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



HELD IN SYDNEY, SEPTEMBER, 1924
SESSION FIFTEENTH

Sydney :

MERCHANT & CO. LIMITED, PRINTERS, GOULBURN AND
CASTLEREAGH STREETS

1924

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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
OF THE
Presbyterian Church of Australia

Right Rev. the Moderator:

Rev. JAMES CROOKSTON, Church Offices, Collins St.,
Melbourne.

Clerks of Assembly.

Rev. GEORGE TAIT, M.A., Malvern East, Victoria.

Rev. E. E. BALDWIN, M.A., Moorabool.

The Procurator:

Mr. JOHN ALEXANDER FERGUSON, B.A., LL.B., Sydney.

Law Agents:

Messrs. DAVIES and CAMPBELL, Melbourne.

Treasurers:

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

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
OF THE
Presbyterian Church of Australia

THE THEOLOGICAL HALLS

ORMOND COLLEGE, MELBOURNE,

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. T. J. Smith, M.A., Professor of Hebrew and O.T. Studies.

Rev. William Borland, M.A., B.D., Lecturer in Homiletics.

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., D.D., Convener of Theological Hall Committee, and Rev. John Barnaby, M.A., B.D., Neil Walter Black, Lecturer.

President—Professor Rentoul.

Secretary—Professor Adam.

ST. ANDREW'S COLLEGE, SYDNEY.

In co-operation with Teachers from Congregational and Methodist Churches. Professor of Hebrew and Exegetical Theology of the Old Testament—Rev. E. E. Anderson, D.D.

Professor of Systematic Theology and Apologetics—Rev. Ronald G. Macintyre, M.A., D.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. T. Jamieson Williams.

Lecturer in Voice Culture and Elocution—Mr. R. Bertram Kohm.

President of Faculty—Rev. Professor R. G. Macintyre, D.D.

Secretary of Faculty—Rev. T. Jamieson Williams.

EMMANUEL COLLEGE, BRISBANE.

Joint Theological Faculty.

Syst. Theology and Ethics.	{ Rev. James Cosh, B.A., B.D.
N.T. Greek and Exegesis.	{ Rev. Mervyn Henderson, M.A.
Old Testament Exegesis.	Rev. Hubert Trigge, M.A., B.D.
Church History.	Rev. James Walker, M.A., B.D.,
Apologetics.	Rev. Al'an MacKillop, B.A., B.D.
English Bible.	Rev. Frederick North, M.A.
	Rec. Samuel Martin, M.A.

THEOLOGICAL HALL, PERTH.

The Rev. S. R. W. Richardson, M.A., B.D., Lecturer in Hebrew and O.T. Exegesis.

The Rev. F. Brady, Lecturer in Apologetics.

The Rev. J. R. Blanchard, B.A., Lecturer in Church History, N.T. Greek Exegesis.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

Parkin College—In co-operation with Congregational and Methodist Churches, under Principal Kiek. Dr. Seymour, S.T.D., Convener.

Entrance Examination.

February 12 and March 24, 1925.

For year 1926: December, 1925; and Supplementary: February, 1926.

H.M. Examination.

July 1, 1925.

Exit Examination.

September 14, 1925, and September 13th, 1926.

NOTANDA.

Special attention is directed to the following:—

Place and Date of Meeting of next Assembly: At Melbourne, on the second Wednesday of September, 1926, at 7.30 p.m.

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

Instructions, etc.—

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APPENDIX

LEGAL AND FINANCIAL QUESTIONS IN REFERENCE TO CHURCH UNION.

Rev. Geo. Tait, M.A.,

Clerk of the State Assembly of Victoria.

Dear Sir,—

In reference to the General Committee to enquire into legal and financial questions concerning property and funds in reference to the Church Union proposals, authorised by the General Assembly of Australia on 12th September last (see G.A.A. Blue Book, 1922, minute 91), it is impracticable to prepare a complete official statement in time for the meetings of State Assemblies, but the section of the Committee meeting in Sydney to consider that, so far as practicable, communications on the subject should be made.

Schedules containing inquiries of an exhaustive character regarding Church properties and debts are in circulation, and the results will be considered by the Committee in maturing a statement to send down to Presbyteries and congregations.

The General Assembly has given no detailed instruction regarding the contents of the statement to be prepared, but what the Committee has in view is a clear statement, uncolored by the expression of contentious opinion, likely to help Church Courts and congregations on the consideration of the legal and financial questions affecting union.

In connection with the legal position of the various trusts affecting property belonging to the Church, its congregations, or agencies, which are created or evidenced in various ways, e.g., Acts of Parliament, Crown grants, wills, deeds and declarations of trusts, the experience of the United Free Church of Scotland in its famous case (1904 Appeal Cases, 516), makes it clear that a settlement of those trusts for the purpose of union with other denominations is most satisfactorily secured by Act of Parliament.

But first it is necessary to devote attention to two preliminary matters:—

(a) The existing Basis of Union of the Presbyterian Church of Australia contains provision for the revision of the subordinate standard of the Church, restatement of its doctrine or change of formula. Further provision is made for congregations refusing to acquiesce in the change. The relevant provisions are set out in the schedule hereto. It is submitted that these provisions have in view revisions and restatements of doctrines within the Presbyterian Church of Australia as such, and that, while they would undoubtedly regulate trusts of properties within the Presbyterian Church, for the purpose of regulating trusts of properties and funds consequent on union with other denominations, it would be unsafe to rely exclusively upon them.

While dealing with this aspect of the matter, we also set out in the schedule a provision that appears in the enabling Acts of Victoria and Western Australia, under which Parliamentary authority was given in these States to the arrangements for the formation of the Presbyterian Church of Australia. The legal effect of this provision on the Church Union proposals will be examined by the Committee, but for the present it is simply brought under the notice of the Assembly.

(b) It is not contended, as regards restatements or alterations of Church doctrine in itself, that there should be any control by Parliament or other civil authority. Under the present system of religious toleration in British communities, the State does not interfere with the beliefs of Christian Churches. Restatements and alterations may, however, affect the trusts upon which Church properties or funds are held, and that is the point at which the control of the State is recognised, and, if necessary, would be asserted. The Church would, no doubt, act within its constitution, in which case no difficulty would arise.

The position is made clearer by an extract from Lord Davey's judgment in the United Free Church case:—"My Lords, I disclaim altogether any right in this or any other civil court of this realm to discuss the truth or reasonableness of any of the doctrines of this or any other religious association, or to say whether any of them are based on a just interpretation of the language of Scripture. . . . or any similar question. The more humble, but not useless, function of the civil court is to determine whether the trusts imposed upon property by the founders of the trust are being duly observed." (1904 Appeal Cases, pp. 644-5.)

Now, each Parliament acting within its legislative sphere, has complete authority within that sphere, and if a law passed by it within that sphere alters a trust affecting Church property, the alteration being made with the authority of Parliament, cannot be successfully challenged in the law courts by any dissatisfied person.

Should doubt arise regarding the meaning of any provision in the Act of Parliament, the civil courts have, of course, authority to interpret the same should the point be material to an issue properly brought before them in the course of legal proceedings.

It is suggested that in the event of the union proposals being adopted by the Church, the contents of any proposed law in relations to the trusts of its property and funds should be matured so far as possible before Parliamentary co-operation is sought.

A. G. PROUDFOOT, Convener.

THE SCHEDULE.

EXTRACTS FROM BASIS OF UNION OF PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF AUSTRALIA.

6. III. Any proposed revision or abridgment of the subordinate standard of the Church, or re-statement of its doctrine, or change of the formula, shall, before being adopted, be remitted to the State Assemblies, and through them to the Presbyteries, and no change shall be made without the consent of a majority of the State Assemblies, three-fifths of the Presbyteries of the whole Church, and a majority of three-fifths of the members present when the final vote of the General Assembly is taken.

IV. On any change being made in the Basis of Union in accordance with Section III., if any congregation thereupon refuses to acquiesce in the change, and determine to adhere to the original Basis of Union, the General Assembly is empowered (1) to allow such congregation to retain all its congregational property, or (2) to deal in such other way with the said property as to the Assembly may seem just and equitable.

V. Any proposed change in either of the two preceding Sections III. and IV. shall be made only under the provisions contained in Section III.

EXTRACTS FROM VICTORIAN AND WESTERN AUSTRALIA ENABLING ACTS.

Provided nevertheless that if any alteration is made in the said subordinate standard, any persons, being a minister or office-bearer of the said Presbyterian Church of Victoria-Western Australia at the time of the making of such alteration, may continue to be a minister or office-bearer of such Church, and to retain all his rights and privileges so long as he adheres to the standards of religious belief and ecclesiastical government set forth in the Scheme of Union, either without alteration or with such part of the alteration or alterations so made as he may approve of.

Melbourne, May 7th, 1923.

Presbyterian Church of Australia

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

SESSION FIFTEENTH

At Sydney, and within St. Stephen's Church, Phillip Street, on
Wednesday, the 10th September, 1924, at 7 p.m.

1. The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of ^{Constitution.} Australia convened. Public worship was conducted by the Right Reverend the Retiring Moderator (Dr. Mathew), who preached from Acts iv. 12, and Hebrews vii. 25. After sermon, the Assembly was constituted with prayer by the Moderator.

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

3. The Moderator intimated that the Moderator and ex-^{Moderator.} Moderators of the General Assembly, and the Moderators of State Assemblies, had agreed to nominate for the Moderator's Chair the Rev. James Crookston.

4. It was moved by the Rev. Dr. Rentoul, and seconded by the Rev. James Gibson:—

“That the nomination be approved.”

The motion was unanimously approved.

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

5. It was moved by the Rev. Dr. Macintyre, and seconded ^{Ex-Moderator.} by the Rev. John Walker:—

“That the Assembly accord to the ex-Moderator General, the Right Rev. Dr. Mathew, its cordial thanks for his diligent, wise and gracious services.

The motion was unanimously approved.

6. It was moved by the Rev. Dr. Rentoul:—

Ex-Moderator.

“That the Assembly put on record its sincere gratification at the recognition of the special scholarship and abilities of the Rev. Dr. John Mathew, ex-Moderator of the Presbyterian Church of Australia, by the bestowment upon him from the Melbourne College of Divinity of the honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity, on the ground of his studies in the translation and relationship of the Sinaitic Syriac Codex of the New Testament Gospels, as also on the grounds of his published works on the language and customs of the Aboriginal Tribes of Australia. The Assembly prays that God will continue Dr. Mathew long in strength to prosecute his studies.”

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

Apologies, etc.

Apologies for absence were received from the Revs. R. H. Roberts, Jas. MacAndrew, John Mackenzie, E. Eldridge and Messrs. T. A. Miller and T. Campbell. It was agreed to forward a message of sympathy to Mrs. William E. Ross.

7. The Report of the Business Committee was submitted by the Convener and approved.

Business Committee.

The following were appointed the Business Committee:—Revs. Dr. Macintyre (Convener), Dr. Burgess, John Edwards, W. C. Radcliffe, W. Floyd Shannon, R. W. Macaulay, D. A. Cameron, H. S. R. Innes, and Messrs. W. Wood, A. S. Lang, A. L. Pryde, Prof. Ross, with the Clerks and Law Agent.

Selection Committee.

The following were appointed a Committee of Selection:—Revs. R. W. Macaulay (Convener), A. S. McCook, James Walker, Dr. Seymour, E. F. Cameron, G. M. Baird, and Messrs. D. Macmillan, W. Wood, A. G. Proudfoot, Alex. Mayes.

Ballot Committee.

The following were appointed Scrutineers of Ballot:—Messrs. G. A. Clifton (Convener), L. K. McNab, J. G. McKee, Alex. Mayes and Andrew Mackintosh.

Students' Petitions

8. The following Petitions were remitted to the College Committee with instructions to meet on Friday morning, at 9 a.m., and to report on these petitions, at the first sederunt on Monday:—

The Petitions of Messrs. A. B. Erskine, T. Goy, Trangie regarding C. J. Mackay, Geo. McGregor, George McLean.

Church Union.

9. The Rev. Professor Adam gave notice of his intention, when the Report of the Committee on Church Union is before the House, to move:—

- (1) That the Assembly receive the report and approve the action of the Committee in refraining, after the vote of State Assemblies, from sending down the proposed Basis of Doctrine and Polity as amended to Presbyteries, Sessions and Congregations for another vote on union without further instructions from the General Assembly.

- (2) Re-affirm the conviction expressed by the General Assembly of 1910, "that the Communion of fellow Christians in worship and service is a duty wherever it is not forbidden by conscience," and declare that so far as revealed in the course of these negotiations, there is no bar in principle to union between the three negotiating Churches.
- (3) Record its appreciation of the fact that the proposed Basis of Doctrine and Polity, as amended by the Joint Committee and approved by last General Assembly as one on which union might be consummated in harmony with Presbyterian principles, has been approved also by the Supreme Courts or Councils of the Methodist and Congregational Churches, and, with a large measure of unanimity, by the Minor Courts and Congregations of these Churches.
- (4) Recognise the evidence of such a divided state of feeling and opinion among the office-bearers and people of the Presbyterian Church of Australia, with regard to organic union on the Basis proposed as to make it inadvisable at present to press forward to organic union with the Methodist and Congregational Churches on this Basis, and resolve rather to await the time when, under the leading of Divine Providence, a way may be opened up whereby these and other divisions of Christ's one Church may be happily and happily healed in accordance with His Will.
- (5) Appoint the following as a Committee
- (1) To keep in touch with movements towards re-union with other Evangelical Churches.
 - (2) To endeavour, in conjunction with State Assemblies, to promote such co-operation as may be found practicable under existing circumstances, and as may help toward more effective union, and to report to the Assembly, viz.:—
Revs. Prof. Macintyre, Prof. Angus, Dr. Burgess, Dr. Anderson, G. R. S. Reid, Mr. T. Kirkland (N.S.W.), Dr. Mathew, Prof. T. J. Smith, Prof. Adam, G. Tait, D. A. Cameron, Mr. T. M. Campbell (Vic.), Jas. Gibson, W. C. Radcliffe, Jas. Walker (Q'ld.), Dr. Seymour, W. Gray, W. Floyd Shannon (S.A.), A. Crow, J. R. Blanchard, F. G. H. Brady (W.A.), A. G. McIntosh Carter, W. J. Harris, G. E. Harrison (Tas.), Dr. Macintyre, Convener.
- (6) Resolve that a copy of this deliverance be sent to the Methodist and Congregational Churches from the Assembly, together with a letter signed by the Moderator and Clerk of the Assembly, expressive of its appreciation of the spirit in which these

Church
Union.

Churches have responded to its invitations to confer on the question of union, and the Christian courtesy with which the Committees of these churches have continued in conference with the Committee of this Church over a period of many years, and an intimation of our Church; willingness to co-operate with them in Christian service in every way that may be found practicable.

10. The Rev. Professor Rentoul gave notice of his intention, when the Report of the Committee on Church Union is before the House, to move the following amendment:—

That all the words in clause 2 (after the implied words "That the Assembly"—) be omitted in order to insert other words, viz.:—

As the "Movement for Corporate Union with the Methodist and Congregational Churches" has failed to secure the requisite approval of Presbyterian State Assemblies, Sessions and People, and, as "Proposed Basis of Union in Doctrine and Polity," though twice successively presented to our Church at large, whether in its original or amended form, has likewise failed to secure the necessary approval, and, further, as the cessation of action on the subject since the State Assemblies of 1923 has restored most wholesome and brotherly concord within our Church (that true unity of love which Christ demands), the Assembly resolves that it will not pursue the Corporate Union movement further, but calls its Ministers, Elders and People to closer and more active brotherhood in confirming and extending the spiritual life, energies, and agencies of our beloved Presbyterian Church of Australia.

That all the words in Clause 3 after the word "Record" be omitted, in order to insert other words, viz.:—

(Record) the Assembly's recognition of the fact that the Proposed Basis, and its statement of Doctrine and Polity have been earnestly considered by the representatives of the Methodist and Congregational Churches on the Joint Union Committee and by their Church Courts, respectively, though, during the process, the statement of Doctrine and Polity has been largely altered, and various amendments urged upon the joint committee by Presbyterian Church Courts have been refused. In conveying to those two negotiating Churches official intimation of the fact that the Union Scheme has not secured the requisite approval of Presbyterian Assemblies, Presbyteries, Sessions and People, the Assembly desires to express to the Supreme Courts of the Methodist and the Congregational Churches, its unaltered brotherly affection and warm esteem and its earnest desire for close and cordial co-operation with them, and equally with all the Evangelical Churches of our Commonwealth in all matters spiritual and social which pertain to the common interests and advance of the Kingdom of God in Australia.

Insert the words "in any form" in Clause 4, before the word "proposed," and after the word "Basis" (so that it shall read "Basis in any form proposed"); and, after the words, "and in view of this," omit all the succeeding words of the clause, so as to insert the words ("and in view of this") "urge the practical wisdom and duty of closer united co-operative action with all the Evangelical Protestant Churches of our land so as resist the widely-spreading forces of evil, and to promote the redeeming and cleansing influences of the Kingdom of God in Christ amongst the young, and throughout the life of our community.

Church
Union.

And, instead of Clause 5, add the following to Clause 4:—
"To this end appoint the following large Committee (on co-operative union) impartially representative of the Assembly in all its States. (The Committee to be named for Decision in an after Sederunt)."

Omit all the words in Clause 5 after the words "Committee on Co-operation," in view of the previous Resolution, down to Clause (1), omit (1) in order to insert the following words:—(1) In view of the fact that the representatives of the Assembly to the Conference with other Churches, called by the Archbishop of Sydney in reference to the Lambeth manifesto, have departed from the original purpose, and wide inclusive scope for which they were commissioned, narrowing their horizon to the aims of furthering organic union with only three "negotiating Churches," and further have furnished no report of their actual proceedings, in view also of the further fact that the Conference has drawn up and published two resolutions, known as the "Cronulla Resolutions," viz.:—

1. That the Church of the future shall have as its Ministry an authoritative Episcopate, Presbyterate and Diaconate, under which the entire Ministry of the Church shall have its recognised authority;

2. That no local or independent particular Churches in any district shall be recognised except such as are under the authority of the aforesaid Episcopate, Presbyterate and Diaconate,—

The Assembly resolves and declares that it cannot accept or endorse those propositions, which are
(a) obviously subversive of the position affirmed by all the non-Romanist Church of the Reformation; and (b) antagonistic to the fundamental principles of Presbyterianism, and of the Presbyterian Churches, whether "National" or "particular," in all lands.

11. Rev. D. A. Cameron gave notice that he would move at a later Sederunt: "That a Moderators' Committee be appointed to arrange the finances and fix the times of Moderatorial visits for all the States and to aid the Moderator in any way possible in his official representation of the Church—the executive to be the members in the home State of the Moderator for the time being."

Moderator's
Committee.

Union of
Victoria and
Tasmania.

12. The Rev. D. A. Cameron gave notice of his intention, when the Report on Union between Victoria and Tasmania is before the House, to move:—

“That the Union of the Victorian and Tasmanian Churches be sanctioned for another period of ten years on the present basis beginning on April 1st, 1927, or at such earlier date as may be determined by the State Assemblies of Victoria and Tasmania, with the proviso that there be one Presbytery for the whole of Tasmania, and that its members shall sit as the Tasmanian Assembly or Governing Authority for the Presbyterian Church of Tasmania under the Presbyterian Church Act, 1896 (Tasmania), for the management of property and funds of the Presbyterian Church of Tasmania in accordance with the terms of the said Act: Not more than two ordinary meetings of Assembly to be held within a single year; Standing Order (3) to be amended by providing that the operation of the words ‘representing at least two Presbyteries and’ be suspended in the case of Tasmania during the currency of the proposed agreement, with the final proviso that all necessary and consequential alterations incidental to the agreement be made in the rules of the Presbyterian Church of Tasmania.”

Union of
Victoria and
South
Australia.

13. The Rev. D. A. Cameron gave notice of his intention, when the Report on Union between Victoria and South Australia is before the House, to move:—

“That the union of the Presbyterian Churches of Victoria and South Australia be sanctioned on the basis of agreement before the Assembly for a period of ten years beginning on the 1st January, 1925, with the proviso that all necessary and consequential alterations incidental to the agreement be made in the rules of the Presbyterian Church of South Australia.”

Junior
Membership

14. The Rev. H. M. Burns gave notice of his intention, when the Report on Junior Membership is before the House, to move:—

“That the Assembly receive and adopt the Report and thank the Committee, and, recognising the supreme importance of securing the definite Church connection of our young people who have accepted Jesus Christ as their Saviour and Lord:—

- (1) Recommend to State Assemblies, Presbyteries and Sessions the institution of a Junior Membership as set forth in the Rules in the Report, and
- (2) Urge upon our whole Church, especially Ministers, Sunday School teachers and parents, the duty and privilege of prayerful and sustained effort to give to this recommendation full practical effect.”

15. The Rev. R. W. Macaulay gave notice that at a later Sederunt he would move:—

“That the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia apply for enrolment on the list of Churches participating in the world conference on Faith and Order.” Conference on Faith and Order.

16. The Rev. R. W. Macaulay gave notice that at a later Sederunt he would move:— League of Nations.

“That the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia enrol itself as a corporate member of the League of Nations’ Union and recommend Assemblies, Presbyteries and Congregations to take similar action and to promote the aims of the Union by prayer and frequent advocacy in press and pulpit.”

17. The Rev. R. W. Macaulay gave notice that when Reference No. 3 (relative to delegates to the Presbyterian Alliance) is before the Assembly he would move as an addition:— Presbyterian Alliance.

“That the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia invite the General Council of the Alliance of Reformed Churches holding the Presbyterian system (meeting at Cardiff in 1925), to hold its next meeting in Australia in June, 1930.”

18. The Rev. N. H. Joughin gave notice of his intention, when the Report of the College Committee is before the House, to move the following addition to the Deliverance:— College Committee.

“That the Assembly recommend to the College Committee that earnest consideration be given to the necessity of providing for Students in the Theological Halls proper instruction in the principles and method of teaching.”

19. 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 Thursday, 11th September, 1924, at 10 a.m., the Assembly met pursuant to adjournment. The Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper was observed, the Moderator presiding, the Revs. S. R. W. Richardson, Jas. Walker and J. A. Barber assisting, and the Assembly constituted.

20. The Rev. R. W. Macaulay gave notice of his intention to move at a future Sederunt: “That the nomination of the Moderator of the General Assembly be made by a Committee consisting of the Moderator and ex-Moderator of the General Assembly, and two other members from each State Assembly, one of whom shall be the Moderator of the State Assembly, and the other specially appointed by the State Assembly for each election.” Nomination of Moderators. General

Year Book

21. The Rev. D. M. Barnet gave notice of his intention, when the Report on the Year Book is before the House, to move the following Deliverance:

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

2. Express appreciation of the valuable and careful work of the Editor, Rev. J. R. Fiddian, and thank Miss Lamont for her efficient keeping of the accounts.

3. Instruct the Committee to continue the publication of the Book, and to print additional details of the parishes, provided the deficit shall not exceed thirty pounds per annum; and appoint the Rev. R. A. Green Convener.

4. Appoint the following as correspondents for the several States:—New South Wales, Mr. S. J. Carruthers; Queensland, Mr. J. Campbell; South Australia, Rev. R. Campbell; Tasmania, Rev. G. M. Baird; Victoria, Rev. R. A. Green; Western Australia, Rev. E. C. Day.

5. Continue the honorarium to the Editor at twenty guineas per annum.

Board of Missions.

22. The Rev. F. H. L. Paton gave notice of his intention, when the Report of the Board of Missions is before the House, to move the following addition to the Deliverance:

11. That the Assembly is profoundly disappointed to learn that the abuses complained of in the New Hebrides under the Condominium continue to exist in spite of the wide publicity given to them, and the growing volume of protest from so many responsible quarters; requests the Prime Minister to make still more urgent representations to the Imperial Government with a view to the complete and impartial enforcement of the Condominium, or, failing that, an amicable and equitable arrangement with France, whereby the Islands shall pass under sole British control; and instructs the Board of Missions, in co-operation with other bodies, to bring persistent pressure to bear upon the authorities until this intolerable state of affairs is remedied."

New Guinea Mandate.

23. The Rev. F. H. L. Paton gave notice of his intention, when the Overture relative to the New Guinea Mandate is before the House, to move:—

"That the Assembly sustain the overture in so far as it brings the matter before the Assembly, and refer the whole question to the Board of Missions to consider and report to the next Assembly."

Moderators-General.

24. The Overture relative to Moderators General was submitted by the Rev. E. E. Baldwin. It was moved by the Rev. Dr. Macintyre, and seconded by the Rev. George Tait: "That the Overture be discharged."

It was moved as an amendment by the Rev. John Walker, and seconded by the Rev. J. H. R. Halford: "That the word

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF AUSTRALIA.

'discharged' be omitted, with the view of inserting the
'sustained.'"

The amendment was rejected.

The motion was approved.

25. The Report of the College Committee was submitted College
Committee.
by the Rev. W. Borland, who moved:—

That the Assembly receive the report, and thank the Con-
vener, Secretary and examiners for their services.

1. Approve the Rule in regard to passes in the Melbourne
College of Divinity in lieu of Exit as set forth in the report,
inserting after the word "Apologetics," the words "or English
Bible."

2. Resolve that the Entrance Examination be held in
December (with Supplementary Examination in February), and
that no student be allowed to enter the Theological Hall until
he has passed the whole of the Entrance Examination.

3. Approve the matured proposals for the Home Mission
Course as detailed in the report, and direct the Committee to
bring them into operation as from January, 1925.

4. Approve the amended system of Examination for Exit
as set forth in the report, and authorise the Committee to pre-
pare the necessary instructions to examiners.

5. Make the following alterations in the Rules for Admission
to the Entrance Examination (Year Book p. 59.):—

(i) Under (2) (c) substitute for "with Greek as one of the
subjects", the following, "Greek, English and First Year
Philosophy being included."

(ii) In Rule (4) substitute after "Moral Philosophy" the
following "Fifty per cent shall be required for pass in each
subject of the Examination. Every subject passed shall
stand to the credit of the Candidate. Thirty per cent.
gained in any subject shall entitle a candidate to a supple-
mentary examination in that subject."

(iii) Omit Rule (7).

(iv.) After "Home Mission Course" in Rule (6), substitute
the following "If any such candidates do not take
Hebrew, they shall instead thereof be examined in Old
Testament History, Old Testament Literature, and
specially in one book of the Old Testament, as pre-
scribed.

6. Direct that a Sub-Committee, to be a Standing Com-
mittee, be appointed to approve all papers set for Examination
of Home Missionaries.

7. Instruct the College Committee to make any alteration
on the Rules rendered necessary by the present amendments.

X P
p. 95-6.

8. That in 1925 the Exit Examination begin on Monday, September 14th, and in 1926, on Monday, September 13th.

The motion was seconded by the Rev. Principal Anderson.

The Rev. N. H. Joughin moved the amendment, of which he had given notice, in the following form:—

“That the Assembly instruct the College Committee that earnest consideration be given to the necessity of providing for students in the Theological Hall proper instruction in the principles and method of teaching where that instruction is not already given.”

The amendment was seconded by the Rev. J. B. Galloway.

It was agreed to refer the amendment to the College Committee for report to next Assembly.

The motion was approved.

Immigration.

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

That the Assembly:

1. Receive and adopt the Report.
2. Congratulate the Commonwealth and State Governments on the satisfactory working of the combined scheme of Immigration begun in 1921, and on securing the continued liberality and growing confidence of the British Government for the transport and settlement of selected migrants for the Dominion of Australia.
3. Cordially adopt and agree to the request of the Commonwealth Government to assist in increasing the number of suitable Presbyterian migrants to Australia by the proposed system of nomination, and accept the Migration Department of the British Council of the Y.M.C.A., in co-ordination with the Home Churches as a selecting agency for such nominations as are made through the Immigration Committees of the State Churches of the Commonwealth.
4. Express approval of the suggestion that the Commonwealth Government be asked to pay the passage to Great Britain and return of the Representative of the Church of Australia to organise the work of Church nomination.
5. Compliment the State Immigration authorities on the results of the enquiry made by the British Delegation which visited Australia in 1923 as to their methods of receiving and dealing with new settlers, and express pleasure that the Ramsay Macdonald Cabinet is continuing the policy of migration to the Dominions inaugurated by a previous Government in Great Britain.
6. Express gratification at the success made manifest in the reports of the State Churches in their efforts to give welcome to Presbyterians from overseas on landing, and, by notification to Ministers and Home Missionaries to bring them into communion with their congregations and thank the Ministers and Home Mis-

sionies for their work of visitation and in advising the newcomers and showing them hospitality. Immigration.

7. Approve of the suggestion that funds for extension work in immigration arrangements be provided by the State Churches, including the appointment of an agent representing all State Churches at the first port of call, and decide that when necessary funds are provided they be used for these purposes.

8. Thank the Victorian Church for permitting its agent, the Rev. Wm. Thomson, to visit Western Australia and South Australia, to assist by advice in organising the work in these States, and for paying his travelling expenses incurred in connection with his visit.

9. Rejoice in the growing influence of the New Settlers' League of Australia, in fostering the immigration policy of the Government, and giving practical advice in migration settlement in Australia.

10. Appoint the Immigration Committee as follows:—The Victorian members to be the Executive: Revs. D. A. Cameron, W. Borland, W. Thomson, Hugh Jones, J. C. Milliken, G. M. Scott, James Marshall, F. G. H. Brady, H. S. R. Innes, W. J. Harris, A. C. Weber, Hugh Morris, Alexander Duff; Messrs. D. Macmillan (Convener), C. Mackinnon, W. Wood, G. Lewis, J. Silversides, W. Gray, A. S. Barr, R. Bracks and J. Shepherd.

The motion was seconded by the Rev. James Marshall.

The Rev. Professor Macintyre and the Rev. W. Thomson addressed the House on the system of Group Nomination.

The motion was approved.

27. The Minutes of the 10th September were confirmed.

28. The Roll was approved as follows:—

Roll.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

Elected by Presbyteries.

Rev. P. Hope, B.A.	Bathurst, 	Rev. W. G. Maconochie, M.A.
Rev. J. Frew Brown	The Clarence. 	Mr. B. Morrison
Rev. F. W. Gresham A. J. Carter	Goulburn, 	Mr. A. Macintosh Angus Cameron
Rev. David Smith, M.A. John Walker	The Hastings. 	Mr. R. Richardson Thomas A. Miller
Rev. W. R. Milne David Baird T. Scott Neil	The Hawkesbury.	Mr. J. B. Brown W. Mitchell W. Morphett

	The Hunter.	
Rev. A. R. McVittie, M.A. James Davies Victor Clark-Duff, B.A.		Mr. J. Breckenridge W. T. Ellis D. Murray
	Illawarra.	
Rev. J. H. G. Auld, B.A. E. S. Henderson.		Mr. A. A. Webb E. J. Crawford
	Monaro.	
Rev. W. G. Bradley		Mr. Wm. McLennan
	Moree.	
Rev. F. W. Wood, B.A. P. A. Smith		
	Murrumbidgee.	
Rev. A. J. Eipper J. C. Gibson		Mr. G. F. Simpson Wm. Tyle.
	New England.	
Rev. H. S. Buntine E. Norman McKie, B.A.		Mr. F. A. Doust
	North Sydney.	
Rev. D. P. McDonald D. M. Barnett, B.A. Alex. Clark James Jackson		Mr. Donald Smith A. G. Baxter George Irving James Shaw
	Orange.	
Rev. R. G. Cruikshank		Mr. C. W. Wilson
	The Richmond.	
Rev. John Robb John Richardson		Mr. John Bryce John MacGregor
	Scone.	
Rev. R. C. Racklyeft		Mr. W. T. Seaward
	Sydney.	
Rev. A. J. Doig, B.A. N. H. Joughin, M.A., B.D. J. Macaulay, M.A. G. W. McAlpine J. C. Milliken G. M. Scott S. B. Reid A. D. Robertson C. W. Willis		Hon. T. Brown Mr. W. Churchill G. A. Clifton Rev. N. Hey Mr. R. Stevenson A. Stratton J. Silversides W. Urquhart W. Wright
	Wagga Wagga	
Rev. G. Nesbitt J. A. Craigen C. H. Hain		Mr. John Ross, Junr. . . J. H. R. Wilson W. R. McEntyre
	Young.	
Rev. George Cowie, B.A. W. J. S. Rankin		Mr. W. E. Ross Wesley Armstrong

Elected by State Assembly.

