in connection with the hospital at Chinju, and has remitted this, along with the proposal of Dr. Avison that Dr. McLaren should be set entirely free for teaching work at Severance Union Medical College in Seoul to Mr. Paton in consultation with the Local Mission Council.

The reports from Korea are buoyant in spirit, and reveal a widespread conviction that we are on the eve of great things. Along with that there is a keen sense of the calamitous effect of the failure of our Church to send out the reinforcements so urgently needed. Indeed, we are not even able to replace the men who have been compelled to resign.

The Budget Scheme is beginning to operate helpfully; the Congregational givings last year were increased by about £1,300. The Committee has suggested a number of ways in which our finances and work can be put on a more satisfactory basis among which are the following :—

1. A much closer co-ordination of P.W.M.U. and F.M. efforts.
2. The rapid and complete organisation of the Budget system throughout the Church.
3. The more earnest pushing of the circulation of the "Presbyterian".
4. The appointment of a Financial Committee of men with a layman as Treasurer.
5. The appointment in each congregation of a small Missionary Committee, whose Convener should be Foreign Mission Correspondent.
6. The Assessment of Congregations according to the number of members and revenue.
7. The issue of Mission Boxes.
8. The repetition of the "Kirk at Work" Exhibition in the principal centres of the State.
9. Continuance in earnest and unceasing intercession.

TASMANIA.

The outstanding features of our work on Epi are represented by the death of our late missionary, Rev. J. B. Weir, and the return of the Rev. R. M. Fraser to his former field, for temporary supervision.

By the death of the Rev. J. B. Weir the Mission Field has suffered a loss that it will be very hard to make good.

Mr. Weir's faithful and effective service, together with his noble Christian character had won for him a high place in the esteem of the European residents of the New Hebrides, as well as of his own people. This was shown by the magnificent contributions of the settlers towards the fund for educating the Missionary's children.

The Rev. R. M. Fraser is expected to return at the end of the year, after which the field will again be vacant, and the Committee anxiously inquiring for a successor.

In this connection the thanks of the Church are due to the Rev. Maurice Frater for his able supervision of our Field in times of vacancy.

J. HEYER, Convener.

Abridged Statement of Receipts and Expenditure for two years ending March 31st, 1920.

RECEIPTS.							
To Balance	...	...	...	...	...	...	£18 5 4
Contributions, 1918-1919	...	...	...	...	...	...	499 19 8
Contributions, 1919-1920	...	...	...	...	...	...	456 2 3
							£974 7 3
DISBURSEMENTS.							
To New Hebrides Board of Missions, 1918-1919	...	...	...	...	...	...	£481 6 4
1919-20	...	...	...	...	...	...	483 5 5
							964 11 9
Balance	...	...	...	...	...	...	9 15 6
							£974 7
Liability to Maritime Service Board	...	...	...	...	...	...	£53 7
Total Deficit of Committee	...	...	...	...	...	...	43 12

NEW SOUTH WALES.

The Foreign Mission work of the New South Wales Church has been passing through a time of very considerable difficulty, but, in that, it is not peculiar, as the same circumstances which have affected us here have been present not only in the Commonwealth but throughout the world. It has been difficult for many of our people who have been engrossed in war work, and have felt the strain of it, to immediately return to the ordinary activities of the Church. Then the rate of exchange, as between the home base and foreign countries, has seriously affected us as it has affected all mission work. In addition to these circumstances, common to all missions, we have had some special difficulties of our own, and the position is still not quite clear. The Rev. C. A. White's term of appointment, as Convener and Secretary, having come to an end, he accepted a call to Brisbane. The financial position was such that the Assembly did not feel free to make a new appointment of the same character, and Rev. Professor Macintyre agreed meantime to act as Honorary Convener. Then the Rev. C. E. Turnbull, our missionary in India, who has been home on furlough, was unable on the ground of health to return to duty, and the medical report was such that Mr. Turnbull felt compelled to resign from the mission and to accept a charge in New South Wales. This leaves our Indian Mission, meantime, without an European male missionary. Further, Dr. Flora Innes, who has been in charge of our Women's Hospital at Sholinghur, returned from India some considerable time ago in ill health, and has not since been able to face a return to India; so that our hospital there is meantime under the charge of a native doctor. At present Miss McLean and Miss McCredie, assisted by Miss Thomson as a voluntary worker, are bravely holding the fort. It is a period of crisis for our Indian Mission, but we anticipate a more satisfactory condition before the end of the year.

In the New Hebrides the Rev. D. L. Paterson is still in charge at Malo. But it is recognized that, if the work in the New Hebrides, for which our Church is responsible, is to be satisfactorily done, a missionary is necessary at Nogugu.

The Rev. J. Young Wai, who has for so long been our faithful missionary for the Chinese in the metropolitan area, is retiring from active service, and Mr. F. L. Law from New Zealand, has been appointed to succeed him and expects to take up work in the beginning of January. Our other missionary to the Chinese in this State is Mr. J. F. Kem Yee, and in recognition of his long and faithful service, the Committee is asking the General Assembly to authorise his ordination.

The financial position has caused much anxiety to the Church in New South Wales, as it has done to other Churches in their Foreign Mission work. Our income has come considerably short of our expenditure, especially last year, and we are at present faced with the necessity of bringing our income up to the measure of our necessary expenditure, and also with a debit balance of £5,000. Serious as the position is, we believe our Church

is awakening in larger measure to the urgency of the call for the evangelisation of the world, but we would be glad to feel that that awakening was more widespread.

As in past years our work owes much to the activity of the Women's Missionary Association, without whose co-operation we would have little prospect of meeting our obligations.

Two of our Students, members of the same family, have offered themselves for Foreign Mission work, and are pursuing their course of training with that purpose in view.

We feel that the very urgency of the conditions, with which we are at present faced, make a new call upon our Church, to which we believe it will not fail to respond.

RONALD G. MACINTYRE.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

Since last Assembly considerable advance has been made at Port George, so that whilst the work has been carried on much as in past years, better results are being seen :

Large numbers of Natives, some of them from distant tribes, continue to frequent the station and show signs of a desire for a better civilization. Employment is given as far as possible to such as are settling about the mission ; school is regularly held for the children ; and simple religious teaching imparted to such as will attend ; a large number of sick and indigent natives are also being cared for, the Government of Western Australia assisting in the matter of food for these.

Stock on the station continues to increase, whilst present results in the matter of gardening operations, point to a time when the mission will be to some extent self-supporting, maize, sweet potatoes, peanuts, bananas, etc., doing well.

There have been tribal fights among the natives at times, sometimes with fatal results, when members of different tribes have been camped about the station, but on the whole, the conduct of the natives has been good, those permanently resident at the mission continuing amenable to discipline.

The New Bungalow erected for the missionaries has vastly improved their living conditions. Whilst the building now in course of erection, and which it is intended to use as a Girls' Dormitory, will supply a long felt want.

During the War Period, it has been difficult for W.A. to do all she wished in the interests of the mission ; thanks however to the somewhat improved conditions, and the splendid work done by the Right Rev. the Moderator-General during his visit to our State, men and women alike are working with increased desire, so that even financially, we are not likely to fall far short of what is expected of us.

W. F. TURTON.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

Your Committee has to report that Mr. and Mrs. Macmillan, after a somewhat protracted furlough, are now settled once more at their work on Tanna. Owing to the coal miners' strike Mr. Macmillan was delayed for eight weeks in Sydney, and Mrs. Macmillan, after trying for three months to get across from New Zealand, whither she had gone to visit her relatives, was happily able to join her husband in time to accompany him on board the steamer Makambo to Tanna.

The first Communion services held after their return were well attended. Forty-two members were baptised, besides forty-four children, and two others were baptised elsewhere (adults). In a later letter, written on New Year's Day, Mr. Macmillan reports that on the last week of the old year a Communion service was held, at which nineteen were baptised on profession of faith, and sixteen children, and four young communicants were admitted to their first Communion. At the same meeting the people, as on two previous occasions, decided to send a contribution to the Church in South Australia, in acknowledgment of the benefits they have received through the bringing to them of the Gospel message. The amount collected was £92. Mr. Macmillan enclosed an order for that sum, in which he authorises the financial secretary to deduct the same from his stipend or other moneys at his credit, and to pay it over to the Church treasurer. This generous contribution along with the report of the work done since Mr. Macmillan's return to Tanna, cannot but give great joy to those who are specially interested in Foreign Mission work, as well as to the whole Church in South Australia. Your Committee, at a meeting on June 23, received a communication from the Foreign Mission Committee of the Victorian Church, stating that the John G. Paton Mission Fund Committee desired to raise the stipends of their missionaries to £260 per annum in view of the largely increased cost of all commodities, and suggested that the other Churches employing missionaries might do the same. The suggestion was unanimously accepted by your Committee,

and it was agreed that Mr. Macmillan's stipend be raised to £260 per annum, the increase of £10 to begin from the last quarterly payment. Your Committee have every confidence that the Assembly will sanction the increase. It may be mentioned that the motion in favour of it was moved by our late lamented friend, Mr. T. W. Fleming. Mr. Macmillan also reports that he has undertaken to put a new roof on his house, the material to be used being unaffected by salt spray or volcanic fumes, and cost of it, he says, will practically be borne by the natives. It is interesting also to learn that Mr. Macmillan took a plebiscite of the natives as to French or British control of the New Hebridean group, and that Tanna and Aniwa had "plumped" for British. He hopes to report the votes on Aneityum Futuna, and Erromanga later on. It would give a tremendous advantage to missionary work on these islands if they were under British control only. Let us hope this may be brought about in due time.

Our financial condition this year is very satisfactory, as may be seen from the accounts on another page. In the matter of Federal Missions the Board of Missions reports that Mr. Hall at Weipa has resigned owing to the illness of his wife, who cannot stand the strain of life there. An advertisement for a successor to Mr. Hall appeared in the "Banner" and other Church papers, but with what result your Committee has not been informed. Last year an association of the various Foreign Mission Societies represented in South Australia was formed for the purpose of conference and prayer, and to extend a welcome to visiting missionaries. The Rev. J. A. McLellan, the Rev. D. MacDiarmid, and the Convener were appointed to represent your Committee at its meetings. The members of your Committee who remain are the Rev. J. A. Ford and Mr. James Philip.

In the name of Committee,

GEORGE DAVIDSON.

Report of the Committee on Missions to the Heathen, Queensland.—Queensland, having no active participation in the Mission field except in the Missions to the Aborigines in conjunction with the Churches of the other States, naturally takes a keen interest in these missions, especially those situated on the Gulf of Carpentaria. They desire indeed to take a still larger responsibility in connection with these, and are looking forward to some day being able to take over the full control of them. With this end in view, every effort is being made to deepen the interest of our people in these Missions and generally in Missions to the Heathen, and to stimulate their liberality. This effort is already bearing fruit and the revenue is increasing, but it is not yet just what the Committee would like it to be.

ABORIGINAL MISSION FUND ACCOUNT, 1918 AND 1919.

RECEIPTS.						£	s.	d.
To Collections, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	620	19	0
„ Donations	...	...	...	...	...	651	0	7
„ Sundry Receipts	...	...	...	...	...	22	7	9
						£1294	7	4
DISBURSEMENTS.						£	s.	d.
By Balance	...	...	...	...	...	108	8	3
„ Board of Missions Assessments	...	...	...	...	...	650	5	0
„ General Expenses	...	...	...	...	...	194	6	3
„ Convener's Visit to Mission Stations	...	...	...	...	...	7	8	5
„ Balance	...	...	...	...	...	333	19	5
						£1294	7	4

III—REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON BOOK OF COMMON ORDER.

The Committee begs to submit for the approval of the Assembly the following Orders: The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, Baptism (two), Admission of Catechumens, Celebration of Marriage (two), Visitation of the Sick, Burial of the Dead, Burial of a Child, Ordination and Induction of Ministers, Ordination and Induction of Elders, Licensing of Probationers, Dedication of Deaconesses, Laying of Foundation Stone, Dedication of a Church, Dedication of Gifts. These Orders are more or less in constant use, and as it is necessary that they should appear in convenient form the Committee asks for authority to publish them. This may be done on terms advantageous to the Church.

Proposed Orders of Service for morning and evening worship are submitted for approval.

The Committee suggests that the title of the book be "Book of Common Order of the Presbyterian Church of Australia."

R. SCOTT WEST, Convener.

IV—REPORT OF COLLEGE COMMITTEE.

On 21st March of the year your Committee sustained a grievous loss in the death of the Rev. J. C. Coutie, B.A., who for nearly ten years occupied the position of honorary Secretary. At the first meeting of the Executive thereafter the following motion was passed: "That the Committee express their deep regret at the great loss sustained through the death of the Rev. J. C. Coutie, B.A., and their high appreciation of the very excellent service rendered by him as Secretary of the College Committee." The Assembly will agree that this loss of the Committee is the loss of the whole Church.

At the 1919 Exit Examination thirteen passed, eight from Ormond College, three from St. Andrew's, and two from Emmanuel.

At the 1919 Entrance Examination six passed, three for Ormond, two for St. Andrew's, one for Emmanuel. Five A.I.F. men were admitted to the Theological Hall with exemption from the Entrance Examination in accordance with the special consideration for returned men recommended by last General Assembly (Minute 125).

At the 1920 Entrance Examination seven passed, three for Ormond, three for St. Andrew's, one for Emmanuel.

At the 1919 Home Mission Agent's Examination thirty-two passed.

At the 1920 Home Mission Agents' Examination thirty-three passed, six have been granted a Supplementary Examination, and thirteen failed.

The number of Home Missions Agents admitted to the Course of Training since last Assembly is forty-four, from Victoria and Tasmania eighteen, N.S.W. ten, Queensland eleven, W.A. three, S.A. two.

The following are the changes in the list of Examiners since last Assembly.

For Entrance Examination:—Scrip. and S. Catm., Rev. V. Clark Daft for Rev. A. S. McCook, B.A. Greek, Rev. E. E. Baldwin, M.A. for Rev. Tulloch Yuille, M.A., B.D., Mental Phil., Rev. J. A. Hewitt, M.A., B.D. for Rev. A. Kelly, M.A., Eng. Literature, Rev. E. A. Swan, B.A. for Rev. E. E. Baldwin, M.A.

For Home Mission Agents' Examination:—English, Rev. Norman Millar, B.A. for Rev. K. D. McDonald, B.A. Mental Phil., Rev. T. Glass, B.A. for Rev. Smith McBain, B.A.

In the last Home Mission Agents' Examination the Rev. A. T. Postle, M.A., L.L.M., kindly acted for the Rt. Rev. W. Fraser, B.A. in English, and the Revs. J. Alexander and J. A. Crockett in Scripture and S. Catechism respectively for the Rev. Jas. Marshall.

The hearty thanks of the Assembly are due to the Examiners for the able and conscientious way in which they have discharged their duties, and also to those who have kindly acted as supervisors.

Your Committee may mention that in accordance with a suggestion of the Rev. J. B. Galloway, in view of the difficulty experienced in obtaining text-books, these are now stocked by the Book-room in connection with the Welfare of Youth Committee, Presbyterian Church of Victoria.

At a meeting of the Executive on 10th June, 1919, a letter was read from Mr. H. R. Pearson, medical student, St. Andrew's College, Sydney, who is studying with a view to become an ordained medical missionary. Mr. Pearson outlined the course of study which he had followed at the University of Sydney and requested to be informed as to the position of a candidate for the Entrance Examination who presented the degrees of M.B., Ch.M. It was resolved to inform Mr. Pearson that if he presented these degrees permission to sit at the Entrance Examination would be granted to him on the same terms as those laid down for graduates in Arts and Science. In accordance with the resolution of the Executive this case is reported to the Assembly.

On 28th August, 1919, a Petition from Mr. J. R. B. Love, B.A., M.C., for an extra-mural course in his second and third years as a student of Divinity was considered. Representatives from the Board of Missions were heard in its support. It was thereafter agreed "that having heard the statements of the representatives appointed by the Board of Missions, and in view of the official circumstances of the Mission to the Aborigines of North Queensland, the College Committee agree to set a second year course of study for Mr. Love for the year 1920," this case also to be reported to the Committee.

Mr. R. H. Wilson of Mornington Island has also been granted an extra-mural course, and is now in his second year.

On 8th Dec., 1919, a Petition addressed to the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia was received by the Executive from Mr. H. Stanley Parsons, Manly, N.S.W. Mr. Parsons, who had qualified for ordination in the Church of England, sought admission to the Theological Hall, St. Andrew's College, Sydney, as a student of the 2nd year. The Petition was referred to the Faculty of Theology, St. Andrew's College with a request for a report after enquiry. At a subsequent meeting of the Executive on 27th Jan., 1920, it was resolved that in accordance with the recommendation of the Faculty the prayer of the Petition be granted.

Mr. Parsons has been attending the Theological Hall, St. Andrew's College this year as a private student and now presents another Petition to the Assembly through your Committee, endorsed by the Presbytery of Sydney praying that subject to his passing the examinations of the second year he be received as a regular student to enter next Session upon the work of the third year. Your Committee is not sufficiently informed on the case to advise the Assembly, especially as more than attainments have to be taken into account, the Petition is forwarded simpliciter.

Your Committee has had under consideration the following decision of the last General Assembly: "That inasmuch as the General Assembly, in the Basis of Union with other Churches, has endorsed the view that the standard of University Matriculation should be reached by all candidates contemplating entering the Hall through the H.M. course, that course be adjusted so as to secure this desirable object, one of the languages to be Greek" (Minute 126 (5).)

A Commission of the Presbytery Church of Victoria under the Convenership of the Rev. Prof. J. L. Rentoul, M.A., D.D., had drafted a scheme of Training to meet the above decision. This scheme is appended, and your Committee recommend that it should be adopted by the Assembly.

The Rev. Hugh M. Burns, M.A., B.D., has been appointed to the position of Secretary. He was the first Secretary to the College Committee and gratification is felt at his reappointment.

JOHN MATHEW, Convener.

V—HYMNAL REPORT.

The Hymnal continues to be used and appreciated by the schools that have adopted it, and also where it is used for afternoon services. But it has not received that loyal support, generally, throughout the Church of Australia, that it is entitled to, as the book which the Assembly has itself compiled and recommended. To increase its attractiveness, authority was given, by last Assembly for arrangements to be made with the publisher for the printing of some Kindergarten numbers, to be either incorporated in the present book, or printed as an addition to it. Negotiations were opened with the publisher with this object in view, and the Committee found considerable encouragement from the fact that the Welfare of Youth Committee of the Church of Victoria was willing, under certain very reasonable conditions, to adopt the Hymnal as their own Book of Praise for the Victorian Schools. But no finality has been reached largely because of the Convener's inability (through two serious calamities in his home) to give the work the attention it needed. For this reason, he asks to be relieved of his duties.

The Report of the proceedings of the last General Assembly of the United Free Church of Scotland shows that a new edition of the Church Hymnary, revised both as to words and music, was sanctioned, with co-operation of the other Churches concerned. The attention of the General Assembly of Australia is drawn to this, in case it should wish to authorize the Committee to receive and consider any communication that might be sent to Australia in regard to this matter. It could report to next Assembly, and a separate Committee could then be appointed, if thought necessary. That the Hymnary is greatly in need of revision appears to be the general opinion.

W. H. ASH, Convener.

VI—REPORT OF IMMIGRATION COMMITTEE EXECUTIVE.