Rev. John Burgess, M.A., D.D.	Mr. W. G. Crane
R. G. Macintyre, M.A., D.D., O.B.E.	J. H. Beatson
E. E. Anderson, M.A., D.D.	J. Kirkland
G. A. Gordon, P.A.	W. G. Geikie
R. Scott West	W. Wood
A. Thain Anderson, M.A.	J. H. Balfour
W. Robertson	J. R. B. Campbell
A. S. McCook, B.A.	W. G. D. Fairbairn
J. Edwards, M.A.	D. Smith
J. Flynn	J. G. Mackee
G. R. S. Reid, M.A.	H. Perdrian
W. G. Forsyth	John Mars
D. F. Brandt	James Bee, M.A., M.Sc

QUEENSLAND.

Elected by Presbyteries.

Brisbane.	
Rev. C. A. White, B.A.	Mr. W. Fife Fergus
J. B. Galloway	J. T. Robiusion
R. Millar	A. S. Barr
A. M. MacKillop, B.A., B.D.	J. Campbell
M. Henderson, M.A.	S. Lamont
Maryborough.	
Rev. T. G. Allan	Dr. L. Morris
Rockhampton.	
Rev. James Blake	Mr. Alex. Meikle
Toowoomba.	
Rev. Andrew Watson	Mr. George Cossart
A. M. Martin	Robert Tweedle
R. L. Reid	W. W. Briggs, M.A.
Townsville.	
Rev. John Sinclair	Mr. Alex. Mayes
Elected by State Assembly.	
Rev. Jas. Gibson, M.A.	Mr. A. S. Lang, F.I.C.A.
W. C. Radcliffe, B.A.	A. F. Whitehill
Jas. Walker, M.A., B.D.	J. K. Stewart
Hubert Robertson	R. J. Shilliday

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

Elected by Presbyteries.

Adelaide.	
Rev. A. C. Weber	Mr. J. Philip
D. Chapman	Mr. T. Black
Dr. Seymour	T. J. Patterson
Belalie.	
Rev. R. P. Simons	Mr. Jas. Holdsworth
J. McD. Forsyth	J. D. Gilchrist
Onkaparinga.	
Rev. F. S. Souter, B.A.	Mr. A. E. Lampe

Elected by State Assembly.

Right Rev. Robert Campbell	Rev. J. Nelson
Rev. W. Floyd Shannon, O.B.E., B.A.	Mr. A. L. McEwin.

TASMANIA

Elected by Presbyteries.

<p>Rev. A. G. Mackintosh Carter, B.A., B.D.</p>	<p>Hobart.</p> <hr style="width: 1px; margin: 0 auto;"/>	<p>Mr. Percy R. Henry</p>
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<p>Rev. W. J. Harris</p>	<p>Launceston</p>	<p>Mr. D. Storrer</p>
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<p>Rev. William Mabin</p>	<p>Midlands.</p> <hr style="width: 1px; margin: 0 auto;"/>	
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Elected by State Assembly.

<p>Rev. G. M. Baird, B.A.</p>		<p>Mr. G. G. Meredith</p>
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VICTORIA.

Elected by Presbyteries.

<p>Rev. E. J. Welch J. H. R. Halford John Walker</p>	<p>Ballarat.</p> <hr style="width: 1px; margin: 0 auto;"/>	<p>Rev. T. J. Riddle Mr. A. E. White W. Rain</p>
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<p>Rev. J. Gillan W. W. Ingram</p>	<p>Beechworth</p> <hr style="width: 1px; margin: 0 auto;"/>	<p>Mr. J. Whan</p>
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<p>Rev. H. L. Baleke E. Eldrige G. R. Jones A. McMeekin</p>	<p>Bendigo.</p> <hr style="width: 1px; margin: 0 auto;"/>	<p>Mr. G. Bisset G. Mackay W. D. Rees G. M. Hawthorn</p>
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<p>Rev. G. D. Phillips W. H. Cooper, M.A., B.D. D. A. Fairbairn</p>	<p>Flinders.</p> <hr style="width: 1px; margin: 0 auto;"/>	<p>Mr. S. Evans Wm. Peters</p>
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<p>Rev. W. Bett J. B. Rentoul D. W. Smith M. S. Campbell</p>	<p>Geelong</p> <hr style="width: 1px; margin: 0 auto;"/>	<p>Mr. H. H. Dann, G. A. McAdam A. McLennan Rev. F. W. Rolland, M.A., M.C.</p>
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<p>Rev. T. Scott F. E. Yeaman</p>	<p>Gippsland.</p> <hr style="width: 1px; margin: 0 auto;"/>	<p>Mr. G. Grubb D. Hopkins</p>
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<p>Rev. George Paul W. H. Patterson</p>	<p>Goulburn Valley.</p> <hr style="width: 1px; margin: 0 auto;"/>	<p>Mr. A. H. Campbell George Hosie</p>
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<p>Rev. Douglas Bruce R. J. Houston, M.A.</p>	<p>Hamilton.</p> <hr style="width: 1px; margin: 0 auto;"/>	<p>Mr. J. W. Murrell John Fairley</p>
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<p>Rev. D. S. Jones</p>	<p>Macedon.</p> <hr style="width: 1px; margin: 0 auto;"/>	<p>Mr. R. R. Green</p>
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<p>Rev. K. C. Billinge C. Fletcher</p>	<p>Maryborough.</p> <hr style="width: 1px; margin: 0 auto;"/>	<p>Mr. J. W. McNabb</p>
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Melbourne North.

Rev. F. H. L. Paton, M.A., B.D.	Dr. D. M. Paton
F. L. Heriot	Rev. G. M. Connor
John Gillies, M.A., B.D.	W. Watt
B. T. Buntine	Mr. Wm. Cattach
R. W. Macaulay, B.A.	J. J. Williams

Melbourne South

Rev. H. M. Burns, M.A., B.D.	Mr. A. Salmon
A. Yule, M.A.	J. T. Reid
H. Jones, M.A.	H. J. Ramsay
J. L. King.	J. M. Balfour

Melbourne East.

Rev. A. L. G. Ash, B.A., B.D.	Mr. A. J. Crystal
A. G. Roy	W. B. House
E. H. Chapple, B.A.	J. Kelso
D. Millar	J. Orr

Melbourne West.

Rev. F. Tamagno	Mr. W. D. Wilson
A. McLeod	F. G. Herins
R. W. McLean, M.A.	T. W. Campbell
J. P. Chalinor	J. M. Scott
E. H. M. Shugg, B.A.	Rev. G. L. Owens

Mortlake.

Rev. W. Chapman	Mr. E. J. Kelly
A. Simms	G. S. Mackay

Penola.

Rev. J. M. Taylor	Mr. M. D. Cameron, M.H.R.
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Seymour.

Rev. H. O'Sullivan	Mr. J. Morison
R. H. Roberts	F. J. Leet

Western Plains.

Rev. C. Robertson	Mr. A. E. Taylor
F. W. Rankin	

Wimmera.

Rev. P. H. Widmer
W. G. Lewis

Elected by State Assembly.

Rev. Dr. Mathew	Rev. W. Thomson
J. Crookston	Mr. J. G. Balfour
J. A. Crockett	J. M. Campbell
G. Tait, M.A.	H. J. Ramsay
E. E. Baldwin, M.A.	H. Hopkins
Professor Adam, M.A., D.D.	H. H. Kemp
Professor Rentoul, M.A., D.D.	C. Mackinnon
Professor Smith, M.A.	D. Macmillan
W. Borland, M.A., B.D.	R. A. McIlwraith
K. Forster, M.A., B.D.	H. D. McBean
D. A. Cameron, M.A.	L. K. McNab
W. Fraser, B.A.	D. K. Picken
H. C. Matthew, M.A.	A. G. Proudfoot
J. Mackenzie, M.A.	A. L. Pryde
J. A. Barber, B.A.	W. J. Stephen
P. L. Forster	

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

Elected by Presbyteries.

Rev. John Smith	Albany.	Mr. T. Day
Rev. James Marshall	Fremantle.	Mr. R. Bracks
Rev. E. F. Cameron	Goldfields.	Mr. C. R. Hawke
Rev. H. S. R. Innes, B.A. J. R. Thrum	Perth.	Mr. F. A. McMullen F. W. Berry

Elected by State Assembly.

Right Rev. S. R. W. Richardson, M.A., B.D.	Mr. W. Christie
Rev. E. C. Day, B.A., B.D.	Professor A. D. Ross

Book of
Common Order

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

1. That the Assembly receive the Report, thank the Committee and especially the Convener;

2. Commend "the Story of the Holy Communion" to Ministers and Sessions, and suggest that a copy be placed in the hands of every Young Communicant;

3. Instruct the Committee to complete the first portion of the Book of Order and to present it to next General Assembly.

4. That a Prayer Book for mothers and children be prepared.

5. That the Committee be: Revs. J. B. Galloway, W. Borland, Æ. Macdonald, Dr. Rentoul, P. J. Murdoch, D. M. Stewart, Dr. Angus, Dr. J. Mathew, G. A. Gordon, Dr. Davidson, W. H. Steele, D. Millar, Dr. E. E. Anderson, J. Gibson, R. W. Macaulay.

R. Scott West, Convener.
W. Borland, Vice Convener.

Executive: Revs. J. B. Galloway, Dr. E. E. Anderson, P. J. Murdoch, with the Convener and Vice Convener.

The motion was seconded and approved.

Unification
of Home
Missions.

30. The Report on the Unification of Home Missions was submitted by Dr. Seymour.

The consideration of the Report was postponed.

Church
Reunion.

31. The Rev. Dr. Mathew gave notice of his intention, when the Report on Church Reunion is before the House, to move:—

That the Assembly receive the Report, express gratification that following on the Lambeth appeal conferences have already been held between the Anglican, Presbyterian, Methodist and Congregational Churches in New South Wales; while at present not committing itself to acceptance of any of the conclusions so far reached, the Assembly resolve to refer the matter of the

continuance of conferences to the Committee that may be appointed on Co-operative Union; approve of the proposal to constitute a common Council for Australia and State Councils for each of the States with a view to central and also State conferences being held; disapprove of the relative numbers of representatives already proposed and recommend the following numbers instead:—

CENTRAL COUNCIL.

	C.E.	Pres.	Meth.	Cong.	Total.
N.S.W.	7	3	3	1	
Vic.	7	3	3	1	
Qld.	4	1	1	1	
S.A.	2	1	1	1	
W.A.	2	1	1	1	
Tas.	2	1	1	1	
	24	10	10	6	50

STATE COUNCILS.

	C.E.	Pres.	Meth.	Cong.	Total.
N.S.W.	10	4	4	2	20
Vic.	10	4	4	2	20
Qld.	6	2	2	1	11
S.A.	5	2	2	1	10
W.A.	5	2	2	1	10
Tas.	5	2	2	1	10
					81

32. The Rev. A. Thain Anderson gave notice of his intention ^{Trust Funda.} to move at a later Sederunt:—

That the Assembly refer the matter of receiving, administering and granting of necessary discharge for benefactions or other trust funds or property to the Board of Finance, to bring up a report to this Assembly as to the legal powers of the Church in such cases, and as to any necessary steps still to be taken.

33. The Rev. A. Thain Anderson gave notice of his intention, when the Report on Home Missions is before the House, ^{Home Missions.} to move the following Deliverance:—

That the Assembly:—

1. Receive the Report.
2. Approve the work done by representatives of the Church to secure a Church site at Canberra.

3. Appoint a Committee on Federal Capital Territory to watch developments in the Capital, and to take action when necessary to consider such questions as the relation of the Ter-

ritory to State and General Assemblies and to form a plan of campaign for the initiation of permanent work at Canberra.

4. Appoint a Home Mission Board in terms of the overture and authorise it to continue present work with the Home Mission Committee of N.S.W., and thus leave the existing Committee to concentrate on Inland Mission Work, and to be known as the A.I.M. Board.

Home Missions
(A.I.M.)

34. The Rev. A. Thain Anderson gave notice of his intention, when the Report on Home Missions (A.I.M.) is before the House, to move the following Deliverance:—

That the Assembly:—

1. Receive the Report.
2. Acknowledge with gratitude the help and guidance of Almighty God in all the success we have attained and all the gifts we have received.
3. Thank all the Councils and Office Teams and all helpers for their continued efforts to serve the Mission. Thank Mr. D. S. Jackson, M.H.R., for his lectures in the several States, creating thereby a widened interest in the Mission.
4. Acknowledge thankfully the gift of £1000 from South Australia, and a legacy of £200 from the estate of late Sir Robert Philp, of Brisbane.
5. Express hearty appreciation of the efforts made by the friends in Melbourne, whereby they have eclipsed all former efforts by nearly £500 in ordinary revenue, and raised £2500 for property fund, balance devoted to Maintenance Account.
6. Rejoice over the establishment of new homes at Victoria River, N.T., and Birdsville, and the prospects at Innamincka, and welcome additional offer of Sir Josiah Symon.
7. Again express regret that suitable Ministers are not offering for the inland work, and make further appeal for more to occupy the field.
8. Express the hope that within a reasonable time the means may be found to start at least one patrol.
9. Authorise the Board to continue the effort to raise the Property Fund to £25,000.
10. That the following be members of State Auxiliaries:—

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

THIRD SEDERUNT.

At Sydney, and within St. Stephen's Church, Phillip Street, on Thursday, 11th September, 1924, at 7.30 p.m., the Assembly met pursuant to adjournment, and was duly constituted.

35. The Report of the Business Committee was approved.

36. The Report of the Committee relative to Union with other Presbyterian Churches was submitted by the Rev. J. C. Milliken, who moved:—

Union
with other
Presbyterian
Churches.

“That the Assembly receive the Report, and thank and discharge the Committee.”

The motion was seconded by the Rev. R. W. Macaulay, and approved.

37. The Report on Church Union was submitted by the Rev. Professor Adam, who moved:—

Church
Union.

- (1) That the Assembly receive the report and approve the action of the Committee in refraining, after the vote of State Assemblies, from sending down the proposed Basis of Doctrine and Polity as amended to Presbyteries, Sessions and Congregations for another vote on union without further instructions from the General Assembly.
- (2) Re-affirm the conviction expressed by the General Assembly of 1910, “that the Communion of fellow Christians in worship and service is a duty wherever it is not forbidden by conscience,” and declare that so far as revealed in the course of these negotiations, there is no bar in principle to union between the three negotiating Churches.
- (3) Record its appreciation of the fact that the proposed Basis of Doctrine and Polity, as amended by the Joint Committee and approved by last General Assembly as one on which union might be consummated in harmony with Presbyterian principles, has been approved also by the Supreme Courts or Councils of the Methodist and Congregational Churches, and, with a large measure of unanimity, by the Minor Courts and Congregations of these Churches.
- (4) Recognise the evidence of such a divided state of feeling and opinion among the office-bearers and people of the Presbyterian Church of Australia, with regard to organic union on the Basis proposed as to make it inadvisable at present to press forward to organic union with the Methodist and Congregational Churches on this Basis, and resolve rather to await the time when, under the leading of Divine Providence, a way may be opened up whereby these and

Church
Union.

other divisions of Christ's one Church may be happily healed in accordance with His Will.

- (5) Appoint the following as a Committee to endeavor, in conjunction with State Assemblies, to promote such co-operation as may be found practicable under existing circumstances, and as may help toward more effective union, and to report to the Assembly, viz.:—Revs. Prof. Macintyre, Prof. Angus, Dr. Burgess, Dr. Anderson, G. R. S. Reid, Mr. T. Kirkland (N.S.W.), Dr. Mathew, Prof. T. J. Smith, Prof. Adam, G. Tait, D. A. Cameron, Mr. T. M. Campbell (Vic.), Jas. Gibson, W. C. Radcliffe, Jas. Walker (Q'ld.), Dr. Seymour, W. Gray, W. Floyd-Shannon (S.A.), A. Crow, J. R. Blanchard, F. G. H. Brady (W.A.), A. G. McIntosh Carter, W. J. Harris, G. E. Harrison (Tas.), Dr. Macintyre, Convener.
- (6) Resolve that a copy of this deliverance be sent to the Methodist and Congregational Churches from the Assembly, together with a letter signed by the Moderator and Clerk of the Assembly, expressive of its appreciation of the spirit in which these churches have responded to its invitations to confer on the question of union, and the Christian courtesy with which the Committees of these churches have continued in conference with the Committee of this Church over a period of many years, and an intimation of our Church's willingness to co-operate with them in Christian service in every way that may be found practicable.

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

It was moved as an amendment by the Rev. Professor Rentoul:—

That all the words in clause 2 (after the implied words "That the Assembly"—) be omitted in order to insert other words, viz.:—

As the "Movement for Corporate Union with the Methodist and Congregational Churches" has failed to secure the requisite approval of Presbyterian State Assemblies, Sessions and People, and, as "Proposed Basis of Union in Doctrine and Polity," though twice successively presented to our Church at large, whether in its original or amended form, has likewise failed to secure the necessary approval, and, further, as the cessation of action on the subject since the State Assemblies of 1923 has restored most wholesome and brotherly concord within our Church (that true unity of love which Christ demands), the Assembly resolves that it will not pursue the Corporate Union movement further, but calls its Ministers, Elders and People to

closer and more active brotherhood in confirming and extending the spiritual life, energies, and agencies of our beloved Presbyterian Church of Australia. Church Union.

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

The amendment was disapproved.

The consideration of the Report was postponed.

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

FOURTH SEDERUNT.

At Sydney, and within St. Stephen's Church, Phillip Street, on Friday, 12th September, 1924, at 10 a.m., the Assembly met pursuant to adjournment and was duly constituted.

38. It was agreed to receive nominations for the Standing Committees up to the close of the Evening Sederunt. Nominations.

The House sat in private.

39. The Report of the Committee on Reception of Ministers was submitted by the Rev. A. S. McCook, who moved:— Reception of Ministers.

“That the Assembly receive the Report.”

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

The Committee recommended that the Prayers of the Petitions of the Revs. W. T. Alexander and Graham H. Balfour be granted. Revs. W. T. Alexander and Graham H. Balfour.

The recommendation was approved.

The Committee recommended that the Prayer of the Petition of the Rev. J. F. Christian be granted, subject to (1) his attendance for two years at a Theological Hall, and passing the Exit Examination in all subjects except Hebrew, and (2) his satisfying the Executive of this Committee regarding his views on Baptism. Rev. J. F. Christian.

The recommendation was approved, with the addition of (c) first passing the Entrance Examination, or satisfying the College Committee that he has already passed an equivalent examination.

The Committee recommended that the prayer of the Petition of the Rev. Enos Coleman be granted, subject to (1) attendance for two years at a Theological Hall, and passing the Exit Examination in all subjects, except Hebrew, and (2) satisfying the Executive of the Reception of Ministers Committee regarding his views on Baptism. Rev. Enos Coleman.

The recommendation was approved.

Rev. W. J.
Coulson.

The Committee recommended that the prayer of the Petition of the Rev. W. J. Coulson be not granted.

The recommendation was approved.

Rev. G. E.
Howland.

The Petition of the Rev. G. E. Howland was referred to the College Committee, to be reported on with other Petitions.

Rev. A. J.
Parker.

The Committee recommended that the prayer of the Petition of the Rev. A. J. Parker be granted, and that he be received on probation for twelve months, during which time he shall serve as a preacher without a fixed charge, under the direction of one of the Home Mission Committees, and without being eligible for a call, and further, that he satisfy the College Committee that his theological views are in harmony with the teaching of the Church.

It was resolved, by 80 votes to 77: "That the prayer of the Petition be granted, subject to the condition that he (1) attend two years in a Theological Hall, and (2) pass the Exit Examination in all subjects except Hebrew.

The Revs. John Walker, J. A. Crockett, and D. S. Adam dissented from this decision on the ground that the Moderator had declared the amendment by Rev. A. R. McVittie lost on a show of hands, and that thereafter a division was allowed to be taken.

The Revs. W. Borland, John Edwards, D. S. Adam, John Walker, John A. Crockett, and A. S. McCook dissented on the ground that Mr. Parker's scholarly attainments make the imposition of two additional years in the Theological Hall unnecessary.

Rev. A. E.
Page.

The Committee recommended that the Petition of the Rev. Albert E. Page be granted, subject to a period of probation for 12 months, during which time he shall serve as a preacher, without a fixed charge under the direction of the Home Mission Committee of South Australia, and without being eligible for a call, and that thereafter he continue in the service of the Church in South Australia.

The recommendation was approved, with the substitution for the last clause of the words: "and that thereafter he continue for a term of five years in the service of the Church in South Australia, and that after that period his case be again referred to this Assembly to decide as to his place of ministerial service."

Rev. F. J. H.
Steward.

The Committee recommended that the prayer of the Petition of the Rev. F. J. H. Steward be granted, and that he be received on probation for twelve months in accordance with the provisions of Rule 5.

The recommendation was approved, with the insertion, after the word "granted," of the words "subject to his passing the Exit Examination of our Church."

The Committee recommended that the prayer of Mr. P. E. Wyld^e be granted, so far as to permit him to accept a call within the State of South Australia.

The recommendation was approved.

40. The communication from the Presbyterian Church of New Zealand, relative to reciprocity with the Presbyterian Church of Australia as regards reception of Ministers, was submitted by the Convener of the Reception of Ministers Committee, and referred to the Code Committee for report to a later Sederunt.

41. The Convener of the Business Committee submitted a special report relative to a Petition from the Rev. J. Downey.

The action of the Business Committee in not forwarding the Petition was approved.

42. The Rev. Dr. Rentoul gave notice of his intention, when the report in Church Union is before the House, to move the following amendments:—

Omit all the words in Clause 4 after the words "Methodist and Congregational Churches on this basis," so as to add the words "and discharge the Union Committee," in view of the appointment of a large representative Committee on Co-operation of all Evangelical Churches."

(1) Omit all the words in Clause 5 after the words "Appoint the following as a Committee," with a view to insert the words: "Of co-operation to promote and, as far as possible, secure earnest co-operative action in common with all the Evangelical Churches of Australia, so as to resist the widely-spreading forces of evil, and to promote the redeeming and cleansing influences of the Kingdom of God in Christ amongst the young, and throughout the life of our community."

(2) Omit all the words from "To endeavour" down to the words "more effective Union," and after the words "and to report to the Assembly," omit all the remaining words so as to insert the names of a larger and much more impartially representative Committee, with the Moderator General as Convener, viz.:—

N.S.W.: Revs. Prof. Macintyre, Prof. Angus, Dr. Burgess, Prof. Anderson, G. R. S. Reid, A. Thain Anderson, A. S. McCook, D. F. Brandt, R. Scott West, John Edwards, R. J. H. McGowan, with Messrs. J. Kirkland, W. G. Geikie, J. G. McKee, Wm. Wood.

Victoria: The Right Rev. James Crookston, Revs. Prof. Rentoul, Prof. Adam, Prof. T. J. Smith, Dr. John Mathew, George Tait, D. A. Cameron, J. Gillies, B. T. Buntine, J. A. Barber, John Walker, Wilfred J. Holt, P. L. Forster, with Messrs. J. M. Campbell, A. G. Proudfoot, D. Macmillan, Sir John MacFarland, L. K. McNab, A. L. Pryde, J. G. Balfour.

South Australia: Rev. Dr. Davidson, A. C. Weber, J. Mac-Dougall, Forsyth, W. Floyd Shannon, O.B.E., F. E. Souter, W. Gray, with Prof. Rennie, and Messrs. W. J. Angus, M. F. Culliford and A. L. McEwin.

Queensland: Revs. James Gibson, A. McKillop, J. E. Kirke, James Cosh, Ewan, with Messrs. J. K. Stewart.....

West Australia: Right Rev. S. R. W. Richardson, George Tulloch, E. F. Cameron, J. R. Blanchard, F. G. H. Brady, H. S. R. Innes, with Messrs. Prof. A. D. Ross, W. Christie.....

Tasmania: The Revs. A. G. Mackintosh-Carter, W. Mabin, G. M. Baird, with Messrs. G. G. Meredith.....and with power to add to their number in each State.

43. The Rev. John Macaulay gave notice of his intention, when the Report on Public Questions is before the House, to move:—

“That the Assembly record its gratification that the Government of New South Wales has introduced a Bill dealing with matters raised by the “Ne Temere” Decree of the Roman Catholic Church, and express its earnest hope that the Bill will receive legislative authority.”

Ministers
from other
Denominations

44. The Rev. W. Borland gave notice of his intention to move at a later Sederunt:—

“That the Assembly instruct the College Committee to prepare a report on the educational requirements in connection with the reception of men from other churches for the Ministry of the Presbyterian Church.”

The Assembly adjourned to meet at 7.45 p.m. for a Public Demonstration in connection with the Australian Inland Mission, which having been publicly intimated, the Sederunt was closed with prayer.

FIFTH SEDERUNT.

At Sydney, and within St. Stephen's Church, Phillip Street, on Friday, 12th September, 1924, at 7.30 p.m., the Assembly met pursuant to adjournment, and was duly constituted.

45. The Report of the Business Committee was approved.

A.I.M.
Demonstration.

46. According to arrangement, a Public Demonstration was held in connection with the Australian Inland Mission. Addresses were delivered by the Right Rev. the Moderator General, and the Revs. John Flynn, John Walker (of Ballarat), A. Thain Anderson and John Waugh.

The Assembly adjourned to meet on Monday, 15th September, 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 Monday, the 15th September, 1924, at 10 a.m.

The Assembly met pursuant to adjournment, and was constituted.

47. It was agreed to take the Ballot for Standing Committees this day, at 12.45 p.m. ^{Ballot.}

48. It was moved by the Rev. D. A. Cameron, in accordance with notice of motion: "That a Moderator's Committee be appointed to arrange the finances and fix the times of Moderatorial visits for all the States and to aid the Moderator in any way possible in his official representation of the Church—the executive to be the members in the home State of the Moderator for the time being." ^{Moderator's Committee.}

Committee:—New South Wales: Messrs. W. Wood and M. S. Grant; Queensland: Rev. W. C. Radcliffe and Mr. J. K. Stewart; South Australia: Revs. W. Floyd Shannon and Dr. Seymour; Western Australia: Revs. J. R. Blanchard and E. C. Day; Victoria: Revs. J. A. Barber and D. A. Cameron and Mr. A. L. Pryde. Rev. D. A. Cameron, Convener.

The motion was duly seconded and approved.

49. It was moved by the Rev. A. Thain Anderson, in accordance with notice of motion: ^{Trust Funds.}

That the Assembly refer the matter of receiving, administering and granting of necessary discharge for benefactions or other trust funds or property to the Board of Finance, to bring up a report to this Assembly as to the legal powers of the Church in such cases, and as to any necessary steps still to be taken.

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

50. The Report on Welfare of Youth was submitted, in the absence of the Convener, by the Rev. G. R. S. Reid, who moved: ^{Welfare of Youth.}

(1) That the Assembly receive the Report, thank the Committee, and especially the Convener.

(2) Express gratitude to God for the deepening interest throughout the Church in the work of Religious Education. Record the Assembly's appreciation of the faithful service rendered by the Directors and assistants, and place on record the Assembly's

Welfare of
Youth.

gratitude for the voluntary service of the many teachers, leaders and helpers who are so faithfully labouring to win the youth of our Land for Christ.

(3) Record satisfaction with the Australasian Graded Lessons and congratulate the Joint-Board upon the success of its efforts, but urge the selectors of the Senior Graded Lessons to choose such topics as will keep the necessity of personal decision constantly before the minds of the Scholars. Express the hope that all the State Assemblies will soon be partners in this enterprise.

(4) Thank the Youth Departments of Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland for their generosity in freeing their agents for special service in West and South Australia and recommend that in the future the Visitation of these States be arranged as occasion offers.

(5) Express satisfaction that this Church was so well represented at the Glasgow Convention, and approve of efforts to make effective a National Sunday School organisation for Australia.

(6) Recommend State Assemblies to agree upon a General Scheme of Memory Lessons. Authorise the Committee to approve of such a scheme should agreement be reached.

593
sp. 134 ✓
(7) Appoint the following a Special Committee to prepare a Junior Catechism and to report to next Assembly, viz.:—(See Minute 93.)

(8) Rejoice that the problem of adolescence is receiving more definite and earnest consideration. Once more direct the attention of State Departments and their agents to the urgency of the problem and the necessity for concerted action.

(9) Urge that in every State there should be conference between Church Extension and Welfare of Youth Committees with a view to the inauguration of a more aggressive policy of Sunday School extension, and more systematic efforts to enrol the thousands of Presbyterian children for whom at present our Church makes no provision.

(10) Recommend that Assemblies and Presbyteries should hold Conferences for the consideration of the suggestions embodied in this report for the securing of a closer co-operation between the Courts of the Church and the Leaders of work amongst young people, and for the promotion of a more aggressive policy of educational evangelism amongst the young.

The motion was seconded by Mr. L. K. McNab.

The motion was approved.

51. The Report on Union between Victoria and Tasmania was submitted by the Rev. D. A. Cameron, who moved:—

Union of
Victoria and
Tasmania.

“That the Assembly declare the following Resolution of interim authority, and send it down to State Assemblies and Presbyteries under Article XIII. of the Deed of Union for Report to next Assembly:—

Union of
Victoria and
Tasmania.

“That the Union of the Victorian and Tasmanian Churches be sanctioned for another period of ten years on the present basis, beginning on April 1st, 1927, or at such earlier date as may be determined by the State Assemblies of Victoria and Tasmania, with the proviso that there be one Presbytery for the whole of Tasmania, and that its member shall sit as the Tasmanian Assembly or Governing Authority for the Presbyterian Church of Tasmania under the Presbyterian Church Act, 1896 (Tasmania), for the management of property and funds of the Presbyterian Church of Tasmania in accordance with the terms of the said Act: Not more than two ordinary meetings of Assembly to be held within a single year; Standing Order (3) to be amended by providing that the operation of the words ‘representing at least two Presbyteries and’ be suspended in the case of Tasmania during the currency of the proposed agreement. With the final proviso that all necessary and consequential alterations incidental to the agreement be made in the rules of the Presbyterian Church of Tasmania.”

The motion was seconded by the Rev. H. M. Burns, and approved.

52. Permission was granted to the Selection Committee to meet during the sittings of the Assembly.

Selection
Committee.

53. It was moved by the Rev. Dr. Macintyre, and unanimously approved:—

“That the Assembly receive with profound regret the news of the death of the Rev. J. Haynes, of Boulder, W.A., and express its deep sympathy with his wife and family.”

Rev. J.
Haynes.

54. It was moved by the Rev. Dr. Macintyre; and unanimously approved: “That the Assembly record its profound regret at the intimation of the death of Mr. William E. Ross, of Garangula, Harden, N.S.W., and express its profound sympathy with his wife and family.”

Mr. William
E. Ross

55. The Reference on Union between Victoria and South Australia was submitted by the Rev. D. A. Cameron, who moved:

Union of
Victoria and
South Australia

“That the Assembly sustain the Reference, declare the following Resolution of interim authority, and send down to State Assemblies and Presbyteries under Article XIII. of the Deed of Union for Report to next Assembly:—

“That the union of the Presbyterian Churches of Victoria and South Australia be sanctioned on the basis of agreement before the Assembly for a period of ten years beginning on the 1st January, 1925, with the proviso that all necessary and consequential alterations incidental to the agreement be made in the rules of the Presbyterian Church of South Australia.”

The motion was duly seconded, and approved.

Ballot.

56. The Convener of the Business Committee reported that the Ballot had been found to be unnecessary.

Sudan
United
Mission.

57. It was agreed to receive the Communication from the Sudan United Mission, seeking endorsement of the aims and efforts of the Mission, and express the Assembly's desire that the work which the Mission is doing may be blessed of God.

New Guinea
Mandate.

58. The Overture relative to the New Guinea Mandate was submitted by the Convener of the Business Committee.

It was moved by the Rev. F. H. L. Paton:—

"That the Assembly sustain the overture in so far as it brings the matter before the Assembly, and refer the whole question to the Board of Missions to consider and report to the next Assembly."

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

Malaya.

59. The Overture relative to Malaya was sustained, so far as it brings the question before the House, and referred to the Board of Missions to take such action as it deems wise.

Nomination of
Moderators
General.

60. The Rev. R. W. Macaulay moved the motion, of which he had given notice in the following form: "That the nomination of the Moderator of the General Assembly be made by a Committee consisting of the Moderator and ex-Moderators of the General Assembly, and two other members from each State Assembly, one of whom shall be the Moderator of the State Assembly, and the other specially appointed by the State Assembly for each election."

The motion was seconded by the Rev. John Walker.

The motion was disapproved.

Church
and Creed.

61. The Report on Church and Creed was submitted by Principal Anderson, who moved:—

That the Assembly:

1. Receive the Report.

2. Instruct the Committee to get into touch with the great Presbyterian Churches of the world, and keep the Presbyterian Church of Australia informed as to the development of opinion in them and report to next General Assembly.

3. Appoint the following Committee to nominate a Committee in terms of the Report, and report to a future Sederunt:—Revs. Dr. Anderson, Convener; R. Scott West, Prof. Adam, W. Borland, Dr. Rentoul, Dr. Seymour, S. R. W. Richardson, Jas. Gibson.

The motion was seconded by the Rev. Professor Smith, and approved.

Petitions
from
Students.

62. The Report of the College Committee, relative to Petitions from Students, was submitted by the Rev. W. Borland, who moved:

1. That the Report be received.

2. That the prayer of Mr. R. K. McKenzie be granted.

3. That the prayers of the petitions of the following be not granted, viz.:—Mr. R. J. May, Mr. S. Robertson, Mr. J. W. Stewart Lang, Mr. S. A. Massie, Mr. F. M. Pierce, Mr. A. B. Erskine, Mr. T. Goy, Mr. G. McLean, Mr. G. McGregor, Mr. F. W. Patterson, and of Trangie Congregation in reference to Mr. C. J. Mackay.

The motion was seconded by the Rev. John Edwards.

It was moved as an amendment by the Rev. G. Cowie, and seconded by the Rev. W. J. S. Rankin:—

“That the prayer of Mr. R. J. May be also granted.”

The amendment was disapproved.

It was moved as an amendment by the Rev. D. A. Cameron, and seconded by the Rev. George Tait:—

“That the Petition of Mr. George McGregor be granted, and that the Assembly authorise the Presbytery of Melbourne East to ordain him, with the proviso that he serve for at least five years under the Home Mission Committee of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria.”

The amendment was disapproved.

The motion was approved.

The Rev. John Walker moved:—

“That a Commission be appointed to visit Trangie, and that the terms of the motion be drawn up and submitted to-morrow by a Committee consisting of the Revs. W. Borland, R. G. Cruikshank, and John Walker.” Trangie
Congregation.

63. The Rev. Dr. Mathew gave notice of his intention, when the Report of the Hobart Commission is before the House, to move: “That the Assembly receive the Report, express deep regret that the Congregations of Hobart have been unable to agree upon such a redistribution of Churches and Parishes as to leave only one Church in the centre of the city, the other two to be located in suburbs, and express the earnest hope that further efforts will be made for redistribution of these Churches.” Hobart
Commission

64. The Rev. Dr. Rentoul gave notice of his intention to move at a later Sederunt:—

“That in view of the prevalent godlessness and practical paganism permeating the Community around us, and the up-growth of a childhood and youth-hood, of both sexes, absolutely devoid of all influences of religion at home, and of attendance at Church or Sunday School, in view also of the wide-spreading tendency on the part of Municipalities to turn the Lord’s Day into a day of sport for the young, and the utter and compulsory exclusion of Scriptural reading or Christian knowledge in the public schools of some of the Australian States, the Assembly earnestly urges upon the State Assemblies, and upon its Ministers, Elders, Office-bearers, and people, and also upon any Irreligion.

Committee of Co-operation with all Evangelical Churches, which may be formed, the need of very careful and strenuous united action on these and kindred matters, concerning the dangers besetting religion and morals in relation to the national and social welfare."

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

SEVENTH SEDERUNT.

At Sydney, and within St. Stephen's Church, Phillip Street, on Monday, the 15th September, 1924, at 7.30 p.m.

The Assembly met pursuant to adjournment, and was constituted.

65. The Report of the Business Committee was approved.

Selection
Committee.

66. The Report of the Selection Committee was submitted by the Rev. R. W. Macaulay, who moved:—

"That the Report be received and approved."

The motion was duly seconded and approved.

67. The minutes of the 12th September were confirmed.

Beneficiary
Fund.

68. The Report on the Beneficiary Fund was submitted by Mr. A. G. Proudfoot, who moved:—

"1. That the Report be received and the Committee be reappointed.

"2. That the Committee be instructed to continue its work and in particular to keep in touch with the movement for the inclusion of the Ministers in Western Australia with the Beneficiary Fund of New South Wales, and to endeavor to arrange for the managing committees controlling State funds to obtain the removal of any legal bars that may exist to union with other State funds, and for the purpose of facilitating the formation of an Australian Fund."

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

Church
Union.

69. Consideration of the Report on Church Union was resumed.

The Rev. Professor Rentoul moved the amendment on Clause (3), of which he had given notice, and which is recorded in the Minutes of the 10th September.

The amendment was seconded by the Rev. Professor Smith.

By leave of the House, both clause (3) and the amendment on it, were withdrawn.

By leave of the House, the Rev. Professor Rentoul withdrew the amendment on Clause (4), of which he had given notice, and which is recorded in minute 42 of the 12th September. Church
Union.

It was agreed to insert the following words between Clauses (4) and (5): "Thank the Committee, and especially the Convener, and discharge the Committee."

It was agreed to withdraw Clause (5), paragraph (1), and to substitute the words "Christian unity" for the word "union" in Clause (5), paragraph (2), line 5, and to appoint the Revs. Dr. Adam, Dr. Rentoul, Professor Smith, G. R. S. Reid, and Mr. J. M. Campbell (Convener), to nominate a Committee to a later Sederunt.

The motion as amended was approved.

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

EIGHTH SEDERUNT.

At Sydney, and within St. Stephen's Church, Phillip Street, on Tuesday, the 16th September, 1924, at 10 a.m.

The Assembly met pursuant to adjournment and was constituted.

70. The Reference from the Public Questions Committee of the State Assembly of Victoria, relative to the Presbyterian Alliance, was laid on the table by the Convener of the Business Committee.

It was agreed to sustain the Reference, and to appoint the Rev. Professor Andrew Harper, D.D., and the Rev. D. Millar, as delegates to the General Council of the Alliance of Presbyterian Churches, to be held at Cardiff, in 1925. Presbyterian
Alliance.

71. By leave of the House, the Rev. R. W. Macaulay withdrew the motion relative to uniting the General Council of the Presbyterian Alliance to meet in Australia, of which he had given notice on the 10th September.

72. The communication from the World Conference on Faith and Order was submitted by the Convener of the Business Committee. Conference
on Faith
and Order.

The communication was referred to the Committee on Christian Unity, with instructions to report to the next Assembly.

73. By leave of the House, the Rev. R. W. Macaulay withdrew the motion relative to the World Conference on Faith and Order, of which he had given notice on the 10th September.

74. A communication from Dr. N. G. Daniel was received. Dr. N. G.
Daniel.

League of
Nations.

75. The Rev. R. W. Macaulay moved, in accordance with notice of motion:

“That the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia enrol itself as a corporate member of the League of Nations’ Union and recommend Assemblies, Presbyteries and Congregations to take similar action and to promote the aims of the Union by prayer and frequent advocacy in press and pulpit.”

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

Year
Book.

76. The Report on the Year Book was submitted by the Rev. D. M. Barnet, who moved:

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

2. Express appreciation of the valuable and careful work of the Editor, Rev. J. R. Fiddian, and thank Miss Lamont for her efficient keeping of the accounts.

3. Instruct the Committee to continue the publication of the Book, and to print additional details of the parishes, provided the deficit shall not exceed thirty pounds per annum; and appoint the Rev. R. A. Green, Convener.

4. Appoint the following as correspondents for the several States:—New South Wales, Mr. S. J. Carruthers; Queensland, Mr. J. Campbell; South Australia, Rev. R. Campbell; Tasmania, Rev. G. M. Baird; Victoria, Rev. R. A. Green; Western Australia, Rev. E. C. Day.

5. Continue the honorarium to the Editor at twenty guineas per annum.

The motion was seconded by Mr. A. L. Pryde.

It was moved as an amendment by Mr. W. Wood, and seconded by the Rev. W. G. Bradley:—

“That all words in Clause 3 after ‘Book,’ be omitted.”

The amendment was disapproved.

The motion was approved.

Revision of
Church

77. The Report relative to the Revision of the Church Hymnary was submitted by the Rev. R. Scott West, who moved:

That the Assembly receive the report, thank the committee, and especially the Convener.

Express appreciation of the action of the Executive Committee in Scotland in seeking the co-operation of the Australian Church.

Instruct the Committee, after examination of the proofs of the Revised Hymnary, to consider whether an Australian Sup-

plement is necessary, and if so, to prepare such, and submit it to next Assembly.

That in the event of a Children's Hymn Book being issued by the Executive, the Committee be instructed to co-operate and report.

Thank the Rev. Dr. J. R. Fleming and the Rev. Ninian Hill for representing the views of the Committee on the Joint Committee in Edinburgh.

That the Committee be:—Revs. W. Borland, W. H. Ash, G. Carson, J. Heyer, Dr. Angus, J. B. Galloway, C. E. James, W. C. Radcliffe, N. Miller, E. H. McLean Shugg, and R. Scott West (Convener).

The motion was duly seconded, and approved.

78. The Report of the Board of Missions was submitted by the Rev. W. C. Radcliffe, who moved:— Board of Missions.

That the Assembly:—

1. Receive the Report.

2. Acknowledge God's goodness in the great measure of health enjoyed by the Mission Staff, and in the success attending their labors as manifested in the increased attendances at the Sabbath and Week Day services, and in the marriage of the first Dormitory girl.

3. Express appreciation of the faithful work done by the mission staff.

4. Approve of the action of the board in agreeing to set aside 30 per cent. of the earnings of the "Rolland," of the proceeds of sales of produce and of the monies received from the North-West Dept., and place it to the credit of the Insurance Fund Account.

5. Thank the donors of the wireless receiving set.

6. Approve of the action of the board in (a) acceding to the request of the W.A. Government for permission to form a cotton experimental plot at Port George IV., and (b) making no charge on it for fares and freights, charging only for expense actually incurred.

7. Thank the Sydney and Melbourne Office Staffs and the Executive at Perth for their valuable services.

8. Instruct our Ministers to keep before the minds of our people the sad condition of the Aborigines, and their duty to further the effort made to deliver them from the darkness of heathenism, and lead them into the light of the Gospel.

9. Agree that the reduction of the overdraft be spread over four years, and that the assessment for the next two years be allocated as follows:—

Board of
Missions.

	For year ending	
	30/9/25.	30/9/26.
Victoria	£1420	£1300
New South Wales	990	900
Western Australia, minimum of	160	160
South Australia	140	130
Tasmania	90	84
	<u>£2800</u>	<u>£2574</u>

10. Welcome the request of the Interstate Conference of the Women's Missionary Associations and Unions in regard to the holding of a Missionary Campaign throughout the Commonwealth, and remit it to the Board of Missions with power to act.

11. That the Assembly is profoundly disappointed to learn that the abuses complained of in the New Hebrides under the Condominium continue to exist in spite of the wide publicity given to them, and the growing volume of protest from so many responsible quarters; requests the Prime Minister to make still more urgent representations to the Imperial Government with a view to the complete and impartial enforcement of the Condominium, or, failing that, an amicable and equitable arrangement with France, whereby the Islands shall pass under sole British control; and instructs the Board of Missions, in co-operation with other bodies, to bring persistent pressure to bear upon the authorities until this intolerable state of affairs is remedied."

The motion was seconded by the Rev. H. S. R. Innes, and approved.

Petition,
Mr. R. J. S.
Cullen.

79. The Petition of Mr. R. J. S. Cullen was laid on the table by the Convener of the Business Committee.

It was moved by the Rev. Professor Macintyre:—

"That the Petition be received, and Mr. Cullen called to the Bar."

The motion was seconded by Mr. W. Cattach, and approved.

Mr. Cullen was called to the Bar, and heard in support of his Petition.

Mr. Cullen was removed from the Bar.

It was moved by the Rev. Professor Macintyre:

"That the Assembly resolve that the matter raised in Mr. Cullen's Petition is not within the function of the General Assembly of Australia."

The motion was seconded by the Rev. George Tait, and approved.

Mr. Cullen was recalled to the Bar, and the Moderator intimated the decision of the House to him.

80. The College Committee recommended that the Rev. George E. Howland be exempted from passing the Entrance Examination, and be allowed to enter as a first-year student in a Theological Hall. Petition,
Rev. G. E.
Howland.

The recommendation was approved.

81. The Report of the Code Committee relative to alterations in Chapter VII. (Reception of Ministers) was submitted by Mr. J. M. Campbell, who moved:— Reciprocity
with New
Zealand,
etc.

That Regulation A. of Chapter VII. be repealed, and the following substituted therefor:—

“A Minister or a licentiate of one of the Presbyterian Churches of Great Britain, Ireland or New Zealand, who

- (a) is directly commissioned by the Colonial Committee of any such Churches, or
- (b) is directly commissioned by a Committee in any of such places appointed for the selection of Ministers by any State Assembly or Presbytery of this Church, or
- (c) has accepted a call by any Congregation of this Church or has been appointed to some Ministerial office in the Church.

shall be received at once by the Reception Committee of the General Assembly if his commission is to the Church of Australia, or by the Home Mission Committee of the State Assembly if his commission is to a State Church, or if he has been called by a congregation of that Church, or if he has been appointed to a Ministerial office by that Church.”

B 1. In Regulation B 1 the words “not coming within the previous regulation” shall be substituted for the words “not directly commissioned by the Colonial Committee of his Church.”

The motion was duly seconded and approved.

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

NINTH SEDERUNT.

At Sydney, and within St. Stephen's Church, Phillip Street, on Tuesday, the 16th September, 1924, at 7.30 p.m.

The Assembly met pursuant to adjournment, and was constituted.

The Report of the Business Committee was approved.

82. Mr. H. J. Ramsay gave notice of his intention to move Irreligion. at a later Sederunt:—

That in view of present deplorable spiritual indifference, pleasure seeking and laxity in morals, and the apparent human impossibility of reaching and influencing the great mass of people outside our Churches, this General Assembly of Australia make a special appeal to the State Assemblies, Presbyteries and Sessions that there should be a great call to Prayer for a Spiritual Revival; also that a great forward movement be made to win the young life of the community to Christ as our best hope for the future of our Church.

Unification
of Home
Missions.

83. The Report on Unification of Home Missions was submitted by the Rev. Dr. Seymour.

It was moved by the Rev. Dr. Seymour:—

That the Assembly—

1. Receive the reports, thank the Committee and especially the Convener.

2. Affirm the desirability of unification as the ultimate policy of the Church, and express satisfaction in the various recent movements leading in that direction.

3. Authorise the payment of travelling expenses incurred by the Convener in prosecuting the work of the Committee.

4. Reappoint the Committee, consisting of the following:—
Revs. D. A. Cameron, Dr. Matthew, S. R. W. Richardson, E. C. Day, W. F. Shannon, J. A. Seymour, A. Thain Anderson, Dr. Burgess, James Walker, W. C. Radcliffe, Mr. A. L. Pryde, D. M'Millan and W. Wood.

The motion was seconded by the Rev. E. C. Day and approved.

Returns of
Remit
relative to
Unification.

84. The Returns on the Remit relative to Unification were laid on the table by the Convener of the Business Committee.

It was agreed to instruct the Committee to redraft the Overture, and send it to State Assemblies and Presbyteries for report to next Assembly.

Women in
Eldership.

85. The Overture relative to the Eligibility of Women to the Eldership was introduced by Professor A. D. Ross.

It was moved by Professor A. D. Ross and seconded by the Rev. E. C. Day:—

“That the Overture be sustained, and that women elected and ordained to the Eldership by the Church in any State be recognised as Elders of the Presbyterian Church of Australia.”

It was moved as an amendment by the Rev. Dr. Rentoul:—

“That all words after ‘Overture be’ be omitted, with a view to inserting the words, ‘received and that the Assembly affirm the great usefulness and advisability of the wide exten-

sion of the New Testament order of Deaconesses, who, if largely appointed, would meet the whole difficulty.” Women in
Eldership.

The amendment was seconded by the Rev. D. F. Brandt.

The amendment was disapproved.

It was agreed that all words after “sustained” be omitted, with a view to inserting the words, “in so far as it raises the issue, and be remitted to State Assemblies and Presbyteries for their opinion.”

86. The Report on Public Questions was submitted by the Rev. Dr. Mathew, who moved:— Public
Questions.

That the Assembly receive the report, express gratification to be assured that the Committees dealing with public questions in the various States have been acting energetically, recommend said Committees to be vigilant and sensitive in relation to all movements affecting character, morals and religion, recommend especially continued earnest action to be taken (1) for more complete control of the liquor traffic, with a view to ultimate prohibition; (2) for securing the discountenance of gambling on the part of governments and public institutions, and, generally, for its suppression; (3) for maintaining the sanctity of the Lord’s Day and its use as a day of rest and worship; (4) for the prevention of objectionable films being exhibited at picture shows, and securing the exhibition of morally wholesome films.

The Assembly also recommend that the following matters be kept in view:—(1) the securing of more effective means for the protection of women and children; (2) the overcoming of class-hatred and class-jealousy and the fostering of fraternal Christian feeling between all classes of Society; (3) the promotion of inquiries as to the best means of preventing crime and vice and the adoption of suitable methods through the agency of the States’ governments.

The Assembly urge our Church people to give moral and financial support to the League of Nations.

In questions affecting the moral welfare of the whole Commonwealth and in approaches to the Commonwealth Government the Assembly recommend that the executive of the Public Questions’ Committee be informed about action to be taken locally and be invited to co-operate where practicable.

The motion was duly seconded.

It was moved as an amendment by the Rev. E. F. Cameron and seconded by the Hon. T. Brown:—

“That the following be inserted after word ‘suppression’ in the first clause: ‘Since the obligation of the support of the Public Charities is a State one, taxation for this purpose be commended by this Assembly.’”

Public
Questions.

The amendment was rejected.

The Rev. John Macaulay moved the amendment, of which he had given notice, in the following form:—

That the Assembly express its deep concern at the effect of the "Ne Temere" Decree of the Roman Catholic Church upon the sanctity of the marriage tie, and warns its young people against entering into marriage relations with those who accept the authority of the said Decree.

The amendment was approved.

The motion as amended was approved.

Sunday
School
Hymnal.

87. The Report on the Sunday School Hymnal was submitted by the Rev. Professor Macintyre, who moved:—

That the Assembly—

1. Receive the Report.
2. Commend the Hymnal to the loyal support of our schools in Australia, and for use in connection with the services referred to.

3. Re-appoint the Committee, as follows:—Revs. W. H. Ash (Convener), C. Crane, F. A. Darling, G. R. S. Reid, C. H. Talbot, J. R. Fiddian, J. T. Robertson, W. Fraser, J. Heyer, Dr. Mathew, W. Goyen, A. I. Davidson, and G. Carson; Messrs. L. Fraser, L. K. McNab, W. Gray and R. J. Oehr.

The motion was duly seconded and approved.

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

TENTH SEDERUNT.

At Sydney, and within St. Stephen's Church, Phillip Street, on Wednesday, the 17th September, 1924.

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

Jewish
Mission.

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

"That the Assembly receive the Report, thanking the Committee and the Convener, reappoint the Committee, approve of the arrangement by which the Rev. E. C. Ettmann has temporarily left the work in Australia, thank Miss Richards for her untiring devotion, and commend the Mission to the prayerful and material support of all our people.

The motion was seconded by the Rev. H. M. Burns, and approved.

89. The Overture relative to Rules and Forms and the Report of the Code Committee were submitted. Revision of Code.

Mr. J. M. Campbell moved, and the Rev. E. E. Baldwin seconded:—

That the Assembly approve of the issue of a new edition of the Rules and Forms of Procedure; request the Standing Orders Committee of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria to arrange for the revision and publication; and arrange for the various States to bear their share of the cost in proportion to the number of copies they require.

The motion was approved.

90. The Overture from the State Assembly of Victoria, relative to Question VI., Chapter III., Rules and Forms, was submitted by the Convener of the Business Committee. Overture, Ordination Formula

It was moved by the Rev. A. Yule:—

“That the Assembly sustain the Overture in so far as it brings the question before the House, and send it to State Assemblies and Presbyteries under Article XIII. of the Deed of Union to report to next Assembly.”

The motion was seconded by the Rev. Hugh Jones, and approved.

91. The Overture from the State Assembly of Victoria, relative to Boards of Management and Church Courts, was laid on the table by the Convener of the Business Committee:— Overture, Boards of Management and Church Courts.

It was moved by the Rev. George Tait:—

“That the Assembly sustain the Overture in so far as it brings the matter before the House, and refer the matter to a Committee, consisting of the Revs. Dr. Mathew, Dr. Rentoul, Professor Adam, R. W. Macaulay, and G. Tait (Convener); Messrs. J. M. Campbell and D. Macmillan, Sir John MacFarland, and A. G. Proudfoot, with instructions to report to next Assembly.

The motion was seconded by the Rev. R. W. McLean.

It was moved as an amendment by Mr. William Wood:—

“That all words after ‘Assembly’ be omitted with a view to insert the word ‘dismiss.’”

The amendment was seconded by Mr. L. K. McNab.

The amendment was approved, the word inserted, and the motion as amended approved.

The Rev. R. W. Macaulay dissented, on the grounds:— Dissent.

- (1) That the refusal to consider the relation of Boards of Management to the Courts of the Church means further serious delay in bridging the widening gulf

between Sessions, Presbyteries and Assemblies, and the financial managers of Congregational affairs.

- (2) That the refusal to consider the simplification of questions in the formula for the induction of elders perpetuates and emphasises the serious hindrance (created by the existing formula) to the acceptance of the office of the eldership by men chosen by the Congregations and in every way qualified for the office.

Finance
Committee.

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

That the Assembly:—

1. Receive the Report, and thank the Committee and Con-
vener.

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, 1924, 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 rates 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, an exception being made in the case of the delegates from Western Australia, who receive their proportion of fares at first-class rates as in the case of last Assembly.

3. Resolve that the honorarium to the Moderator be £50 per annum, to the Senior Clerk of Assembly £30, and to the Junior Clerk £20 per Assembly.

4. Authorise the assessment for General Assembly's expenses on the following basis, namely:—New South Wales £205 6s. 9d., Victoria £205 6s. 9d., Queensland £60 12s. 0d., South Australia £34 15s. 6d., Tasmania £34 15s. 6d., Western Australia £34 15s. 6d. Also authorise the transference from the General Assembly Expenses Fund 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 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 for the sum of £26 per annum from the Home Mission Department for rent of room.

6. Confirm the payments made by the Finance Committee on behalf of the Year Book, and fix the annual honorarium to the Editor at £21.

7. Approve and adopt the balance sheet.

8. Authorise the payment of the sum of £20 to the General Presbyterian Alliance, London.

The motion was duly seconded and approved.

93. The following Committees were appointed:—

WELFARE OF YOUTH.

New South Wales: Revs. D. McKay, Barnet, A. J. Eipper, D. J. Flockhart, A. C. Grieve, N. H. Joughin, and G. R. S. Reid, Mr. J. A. Paterson. Victoria: Revs. J. Barnaby, W. Goyen, Dr. Hunter, J. C. Jamieson, J. Mackenzie, F. E. Oxer, and T. J. Riddle; Messrs. W. Gray, J. Kelso, L. K. McNab and G. J. Mauger. Tasmania: Rev. G. E. Harrison. Queensland: Revs. A. Duff, J. B. Galloway, R. Millar, W. W. Smith, and W. H. Waters. Western Australia: Revs. J. R. Blanchard, N. McDonald and S. R. W. Richardson. South Australia: Revs. R. Campbell, M. F. Shannon, and F. S. Souter. Rev. J. Mackenzie, Convener.

Welfare
of Youth.

JUNIOR CATECHISM.

Victoria: Revs. ~~Dr. Adam~~, E. E. Baldwin, W. Borland, W. Goyen, J. C. Jamieson, J. Mackenzie, ~~Professor Rentoul~~, Professor Smith, D. Macrae Stewart, and G. Tait; Messrs. A. Fussell, W. Gray, and L. K. McNab. New South Wales: Revs. Dr. Burgess, D. J. Flockhart, N. H. Joughin, Professor Macintyre, and G. R. S. Reid. Queensland: Revs. J. B. Galloway, J. Gibson, and R. Millar. South Australia: Revs. R. Campbell, Dr. Seymour and F. S. Souter. Western Australia: Revs. H. S. R. Innes and N. McDonald; Messrs. J. W. Berry and J. Shepherd. Rev. W. Borland, Convener.

Junior
Catechism.

See §57.

94. The Committee on Christian Unity was appointed (see following Minute).

Christian
Unity.

95. The Deliverance on Church Union, as finally approved, is as follows:—

Church
Union.

- (1) That the Assembly receive the report and approve the action of the Committee in refraining, after the vote of State Assemblies, from sending down the proposed Basis of Doctrine and Polity as amended by Presbyteries, Sessions and Congregations for another vote on union without further instructions from the General Assembly.
- (2) Re-affirm the conviction expressed by the General Assembly of 1910, "that the Communion of fellow christians in worship and service is a duty wherever it is not forbidden by conscience," and declare that so far as revealed in the course of these negotiations,

Church
Union.

there is no bar in principle to union between the three negotiating Churches.

- (3) Recognise the evidence of such a divided state of feeling and opinion among the office-bearers and people of the Presbyterian Church of Australia, with regard to organic union on the Basis proposed as to make it inadvisable at present to press forward to organic union with the Methodist and Congregational Churches on this Basis, and resolve rather to await the time when, under the leading of Divine Providence, a way may be opened up whereby these and other divisions of Christ, one Church may be happily healed in accordance with His Will.
- (4) Thank the Committee, and especially the convener, and discharge the Committee.
- (5) Appoint the following as a Committee on Christian Unity, to endeavour, in conjunction with State Assemblies, to promote such co-operation as may be found practicable under existing circumstances, and as may help toward more effective Christian Unity, and to report to the Assembly, viz.:—

The Moderator General, Convener.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

Rev. Professor Macintyre, Convener.

Rev. Professor Angus	G. A. Gordon
W. F. Brandt	J. H. G. Auld
R. J. McGowan	Thos. Morgan
D. P. Macdonald	Mr. W. G. Geikie
V. Clark Duff	W. Wood
C. E. James	Dr. Murray
Professor Anderson	Mr. S. J. Carruthers
G. R. S. Reid	W. G. Crane
R. Scott-West	

VICTORIA.

Mr. J. M. Campbell, Convener.

Rev. Professor Rentoul	B. T. Buntine
Professor Adam	J. Gillies
Dr. Mathew	P. N. Forster
Geo. Tait	W. H. Cooper
P. J. Murdoch	Sir J. H. MacFarland
J. Walker	General Clark
J. MacKenzie	Mr. A. G. Proudfoot
Irving Davidson	D. MacMillan
Professor Smith	L. K. McNab
D. A. Cameron	A. L. Pryde

QUEENSLAND.

Church
Union.

Rev. W. C. Radcliffe, Convener.

Rev. A. M. MacKillop	M. Henderson
G. K. Kirke	Mr. J. K. Stewart
Geo. Ewan	Hubart Robertson
John Sinclair	A. S. Barr
Jas. Gibson	S. Lamont
Jas. Walker	

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

Rev. W. Floyd Shannon, Convener.

Rev. Dr. Seymour	J. MacDougall Forsyth
R. Campbell	Professor Rennie
D. Chapman	Mr. A. D. Young
Dr. Davidson	M. F. Culliford
A. C. Weber	

TASMANIA.

Rev. W. Mabin, Convener.

Rev. G. M. Baird	Mr. R. R. Henry
W. J. Harris	G. G. Meredith
J. F. Sims	F. Paine
R. Rankin	F. Burbury
A. G. Mackintosh Carter	

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

Rev. J. R. Blanchard, Convener.

Rev. A. Crow	Rev. E. F. Cameron
E. C. Day	Mr. J. Bray
S. R. W. Richardson	Professor A. D. Ross
Geo. Tulloch	Mr. F. A. McMullen
H. S. R. Innes	

(The first meeting of each State Section to be called by its temporary Conveners. The members of the Committee in the State to which the Moderator General belongs, shall be the executive for the whole Committee until the next Assembly.)

- (6) Resolve that a copy of this deliverance be sent to the Methodist and Congregational Churches from the Assembly, together with a letter signed by the Moderator and Clerk of the Assembly, expressive of its appreciation of the spirit in which these churches have responded to its invitations to confer on the question of union, and the Christian courtesy with which the Committees of these churches have continued in conference with the Committee of this Church over a period of many years, and an intimation of our Church's willingness to co-operate with them in Christian service in every way that may be found practicable.

Naval and
Military
Committee.

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

That the Assembly receive the Report, with thanks to the Chaplain General and the Executive; and also to the State Senior Chaplains for their lucid reports.

Urge them to continue the most watchful care of, and wherever opportunity presents itself, oversight over the lads and men during their time of training in the Military Camps. Recognise the self-sacrifice demanded of Chaplains and other Ministers who are called upon for service as resident Chaplains in the Camps, and urge that the expense ought not to be allowed to fall upon themselves. Recognise also the watchfulness of the Rev. J. H. G. Auld regarding the Presbyterians in the Naval College at Jervis Bay. Urge upon the Naval and Military Committee of N.S.W. the need of similar care and oversight regarding the Presbyterian students at the Military College at Duntroon.