Your Executive has made enquiries by correspondence with a view of carrying out the resolutions passed by the General Assembly of 1916 for co-operation in the States Churches in Immigration. These resolutions have for their object perfecting the arrangements for meeting immigrants at the Australian ports and for securing the assistance of the Home Churches in obtaining knowledge of their people who are leaving for Australia. The result of these enquiries is that all the states have, or will have, an agency for meeting

immigrants at their respective ports and that at Melbourne the cards of the New South Wales and Queensland Churches will be given to Presbyterians going to the Northern States and their names and addresses obtained as far as possible.

As at present the immigrants are nearly all ex-service men and their dependents, the need for circulating information about Australia is not felt. Indeed Australia has through the knowledge spread and the fame gained by our gallant soldier men become so widely and favourably known that there is no necessity to appeal for people to come to our sunny and fertile land. Wise statesmanship is required to guard our shores against the incursion of people we do not want and cannot quickly enough absorb. Character, adaptability and preference for and experience of country life are the essential features of the policy in immigration that should be adopted by Australia and which the Church will support. The results of the conference between the Commonwealth and State Authorities are that the Commonwealth Government will take complete control of the immigration policy including securing suitable immigrants, advertising the advantages of settlement in Australia, arranging their passages and giving financial assistance to emigrants in the Homeland, and the States will have the duty and responsibility of settling the new comers after they have landed.

It is expected that the present arrangements whereby the British Government gives free passages to the ex-service men and their dependents will be extended till the end of 1921. The National Service Relief Board in London has a large Capital Fund out of which it gives not only free passages but also expenses for outfit and money on landing in Australia to the dependents of British Soldiers who have lost their lives or been seriously injured by the War. The Commonwealth Government is having passenger steamers built—one of which is soon to be launched—which will be used to bring assisted and other immigrants to our shores.

Your Executive is of the opinion—in which the Victorian Immigration Committee agrees—that all the practical purposes for which the General Assembly's Committee exists in the interests and for the benefits of the Church of Australia will be served by an active and energetic agency at the ports of landing and by securing the aid of the Home Churches by correspondence and the spread of literature in making known the attractions of our country and of ministers in the chief ports of departure, so as to get news of the coming of their people to share in our advantages and join in our Christian fellowship.

Your Executive is of opinion that it would be wise for the Immigration Committee to have a visitation made by representatives of the Immigration Committee to the places in the States where immigrants have settled in recent years; the visitation to be made by experienced Ministers and elders and the Home Mission Committees of the States to be asked to repay the necessary expenses of this visitation.

D. MACMILLAN, Convener.

COPY GOVERNMENT PAPERS ON IMMIGRATION, MAY, 1920.

Proposals on Immigration made by Prime Minister to State Premiers.

The Commonwealth to have full control over-seas.

The Agents-General of the several States to form Consultative Committees in London. Commonwealth to be responsible for, and have control of all overseas organisations and transport arrangements for bringing immigrants to Australia.,

Principal objects of scheme to be the settlement of immigrants in the lands of Australia.

Type of immigrant—preference to be given to British Ex-service men.

Commonwealth to see to co-operation and assistance of British Government in attaining right type of immigrants and passages for the same.

Commonwealth to assume financial responsibility for organisation for immigrants from overseas, and transport to Australia.

The States to be responsible for immigrants from arrival in Australia, and for their settlement on suitable lands, or employment in public works.

States to enter into an agreement with Commonwealth, setting out definite terms which they bind themselves to do in regard to finding (a) land; (b) other forms of assistance such as depots, general care of immigrants, employment in public works, particularly in transforming railway gauge and Murray Scheme for Ex-service men and other class of immigrants.

Commonwealth and States to co-operate and consult from time to time as to number of immigrants who can be absorbed in their respective States, and the class of immigrants required.

The Commonwealth undertakes to assist the States by way of loans for approved land settlement and public works.

Proposals adopted with modifications at Conference, July, 1920.

VII—RELIGION IN THE HOME.

The Committee begs to report that the "Family Altar Card" has been largely used throughout the Church in all States. In 1919 the number of copies issued was 15,000. In 1920 the circulation increased to 17,500. These figures show that there is a large demand for this aid to family worship, and that the demand is growing.

The circulation of the card is widespread throughout the Commonwealth. People in the far inland, in remote and isolated places, as well as in the cities and towns, regularly use the Scripture readings and prayers as provided in the Altar Card. Correspondence shows that hundreds of families who have few opportunities of attending a Church service regularly use the Altar Card in their households.

The Committee has abundant evidence that a large number of people maintain some form of family worship and endeavour to preserve religion in the home. Although this is a gratifying fact yet the proportion is far too small. It is hoped that Ministers and Sessions will make an earnest effort to keep the importance of family worship before their people and to increase the number of those who conduct worship in the home.

Many people write for the card stating that they cannot get it in their own Congregation and that no mention has been made of it from the pulpit or through the Session. The Committee earnestly hopes that it will be made possible for families to obtain the Altar Card within every Congregation throughout the Church.

The high cost of paper and the difficulties of printing have for so far been met satisfactorily by the Committee and up to the present the cost of the card has not exceeded one penny per copy. The Committee regrets that in all probability the price will have to be increased in 1921. Several friends have offered donations to meet the advanced cost of printing but even with this help it will hardly be possible to issue the card at one penny per copy. These same difficulties make it impossible at present to add new features and include several valuable suggestions of additional aids to worship.

RONALD G. MACINTYRE }
JOHN SINCLAIR } Joint Conveners.

VIII—WELFARE OF YOUTH REPORT.

I.—THE AUSTRALASIAN GRADED LESSONS.

In the report presented to the Assembly in 1918 occurs the following statement. "It appears reasonable to expect that before the Assembly of 1920 all the General Assemblies in Australia and New Zealand, with the possible exception of West Australia, will have adopted the Australasian Graded Scheme." Your Committee is glad to be able to report that this anticipation has been literally fulfilled. All the Assemblies with the exception of West Australia now recognise and recommend the Australasian Graded Lessons. The literature published in connection with this scheme continues to win increasing acceptance as is shown by the following figures:—

Presbyterian circulation in the Commonwealth and New Zealand:—

	First Half of 1918.	First half of 1920
Teachers	42,628	60,355
Scholars	116,494	212,780
Leaflets	4,736	5,745
Front Line	8,976	Open Door 7,900
Senior Text Book	2,625	3,500

A representative Lesson Selection Council met early in 1920 and the lessons have been chosen for the next cycle of three years. Various modification and improvements were considered and adopted. In view of the fact that this scheme has won such wide acceptance, and that at the end of the present agreement it is open to any Assembly using the lessons to become part proprietors of the scheme, it is urged that this Assembly should record its approval of this course of lessons and recommend its adoption and use by all State Assemblies and the Sunday Schools of the Church in Australia. When used sympathetically and intelligently the scheme has, in general, given satisfaction. That it is perfect no one has claimed and improvements in various directions are under consideration at present. On the whole, however, experience has proved that this scheme is well adapted to the conditions under which most Australian Sunday Schools are at present being conducted.

II.—STATISTICS.

It is unfortunately still impossible to make a general survey of the S.S. situation as it affects the Commonwealth as a whole. From some States no statistics at all are available, while those supplied by others are so imperfect as to be of doubtful value. From the figures available it appears that in the past five or six years, there has been little or no advance in the roll number of our S.S. scholars. In view of the increasing population of our Commonwealth this is a disquieting if not an ominous fact. In the great cities of our land it is very obvious that along with the breaking down of the sanctity of the Lord's Day there has gone a corresponding neglect of S.S. attendance, while in many country districts no teachers are available to carry on the work, with the result that numbers of children are growing up in practical Paganism. Your Committee would urge (1) that State Assemblies be instructed to make an effort to collect full and accurate statistics so that a comprehensive survey of the position may become possible and (2) that State Welfare of Youth Departments be recommended to confer with Home Mission Committees as to the possibility of appointing a Sabbath School Home Missionary whose business it would be to establish Sunday Schools in advance of settled Churches and Mission Stations. Experience in Canada and the United States has shown that such an agency is most effective not only in increasing the roll number of S.S. Scholars, but also in preparing the way for regular Church extension.

III.—WELFARE OF YOUTH DEPARTMENTS.

There are gratifying signs that the Church is awaking to a new sense of the urgent importance of its work among the young. In Victoria the Rev. W. Goyen continues his work as Director and is assisted by a Travelling Secretary for Fellowships and Bible Classes, and a Directress of Primary work. A Book Society has also been established and its business is rapidly developing. In New South Wales Mr. Gardiner, the Travelling Secretary of the Fellowship Union, has returned from the war and resumed his work, and a Director of Sabbath Schools will be appointed at next meeting of the Assembly. In Queensland the Rev. J. B. Galloway has taken up his duties as Director and a Kindergarten expert has also been appointed. All this indicates a definite advance. There still remain, however, the States of Tasmania, South Australia, West Australia, and the vast interior of our Continent. It is obvious that the weaker Churches in these districts will require, and are entitled to the help of the older and stronger States. Your Committee would urge that as soon as possible Welfare of Youth Departments in these States should consult together and confer with Departments in other States as to the possibility of supporting jointly an agent who should visit each in turn and assist them in consolidation and extension of their work.

IV.—THE ADOLESCENT PROBLEM.

In the last report presented to the Assembly this statement occurs: "The problem of Australia is the problem of its adolescents, and it is painfully apparent that under present conditions the Church has no effective hold upon this class. There is need here for a thorough enquiry as to the causes that have led to the practical break-down of our S.S. system so far as the adolescent life of the Commonwealth is concerned." The Assembly of 1918 urged State Committees to make a special study of this problem and to report with relevant recommendations to this Assembly. A considerable amount of information on the whole subject has been collected from which it appears, (1) that, speaking generally, work in this section is confessedly weak in all the States. (2) that, while those of the returned soldiers who were connected with the Church before leaving Australia, have, in many instances, resumed their place and work in Young Peoples Societies, the great majority of the returned men have few points of contact with the Church and little interest in its work. (3) That there is an urgent need for a "Young Peoples Movement" in the Church but that at present there is little agreement as to how the problem should be approached and as to the type of organisation which should be established in each Congregation and for the State as a whole. (4) That no uniform courses of study are yet in use although the syllabi covered by the Senior Scholars Text-book and "The Open Door" are slowly gaining acceptance.

A general survey of the situation reveals the fact that the number of Ministers' Bible Classes conducted on traditional lines is everywhere declining, that adolescents (junior as well as senior) are not being retained in any numbers in old-fashioned S.S. classes, but that organisations which provide a measure of self-government for young people and offer them facilities for social intercourse and the development of their physical and intellectual powers appeal to them and win them for the Church. In Victoria there is a Fellowship Union with 1,342 members (773 women and 569 men). Of these 828 are Church members. These associations meet for the most part on Sunday morning, and devote themselves principally to Bible study and the support of Foreign Missions. In addition there is a Young Men's Bible Class Union with 65 classes and a membership of about

1,000 and a Young Womens' Bible Class Union with 50 classes and some 900 members. In connection with many Sunday Schools Junior Bible Classes have also been established with good results. Associated with these classes are various clubs and athletic societies. Although the Fellowship and Bible Class Unions have their separate organisations and a measure of self-government, they are all federated in a Sectional Committee of the Welfare of Youth Department and have the same Travelling Secretary. In New South Wales the Fellowship Union aims at covering the whole field. It has a membership of 1,656 (708 men and 948 women) while there are in addition 67 Bible Classes in the State. Practically all the associations in the Union with the exception of some junior associations are mixed so far as the sexes are concerned, but provision is being made for a more distinctive work for young men and young women. In Queensland there are nine Fellowship Associations reported with 223 members and Bible Classes with a membership of 220. In West Australia, at last Assembly, it was decided to inaugurate a Bible Class Movement for young men and women.

It is apparent that if a "Young Peoples Movement" is to be established in our Church which is to be in any real sense Australian in its outlook and methods there must be conference and co-operation between the various State Departments. The provision of suitable courses of study and literature alone makes this imperative. In addition it will be apparent that if our young men and women of ability and with a capacity for leadership are to be enlisted in any effective way in the service of the Church they must be presented with a challenge and an opportunity which will appeal to their imagination and call forth the best that is in them. In the present distress the nation and the Church alike must make a fervent appeal to the youth of our land and also lay upon the shoulders of youth the burden of a great enterprise. In planning for the future and in laying down new lines of work the effort should of course be made to conserve all the good work that has been done in the past and to gather it all up with that larger enterprise for which the times are ripe. Your Committee asks for instructions to continue its investigations of this problem, to impress its urgent importance upon State Welfare of Youth Departments and to confer with them as to the possibility of instituting a more aggressive and uniform policy of work for senior S.S. scholars and for young men and women throughout the Commonwealth.

V.—GENERAL EDUCATIONAL POLICY OF THE CHURCH.

It falls within the province of this Committee to take notice of the remarkable advance that has been made by all the States during the past two years in the matter of establishing Church Schools and providing a definitely religious education for the children who attend them. It is obvious that in the minds of educationalists and of Christian parents there is a definite revolt against the increasing secularism of modern life, especially as it has affected our educational systems and methods. This revolt is expressing itself not only in the opening of Church Schools, but also in the effort to make religious instruction in State Schools more general and effective. This is a movement that is full of promise. The Sunday School, however great its religious value and influence is an imperfect educational instrument, and its work requires to be supplemented and reinforced by the home and the day school. Your Committee looks forward with the greatest hopefulness to these recent developments in the sphere of religious education.

VI.—OBITUARY.

A member of the Committee and its former Convener, the Rev. W. S. Rolland, died since the last meeting of Assembly. Mr. Rolland's work for the youth of Australia extended over many years, and was carried on in many spheres. Your Committee records its sincere appreciation of the worth of Mr. Rolland's services, and its sense of the loss sustained through his death by the whole Church.

JOHN MACKENZIE, Convener.

IX—REPORT OF YEAR BOOK COMMITTEE.

The affairs of the Year Book were despatched with great haste on the last evening of the 1918 Assembly, which was unfortunate as some important issues had to be faced. For one thing, after doing all the work of editing, keeping the account, collecting the moneys for subscriptions and advertisements, etc., for four years gratuitously the editor had intimated to the Committee at its meeting on the eve of the Assembly his inability

to continue on the same terms. It was hoped to get direction in the matter from the Assembly. Failing that an expression of opinion was obtained on this and other points by correspondence with Committeemen most familiar with all the circumstances in other States, and the members in Melbourne after discussion agreed (1) to vote the editor an honorarium of ten guineas per issue, (2) to reduce the number of copies printed to 1,000, and (3) to increase the price from sixpence to ninepence. Sales at the advanced price have been even better than previously, but the circulation might be greatly increased if the book were more insistently brought under the notice of the Congregations. It has been evident that where Ministers and missionaries have taken an interest in it there is no difficulty in selling a fair number of copies.

For the 1919 issue a cheque of £23 6s. 1d. had to be obtained from the Treasurer. This year at the time of writing (August 18th) the sum of £15 3s. 2d. is owing to the printer and no honorarium has been received by the editor. Against these items all the income from sales and advertisements for 1920 issue has to be credited. The Editor has arranged with "Hutchinson's Book House," the original publishers of the Year Book and consistent advertisers in it ever since, to collect these on a small commission.

The Assembly is asked to give direction as to the future. In 1914 the affairs of the Year Book were left in much confusion owing to the lamented illness of its former Editor and friend (the late Rev. W. M. Alexander). Practically a new beginning had to be made, and all the data to work with were, (1) a copy of the publishers account for the 1912 issue, and (2) the last issue of the book. In the meantime the book has been entirely reset and is about double the size it had when revived in 1909. In the last six years the sum of £120 odd has been advanced to the Committee from the Finance Board of which £30 has been refunded and there should be a balance to the good out of sales for the current issue to set against that sum. Thus though the Year Book has cost the Assembly on the average £15 per annum, though much less on the more recent years, we have been well within the conditions laid down by the Assembly in 1908 where it was insisted that the cost was "not to exceed £20."

On behalf of the Committee,

J. R. FIDDIAN.

X.—REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ANENT AN OFFICIAL ORGAN.

Minute 148 of the last Blue Book says that a report on the official organ was adopted but the report itself was not printed. It embodied the conclusion reached at a well attended meeting representing all States held during the Sessions by Assembly instructions and was as follows:—

“Urge upon the Committees managing the various official organs at present the desirability of joining in an Australian effort to produce a suitable inset that shall voice Australian Presbyterian sentiment.”

This resolution has been forwarded to the Conveners of Committees concerned. By the Victorian Committee the proposal was “favourably received.” The Convener in New South Wales writes that until a new agreement just completed with Messrs. Arbuckle terminates the “Messenger Committee,” is not in a position to consider any other proposal. The matter was discussed in South Australia and the Convener wrote asking for fuller information. No reply has come from Western Australia or Queensland. At that point the matter stands at present.

On behalf of the Committee,

J. R. FIDDIAN.

XI.—REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON REPATRIATION.

The Committee entrusted with the duty of seeing to the welfare of returned soldiers of the Presbyterian Church have pleasure in reporting that, in all the States, the means devised and put into operation for securing the attachment of returned soldiers, who are Presbyterians, to the Congregations of the Church where they reside, have met with a large measure of success.

Not only have Ministers been enabled, by the notification of their return received from the Chaplains who gained knowledge of their arrival from the nominal rolls of the transports, to call and bid welcome the men of their Congregations at an earlier period than otherwise, but they have also got to know many who were not known to them before, and also their relatives and friends not attending Church in their parishes.

The visits of Ministers were greatly appreciated both by the returned soldiers and their relatives, and in many cases valuable assistance was given by Ministers and members of the Church, in securing their re-settlement in civil life. Since the Assembly meetings in September, 1918, the plan of obtaining the Base Record and Steamer Rolls, which had been in operation in Victoria from April, 1917, was, by the consent of the Minister of Defence, extended to the other States of the Commonwealth.

Chaplain J. H. G. Auld, Sydney, Chaplain Huey Steele, Cottesloe, W.A., Rev. W. C. Radcliffe, Brisbane, Queensland, Rev. D. McDiarmid, Prospect, Adelaide, S.A., and Chaplain W. Thomson, Melbourne, Victoria, received the rolls, and as soon as possible notified the Ministers of the arrival in their parishes of Presbyterian soldiers, and, at the same time, sent on the lists to representatives of Sister Churches, including the Roman Catholic, willing to receive them so that they could forward the names of returned soldiers to the Ministers of their respective Churches.

Chaplain J. H. G. Auld reports as follows:—

“Almost all the soldiers who returned during my chaplaincy were met by me at Anzac Buffets, or at the wharves, or at Victoria Barracks. I was privileged to meet and welcome soldiers at Anzac Buffet from about 150 transports and hospital ships. Cabled lists of the returning men were received by me through our Repatriation Chaplain, Rev. W. Thomson, of Melbourne. Through the Rev. Prof. Macintyre, four copies of the lists of men returned were received by men from Victoria Barracks, Sydney. Three of these lists were immediately forwarded to the representatives of the Anglican, Methodist and Roman Catholic Churches. Working from the remaining list as each transport arrived, circulars were sent by me to our Ministers and Home Missionaries advising them of the return of soldiers and nursing sisters to their districts. In a great many cases, letters from the Chaplain were sent to wounded soldiers, welcoming them, and thanking them in the name of the Church for the services they had rendered to their country. Many replies were received from officers and men, leading him to believe that this was a part of his work that was very valuable to the Church.”