Instruct that the Naval Chaplains on warships shall, at least once annually, report to the Executive of the Assembly's Naval and Military Committee regarding their work and the religious and moral care and interests of Presbyterian men at sea, and on shore.

Convey the Assembly's sympathy to the wife and family of the late Rev. James Haynes, of Boulder, W.A.

It was moved as an amendment by the Rev. D. P. Macdonald, and seconded by the Rev. J. H. G. Auld:—

That the Assembly resolve that a courteous and urgent request be conveyed to the Minister of Defence that great care should be taken to safeguard the moral life of the trainees as against the evil language and influence to which they are exposed in the camps.

The amendment was approved.

The motion as amended was approved.

Anzac
Day.

97. The Overture from State Assembly of Victoria relative to Anzac Day, was submitted by the Convener of the Business Committee.

The Overture was received.

Canberra.

98. The Report on Church Ordinances at Canberra was received.

Home
Missions.

99. The first part of the Report on Home Missions was submitted by the Rev. A. Thain Anderson, who moved:—

That the Assembly:—

1. Receive the Report.
2. Approve the work done by representatives of the Church to secure a Church site at Canberra.

3. That the Home Mission Committee be re-constituted and given general oversight of the H.M. Work of the Church, and serve as an instrument to provide help for the weaker states, and have authority to raise money for Church extension generally; also have authority, with consent of Assemblies, to take over any special territory and work it in conjunction with the local H.M. Committee.

Home Missions

That the Committee consist of 24 members, 16 appointed by State Assemblies, 4 by Victoria, 4 by New South Wales, and 2 each other States, and 8 by the General Assembly of Australia.

The executive to be in State where the Convener resides.

That the A.I.M. Committee confine itself to the work of the Inland Mission.

Further instruct the Home Mission Committee of Australia and the Committee on Unification to confer as to the form which the Remit relative to Home Mission work should take before it is sent to State Assemblies and Presbyteries.

4. Appoint a Committee on Federal Capital Territory to watch developments in the capital and to take action when necessary to consider such questions as the relation of the Territory to State and General Assemblies, and to form a plan of campaign for initiation of permanent work at Canberra, working in the meantime in conjunction with the Home Mission Committee of New South Wales.

The motion was seconded by the Rev. John Walker, and approved.

100. The Report of the Trangie Committee was submitted by the Rev. John Walker, who moved:—That the Rev. Dr. R. G. Macintyre and Rev. W. G. Sharpe be appointed as a Commission of the General Assembly of Australia, to visit Trangie, and meet with the office-bearers of the Congregation.

Trangie Petition.

- (1) To express the Assembly's high appreciation of the generosity shown and the excellent work done by the people of the parish, and especially the progress shown under the Ministry of Mr. C. J. Mackay, Home Missionary.
- (2) To suggest to the Trangie Congregation to crown their already good work and proved loyalty to the Presbyterian Church, by assisting Mr. Mackay to go through his Theological Course, while continuing to be their Minister.

The motion was seconded, and approved.

101. The second portion of the Report on Home Missions (Australian Inland Mission) was submitted by the Rev. A. Thain Anderson, who moved:—

Home Missions (A. I. M.)

That the Assembly:—

1. Receive the Report.

2. Acknowledge with gratitude the help and guidance of Almighty God in all the success we have attained and all the gifts we have received.

3. Thank all the Councils and Office Teams and all helpers for their continued efforts to serve the Mission. Thank Mr. D. S. Jackson, M.H.R., for his lectures in the several States, creating thereby a widened interest in the Mission.

4. Acknowledge thankfully the gift of £1000 from South Australia, and a legacy of £200 from the estate of late Sir Robert Philp, of Brisbane.

5. Express hearty appreciation of the efforts made by the friends in Melbourne, whereby they have eclipsed all former efforts by nearly £500 in ordinary revenue, and raised £2500 for property fund, balance devoted to Maintenance Account.

6. Rejoice over the establishment of new homes at Victoria River, N.T., and Birdsville, and the prospects at Innamincka, and welcome additional offer of Sir Josiah Symon.

7. Again express regret that suitable Ministers are not offering for the inland work, and make further appeal for more to occupy the field.

8. Express the hope that within a reasonable time the means may be found to start at least one patrol.

9. Authorise the Board to continue the effort to raise the Property Fund to £25,000.

10. That the following be members of State Auxiliaries:—

NEW SOUTH WALES: Rev. G. McL. Scott (Convener); Messrs. W. Wood, T. Brown, A. G. Congreve, J. Inglis, T. Ramage; Misses M. Brodie (Secretary), F. Glasson, D. Streatfield, M. Colley, M. Cole, J. Baird, J. Urquhart, E. Congreve, L. Allen, J. Smith, M. Watson, J. Stuckey, E. Urquhart.

QUEENSLAND: Revs. J. Walker (Convener) and H. Robertson; Messrs. F. R. Lloyd, J. Douglas, J. Campbell; Mesdames J. K. Stewart and Tees; Misses McIntosh, Smith, Cairns and Renton.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA: Revs. D. Chapman (Convener), Dr. Seymour, W. Gray and A. C. Weber; Messrs. T. J. Patterson, E. H. Low, T. W. Tassie and J. Steel.

VICTORIA: Revs. J. A. Barber (Convener), D. A. Cameron, J. Barnaby, P. L. Forster, H. C. Matthew, C. Harland, F. H. L. Paton, J. A. Forrest, J. Armour and D. Millar; Lieut.-Col. T. H. Steel; Messrs. D. Macmillan, D. Steel, A. M. Ferguson, G. King and F. J. Evans; Misses Gillespie, Rolland, Balfour and Jack.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA: Revs. F. G. H. Brady (Convener), J. R. Blanchard, A. Crow, N. McDonald and S. R. W. Richardson; Messrs. J. Hope, G. F. Pitchford and C. M. Purdie.

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

102. The minutes of the 16th September were confirmed.

103. The Report on Reunion of Churches was submitted by the Rev. Dr. Mathew, who moved:—

Reunion
of
Churches.

That the Assembly receive the Report, express gratification that following on the Lambeth appeal conferences have already been held in New South Wales between the Anglican, Presbyterian, Methodist and Congregational Churches; while at present not committing itself to acceptance of any of the conclusions so far reached, the Assembly resolve to refer the matter of the continuance of conferences to the Committee that may be appointed on Co-operative Union; approve of the proposal to constitute a common Council for Australia and State Councils for each of the States, with a view to central and also State conferences being held; disapprove of the relative numbers of representatives already proposed and recommend the following numbers instead:—

CENTRAL COUNCIL.

	C.E.	Pres.	Meth.	Cong.	Total.
N.S.W.	7	3	3	1	
Vic.	7	3	3	1	
Qld.	4	1	1	1	
S.A.	2	1	1	1	
W.A.	2	1	1	1	
Tas.	2	1	1	1	
	24	10	10	6	= 50

STATE COUNCILS.

	C.E.	Pres.	Meth.	Cong.	Total.
N.S.W.	10	4	4	2	20
Vic.	10	4	4	2	20
Qld.	6	2	2	1	11
S.A.	5	2	2	1	10
W.A.	5	2	2	1	10
Tas.	5	2	2	1	10
					81

“That in the event of any members of the Committee on Christian Unity being authorised to attend any conferences in connection with reunion, their travelling expenses be provided for by the Finance Committee, and that power be given to assess all States pro rata for such expense unless expenses are provided for by or from any State Fund.”

The motion was seconded by the Rev. Professor Adam.

Reunion of
Churches.

It was moved as an amendment by the Rev. Professor Rentoul:—

“That all words after the words ‘Congregational Churches’ be omitted, with a view to inserting other words, viz:—

“That if the Lambeth Council (so far as represented by the Primate Archbishop of the Sydney and the Anglican representatives on the Conference) will affirm that it does not demand the ‘historic episcopate’ as a necessary condition to a valid Christian Ministry, and if it recognises the validity of Presbyterian and Presbyterian Ordination as a true ordination, the Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia will gladly enter into cordial brotherly consultation with the Conference.

2. The Assembly must explicitly refuse the positions affirmed in the two Cronulla Resolutions.

3. The Assembly affirms explicitly the validity and Scriptural foundation of the Presbyterian and its ordination, of which the laying on of the hands of the Presbyterian is the external and declarative symbol.

The amendment was seconded by Mr. L. K. McNab.

The amendment was disapproved.

The motion was approved.

Melbourne
College of
Divinity.

104. The Overture relative to the Melbourne College of Divinity was introduced by Dr. Seymour. Dr. Seymour moved and Dr. Adam seconded:—

“That the Overture be received, and clause 2 referred to the College Committee for consideration.”

The motion was approved.

Home
Religion.

105. The Report on Home Religion was submitted by the Rev. G. R. S. Reid, who moved:—

“1. That the Assembly receive the report, and thank the Committee, and especially the Convener.

2. Express its satisfaction at the continued circulation of the Family Altar Card, and its earnest desire that it may be more widely extended.

3. Again urge upon all Ministers and Kirk Sessions to make every effort to encourage the practice of Family Worship with the aid thus provided.

4. Appoint the following Committee with authority to make arrangements for the publication and distribution of the Family Altar Card:—Revs. J. B. Galloway, W. Goyen, N. H. Joughin, A. M. Ogilvie, W. Huey Steele, G. R. S. Reid (Convener); Messrs. W. G. Crane, R. K. Gillespie, G. S. Mackay and John Mars.

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

106. The Report of the Hobart Commission was submitted by Dr. Mathew, who moved:— Hobart
Commission.

“That the Assembly receive the Report, express deep regret that the Congregations of Hobart have been unable to agree upon such a redistribution of Churches and Parishes as to leave only one Church in the centre of the city, the other two to be located in suburbs, and express the earnest hope that further efforts will be made for redistribution of these Churches.”

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

107. The Reference from the State Assembly of Victoria relative to lengthening the Session of Theological Halls was received. Theological
Hall
Session.

108. By leave of the House, the Rev. R. W. Macaulay moved and Dr. Macintyre seconded:— New
Hebrides
Condominium.

“The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia respectfully draws the attention of the Hon. the Prime Minister of Australia to the Resolution of this Assembly (a copy of which is enclosed herewith) relative to the conditions amounting to practical slavery in the New Hebrides under the Condominium, and request him to cable the Assembly’s Resolution to the Assembly of the League of Nations meeting at Geneva.”

The motion was approved.

109. The Returns on the Remits relative to Junior Membership, and the Report of the Committee thereanent, were submitted by the Rev. H. M. Burns, who moved:— Junior
Membership

“That the Assembly receive the Report and thank the Committee, and, recognising the supreme importance of securing the definite Church connection of our young people who have accepted Jesus Christ as their Saviour and Lord:—

- (1) Recommend to State Assemblies, Presbyteries and Sessions the institution of a Junior Membership as set forth in the Rules in the Report, and
- (2) Urge upon our whole Church, especially Ministers, Sunday School teachers and parents, the duty and privilege of prayerful and sustained effort to give to this recommendation full practical effect.”

The motion was seconded by the Rev. J. B. Galloway and approved.

110. The Report on Law and Property was submitted by Mr. A. G. Proudfoot, who moved:— Law and
Property

“That the Committee be thanked and discharged.”

“That the legal statement referred to in the Report be reprinted in the General Assembly’s Blue Book, so that the

same may be available for future reference throughout the Presbyterian Church of Australia."

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

Re-marriage
after
Divorce.

111. The Communication relative to Remarriage after Divorce was received and remitted to the Committee on Public Questions, with instruction to bring up as full a Report as possible to next Assembly.

Irreligion

112. According to notice, Mr. H. J. Ramsay moved:—

"That in view of present deplorable spiritual indifference, pleasure-seeking and laxity in morals, and the apparent human impossibility of reaching and influencing the great mass of people outside our Churches, this General Assembly of Australia make a special appeal to the State Assemblies, Presbyteries and Sessions that there should be a great call to Prayer for a Spiritual Revival; also that a great forward movement be made to win the young life of the community to Christ as our best hope for the future of our Church."

The motion was seconded by Mr. L. K. McNab and approved.

Deaconess
Institute.

113. The Report of the Deaconess' Training Institute was submitted by the Rev. G. M. Connor, who moved:—

"That the Assembly receive the Report, express appreciation of the work being done in the Institute for the training of Foreign Missionaries and Deaconesses, thank those Ministers and ladies who lecture to the students, appoint as corresponding members of the Victorian State Committee, Revs. S. R. W. Richardson, J. B. Galloway, David Chapman, M. Henderson, Coopt, Miss Thomson, Mrs. Fell and Mrs. Goodlet, and commend the work of the Institute to the interest and support of the Churches in the various States."

The motion was seconded and approved.

Statistics.

114. The Report on Statistics was submitted. The Report was received and the Committee authorised to complete the Statistical Summaries and publish them in the Blue Book and the Year Book.

115. The College Committee were clothed with Assembly powers within their own sphere.

College
Committee

116. The motion of which the Rev. W. Borland gave notice was moved by the Rev. R. W. Macaulay, seconded and approved.

The motion is as follows:—

"That the Assembly instruct the College Committee to prepare a report on the educational requirements in connection with the reception of men from other Churches for the Ministry of the Presbyterian Church."

Business
Committee

117. The following were appointed a Business Committee: Dr. Macintyre (Convener), Dr. Burgess, Mr. W. Wood; Revs. P. J. Murdoch, R. W. Macaulay, Karl Forster, Mr. A. L. Pryde, the Clerks and the Law Agent.

118. The following Committees were appointed:—

Church
and Creed.

ATTITUDE OF CHURCH TO HER CREED.

NEW SOUTH WALES: Revs. A. Thain Anderson, Dr. E. E. Anderson, Dr. Angus, D. F. Brandt, Dr. Burgess, J. Edwards, D. J. Flockhart, G. A. Gordon, A. S. McCook, R. J. H. McGowan, Dr. Macintyre, J. C. Milliken, G. R. S. Reid, W. P. Stewart, R. Scott West, and T. J. Williams; Messrs. A. G. Baxter, J. H. Beatson, W. G. Geikie, and W. Wood; Rev. Dr. E. E. Anderson, Convener.

QUEENSLAND: Revs. R. Bardon, J. Gibson, J. A. Hunter, A. M. McKillop, W. C. Radcliffe, and J. Walker; Messrs. W. W. Briggs, J. M. Campbell, and J. K. Stewart; Rev. W. C. Radcliffe, Convener.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA: Revs. J. Arnold Boyd, Dr. Davidson, Dr. Seymour, W. Floyd Shannon, R. P. Simons, and F. S. Souter; Professor Rennie, Dr. C. Duguid, and Mr. G. C. Ligertwood; Rev. Dr. Seymour, Convener.

TASMANIA: Revs. G. M. Baird, A. M. Mackintosh-Carter, W. J. Harris, and G. Mabin; Messrs. P. R. Henry, G. G. Meredith, and D. Storrer; Rev. W. Mabin, Convener.

VICTORIA: Revs. Professor Adam, W. Borland, D. A. Cameron, W. H. Cooper, J. Gillies, Dr. S. F. Hunter, John Mackenzie, Dr. Mathew, P. J. Murdoch, F. H. L. Paton, Professor Rentoul, A. G. Roy, Professor T. J. Smith, George Tait; Sir John MacFarland; Messrs. J. M. Campbell, D. Macmillan, L. K. McNab, D. K. Picken, and A. G. Proudfoot, Rev. F. H. L. Paton, Convener.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA: Revs. J. R. Blanchard, E. C. Day, H. S. R. Innes, J. Marshall, and S. R. W. Richardson; Professor A. D. Ross; Messrs. P. C. Anderson, F. W. Berry, and W. Christie. Rev. S. R. W. Richardson, Convener.

119. COMMITTEE ON FEDERAL CAPITAL TERRITORY: Revs. W. G. Forsyth (Convener), Thomas Morgan, A. Thain Anderson, A. G. Carter, D. A. Cameron, and Dr. Mathew and Mr. W. Wood. Canberra

120. HOME MISSION COMMITTEE OF AUSTRALIA.

Home
Mission
Committee
of Australia.

NEW SOUTH WALES: Revs. T. Morgan, W. G. Forsyth, A. S. McCook, W. G. Sharpe, A. D. Robertson, Mr. W. Wood.

QUEENSLAND: Revs. James Gibson, James Walker, W. C. Radcliffe.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA: Revs. Dr. Seymour, W. F. Shannon, D. Chapman.

TASMANIA: Revs. G. M. Baird, W. J. Harris, A. G. Mackintosh-Carter.

VICTORIA: Revs. D. A. Cameron, John Walker (Convener), R. W. Macaulay, P. L. Forster; Mr. A. G. Proudfoot, Mr. A. L. Pryde.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA: Revs. J. R. Blanchard, A. Crow, E. C. Day.

Thanks.

121. It was moved by the Rev. Dr. Macintyre:—

“That the cordial thanks of the Assembly be given to the authorities of St. Stephen’s Church, the Rev. John Ferguson, the Hospitality Committee of New South Wales, and very specially to the Women’s Missionary Association, and to all who have provided hospitality to members of Assembly.”

The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

122. The minutes of this Sederunt were confirmed.

Close of
Assembly

123. The business of the General Assembly now being concluded, the Moderator delivered a brief address. The Assembly joined in singing the last verses of Psalm 122, after which, the Moderator having intimated that, in pursuance of the General Assembly’s appointment, the next General Assembly will be held at Melbourne, in the Assembly Hall, on the second Wednesday of September, 1926, at 7.30 p.m., the Session was closed with the Benediction.

J. COOKSTON,

Moderator-General.

GEORGE TAIT, Clerk.

APPENDIX

STANDING COMMITTEES

JUDICAL COMMISSION

Rev. Dr. Burgess	Rev. Prof. T. J. Smith
Dr. Macintyre	E. E. Anderson
J. Edwards	A. Crow
A. T. Anderson	J. A. Crockett
S. Martin	J. B. Galloway
W. C. Radcliffe	Dr. Seymour
G. Ewan	Mr. J. H. Balfour
C. A. White	J. H. Beatson
W. F. Shannon	J. Kirkland
W. J. Harris	W. G. Crane
E. E. Baldwin	G. C. Ligertwood
J. MacKenzie	Sir John MacFarland
Dr. J. Mathew	Mr. J. M. Campbell
P. J. Murdoch	A. G. Proudfoot
Geo. Tait	P. R. Henry
R. Hanlin	John Nicholson
R. W. Macaulay	A. S. Lang
Jas. Gibson	J. K. Stewart
W. Robertson	J. A. Ferguson

Convener, Right Rev. the Moderator.

BOARD OF MISSIONS (20).

Revs. D. F. Brandt	Rev. G. M. Baird
R. J. H. McGowan	Mr. H. G. Geikie
J. Paterson	Mr. D. Storrer
G. K. Kirke	W. Watt
W. Gray	N. Hey
W. Fraser	Dr. Currell
T. W. Leggatt	Mr. J. S. Walker
H. C. Matthew	Mr. W. Wood
F. H. L. Paton	W. Christie
E. W. Hogben	R. K. Gillespie

Convener, Rev. T. W. Leggatt.

THE CODE (20).

Rev. A. T. Anderson	Rev. Jas. Walker
Dr. Burgess	Mr. J. A. Ferguson
W. C. Radcliffe	W. Wood
R. W. Macaulay	A. S. Lang
Geo. Tait	G. C. Ligertwood
A. G. Macintosh-Carter	J. M. Campbell
J. R. Blanchard	A. G. Proudfoot
Dr. Macintyre	Henry Scott
E. E. Baldwin	W. A. Sanderson
E. F. Cameron	J. K. Stewart

Conveners: Rev. Geo. Tait and Mr. J. M. Campbell.

COLLEGE (20).

Rev. J. Edwards
 T. Jamieson Williams
 A. T. Anderson
 A. S. McCook
 Jas. Walker
 C. A. White
 Dr. Seymour
 Dr. Hunter
 J. Barnaby
 J. Gilies
 S. R. W. Richardson

Rev. Geo. Baird
 W. Borland
 H. M. Burns
 Dr. E. E. Anderson
 K. Forster
 Dr. J. Mathew
 Principal Henderson
 F. Milne
 Mr. D. K. Picken

Rev. W. Borland, Convener.

FINANCE (20).

Rev. W. C. Radcliffe
 Mr. J. H. Beatson
 W. G. Crane
 J. Kirkland
 W. Wood
 A. F. Whitehill
 T. W. Tassie
 Sir John MacFarland
 Mr. R. K. Gillespie
 D. Macmillan

Mr. P. R. Henry
 A. L. Pryde
 G. W. Simpson
 S. J. Carruthers
 E. A. Black
 H. Perdriau
 M. S. Grant
 J. R. B. Campbell
 J. A. Ferguson
 A. Mayes

Convener: Mr. W. G. Crane.

HOME MISSIONS, A.I.M. (20).

Rev. W. G. Forsyth
 T. Morgan
 A. S. McCook
 Jas. Walker
 W. C. Radcliffe
 Dr. Seymour
 J. A. Barber
 J. Barnaby
 D. A. Cameron
 E. C. Day

Rev. A. D. Leekie
 John Flynn
 A. Thain Anderson
 Principal Anderson
 A. J. Doig
 G. M. Scott
 J. C. Milliken
 Mr. W. Wood
 D. Macmillan
 D. Sneddon

RECEPTION OF MINISTERS (20).

Rev. Dr. Angus
 W. Grant Forsyth
 A. S. McCook
 A. McKinlay
 Jas. Walker
 W. C. Radcliffe
 A. C. Weber
 J. Barnaby
 D. A. Cameron
 Geo. Tulloch

Rev. R. Rankin
 Principal Anderson
 Principal Henderson
 W. Borland
 A. Thain Anderson
 S. R. W. Richardson
 Prof. T. J. Smith
 R. Scott West
 Mr. W. Wood
 A. L. Pryde

Rev. A. S. McCook, Convener.

STATISTICS (20).

Rev. D. M. Barnet
 F. A. Darling
 D. Chapman
 J. R. Fiddian
 J. L. Heriot
 N. McDonald
 W. J. Harris
 E. H. Chapple
 R. W. Macaulay
 W. Huey Steele

Mr. W. G. Crane
 Wm. Tulloch
 A. S. Lang
 John Campbell
 W. B. House
 R. A. McIlwraith
 J. G. MacKee
 R. J. Ochs
 H. H. Kemp
 F. A. McMullen

Convener: Rev. D. M. Barnet.

YEAR BOOK (20).

Rev. D. M. Barnet	John Campbell
F. A. Darling	A. W. Glencross
R. Campbell	Rev. W. J. Harris
J. R. Fiddian	Rev. J. R. Blanchard
R. A. Green	A. M. Ogilvie
R. W. Macaulay	F. S. Souter
E. F. Cameron	A. C. Weber
Mr. W. G. Crane	Rev. G. T. Welling
Wm. Tulloch	Jas. Walker
A. S. Lang	Mr. A. L. Pryde

Convener: Rev. R. A. Green.

SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Attitude of Church to Her Creeds.—See Minute 118.

Book of Common Order.

Rev. R. Scott West, Convener.

W. Borland, Vice-Convener.

Rev. Dr. E. E. Anderson	Æ. Macdonald
Dr. Angus	Dr. Mathew
Dr. Davidson	D. Millar
J. B. Galloway	P. J. Murdoch
J. Gibson	Dr. Rentoul
G. A. Gordon	W. H. Steele
R. W. Macaulay	D. Macrae Stewart

Business.

Rev. Dr. Macintyre (Convener).

Rev. Dr. Burgess	P. J. Murdoch
Karl Forster	Mr. A. L. Pryde
R. W. Macaulay	W. Wood

The Clerks and the Law Agent.

Christian Unity.—See Minute 95.

Federal Capital.

Rev. W. G. Forsyth (Convener).

Rev. A. Thain Anderson	Rev. Dr. Mathew
D. A. Cameron	Thomas Morgan
A. J. Carter	Mr. William Wood

Home Mission Committee of Australia (exclusive of Inland Mission).

See Minute 120.

Home Religion.

Rev. G. R. S. Reid (Convener).

Rev. J. B. Galloway	Mr. W. G. Crane
W. Goyen	R. K. Gillespie
N. H. Joughin	G. S. Mackay
A. M. Ogilvie	John Mars
W. Huey Steele	

Immigration.

Mr. D. Macmillan (Convener).

Rev. W. Borland	W. Thomson
F. G. H. Brady	A. C. Weber
D. A. Cameron	Mr. A. S. Barr
Alexander Duff	R. Bracks
W. J. Harris	W. Gray
H. S. R. Innes	G. Lewis
Hugh Jones	C. Mackinnon
James Marshall	J. Shepherd
J. C. Milliken	J. Silversides
Rev. Hugh Morris	W. Wood
G. M. Scott	

The Victorian members to be the Executive.

Inland Mission, State Auxiliaries.—See Minute 101.

Jewish Mission.

Junior Catechism.—See Minute 93

Moderator's Committee.

Rev. D. A. Cameron (Convener).

Mr. M. S. Grant (N.S.W.)	Rev. Floyd Shannon (S.A.)
W. Wood (N.S.W.)	J. B. Blanchard (W.A.)
Rev. W. C. Radcliffe (Q.)	E. C. Day (W.A.)
Mr. J. K. Stewart (Q.)	J. A. Barber (Vic.)
Rev. Dr. Seymour (S.A.)	D. A. Cameron (Vic.)
	Mr. A. L. Pryde (Vic.)

Revision of Church Hymnary.

Rev. R. Scott West (Convener).

Rev. Dr. Angus	Rev. J. Heyer
W. H. Ash	C. E. James
W. Borland	N. Miller
G. Carson	W. C. Radcliffe
J. B. Galloway	E. H. McLean Shugg

Sunday School Hymnal.

Rev. W. H. Ash (Convener).

Rev. C. Crane	Rev. Dr. Mathew
F. A. Darling	W. Goyen
G. R. S. Reid	A. I. Davidson
C. H. Talbot	G. Carson
J. R. Fiddian	Mr. L. Fraser
J. T. Robertson	L. K. McNab
W. Fraser	W. Gray
J. Heyer	R. J. Oehr

Welfare of Youth.—See Minute 93.

Jewish Mission.

Rev. D. M. Barnet	D. M. Stewart
R. J. H. McGowan	A. Yule (Convener)
T. Morgan	Mr. G. A. Clifton
A. Torrens	G. Lewis
W. A. Williams	C. E. Rennie
J. Alexander	P. Smith
F. H. L. Paton	A. B. Wilson
R. W. Rock	R. K. Gillespie
D. Ross	L. K. McNab
D. W. Smith	J. S. Walker

REPORTS
AND OTHER PAPERS
PRESENTED TO
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
OF AUSTRALIA



SYDNEY, 10th SEPTEMBER, 1924

REPORTS

ATTITUDE OF THE CHURCH TO HER CREEDS.

Your Committee beg to report on the following lines:—

(1) As stated in Section II. of the Basis of Union, the only Subordinate Standard of the Presbyterian Church of Australia is the Westminster Confession of Faith, read in the light of the Declaratory Statement. Consequently it lies outside our province to determine what attitude the Presbyterian Church of to-day should adopt towards any other Creeds or Confessions.

(2) We would point out that what the Church regards as vital to the Christian faith has been clearly indicated in Section II., Clause 1, of the Basis of Union:—“That in regard to the doctrine of redemption as taught in the Subordinate Standard, and in consistency therewith, the love of God to all mankind, His gift of His Son to be the propitiation for the sins of the whole world, and the free offer of salvation to men without distinction, on the ground of Christ’s all-sufficient sacrifice, are regarded by this Church as vital to the Christian faith. And inasmuch as the Christian faith rests upon and the Christian consciousness takes hold of certain objective supernatural historic facts, especially the Incarnation, the atoning life and death, and the resurrection and ascension of our Lord, and His bestowment of His Holy Spirit, this Church regards those whom it admits to the office of the Holy Ministry as pledged to give a chief place in their teaching to these cardinal facts, and to the message of redemption and reconciliation implied and manifested in them.”

Further, we would point out that, as stated in Section II., Clause 5, of the Basis of Union, “Liberty of opinion is allowed on matters in the Subordinate Standard not essential to the doctrine therein taught, the Church guarding against the abuse of this liberty to the injury of its unity and peace.” We are of opinion that our Church has interpreted this Clause (Section II., Clause 5) in a large and tolerant spirit, recognising the difficulties which confront the earnest seeker of truth in the present situation. We recommend that the Church should maintain this spirit of Christian tolerance and that brethren of all types of thought should bear with each other patiently and sympathetically and use their liberty with restraint.

(3) Inasmuch as the great Presbyterian Churches of the world are considering the question of what their Confessional Statement should be, we recommend that the Committee should be continued, with instructions to get into touch with these Churches and keep the Presbyterian Church of Australia informed as to the development of opinion in them, and report to next General Assembly.

EDWARD E. ANDERSON, Convener.

II.—REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON AUSTRALIAN BENEFICIARY FUNDS.

The Committee is pleased to learn of a notable development during the past few months, regarding the provident interests of ministers of the Presbyterian Church in Western Australia. That church had been in negotiation for some time with the church in N.S.W. for the admission of their ministers to membership in the latter’s reconstituted beneficiary fund. A serious difficulty arose when it was found, on legal advice, that the benefits of the N.S.W. fund could not safely be extended to the ministers of the church in Western Australia unless authorised by an Act of the Parliament of N.S.W. In May, 1924, the Rev. J. R. Blanchard attended the N.S.W. Assembly as a representative of the W.A. church, and placed before it various disabilities under which the ministry of that State labours, including the absence of any systematic provision for aged and infirm ministers and the widows and orphans of ministers. The N.S.W. Assembly was sympathetic and authorised its bene-

fiary fund committee, "to enter into negotiations with the Presbyterian Church in Western Australia, with reference to the terms and conditions of admission into the amalgamated (N.S.W.) fund of ministers, and/or widows and orphans of ministers of the West Australian Church."

The Committee was also empowered to obtain the passage of an Act of Parliament at the earliest convenient opportunity designed, "to clothe the Assembly of N.S.W. Church with full power over the amalgamated beneficiary funds, including power to deal with such alterations in the funds or the basis or rate of contribution, membership or other terms or conditions or the regulations governing the same as may from time to time be deemed necessary under the varying conditions of the future, the General Assembly always taking into consideration the rights of existing members and beneficiaries under the amalgamated funds, but the decision of the Assembly to be final and binding upon all members of the amalgamated fund in this connection." (Abridged slightly from N.S.W. Blue Book, 1924, pp. 52 and 3.) The management of the N.S.W. amalgamated funds hopes to obtain the necessary legislation from the State Parliament without much difficulty.

Should that hope be justified and the negotiations with the Western Australian Church mature satisfactorily, the problem of beneficiary provision for ministers of the Presbyterian Church throughout Australia will be in a much better condition than it was 10 years ago. At that time there were no provident funds for our ministers in Tasmania, Queensland, or Western Australia. The limited union of the Tasmanian and Victorian churches about that time brought the Tasmanian ministers within the sphere of the Victorian beneficiary funds with most satisfactory results. The Queensland church soon afterwards established its Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund, which has now accumulated funds amounting to £8000, and will shortly, under its constitution, be able to admit beneficiaries. The ministry in West Australia has continued unprovided for, but it is hoped that the arrangements with N.S.W. above outlined will have ameliorative effect.