Chaplain W. Huey Steele reports “from the Defence Office in Perth—I received corresponding Rolls for 122 transports. On these the numbers were—Anglican 5,925 p.c., 55.4; R.C. 1862 p.c. 17.2; Meth. 1,223 p.c. 11.3; Pres. 1,140 p.c. 10.6; Cong. 215 p.c. 2; Bp. 154 p.c. 1.44; regarding the value of the work done, this was constantly diminished by the delay in getting the Nominal Rolls. In spite of this, a great deal of valuable work was done.”

Chaplain W. Thomson reports :—" During the past two years, the scheme of Repatriation, which was organised by representatives of the Churches in Melbourne in 1917, has been continued. In addition to receiving, marking and lending the lists of returned soldiers to the Churches in Victoria, I undertook to forward the Base Records Roll to the representatives of the Presbyterian Churches in the other States of the Commonwealth, for the benefit of all Churches, after having secured the sanction of the Minister of Defence that the Steamer Rolls should be given to them as they were issued in their respective States by the S.O.I. and R.S. Office. I continued meeting returned soldiers on stated days at St. Andrew's Club, Collins Street, Melbourne, till it was closed, and the sphere of operations for the benefit of returned men was transferred to Richmond House Hostel, Richmond, by the returned soldiers Committee of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria. The Ministers were regularly advised of the arrival of returned soldiers in their parishes and districts. On the day of landing, each Presbyterian soldier was handed a letter of welcome and congratulation, signed by the Moderator and Senior Chaplain, with an instruction that I could be seen in my office from 3 to 4 daily to give advice in Repatriation. Many soldiers availed themselves of this offer, and were grateful for the advice and assistance they received.

The steamers having brides and fiancées of soldiers on board were boarded by me on a special permit from the Naval Office. I gave them a card of welcome from all the Churches in Victoria, and an invitation to call on the representative of the Church to which they belonged, whose name and address were given as one who would give them an introduction to Church life and work, and advice in any other matter.

My chief work in Repatriation is carried on in the Military Hospital, of which I am a Chaplain, 11 A.G.H. Caulfield, Melbourne. In an unofficial way I represent the War Council and State Repatriation Board. I carry the forms of application for gratuities, and the financial benefits given under the Repatriation regulations, and assist the applicants in making these applications. Having been appointed by the Land Department a Commissioner for taking Declarations and affidavits, I am able to witness the various documents in which repatriation benefits are obtained.

D. MACRAE STEWART, Convener.

REPATRIATION.

This is to certify that on 18th May, 1920, the New South Wales General Assembly resolved as follows :—

That this Assembly recommend the General Assembly of Australia to appoint a Director of Immigration who shall be sent to the United Kingdom for a given period and commissioned to the Home Churches, and whose duties shall include the securing of and rendering assistance to, suitable Presbyterian immigrants, and he also be empowered to secure Ministers and Missionaries for the work of the Australian Church.

JOHN BURGESS, Clerk of Assembly.

XII.—ALLIANCE OF REFORMED CHURCHES HOLDING THE PRESBYTERIAN SYSTEM.

Annual report to the Churches of the eastern section, 1920. Presented to the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia.

The Eastern Section of the Executive Commission of the Presbyterian Alliance begs respectfully to submit the following Report to your Venerable Court.

Our last Report was issued under the shadow of the sudden removal by death of our greatly esteemed General Secretary, Dr. Dykes Shaw. We were unable to proceed to the appointment of a permanent Secretary in his room, as that, according to the rules of the Alliance, can only be made by the General Council. Owing to the uncertainty as to its date of meeting, and the amount of business and correspondence anticipated during the next year or two, it was felt to be necessary to appoint an Interim General Secretary. The Executive Committee in the circumstances recommended that the Rev. J. R. Fleming, B.D., formerly of Bellshill and Newcastle-on-Tyne, then resident in London, should be asked to take up the duties. Mr. Fleming was appointed on 29th May last, with the consent of the Western Section, and after doing the work for London as a centre during the summer months, he came to Edinburgh at the beginning of September to occupy the office there.

The very gradual settling down of the world into a state of Peace—a process by no means finished as we write—and the reopening of communications with Reformed Churches, especially on the Continent of Europe, from which we had been temporarily separated through war conditions, have tended greatly to increase the activities and opportunities of the Alliance. Correspondence which had been interrupted for years began again to flow, and some of the problems of the Peace turned out also to involve serious questions for our family Churches. Notably was this the case with Hungary. In our 1919 Report we referred to the appeal for help that had come to us from the Hungarian Reformed Church in its anxiety about possible rearrangements of territory that might seriously interfere with its integrity and freedom of government. We then took action by addressing the British representatives at the Peace Conference with a view to averting such a calamity, but the reports which reached us later of racial persecution and violent outrages on religious liberty by the Rumanians in Transylvania and elsewhere brought matters to a sharp crisis. Two members of the Eastern Section visited Hungary in November last and brought back a very urgent memorial signed by the heads of the Reformed Church, asking us to use our influence with the Allied Powers to induce them to send out a Special Commission of Inquiry, and if possible prevent the dreaded dismemberment and isolation of Hungarian Calvinism. Deeming it desirable to have direct personal testimony from our brethren as to the wrongs from which they were suffering, we were able to secure passports to this country for three representative men among them, who stated their plea at private meetings in Edinburgh, London, and Belfast. It was impossible for us to refrain from taking action on the lines suggested, so on 29th December, 1919, we presented a memorial to the Allied Council at Paris, requesting it to appoint a Commission of Inquiry with which representatives of the different Churches concerned might be associated. At the same time we expressed our profound conviction that it would be vital for the ultimate peace of that portion of Eastern Europe that the fullest consideration be shown for religious sentiment and ideals, as expressed in language, education, and varying forms of worship; "and in particular that nothing be done or tolerated that would effect the religious liberties and autonomy of the separated Churches, or would impair real freedom of intercourse between them and the ecclesiastical centres to which they have hitherto looked." Similar action was taken by Committees of the Church of Scotland, the United Free Church, the Irish Presbyterian Church, the Presbyterian Church of England, and other bodies. The Unitarian Church, which is deeply concerned about the future of its 70,000 adherents in Transylvania, has also been foremost in pressing for thorough inquiry, and a Committee representative of various Churches, with the Bishop of Kensington as chairman, has been formed in London "for the Protection of Religious Freedom in the Territories occupied by the Rumanians." We owe much too to the sympathetic zeal of Viscount Bryce and Lord Robert Cecil, M.P., in raising the question in the British Parliament. It is with regret that we report that the Allied Council has not seen its way to send out the Commission desired. Rumania, after long delay, has signed a Treaty including provisions for the protection of religious minorities, and that the Entente Powers deem it wise to wait and see the result. No objection, however, is offered by the Foreign Office at Whitehall to our alternative proposal—that the Alliance send a Commission of its own, and we are promised all necessary facilities after the Treaty of Peace with Hungary is signed. Probably before this Report reaches the majority of the Churches in the Eastern Section that Commission will be appointed if not on its way, for we regard it as our bounden duty and privilege to maintain intimate personal fellowship with the Hungarian Reformed Church at this critical time and to do all that in us lies to protect our brethren against the perils by which they are threatened. Should any just grievances remain unredressed, we may find it necessary to bring their case before the League of Nations. Public opinion, both in Great Britain and America, will, we are sure, endorse the action we have taken.

We would not, however, convey the impression that the Hungarian Church trouble has so absorbed our attention as to blind us to other immediate and urgent interests on the Continent of Europe. The present condition of the French Reformed Church, especially in the devastated areas, lies very close to our hearts, and we were glad to respond to a warm invitation, backed up by a special request from the Western Section, that we should send a delegation to the General Assembly of French Protestantism at Lyons in November last. This gave us an opportunity of meeting with the leaders of the various branches of Reformed Christianity in France and of assuring them of our practical help in their hour of need. Our delegates were greatly impressed by the unity and progressive spirit of to-day's descendants of the Huguenots. The Federation is dominated by the historic Presbyterian element which goes back to Calvin and Coligny, but it is no less fully awake to the call to a new catholicity in the name of a free and reformed Christendom.

Another Church which has been refashioned in the fiery crucible of the war is that which we used to know as the Reformed Church of Bohemia but is now to be recognised as "The Evangelical Church of United Brethren," having as its special sphere the Republic of Czecho-Slovakia. By achieving unity with the Lutherans and succeeding to the heri-

tage of the "Unitas Fratrum," one of the earnest and noblest of Reformed Communions, it has taken the position of a National Protestant Church, and we augur great things from it in the days to come. During this summer it is to hold at Prague the Quincenary Commemoration of John Hus's martyrdom, postponed from 1915, and the Alliance is glad to resume close and friendly relationship with this enlarged branch of our brotherhood.

The situation in Switzerland is of quite peculiar interest at present. The National Church of Geneva, too long isolated from us by rationalistic tendencies, is being more and more permeated by evangelical life. It and the other National Churches, now free from State control, are, like the Church of Scotland at home, seeking a common ground of unity with bodies separated from them in former days. The Confessional requirements of the Alliance have hitherto prevented their affiliation to us, but the case is clear for friendly conference that may bring us into more intimate fellowship, as we are already with the Free Churches. In light of the fact that a preliminary gathering of the Faith and Order Movement is to take place at Geneva in August, and in view of the importance of drawing together our scattered members on the Continent to discuss with representatives of British and American Presbyterianism the pressing problems of the time, we are arranging for a meeting, probably at Lausanne or Montreux, at a convenient date in the same month.

This is the more necessary because of the further postponement of the next General Council, which, after successive delays caused by the war and the disturbed conditions following it, is now definitely fixed for the early autumn of 1921, in the city of Pittsburgh, United States of America. The Swiss meeting will be in a measure preparatory for Pittsburgh, and "we now invite all the Churches of the Eastern Section to send to it at least one delegate. We would also very earnestly urge the appointment as soon as possible of your representatives to the Eleventh Council, which promises to be of the utmost moment in the history of the Alliance." Never was it more important to maintain and intensify the spiritual connection between this country and America. Congregationalists, Methodists, and Anglicans have got before us in this respect, and it behoves us Presbyterians to make as powerful a demonstration of union and co-operation in the things of the Kingdom. Questions of the most vital kind affecting doctrine, polity, worship, evangelisation, and organisation call for frank discussion, and our Alliance will have to give proof as never before of its efficiency as an instrument for accomplishing great ends.

The Churches of Great Britain and Ireland included within the Section are passing through a period of readjustment and reconstruction necessitated by the calamitous losses and the changed values brought about through the war. A shortage in the ministry, a lowering of religious ideals, an inadequacy of financial arrangements, a distraction and division of effort are perhaps the drawbacks most keenly felt, but much is being done to counteract them. The Divinity Halls are again being supplied with students, Ministers have returned to their congenial task of preaching the Gospel of Peace, new schemes of systematic Christian liberality are being adopted, and movements towards union, especially in Scotland, are making distinct progress. The Colonial Churches also show signs of earnest and intelligent adaptation to the requirements of a new world. At the meetings of the Eastern Section reports on Home Missions, Foreign Missions, and Work among Youth have given us views of an expanding and richly varied Church life throughout our borders, and Dr. Smellie's brilliant accounts of what we are doing in the field of Church history shows that the war has failed to check our fruitful investigation of the past.

It is chiefly by the "Quarterly Register," published in February, May, August, and November, that we try to make the world-work of the Alliance known to our far-flung brotherhood, and we would appeal, especially to the younger Ministers and elders of our Churches, to enrol themselves among its readers. Its official circulation needs greatly to be enlarged if it is to become the general medium we desire. For the small sum of 2s per annum it will be sent to any address at home or abroad, and we may without boasting claim that ours is the only periodical which gives a regular and fairly complete review of the thought and activity of the various Churches of our Order. The reopening of postal communication with formerly enemy and neutral countries has made the "Register" still more cosmopolitan in its spirit and outlook. In the near future we hope to include Holland, Poland, Lithuania, and the Reformed Church of Germany more directly within our scope. One of the latest signs of the times is a request of students from Bulgaria to be allowed to attend Presbyterian Courses of Theology in Scotland. What has been proved in the British Overseas Dominions may yet find fresh illustration in the new Europe—that our system by its cohesion, elasticity, and grit is more potent for nation-building in truth and righteousness than any other.

As in previous years, the Eastern Section would respectfully urge upon the Ministers and Congregations of your Church the observance of the Week of Prayer for Foreign

Missions as beginning on 22nd November. Might we suggest that this would also be a good occasion for calling attention to the principles for which this Alliance stands? "As we have opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto such as are of the household of faith."

WILLIAM PARK,

Chairman of the Section, and President of the Alliance.

J. R. FLEMING,

Interim General Secretary.

Office of the Alliance,
122 George Street, Edinburgh,
April, 1920.

XIII —REPORT OF FINANCE COMMITTEE, 1920.

Your Committee herewith submits the audited balance sheets and report.

In connection with the funds of the General Assembly the situation has been rendered very acute by the continued increase in the cost of printing and paper which has been steadily rising during the last two years, and on this occasion your Committee had great trouble in getting the Blue Book printed at all in the time available after receipt of the Committees Reports, and, indeed, some of these reports are not yet in print, and this all adds to the already excessive cost. In some departments there seems to be no attempt made to abbreviate the reports, the cost of the printing of which is very great.

The amount realised from the Hymnary Royalty Account for the two years 1918-19, amounted to only £81 9s. 11d. This with the credit balance at the 31st July, 1918, £78 6s. 4d., was transferred to credit of the Travelling Expenses Account, total £158 16s. 3d. and there is thus nothing left at credit towards the travelling expenses for this Assembly, the whole amount having been necessary to square the Travelling Account for last assembly together with a sum of £71 0s. 6d., which had to be transferred from the General Account, so that whatever is allowed by this Assembly for travelling expenses will require to be provided for from the Expenses Account, and irrespective of Hymnary Royalty, as the prospective amount from the latter can only be very small.

In the General Assembly Expenses Fund the amount at credit is £149 11s. 1d. with £25 outstanding, i.e. £12 10s. each due by Western Australia and Tasmania. These amounts, however, have been paid since the close of the books, so that the true credit is now £174 11s. 1d. The expenditure in this account since last Assembly has been £561 10s. 11d., including the amount for the Year Book, £24 0s. 4d.; and the sum of £71 0s. 6d. was transferred to the Travelling Expenses Account in accordance with the instruction of last Assembly. The assessment paid by the various States, and including the assessment for the honorarium to the College Secretary has been £402 2s., and the total revenue with other items set forth in the account being £428 2s. 11d. It has to be kept in view, however, that the 1920 revenue has yet to come in, namely, £362 2s., so that with the credit balance now on hand, £174 11s. 1d., the amount available is £536 13s. 1d., but out of this the extra cost of the printing of the Blue Book, which will certainly be heavier than last year, has to be provided, together with the travelling expenses of members, for which there is no other provision, the Hymnary Royalty revenue being steadily on the decline.

Your Committee has resolved to recommend that the assessment be in the same proportion as last Assembly, namely.

Victoria	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£130	1	0
New South Wales	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	130	1	0
Queensland	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	38	5	0
South Australia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	21	5	0
Tasmania	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	21	5	0
Western Australia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	21	5	0

making a total of £362 2s. per annum, or a revenue for the two years of £724 4s, which your Committee believes will be sufficient to cover what is required. Your Committee would again, however, repeat that it would be much more satisfactory if an adequate capital fund could be provided, the interest of same to go permanently to provide for the expenses of the Assembly. The present amount at credit in that Fund is the small sum of £34 17s. 8d.

Without the full data before them your Committee is not in a position to make any estimate of the cost of travelling expenses to this Assembly, but makes the recommendation that the payment to members be on the same basis as formerly, namely:—That

members attending the General Assembly in September, 1920, have the following percentages of their travelling expenses (calculated upon the basis of second-class railway and second-class steamer fares at the reduced rate allowed by the railway and steamship companies) 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 possible, however, that the payment of even this proportion may cause the General Expenses Account to go considerably in debt.

The accounts for the Home Mission Department, included in which is the working of the Australian Inland Mission, are set forth in full, and occupy five and one half pages of the White Book, the costs in the various sections being given under their respective headings, with a view to giving at a glance what is being expended at each place. The total revenue evolved from all sources for the two years has been ; to 30th June, 1919, £3,936 9s. 3d., and to 30th June, 1920, £4,702 10s. 11d., and the expenditure for the same periods, i.e., to 30th June, 1919, £4,603 15s. 3d., and to 30th June, 1920, £5,472 4s. ; total for the two years £10,075 19s. 3d., leaving a debit balance at the end of June last of £722 15s. 11d., with a sum of £500 held at credit of reserve account, thus leaving a net debit as at 30th June last of £222 15s. 11d. The Department has the following credit amounts also on hand :—Aeroplane account £113 19s. 3d. ; A.I.M. Building account £134 8s. ; Alice Springs Building account £554 14s. 3d. ; Birdsville Building account £582 7s. ; Carnarvon Manse Building account £52 7s. 6d., but it has to be kept in view that contracts have since been accepted against several of these amounts.

The amount of £1,000 held to the credit of the John Frazer Foreign Missions Endowment Fund, and which was invested in Government stock at 3½ per cent., was repaid to your Committee during last year, and the sum has now been reinvested on mortgage for three years at 6½ per cent. The interest is paid to the credit of the Board of Missions every half year, and there will be a portion of back interest to adjust with the next payment.

In connection with the Year Book, the outwards payment from your Committee was £24 0s. 4d. The account inserted by the Editor of the Year Book shows a credit of £2 7s. ; so that the Year Book cost the Assembly something over £20. The Year Book account is shown separately.

On behalf of the Committee,

WALTER G. CRANE,

Chairman.

XIV.—PUBLIC QUESTIONS REPORT.

The Committee reports that, owing to the fact that the Convener was also the Moderator, and was engaged on the duties pertaining to the office in various parts of the Commonwealth, it was not possible to bring the members of the committee together.

The Committee is however able to inform the assembly that much useful work has been done in the various States in connection with the formation and expression of a healthy public opinion upon matters of vital importance to the usual life of the whole community.

The Committee recognises that the responsibility of the Church as the guardian of the moral interests of the people is heavier than ever, inasmuch as the tendencies to paganism and indifference to religion are still manifest.

The Committee believes that it is more than ever necessary for the Church to reiterate with all possible emphasis its declaration of opposition to all forms of gambling and especially those insidious attempts to involve the people as a whole in such financial schemes favoured by Governments as involve the encouragement of the gambling spirit.

The Committee reports that success has attended the efforts of the Victorian Committee in establishing lectures dealing with the teachings of Rationalism, and would recommend the committees on public Morals in the other States, to initiate similar movements.

It will be in the minds of the members of the Assembly that a public question of great importance has arisen in connection with the attitude of the Roman Catholic Authorities on the subject of mixed Marriages.

The Committee believes that, whilst we as a church are not entitled to express any opinion upon the internal administration of another denomination, we are bound in the interests of religious and civic liberty to resist to the utmost any attempt to brand as immoral and unchristian marriages duly celebrated by properly authorised ministers of religion and registered in the archives of the State.

The growing desecration of the Lord's Day is deplorable, and demands the earnest attention of the Courts and Public Questions Committee of the Church. The Church should use its influence with Civic authorities in restraining inroads on the Day of Rest.

The Committee regards it as very desirable that our own organisation in connection with "Public Questions"—should be correlated, and co-ordinated—in order that there may be some satisfactory bond of union between the Committees at work in the various States upon matters relating to the moral life of the community, and that the Assembly's Public Questions Committee may be enabled at the assembly, to present a conjoint view of the matters which are of such immense importance to the people of Australia.

The Committee suggests the necessity of its reconstitution in order to relieve the office of Moderator General of a duty which is almost impossible of fulfilment by the occupant of the chair.

To this end we propose that the Committee be composed as follows :—

1. The Moderator-General, the Ex-Moderator, the conveners of the Public Questions and other cognate Committees in all the States (such as Temperance, Religion and Morals; Life and Work; Welfare of Youth; Industrial Problems) together with elected members resident in the State in which the Convener of the Committee lives.

The Committee further suggests that the State Committees as above named be instructed to report to the Convener of the Public Questions Committee on any matter of Federal interest which may arise from time to time as occasion arises, in order that the General Assembly's Committee may be kept in touch with all public movements in which the moral life of the Australian People is involved.

XV.—REPORT OF THE NAVAL AND MILITARY COMMITTEE.

Now that the Chaplaincy Service in connection with the Australian Imperial Forces during the great War has ceased, your Committee feel it their duty and honour to submit their Report with special reference to that notable service.

Our first Chaplains for the A.I.F. were appointed in September, 1914, immediately after the outbreak of war. Our Executive, sitting in Melbourne, inclose touch with the central Military and Naval Administration, and also keeping in constant communication with the Naval and Military Committees of the Presbyterian Churches of the six States of the Commonwealth, having also the advantage of the presence of the Chaplain-General, were able, without delay to secure a constant supply of effective Chaplains, as the need for them arose. This method ensured unity of action throughout all the States of Australia prevented any suspicion of partiality, and also secured an adequate quota of the most fitting men, especially of those who had previously possessed practical experience in connection with the Commonwealth Defence Forces and their training. To this, we think, may be ascribed in large measure the very superior quality and effectiveness of the Presbyterian Chaplains as a whole, and the almost complete freedom from "misfits." The superior excellence of the Presbyterian Chaplains from Australia has been testified by the highest authority in Egypt, Palestine, Gallipoli, France, Belgium, and in the great Training Camps and the Hospitals of England and France.

We need not dwell upon the difficulties which confronted us, and the various Naval and Military Committees of the various States, during the first months of the war, and the heavy expense and anxious labour incurred in providing Soldiers' Institutes and Chaplaincy attention for the large number of our recruited men and boys. These difficulties our Church, with the invaluable aid of its womanhood, nobly met and overcame. We shall always remember with gratitude and admiration their work, and the gracious readiness with which Her Excellency Lady Helen Munro Ferguson lent her inspiration to this urgent factor in our Chaplaincy service.

Another feature we should note was our response to the call for a Form of Divine Service at "United Parades." Our Chaplain General undertook the task of drawing up this form of service; and it proved of the greatest advantage afterwards on troop-ships, and in Parades in Camps, and up the battle fronts, while, at the same time, Chaplains were left free to choose their own forms and modes at voluntary religious observances. This formed a distinctive feature of the Australian Protestant Chaplaincy Service, as contrasted with that of the British Imperial troops. It promoted brotherliness, and, at the same time in no wise interfered with denominational rights and freedom.

The names and standing of our earliest appointed Chaplains indicate both the representative character of our Chaplaincy staff from the very beginning, and also the high quality of its members. They were drawn from all the States (Queensland, South Australia, Victoria, New South Wales, Tasmania, West Australia); they set a high standard for the entire subsequent service. That high standard was maintained to the last.

It would be invidious and unfair to single out individual instances of ability and heroism by sea and land. In that great war and in all parts of its service done by man or woman, valour and the high sense of duty were the common characteristics. Our Chaplains were drawn from the various British lands, England, Scotland, Ireland, Australia. In all, some 100 Chaplains were nominated by the Chaplain-General; and of these

86 were appointed and served. The "18 additional Chaplains" who were called for, just at the close of the war, were not "appointed"; as the Peace-Armistice came with unexpected suddenness. To those who were nominated, on the special call of the Military Authorities, and responded with eager loyalty, but were long kept expectant in vain, we, in common with the Chaplain-General, express our sincere and grateful sympathy.

Amid such a large number of Chaplaincy Officers it would, therefore, be impossible justly to note specially the names and deeds of this or that Chaplain, except in cases of unique tragedy. And very early in the progress of the dreadful war the call for the supreme sacrifice came. Senior Chaplains Merrington and McPhee and Chaplain Andrew Gillison were with the first troops who landed on Gallipoli. There Chaplain Gillison and Senior Chaplain Grant (Presbyterian) of the New Zealand forces, were killed in heroic endeavour to "save the wounded boys" lying out under shrapnel fire, or left behind in the Turkish trenches. The sorrow of officers and men at the death of Gillison were deep and wide-spread. The Brigadier-General, afterwards Commandant of the entire A.I.F. wrote:—"Gillison was the best-loved man in the entire Brigade."

This, however, was but the beginning of the deaths, woundings, torpedoings, gas-tortures, fevers, shell-shocks, which have made our Chaplain-service during the war a noble and consecrated memory in the life of our Presbyterian Church of Australia. For, as we shall state afterwards, the awesome sacrifice continued to the end.

Those troops who died by the cliffs of Gaba Tepe, or at Cape Helles, or Chunuk, were largely drawn from the University College and High-schools of Melbourne, Sydney, etc.; and when John Masefield of England,—good enough to say,—"They were the flower of the World's Young Manhood," we may reply,—with a keen heart-pang, "At any rate they were the flower of Australia's young manhood; and, after life's fitful fever they sleep well."

As the war went on, and its area widened to the "Western front," the awful increase of "casualties" necessitated a larger supply of Chaplains "for Hospitals," and "troopships," and the battle-zone. Also a new difficulty arose. Churchly assumptions and divisions introduced from London, began to make dissensions in Egypt. We were constrained to despatch the Rev. Colonel Crookston to Egypt, whose winsomeness, wisdom, and courage put an end to the trouble.

Of his transference to the French front, taking with him a number of Chaplains tested by experience in lower and upper Egypt, we need not again tell.

In connection with this phase of the Service, the Military Authorities deemed it wise to commission the four Chaplains-General (Church of England, Presbyterian Church, Methodist Church, and Roman Catholic Church) to visit Headquarters in England, and the various Battle-fronts and Hospitals, and to organise more thoroughly the respective Chaplaincy Staffs. Our Chaplain-General (Dr. Rentoul) despite his years did not shrink from this task. The story of his visit to the Old Lands and the "fronts," and the notable conference of the Chaplains-General and Senior Chaplains at Salisbury Plains, England, and the Parades and Rallies of troops there are still fresh in memory. The entire Chaplain service was re-organised for battalions at the "fronts" and for the wounded in Hospitals. A Senior-Chaplain was appointed at Headquarters in London, for each of the four chief "Denominations" of Australia, to administer the Chaplain Service, at the "fronts" and in the Hospitals, Colonel Crookston, being appointed Senior Presbyterian Chaplain. We cannot over-estimate the good work of this gallant officer.

When, through over-strain and also weighted with the thought of his Church in Australia, Colonel Crookston resigned in 1917, he left in his place, at Headquarters in London, Colonel W. Floyd Shannon, who had seen lengthened Hospital service in England, and who transacted, very wisely, the duties of Senior Chaplain in England and France until the close of the war.

Sad things also happened. Not only did "the great war" intensify in its tragic vehemence and sacrifice on "the Western front," but it also swept, with renewed hazard and horror into Palestine and the far East. So we were called upon to send Chaplains specially fitted as "trained-riders," "camel-masters," etc.—for "the dash through Palestine and the hills of Moab and on towards Damascus." No bit of service was more arduous. We claim, modestly but confidently, that we have chosen those gallant Chaplains well:—some from Queensland, some from New South Wales, some from Victoria.

We regret to have to recur to the note of sadness and "the supreme sacrifice." In the dreadful "Casualties" lists and lists of "Killed in action," our Chaplains had their fitting place. Theoretically it is supposed that a "battalion Chaplain," does not share the risk of the "fighting line," and that a transport Chaplain does not run the awesome risk of the land soldiers. But those who speak thus do not understand the conditions of "the great war" and its awful curse by land and sea. The distinction between "transport Chaplain" and "battalion Chaplain" was practically "wiped out." Chaplain Macrae Stewart was in the torpedoed "Southland," on the way to Gallipoli; Chaplain Burridge (N.Z. Presbyterian) was for seven hours in the waters of the Aegean. Chaplain Goller (Victoria) torpedoed in the "Ballarat," was rescued from the sea, with loss of all belongings, only to meet gallant death in Field-Marshal Haig's last forward drive against Ludendorf.

So to the noble rank of Gillison we have to add Chaplain Goller (Victoria) and Chaplain Major Stevens (N.S.W.)—Officers who died in Hospital from battle-wounds) and Chaplain the Rev. J. Kemp Bruce (N.S.W.), who died at sea from shock; and Chaplain the Rev. Albert E. Bates (N.S.W.) who died from "Spanish pneumonia-influenza" while tending his sick men, in the first months of his battalion-service.

NAVAL DUTIES.

The Chaplain-General has had, all these years, the added duty of acting as Presbyterian Representative on the Commission for the "Nomination of Protestant Chaplains to the (Australian) Navy." It has given him, and us, much trouble. The first Presbyterian Chaplain, appointed as College Chaplain at Jervis Bay was the Rev. W. Pendleton Stuart, B.A. Then the Rev. G. Chalmers, and the Rev. A. Tulloch, M.A. successively held the Chaplaincy of R.N.C. Jervis Bay.

Owing to an alteration in the Naval Rules and Regulations, Chaplain Tulloch is now Chaplain of H.M.A.S. "Australia," the "blue riband of the Australian Naval Service (Chaplaincy) and an Anglican is Chaplain of the R.A.N.C. Jervis Bay (N.S.W.). The Rev. A. Oswald Hardie, B.A. (Presbyterian) is Chaplain of H.M.A.S. "Penguin." After repeated conferences, and deputations to Government, we are endeavouring to secure an arrangement by which the Presbyterian Naval Chaplain (on the "Australia") shall be authorised (on his occasional visits to Jervis Bay) to superintend the religious interests of Presbyterians at the R.A.N.C. Jervis Bay (instruction, communion-service), and to be empowered accordingly.

We confidently leave this matter in Dr. Rentoul's hands, and we feel that a debt of gratitude is due to him from the Presbyterian People and all Protestants for his wise action. We must urge upon the Church of N.S.W. the duty and necessity of watchful vindication of the spiritual interests of its sons in these National and Government institutions.

We regret to have to express one note of surprise and complaint. It is a subject of astonishment that the Chaplains of the Presbyterian Church of Australia (while again and again receiving testimony to having rendered, as a whole, the noblest and most trustworthy service) have been given the very scantiest recognition by any Military or Imperial acknowledgment. Two of them (Lieut.-Col. Frank Rolland, M.A. Vic. and Major A. McEwan Stevenson, N.S.W.) received the M.C., but only after repeated gazettal of distinguished and most memorable service.

We close this Report with the expression of deep relief, and also of thankfulness to Almighty God, in His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who has wondrously vindicated the Divine righteousness and judgments, as against the forces of wrong and lawless iniquity. And, in view of the future and its hazards, we "thank God and take courage."

J. LAURENCE RENTOUL, Convener.

NOTE.—The number of Chaplains "On the Establishment" of the Commonwealth Military Forces in each State has now been reduced to what was its normal state before the war. The others have been placed on the "Supernumerary List."

XVI.—REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON HOME MISSIONS.

Your Committee has the honor to report that during the past two years the work of the Home Mission Department has been carried on steadily, despite the difficulties arising out of the shortage of men. Extension work in all the States has had to be curtailed because of the lack of suitable men offering as missionaries. Our agents have been doing splendid work, and the response from the people ministered to has been, on the whole very encouraging, the reports from the State Committees are appended.

AUSTRALIAN INLAND MISSION.

The Board has sustained a great loss in the death of the Convener, Rev. Arthur J. Wade. Mr. Wade had been associated with the A.I.M. since 1912, and in 1914 was elected to the chair. In this capacity he rendered valuable service to work of the mission. Widespread sympathy has been expressed to Mrs. Wade and family

Our thanks are due to Professor Macintyre, who, though loaded to the full with other duties, very kindly consented to act as convener. Thanks are also due to the various state Conveners and councils, to the Office Teams and Church Representatives.

At the time of our last report the Rev. W. H. Cooper, M.A., B.D., had taken up his duties at Carnarvon. At first the few people associated with the congregation were most pessimistic, but young and old alike became attached to their minister, and long before he left they ran a special effort which realised £140 towards his manse. The Rev. John Waugh, B.A., formerly of Broken Hill, has proved a worthy successor, and in November next a second special effort is expected to surpass the former one. During his recent visit the Superintendent found that the people of the district far out were now looking to the A.I.M. for leadership in many things, and in two centres nursing homes have been projected.

At Port Hedland, as will be seen from the Superintendent's report, Rev. K. D. McDonald holds a strong place as leader of the community. Sister E. Simpson, after nearly three years of valuable service, has retired and taken up deaconess work at Montague, Vic. She was succeeded by sister E. M. Inglis, a gold medalist of Adelaide Hospital, who is assisted by Miss Nance Inglis.

Rev. A. J. Eipper has retired from Broome. On his return via Darwin, your Committee arranged for him to visit Marranboy, and he also preached in Darwin Methodist Church. He is now minister at Geraldton, W.A., and there he is helping to prepare the way for a future A.I.M. minister in the Murchison Valley. The work at Broome is now carried on by Rev. S. W. R. Richardson, M.A., B.D., and hopes are strong that soon a church will be erected: the site has long been secured, and now nearly £400 is in hand. It is interesting to note that our three ministers in the Nor' West of W.A. were fellow-students at Sydney University and St. Andrews' College.

At Hall's Creek the Nursing Home has been well established by the faithful labours of Sister M. E. Rogasch and Miss M. E. Madigan. The latter has now retired, and her successor is Nurse Beatrice Rogasch: as noted in the Superintendent's report, Hall's Creek and Marranboy owe their good fortune in having two trained nurses each to the eagerness of nurses to serve the inland.

Greatly to our regret, Rev. K. F. Partridge, M.A. had for private reasons to withdraw from Central Australia: but we were fortunate in securing as successor Rev. Coledge Harland, formerly of Kergunyah, Vic. It is difficult to realise the vast area over which Mr. Harland travels on his camels: one round trip, taken annually, entails upwards of 2,000 miles. No residence has hitherto been provided for our minister in Central Australia, but your Committee now hopes to secure a house under offer at Oodnadatta.

Sister Jean Williamson and Miss Maggie Williamson have succeeded Sister Hore in the Hostel at Oodnadatta. No previous nurse there had a companion, and the advent of a mate has greatly eased the strain for the Sister-in-Charge. The Superintendent has told of the successful start of The Mitchell Home at Beltana: when the building is ready at Alice Springs we will have a fine chain of four Nursing Homes stretching across the Continent from south to north.

Your Committee deeply regrets that there has been little progress in our section of Queensland. Help has been offered to residents of Birdsville towards a Nursing Home, but they have now decided on an alternative plan to secure a doctor with aid from the Government now available. At Cloncurry Mr. W. R. McKenzie has been carrying on the work diligently, but your Committee feels that the time has more than come when a young ordained minister should be settled there. The provision of a suitable new manse is most urgent, and it is proposed to take immediate steps to secure this. A station should then be opened in the Cunnamulla District.

By way of recognising the various interests that meet in our congregations, your Committee has adopted the plan of setting out the denomination of each person enrolled as an associate in any district. In this way it is hoped that misunderstanding may be avoided; for each individual enrolled knows that, while he is associated for purposes of worship and fellowship, he is still regarded as a member of his original regiment in the mighty army of the King of Kings.

During the year a communication has been received from the Methodist Conference of Queensland, suggesting co-operation in the Cloncurry area of the State. Your Committee proposes to arrange this as far as practicable there, and in any future districts that may be opened up.

The extension of work will involve increased expenditure, and your Committee confidently appeals to their supporters to be generous in their giving to this forward movement.

In view of the need of buildings, long deferred on account of the war, your Committee has recently initiated a Building Loan Fund, on lines long followed in New South Wales. Several generous donations have already been received, and to this object further contributions are earnestly invited.

Acting on the authority of last assembly, secretarial assistance has been secured. Out of 63 applicants for the position, the choice of your Committee fell on Mr. Thomas Ramage, who had for three years given fine service as Financial Secretary to the Presbyterian Church of South Australia.

As the time for which the Superintendent had been appointed has now expired, your Committee unanimously recommends that the Rev. John Flynn be reappointed for a term of six years.

A hasty glance at the balance sheets might give rise to anxiety for the state of the funds during the period under review, but a detailed examination will show that our financial position has never been stronger.

For the year ending June 30th, 1919 the funds apparently slipped back sadly, for a final balance of only £46 is shown, as against a credit of £714 at the commencement of the year. It must be noted, however, that an amount of £547 had been transferred to the Birdsville Building Account, so the actual leeway was only £121.

For the year ending June 30th, 1920 the setback appears to be serious, for an adverse balance of £722 is shown as against a credit of £46 at the beginning of the year: i.e. a leeway of practically £770. It must again be noted, however, that during this year several transfers were made to special accounts, viz., Aeroplane account, £113: A.I.M. Building Loan Fund, £131: Alice Springs Building Account, £554: Carnarvon Manse Fund, £52: making a total of £752 10s. added to the reserves. Moreover, a sum of £530 was paid out of revenue for the purchase of Carnarvon Manse, a permanent asset. Thus the financial position really improved during last year to the extent of £612 16s. 11d.

The local response in our field stations is steadily improving, though rather spasmodic as yet. For success uniform and continuous organization is essential, but that can come only in the course of time.

The Superintendent has raised the question "What is our objective in regard to our Nursing Homes?" Your Committee feels strongly that its financial support should be temporary, and that ultimately each Nursing Home should become a self-supporting District Hospital, able to claim the ordinary Government subsidies.

Your Committee feels, furthermore, that this point of view should be made very clear to supporters of existing Nursing Homes, and to all who may seek our help in future. To impress upon committees of these homes the desirability of their becoming self-sustaining within reasonable time, your Committee intends for the future to set a mark for them to aim at, viz., the raising of a definite percentage of the annual outlay, a percentage to be gradually increased, and to be a first charge on all moneys raised locally. In this way the A.I.M. subsidy for maintenance could gradually be eliminated, except in drought years.

Such an objective raises the question of ownership of hospital property. At the outset circumstances compel the A.I.M. to provide the building, and in the cases where the building is owned by us, the title deeds are in the name of the Presbyterian Church of the State concerned. To ensure local interest in the repayment of the money, ultimate local ownership is offered. All moneys subscribed by local supporters in excess of their agreed percentage to the maintenance account are reckoned as their "Building Credit," together with any Government or Municipal subsidies for building purposes. In the event of a District Hospital Committee being formed, recognized and supported by the Government of the State, your Committee exercises the option either (a) to sell the property to the said District Hospital Committee at cost, less building credit, or (b) to pay to the District Hospital Committee cash equal to amount of building credit, and retain the property.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT.

The past two years have brought important developments. We cannot yet report an adequate increase in the ministerial branch of our work, but we may be grateful because we have at least held our own; also we have reason to hope that several Ministers will be able to offer within the next two years.