In the same period the churches in N.S.W. and Victoria have thoroughly reorganised their funds. In Victoria some liberal features previously absent have been introduced, e.g., "Ministers of the Presbyterian Church of Australia in any State other than Victoria may join the fund and shall then have all the privileges of Victorian members, provided the required annual amount is contributed either directly by them or on their behalf." (Rule 660.) Again, "Ministers coming to Victoria from other Presbyterian churches, who satisfy the committee that they have made adequate provision for themselves and their dependants by having regularly connected themselves with the beneficiary fund or funds of such churches, and who promise to maintain their connection therewith may . . . be exempted by the Assembly from becoming members of the fund." (Rule 661.)

These and other changes give effect to principles which our Committee has advocated in its reports, and we are pleased to see them becoming widely accepted.

From one aspect, as all the Presbyterian ministries in Australia are either now associated or about to be associated with existing provident funds, it may be said that the particular disability that led to the original appointment of this Committee will no longer exist. The Committee, however, considers it advisable that its appointment should be renewed:—

(1) Because the disability of the Western Australian Church has not yet been finally removed.

(2) Because a general Australian scheme, if the practical difficulties can be overcome, is superior in principle to a settlement by States. Probably there are sufficient reasons why the newly-organised funds in New South

Wales and Victoria will find it necessary to maintain their separate administration for a time, but where any legal bar to the future amalgamation of funds exists, steps should be taken to secure its removal, so as to make the path clearer for the introduction of the Australian scheme.

A. G. PROUDFOOT, Convener.

BOARD OF MISSIONS.

Carrying out the arrangements come to at last General Assembly, the Queensland Heathen Missions Committee took over, as from 1st July, 1922, the entire responsibility of the North Queensland Stations, receiving from the Board a Grant-in-aid at the rate of £1000 per annum for two years, and so, the Board has now under its direct control, only the Station at Port George IV. in North Western Australia.

Staff. Mr. and Mrs. George I. Beard, and their son Alwyn, and Mr. and Mrs. Norman A. Paull. Mrs. Paull only arrived at the Station in May of this year. Mrs. Love and Mr. W. F. Mackenzie, other new workers, are under the control of the Queensland Heathen Missions Committee. Since last Assembly, Mr. and Mrs. Dyer, Mr. and Mrs. Holmes and their son Malcolm have resigned on account of their health, after having given good and faithful service, and their resignations were received with great regret.

Furloughs. These were granted to Mr. Norman A. Paull and to Mr. and Mrs. R. H. Wilson. After furlough, Mr. Paull returned to his work on the Station. During his furlough, Mr. Wilson, who had passed his extra-mural examination, was licensed and ordained by the Wimmera Presbytery.

Fraser Scholarships. The present holders of these Scholarships are, Robert S. Blair, George K. Kirke, Janet P. Watt and Anna F. White. Mr. E. David Pearson, having taken service with the A.I.M., instead of going to the Foreign Field, refunded the amount of his Scholarship; Dr. H. R. Pearson has not been asked to refund the amount of his Scholarship, as, before joining the Hookworm Campaign, he had been informed that there was no opening for him under either the New South Wales or the Victorian Foreign Mission Committee.

The "W. S. Rolland." The "W. S. Rolland," besides doing the carrying work of the Mission, has conveyed goods for Messrs. Easton Bros., and others. The money received for such services has helped materially in the working of the Station. Harry Shadforth, who has charge of the boat, continues to give satisfaction, and his influence on board tells in uplifting his native crew. As he was feeling the strain of constant running between Broome and Port George IV. the Board agreed to relieve him for two trips, and his stay on shore quite set him up again. He had the misfortune to lose one of his children in January of this year. He bore the loss with true Christian resignation.

Cattle. The stocking of the Station was approved of at last Assembly. It was then expected that the Cattle would arrive at the Station in September of that year, but owing to certain regulations they only arrived in January of this year. The purchase of the Cattle (41 head, costing £174) has been financed by a friend of the Mission, at 6 per cent. per annum, both Capital and Interest to be a charge on the Cattle Account, which has been opened in the Savings Bank at Broome.

Insurance. In last Report it was stated that £20 had been placed in the Savings Bank at Melbourne, as the nucleus of an Insurance Fund for the "Rolland," and the Assembly gave the Board authority to set aside a percentage of its earnings for that purpose. The Board has decided that 30 be

the percentage so set aside, and that the same percentage be set aside from the proceeds of sales of produce, and the monies received from the North West Department in connection with the Cotton Experimental Plot.

Cotton Experimental Plot. In March, 1923, a wire was received from the Convener of the W. Australian Foreign and Aborigines Committee, stating that the Western Australian Government had decided initiating a series of cotton experimental plots, and that they requested the Port George IV. mission authorities to permit the establishment of such a plot at their station under the direction of the North West Department, the Mission to be reimbursed all expenditure on this account, and the protection of the mission's interest absolutely guaranteed. The Board granted the permission desired, and instructed Mr. Beard, who was in charge at Port George IV. at the time, to grant every facility to the Government representative for doing his work. The Board further decided to charge only for expenditure actually incurred in giving the Government the assistance required, making no charge either for fares or freights. Mr. Thurkle, the Government expert, arrived at Port George IV. in April.

Mission Work. Both sides of the work on the station have been carried on without interruption, although for a large part of the time the Staff was not up to its full strength, and the need of native help for the cotton experimental plot, interfered to some extent with the ordinary work of the Station. Holding the Sabbath and week day services, superintending the out-door work of the Station, and keeping the books, was a heavy strain on Mr. Beard, but the return of Mr. Paull, and the arrival in May of this year of Mrs. Paull, have given Mrs. Beard and himself the needed relief.

Mr. Paull reports the first Christian marriage of a Dormitory girl, at Port George IV. in the beginning of this year, an event which must be gratifying to all friends of the Mission. Mr. Beard reports that the bride has now charge of the Day School, thus relieving the members of the Staff. Mr. Paull reports that the church which was built by Mr. Wilson is now too small for the numbers who attend, and that he purposes building a larger one.

Mr. Paull, on his return to Port George IV., took back with him a wire-receiving set, which had been presented to the Mission by the Rev. J. A. Crockett, and his nephew, Mr. Maxwell Crockett.

Owing to the isolated position of Port George IV., the Board recommends that steps be taken to ordain Mr. Paull to the eldership, and give him authority to dispense the Sacraments. Unless such authority is given the Christian natives on the Station are prevented receiving those sealing ordinances.

Finance. The Board is pleased to report that the affairs of the Rev. A. Richter have at last been finalised as far as it is concerned. The Public Trustee has informed the Board that owing to its small value he makes no claim to the property belonging to Mr. Richter at the Aurukun Mission Station, and that as far as he is concerned it may be dealt with in accordance with the wishes of the Rev. A. Richter. Having received this permission, the Board has forwarded to Mr. Richter the sum of £6/13/4, which it had received for his goods. Mr. Richter is still, however, in a very unsatisfactory financial position, as he has not yet received the money, which the Board reported to the Assembly in 1922 as having been paid over to the Public Trustee.

In the beginning of 1923 the Board received a legacy of £300 from the Estate of the late Mrs. Isabella Henderson, of Gympie, Queensland. This has been passed over to the Queensland Heathen Missions Committee

The Board in presenting its report to last General Assembly asked that the accumulated deficit of £1,559 should be wiped out in four years, but, instead of it being substantially reduced by this time, it has been increased to £2,061.

The main factors contributing to this position of affairs are:—

1. That West Australia is behind in its contribution to the extent of £258
2. The Board had to face the following items of necessary expenditure not provided for in the estimate—

Saw Mill, Aurukun	358
Additional for Salaries and Allowances	250
Materials for Cartage, Mapoon	59
Kitchen and Tanks at Port George	86
Interest on Overdraft	249
	£1,260

The estimated expenditure for the financial year commencing on 1st October, 1924, is:—

Queensland Grant	£937
Salaries	500
Allowances	95
Fares	100
Port George, Boat and Station	400
Office Expenses	100
Rev. N. Hey's Pension	32
Secretary's Honorarium	20
General	100
Interest on Overdraft	140

£2,424

In reduction of deficit

500

£2,924

If this budget is approved, it is suggested that West Australia be instructed to pay up the balance due by that State to 30/9/'24 in addition to their share of the current year's expenditure shewn below. The allocation is as follows:—

Assessment from 1/10/'24 to 30/9/'25.

Victoria	£1,420
New South Wales	990
W. Australia	284
S. Australia	140
Tasmania	90

£2,924

The estimated expenditure for the year commencing on the 1st October, 1925, is £2,674, i.e., the same as for the year commencing 1st October, 1924, less the £250 by which the Queensland grant will be reduced.

The allocation is as follows:

Victoria	£1,300
New South Wales	900
W. Australia	260
S. Australia	130
Tasmania	84

£2,674

The thanks of the Board are given to the Auditor, the Office Staffs in Melbourne and Sydney, and to the Executive in Perth.

WILLIAM FRASER, Convener.

W. WATT, Secretary.

FOREIGN MISSIONS REPORT.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

As far as achievement and promise on the fields are concerned, this is the most satisfactory report it has been our privilege to present. In India there have been many baptisms, there are many open doors, and villages are pleading for Christian teachers. In the Island of Malo (New Hebrides) the Christians are developing self-support, and are providing the salaries of all their native teachers. In Negugu district (Island of Santo), there has been on the part of the heathen an extensive breaking of caste and attendance at Mission Schools. In some cases whole villages have broken with heathenism. For all this, we thank and praise God.

Aborigines

The Rev. J. R. B. and Mrs. Love, of Mapoon, passed through Sydney en route to Mapoon at the end of March, and were entertained at afternoon tea by the W.M.A. on the 27th of that month, when they gave an interesting account of the work.

We have been indebted to the Rev. N. Hey for addressing a number of meetings at which he showed some fine lantern slides. We would direct attention to the booklet for young people prepared by him, entitled "A Visit to Mapoon," and published by the W.M.A., at the price of sixpence.

India.

There has been steady progress on the field. The Rev. C. E. Turnbull has been in charge at Pallipet, and the Rev. V. W. Coombes at Sholinghur. Mrs. Coombes has acted as Secretary for the Goodlet Hospital. Early in 1923 she passed her first Tamil examination and in November Mr. Coombes passed his second, with distinction, obtaining an average of nearly 80 per cent. We heartily congratulate them on their success achieved amidst the strenuous round of mission work.

Baptisms.

We are grateful to God that the fruits of years of work are beginning to be gathered. Mr. Turnbull reported in August that there was in our field a steady movement towards Christ. He had during the previous month baptised five adults, two lads, and two children, and that there were quite a number under instruction. At Pathapalyam, eight miles west of Pallipet, in November, there were 20 families, comprising eighty souls, who sought baptism. Regular instruction in the Christian faith was given to these. Then on the 4th January they gathered in the street to be examined on their knowledge and understanding of the step they were about to take. The catechising brought forth some real testimonies of the Spirit's work among them and the Cross of Christ, says Mr. Turnbull, loomed large in their answers. With all the villagers standing in the street as witnesses, they baptised 26 adults and 12 children. The baptism of 15 more was postponed for a time, as certain members of their families were absent from the village. When they also are gathered into the fold, there will be a congregation of 60 souls in Pathapalyam. On New Year's Day, at Pallipet, 17 adults and 19 children were baptised. These new members belong to seven villages around Pallipet, where we have Christian congregations, and had been under instruction for some time.

In the Sholinghur end too there have been a number of applicants for baptism. In October, they decided to baptise five at Kadapangal and leave the remainder for further instruction. At Teccaloor, a village 14 miles from the bungalow, Mr. Coombes first baptised two persons. Then he had two evangelists camp there for a week to give daily instruction. The Pastor visited the place several times and Mr. Coombes went out when he could. A Christian teacher not connected with the Mission had been there for years.

On Sunday, 5th November, Mr. Coombes baptised nine adults and ten children. He says there was no doubt that these people understood as far as illiterate villagers could, the step they were taking. There are other families there wanting baptism. At Parangi and other places there are also applicants. We ask that earnest prayer be offered that the signs of revival may issue in a flood-tide of blessing.

Mr. Turnbull writes, "One of the encouraging features is that none of the village congregations are standing still, all are growing steadily and surely. I have never before seen so much to encourage in the work of the whole field and were things brighter at your end our cup would be full. While India is in a state of turmoil politically and one tires of reading the reports of conferences, each of which seems to think that it alone possesses the panacea for the healing of all the country's ills, and while class hatred seems to be growing more bitter, the Spirit of God is at work among the people and never before did we have such opportunities of presenting the Gospel of Christ."

The evangelistic work carried on in Sholinghur and the villages has been very promising. In some places the word spoken has been received attentively by the caste people. In other places our evangelists have met with more or less strong opposition. Spiritually the outlook is a happy one. Our workers hope that a strong preaching effort accompanied by instruction classes with distribution of tracts and sale of gospel portions in the caste villages will result in arousing interest and increase the number of earnest inquirers.

Educational.

The new Pallipet Boys' Boarding Home was opened on 15th April. The building is well situated, is in sight of the bungalow, and quite close to the Pallipet-Chittoor Road. It consists of six fairly large rooms and a hall, with ample verandah space for sleeping out. It means a great deal to our work to be able to send the boys in our mission district to our own school instead of being obliged to send them away to other missions, though we gratefully acknowledge the help these have given us in the past. There are twenty-two boys of various ages in the Home, taken from nine of our Christian villages around Sholinghur and Pallipet. We desire not only to give them a chance for further study, but also to place them in an institution which has as its object the formation of sound Christian character. A few will be needed as evangelists and teachers, while others will return to their villages where we hope their life and example will tell for Christ. The industrial work done during their training will fit them for efficient service in the villages in which they will ultimately live and labour.

The Pallipet day school was thrown open to all comers and in addition to our own boys, we have nearly 100 children (Hindus and Mohammedans) attending it who come from eight of the surrounding villages. The association of these boys with our teachers and lads in a Christian school, where they get the benefit of Christian instruction and example, should, with God's blessing, bear rich fruit.

The Pallipet School-Church, which is just across the road from the Boys' Boarding Home, was completed at a cost of about Rs.2000. Of this, Rs.1000 was from the Gillespie fund. The other half came from the Indians. The main hall is 40ft. x 17ft., and opens through large arches on to an eight feet verandah on three sides. This is a convenient arrangement, as it is light and airy and the verandahs offer accommodation to many non-Christians who come to listen to the preaching, but who would not enter a closed building. It was dedicated on Armistice Day, Mrs. Turnbull declaring the Church open for the service of God.

The work in the Sholinghur Middle School has proceeded satisfactorily. The number of pupils representing as many as fifteen castes was 140 in 1922, and in 1923 it rose to 160. The Headmaster writes that one of the signs of the dawn of a new era in India is the interest taken by communities hitherto impervious to the enlightening and vivifying force of education. The receptivity and responsiveness of the pupils are remarkable.

The Goodlet Hospital.

Mrs. V. W. Coombes on the return of Miss Thomson to Australia, took over the Secretaryship of the Goodlet Hospital for women and children, and has continued in that position throughout the year. Her previous experience in nursing proved to be of great value. We are greatly indebted to her for this self-sacrificing work. There were during the year 135 in-patients and 15,177 out-patients treated. Sub-assistant Tirumudi Murthi was appointed to the Hospital in place of Mr. Manuel, and Dr. Galen Scudder, of Ranipet, who has exercised the general oversight of the Hospital, reports favourably of him. We are pleased to say that Mrs. Johnson, of Blacktown, has been appointed to relieve Mrs. Coombes, and sailed for India on 2nd July. Her appointment is for two years, or longer if deemed advisable. We hope to send out a permanent matron shortly and Mrs. Johnson's appointment will make it possible for the former to have a year's language study at Kodai before taking up duty at the hospital. We hope the Lady Doctor so sadly needed will soon be forthcoming. Mrs. Coombes feels very deeply that the work in the Hospital is anything but complete. On the women's side it is far below the amount that should be done, and they constantly encounter untold suffering, agony, and death, because they have no lady doctor to meet the need. The piteous appeal of many whom they have known to pass away with fearful suffering because custom has forbidden that a man should attend them, and the certainty of the door that could be opened for Christ through the Hospital, combined to form a heavy burden for her to carry. But she has carried on bravely and well and we warmly thank her for the important service she has rendered. We are deeply indebted to Dr. Scudder and Sister Nordyke of the Ranipet Hospital (7 miles away), for the ready assistance they have so willingly rendered.

The Rev. V. W. Coombes, who had been feeling the strain of the work, spent 3 months of 1924 on the hills, but he resumed charge at Sholinghur at the end of June. During his absence the Rev. C. E. Turnbull very kindly undertook the oversight of the whole mission district. Through the generosity of a member of the Committee and Miss Thomson, Mr. Turnbull and Mr. Coombes have each been provided with a Ford Motor Car.

New Hebrides.

Malo.—The Rev. D. L. and Mrs. Paterson returned to Malo in June, 1923, after furlough in Scotland and Deputation work in New South Wales. They received a great welcome home, and at the first Communion Service after their return, the Church was crowded. They are endeavouring to develop the principle of self-support among the Maloese, and they hope to raise the salaries of all their native teachers in future. The people have forwarded a splendid lot of arrowroot for which we have had a ready sale. Mr. John Ross, Snr., gave a generous donation of £400 towards the cost of a new Motor Launch for Malo. We remitted to the B. and F. Bible Society £50 towards the cost of printing portions of Scripture in Maloese. Mr. Paterson recently communicated to us his fear that owing his wife's health it would be necessary for him to retire from the work before the next hot season.

Nogugu. Mr. and Mrs. G. S. Stewart have had a somewhat trying time at Nogugu, suffering from frequent attacks of malaria. The Rev. F. G. Bowie very kindly brought them in June to Tangoa and after a stay there of some 3 weeks, they went to Malo as the guests of Mr. and Mrs. Paterson. The change and rest have had beneficial results.

There has been a remarkable increase from the heathen to the ranks of the schools. The first to come in was Olpoe (about 40 people); the whole village came in at one time and have broken away from the heathen customs and life. The next was Porou (here also the entire village), then portion from Tukumunu, the whole village of Parpei, and some people from the head of the Petawata River. All these are entirely new school villages. At the same time numbers of heathen have joined the schools at Veroi, Valpei, Nogugu, Wunsuli, Versalia, Tasmate and Volei. There are now no heathen (as such) left northwards of a line drawn from Valpei on the West to Tukumunu on the East in North Santo.

The Condominium. This has attracted considerable attention. The Petition to the Senate and House of Representatives was largely signed. The Petition of the Islands has been mooted, but this would probably mean that the northern portion of the Islands would pass to France. It is in them that our New South Wales Missions are situated. The Rev. D. L. Paterson writes strongly against the proposal. Our Assembly again passed a resolution in favor of some amicable arrangement being made with France, whereby the Islands will pass under sole British control.

Paton Centenary. Attention was directed to this at the end of May at Church Services in Sunday School, and in the Press. Miss Thatcher's booklet, "Dr. Paton and the New Hebrides," was prescribed by our Welfare of Youth Committee for the Senior Essay.

The Chinese Work.

It is with regret we have to report the death of the Rev. James F. Kem Yee, which took place somewhat suddenly on 7th July in Sydney. He had not enjoyed good health for a number of years, but continued his loved work till the very last. Born in Canton, China, some 67 years ago, he came to Australia when he was quite a young man. He settled in Victoria, and in Ballarat came under the influence of the Gospel. After training, he undertook Christian work among his countrymen. Nearly 40 years ago he came to Newcastle, where he organised work among the Chinese. He also regularly visited Maitland. He was instrumental in having a Church built in Newcastle. On the retirement of Rev. J. Young Wai he took charge of the Chinese work in Sydney, visiting Newcastle monthly.

After his decease the Rev. J. Young Wai very kindly came to our help at our urgent request, and has taken the oversight of the work in Sydney. He has preached regularly in Campbell Street once a Sunday, and the other service has been conducted by the Secretary of the Church.

At Newcastle the services are being continued by voluntary workers under the leadership of Mr. Tomlin. There is an average attendance of 18, and they have had the electric light installed at their own expense.

The death of Mr. Kem Yee has opened up the question as to whether we should seek to bring a Chinese Minister from Canton to continue the work.

Our General Assembly gave leave to us to carry on the Chinese Mission jointly with the Church Missionary Society for one year and negotiations are now being carried on with them in regard to this.

Financial.

The Balance Sheets herewith show the receipts for 1922 to be £6881/4/2, and for 1923, £6,947/10/-. Since these were made up the W.M.A. have, through their Missionary Exhibition, raised an additional sum of £289/17/3, thus completely extinguishing the old deficit. Excellent deputation work has been done by Mrs. Ward and Misses McLean, Symonds and Thomson. We cannot express sufficiently our debt of obligation to the W.M.A. for all their help and interest.

ROBT. J. H. MCGOWAN,

Convener, N.S.W. Committee.

RECEIPTS.

	1922.			1923.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Aborigines	94	12	11	80	18	4
Chinese Mission	122	1	7	115	0	2
New Hebrides Mission	551	9	8	548	0	8
Indian Mission	1402	17	11	1722	8	5
Indian Hospital	213	11	0	196	9	0
Native Teachers	27	18	0	8	4	0
Nogugu Mission	13	4	0	9	11	6
General Mission	4006	11	6	4057	3	4
	£6432	6	7	£6737	15	5
Transfer to Indian Mission	280	18	1			
" New Hebrides Mission	85	10	9			
Balance 1st January, 1922	82	9	9			
Transfer from Suspense				180	0	0
Balance 1st January, 1923				29	14	7
	£6881	5	2	£6947	10	0

Dr.

DISBURSEMENTS.

	1922.			1923.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Aborigines Mission	852	14	8	994	13	4
Chinese Mission	622	19	3	441	2	0
New Hebrides Mission	751	0	10	1218	6	9
Indian Mission	2820	10	9	2512	2	1
Indian Hospital	621	7	0	437	7	11
Native Teachers, New Hebrides	60	3	0	36	16	1
Nogugu Mission, New Hebrides	314	15	3	354	15	6
Suspense	180	0	0			
Deficit Account	627	19	10	892	17	7
	£6851	10	7	£6888	1	3
Balance, 31st December, 1922	29	14	7			
Transfer to India				59	8	9
	£6881	5	2	£6947	10	0

REPORT OF THE TASMANIAN FOREIGN MISSIONS AUXILIARY COMMITTEE.

Through the change in the financial year to bring us into line with the Victorian Assembly, this report covers nine months only, but they have been important ones. The Rev. F. and Mrs. Reid arrived at the islands in May, 1923. The latter remained at Vila, and was well cared for by the staff and Mr. and Mrs. Raff. Mr. Reid went on to Epi and made arrangements for building his house. This has now been completed, and our staff are well pleased with the comfort and situation of the new Mission House.

The medical requirements of the natives on Epi are urgent at present.

The native teachers are being organised, and their work guided. Mrs. Reid's classes are being well attended, and a spirit of hopefulness is abroad. Our difficulty at present is in regard to a launch. We have a fund of £280 for the purpose.

As usual, our friends of the P.W.M.U. have helped us right loyally, raising in nine months £112. Our Sunday Schools have given us £39. We

are indebted again to an anonymous donor, "Jehovah Jireh," for £50—a timely contribution—which tided us over an anxious period.

The Board of Missions quota has been paid up to date.

Now that the Missionary is settled and the work reorganised, we have to raise at least £50 for the payment of our native teachers, in addition to the Missionary's salary.

The general account is not buoyant enough yet to free the Committee from anxiety. All the reserves have gone into the building, and we are dependent on the Tasmanian Church loyally holding up the hands of our representatives at Epi in regular and generous measures. Mrs. Reid was very ill for a time while at Vila, but was mercifully spared, and all are now in good health.

For the Committee,

G. MACKIE BAIRD,

Convener.

April 7, 1924.

Financial Statement.

	1923.	1924.
Income—		
General Fund	£682 5 5	£1,596 3 4
Native Teachers' Fund	35 19 4	
Native Fund	50 2 4	
	£768 7 1	£1,596 3 4
Expenditure	£183 18 5	1,343 2 3
Balance Cr.	£584 8 8	£253 1 1

COMMITTEE ON MISSIONS TO THE HEATHEN:
QUEENSLAND.

The past two years have been the most eventful in the history of the Committee. In this period they undertook, with assistance from the Board of Missions (temporary, it is hoped), to become responsible for the missions to the Aborigines in North Queensland, and, with the unanimous consent of the State Assembly, took over the work at 1st July, 1923. One of their first acts was to despatch their Convener and Secretary on a visit to the Stations, which was accomplished in the months of August and September, 1923. A copy of their report was furnished to the Board, and bore testimony to the faithfulness and efficiency with which the work on the Stations is being discharged, and specially to the need of more workers. This need the Committee is endeavoring to supply, and they hope that as soon as a house is available at Mornington Island to afford much-needed relief to Mr. and Mrs. Wilson by the appointment of a married assistant. Other important matters are engaging the attention of the Committee, such as the position of the half caste, the development of the industries which can be carried on by the natives, and recruiting, to which may be added the care of the Mission premises and plant. There is room for the profitable expenditure of money far in excess of anything the Committee had hitherto contemplated.

The retirement of Mr. and Mrs. Holmes, with their son, at 30th November last, was greatly regretted. Mr. W. F. MacKenzie, B.A., and Mr. and Mrs. Miller, transferred from Weipa, fill their place at Aurukun. Mr. and Mrs. Mayer are now on furlough, and Mr. and Mrs. MacCormack, of Mapoon, will carry on at Weipa during their absence. By the time the Assembly meets, a new worker will be in the field—Mr. Harvey—who has the advantage of an experience in tropical life and work.

With the subsidy from the Board, the Committee has been able to carry on satisfactorily up till the present, but with the larger expenditure,

which is considered absolutely necessary, they will probably find considerable strain in meeting all their liabilities until the Congregations are better organised for support of the work. They are greatly cheered by the interest manifested throughout the State in these Missions.

G. K. KIRKE,

Convener.

RECEIPTS.

	1922.			1923.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Balance				169	14	0
Collections, Donations, etc.	686	10	0	1492	4	9
Bequest of late W. Wendt for Mapoon	25	0	0			
Transfer from Reserve	200	0	0			
Bequest of Dolly (Mapoon)				15	9	7
Board of Missions				500	0	0
	£911	10	0	£2177	8	4

PAYMENTS.

	1922.			1923.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Balance	74	6	4			
Board of Missions, Assessments	475	0	0	400	0	0
W. Wendt's Bequest paid to Mapoon	25	0	0			
Remitted to Stations	29	12	7	92	6	8
General Expenses	137	17	1	1158	11	6
Purchase of "Matilda": Doors, etc., Mapoon				113	17	7
Deputation to Missions Stations				119	14	11
Exchange on Drafts, Cheques, etc.				8	16	11
Passages of Missionaries				70	15	0
Balance				213	5	9
	£911	10	0	£2177	8	4

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

The work of the Mission at Port George IV. has gone on steadily. In 1923 Mr. Neville, Secretary of the North-West Department, asked for a grant of 20 acres for an experiment in cotton cultivation. Captain Evans, the cotton expert from India, pronounced Port George as having the best land in W.A. for growing cotton. In April, Mr. Thurkle arrived at the station to carry out the experiment, the staff giving him every assistance possible, while not neglecting their usual work. Stocks of food ran low at times owing to the unusual demand made upon them by the native labor employed in cotton-growing, but out of all difficulties Mr. Beard emerged triumphant.

Mr. Paull, returning from furlough, was entertained by the P.W.M.U. and Committee when passing through Perth in October. He took up his duties at the station at the beginning of December. Mrs. Paull has since joined her husband, and expresses herself as pleased with the life. Mrs. Beard will appreciate the companionship of another woman, it being over five years since there were two women on the station.

A chaffcutter was sent to Port George. The cattle so long expected arrived at the Mission during December. For the 41 head £174 was paid.

Having learned that the Government had granted 1000 acres fee simple to two other Churches in connection with their missions, your Committee has made application for a like grant in connection with Port George IV., such grant to be vested in the Commissioners of the Presbyterian Church of W.A.

For the Committee,

E. W. HOGBEN,

Convener.

REPORT OF THE PRESBYTERIAN MISSION, PORT GEORGE IV.
FOR THE YEAR ENDING 30th JUNE, 1924.

Another year of work has come to a close, and we thank Almighty God for the opportunity of Service, the blessings vouchsafed to us, and for His guidance and favours.

In looking back over a year of work we see that slow but steady progress may be reported. Improvements continue to be made to the Mission buildings, and the agricultural fields. The general morale and welfare of the people show a decided advance. We have experienced some setbacks in our agricultural work due to the drought. Abnormally dry conditions have prevailed over all the Kimberlies, and, in fact, over the whole State.

A forward movement has been made by the purchase of 41 head of cattle for breeding purposes, stocking the reserve, and, in years to come, as meat ration for our native inmates and employees.

We continue to receive assistance from the W.A. Government Aborigines Department, which subsidises each sick and indigent native and approved child to the amount of £5 per year. The P.W.M.U. also continues to loyally support our work. Each year we receive a number of boxes from branches in Victoria, South Australia and Western Australia filled with clothing, sweets, toys, etc., for our Christmas Treat. The people come from long distances to be present at Christmas time, and we are thus able to get in touch with the more distant folk.

The Government, through the North-West Department, has for the past 14 months been conducting a Cotton Experimental Plot in close proximity to the Mission. An experienced man with equipment and plant was sent to the station and instructed to clear, plant and cultivate 20 acres with cotton. The Mission supplied the necessary labour, charging at the rate of 1/6 per day for the cost of food, clothing, etc., supplied.

The season has been so unfavourable that the experiment cannot be considered a success. It has, however, been demonstrated that cotton will grow in this district, even under such droughty conditions. The work will be continued by the Mission should the Department decide to withdraw their expert.

It is interesting to note in connection with the cotton experiment that cotton seed was obtained from the Department of Agriculture, Brisbane, and grown at the Mission during the Season 1920-21. Two varieties were cultivated and yielded well. The staple was pronounced to be of excellent quality. At that time, however, there was no market for the crop in this State, and the cultivation of the plant was discontinued.

Staff.—Health has been very good, although the excessively hot weather of the summer was very trying.

There has been no change in the staff, with the exception of arrival of Mrs. Paull, who came in at close of the summer. The same system of control remains in operation, viz., Mr. Paull in charge of the Spiritual and Medical needs of the people; also as the business manager; Mr. Beard, as agriculturist, had charge of the people during their time of employment; Mr. A. J. Beard assisting in whatever way his services are most needed; Mrs. Beard has control of the school and welfare of the children, whilst Mrs. Paull will undertake some work amongst the women.

Station Improvements.—During the year an additional area of 3 acres was brought under cultivation, making a total of some 22 acres now cultivated, and approximately 3 acres upon which are buildings, yards, etc.; this

Permission was obtained from the Board to purchase the necessary material to make additions to the Mission House. The new additions comprise one room with verandah all round. Other smaller buildings, mainly from bush timber, have been erected, which add to the appearance, usefulness and value of the station.

Work was undertaken upon the road to the creek landing and two new deviations cut. The deviations, although adding some length to the road, will make the grades easier. The distance is 3 miles.

A chaffcutter has been purchased for cutting up the rice hay for feeding cattle and working stock. We anticipate opening up trade with Broome in the supply of rice chaff.

Agricultural Work.—The industrial side of the Mission work probably shows more improvement than the deeper Spiritual and Ethical, of which the industrial is but a means to an end.

The work has been carried on by Mr. Beard, with assistance of his son, Alwyn. Employment has been given to the natives as far as the resources of the Mission will permit. Employment has been more regular and continuous, and some of the natives have shown marked aptitude for various branches of the work.