In our nursing branch progress has been marked. In February of last year a Nursing Home was opened at Beltana, S.A., in co-operation with the Smith-of-Dunesk Committee. As a tribute to the Pathfinder of the Inland, Rev. R. Mitchell, this new institution has been called "The Mitchell Home." Sister M. Kinnear and Miss J. MacLeod have been in charge since the inception, and the appreciation of the people may be gauged from the fact that in the first year they raised the sum of £302.

A most significant advance has been made without effort of the Board. A successor to Sister S. Mouritz, of Maranboy, was found in the person of Sister Jean Herd, of Ithaca, Brisbane; she reported that Sister Dunlop, of Brisbane Public Hospital, desired to accompany her in the capacity of companion. About the same time Miss Madigan found it necessary to return to Adelaide from Hall's Creek, and Nurse Beatrice Rogasch then

volunteered to join her sister at that far away outpost. So it comes about that our two furthest-north homes each have two trained nurses in charge—and this because in each case the second nurse has offered in capacity of companion, at rate of salary much below what she might command nearer home. This is a striking evidence of the readiness of the profession to serve the pioneers.

After deferred hopes since 1912 building operations have begun at Alice Springs, thanks largely to the Young People's Association of South Australia, whose special effort last year resulted in £532 towards this object. A fine Nursing Home should be opened early next year, and Sister Janet Hepburn, who initiated the work at Maranboy, has offered to serve there. Three other trained nurses are "standing by" ready to proceed to the field whenever required, while upwards of twenty young women are in various stages of preparation with a view to A.I.M. service.

Thus, compared with a staff of four trained nurses and two untrained helpers in 1918, we now have seven trained nurses and three untrained helpers actually in the field, four very competent nurses in reserve, and a large band getting ready for the future.

The advent of our General Secretary has changed the whole aspect of things so far as my own work is concerned, for there is now freedom to go hither and thither without anxiety about office work, which grows in volume steadily.

In regard to revenue there is much to report since last Assembly. Towards the end of 1918 we were notified that the late Mr. John Henderson, of Ullman, Mullaley, N.S.W. had made provision in his will for several sums to come ultimately to the A.I.M. the chief amount will be very considerable, viz. £6,100. More recently another residuary legacy has been reported, the goodness of the late Mr. G. M. Buchanan, of Melbourne. Details are not yet to hand, but apparently it may be upwards of half the earlier one. Among legacies actually received during the same period are amounts of £500, £256, and £56, from the estates of the late Miss Amy Fairfax, of Sydney and London, Mrs. Umpherston, of Adelaide, and the late Flight-Lieut. Clifford Peel, of Inverleigh, Vic., whose article on aeroplanes for Inland excited so much interest. We are grateful to these friends who have remembered us in the final distribution of their goods, and the increased number of instances points towards an expectation of larger tasks for the cause assisted.

Apart from these legacies there has been an increase in amount of "units" in our receipts. Prior to the period under review there had never been a single donation above £200. Since last Assembly, besides the large donation of £532 already mentioned, we have received a Peace Thanksgiving offering of £500 from Miss Frances Glasson, and £342 proceeds of a single day effort at Port Hedland; now the W.A. Government has added an offer of £750 towards the new building at Port Hedland. In all quarters there seems to be a tendency to bigger deeds, and among the many other encouraging contributions is one of £160 from the scholars of Sabbath Schools of the United Free Church of Scotland.

The effort at Port Hedland shows how the inland people are rising to their responsibilities, and there is reason to hope for an increasing measure of self-help in all our stations which, after the buildings now urgently required have been provided, will set free much of present subsidies for use in new enterprises. Broome has made two efforts, each resulting in the neighbourhood of £150; while Carnarvon secured £140 special last year, and aims at something better this year—all towards buildings.

The future calls inevitably for strong action from time to time, and we must be prepared. To that end a Building Loan Fund has been opened, and already several contributions—£100, £120, £50, £50—indicate that it is being taken up with earnestness as far as it has gone. A strong building fund makes possible buildings ensuring comfort and a measure of healthy pride; and these help towards fitness of body and spirit for the staff—with reduced travelling expenses for the Mission. Further they speak to all concerned of our confidence in the country, and that cheers them on in their pioneering hardships.

Turning towards the future again I would specially urge that thought should be given to the needs of West and North Queensland. For over two years Cloncurry district has been without an ordained Minister, whereas there should be at least four strong men patrolling the west of that State. But no Minister has yet come into sight, only hopes of one or two later on.

Along with the development of the nursing work there comes the query of where it is to end. We took up the work just because no other organisation would do it, but perhaps the fruit of our work will be ability among frontier communities to manage their own affairs as the population increases. This suggests that it might be a gracious thing to have some provision to meet the position in the event of a district ripening so happily. Such provision could well be on lines followed by the Congregational Union of W.A. in transferring to us the Church at Carnarvon, viz., to require back some of the capital advanced from headquarters, letting moneys specifically given for the individual institution, by the residents around, pass to the credit of the new management.

I would urge some generous provision for practical reasons, for I believe it would have important results quite apart from any actual transfer:—First, non-Presbyterians would then apprehend clearly that no money subscribed by them to the nursing work could be diverted subsequently to serve mere denominational ends; and they would then give more freely, and ease our burden on their behalf. Second, the mere existence of such a provision would be a striking demonstration of the fact that the True Church exists to create character and foster self-control, rather than gather to itself temporal power.

After long advocacy of aerial medical services for the isolated regions we have something to report: members of the legislature in West Australia have taken up the idea, and have induced their Cabinet to seek co-operation by the Federal Government in an experiment. Much may be done for the bush merely by spreading ideas beyond our own organisation.

The feeling of friendliness that is growing between the Kirk and the citizens of the frontiers may be indicated by the election of Rev. K. D. McDonald, B.A., to the Chairmanship of the Roads Board of Pilbarra. In this capacity he recently acted as host during the visit of the State Governor, and also to a Parliamentary party that was out to see the land prior to some important changes in administrative methods. Thus the voice of the district came to be expressed chiefly through the lips of an Inland Minister!

Surely this points to the way of victory in our sacred Cause. To-day there is obviously insufficient formal preaching of the Word in the lonely lands of Australia, but there is something that is preparing the way for the preacher of future days. By our distribution of literature that brightens life for many—the postage on one month's consignment from Melbourne Centre recently was £5 9s. 4½d., for 125 parcels—and by the skilled healing of our nurses whose names are known for hundreds of miles, also by the leadership in community life exhibited by our few Ministers already out, religion is being identified with the best of present life. So is coming over the land an atmosphere in which it will be easier to interpret that Spirit through Whom alone man attains to fulness of lasting life.

JOHN FLYNN.

VICTORIA.

Extension work has been almost at a standstill owing to the shortage in the staff of missionaries. Combined efforts are being made to bring the need for young men of the right type before the young people's societies and already some response has been made.

Three stations have been formed in the metropolitan area. In several country parishes the time has already come for subdivision or for extra services. As the Committee sought to ease the financial burdens of the staff piled up through the decreased purchasing power of the pound, and other demands had to be met, the reserve fund was expended and a considerable deficit incurred.

Of the staff, 2 agents are licentiates of the Church, 10 are exit students, 21 are theological students, 3 have completed the Home Mission course, 8 are in the fourth year of the Home Missionary course, 15 are in the third year, 7 are in the second year, 3 are in the first year, 9 are ordained Ministers, and of the remaining 18, some are elders of the Church, some finished the old Victorian course of study for Home Missionaries and others are either temporarily employed or are not following a course of study.

JOHN BARNABY, Convener.

TASMANIA.

In submitting its report and balance-sheet for 1920, the Tasmanian Executive would gratefully acknowledge the fine Christian spirit the Victorian Church displayed through the Home Mission Committee, in so freely sharing with Tasmania the men at their disposal during the years of their own acute need. The Church of Tasmania recognises and appreciates the spirit d'honn and the help given.

The record of the Home Mission year in the Island shows little progress in actual Church extension work, not that there are no fields to be opened up, but because of the serious shortage of men offering themselves for the work of God's Word. Perhaps there was never a more definite call from the people of our Church to extend its work; and never was there such a dire scarcity of men. Surely the call of the people from the new settlements that are being opened up in the forest is the voice of God appealing to young lives to consecrate themselves, and take up the high task awaiting them in God's great harvest field.

The home missionaries generally have done their work faithfully and earnestly, often under difficulties. In more than one case one man has endeavoured to do the work and cover the distance where two and sometimes three men would be employed if such where available. The Executive would encourage our men in their studies, and their going forward to qualify for the full ministry of the Church. The following stations are at present vacant:—St. Helens, Sorell, Zeehan and Waratah.

West Coast Mining Fields.—The Rev. George E. Harrison is still faithfully supervising the work of the whole field of the West Coast, from his charge in that remote but important centre of Queenstown. Negotiations in connection with the Mt. Lyell Co. and its taking over of the Mt. Reid and Hercules properties have been completed, and the large developmental work as a result is expected to bring back to the now partially deserted districts of Zeehan, Roseberry, Renison Bell, and Tullah a great revival of industry, and an inrush of population. The impossibilities of obtaining machinery has long hindered developments. Two men, if procurable, would be sent to work in these promising and needy districts, where the services of our Church are much appreciated. Isolated Linda is, for the present, being worked by Mr. Harrison from Queenstown.

Far North-East.—Some development has taken place in this quarter. The North-Eastern field, from Pioneer to Gladstone, has made a very encouraging forward movement. A fine new Church building at Gladstone was opened during the year, and is already free from debt. This is the first Presbyterian building in that far North-East.

At Winnaleah (a rich agricultural district that has been opened up by an extension of the North-Eastern railway), there is a most promising future for our Church. Already two blocks have been purchased for a Church and Manse site, and a considerable sum is in hand for building purposes. This field, which was only finding the amount of £50 towards its support last year, is now self-supporting, paying their agent £150.

Good work has been done in the new field at St. Helens, which is at present vacant for want of a man.

The suburban field of Glenorchy, Newtown, has made good progress during the year, and Newtown has been separated from Glenorchy and now has an agent of its own.

Finance.—The revenue for the year is not quite as satisfactory as that of last year. This is accounted for through the annual effort being made during the last month of the financial year. A number of charges and stations failed to send in their returns in time to have same credited in this year's work. The contributions from Sunday Schools have again considerably increased. The amount available from debentures is slightly better than that of last year. Your Committee is grateful to the Victorian Sunday School Union for their continued liberal financial assistance.

The thanks of the Committee is given to the Moderator-General, the Right Rev. John Walker, who during his official visit to the Island made a specialty of encouraging the Home Mission work; also to the session and Congregation of St. Andrew's, Hobart, for releasing the Convener from his pulpit during the year, for visitation and organising work throughout the Home Mission field of the Island.

We would request the prayers of the Church for the Church's Home Mission work in the Island, especially that consecrated men be forthcoming for its extension.

On behalf of the Executive,

ALAN D. LECKIE, Convener.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

The difficult situation reported last year has been considerably relieved by the addition of several new men to the Home Mission staff, but the Committee deplors the lack of fully qualified men to meet the needs of places able to issue a call. Mt. Barker, Jamestown, Wallaroo still require ordained men, but are being ably ministered to meanwhile by energetic missionaries.

An interesting item is the opening of the new B.H.P. Co.'s Church at Whyalla, a very fine concrete structure with a large hall at the rear. The Assistant General Manager authorised our missionary to go right ahead and take possession as soon as the building was completed on the understanding that if any other denomination desired to use it they could approach the Presbyterians to make arrangements suitable to all. At present the Presbyterians and Anglicans are negotiating an amicable arrangement. An imposing institute is also being erected by the Co. for entertainments, picture shows, etc., and the A.G.M. has assured us that their co-operation in any attempt made by us to minister to the welfare of the community will be willing and hearty. This new programme of the Co. is a happy augury for the future in the way of helping to solve the industrial problems.

It is gratifying to record that one of our men who returned from the war after long leave has been doing valiant service for the Smith-of-Dunesk Mission during a period when Mr. Mitchell had difficulty in securing the right man; glowing reports have come to hand of his extensive labours.

Another interesting feature about the situation here is the Co-operative Committee which has been working successfully for about two years. Representatives appointed by the Methodist Conference, Congregational Union, Baptist Union and Presbyterian Assembly of S.A. meet together as a central Committee on co-operation and the principles of co-operation are applied; (a) In the adjustment of overlapping in existing fields; (b) In providing the ordinances of religion in districts hitherto unoccupied; (c) In the theological training of students for the ministry. The usefulness of the Committee has been demonstrated lately in the effort to minister to the increasing soldier settlements on the Murray, and it is solely because of lack of men and money that the Presbyterian Church is not represented in these fields.

Shortage of funds particularly as well as suitable men is still a deciding factor in extension work; it is a tremendous handicap in these days with the commodities of life barometer steadily rising. Without the means of offering a fair salary there is not sufficient inducement to offer to men to take up home mission work.

Another obstacle is the need of a Theological Hall which compels men to face the removal to another State to complete their course. There is a movement on foot to establish a United Hall; the scheme is now before the General Assembly and should this receive its imprimatur better days are expected so far as extension work is concerned.

An additional handicap is felt in the fact that so large a section of the Church is separated from the S.A. Assembly in the South-East. An effort was made to have this serious defect remedied at the last Victorian Assembly when by a small majority of only nine votes the Petition to have the charges in the Penola Presbytery transferred to the South Australian Assembly was refused.

The difficulties are many, the work strenuous, we thank God and take courage.

H. DOUGLAS FEARON, Convener.

WEST AUSTRALIA.

From one point of view the Church in W.A. was never more efficient. Two years ago we had 15 settled Ministers. A year ago we had 17, to-day there are 22 ordained Ministers labouring in W.A. Three of these are under the A.I.M. and three others are ex-A.I.M. There are three Churches vacant at present but two of them have issued calls

In our purely Home Mission districts we are less happy. We cannot obtain suitable men for work in the mining and wheat lands. By a tacit arrangement, certain districts are left to certain Churches, and districts which are left to us, are, we are sorry to say, unevangelised. Huge districts with increasing numbers of farmers are calling for Divine Ordinances, but we are impotent. Since the war it has been more difficult than ever to obtain suitable men. The high cost of living is partly responsible for this and the H.M.C. has increased the stipends by £20. Unfortunately the cost of living works to our disadvantage in two ways, for though our grants are more, our receipts from Congregations are less. We trust the decrease is temporary.

Though the work is at a standstill, or worse, in the rural districts there has been advance in the suburban areas. Three places till lately carried on by lay preachers without any pastoral work are now under the care of gentlemen who are engaged in business, but who give their week ends and some evenings to pastoral work, and flourishing Congregations are now found where there were but handfulls of people. Two other suburbs are now under ordained Ministers, one of them being inducted with the good prospect of the other being so inducted before very long.

ALEX. CROW }
W. HUEY STEELE } Convener.

XVII.—REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE FEDERATION OF THE PROTESTANT CHURCHES.

Your Committee begs to report that, in accordance with the instructions given by last General Assembly the Basis of Union adopted as to Doctrine and Polity by that Assembly as one on which Union might be consummated, was sent down to State Assemblies and Presbyteries, with instructions to report, through the Committee, as to whether they approved or disapproved of Union on this Basis, giving the numbers approving and disapproving. The results were as follows :—

						Number Approv- ing.	Number Disap- proving.
N.S. Wales	State Assembly	Approve	...	...	...	41	23
Victorian	"	"	...	...	...	123	48
Queensland	"	"	...	...	...	26	13
W. Australian	"	"	...	...	...	15	11
Tasmanian	"	"	...	...	...	11	5
S. Australian	"	"	(unan.)	...	...	30	—
						246	100
N.S.W. PRESBYTERIES							
Bathurst	Disapprove (8)	...	...	...	...	0	5
Clarence	"	...	...	...	...	0	6
Goulburn	"	...	...	...	...	3	4
Hunter	"	...	...	...	...	1	13
New England	"	...	...	...	...	1	8
Orange	"	(unan.)	...	...	...	0	7
Young	"	...	...	...	...	2	3
Illawarra	"	...	...	...	...	4	5
						11	51
Hastings	Approve (9)	...	...	...	...	6	2
Monaro	"	...	...	...	...	4	2
Moree	"	...	...	...	...	4	2
Murrumbidgee	"	...	...	...	...	6	1
North Sydney	"	...	...	...	...	13	10
The Hawkesbury	"	...	...	...	...	7	5
Richmond	"	...	...	...	...	6	2
Sydney	"	...	...	...	...	29	17
Wagga Wagga	"	...	...	...	...	10	2
						96	94
QUEENSLAND PRESBYTERIES.							
Rockhampton	Disapprove (2)	...	...	...	...	3	3
Townsville	"	...	...	...	...	1	2
						4	5
Brisbane	Approve (3)	...	...	...	...	18	2
Maryborough	" (unan.)	...	...	...	...	6	—
Toowoomba	"	...	...	...	...	4	2
						32	9
S. AUSTRALIA.							
Adelaide	Approve (3) (unan.)	...	...	...	...	19	—
Belalie	"	...	...	...	...	5	1
Onkaparinga	"	...	...	...	...	6	—
						30	1
TASMANIA.							
Hobart	Disapprove (2)	...	...	...	...	1	4
Midlands	" (unan.)	...	...	...	...	0	4
Launceston	Approve	...	...	...	...	5	2
						8	10

		Number Approv- ing.	Number Disap- proving.
VICTORIA.			
Ballarat	Disapprove (8)	8	8
Beechworth	"	2	7
Flinders	"	5	6
Gippsland	"	3	11
Hamilton	"	3	4
Maryborough	"	2	7
Mortlake	"	5	8
Western Plains	"	4	5
Bendigo	Approve (9)	10	6
Geelong	"	6	5
Goulburn Valley	"	8	—
Macedon	"	5	3
Melbourne North	"	21	6
Melbourne South	"	18	16
Penola	"	5	1
Seymour	"	5	3
Wimmera	"	6	4
		116	100
W. AUSTRALIA.			
Perth	Approve (4)	8	3
Fremantle	"	7	—
Albany	" (unan.)	5	—
Goldfield	"	—	—
		20	3
28 A 20 D		Total	300
			217

Acting under the authority given by last Assembly your Committee submitted the Basis of Doctrine and Polity to Sessions and Congregations with the question "Do you approve of Union with the Methodist and Congregational Churches on the Basis of Doctrine and Polity adopted by the General Assembly as one on which Union might be consummated?" with the following results:—

	Sessions.		Congre- gations.		Votes of Elders.		Votes of Committees.		Votes or Adherents.	
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
N.S. Wales ...	57	28	152	61	349	226	9128	5295	8981	4070
Queensland ...	7	2	—	—	49	18	2803	691	1790	203
Tasmania ...	2	5	11	17	15	12	368	311	221	182
Victoria ...	77	79	119	99	377	337	10066	11014	7289	6057
S. Australia ...	12	5	15	9	39	37	725	544	358	226
W. Australia	9	4	19	4	50	19	876	344	154	67
	164	123	316	190	879	649	23966	18199	18793	10885

Summary.	Total for Yes.	Total for No.	Total Members	Members and Elders	Adhe- rents on Roll.	Adherents Voting.
N.S. Wales ...	18458	9591	22936	15098		13051
Victoria ...	17732	17408	34972	21794		13346
Queensland ...	4642	992	9316	3561		2073
Tasmania ...	604	505	1476	706		403
S. Australia ...	1122	807	2574	1345		584
W. Australia	1080	430	2156	1289		221
	43638	29733	73430	43693	29678	
	73371			73371		

Corrections up to 21st Sept., 1920.