Abnormally dry conditions have prevailed during the past season. Many of the water courses and springs are now dry. The wells sunk in the Mission compound have receded far beyond previous levels.

The dry season has an adverse effect upon some of the crops. Rice, obtained in 1920, has been an entire failure. The loss of our rice crop has necessitated purchasing cleaned rice in the southern market for feeding the people.

Another very valuable crop—sweet potatoes—has also been a failure. The plants make very little growth, due to a disease, "Curly-leaf." Peanuts are cultivated more for sale than local use, as, in past seasons, we have received favourable returns. Under normal conditions the crop would have been harvested ere this, and probably sold. This year, however, the plants still remain in the ground, having made but little growth and no yield of nuts.

The main food crop at present is the ordinary pie melon; this forms the basis of the stews for the people. A yield of almost 7 tons has been received during the past year.

Kaffir corn was obtained some years ago from the Drysdale River Mission, and has been cultivated more and more largely every year. At present it constitutes our main cereal crop, a yield of over 1 ton of grain being received last season. Three new varieties of this very valuable grain were received last year from the N.S. Wales Department of Agriculture and they show promise of yielding as well, or better, than the older varieties. The grain is ground in a mill and used as a breakfast food for the children and others.

Pumpkins have been grown as formerly, but yield has not been high.

Watermelons, plantains and pineapples have been extensively cultivated, the fruit being appreciated by all. We have made repeated attempts to send the fruit to Broome for sale, but without much success except pineapples. The time taken on transit is too long, and the fruit usually arrives in an unmarketable condition. A consignment of pineapples was sent to Broome by the first boat this year, meeting with a ready sale. The sum of £40/8/6 was received during the year for produce sold. Much more could be done in

this way if we had a faster boat or could make more frequent voyages to Broome.

Boat.—The "W. S. Rolland" still continues her work of linking the Mission to Broome. Harry Shadforth remains in charge and gives very faithful service. It was needful to give him a spell ashore towards the end of 1923. Another captain, a white man, was obtained in Broome for relief purposes, but discharged again as soon as Harry was able to resume his duties. During the year the hearts of our half-caste captain and wife were gladdened by the arrival of another baby, only to be overcast with gloom by the loss of another little one, Elsie, aged 2 years and 8 months.

Carrying work is carried on as in past years and is favourably commented up by the people we serve. We have added another station to the list, Gibb River. We have now three stations for which we carry cargo. One trip has just been completed.

During the year the boat has earned by freights carrying stone ballast to Broome and other incidentals the sum of £109/14/1.

A schedule of sailings for the boat has been drawn up, and although some dislocation occurred early in the year the timetable is now being adhered to.

Natives.—The general behaviour of the natives continues to improve year by year. There is now practically no fighting or quarrelling among the people during the time they reside upon the station. At times large parties from different tribes visit us, and we rejoice that they now meet together without enmity. As far as it can be ascertained the relationship towards each other, even in their bush communities, has also materially improved.

The old habits and customs are very slowly being broken down, but the influence of the older people is still strong. It is also antagonistic to phases of our work. We have during the past year experienced some little trouble in the influence of the old men over the Dormitory children. Early in 1923 the men prevailed upon the girls to run away. Fortunately all were speedily brought in again with the exception of the eldest girl. After an absence of 8 months we succeeded in getting her away from the old bush life into our care once again.

It is a matter for regret that we have not more children in our Dormitories. The future of the work lies in the children and when received in their youth wonderful work can be done with them.

We have had 6 deaths, but no births reported to us. It is almost certain that other deaths have occurred in the bush of which we have no knowledge as yet.

Church service is regularly held twice each Lord's Day and Sunday School for the children, conducted by Mrs. Beard. In addition, classes have been held at intervals for the purpose of teaching new hymns. We have extended a general invitation to all in the camp, or who care to come from the bush for the purpose, to be present at our services. At times we have had goodly numbers attend.

One wedding was celebrated during the year, in March last, which we hope may be the forerunner of others. The union was between two of our young people.

No visible awakening in the minds and hearts of the people can yet be observed. The old people understand us very imperfectly and old habits and customs are too difficult to overcome. The younger people still remain under the thrall of customs as practised for generations past or have not the courage to break loose. In God's good time His Love will be made manifest to them.

School.—Reported upon by Mrs. Beard. School has been held regularly during the past twelve months, with the average attendance of 12 scholars. During my absence for 3 months of the year, Mackie Shadforth and an abo-

original girl, Gertie, were in charge, Gertie alone for the greater part of the time. Much credit is due to these teachers. They have kept splendid order in the school and the children have made steady progress. To one who has not lived among these people the fact of an aboriginal girl 15 years taking charge of a school of 12 scholars may seem a small thing, but, when I remember how hard it was a few years ago to get some of them to stand out and point the alphabet to the little ones, I feel we are making steady progress.

We specially thank all kind friends who have sent school requisites and those boys and girls who send us school books in the Christmas Boxes; these all help us considerably.

We are still using our little Bark School House; it fills its present needs, but we would like to see a big school building full of scholars.

In conclusion, we would thank the Board for the liberal subsidy received to enable us to carry on the work, £400. We would also thank a friend for making available to us the amount of £174, by which the cattle were purchased. To all our friends and all who have helped us in any way, we render very sincere thanks.

On behalf of the Mission Staff,

N. A. PAULL.

FOREIGN MISSIONS COMMITTEE OF VICTORIA.
REPORT FOR 1922-1923.

I. Fields: Australia (Aborigines), Victoria (Chinese), New Hebrides and Korea.

II. Staff: Our Foreign Mission Staff, exclusive of the Missionaries among the Aborigines, for whose support we pay an annual assessment, consists of 57 European workers (including wives), one ordained and three unordained Chinese in Victoria, 80 teachers in the New Hebrides, and one Secretary, with lady assistant, in the office.

III. Home Base: Strenuous efforts have been made to put the Home Base Organisation on a satisfactory basis by an educational campaign among Sessions, Boards of Management, and Congregations by promoting the weekly freewill offering, in connection with the Budget System. The relations between the P.W.M.U. and the F.M.C. have been drawn closer by mutual representation on the Executives, and by granting the single women workers on the field full voting powers in the Local Mission Council. The Senior Girls' Missionary Union has united with the Young Women's Bible Class Union to form the Presbyterian Girls' Association. Mrs. Robert Harper, who had been President of the P.W.M.U. since its inception, was made Honorary President, but to our great sorrow has since then passed to her rest, and Mrs. Matthew, wife of the Moderator-General, has been elected President. Miss Campbell has succeeded the late Mrs. Rolland as Foreign Secretary. The Rev. David Ross resigned his Convener'ship after 10 years' service, and the Rev. H. C. Matthew was elected in his place. The Rev. T. W. Leggatt, joint Foreign Mission Secretary, has accepted a call, in view of the State Assembly's decision to try the plan of having only one Secretary. Mrs. Lyall, the lady assistant, has gathered together a voluntary office team of young ladies, and the Stamp Fund, which she initiated, has already resulted in £284.

During the year the Centenary of Dr. John G. Paton, our first Missionary, was celebrated throughout the State. The story of his life was told for young folks by Miss Thatcher, and a Centenary Button was issued for sale. Public demonstrations were held in the Town Hall, Assembly Hall, and in the principal centres of the State, while the Rev. A. Hardie delivered an illustrated lecture on the autobiography throughout the Metropolitan area. The proceeds of all these special efforts are being put into a Centenary Fund for the New Hebrides, and the first charge on this is to be the renovation of the John G. Paton Memorial Hospital at Vila.

IV. The Aborigines: Our Committee has continued to bear its full share in the work among the Aborigines. As this Mission is fully reported on by the Board of Missions, nothing further need be said here.

V. Chinese in Victoria: The work among the Chinese has gone forward as usual with growing encouragement. A new feature is the admission by the Government of a number of lads between the ages of 14 and 20 for educational purposes. Our P.W.M.U. School for Chinese children has been asked to take charge of their education, and Miss Sears is assisted by a staff of voluntary helpers, including several retired Teachers. A great loss was sustained last year in the death of Mr. T. W. Cheong, one of our saintliest Catechists, after many years of faithful and fruitful service at Warrnambool. Negotiations are now proceeding between our Committee and the Methodist Church, with a view to the amalgamation of our work in the city, in the interests of efficiency and economy.

VI. The New Hebrides: There are 10 main stations under the administration of our Committee, 5 of which are supported by the John G. Paton Fund. By the courtesy of South Australia, the Rev. T. Macmillan has been transferred to this Fund so as to bring all Tanna within the scope of its appeal. The salaries of our New Hebrides Missionaries have been revised in the light of the present cost of living, and have now been fixed at £300 p.a. and allowances.

The outstanding feature of the present position in the New Hebrides is the growing scandal of the Condominium—the “Shame of the South Seas” as it has been rightly called. The Conference held between Missionaries on furlough and our Committee came to unanimous and important findings, which are laid before the Prime Minister. Mr. Bruce said that the matter had been fully considered at the Imperial Conference, and that alternative solutions had been drawn up in order of preference. He added that the British and French Governments were now negotiating about the first of three alternatives, but that he was not at liberty to say what that was. A petition for the ending of the Condominium in favor of sole British control was signed by 40,000 voters in New South Wales and Victoria, and duly presented to both Houses of Parliament. A similar petition is being signed in New Zealand. A campaign of education is also being carried on through a series of articles in the “Presbyterian Messenger,” as well as through the press and the platform generally. Ceaseless vigilance is demanded if the natives are to be saved from extinction.

VII. Korea: Our Foreign Staff in Korea consists of 11 men (including the Rev. G. Anderson, who is supported by South Australia), and 17 women, one of whom is supported by Queensland. The work is full of encouragement, and the chief difficulties are due to short-handedness in the staff. The Government has changed its attitude towards our educational work, and practically all the disabilities have been removed. The State Assembly has resolved to raise £9800 by personal appeal to erect new buildings for our Boys' Secondary School at Masan as a memorial to the late Rev. D. M. Lyall, and nearly £8000 of that sum has been already secured in cash and promises. The P.W.M.U. is at the same time raising a sum of £6500 for a girls' Secondary School at Tongnai Umnai, and this school is to be associated with the name of Mrs. Harper as a tribute to her long and distinguished services.

The Japanese Government has recognised the fine work done among the lepers by the Rev. J. Noble McKenzie, and conferred upon him the high honor of receiving a present from the Emperor.

The situation in Korea is simply tremendous, and an earnest appeal is being made to arouse the Church to realise the unique opportunity, and to enter fully the wide open doors that God has set before us.

VIII. Financial: The ordinary income for the last two years amounted to £40,686, and the ordinary expenditure to £41,190. The accumulated deficit stands at £1983. It is hoped by the spread of information, the complete

organisation of the Budget System, and the deepening of the spiritual life of the Church, to change this deficit into a surplus, and to enable the Church to adequately occupy that portion of the world-field for which God has made us responsible.

MISSIONS TO THE HEATHEN, SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

It took the Committee nearly two years to finalise the transfer of the mission on Tanna, New Hebrides, to the John G. Paton Committee and send a Missionary to Korea to work there in connection with the Church in Victoria. The Rev. George Anderson, M.A., left Sydney for Korea with his wife and little daughter on August 16, 1922. They arrived at Fusanchin, to which station they were appointed by the Mission Council in Korea, on September 17 following. Up to the present, Mr. Anderson's time has been given mainly to the study of the Korean language as his chief equipment for his work as a missionary in that field. He is gradually getting into work.

The arrangement with Churches in this State and Victoria is for Mr. Anderson to work as a missionary of the Church in Victoria, the Church in South Australia bearing the expense of his support. The Church in Victoria has undertaken to provide a house, towards the cost of which £750 was paid by the Church in this State, the South Australian Church being responsible for keeping the house in repair.

The Committee in this State circulated petitions for signatures to end the existence of the Condominium in the New Hebrides, and has given effect to the proposal to celebrate the hundredth anniversary of the late Dr. J. G. Paton's birth on May 24, 1824. The Church in South Australia has two Memorial Funds, the revenue from which is still used for work on Tanna. These are the Helen Lyall Memorial Fund and the Margaret Irene Gray Memorial Teachers' Fund.

W. GRAY,
GEO. DAVIDSON, Joint Conveners.

RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE FOR TWO YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1923. DISBURSEMENTS.

	£	s.	d.
Outfit for Missionary, Korea	40	0	0
Missionaries' Salary	528	18	7
" Travelling Expenses to Korea	302	17	10
" Tuition Fees, Korea	182	16	3
" Child's allowance	23	15	0
Levy Provident Fund and "Bannar"	16	7	4
Levy Board of Missions (including Arrears)	308	10	0
Deputation Expenses	23	0	11
Sundries	31	16	6
Church Office Charges	96	0	10
Transferred to Building Fund, Korea	742	19	10
	£2,197	3	1

RECEIPTS.

	£	s.	d.
Contributed by Congregations	873	0	0
" " P.W.M.U.	407	4	8
" " Young People	78	15	0
Collections	78	2	4
Donations	53	3	3
A Bequest	20	0	0
Refunds	120	7	8
Sale of Tanna Mission Property	500	0	0
Debit Balance	66	10	2
	£2,197	3	1

BOOK OF ORDER.

The Committee begs to report that the first edition of the second portion of the Book of Order is likely to be exhausted in the near future, and the Committee would be pleased to receive any suggestions that would add to its increased usefulness.

The Story of the Holy Communion, which was issued immediately after last Assembly, has been received with commendation in Australasia and elsewhere.

The Committee greatly regrets that circumstances have interfered with the work of completing the first portion of the Book of Order, but certain progress has been made, and in due course it will be presented to the Assembly.

R. SCOTT-WEST,

Convener.

CHURCH UNION.

As a crisis in the movement for organic union between the Presbyterian Methodist and Congregational Churches of Australia on a common Basis of Doctrine and Polity seems to have been reached through the decisions of three of our Presbyterian State Assemblies expressing disapproval of union on the basis proposed, your Committee thinks it desirable to give a brief outline of the steps in the movement for union initiated by the General Assembly, especially so far as it concerns those three Churches.

I. In 1902 the General Assembly, having received a report from a Committee appointed by the previous Assembly to consider the principles on which the Presbyterian Church of Australia is prepared to consider the question of a larger union, "agreed to send a short doctrinal statement and a short exposition of its principles of polity to the other Churches" for their consideration, and as affording a basis for further discussion. Following up this resolution, communications were sent to the official heads of the Anglican Church, of the Baptist Church and of the Churches of Christ in each State, to the President of the Methodist general conference, and to the chairman of the Congregational Union.

The reply from the Anglican Church was delayed owing to there being no meeting of its General Synod for two years. When it did come it stated that a Committee had been appointed with power to confer with the Presbyterian Church (which had meantime entered into conference with the other Churches). Conferences went on for some years between the Committee of the Presbyterian Church and that of the Anglican, resulting in a draft scheme of union of a very general kind being agreed to as something to be submitted to the Lambeth Conference of 1908. The resolutions of this Lambeth Conference did not appear to hold out much prospect of any union being effected along the lines suggested in this draft scheme, and when it became clear that the Anglican Church in Australia had not such autonomy, apart from the Church in England, as would make union practicable at present, it was considered futile to pursue negotiations in this direction further in the meantime.

From conferences held with representatives of the Baptist Churches, it soon became evident that these Churches were not then prepared to consider a union in which infant baptism was permitted or left an open question. The movement for organic union thus became restricted to the Presbyterian, Methodist and Congregational Churches.

II. In 1903 the General Assembly, having received a report from its Committee on conferences held between its members and representatives of the Methodist and Congregational Churches in N.S.W., Victoria and W.A. on the question of union, rejected a motion "that at this juncture the Committee's Report and proposals be sent down to State Assemblies for consideration and report," and also a motion that the Committee be instructed "to consider

the original proposal of Federation instead of the remoter project of organic union," and carried a motion declaring that "the General Assembly rejoice that the reports received establish their belief in the great desirableness of union with the Congregational and Methodist Churches, with whom conferences have been held, and, the result of the conferences not yet being ripe for submission to the State Assemblies and Presbyteries, the General Assembly re-appoint the Committee, with instructions to proceed, in concert with other Churches, to the formation of a basis of union."

III. In 1906 the Committee, in its report, submitted a proposed basis of doctrine accepted by the representatives of the three Churches in New South Wales, and a proposed scheme of polity adopted by the Committee, and stated that these had been sent to the Committees in other States. The General Assembly carried a motion to the following effect: "That the Assembly express satisfaction with the diligence of the Committee in prosecuting negotiations with the Congregational and Methodist Churches. Regret that the basis of doctrine has not yet been accepted by all the Committees that have it under consideration. Instruct the Committee to proceed with all diligence to its completion; and also to elaborate the scheme of polity and use its best endeavor to have both the basis of doctrine and the scheme of polity fully prepared for the next Assembly."

IV. In 1907 the General Assembly carried a motion "That the basis of doctrine, as agreed upon by the Joint Committees of the Congregational, Methodist and Presbyterian Churches, be sent to State Assemblies and Presbyteries for information and suggestions."

In 1909 the Committee submitted to the Assembly a draft scheme of polity arrived at in conference with the Methodist and Congregational Churches, and was instructed "to endeavor to present a full scheme of polity to next Assembly."

In 1910 the Committee submitted a full scheme of polity accepted by the Joint Committees of the Congregational, Methodist and Presbyterian Churches, and the General Assembly adopted a lengthy deliverance, which, after summarising the history of the movement, proceeded thus: "Whereas the Committees appointed by the Congregational and Methodist Churches have been meeting with the Committee of the General Assembly for the past five years; and whereas the result of the labors of the Joint Committees of the three negotiating Churches has been the production of a basis of doctrine, and a scheme of polity, which the Joint Committees believe could be honorably accepted by the three Churches without any departure from their fundamental principles; and whereas the teaching of this Church regarding the nature of the Church and the Communion of Saints implies that the Communion of fellow Christians in worship and service is a duty wherever it is not forbidden by conscience; and whereas, in view of the report of the Committee, there does not appear to this Assembly to be any bar in principle to a union between the Congregational, Methodist and Presbyterian Churches; and whereas the benefits which would result from such a union are very great and obvious; and whereas such a union might be the precursor of a still wider union, the General Assembly receives the report, and, without committing itself to details, expresses a general approval of the basis of doctrine and the scheme of polity, and transmits them to the State Assemblies and Presbyteries for their consideration, and instructs them to carefully examine these documents, and to report any amendments or suggestions to the Convener of the Committee at least six months before the meeting of the next General Assembly."

V. In 1912 a motion was carried in the General Assembly (but only by 36 votes to 32) "That the Assembly expresses its satisfaction at the general approval of the basis of doctrine—and inasmuch as the returns from State Assemblies and Presbyteries did not arrive in time to permit of their consideration by the Committee and consultation with the other Churches, the Assembly re-appoint the Committee (with the addition of certain names), with instructions to consider the returns, revise the scheme, consult with

the other Churches, arranging, if possible, for a continuous consultation of authorised delegates in Melbourne or Sydney in regard to the revised scheme until a complete revision is effected, and report to next Assembly."

VI. In 1914 the Committee submitted a basis of doctrine and scheme of polity, amended in the light of suggestions from State Assemblies and Presbyteries, and a motion was carried in the General Assembly (by the casting vote of the Moderator) instructing the Committee "to submit the proposed Basis of Doctrine and Scheme of Polity as now amended to the representatives of the Methodist and Congregational Churches," and authorising it, "if the Supreme Courts of the other Churches are willing," to send down the proposed Basis of Doctrine and Polity as now amended with the general approval of the Assembly to the lower courts and congregations of the three denominations concerned, with this question:—"Are you willing that a union should be brought about between the Presbyterian, Methodist and Congregational Churches on the basis of this statement of doctrine and scheme of polity, provided that suitable arrangements can be made, and legislative Acts obtained to safeguard property interests of congregations and denominations in a United Church?—'Yes' or 'No.'"

VII. In 1916 the Committee's report stated that the instructions of last Assembly could not be carried out, as the Methodist Church had not re-appointed its Committee; and that the Committee believed that this action of the Methodist Church was not due to any coldness towards the movement, but to disappointment at its slow progress. A motion was carried by 100 to 9 as follows:—"That the Assembly receive the report, and, in view of the fact that the Great War has added fresh urgency to the project of union, and in view of the fact that the Congregational, Methodist and Presbyterian Churches of Canada have resolved to unite, and their basis of union is accessible, resolve—

(1) That the Committee be re-appointed.

(2) That the various drafts of a basis of union submitted to past Assemblies, and the suggestions received from State Assemblies and Presbyteries thereanent, together with the basis of union adopted by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Canada in 1915, be referred to the Committee with instructions, in consultation with the union Committees of the other negotiating Churches, to prepare a revised basis of union.

(3) That the Committee be instructed to arrange, if possible, for joint meetings of the full Committee of the negotiating Churches, or their accredited representatives, at some convenient centre for sessions of two or more days.

(4) That in the event of such a basis being prepared and being accepted by the Union Committees of the other negotiating Churches, or by either of them, the Committee be authorised to send it to State Assemblies and Presbyteries.

(5) That State Assemblies and Presbyteries be instructed, in the event of such a basis being sent to them, to report thereon to the following Assembly and that Presbyteries be instructed to give members approving or disapproving of the basis.

(6) Further, that this Assembly is of opinion that, in the event of a majority of State Assemblies and Presbyteries and next General Assembly approving of a basis of union, the basis should be submitted to sessions, and also to the members and adherents of the Church.

(7) That meantime, and while continuing negotiations on the lines laid down in the foregoing clauses, it be an instruction to the Committee to endeavor to secure, without undue delay, a basis for co-operation and joint action in matters in which it may be found possible to make common cause.

VIII. In 1918 the Committee submitted a revised Basis of Doctrine and Polity prepared, according to the instructions of the previous Assembly, in conference with the Committees of the Methodist and Congregational Churches, and unanimously agreed to by the Joint Committee, and also

a report on Co-operation; and the following deliverance was adopted by the Assembly.

(1) That the Assembly receive the report, reaffirm its belief in the great desirableness of union with the Methodist and Congregational Churches, express its thankfulness that the Committees representing the negotiating Churches have been able to come to agreement regarding a Basis of Union.

(2) That the Assembly adopt the Basis as to Doctrine and Polity as one on which union might be consummated.

(3) Reappoint the Committee (with certain changes).

(4) Instruct the Committee to send the basis adopted to State Assemblies and Presbyteries as nearly as possible at the same time as similar action is being taken by the other negotiating Churches, with instructions to report through the Committee, within a time to be fixed by the Committee, as to whether they approve or disapprove of union on this basis, giving numbers approving or disapproving; and further authorise the Committee, should a majority of State Assemblies and Presbyteries approve, to submit the Basis of Doctrine and Polity to sessions and Congregations, in time, if possible, to permit of all returns being presented to next Assembly.

(5) That the Assembly further instruct the Committee to appoint a sub-Committee on law and finance in connection with the proposed union, with power to include other members than members of the General Committee.

(6) That the Committee be empowered to consider any suggestions that may be made, on such returns, for amendments or alterations in the basis, in consultation with the representatives of the other negotiating Churches, and report to next General Assembly.

(7) That the Committee be authorised in sending down the Basis of Union to accompany it with a brief historical statement based on the Minutes of Assembly bearing on the matter.

(8) That the Assembly receive the report on Co-operation and resolve to leave any further action in the matters referred to therein to State Assemblies and Presbyteries.

IX: In 1920 the Committee reported the result of the vote given by State Assemblies, Presbyteries, Sessions and Congregations on the question submitted to them, which was as follows:—

	Approve.	Disapprove.
State Assemblies	6	0
Voters in State Assemblies	246	100
Presbyteries	28	20
Voters in Presbyteries	300	217
Sessions	164	123
Elders in Sessions	879	649
Congregations	316	190
Communicants	23,966	18,199
Adherents	18,793	10,885
Total Votes	43,638	29,733

This showed that about 60 per cent. of the members and adherents of the Church had taken part in the vote, and of these 60 per cent. had voted "approve" and 40 per cent. "disapprove."

The voting in the Methodist Church showed a result of about 90 per cent. in favor of union on the proposed basis, and 10 per cent. against; and in the Congregational Church about 84 per cent. for and 16 per cent. against.

The General Assembly, on receipt of this report, adopted (by 117 votes to 40 against) the following motion:—

(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 favor 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 realisation 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 is now practicable and urgently called for; that so far as sanction of the General Assembly is necessary to such co-operation, it grants the same and remits 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 interests whenever possible.

(4) That the Assembly re-appoint the Committee (with certain changes). 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 relationship 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.

X. In 1922 the Committee reported that the proposed amendments to the Basis of Doctrine and Polity had been dealt with by the representatives of the three negotiating Churches met in Joint Committee, and that agreement had been reached regarding them.

The Assembly expressed its satisfaction with this approval of the amended Basis of Doctrine and Polity as in harmony with Presbyterian principles, approved of union on this as a basis so far as concerns Doctrine and Polity, re-appointed the Committee on union, with instructions to send down the amended basis in the first instance to State Assemblies, and thereafter to Presbyteries, Sessions and Congregations, with instructions to report through the Committee before the 15th November, 1923, as to whether they approved or disapproved of union on this basis, giving numbers approving and disapproving.

Your Committee hoped that as the amendments agreed to by the Joint Committee had been made almost entirely in response to suggestions and requests from the Presbyterian side, a larger Presbyterian vote in favor of union on the basis of Doctrine and Polity, as thus amended, would be secured.

This hope, however, has not been fulfilled.

Whereas in 1920 all the State Assemblies, by decided majorities, expressed approval of union on the proposed basis of Doctrine and Polity—Victoria by 123 votes to 48, New South Wales by 41 to 23, Queensland by 26 to 13, Western Australia by 15 to 11, Tasmania by 11 to 5, and South Australia unanimously—in 1923 three of these State Assemblies expressed disapproval of union on that same basis slightly amended so as to bring it more into accord with Presbyterian wishes and suggestions—Victoria by 148 votes to 140, South Australia by 11 to 10, and Western Australia by 16 to 14.

New South Wales State Assembly adhered to its former approval of union by 114 votes to 83, Queensland by 31 to 26, Tasmania by 8 to 4.

The change of opinion by State Assemblies in regard to union on the proposed basis shown by the adverse votes of these Assemblies occasioned difficulty to your Committee, and made it seem doubtful whether, under the circumstances, it would be wise to continue discussion throughout the Church by sending down to Presbyteries, Sessions and Congregations the question of union on the proposed basis as amended, seeing that three of the State Assemblies had voted disapproval of union on this basis.

Before any change in the subordinate standard of the Presbyterian Church of Australia (such as would be involved by a union with other Churches on the basis proposed) could be effected, the constitution of the Presbyterian Church of Australia requires that a majority of State Assemblies and three-fifths of all the Presbyteries of the Church should approve of the proposed revision or restatement. The fact that three out of six of the State Assemblies had on this occasion expressed disapproval of union on this basis, taken along with the fact that (at the previous voting in Presbyteries in 1920) out of 49 Presbyteries 28 had voted in favor of union and 20 against, made it at least doubtful whether the necessary majority of State Assemblies and Presbyteries could be got for the modification of subordinate standard or statement of doctrine, which a union on the proposed basis would involve.

Under these circumstances, while feeling that the congregations or people of the Church, as well as the office bearers, met in General Assemblies, may reasonably expect to be consulted before an important matter such as this of union is either gone on with or finally dropped, yet your Committee, after consulting with leading representatives of those opposed to organic union on a common basis of Doctrine and Polity, decided that, as the General Assembly had expressly instructed it to send the amended basis for a vote on union to State Assemblies before sending it to Presbyteries, Sessions and Congregations, and as the endorsement of a majority of State Assemblies to union on this basis had not been got, it was better to refrain from sending this basis to Presbyteries, Sessions and Congregations for another vote on union without further instruction from the General Assembly.

Many, indeed, of those who voted at this time against union on the basis proposed have declared themselves to be in favor of union, but not on this basis.

This might suggest to the Assembly the wisdom of re-appointing the Committee or appointing a new Committee on which those favorable to union, but not on the present proposed basis, might be largely represented, with instructions to explore the possibilities of finding a basis which would be more acceptable to some Presbyterians who have opposed union on the present proposed basis, and which might prove acceptable also to the Methodist and Congregational Churches when, later on, it was brought before them. While your Committee would be glad to know what modifications in the doctrinal statement, or in the scheme of polity, of the basis now agreed upon by the Joint-Union Committee of the three Churches after many years of negotiation and conference, would satisfy those Presbyterians who say they are in favor of union, but not on this basis, and while some of its members favor the appointment by the Assembly of a new Committee, with instructions to "explore possibilities" in this direction, your Committee, as a whole, does not think it advisable to recommend the appointment of a Committee with such instructions at the present juncture.

The fact that a basis of Doctrine and Polity, approved of by our General Assembly as one on which union with the Methodists and Congregationalists might be consummated in harmony with Presbyterian principles, has been approved of by the Supreme Courts and Councils of these other Churches, and by their people generally, shows that there is no bar in principle to a union with these Churches so far as Doctrine and Polity are concerned.

But the fact that there is such a divided state of feeling and opinion among the office-bearers and people of our Presbyterian Church over the question of bringing about an organic union on this basis, makes it inadvisable, in the judgment of your Committee, for the present to press forward to organic union on a common basis of Doctrine and Polity at the risk of serious division and fresh separation. For this reason, your Committee recommend that the negotiations for organic union with the Methodist and Congregational Churches on a common basis of Doctrine and Polity be for the present suspended, that intimation of this decision, and of the reasons for it, be made to the Methodist and Congregational Churches, with an expression of the Assembly's appreciation of the spirit in which the Churches have responded to its invitations to confer on the question of union; and that a Committee be appointed to endeavor, in co-operation with State Assemblies and their Committees, to promote co-operation in Christian service between Christian denominations, wherever it may be found practicable, and to keep in touch with movements for union generally, seeking to promote the spirit of Christian union, and awaiting the time when, under the leading of Divine Providence, a way may be opened up whereby the unity of Christ's one Church may come to find more adequate and effective expression.

REPORTS ON CHURCH UNION.

Interim Report of the Executive of the Church Union Committee on matters in relation to Law and Property and Administration.

(1) Missions.

(1) In the administration of the Mission Work of the United Church there shall be two departments:—

- (a) Home (including all mission work within the Commonwealth of Australia,
- (b) Foreign (including the Missions already established or which may be established in other countries).

(2) Publishing Interests.

(1) It shall be left to the General Assembly of the United Church to determine how far the publications now issued by the negotiating Churches should be amalgamated or otherwise dealt with.

(3) Colleges.

(1) All the colleges connected with the three negotiating Churches shall, as far as possible, sustain the same relating to the United Church as they now sustain to their respective Churches.

(4) Beneficiary or Annuitants' Fund.

(1) The rights of present and prospective claimants on existing funds in any of the negotiating Churches shall be adequately protected.

(2) Subject thereto the present capital investments of the various beneficiaries or annuitants' funds of the negotiating Churches shall be combined into a common trust.

(3) The General Assembly shall provide, by means of the common trust, for annuities to aged and retired ministers and the widows and orphans of ministers.

(4) The General Assembly shall provide for the assessing of all ministers, and the collection of contributions from the local Churches towards such common trust, and the payment to annuitants.

(5) Law.