	Sessions.		Congre- gations.		Elders,		Communi- cants.		Adherents,	
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
N.S.Wales (Corrected Vote)	60	29	156	63	367	240	9616	5538	9348	4239
Queensland (Additional Vote)	1	—	—	—	9	—	674	112	974	183
Victoria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

This shows a total vote of members and adherents together of about 60 per cent. for and 40 per cent. against Union, which is very much the same proportion as in Canada in 1916 viz. : 142,676 for Union to 89,917 against.

The vote in the Congregational Church up to date is, Members : yes 7,803, no 1,318, showing a majority of 84 per cent. for and 16 per cent. against Union. The vote in the Methodist Church is still incomplete, but up to 20th Sept. it was Members, yes 29,492, no 2,742; Trustees, yes 4,492, no 491 or about 10 to 1 in favour of Union.

As instructed by the last Assembly your Committee gave opportunity to State Assemblies and Presbyteries to accompany their returns to the remit approving or disapproving of Union on the proposed Basis of Doctrine and Polity with suggestions for amendment or improvement of that Basis (as was done also by the Methodist and Congregational Churches), such suggested amendments to be considered and reported on by the Joint Union Committee of the three negotiating Churches. As a result many suggestions for amendment or improvement of the Basis of Doctrine and Polity were sent up from State Assemblies and Presbyteries (as well as from the minor Courts or Councils of the Methodist and Congregational Churches), for the consideration of the Joint Committee. The Joint Committee gave careful consideration to all these suggested amendments and agreed to recommend thirty of them (which are appended to this report) for adoption by the Supreme Court or Councils of these negotiating Churches as improvements of the proposed Basis of Doctrine and Polity.

The suggested amendments thus approved of by the Joint Committee were printed and circulated among Sessions and Congregations at the time when the vote "approving" or "disapproving" of Union on the proposed Basis of Doctrine and Polity was taken.

Your committee recommends that these suggested amendments together with any other proposed amendments sent up by Sessions or Congregations and any others which may hereafter be sent up with the approval of any State Committee on Union be referred to the Committee with a view to consultation with the representatives of the other Churches on the Joint Union Committee thereanent. Your Committee expresses its sincere gratification at the very pronounced vote in favour of Union given by the Methodist and Congregational Churches and feels that this is an encouragement to our Church which initiated this movement to work earnestly for its consummation.

Your Committee recognises that a considerable minority of the people of our Church have, at this time voted against Union on the proposed Basis, but they hope that with further consideration and conference and with such amendments in the Basis of Union as may be finally agreed upon, these brethren will ultimately join with the Church as a whole in the cordial acceptance of a policy of Union.

As regards further action to be taken by the General Assembly in view of the returns now received to the remit your Committee recommends as in the following Deliverance.

D. S. ADAM, Convener.

CHURCH UNION.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS IN BASIS.

Approved of by the Joint Committee.

I.—DOCTRINE.

1. Preamble.—Line 2, before "Christ" insert "Jesus."
2. Article I.—Line 2, after "Spirit" add "Light and Love." Line 5, omit "love and."
3. Article VII.—Line 8, instead of "became the propitiation" read "was set forth as a propitiation."
4. Article VIII.—Line 4, instead of "is ever willing to give" read "gives."
5. Article IX.—Title, add "Justification." Line 5, after "sacrifice" insert "justified being."
6. Article XII.—Line 5, substitute "asking" for "praying."
7. Article XIV.—Line 7, instead of "together with baptized children" read "together with their children and other children who have been baptized."

8. Article XIV.—Line 12, omit “this” before “faith.”
8. Article XV. (a).—Line 3, after “believers” read “and their children and children presented by Christian guardians upon whom,” etc., instead of the words in the present Article.
9. Article XV. (b).—Line 5, after “Lord Jesus Christ” insert the words “really but spiritually present to the faith of believers in that ordinance.”
10. Article XVIII.—Title, omit “last” before “Judgment.” Line 3, insert “come to” after “shall.”
11. Relation of a Minister to Doctrine (c).—Line 4, after “Scripture” omit “and,” and begin a new sentence substituting “holy” for “said” before “Scriptures.”

II.—POLITY.

12. Clause (2).—For this clause substitute the following:—“The members of the Church entitled to all Church privileges are those who, on a profession of their faith in Jesus Christ and obedience to Him, have been received into full membership.”
13. (Clause 3).—Alter line 3 to read: “Shall be (a) by the elders’ meeting, or (b) by the local Church on the initiation of the elders’ meeting.”
14. Clause (6).—Line 4, omit “by the elders’ meeting,” and add a new sentence, viz.:—“All meetings of local Congregations shall be called by the elders’ meeting.”
15. Clause (9).—Delete comma after management in line 1, and after “and” insert “where practicable.”
16. (Clause 10c).—Alter so as to read: “A number of managers chosen by full members, or where a Congregation so desires, by full members and adherents of the Congregation.”
17. Clause (11).—Line 2, omit the words “and shall when present have the right to preside. In his absence, or should he not wish to preside,” and begin a new sentence with the next word “the.”
18. Clause (12).—Line 2, after “Congregational purposes” insert “and the general enterprises of the Church.”
19. Clause (13).—Line 4, after “of” add “the Church within”; and in line 5, after “office” add the following new sentence: “Unless otherwise desired by a Congregation, elders shall hold office for three years, but shall be eligible for re-election.” Line 2, for “its” substitute “the.”
20. Clause (14).—Instead of “shall be” in line 1, read “is”; and instead of “elected by” in line 2, read “of.”
21. Clause (15a).—Line 2, omit the word “and”; insert comma after “removal.” Line 3, substitute “and the exercising of discipline” for “with power to exercise discipline.”
22. Clause (15b).—Line 5, omit “and for the office of lay preacher.”
23. Clause (17).—Line 6, after “shall” insert the words “shall be communicated with and shall.”
24. Clause (22j).—Alter so as to read, “to license and ordain or direct Presbyteries to license and ordain candidates accepted by it for the ministry.”
25. (Clause (29)).—Line 3, for “shall admit” substitute “may admit.”
26. Clause (33).—Line 2, omit all words after “Church,” and add the following: “In each circuit a meeting of lay preachers shall be constituted in accordance with the laws of the Church, and shall meet quarterly. Such meeting may appoint for a probationary period and test and train candidates for the office of lay preacher. Such candidates, if recommended by the lay preachers’ meeting and by the Circuit Council, may, after examination and approval by a presbytery, be admitted to the status of lay preacher, and publicly set apart to that office.”
27. Clause (34).—Line 2, for the word “effective” substitute “in active work.”
28. Clause (35).—Line 7, add “and at other times as may be required.”
29. (Clause (37)).—Alter, so as to read: “The invitation or call to a Minister to a pastorate shall be given by the members of the Church in full communion over eighteen years of age who are enrolled in the Congregation or Congregations comprised in such pastorate. Such invitation or call shall be in writing and duly signed on the presented form by such members, and shall be conveyed through the elders’ meeting or meetings of such Congregation or Congregations to the Circuit Council, by which it shall be considered and remitted to the Settlement Committee, with such recommendation as the Council may deem fit. If the right of call be not exercised by the members in such pastorate, the Circuit Council shall have such right of call.”
30. Appendix I.—Line 4, after provision made, insert the words “on such terms as Parliament shall consider just” and omit “the” before “real and personal property.”

No detailed returns have been sent in showing the number of Congregations that have voted, though of a total membership of 9,316, 3,749 have voted besides 3,230 adherents total 6,979.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA CONGREGATIONAL RETURNS.

South Australia—	Congregations.	Mission Stations.
Adelaide	11	2
Belalie	6	4
Onkaparinga	5	1
	22	7 — 29

Of these 26 have sent in returns, 3 have not. Of a total membership on the roll of 2,574, 1,345 members have voted besides 584 adherents. total 3,158.

WEST AUSTRALIA CONGREGATIONAL RETURNS.

West Australia—	Congregations.	Mission Stations
Perth	15	4
Fremantle	4	—
Goldfields	2	1
Albany	3	1
	25	6

Of these 24 have sent in returns and 7 have not.

SUMMARY.

	Congre- gations	Mission Stations.	Sent in Returns.	Voted Yes.	Voted No.	Equal.
N.S.W.	186	43	220	156	63	1
Vic. and Tas.	242	105	230, exclusive of Mission Stations	126	104	—
Queensland	47	41	—	—	—	—
S. Australia	22	7	26	16	10	—
W. Australia	25	6	24	19	4	1
	522	202	500	316	181	—

There are in all 724 Congregations and Mission Stations. Of these 500 are directly accounted for. Of the remaining 224, 105 are Mission Stations in Victoria and Tasmania, the votes of whose members and adherents have been included in the total vote of members and adherents, but regarding whose votes as Congregational units no information has as yet been supplied and 88 are Congregations and Mission Stations in Queensland, the votes of whose members and adherents have been included in the total vote of members and adherents, but regarding whose votes as Congregational units no information has as yet been supplied. This leaves only 31 of the 724 Congregations and Mission Stations unaccounted for in the voting viz. :—

New South Wales	9
Victoria and Tasmania	12
South Australia	3
West Australia	7
	31

XVIII.—REPORT ON MISSION TO THE JEWS.

Your Committee, in presenting their first report, are able to speak thankfully and hopefully. Since last Assembly Mr. Ettemann has done good work both in N.S. Wales and Victoria. Numberless Jews have been interviewed in their homes and places of business; instruction has been given to others in Melbourne at a night-school; while no fewer than 5,000 copies of the New Testament (in English, Hebrew, or Yiddish) have been wisely distributed by him throughout the Commonwealth.

The Victorian Assembly last May instructed the Presbytery of Melbourne South to ordain Mr. Ettemann to his special work. This the Presbytery did on June 22nd. As the constitutionality of this has been called in question, your Committee ask that this irregularity (if any) be condoned and Mr. Ettemann's ordination declared valid.

The wideness of the sphere and the growth of the work make claims upon our missionary, which no one man can meet. And we hope that the Church will not only continue to support the present effort, but prepare the way for more workers to share in this prospering and important enterprise.

XIX.—RETURNS ON UNION.

Rev. Sir,

Your Committee beg to report that they have examined the papers and reports available in respect of the return asked for on Remit re Union—and find that the report in Assembly Paper No. 2 so far as we can judge by the materials available is substantially correct except that the total Congregation to say Yes set out on page 2 should be 316 instead of 216 as printed and as regards the Voting of Communicants and Adherents in West Australia the No of Communicants voting No should be 154 instead of 344, and the number of Adherents voting Yes should be 344, instead of 154. This would involve a consequential alteration in the total. In regard to Questions asked by Rev. M. Foster, we answer same as follows:—

(1) According to Year Book for 1920 the Congregations and Home Mission Stations, were as follows:—

	Congregations	H.M.S.	Total.
Victoria	227	93	320
New South Wales	180	48	228
Queensland	49	41	90
South Australia	23	7	30
Tasmania	16	13	29
West Australia	22	—	22
			719

(2) No materials re this

(3) Yes and No vote of each—materials were incomplete and even if materials were available it would necessitate the Committee working for a whole day or a whole week to have a thorough audit.

We are satisfied that 513 Congregations voted. In addition we have inspected some 200 Returns and are not sure that these were included in totals or were additional—leaving approximately 206 not represented. Committees had every assistance of Dr. Adam, Convener of the Federation of Churches Committee.

J. HOLDSWORTH,

Convener Sub-Committee.

XX.—REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON STATISTICS, 1919.

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

Your Committee on Statistics have to report that the last returns only came to the Convener's hand on the 14th September. This late arrival makes it impossible to check the figures or examine them with sufficient care.

The new schedule of questions, approved by last Assembly, was used for the first time. None of the State Assemblies has yet managed to incorporate all the required particulars in their returns. The Queensland State Committee's report contains the clearest printed summary. The West Australian returns are very imperfect, many important questions being quite omitted. We understand that this State Assembly is revising its schedule. The Victorian Assembly has begun a new method of collecting statistics through its Presbyteries and when this is in full operation it should produce more accurate results.

The use of our new schedule has already revealed one or two particulars in which it requires emendation. We ask for authority to attend to this matter. Through all the States one great fact stands out clearly. The inaccuracy and inconsistency of returns sent in from parishes reveal the existence of some defect in the system of Church Records right through the Commonwealth. The primary defect is that the records depend too largely on the interest and skill of the Minister or Home Missionary. If he has no taste for figures or records, or if he is sick or removed from the parish, no records are kept and often the old records disappear. The incoming man has to start *de novo*.

No other Church in Australia has the same difficulties in knowing where it stands. Our Church Offices and Assembly Committees require to make constant use of our statistics and the present imperfection and inaccuracy must be producing serious embarrassment and waste in many directions.

The College curriculum evidently should include some practical instruction in the value and working of a system of Church Records. It is also very desirable that one standard set of records be drawn up for the Australian Church and that Presbyteries should stringently insist that these be fully used.

The perplexity of the present returns is illustrated in Table II. 1., where we see that Victoria has in two years lost no fewer than 38 Church Buildings and gained 28 school buildings. The action of new office-bearers in classifying as a hall or school what had been previously classed as a Church may account for some part of this double change. But even if all the 28 halls were formerly described as Churches that still leaves 10 Churches that have disappeared. Your Committee can scarcely believe that to be true, and all the less so that sitting accommodation has increased by no fewer than 20,000.

It would appear that the most accurate figures kept by the Church relate to our finances. (In passing, we note that it is not creditable to be able to tell more accurately how many pounds sterling we possess than how many souls we have for our hire.)

If, however, the returns are reasonably correct they show a great expansion of value in our material possessions. Church property has gone up in Victoria by over £81,000 in two years; in N.S.W. the rise is well over £67,000; in Queensland over £35,000; in South Australia over £8,000 and in the West nearly £12,000. Tasmania alone shows a reduction, but her return is very incomplete on this point. In this connection we draw attention to the lessons enforced in Victoria and New Zealand by the destruction of beautiful Churches through fire. Doubtless part of the value of "Churches," etc., lies in the site or land. Nevertheless we suggest that the amount of Fire Insurance required for buildings is worth looking into.

In Victoria the value of Church property has increased by £81,000 but Insurance has decreased by over £8,000.

Table II. 4, classifying the Church's departmental activities, is as yet so incomplete as to be useless. We print such returns as we have to show the nature of the information expected. In the matter of Religious Ordinances, Table II. 5, only two columns show an increase, namely, marriages and funerals.

For the rest, the growing scarcity of men (together doubtless with the interference caused by the Influenza) probably accounts for the reduction in preaching centres, number of services and baptisms.

The reduction in prayer meetings is probably accentuated by the same causes, but in this case there would appear to be a progressive and fairly steady decline.

In the Welfare of Youth columns the Victorian Sunday Schools show decline from 580 to 520. This is due to more accurate returns eliminating overlapping. We believe there is no real decline in the number of actual schools. Last year showed a decline in the number of children which at least in part was due to the Influenza Epidemic. When schools re-opened many children did not return, having lost the habit of attending. That there is a drift from Sunday Schools not merely at or about 14 years of age, but at all ages is shown we think by the fact that though in our Year Book for 1920 the graph on page 94 shows a steady rise in the Presbyterian element of the total population never-

theless our Sunday Schools contained not merely a higher ratio of children to population, but absolutely a greater number of children in 1905 than in 1919.

In 1905 we had 73,869 children on our roll. Ten years later in 1915 we had 77,240; in 1917, 76,574; in 1919, 69,365. In 1901 the population of Australia was under four million; it is now well over five million, but we have fewer children in our schools. So far as we have been able to obtain the relative figures, a total of 36,438 children on the roll yields an average attendance of 22,141. This gives an average in four States of just 61 per cent. actually attending.

We have kept to the last the figures relating to Church membership.

The adherents' rolls are in a state of chaos. Probably many were compiled for the first time for the recent vote on Church Union. If those certified rolls are still available it would be a useful thing to collect the numbers at once.

As things are, no State Assembly has any accurate record of its adherents on the Roll. In Victoria and Tasmania the figures include all over 14; in N.S.W. and Queensland all over 16. "Adherents," of course, are limited to people over 18, who fulfil certain conditions. The total of communicants shows an increase of 132 for the whole Commonwealth over a period of two years. This is a gain for Australia of 0.1 per cent. In Queensland the membership returns show a decrease of 4.3 per cent.; in Tasmania a loss of 13.9 per cent.; and in Western Australia a loss of 7.5 per cent.

The attendance at Communion in Victoria is 54 per cent. No one, we think, can question that these figures and the facts revealed by this report constitute the most important subject matter brought before this General Assembly.

Nothing else matters so much as the spiritual life and growth of the Church. Yet all over Australia we are at a standstill.

We respectfully suggest that the Assembly take instant and drastic action to examine the whole position.

In the name of the Committee,

R. WILSON MACAULAY, Convener.

REVIEW OF COMMUNION STATISTICS

Year	Victoria		N. S. Wales		Queensland.		South Australia		West Australia		Tasmania	
	Total	First Time	Total	First Time	Total	First Time	Total	First Time	Total	First Time	Total	First Time
1902...	25,238	2,212	13,952	1,433	5,776	445	1,623	132	1,002	106	1,719	—
1904...	26,673	1,371	15,337	962	5,529	287	1,441	134	992	—	1,496	—
1905...	27,185	1,115	16,034	1,176	5,807	370	1,703	45	1,098	92	1,714	—
1906...	27,601	1,449	16,824	1,149	6,277	281	1,777	87	1,039	102	1,691	140
1908...	28,518	1,174	17,586	1,012	6,484	284	1,905	86	1,371	103	1,777	108
1909*	29,079	1,930	18,533	1,625	6,730	399	1,988	110	1,411	93	1,280	50
1911...	30,498	1,850	19,526	1,150	7,530	443	2,004	—	—	—	—	—
1913*	31,461	1,826	20,856	1,049	8,671	486	2,251	130	1,943	194	1,280†	50†
1915...	33,666	1,939	21,729	1,255	9,311	530	2,405	114	2,128	110	1,244	50
1917...	34,352	1,875	22,484	1,328	9,736	393	2,616	102	2,362	147	1,715	73
1919...	34,972	1,567	22,936	878	9,316	332	2,514	108	2,183	94	1,476	46

* Chapman-Alexander Missions were held during the years 1909 and 1912.

† Estimated figures.

TOTALS OF COMMUNICANTS.

Year.	Total.	First Time.
1902	49,310	4,328
1904	51,468	Y2,804
1905	53,541	2,798
1906	55,209	3,208
1908	57,641	2,767
*1909	59,021	4,207
1911	62,488	Y3,723
*1913	66,462	3,735
1915	70,483	3,998
1917	73,265	3,918
1919	73,397	Y3,025

* Chapman-Alexander Missions were held during the years 1909 and 1912.

Y Totals include estimated figures.

TABLE SHEWING THE PERCENTAGE OF NEW COMMUNICANTS TO MEMBERSHIP.

Year.	Victoria.	N.S.W.	Q'land.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Australia.
1911	6.06	5.88	5.88	5.53*	6.59*	3.90*	5.95*
1913	5.80	5.02	5.60	5.77	9.98	3.90*	5.61*
1915	5.76	5.77	5.69	4.74	5.16	3.90*	5.67*
1917	5.42	5.90	4.03	3.89	6.22	4.25	5.34
1919	4.12	4.2	3.41	4.77	4.30	2.68	4.12

TABLE SHEWING THE PERCENTAGE OF NET INCREASE OF MEMBERSHIP TO TOTAL.