(1) When a basis of Union has been agreed upon by the negotiating Churches, the Union should be consummated and the United Church incorporated by Special Acts of the State Parliaments of the Commonwealth, which should contain, among others, provisions to the following effect:—

- (a) Ratifying and confirming the Basis of Union as agreed upon.
- (b) That all the estate, real and personal, belonging to or held in trust for or to the use of the negotiating Churches, or belonging to or held in trust for or to the use of any corporation under the government or control of or in connection with any of the said negotiating Churches, shall be vested in the United Church or in Boards, Committees or Corporations under the control thereof, and shall be used and administered in accordance with the terms and provisions of the Basis of Union.

Note.—This provision would cover all property which might properly be described as denominational property.

- (c) That, subject to the provisions of the next succeeding paragraph hereof, all property, real and personal, in the Commonwealth, held in trust for or to the use of a Church, Charge, Circuit, or Congregation of any of the negotiating Churches, shall be held by trustees appointed by or on behalf of such Church, Charge, Circuit, or Congregation, upon trusts set forth and declared in a Model Trust Deed.

This Model Trust Deed should be a schedule to the Act, and should contain, among others, a provision to the following effect:—

That the property is held for the Church, Charge, Circuit, or Congregation, as part of the United Church, and that no property so held shall be sold, exchanged, or in any manner encumbered, unless the Conference shall, at the instance of the Church, Charge, Circuit or Congregation, have given its sanction.

- (d) That any property or funds owned by a Church, Charge, Circuit, or Congregation, at the time of the Union, solely for its own benefit, or vested in trustees for the sole benefit of such Church, Charge, Circuit, or Congregation, and not for the denomination of which the said Church, Charge, Circuit, or Congregation formed a part, shall not be affected by the legislation giving effect to the Union, or by any legislation of the United Church, without the consent of the Church, Charge, Circuit or Congregation for which said property is held in trust.

(6) Property.

(1) It is impossible at present to give any accurate statistics as to property, and the following figures are approximate only, and, as in some cases they are made up on different systems, cannot form a basis for accurate comparisons:—

The Methodist Church has: Churches, 2,593; Parsonages, 693; Sunday Schools, 944; Colleges, 11; Hospitals, 3.

Church Building and Loan Funds amounting to	£145,965
Insurance Funds amounting to over	30,000
A Supernumerary Fund of	536,000

These are apart from Mission properties and funds.

The Presbyterian Church has: Churches, 1,302; Sunday Schools, 402; Manses, 458; Colleges, 12; Capital Funds, £725,546.

The Methodist Church has debts owing, including those to the different loan funds of the Church, £618,888.

These figures do not in either case include properties not under the direct jurisdiction of the General Conference of the Methodist Church or the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church.

Presbyterian Church has debts, £296,869.

There are in Victoria in connection with the Methodist Church, endowments for educational and other purposes, amounting to £67,500. No information is available as to such funds in the other States, although in New South Wales there are considerable similar endowments.

The particulars obtained from the Congregational Churches are not very full.

They state that they have 213 pastorates, and about 280 ministers, and the following funds:—

Church Building Association	£36,000
Provident Funds	76,000

VII.—COLLEGE COMMITTEE.

Report of the College Committee for the G.A.A. for 1924:—

Your Committee has to report the following matters that have come before it since the last meeting of the G.A.

The Secretary, Rev. H. M. Burns, resigned the Secretaryship at the close of the Assembly, much to the regret of the College Committee. A minute expressing the appreciation and thanks of the Committee for Mr. Burns' work was placed on record.

The Rev. K. Forster, of Brighton, Victoria, was appointed to the position.

At the 1922 Exit Examinations, 1½ students passed, viz., 10 from Ormond, and 2 from Emmanuel (one candidate, Mr. C. J. Ball, of Ormond, obtaining 2nd Class Honours). At the 1923 Exit Examinations, 10 students passed, viz., 4 from Ormond, 3 from St. Andrews, 2 from Emmanuel and 1 from Parkin, S.A. (One candidate, Mr. F. Fraser, of Ormond, obtained 2nd Class Honours). At the request of the Board of Missions, Mr. W. F. McKenzie, of Ormond, has been granted permission to sit extra-mural for his Exit Examination, under the supervision of the Rev. J. Love, B.A., M.C., D.C.M., at Aurukun, North Queensland, subject to his presenting the usual Certificate from the Senatus of the Theological Hall.

Mr. E. D. Pearson, of St. Andrews, through an inadvertence, did not sit for Exit Hebrew at the time of the Examination in 1922. The Executive on the recommendation of Professor Harper allowed Mr. Pearson's Class marks in Sessional Examinations in Hebrew Language as an Exit pass and examined him on the non-linguistic part of the subject. A proposal of the Executive at the request of the students of one of the Halls, to spread the Exit Examinations over 2 weeks in 1923, as was done the previous year, met with opposition from another Hall, and was consequently not persistent in. A similar application has been received this year. The present system bears heavily on those students who take all their subjects in Exit except College of Divinity, being taken in lieu of Exit:—

The Executive has passed the following rule to give effect to the resolution of the G.A. (B.B., 1922, min. 136) in regard to passes in the Melbourne College of Divinity being taken in lieu of Exit:—

Motion passed by the Executive of the College Committee, re Passes in College of Divinity, Melbourne, in lieu of Passes in Exit Subjects. October 11, 1923 (Vide G.A.A.B.B. 1922, p. 56, min. 136.)

“Candidates for the Exit Examinations who have passed Examinations qualifying for the Degree of B.D. in the Melbourne College of Divinity in

Hebrew, or N.T. Greek, or Apologetics, shall not be required to sit for these subjects in the Exit Examination, provided they have complied fully with the conditions of the Theological Course of their respective Halls, and present a Certificate to that effect."

In this connection the Committee transmits the petition of Mr. F. H. Patterson from the Adelaide Presbytery, and recommends that the prayer of the petition be not granted, inasmuch as the Examinations passed by Mr. Patterson are for the L.Th. and not for the B.D.

In the case of Mr. Davies, of S.A., whose subjects in Exit were remitted to the Committee to decide, the following were prescribed, viz., O.T. Exegesis and Introduction without Hebrew, Apologetics, Church History, Theology, and N.T. Exegesis, and Introduction without Greek; all of which Mr. Davies was successful in passing.

Mr. R. B. Bousfield, of Emmanuel College, asked to be allowed to take his Exit Hebrew in February, 1924, instead of September, 1923, owing to special difficulties he had to contend with. On the recommendation of the Faculty within Emmanuel the request was granted.

In regard to Mr. Compton's Exit year, which the last G.A. granted permission to be held in Tasmania, Mr. Compton was placed under the Presbytery of Hobart in regard to his Class Work, and granted permission to postpone his Exit until 1924, but so far no report has been received or further application made.

At the 1923 Entrance Examinations, 18 passed or completed the Examination, 6 after Supplementary Examination, viz., 10 for Ormond, 6 for St. Andrew's, and 2 for Emmanuel.

At the 1924 Entrance Examinations, 18 passed or completed the Examination, 5 after supplementary Examination, viz., 12 for Ormond, 3 for St. Andrew's, 2 for Emmanuel and 1 for Parkin, S.A.

As in previous years some of the Ormond College students, though not entering the Hall until a year later, were allowed to take the Entrance Examination, in order to clear the way for subsequent Honour work at the University.

Mr. B. Wotherspoon, of Queensland, and Mr. H. Wiles, of N.S.W., both of whom passed all subjects at Entrance, except Greek, have been granted permission to sit for Greek next year as a Supplementary Examination.

Applications have been received requesting that students might be allowed to enter the Hall as 1st year students prior to completing their Entrance Examination; and some applications are being forwarded to the G.A. through this Committee, asking that such years already passed, or now being taken, might be validated. The Committee while recommending that the years in question be validated, strongly urges the Assembly to adopt as a specific rule the recommendation of the College Committee, made in its report of 1909 to the effect that no student be allowed to enter the Theological Hall until he shall have passed the whole of the Entrance Examination.

A petition is being presented to this Assembly per this Committee, from Mr. K. R. McKenzie, a returned soldier, asking that he be exempted from Greek during his Hall course, owing to defective eyesight. The Committee strongly recommends that the request be granted as was done in the case of Mr. McLellan.

In the Home Mission Supplementary Examinations for 1922, held subsequently to the meeting of the last G.A., 8 completed their year, viz., 1 in the 1st year for Queensland, 2 in the 2nd year for N.S.W., and 2 for Victoria, 1 in the 3rd year for N.S.W. and 1 in the 4th year for N.S.W. and 1 for Victoria.

In the Home Mission Examinations for July, 1923, 49 Candidates presented themselves for Examination in the various years, viz., 19 for Victoria, 18 for N.S.W., 9 for Queensland, 2 for South Australia, and 1 for

Western Australia. Of these, 29 passed the Examination in all subjects of their respective years; 4 failed, and 15 were granted a Supplementary Examination, all in Greek, and 2 in one other subject each. At the Supplementary Examination in October, 14 passed and completed their respective years.

In the Home Mission Examinations for July, 1924, 43 students entered, viz., 17 for N.S.W., 15 for Victoria, 9 for Queensland, 1 for South Australia and 1 for Western Australia, 3 of whom failed to sit.

Of these 23 have passed the Examination in all subjects of their year, 1 has failed, and 16 have been granted permission to take their remaining subjects at a Supplementary Examination to be held in October.

Applications to have Examinations held in places other than the recognised centres have not been granted, unless such places were remote from one of the Halls of our Church.

Since the last meeting of the G.A., 28 students have been admitted to the Home Mission Course of training. Included in these are 7 from the B.T.I., Glasgow, and 1 from Ireland, and these have been graded as students of the second year in the Home Mission Course.

Mr. S. A. Vertigan, a student of the 4th year, in the Home Mission Course, was prevented from attending the Home Mission Classes in Melbourne in June last, owing to a fatal accident to his son and the effects of it upon him. In view of a doctor's certificate, a strong request from the State Home Mission Committee, Mr. Vertigan's age, and his good record of work, the Executive granted him a pass in all 4th year subjects, except Mental Philosophy.

In order that Professors, Examiners and Students might have the syllabus of prescribed work earlier and in a handy form the Committee has had it printed in pamphlet form and sent to the Examiners and others.

The Committee has carried out the instructions of last General Assembly re the examination of Home Missionaries, who apply to be authorised to dispense the Sacraments in their Home Mission districts. Regulations have been drawn up and printed in the Year Book and in pamphlet form, showing the work required to be done and are appended to this report. The Convener has had the supervision of this work and on his reports, 9 Home Missionaries have been given special authority to dispense the Sacraments. Three are for South Australia and the remainder for Queensland.

Since last Assembly the following changes have taken place on the staff of Examiners:—

Removed by death: Rev. G. Chalmers.

Resignations: Revs. A. I. Davidson, M.A.; W. Grant-Forsyth, M.A.; J. R. Blanchard, B.A.; H. S. R. Innes, B.A.; W. J. Gray, M.A.; H. C. Matthew,

The following new examiners have been appointed:—

For Exit-Theology and Ethics: Rev. Dr. Hunter, M.A.; Church History, Rev. J. Howie, B.A.; N.T. Greek, Rev. R. Nairn, M.A.; English Bible, Rev. J. L. Cope.

For Home Mission Examinations: Greek, Rev. A. Yule, M.A.; English, Rev. J. C. Jones, B.A.; Mental Philosophy, Rev. D. J. Flockhart, B.A.; Moral Philosophy, Rev. J. Nicholls, M.A.

Since the last meeting of the G.A., the Executive has held 20 meetings to July 31st, 1924. The attendance of members has been as follows:—Rev. W. Borland, 18; Dr. Adam, 16; Professor T. J. Smith, 14; Rev. F. Milne, 15; Mr. D. K. Picken, 12; Rev. J. Barnaby, 10; Dr. J. Mathew, 10; Rev. J. Gillies, 9; Rev. H. M. Burns, 8; Dr. Rentoul, 6; Rev. K. Forster (Sec.), 20.

From September 1st, 1923, to July 31st, 1924, the Committee has had under examination 174 students. The total amount received in Examination fees has been £38/15/. Within that time, 850 letters, etc., have been sent out by the Secretary.

II.

Home Mission Course of Training as matured by the College Committee under instruction from the G.A.A. 1922 (B.B. 1922, p. 53).

1. Candidates, before being admitted to the Home Mission Course of study, shall be required to pass at the "Intermediate" or "Junior" or "Lower" Public Examination, of one of the States, in English and in two other subjects to be approved by the College Committee as satisfactory prerequisites for the Candidates' subsequent course of study.

2. The Home Mission Course shall be a three years course, with annual examinations conducted by the College Committee—from which exemptions may be granted as specified below. The subjects of the first and second years shall be subjects giving a general groundwork of education, such as can be taken in preparation for University Matriculation, and shall include English and Greek—the whole course of subjects to be approved in each case by the College Committee.

For candidates not proceeding to matriculation (and for others if given special permission by the College Committee), N.T. Greek may be taken as alternative to Classical Greek. All candidates shall also take Bible and Shorter Catechism.

In approving a course, the College Committee shall specify in what respects passes at University Public Examinations shall exempt candidates from its own examinations.

If a Candidate qualifies to matriculate he is recommended to proceed to the University and so qualify for admission to the Theological Hall (under Rules of admission, 2 a, b, or c). For candidates not proceeding by University work, the third year of the Home Mission Course shall be such as to prepare for entrance to the Theological Hall, and the Entrance Examination of the Theological Hall shall be the final Examination of the course. Elementary Hebrew may be included among the subjects of the third year, but shall not be compulsory for examination.

3. An alternative Course for Home Mission Students shall be as follows:

"A course of University work, without matriculation, extending over at least two years; English, Greek, and Philosophy to be studied for not less than one year, and one at least of these for two years; a total of six year-courses, approved by the College Committee, to be taken, and passes (private student) to be obtained in five of them."

As in other more or less analogous cases, Entrance Examination shall be completed in respect of subjects not passed at the University.

The Certificate from the State Home Mission Committee as to satisfactory discharge of Home Mission duties shall be required from candidates.

4. Fifty per cent. shall be required for pass in each subject of the College Committee's annual Examination.

III.—REPORT RE SYSTEM OF EXIT EXAMINATIONS REFERRED TO THE COLLEGE COMMITTEE. (See G.A.A., B.B. 1922, p. 46.)

1. That the examiners in each subject shall be the teachers in that subject, together with one external examiner.

2. That the external examiner in a subject shall set one-half of the examination for all candidates; and that each teacher shall set the other half of the examination for his own students; the mode of sub-division of the examination (into two halves) being prescribed by the College Committee.

3. That each teacher shall examine all the answers of his own students; and that the external examiner shall examine all the answers of all candidates in accordance with instructions to Examiners to be issued by the College Committee.

4. There shall be a standing Sub-Committee of the College Committee, not including any of the examiners, to receive the reports of all the examiners and prepare the report on the examination as a whole.

5. That each external examiner, who shall be paid a fee of £3/3/ for examining, shall be required to send his questions to the Secretary of the College Committee by a certain (early) date. When approved, as fulfilling the general conditions laid down by the Committee, copies of these questions shall be sent to the internal examiners in the subject for their information; and for suggestions; and the questions then set by the latter shall be in the hands of the Secretary by dates to be fixed by the Executive as appropriate to the several States.

IV.—ADMINISTRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER BY HOME MISSIONARIES.

1.—Enactment of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australasia, September 11, 1922.

The Assembly, in view of the fact that in many parts of the Commonwealth it is not meantime possible to obtain the services of an ordained Minister of the Word, hereby authorise as a temporary administrative arrangement to meet such need, and until such need be supplied, that Home Missionaries who have passed the first examination of the Home Mission course, and other experienced Home Missionaries who are specially authorised by their State Assembly, Students in Theology, and Licentiates acting as Home Missionaries, be empowered to administer the Sacrament of Baptism, and the Sacrament of the Lord Supper according to the rules of the Church, under the following conditions.

- (1) That each year, before giving a Missionary special authority to administer the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, the Presbytery of the Bounds shall satisfy itself that no ordained Minister of the Word can be made available to visit the Mission Station in the course of the year for that purpose; and shall fix the date or dates of such special administration.
- (2) That for each special administration of the Ordinance, the Interim-Moderator shall be responsible, and shall report each such administration to the Presbytery, and shall authorise and direct the Missionary to associate with him, on each occasion, certain members of the Church, to act on behalf of the Kirk Session in the administration of the Sacrament.
- (3) That in no case shall discipline be exercised by those thus authorised to act, but any cases of discipline shall be reported to the Interim-Moderator to be dealt with according to the Law of the Church.
- (4) That a list of members, and of those desiring to communicate for the first time, shall be submitted before each occasion to the Interim-Moderator and Kirk Session, who shall be responsible for the admission of members on profession of faith, and that no Home Missionary shall administer the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper on any occasion except those fixed under conditions as above.
- (5) That no Home Missionary be thus specially authorised, unless he has passed the First Year's Examination of the Home Mission Course, or has been specially recommended to the Presbytery for this duty by the Home Mission Committee under which he is employed.

Provided they have passed an elementary examination, arranged by the College Committee, on the Doctrines of Baptism and the Lord's Supper, and use the form in the Book of Order of the Church.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE SACRAMENTS BY HOME MISSIONARIES.

Regulations for Examination on the Doctrines of Baptism and the Lord's Supper, and the Order of their Administration, by the College Committee.

The subjects of Examination shall be—

- (1) The Confession of Faith, Chapters XXV. and XXVII.—XXIX.
- (2) The Shorter Catechism, Questions 88, and 91–97.
- (3) The Book of Common Order, pp. 1–27.

Note.—The reading of Dr. Norman Macleod's "Church, Ministry and Sacraments" (Guild Text Book Series), pp. 48–120, while not prescribed, will be a great help to students in preparation for the examination. A suitable edition of the Confession of Faith is that in T. and T. Clark's Handbooks for Bible Classes, by the Rev. J. Macpherson, M.A.

Arrangements for proper supervision of each examination must be made by the Clerk of the Presbytery, by whom authority is to be given in correspondence with the Rev. W. Borland, M.A., B.D., Convener of the College Committee, Scots Church, Melbourne, who has been appointed examiner.

By order of the College Committee,

W. BORLAND, Convener.

COLLEGE COMMITTEE.

SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT.

The Committee has to report that the following emergent matters have been before the full Committee, with the following result:—

The Committee recommends that the following petitions be not granted:—

Mr. J. W. Stewart Lang, Mr. S. A. Massie, Mr. F. M. Pierce.

All of these asked to be allowed to enter as students in the Theological Hall Course in 1925, not having fulfilled the whole of the conditions in regard to entrance. The attention of these petitioners is drawn to Rule C (2) of the Entrance Examinations, requiring them to obtain the approval of their State Assembly to their petition.

In the case of Mr. R. K. McKenzie and Mr. R. J. May, both of whom petitioned through the College Committee to be exempt from Greek in their course of training, the Committee recommends that the prayer of Mr. McKenzie's petition be granted, and that the prayer of Mr. May's petition be not granted.

A petition from Mr. S. Robertson, a Home Missionary of N.S.W., was received, asking to be allowed to take his Theological Hall Course extra-mural. The Committee points out that, the extra-mural course having been abolished by the General Assembly, there is no power to grant the request.

The following petitions asking that certain Home Missionaries be received into the full status of the Ministry, remitted to the College Committee by the Reception of Ministers' Committee, were carefully considered, and the Committee recommends that in each case the prayer of the petition be not granted, viz.:—

Mr. A. B. Erskine, Mr. T. Goy, Mr. G. McLean, Mr. G. McGregor, Mr. F. W. Patterson, and the Trangie congregation on behalf of Mr. C. J. Mackay.

The Committee recommends Mr. Erskine and Mr. Goy to apply to the College Committee to be granted in the Home Mission Course, that the Home Mission Committee of N.S.W. consider the removing of Mr. McLean to a sphere of work more convenient for his study for the Ministry; and Mr. Mackay that he complete the full course of training, both for his own benefit and in the interests of the Church.

VIII.—REPORT ON DEACONESS INSTITUTE.

The Deaconess and Missionary Training Institute, situated at 97 Rathdown St., Carlton, Melbourne, was recognised by the last G.A. of A, as the training Institute for all the States. A local committee in Melbourne, with whom representatives from the other State Churches co-operate, care for its interests. With room for about 10 trainees, it has not been quite full for the last two years, and we have taken in three from the Baptist Church. The course extends over two years, but in the last two years, four ladies have completed their training, and are working in either the Home or Foreign field. Sixteen Ministers and three ladies have given their time to lecturing to the students on Biblical and other subjects, and practical training has been given in Christian work, in hospitals, State Schools, and in the Home Mission work in the slum areas. The Committee would gladly receive applications for training from the other States.

Alphington, Victoria.

G. M. CONNOR, Convener.

FINANCE COMMITTEE.

The Committee herewith submits the audited balance-sheets and report.

In doing this your Committee would again express the hope that Conveners and Committees will endeavour to shorten reports. In this connection your Committee has to report an improvement, inasmuch as the assessment authorised by the last Assembly has covered all the outgoings, leaving in hand in the General Assembly Account an amount of £471/9/.

The amount realised from the Hymnary Royalty Account for the two years, 1922-24, with interest on the average credit balance, was £116/11/. This was transferred in the usual way to the credit of the Travelling Expenses Account, but even after making this transfer there remained a shortage in the Travelling Expenses Account of £395/17/4, and there is nothing at present to credit in that Account, so that the Assembly will again require to make provision for the travelling expenses of the members from the Ordinary Expenses Account and irrespective of Hymnary Royalty, as the latter cannot be relied upon for this purpose.

In the General Assembly Expenses Account the amount at credit is £471/9/, with a sum of £25 outstanding in connection with the Tasmanian Church and £34/15/6 due by the Church in Western Australia, making £59/15/6, which added to the credit balance, makes a total of £531/4/6, and this would be available in the event of these two amounts of arrears being paid. The expenditure in this Account since last Assembly has been £1,274/4/4, including £33/7/3 on account of the Year Book, and the sum of £395/17/4, which had to be paid on account of travelling expenses, and also £42/16/7 on account of travelling expenses to the Union Conference and £165/15/6 on account of Union printing; the assessment authorised by the Assembly having a little more than covered the expenses in connection with the latter. The assessment paid by the various States, and including the amount assessed for the honorarium to the College Secretary has been £1,132/8/6, which, with an amount of £63/15/ of arrears existing at last Assembly, makes a total of £1,196/3/6, which has been paid on account of various assessments authorised by the Assembly. The total revenue with other items as set forth in the Account has been £1,636/19/11. This revenue includes the assessment authorised by the Assembly and paid by the various States up to the end of September, 1924. The new assessment will be as from the 1st of October, 1924.

To make provision for expenditure on the same scale for the present Assembly your Committee recommends that the various States be assessed on the same basis per annum for the next two years, namely:—

Victoria	£205/6/9
New South Wales	£205/6/9
Queensland	£60/12/-
South Australia	£34/15/6
Tasmania	£34/15/6
Western Australia	£34/15/6

Making a total assessment of £575/12/, or a revenue of £1,151/4/, which your Committee estimates should be sufficient to cover what is required and leave a working balance in hand right through.

With regard to the travelling expenses of members coming to the General Assembly of Australia, your Committee, as is always the case, cannot make any definite forecast as to what the amount may be, but makes recommendation that the payment be made on the same basis as formerly, namely:—

- (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 exception being the delegates from Western Australia, who will be allowed their proportion at first-class rate.

The accounts for the Home Mission Department, included in which is the working of the Australian Inland Mission, are set forth as usual in full, the costs in the various sections being given under their respective headings with a view to supplying at a glance what is expended on each place. The total revenue evolved from all sources for the two years has been:—

To 30th June, 1923	£7,339	0	8
To 30th June, 1924	£10,723	0	6

and the expenditure for the same purpose, that is,

To 30th June, 1923	£6,806	15	5
To 30th June, 1924	£8,859	7	10

Total for the two years £15,666/3/3, leaving a debit balance in the Working Account of £229/17/1 to the end of June last, with a sum of £523/2/6 held at credit in the Reserve Account, thus turning the small debit into a credit of £298/5/5. A pleasing feature in this section is the very substantial amounts held at credit for various purposes in connection with prospective building schemes, these being:—

Aeroplane Account	£175	6	1
Property Account	3,943	16	3
Alice Springs Account	101	2	1
Birdsville Account	771	4	2
Victoria River Account	473	3	5
	<hr/>		
	£5,464	12	0

It will be observed, however, that even with the substantial increase in the A.I.M. funds for building purposes it comes far short of the £25,000 which the Assembly set out to realise, and which it is hoped will ultimately be obtained.

The amount of £1,000 is held to the credit of the John Frazer Foreign Missions Endowment Fund, and is invested at 6½ per cent., and the interest is paid to the credit of the Board of Missions each half year.

In connection with the Year Book, your Committee cannot say that the result obtained is any improvement on previous years, and certainly so far as the sales in New South Wales are concerned these have been very limited. The position is as follows:—

Amount paid out for printing	£12	7	3
Honorarium paid to the Editor	42	0	0
	<hr/>		
Total	£54	7	3
Account outstanding, due to Printer	36	17	3
	<hr/>		
Total expenditure	£91	4	6
Revenue received	46	19	9
	<hr/>		
Loss on Year Book	£44	4	9

Your Committee does not expect much, if any, further revenue from sales for the 1924 book; and your Committee has at two former Assemblies recommended that the publication of this book be discontinued, but this recommendation has not hitherto been acted upon.

A matter which was remitted to your Committee by last Assembly regarding a subscription to the General Presbyterian Alliance was dealt with, and having in view the fact that the funds had worked into credit, the sum of £20 was remitted to that organisation.

On behalf of the Committee,

WALTER G. CRANE,

Chairman.

X.—REPORT OF THE ALLIANCE OF REFORMED CHURCHES HOLDING THE PRESBYTERIAN SYSTEM.

(Eastern Section).

1923-24.

The Eastern Section of the Executive Commission of the General Presbyterian Alliance begs respectfully to submit another annual Report to your Venerable Court.

Two meetings of the Section are now held in Edinburgh in the course of the year instead of three as formerly, with a meeting of the Executive between, but a new departure has been made in the formation of local Sub-Sections for England, Ireland and Wales, which it is hoped will tend to a diffusion of interest and more frequent opportunities of consultation. It is hoped that the General Secretary will be able to meet with these local committees once a year. The more difficult question of forming a Sub-Section or a system of Church groups for the Continent of Europe is under consideration. Meanwhile, by the circulation of the minutes of our general meetings, all the members of the Section are kept aware of what is being done or proposed.

Our losses, since the appearance of the last Report, have been exceptionally heavy. Dr. Alexander Smellie, of Carlisle, though belonging to one of the smallest Presbyterian denominations, was a *persona grata* with us all, and we deeply mourn his passing. Sir Robert R. Simpson, of Edinburgh, was, for many years, Chairman of our Executive, and the Alliance had no warmer or more interested friend. Professor Lucien Gautier, of Geneva, was another distinguished veteran in our cause. And we note with very keen regret the death of Dr. James Good, of Philadelphia, the American Vice-President of the Alliance, a man whose generous labours on behalf of the Continental Churches will long be remembered with gratitude.

The great event of 1923 was the Conference at Zurich in July, which proved a remarkable success. It was much the largest and most representative ever held on the Continent by the Alliance, being attended by delegates from 38 branches of the Reformed Church in 23 countries. Of the 130 representatives and visitors, 68 were from the Continent of Europe, so that a distinct majority of those present spoke another tongue than English. This gave evidence of the growing international character of our movement, and augurs well for future advance along similar lines. Much attention was

devoted to the critical situation of Protestantism on the Continent, and the need both for measures of relief and for a settled policy of peace. Copies of the principal resolutions passed have been forwarded to the Churches included in the Alliance. Too much cannot be said in praise of the generous hospitality shown by the Zurich friends, and the fellowship of these beautiful summer days will not soon be forgotten.

In our last report we requested the various Churches "to consider the possibility of giving regular and substantial help to the Reformed communions struggling for existence, from funds either at their disposal or to be raised through appeal to the people." We are glad to say that this suggestion has been acted upon in a good many instances, and that the machinery of the Central Relief Bureau at Zurich is increasingly used for ensuring proper distribution. The Special Fund raised by the Alliance for Continental Relief amounted to over £300, but we intended it only as a preliminary to that action by the Churches, which is now being undertaken. At the same time we are always ready to forward contributions to the most needful quarters. The distress in some lands is more acute than ever, and threatens the paralysis of Church effort, as well as the closing of philanthropic institutions.

Our attention continues to be directed to the pressing problem of Religious Minorities in connection with the Reformed Church in countries where they are receiving unfair treatment from governing authorities. By request, the General Secretary gave an address on the subject before the British Council of the World Alliance for promoting International Friendship through the Churches, at its meeting in London last November, and this was printed in the Quarterly Register for February, 1924. We are assured of the co-operation of the World Alliance in any measures that may be necessary to secure redress. And we are also in touch with the League of Nations, which is making a special investigation into the conditions of things in Roumania.

The visitation of the Church Courts and Theological Colleges has again been a regular feature of the year. Besides attending the Assemblies and Synods in Great Britain and Ireland, the General Secretary was present at the Waldensian Synod, and deputies from the Alliance conveyed greetings to Synods in France, Belgium and Holland. The New College, Edinburgh, and the Welsh Colleges at Bala and Aberystwyth, were visited in order to arouse interest among our students in world-wide Presbyterianism.

The deputation to South Africa authorised by the Pittsburgh Council is likely to proceed thither in the late summer, and assurances of a warm welcome have already been received from the Dutch Reformed Church and the Presbyterian Church of South Africa. Co-operation of the Colonial with the home Churches in the preparation of a common hymn book is tending to promote unity in a very important department of worship, and in this the General Secretary is taking an active part.

Initial arrangements are now being made for the holding of the **Twelfth General Council of the Alliance at Cardiff**, and the date provisionally fixed for its assembly is 30th June, 1925, the Council to remain in session for ten days. Already the local committee is at work, and in co-operation with the Western Section, we are framing a programme, which promises to be of great interest and importance. 1925 will be the jubilee year of the Alliance, it having been organised at London in July, 1875, and the programme will include a celebration of that event. We respectfully request your Venerable Court to take the first steps towards appointing delegates to Cardiff, and the more distant Churches should make their choice well in advance. As the Universal Conference on Life and Work is to be held at Stockholm in August of the same year, it would be well for Colonial and Missionary Churches to choose representatives who might attend both.

We would bring to your notice the fact that copies of the Volume of Proceedings of the 1921 (Pittsburgh) Council can now be had at the reduced price of 5/6 post free on application to the Edinburgh Office. For an annual subscription of 2/- the **Quarterly Register**, our official organ, will be sent

to anyone in the world desirous of receiving it, and there is no better way of keeping in touch with the catholicity of our Presbyterianism.

The **Annual Week of Prayer** will begin this year on November 30th (St. Andrew's Day), when we hope to co-operate with the International Missionary Council in arranging for a united period of general intercession, bearing especially in mind the needs of our Churches throughout the globe.

There never was a time when the call was louder for the promotion and attainment of a real spiritual unity among all the followers of our Lord. We seek this none the less earnestly when we lay emphasis on drawing ever more closely the bonds which unite the Churches of our faith and order. So do we hope to bring to completeness our contribution to the making of the larger Church of the future.

For J. N. OGILVIE,

Chairman of the Eastern Section,

J. R. FLEMING.

General Secretary.

XI.—REPORT OF THE HOBART COMMISSION OF ASSEMBLY APPOINTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF AUSTRALIA.