Year.	Vic.	N.S.W.	Q'land.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Australia.
1911	4.8	5.3	14.8	0.8	—	—	5.8*
1913	3.1	6.8	15.1	12.3	—	—	6.3*
1915	7.0	4.1	7.3	6.8	9.5	2.8	6.0
1917	1.0	3.4	4.5	8.7	10.9	37.8	3.9
1919	1.8	2.0	Y	11.2	Z	q	3.1

* Including estimated figures for States whose returns were defective.

Y Queensland membership shows a decrease between 1917 and 1919 of 4.3 per cent.

q Tasmanian membership dropped in the two years 1917-1919 from 1,715 to 1,476, a loss of 13.9 per cent.

Z West Australian membership shows a decline of 7.5 per cent.

TABLE I.—(1) MINISTERS, CHARGES, AGENTS, ETC.

Details.	Victoria.	N. S. Wales.	Queensland.	S. Australia.	W. Australia.	Tasmania.	Totals.	
(a) Presbyteries ...	1905 ...	14	14	5	3	3	3	42
	1917 ...	17	17	5	3	4	3	48
	1919 ...	17	17	5	3	4	3	48
(b) Charges ...	1905 ...	274	183	40	23	20	25	580
	1917 ...	222	225	48	21	20	17	553
	1919 ...	228	235	44	20	24	16	567
(c) Home Mission Stations	1913 ...	99	31	42	9	11	9	201
	1917 ...	123	32	39	10	7	14	225
	1919 ...	86	37	43	8	6	16	196
(d) Ministers Settled	1905 ...	189	137	37	15	11	16	400
	1917 ...	205	159	36	17	15	14	446
	1919 ...	215	159	31	18	15	10	448
(e) Ministers in Special Service ...	1913 ...	7	16	5	2	1	—	31
	1917 ...	8	6	3	2	—	—	19
	1919 ...	16	16	3	2	3	2	42
(f) Ministers Emeriti	1905 ...	25	11	1	1	—	1	39
	1917 ...	22	9	4	—	—	—	35
	1919 ...	23	16	3	1	—	—	45
(g) Ministers not Settled	1905 ...	24	24	1	1	—	—	50
	1917 ...	27	19	—	—	—	—	46
	1919 ...	23	26	—	—	—	—	49
(h) Divinity Students	1905 ...	13	21	—	—	—	—	34
	1917 ...	27	12	—	—	1	—	40
	1919 ...	28	11	10	1	—	—	50
(i) Home Missionaries	1905 ...	61	30	—	—	—	—	91
	1917 ...	118	24	55	7	10	12	226
	1919 ...	50	47	28	4	2	11	—

TABLE I. (2)—CENTRAL OFFICES.

State.	No. of Central Office Staff.	Capital of all Beneficiary Funds.	Capital of Central Church Extension Funds.	Total Capital of Central Funds used for—		Capital used for Reformative and Charitable Purposes.	Total Capital Funds of State Assembly.	Total of State Assembly's		
				Foreign Missions.	Home Missions.			Credit Balances.	Debit Balances.	Ch. Office Buildings (value).
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Vic.	14	121,456	Inclu. in H.M. Funds.	16,367	37,481	—	401,038	33,940	10,307	35,031
N.S.W.	8	24,827	81,579	8,400	32,500	51,783	211,371	2,344	—	10,000
Q'land	1	—	4,885 (Susten- tation.)	—	6,488	No Return.	12,000*	—	—	—
S. Aus.	1	16,824	—	—	4,000	—	27,878	31,675	2,219	—
W. Aus.	1	—	—	10	50	—	4,232	327	894	—
Tas.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	25	163,107	—	24,777	80,519	—	656,519	—	—	45,031

* An estimate arrived at by adding certain detailed Capital Accounts, but presumably below the true total.

TABLE II.—(1) CHURCH BUILDINGS.

	Churches.			School Halls			Manse			Other Properties		Halls, Etc., Hired	Sitting Accommodation		Total sittings as grouped in previous Tables			
	1905	1917	1919	1905	1917	1919	1905	1917	1919	1917	1919		1919	Bldgs. for Worship	Other	1905	1917	1919
														1919	1919			
Victoria ...	487	579	541	149	168	196	171	205	207	—	—	247	127,945	22,750	88,738	130,135	150,695	
N. S. Wales	349	446	460	85	118	129	116	157	157	—	127	?	75,575	?	56,740	73,248	75,575*	
Queensland	84	158	162	35	41	47	26	47	49	32	31	?	24,453	?	14,152	23,716	24,453*	
South Aust.	29	37	37	?	10	13	14	18	18	?	?	8	7,602	2,345	6,093	9,952	9,947	
West. Aust.	?	29	26	?	20	19	?	14	12	?	?	?	5,410	2,540	?	6,137	7,950	
Tasmania ...	?	45	47	?	7	12	?	14	15	?	?	8	8,645	1,290	?	9,875	9,935	
Total ...	?	1294	1273	?	364	416	?	455	458	—	—	—	249,630	28,925*	?	253,081	278,555*	

* Obviously incomplete.

TABLE II.—(2) BUILDING FINANCE.

	Value of				Total Value of Congregational Property			Insurance		Total Insurances as given in Previous Years			Total Debt		
	Churches	Schools	Manse	Other	1905	1917	1919	Churches	Other	1905	1917	1919	1905	1917	1919
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Victoria	527,548	112,060	154,590	93,465	697,395	871,049	952,415	335,575	120,341	320,057	514,152	505,914	105,523	122,487	105,641
N. S. Wales	511,002	69,725	147,673	47,787	566,436	709,839	776,187	239,05	154,615	198,541	414,798	443,670	61,256	68,244	60,100
Queensland	138,971	19,369	27,170	29,240	112,375	178,375	214,750	71,217	75,779	59,146	100,402	146,996	14,798	11,368	8,039
South Australia	42,245	6,956	12,620	8,605	20,165	62,403	70,426	23,200	11,800	?	25,794	35,000	2,225	4,138	4,185
West Australia	?	?	?	?	?	80,260	72,019	?	?	?	42,146	45,629	16,355	26,652	28,976
Tasmania	25,735	2,380	8,900	9,721	?	61,405	45,355*	9,259	6,207	?	21,552	15,466	5,735	6,058	4,020
Total						1,970,025	2,131,152				1,118,844	1,192,675	206,392	238,947	210,961

* Estimate figure.

TABLE II.—(3) PERSONAL ORGANISATION.

	Elders now Members of Session			Elders not new members of session 1919	Managers		
	1905	1917	1919		1905	1917	1919
Victoria	827	1,065	1,187	155	4,440	4,488	5,041
N.S. Wales	715	1,006	1,047	?	2,335	3,188	3,386
Queensland	234	370	370	?	565	1,044	979
S. Australia	79	112	127	?	132	349	357
W. Australia	48	103	97	?	150	246	197
Tasmania	65	59	59	5*	?	226	230
Total	1,968	2,715	2,887	160 ?	7,622*	9,541	10,170

* Incomplete.

TABLE II. (4)—SOCIETIES.

State.	Women's Missionary.		Men's Missionary.		Junior Missionary.		Other Women's Associations, Guilds, etc.		Other Men's Leagues, etc.	
	No.	Members.	No.	Members.	No.	Members.	No.	Members.	No.	Members.
Victoria ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
N.S. Wales	131	?	?	?	69	?	—	—	—	—
Q'land ...	?	1743*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
S. Aust. ...	17	355	nil	nil	nil	nil	10	182	nil	nil
W. Aust.	29*	424	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tasmania	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total ...										

TABLE II. (4)—SOCIETIES (Continued).

State.	Fellowship Associations.				Temperance Societies.		Other Young People's Clubs, Guilds, Associations, etc.	
	No. of Branches.		Members.		No.	Members	No.	Members
	1917	1919	1917	1919				
Victoria ...	72†	—	1563†	1282	—	—	—	—
N. S. Wales ...	—	—	—	—	23	?	—	—
Queensland ...	?	?	233	277	?	519	?	1080
South Australia ...	nil	nil	No	Record	No	Record	No	Record
Western Australia ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tasmania ...	—	—	?	54	—	—	—	—
Total ...								

* Includes other Women's Societies as well as Missionary.

† Figures for 1915.

TABLE II. (5)—RELIGIOUS ORDINANCES.

State	Preaching Centres.			Sunday Services.		
	1905.	1917.	1919.	1905.	1917.	1919.
Victoria	991	1,031	940	39,137	42,895	41,172
New South Wales	1,113	1,137	1,182	24,531	29,663	30,169
Queensland	243	339	356	5,912	10,548	10,236
South Australia	34	72	60*	2,679	3,266	2,331*
Western Australia	?	61	43	?	2,762	2,762†
Tasmania	64	75	74	633	2,746	2,445
Total	?	2,715	2,655	?	91,880	89,115

TABLE II. (5)—Continued.

State	Weekday Services.			Prayer Meetings.		
	1905.	1917.	1919.	1905.	1917.	1919.
Victoria	1,686	2,278	2,271	5,031	no r'tn	4,133
New South Wales	3,358	1,500	1,694	3,089	2,763	1,961
Queensland	1,148	559	425	544	349	208
South Australia	374	239	183	72	386	314
Western Australia	?	289	289†	146	317	no r'tn
Tasmania	?	273	297	?	?	181
Total	?	5,138	5,169§	?	?	

TABLE II. (5)—Continued.

State	Marriages			Baptisms			Funerals		
	1905	1917	1919	1905	1917	1919	1905	1917	1919
Victoria	1,223	1,599	1,736	2732	3078	2622	1,495	1,583	1,864
N. S. Wales	1,203	no r't	no r'tn	2717	3529	2902	793	no r'tn	no r'tn
Queensland	286	695	779	803	1450	1314	161	476	669
S. Australia	27	109	138	52	164	157	47	125	143
W. Australia	?	?	no r'tn	165	269	269†	?	?	no r'tn
Tasmania	?	99	85	?	170	159	?	90	83
Total	?			?	8,660	7,423	?	?	

* Regular Centres only. † Figures for 1917. § Includes estimated and incomplete figures.

TABLE II. (6, 7)—PERSONNEL AND CHURCH MEMBERSHIP.

State	Households.			Persons.			Adherents
	1905.	1917.	1919.	1905.	1917.	1919.	1919
Victoria	30,815	34,609	35,990	117,558	110,806	115,239	44,484 §
New South Wales	17,333	no r'tn	no r'cd	74,502	83,838	83,948	32,748 †
Queensland ...	3,903	9,314	9,602	10,771	35,152	37,846	13,100 ‡
South Australia ...	601	2,892	51,77	2,093	11,072	9,230	r'tn ic'lt ^e
Western Australia	?	?	no r'tn	?	6,682**	6,682	no r'tn
Tasmania ...	?	1,539	31,15	?	5,995	4,731	2,086 §
Total	?	?		?	252,745	257,676	

TABLE II. (6, 7)—Continued.

State	Communicants.			Communicants added by Profession of Faith		
	1905.	1917.	1919.	1905.	1917.	1919.
Victoria	27,185	34,352	34,972	1,115	1,925	1,567
New South Wales	16,034	22,484	22,936	1,176	1,328	878
Queensland	5,807	9,631	9,316	370	393	332
South Australia	1,703	2,616	2,514	45	102	108
Western Australia	1,098	2,362	2,183	92	147	94
Tasmania	1,714	1,715	1,476	70 §§	73	46
Total	53,541	73,265	73,397	2,868	3,968	3,025

TABLE II. (6, 7)—Continued.

State	Other Communicants added by		Total Additions	Communicants Removed				average attendance at com'm'n
	Renewal	Certificate	1919	by death	by ce'rate	no ce'rate	Total	1919
Victoria	263	1,823	3,688	463	1,772	562	2,878	18,977
N. S. Wales	...	1,007	1,885	?	?	?	1,638	no r'cd
Queensland	...	222	1,554	133	237	161	531	no r'tn
South Australia	181	157	446	?	?	?	181	no r'cd
West Australia	6	95	195	14	8	15	37	no r'cd
Tasmania	2	20'	68	23	31	52	106	884
Total	452	3,324	6,836	—	—	—	5,371	

** Figures arrived at by adding communicants adherents and scholars and are doubtless below true total. The same figures are repeated for 1919 as no others are available.

§ Over 14 years of age † Over 16 years of age §§ Estimate

TABLE II. (8)—WELFARE OF YOUTH

State	Number of Sunday Schools			Number of Teachers				
	1915	1917	1919	Male	Female	Male	Total	Total
				1919	1919	1905	1917	1919
Victoria	585	580 §	520	883	3,003	4,199	4,904	3,886
N. S. Wales	335	363	367	669	1,677	2,161	2,525	2,346
Queensland	133	162	153	387	792	939	1,232	1,179
South Australia	34	42	36	84	224	156	313	308
West Australia	24	88	36	68	293	205	345	307
Tasmania	39	41	37	45	132	189	275	177
Total	1,151	1,226	1,149	2,136	6,067	7,849	9,594	8,023

TABLE II. (8)—Continued.

State	Number of Scholars on Roll					Average Attendance	
	Boys	Girls	Total	Total	Total	Boys	Girls
	1919	1919	1905	1917	1919	1919	1919
Victoria	14,291	17,200	39,158	35,725	31,491	—	—
N. S. Wales	9,529	12,341	21,706	23,455	21,870	13,348	**
Queensland	4,120	5,180	8,148	9,998	9,300	5,180	**
South Australia	1,022	1,196	1,160	2,359	2,218	1,631	**
West Australia	1,328	1,722	2,013	3,269	1,436	1,982	**
Tasmania	620	816	1,684	1,768	3,050	—	—
Total	30,910	3,8455	73,899	76,574	69,365		

TABLE II. (8)—Continued.

State	Number of Bible Classes					Bible Class Membership				
	Y'g Men	Y'g W'men	Total	Total	Total	Y'g Men	Y'g W'men	Total	Total	Total
	1919	1919	1905	1905	1917	1919	1919	1905	1917	1919
Victoria	105	104	—	—	209	1,164	1,099	3,713	4,388 *	2,263
N.S. Wales	—	—	—	—	67	—	—	1,563	1,515 *	not giv.
Queensland	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	365	226	219
S. Australia	no r'cd	no r'cd	no r'cd	no r'cd	—	—	—	163	93 *	—
W. Australia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	129
Tasmania	5	2	—	—	7	46	21	—	123 *	67
Total										

* Figures for 1913 § These are 24 "Union" Schools in Victoria not included in the total given. ** Total only is available without distinction of Boys and Girls.

TABLE II. (9a)—FINANCE
Revenue for Congregational Purposes.

State.	Ordinary Congregational Revenue			Special Congregat'nl Revenue		
	1905	1917	1919	1905	1917	1919
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Victoria	83,480	99,763	95,504	12,144	16,498	22,511
N. S. Wales	44,620	73,649	106,023	24,485	20,400	30,884
Queensland	14,030	22,067	23,442	2,639	10,394	8,298
South Australia	5,461	6,993	9,885	597	1,061	1,068
West Australia	?	7,856	6,721	?	463	2,387
Tasmania	?	5,633	4,073	?	820	1,121
Total	—	215,961	245,648		49,636	66,269

TABLE II (Continued)

State.	Revenue for Foreign Missions			Revenue for Home Missions		
	1905	1917	1919	1905	1917	1919
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Victoria	1,115	4,019	8,174	757	2,586	3,485
New South Wales	1,290	3,526	4,386	732	2,104	1,854
Queensland	60	135	323	62	310	815
South Australia	?	467	530	?	577	247
West Australia	?	21	102	?	26	313
Tasmania	?	228	311	?	142	218
Total		8,396	13,826		5,745	6,932

TABLE II.—(9b) FINANCE

State.	S. S. Revenue			Total Congregational Rev.			Stipend		
	1905	1917	1919	1905	1917	1919	1905	1917	1919
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Victoria	2,264	12,254†	16,185†	115,939	144,541	150,627	60,396	70,875	71,851
N. S. Wales	1,191	2,384	1,150	77,562	97,740	145,379	41,015	56,597	61,117
Queensland	1,511	2,384	1,762	18,621	39,418	39,518	9,011	13,194	13,194§
S. Australia	?	380	417	?	8,434	10,047	3,902	5,944	5,958
W. Australia	330	400§	no r'cd	5,914	9,315	10,852	3,436	4,500§	4,986
Tasmania	370	409†	460†	5,557	8,225	6,896	3,749	3,897	4,167
Total					307,673		121,509	155,007	161,273

§ These figures are estimates.

† These figures give total revenue from all organisations under Congregational control.

GENERAL ACCOUNT OF AUSTRALIA EXPENSES FUND ACCOUNT.

Dr.

STATEMENT 10th AUGUST, 1918 to 10th AUGUST, 1920.

Cr.

DISBURSEMENTS.		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
To Meeting in Melbourne	September, 1918—						
„ Printing	...	1	18	0			
„ Communion Wine	...	1	5	0			
„ Organist	...	3	3	0			
„ Church Officer	...	4	0	0			
„ College Committee—					10	6	0
Secretary's Honorarium—	(late Rev. J. C. Contie)	30	0	0			
Rev. H. M. Burns	...	10	0	0			
„ Union of Churches—					40	0	0
Reprints	...		11	11	2		
„ Reception of Ministers—					0	10	0
Postages	...				24	0	4
„ Year Book	...				241	1	6
„ Printing Blue Book	...				4	3	0
„ Printing and Stationery	...				11	14	4
„ Postages	...				0	16	1
„ Telegrams	...				0	18	6
„ Exchange on Cheques	...				0	17	6
„ Moderator's Printing	...				2	0	0
„ Hire Motor a/c Moderator	...						
„ Honorarium—					100	0	0
Moderator, 1918-1919	...				30	0	0
Clerk	...				71	0	6
„ Travelling Expenses Transfer as per Blue Book 1918							
„ 2 per cent. on Revenue 1918	...	5	6	6			
„ „ „ 1919	...	7	5	6			
					12	12	0
					561	10	11
„ Balance	...				149	11	1
Amounts Due 1918—					£711	2	0
W. Australian Church	...	12	10	0			
Tasmanian Church	...	12	10	0			
		£25	0	0			

RECEIPTS.		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
By Balance, 10th August, 1918	...						
„ Proportion of Expenses—					282	19	1
For 1919—							
Victorian Church	...	130	1	0			
N.S.W. Church	...	130	1	0			
Queensland Church	...	38	5	0			
South Australian Church	...	21	5	0			
West Australian Church	...	21	5	0			
Tasmanian Church	...	21	5	0			
					362	2	0
„ Honorarium—Secretary College Committee—							
Victorian Church	...	20	0	0			
N.S.W. Church	...	20	0	0			
					40	0	0
„ Year Book Sales	...				0	14	11
„ Printing Petition in Blue Book	...				10	10	0
„ Interest to 31 Dec., 1919	...				11	11	5
„ Interest from Capital	...				3	4	7
By Balance	...				£149	11	1

141

Examined and found correct.
Sydney, 6th August, 1920.

HOWARD W. CRANE, F.I.I.A.,
Official Auditor to Presbyterian Church of New South Wales.

DR.

JOHN FRAZER FOREIGN MISSIONS ENDOWMENT ACCOUNT.

CR.

DISBURSEMENTS.							£	s.	d.	RECEIPTS.							£	s.	d.				
To Treasurer, Board of Missions Interest to 30th June, 1920							75	0	0	By Balance 31st July, 1919	...	...	...	...	1000	0	0						
„ Balance	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,000	0	0	„ Interest to 30th June, 1920	...	...	...	...	75	0	0						
							<u>£1,075 0 0</u>								<u>£1,075 0 0</u>								
MISSION WORK IN BUSH OF AUSTRALIA—							£	s.	d.	By Balance							...	...	...	...	£1,000	0	0
										By Presbyterian Church of England							...	...	...	...	35	0	0
										„ Interest to 31 Dec., 1919							...	...	...	...	0	17	7
																					<u>£35 17 7</u>		
CHAPLAINS ACCOUNT—							£	s.	d.	By Collection in Melbourne							...	...	...	...	11	13	4
To Exchange on Cheque	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	1	0	„ Interest to 31 Dec., 1919	...	...	...	...	0	10	5						
„ Balance	12	2	9												<u>£12 3 9</u>		
										By Balance							...	...	...	...	£12	2	9
DISCIPLINE ACCOUNT—							£	s.	d.	By Cash Sales							...	...	...	...	11	9	5
To Printing Discipline	...	...	...	...	...	...	25	10	0	„ Balance	...	...	...	...	14	13	1						
„ Interest	0	12	6												<u>£26 2 6</u>		
																					<u>£26 2 6</u>		
To Balance	£14	13	1														

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF AUSTRALIA HOME MISSION ACCOUNT.

DR.

STATEMENT, 1ST JULY, 1918 TO 30TH JUNE, 1919.

CR.

DISBURSEMENTS.	Salaries.			Expenses.			Total.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Headquarters—	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Rev. John Flynn	400	0	0	90	0	0			
Sister Simpson, Deaconess ...	12	11	0						
Nurse E. M. Inglis, Hospital				15	0	0			
Nurse E. M. Inglis, Bursary	10	10	0	7	6	0			
Miss Parker	27	0	0						
Inlanders				251	11	7			
Messenger Weekly Reprints				19	15	6			
Northern Territory Times ...				2	2	0			
Telegraphic Address				2	2	0			
Office Furniture				26	6	6			
Office Supplies				4	9	9			
Ledgers				20	7	6			
Printing and Stationery ...				27	15	10			
Freight and Cartage, etc. ...				0	12	6			
Costs re Henderson Will ...				0	8	3			
Typiste Salary				6	10	0			
Rent, Office				19	15	0			
Exchange on Cheques				6	17	3			
Postages				52	7	10			
2 per cent on Revenue, 1918				68	9	2			
Transfer to Birdsville Building A/c.				547	4	0			
Katherine District—							1619	1	8
Maranboy—									
Sister Hepburn	50	5	0	28	3	0			
Sister Mouritz	86	2	3	46	9	0			
Miss Mouritz	44	15	7	0	1	0			
Bibles				0	12	4			
Dental Forceps				1	10	0			
Kimberley District—							257	18	2
Half's Creek—									
Sister Rogasch	86	2	3	30	6	6			
Miss Madigan	44	16	7	0	4	6			
Bibles				0	12	4			
Medicine				31	3	5			
Furnishing				9	4	8			
Broome District—							202	10	3
Rev. A. J. Eipper	256	0	0	2	10	0			
							258	10	0

RECEIPTS.	£ s. d.			£ s. d.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
By Balance, 1 July, 1918.				714	3	2
Subscriptions, 30 June, 1919 from—						
Victoria	1834	0	0			
New South Wales	1364	14	8			
Queensland	390	0	0			
South Australia	68	18	6			
				3657	18	6
„ Mission Work in Bush of Australia	35	0	0			
„ United Free Church of Scotland	100	0	0			
„ Interest to 31 Dec., 1918	41	6	7			
„ Interest from Reserve	11	5	0			
„ Collection at General Assembly	14	11	7			
„ Gordon and Gotch, Inlanders	23	11	0			
„ Katherine District—						
Sister Mouritz, Refund	7	10	6			
„ Kimberley District—						
Sister Rogasch, Refund	10	0	6			
„ Gascoyne District—						
J. A. Thrum, Refund A/c. Car	10	15	3			
„ Central Australia—						
Rev. K. F. Partridge, Refund	15	0	0			
Sister Kinnear, Refund	7	15	8			
„ Carpentaria District—						
P. Sommerville	2	0	0			
				3936	9	3

Pilbarra District—			
Port Hedland—			
Rev. K. D. McDonald	...	325 0 0	20 13 8
Sister Simpson	...	100 5 0	1 15 0
Bibles	...		0 19 9
Sabbath School Books	...		5 4 0
<i>The Messenger</i>	...		0 10 0
Buggy and Freight	...		50 13 10
			<hr/>
			505 1 3
Gascoyne District—			
Carnarvon—			
Rev. W. H. Cooper	...	300 0 0	4 7 0
Motor Car	...		287 10 0
			<hr/>
			591 17 0
Central Australia—			
Oodnadatta—			
Rev. K. F. Partridge	...	152 10 0	19 16 10
„ C. Harland	...	112 0 0	0 8 0
Sister Hore	...	75 9 9	8 16 0
Sister Williamson	...	59 3 4	0 12 6
Miss Williamson	...	39 3 4	0 6 6
Hymn Books	...		2 13 6
Sabbath School Books	...		0 18 5
Local Expenses and Boy	...		20 0 0
Insurance	...		9 0 0
Rent	...		1 0 7
Freight	...		0 15 3
Scullery, etc.	...		19 18 4
Exchange on Cheques	...		0 8 0
			<hr/>
			523 0 4
Beltana—			
Sister Kinnear	...	58 15 0	0 11 7
Miss J. McLeod	...	17 6 8	10 4 0
Medicine	...		24 17 10
Reconstructing Building	...		66 15 7
Furnishing	...		140 13 9
Printing Regulations	...		4 17 8
Cartage	...		5 7 6
			<hr/>
			329 9 7
Alice Springs—			
Purchase Two Sites	...		3 11 0
			<hr/>
			3 11 0

Carpentaria District—						
Cloncurry—						
Rev. P. Sommerville	...	92	15	0	22	0 0
„ W. R. McKenzie	...	158	17	6	18	0 0
„ F. L. Heriot	...				0	6 0
Insurance	...				5	6 0
Insurance, Motor Car	...				3	1 6
East West Mission—						300 6 0
Rev. W. Rutt	...	12	10	0		12 10 0
		<u>2528</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>£2075</u>	<u>7 0 £4603 15 3</u>
To Balance	...					46 17 2
					<u>£4650</u>	<u>12 5</u>

By Balance	<u>£46 17 2</u>
------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----------------

Sydney, 6th August, 1920.

Examined and found Correct,

HOWARD W. CRANE, F.I.I.A.,
 Official Auditor to Presbyterian Church of New South Wales.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF AUSTRALIA HOME MISSION ACCOUNT.

DR.

STATEMENT, 1ST JULY, 1919 TO 30TH JUNE, 1920.

CR.

DISBURSEMENTS.	Salaries.			Expenses.			Total.
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	
Headquarters—							
Rev. John Flynn	400	0	0	109	0	0	
T. Ramage	195	0	0				
Miss Parker	57	0	0				
Inlanders				246	0	4	
Messenger Weekly Notes				20	2	0	
Telegraphic Address				2	2	0	
Office Supplies				1	7	3	
Printing and Stationery				67	13	5	
Typewriter				31	10	0	
Photo Enlargements				7	13	3	
W. A. Presbyterian				0	4	0	
Deposit A/c. Town Hall, 23rd Sept.				5	0	0	
Advertising				3	4	0	
Insurance All States				42	12	0	
Exchanges on Cheques				11	9	0	
Postages				56	16	1	
2 per cent. on Revenue, 1919				110	11	0	
Transfer to—							
Aeroplane Account				113	19	3	
A.I.M. Building A/c.				131	9	0	
Alice Springs Building A/c.				554	14	3	
Carnarvon Manse Building A/c.				52	7	6	
							2219 14 4
Katherine District—							
Maranboy—							
Sister Mouritz	100	0	0	0	12	0	
Miss Mouritz	52	0	0	0	1	6	
Ice Machine				0	4	2	
							162 17 8
Kimberley District—							
Hall's Creek—							
Sister Rogasch	100	0	0	0	6	0	
Miss Madigan	52	0	0	0	6	0	
							152 12 0
Broome—							
Rev. A. J. Eipper	113	12	0	90	12	6	
Rev. S. R. W. Richardson	167	8	0	65	7	4	
							436 19 10

RECEIPTS.	£ s. d.			£ s. d.			£ s. d.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
By Balance, July 1, 1919							46	17	2
June 30, 1920.									
„ Subscriptions from—									
Victoria				1596	0	0			
New South Wales				1658	9	4			
Queensland				300	0	0			
							3554	9	4
„ South Australia—									
Net Proceeds Fete held in Town									
Hall, Adelaide				532	1	0			
United Free Church of Scotland				100	0	0			
United Free Church Col. by S/S.				132	2	3			
Presbyterian Church of England				35	0	0			
„ Kimberly District—									
Hall's Creek				42	3	4			
Gordon Bros.				20	0	0			
Kimberly Goldfields Hospital				138	11	0			
							200	14	4
„ Carpentaria District—									
Kuridala				40	0	0			
„ Interest to 31 Dec., 1919							4	14	0
„ Interest from Reserve							23	15	0
„ Katherine District—									
Refund Contingency Money originally lodged for Sister Hepburn 1917							25	0	0
„ Broome District—									
Rev. A. J. Eipper—Refund							7	0	0
Rev. S. R. W. Richardson—Refund							9	18	0
„ Carpentaria District—									
Queensland State Insurance—Refund							6	18	0
„ Bank New South Wales—Refund Exchange									0 19 0
									4702 10 11
„ Balance									722 15 11

Pilbarra District—						
Port Hedland—						
Rev. K. D. McDonald	...	...	299	0	0	2 13 6
Sister Simpson	...	...	57	4	5	11 7 8
Sister Inglis	...	...	57	2	10	77 0 0
Miss Inglis	...	...	30	6	8	0 16 0
						535 11 1
Gascoyne District—						
Carnarvon—						
Rev. W. H. Cooper	...	...	284	14	0	27 18 3
Rev. John Waugh	...	...	75	0	0	88 17 6
Rent, Manse	...	...				40 16 6
Purchase Manse	...	...				530 0 0
Exchange on Cheques	...	...				4 18 9
						1052 5 0
Central Australia—						
Oodnadatta—						
Rev. C. Harland	...	...	300	0	0	0 16 0
Sister Williamson	...	...	100	0	0	0 13 6
Miss Williamson	...	...	52	0	0	0 8 0
License Fee	...	...				0 5 0
Rent	...	...				2 0 7
Insurance	...	...				5 3 6
Hostel	...	...				20 2 0
Messenger Subscription	...	...				0 10 0
						481 18 7
Beltana—						
Sister Kinnear	...	...	100	0	0	0 13 6
Miss J. McLeod	...	...	52	0	0	0 6 0
License Fee	...	...				0 5 0
						153 4 6
Carpentaria District—						
Cloncurry—						
Rev. W. R. McKenzie	...	...	216	0	0	0 1 0
Insurance	...	...				13 9 0
						229 10 0
East West Mission—						
Rev. W. Rutt	...	...	57	10	0	0 1 0
						57 11 0
			£2917	17	11	£2554 6 1 £5472 4 0
			£2917	17	11	£2554 6 1 £5472 4 0
1920—July 1— To Balance	...	...	...	...	...	£722 15 11

HOME MISSION RESERVE ACCOUNT.

DR.	STATEMENT OF ACCOUNT.						CR.
1919	DISBURSEMENTS.						
Dec. 31.—	To Interest to Home Mission A/c. for 1918-19	...	35	0	0		
	„ Balance	...	500	0	0		
			£535	0	0		
			£535	0	0		
						1918	
						RECEIPTS.	
						June 30—By Transfer from Home Mission Account	
						Dec. 31— „ Interest to date	
						£ 500 0 0	
						„ 35 0 0	
						£535 0 0	
						£535 0 0	
						1920	
						July 1—By Balance	
						500 0 0	
AEROPLANE ACCOUNT—			£	s.	d.	1920	
						June 30—By Subscriptions	
						£113 19 3	
						£113 19 3	
						£113 19 3	
A.I.M. BUILDING ACCOUNT—			£	s.	d.	1920	
						June 30—By Mr. John Cameron	
						„ Subscriptions	
						120 0 0	
						14 8 0	
						£134 8 0	
						£134 8 0	
ALICE SPRINGS BUILDING ACCOUNT—			£	s.	d.	1920	
						June 30—By Presbyterian Church of South Australia Proceeds	
						Fete	
						„ Subscriptions	
						532 1 0	
						22 13 3	
						£554 14 3	
						£554 14 3	
BIRDSVILLE BUILDING ACCOUNT—			£	s.	d.	1920	
						June 30—By Miss Glasson	
						„ Subscriptions	
						„ Interest from Bonds, etc.	
						540 0 0	
						4 4 0	
						38 3 0	
						£582 7 0	
						£582 7 0	
CARNARVON MANSE BUILDING ACCOUNT—			£	s.	d.	1920	
						June 30—By Mr. J. H. Beatson	
						„ Interest	
						50 0 0	
						2 7 6	
						£52 7 6	
						£52 7 6	

Examined and found Correct,
Sydney, 6th August, 1920.

HOWARD W. CRANE, F.I.I.A.,
Official Auditor to Presbyterian Church of New South Wales.

QUEENSLAND EXECUTIVE OF BOARD OF MISSIONS.

RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS FROM 1st AUGUST, 1918, TILL JULY, 1920.

RECEIPTS.				DISBURSEMENTS.					
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1918—Aug. 1									
To To Balance				253	19	4			
1920—July 31.									
„ Government Grant for Mapoon	1,000	0	0						
„ Government Grant for Weipa	800	0	0						
„ Government Grant for Aurukun	800	0	0						
„ Government Grant for Mornington	800	0	0						
				3,400	0	0			
„ Board of Missions—Refund, Passages of Halls, and Owens, Burketown to Brisbane				37	14	0			
„ Board of Missions—Refund, passages of Wilson's to Burketown				41	2	3			
„ Board of Missions—Refund, expenses of Convener's visit to Stations				5	5	0			
„ Board of Missions—Refund, share of Accident Insurance Premium				5	13	2			
„ Mr. Owen—balance of advance				20	0	0			
„ Police Department—for Rations for constables at Mornington				8	12	0			
				<u>£3,772</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>9</u>			
1920—July 31.									
By Mapoon—									
Mission Station Account	735	0	0						
Teachers' Salaries	141	13	4						
School Requisites	4	0	8						
							880	14	0
„ Weipa—									
Mission Station Account	438	15	0						
Teachers' Salaries	237	10	0						
Passages of Mr. and Mrs. Bousfield	28	0	0						
Passages, etc., Mrs. Hall	17	12	0						
							721	17	0
„ Aurukun—									
Mission Station Account	413	15	0						
Teachers' Salary	75	0	0						
							488	15	0
„ Mornington—									
Mission Station Account	547	10	0						
Goods	66	6	8						
Passages of the Wilsons	41	2	3						
Refund from Police Department	8	12	0						
							663	10	11
„ Aboriginal Mission Fund, Refund Convener's Expenses							5	5	0
„ Accident Insurance Premiums							32	4	6
„ Bank Charges, Exchange on Drafts, etc							16	15	4
„ Petty Cash							0	18	1
„ Balance							962	5	11
							<u>£3,772</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>9</u>

154

Brisbane, Sept., 18/20,

Audited and found correct,
A. S. LANG, F.I.A.Q., Auditor,

INDEX.

	Minute.	Page.
Accounts	—	141
APPEALS :—		
Dr. T. G. Campbell	49	57
Mr. J. Leaver	50	—
Mr. H. Chesney Harte (2)	51, 58	—
Mr. F. W. Ross	52	—
Rev. George Tulloch	86	63
Rev. David Smith	88	62
 Assembly, next Meeting	 128	 44
 COMMITTEES :—		
Business	15, 84, 131	13
Selection	24, 132	14
Special	—	50
Standing	—	46
 COMMUNICATIONS :—		
British Papua	105	40
Campbell, Dr. T. G.	81	32
Mrs. Cudmore—Arthur D. Walker	17	13
Cupar Presbytery	8	7
State Assembly, N.S.W.	123 (d)	44
State Assembly, S. A. (Mr. P. E. Wylde)	108, 109	55
U.F.C. of Scotland	7	55
Y.M.C.A.	57	23
Communion Service	13	8
 DISSENTS AND ANSWERS TO :—		
Dr. Rentoul and others	62 (a), 97 (a)	25
Rev. F. A. Hagenauer	62 (b), 97 (b)	27
Rev. George Tait and others	73, 97 (c)	29
William Wood	97	35
Governor-General	126	44
Governor-General ex	18, 81	13
 Haberfield Appeals	 136	 57
 MOTIONS :—		
Social Unrest	98, 125	37
State Lottery	63, 116	27
New Hebrides	80	32
Business Committee	84	33
 OVERTURES :—		
Presbytery Melbourne South—Suva	117	65
State Assembly, Victoria :—S.O. 4	114	66
State Assembly, Victoria :—Rule 6 S.F.	119	66
State Assembly, Victoria :—S.O. 46	115	66
State Assembly, Victoria :—Rule 7 S.F.	120	67
State Assembly, S.A. :—Theological Hall	113	67
State Assembly, W.A.	121	64
Rev. George Tulloch—Rule 112, N.S.W.	111	63

	Minute.	Page.
PETITIONS :—		
Mr. L. Baines	70, 122	71
„ R. Cullen	71, 72	73
„ A. S. Hutchins	68	69
„ T. Mathers	70	71
„ J. C. McLelland	25, 97	72
„ E. D. Pearson	123	69
„ H. S. Parsons	—	70
Privelege	87	34
REPORTS :—		
Beneficiary Funds	26	85
Board of Missions	75, 129	88
Book of Common Order	20, 21	97
College Committee	68, 69	98
Federation of Churches	39, 40, 45, 46, 48, 55, 62, 134	123
Finance	29	110
Hymnal	22	99
Home Missions	106	114
Immigration	28, 123 (d)	99
Mission to Jews	76, 124	129
Naval and Military	85, 107	112
Official Organ	130	106
Public Questions	98, 101	111
RECEPTION OF MINISTERS :—		
Rev. A. L. Cloyd	89	74
„ A. H. Ballinger	90	76
„ W. L. Williams	91	77
„ W. Evans	92	79
Mr. C. J. Graham	93	81
„ J. F. Kem Yee	94	82
„ R. J. May	95	83
Rev. H. G. Ford	96	84
Repatriation	27	106
Religion in the Home	82	101
Returns on Union Vote	16, 34	129
Statistics	127	130
Welfare of Youth	100	101
Year Book	83	103
REMITTS :—		
Administration of Lord's Supper by H.M. 66 (B.B., 1918, Minute 52, Page 74)	85	85
Relative to Standing Order 4	114	42
Relative to Rule 7 of Rules on Spiritual Freedom	120	43
RETURNS TO REMITS :—		
Beneficiary Funds	65	85
Administration of Lord's Supper by H.M.	66	85
Admission of H.M.	67	85
Roll	14	9
MISCELLANEA :—		
Extract Minutes	103, 110	40
Limitation of Speeches	38	18
Rev. John Paterson, N.Z.	19	13
Thanks	137	45
University Students Union	35, 36	17
Voting Papers Church Union	135	45



Presbyterian Church of Victoria Archive



2385