The Commission appointed by the General Assembly of Australia and consisting of the Right Reverend the Moderator, the Reverend D. A. Cameron and Mr. W. Wood, had arranged to meet in Hobart on February 17th, 1923.

As the Reverend D. A. Cameron could not attend, the Commission, with the consent of the Hobart Presbytery, accepted as his substitute the Reverend J. A. Barnaby, M.A., B.D.

The Commission had two meetings with the men of the Congregations in Hobart. In this way, they gained a full information regarding the work of the Church in Hobart.

Subsequently a meeting was held with the Sessions and Boards of Management of each congregation, and resolutions passed by each set of Office-Bearers, indicating that no one congregation was satisfied with the present position of Presbyterianism in Hobart, and all were desirous of taking some forward step.

The Commission surveyed the field generally, which should be served by the Churches, and, having regard to their history and present circumstances, make the following report.

In their opinion one Church on a suitable site would be sufficient for the needs of the people in the central part of the city of Hobart.

I.

- (1) That immediate steps should be taken to put the work already initiated at New Town on a satisfactory basis.
- (2) To found a new cause at Sandy Bay.
- (3) And that the needs of the population along the West Hobart tram line be kept in view and developed by the congregation of Chalmers Church.

II.

- (1) That the ultimate aim should be the disposal of the whole of the existing properties in the city of Hobart, the proceeds of the sale to be administered by a special trust.
- (2) That as a first step towards this end the property of St. Andrews, with the exception of the original Sunday School building, should be sold, and the Congregation re-established under the old name on a new site at New Town, the portion of land upon which the

old school is situated to be retained for a Sabbath School and Mission Hall, the proceeds of the sale to be vested in the trust as set forth in Clause II. (1).

- (3) That in the meanwhile, and pending the further development of the scheme, New Town be constituted a portion of St. Andrew's parish, and the work of the district committed entirely to this congregation.
- (4) That St. Andrews take immediate steps to make the work at New Town as effective as possible as to the site, buildings, pulpit supply, and Sunday School.

III.

- (1) That, as early as possible, the congregation of St. John's take steps to secure a suitable site at Sandy Bay, to initiate Sabbath School work there, and also to prosecute all necessary means for the formation of a fully organised charge there. Sandy Bay district to be forthwith constituted a portion of the parish of St. John.
- (2) That, in order to successfully accomplish the foregoing, St. John's property be sold as early as practicable, the proceeds to form part of the Trust Funds as in Clause II. (1).
- (3) That the development of the work in Sandy Bay district is herewith entrusted to the Congregation of St. John's.

IV.

- (1) That, as early as possible, the Congregation of Chalmers Church take steps to secure a suitable site in the district of West Hobart with a view to the building of a Church and the formation of a congregation in the district to be known as Chalmers Church; that this district be constituted forthwith a portion of the parish of Chalmers Church.
- (2) That, in order to successfully accomplish the foregoing, Chalmers property be sold as early as practicable, the proceeds to form part of the Trust funds as in Clause II. (1).
- (3) That the development of the work in the West Hobart district is herewith entrusted to the congregation of Chalmers Church.

V.

- (1) That a site for a central church be obtained in a position suitable for the dwellers in the city proper, the sphere of influence or boundary for the new congregation to be subsequently determined by the Presbytery and the Commission.
- (2) That in the securing of the site and the building of a Central Church, care shall be taken by the commission and the presbytery not to spend more than one fourth part of the Trust Funds made available under Clause II. (1). The amounts to be allocated pro rata for this purpose from funds obtained from the sale of each property, unless otherwise determined by the Presbytery and the Commission.

VI.

- (1) It shall be understood that, in carrying out the foregoing recommendations, due regard shall be had at all times by each congregation for the convenience of their fellow Presbyterians, in regard to facilities for worship.
- (2) Moreover, it shall be a recommendation that in securing the sites required, regard shall be had to the position of other Protestant Churches so as to avoid undue proximity.

VII. The following subsidiary recommendations are made by the Commission to be dealt with and carried out under the authority and supervision of the Presbytery of Hobart.

- (1) Divide Hobart into thirteen sections under the Council of the Churches and that a clearance of names and addresses be made once a month.
- (2) Hobart and suburbs to be worked in the meantime conjointly, finance excepted, the Moderator of Presbytery for the time being, under the Assemblies Commission, being regarded as Superintendent.

- (3) A half-yearly report to be sent to the Assemblies Commission.
- (4) Plan of services to be drawn up and each Minister to give at least one-third of his services in pulpits other than his own.
- (5) A Welfare of Youth section to be organised by the Presbytery to supervise and control existing schools, and with power to open subsidiary schools in all suburbs, and new centres. Private Houses being used to start with.
- (6) That the Presbytery be asked to submit proposals for delimiting the boundaries of the several parishes to the Commission for approval.
- (7) That the Commission respectfully suggest to the Presbytery that the finding recorded some time ago limiting the formation of new congregations or charges to the Home Mission Committee be rescinded so far as the Metropolitan area is concerned.

The Commission in closing their report would respectfully recommend the acceptance of their findings to the Presbytery and to the congregations, and would take the opportunity of placing on record their warm appreciation of the work performed in adverse circumstances by the ministers of our Church in Hobart. They also tender their thanks to the Office-Bearers who have so readily assisted them and to the friends for so kindly entertaining them, making their visit to Hobart so pleasant and enjoyable.

JOHN MATHEW, Chairman.
J. BARNABY and WILLIAM WOOD,
Members of Commission.

SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT.

The following communication giving the result of congregational voting was sent on to the Commissioners by the Presbytery Clerk:—

At Hobart, and within St. Andrew's Church, on April 24th, 1923, the Presbytery met and was constituted with prayer.

Report of Commission of G.A.A.

Inter Alia; Extract Minutes of the Kirk Sessions of St. Andrew's Church, Hobart, and Chalmers Church, Hobart, in reference to the recent referendum were laid on the table. They reported that St. Andrew's had returned 92 ballot papers in connection with the question to sell the Church property as recommended by the Commission of G.A.A., of these, 5 (five) were in favour of selling, and 97 against the proposal.

That Chalmers Church had returned 73 valid ballot papers representing about 50 per cent. of the number issued, of these returned, examination showed 41 voted yes, and 32 no, majority in favour of selling the Church Property as recommended in the report of the Commission of G.A.A., 9.

Mr. P. R. Henry, Session Clerk, of St. John's, verbally reported that 92 ballot papers had been returned and of these 26 were in favour of selling and 66 were against selling the Church properties. The report was received and Mr. Meredith moved that the question of the commissioners' report and also the reports from congregations in reference to the referendum be held over until next meeting of Presbytery, this was seconded by Mr. P. R. Henry and approved.

Closed with prayer.

Extracted from the minutes of the Presbytery of Hobart, this Sixteenth day of May, 1923, by me.

(Sgd.) A. G. MACKINTOSH-CARTER, Clerk.

At the subsequent meeting of Presbytery it was decided that nothing further could be done towards carrying out the recommendations of the Commission. Later on there was an abortive movement for the amalgamation of St. Andrew's and Chalmers Church, and allowing St. John's to remain as the principal city congregation.

The Commissioners express deep regret that their efforts have proved ineffectual.

JOHN MATHEW, Convener.

HOME RELIGION.

The special object of this Committee is the promotion of Family Worship, and it is gratifying to report that there has been a marked increase in the demand for the Family Altar Card, published under the auspices of the General Assembly of Australia. The circulation of this booklet has been widespread until it now reaches 15,000 copies, and in many congregations throughout the Commonwealth it has been distributed in every family. We believe it has also been found useful in isolated households, and along with the devotional matter printed in our Church periodicals, it has helped to compensate in some measure for the lack of public worship.

Articles have been written in the religious press advocating the value of home religion, and a circular was issued to all our ministers in each State asking them to encourage regular family prayer and Bible reading. Possibly in some cases the formation of a Family Altar League might prove beneficial, and tend to bind the families of our Church together by common vows and exercises of devotion. It is at least suggested that every effort be made by Ministers and Kirk sessions to introduce the time-honoured custom into as many families as possible under their charge. It is undeniable that the institution of Family Worship has been a great factor for good in the past, especially in our Presbyterian homes. It has served to shape and safeguard countless lives, including many of our greatest Christian leaders, and finest teachers and earnest workers. There is no memory more cherished, and no influence more potent than the memory and influence of a home where God is honoured and worshipped both in the family and in the Church. When devoutly and intelligently conducted it adds greatly to the dignity and beauty, the unity and happiness of home life. The failure of the Church, in many instances, especially among our young people, lies at the door of the irreligious home where there is neither interest nor sympathy nor prayer for the ministry and its work. The ordinary home is not as at the back of the Church, as it used to be in the days of the "Cottar's Saturday Night." A revival of family religion would prove of incalculable value to the cause of our National Christianity. It ought to be the distinctive mark of every Christian home, and where religion is deep and vital it becomes a great spiritual moulding force. Not regarded as a mere formality, or irksome routine, but characterised by reverence, earnestness and fruitful preparation, it can never fail to leave a deep and binding impression.

There is no task, we believe, more essential to the Church than to place such facilities in the hands of parents and heads of families, and thus give Bible reading and Prayer their proper position in the eyes of the members and adherents of our Church.

It is evident that this purpose can only be accomplished by the earnest and thorough co-operation of all Pastors and Office-bearers and Teachers, and fathers and mothers. As nothing works so effectively as a good example, the practice of parents in devoting part of each day to Bible reading and Prayer would leave a deep impression on child-life. What we have suggested is something that all have it in their power to do. Christian parents cannot desire to evade their responsibilities, nor delegate to others a task so vitally important, and so essentially connected with the home. It ought to be enforced on parents taking their solemn baptismal vows that this is part of their obligation in promising to train children in Christian knowledge and nurture.

By increasing the number of family altars in our midst, we would perform a patriotic service for the good of our children and our country, and help greatly to strengthen the Cause of Christ throughout this Commonwealth.

On behalf of the Committee,

GEO. R. S. REID,
Convener.

SCHOOL HYMNAL.

The only matter of importance that has developed since last Assembly is the visit of the Rev. W. Goyen, Director of the Welfare of Youth Department in Victoria, to London. He has been asked to interview the publisher of the Hymnal and report, after conference with him, as to (1) the proposed addition of kindergarten pieces, and (2) the changes in the arrangement of the

book, to make it more fully harmonise with the grading of our schools. This report has been held back, as long as possible, in the hope that a report from Mr. Goyen would be available, for the Assembly, but so far it has not come to hand.

It is gratifying to record that the book is still selling remarkably well in Victoria, and to a lesser extent elsewhere. If each of the States would loyally use the book, as it is worthy of being used, it would exercise a fine unifying influence, and would further be a considerable source of revenue. This would materially aid the fund from which the travelling expenses of members are paid. The royalty credited to us, for the year ended 31st March last, was £23 3s. 6d. The royalty on the Hymnary, for the same period, was £13 19s. 3d. Hitherto the church's funds have not benefited from the royalty, as it has been devoted to paying off the sum advanced by the publisher, in March, 1914, to cover fees paid to owners of copyright of words and music (£97 17s.), and proportion of cost of advertising (£29 12s. 10d.), in all £127 9s. 10d. The statement to 31st March last showed that only £2 18s. 2d. of this remained owing at that date, and that sum has, no doubt, long since been wiped out.

The Hymnal is now, therefore, on a good foundation. It has served, and is still serving, our schools in a valuable way. It is also most useful for adult services, in the country, many of which follow after the Sunday School. And it has become a useful source of revenue.

It is very desirable that all our schools in the Commonwealth should support their own book.

W. H. ASH, Convener.

REVISION OF THE CHURCH HYMNARY.

The Joint Committee for the Revision of the Church Hymnary, consisting of 12 representatives from the Church of Scotland, 12 from the U.F. Church of Scotland, and 3 from the Irish Presbyterian Church, began its labours in Edinburgh in October, 1922.

After a considerable amount of work had been accomplished, the Presbyterian Church of England and the Presbyterian Church of Wales asked permission to send representatives, and since October, 1923, the enlarged Committee has made great progress in creating a Hymn Book that is intended to meet the needs of the Presbyterian Churches within the British Empire, and it gives promise of worthily fulfilling that purpose.

It is hoped that a draft copy of the words or the hymns will be ready for presentation to the General Assemblies of 1925.

The Revised Edition of the Hymnary is to be as nearly as possible of the same size as the present book, and it is to be published by the Oxford University Press.

The Publishers are prepared to issue "the revised book with separate appendices for England and Wales or the Colonies, if required, and to allow royalties on sales of appendices in the same manner as regards the main book."

Whether as a Church we should compile an appendix is for the General Assembly to say, and we desire direction and authority accordingly.

The Committee has been kept fully informed of the work as it has proceeded, and any suggestion made has been kindly received.

At the beginning of the year 1924, the Rev. Dr. J. R. Fleming and the Rev. Ninian Hill were appointed by the Joint Committee to represent the views of the Colonial Churches, and we ask that the thanks of the Assembly be given to these gentlemen for their labours.

In the nature of things the correspondence, which has been heavy, has fallen largely upon the Convener, but he would like to express his appreciation of the work done by the Rev. W. H. Ash and the Victorian Committee, and by the Rev. Dr. Merrington and the Committee in Queensland.

Sydney, July 29/1924.

R. SCOTT WEST,
Convener.

XV.—HOME MISSION COMMITTEE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
OF AUSTRALIA.

COMMITTEE ON HOME MISSIONS.

The two years since we last reported have been in some respects more successful and progressive than the former. More work has been attempted and more has been accomplished.

As regards the Home Mission work in the various States, reports follow which will give an outline of what the various state committees are doing.

With regard to the Federal Capital, Canberra, services are being meantime given by the parish of Queanbeyan, but a great deal cannot yet be done. With respect to sites for church purposes in Canberra, an influential deputation, consisting of representatives from New South Wales and Victoria, visited the Capital during April, 1924, where several sites were examined and a selection made in order of preference to place before the Government authorities. The deputation was well received by the leading officials, Colonel Goodwin and Colonel Owen, who offered every facility that might assist the party. Our best thanks are due to Mr. Rolland for arranging the visit and for pointing out the sites. A definite request has been forwarded to the Department through the Moderator General, and hopes are entertained that a good site will be granted.

The whole church must take up this work in earnest and supply the means to build a church worthy of the Capital and of our denomination; and one of our best Ministers should be appointed as soon as possible to minister to our people settling in the Capital City.

The Board is unanimous that some rearrangement of responsibility should take place.

At a special meeting of the full Board last year, a sub-committee of which Rev. W. Grant Forsyth was convener, was appointed to go into the whole question and formulate proposals. Mr. Forsyth has reported that his sub-committee approves generally of the Overture anent Home Missions.

Here follow the reports from the Home Mission conveners of the various states:—

HOME MISSION REPORT FOR NEW SOUTH WALES.

During the last two years, ten new Home Mission Stations were formed, and four more are ready for occupation whenever men can be secured to supply them. Also, five Home Mission Stations have been raised into Sanctioned Charges.

There are about 80 Charges in all worked by the Home Mission Committee, of which 54 are Home Missions proper; the remainder are Vacant Charges, and others not for the time being in a position for settlement, but over 20 are ready to give a call, if ministers were available.

With the springing up of numerous Closer Settlements, the sub-division of large holdings, the advance of irrigation, the development of mining operations, and the influx of immigrants, opportunities for Church Extension are greater than ever; but the scarcity of men makes it most difficult to cope with the growing demand.

Owing to the lack of ministers, a number of Home Missionaries are supplying vacant charges, to keep the doors open until the day dawns, and the men come, but in the meantime their legitimate work as Home Missionaries is in abeyance, and in several parts of the field the ripe harvest can not be gathered.

Several "Portable Churches" are now used to help new Congregations in localities where suitable places for worship cannot be secured. If desirable, the Congregations concerned may purchase such buildings on generous terms; else they remain the property of the Home Mission Committee to be removed after a time, as required.

THOMAS MORGAN, Convener.

REPORT OF HOME MISSIONS COMMITTEE, QUEENSLAND.

An encouraging feature of recent years is the number of our own young men who have offered for the work; and they, as well as those who have joined our staff from overseas, are doing well. Only one new station has been opened, but work has been revived in some centres which had been temporarily without stated supply. These are signs of progress for which we thank God. The great distances from station to station enhance the difficulty of our work. Effective assistance in study and effective supervision of inexperienced workers are alike necessary and impossible, under present conditions. The Committee are rather concerned about the possible effects of the revised regulations applying to the Preliminary Course of study.

JAMES WALKER,
Convener.

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN HOME MISSION FIELD.

The Home Mission Committee of the Western Australian Church are facing a perplexing situation. The Immigration Policy of the State Government has resulted in much activity in the country districts. Last year, alone, we had over 1000 Presbyterians enter the State from Overseas, and many of them with their "lines." Now the State is a large one, and our Church is a small one and it is rare that we have a Church in the area to which these people are going. Indeed, from Perth itself our Congregations are farewelling families who are venturing into business in the country towns, but in so few country towns have we services that it means farewell to the Church. Many of our best young men are to be found making their way to the far wheat belt, but there is no Presbyterian Minister there to help them.

We must have a number of suitable missionaries before we can grapple with this serious situation. Our ideal would be itinerating ordained men traversing, by car, a circuit that would take them up to 5 or 6 weeks to complete.

At present we are handicapped by the fact that some of our best missionaries are holding the vacant country charges, and they are doing it well, but it is at the cost of purely Home Mission work. We have four vacant country charges at present.

The fine response on the part of the New South Wales Church to the appeal of our Commissioner at their Assembly in Sydney in May last, has heartened the whole of the Western Church. We can go on with greater confidence in our work, when the stronger Church takes an interest, for there is a feeling of permanency abroad. We also await with eagerness the result of the visit of the Rev. A. Crow to the Homelands. If he can secure the right type of men, then this Church will be able to overtake some of the lost ground in this State.

ALEX. CROW,
ERNEST C. DAY,
Conveners.

Australian Inland Mission.

The work under the Board has continued over the largest field of operations on the continent with a varying measure of success. The Mission is becoming more favourably known and is receiving better support, so that our financial position has improved beyond our expectations.

The stations served by ministers number only two, namely: Carnarvon, where Rev. E. D. Pearson at the end of 1923 succeeded Rev. John Waugh after nearly four years devoted and splendid service.

Rev. W. T. Alexander has been nearly two years at Cloncurry, where he succeeded Rev. J. B. Steel. Broome, Port Hedland, Oodnadatta and Pine Creek are still vacant. It is proposed to incorporate the lastnamed in the missionary patrol scheme.

Nursing Homes.

All the nursing homes have been fully staffed and held and splendid work done by the sisters in charge. These may be named: Marranboy, Hall's Creek, Port Hedland, Oodnadatta and Beltana.

Regarding Alice Springs, the stonework of the building has been erected for over two years, but owing to unforeseen difficulties, completion has been delayed. This state of things was much to be regretted. Fortunately, money is now in hand, and it is hoped the work will soon be satisfactorily finished.

New Work.

At Victoria River Downs Station, Northern Territory, a nursing home has been erected and furnished costing, approximately, £3500 without drawing on Headquarters Property Loan Fund. The expense was met by local subscription and Government subsidy; the subsidy being in the proportion of £2 for every £1 raised locally. The Government has also promised to subsidise maintenance at the rate of £1 for £1 raised locally, and already £320 have been received, and there will be a substantial yearly contribution from the district, so that this home promises to be almost self sustaining. It is to be hoped that this example will be imitated in other places.

Birdsville: A nursing home has been started at Birdsville in a temporary building—a remodelled hotel, which has proved a useful substitute in lieu of something better. Negotiations have been going on with the Queensland Government with a view to erecting a new and up-to-date building. The Government has offered £2000. Plans and estimates were prepared by the Works Department for a building to cost £6800. As this amount was considered too high, matters were deferred pending further enquiry.

Innamincka: There is a proposal to build a home at Innamincka in Central Australia. Sir Josiah Symon, K.C., of Adelaide, has offered £1500 towards its erection. Negotiations are being continued. Meantime nursing is being carried on by the Border Nurse, Sister Levick, of North Sydney, who travels from station to station as necessity demands. This is the most that can be done in the present circumstances.

Two other places have had their needs brought before your Board. 1st Fitzroy Crossing in West Australia. The Western Australian Inland Council have raised £535 for this proposed home. The money is banked in our name in Perth pending further developments and the raising of additional money. 2nd: Inquiries are proceeding re a home at Lake Grace or Newdegate in West Australia, but nothing definite has yet been reached.

There is every indication of a more widely spread interest in our work throughout all the states of the Commonwealth. By his lantern lectures, Mr. D. S. Jackson, M.P., has greatly stimulated and widened the interest in the Mission besides raising a considerable amount of money for our funds. Our heartiest thanks are due to Mr. Jackson for his efforts.

Very successful fetes were held in Melbourne and in Perth, and a supplementary one was held in connection with the latter effort in the grounds of Scotch College, Swanbourne, promoted by friends in the Fremantle Presbytery. Victoria has done magnificent work in raising funds, having eclipsed all previous efforts. Last year a total amount of £5984 was raised within that State, £3214 by special Fete in July, 1923, while the ordinary revenue was greater by nearly £500.

Another interesting feature was the action taken by the proprietors of the "Adelaide Register," who opened a public fund which has amounted to over £300. It is understood that this money is additional to what has been subscribed locally for the Innamincka home.

Then the Mission received one gift from South Australia of £1000, and two legacies, one of £500 is due and will be paid any time now from the estate of the late Mr. Cameron, of Maclean. The other was a legacy of £200 from the estate of the late Sir Robert Philp, of Brisbane.

Another satisfactory development in connection with our nursing homes is the spontaneous action of friends in South Australia through local members of Parliament whereby Oodnadatta is now subsidised to the extent of £150 per annum. A special grant of £100 has been made available for Beltana, and in the event of a home being started at Innamincka, a subsidy of £150 will be made. Then the Government of Western Australia has offered to subsidise the movement at Fitzroy Crossing and has undertaken to increase the scale of assistance at the two older homes in West Australia in the event of additional responsibility being undertaken.

Property Fund.

Your Board is grateful to Victoria and Perth for their efforts, and to friends whose gifts have materially increased our Property Fund by altogether £4500. It is due to these large contributions that we shall be able to go forward and finish Alice Springs. But this is far short of the £25,000, which was the amount aimed at by resolution of last Assembly. It is important that the whole church and friends beyond our church should realise that before the needs of two-thirds of the Continent can be met they must think and act in the multiples of thousands.

We are glad to be able to report that at the present time the Maintenance Fund, which two years ago showed a debit of £2625, now shows a small debit of £250.

Working Plans for the Future.

During the last two years the thought of the Board has been given to the work of consolidating the A.I.M. movement. A special meeting, at which every state was represented, was held in Melbourne in September, 1923, and was continued over three days, when the whole work of the Mission was reviewed, and more definite lines of working agreed upon for the future. It was decided to strengthen the A.I.M. patrol system, substituting motor cars for horses and camels originally used, and sending two men to travel together; the aim being to get into more constant contact with every family in the bush beyond the influence of our parishes. This scheme will only be started when funds are sufficient.

Another important agreement arrived at was to strengthen our General Reserve Fund. During the early days of the Mission it was impossible to set aside more than £500. Steps are being taken to apply two legacies about to be paid to General Reserve, and it was agreed that interest on total (which should be £3500) be compounded until, with possible additions from other sources, the amount of reserve equals the average current expenditure for the year.

A. THAIN ANDERSON,
Convener.

Superintendent's Report.

The last two years have been a time of consolidation rather than of actual extension. For the first decade of our existence, the chief concern was to spread out a skeleton force which would demonstrate the ideals of the Australian Inland Mission. Starting out with no resources whatever, apart from the general interest and sympathy of our own Presbyterian people, staff was increased as fast as growing opportunities and revenue permitted. The war had broken out before our third year began, so practically no attempt was made to provide permanent buildings of our own. Neither was any attempt made to build up adequate reserves and endowments. We could not do everything simultaneously.

Fortunately, before the inevitable pause became necessary, our movement had been made known in actual work throughout the loneliest parts of our vast Field, and interest was being generated more widely, in many indirect ways, quite apart from our own propaganda. Owing to depression in all industries in the North and Centre, resulting from the aftermath of the war, a heavy burden was thrown on Headquarters; so it came about that on June 30th, 1922, a deficit in the General Maintenance Fund had amounted to £2,625. At that date, the credit balance in our Property Loan Fund was only £1,062. The time to attempt consolidation had obviously arrived, and in the following September the General Assembly approved of efforts to raise our Property Loan Fund Capital to £25,000, also to increase the General Maintenance Fund, as well as the Endowment.

In September of last year, a special gathering of the full Board was held in Melbourne, and members attended from all States. Meetings extended over three days, and the whole position was reviewed in the light of eleven years' experience. Although finances were yet weak, there was evidence of improvement, and plans were laid down for further develop-

ment on lines which would guard against future embarrassment, while increasing general efficiency.

The most important decision was to initiate definite experiments under the Patrol Method, which had been mentioned in my last report to the General Assembly; but action was not to be taken until more financial strength had been gained. The idea of the patrol system is to reach bush people who are altogether beyond convenient reach of our Parish Centres. In the past, there has been mutual antagonism between Centres and Circumferences, and neither Centres nor outlying areas have been adequately cared for. It is proposed, when the time is ripe, to send out one or two experienced ministers as "free lances," each with a colleague able to make his own contribution to the venture.

These Patrols will travel by motor, on and on throughout nine months of the "Dry." They will be expected to compress twelve months' work into nine—and be permitted to spend the remaining three months in resting and in preparing for next season's labours. It is now generally recognised that inland travel is very exhausting; that camels or horses, even with the assistance of a black "boy," are a wasteful means of locomotion, because they compel a minister to spend too much time on the tracks. When the A.I.M. began, horses and camels were the only available means of locomotion; but, in recent years, motors have been adopted for passenger traffic almost in every section of our Field.

How far these experiments will succeed remains to be proved, but it is hoped that they will lead to a real efficiency in A.I.M. operations. By them, the Greetings of the Presbyterian Church of Australia should be conveyed to every tiny group of people now in isolation, and continuous service should be vastly extended, once initiated by the Patrols, in distribution of useful literature, and in Home Sabbath Schools fostered by correspondence. The great need of the continent seems to be some such agency, which would keep in "casual" touch with every household now beyond parish centres. If our own Branch of the Church can successfully do this, others will make the attempt, and the Bush will thus become infinitely less lonely for all. It is generally recognised that our own activities are inspirational rather than exclusive!

Parishes.

With the Patrols in view, as a probable permanent arm of our Service, it was decided to aim at conserving the energies of our "settled" ministers. As far as possible, once the Patrols are operating, each Parish minister will concentrate his attention within a radius of about one hundred miles. Thus, he should never need to be away from his Centre for more than one Sabbath at a time, and stronger organisation should be the result. Pine Creek and Oodnadatta will be then incorporated with the Patrols entirely. If congregational life is to be built up at all, there must be continuous oversight by the minister. That oversight is most necessary at this stage. Later, perhaps, the minister may be away much more; already our Parish ministers have been able, occasionally, to secure lay help in maintaining services continuously for several weeks during their absence.

Nursing Service.

Following on the decisions of the special meetings above mentioned, fuller regulations have been prepared, setting out in more adequate detail the duties of Nurses and Home Committees. Under these, the interests of Headquarters' Funds have been safeguarded more effectively than formerly, while the ideals of the A.I.M., in working for the establishment of Public Hospitals, ultimately, has been made more explicit. During the last two years, there has been a wonderful growth of interest among the general community; and our truly "National" policy in this branch is winning more and more outside support.

Property and Finance.

It is gratifying to find that, owing chiefly to special efforts in Victoria and Western Australia, also in the Field; and to the generosity of two non-Presbyterian friends in South Australia; our funds have now reached a state of stability surpassing anything previously enjoyed.

In the General Maintenance Fund, the deficit has been reduced from £2,625 to £229, and there is now a buoyancy which was not apparent two years ago. Our Reserve, which had stood long at the inadequate figure of £500, is now being automatically increased by compounding the interest thereon, and it is proposed to bring the amount to a useful figure by adding some future legacies. Two such, already declared, though not yet available, are expected to yield about £3,000; thus the Reserve should ere long be built up to the equivalent of one year's expenditure. The latter amount should be sufficient to guard against any future dislocation through temporary reverses. If the patrol system proves as efficient as we hope, it will be exceptionally flexible. If, in the future, a succession of bad years should lead to a deficit out of proportion to this reserve, current expenses could be reduced by reducing the number of Patrol Units. The remaining Patrol Units would still cover the same area of our Field, only with less frequency; so no sections would be left entirely neglected as the result of forced retrenchment.

In our Property Funds, also, there is marked buoyancy—as compared with former weakness. In the Property Loan Fund, there is a credit of £3,943; in several special funds for specific buildings there is an aggregate credit of £1,880; besides the promise of Sir Josiah Symon, K.C., to make available in progress payments for Innamincka Home a sum of £1,500.

This grand total (in hand or in sight) of £7,323, is cause for deep gratitude to the Giver of all, but it is still small backing for a continental enterprise. Our efforts must not slack till the £25,000 aimed at is all available; meantime, it is our prayer that the available balance in the Property Loan Fund—like that of the oil in the famous Widow's Cruse—may never fail, even though daily demands are made thereon.

Summarised, A.I.M. Property and Finance stand thus:—

PROPERTY:

Taken over from other Committees caring for the bush in pre-A.I.M. days	£2,900
Since added, as the result of A.I.M. effort—	
Manse and Church Property	2,650
Motors (written down)	600
Nursing Homes, including proportion held in trust, potentially for future District Hospital Committees,	7,050
	<hr/> £13,200

CASH:

Various credits in special Funds at Headquarters and Perth,	£6,526
Less debit in General Fund	229
	<hr/> 6,297

ENDOWMENT:

Gas Shares, estimated value	1,400
	<hr/> £20,897

EXPECTATIONS:

In near future, various amounts above mentioned	£4,500
In indefinite future, two "residuary" legacies, estimated,	10,000
	<hr/> £14,500

LAST YEAR'S REVENUE:

From all sources, for Maintenance and for Capital Funds (in- cluding estimated Field Revenue for which final figures are not available)	£14,000
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Future Development.

It is proposed to provide permanent buildings always, as far as possible, before placing either Nurses or Parish Ministers in new Centres; also to organise for an adequate local quota towards maintenance, in most cases, before starting to build; also to improve the buildings and equipment in older centres, as we are able, to bring their standard up to that of later centres. Experience seems to prove that better buildings are easier to maintain, for they lead to local pride, which has a financial value.

Personally I have never been depressed by the recent shortage of ministers, which may be regarded as a natural reaction after a world-war in which so many of our adventurous youths, and some of our own ministers, gave up their lives; or were diverted by the extraordinary experiences of campaigns. Nurses are offering more freely each year, and we have faith that their brothers will do the same in the near future. It must be remembered that in earlier days, an earnest man might well ask if his strength would not be better employed among greater numbers of people. But the corporate effect of the A.I.M. is now beginning to tell, and the service as a whole will become increasingly attractive as ministers of imagination come to realise the far-reaching effects which follow in the train of self-denying workers, who truly understand the bush and its people.

Now that our organisation is becoming more complete, it seems also to function more satisfactorily. As Field Stations multiply, there arises a real "Esprit de Corps" among our Staff and our supporters alike. This A.I.M. Feeling is contagious, more so as A.I.M. comes to mean more.

Because there are, at last, some margins on which we can work, and a buoyancy in current revenue which should ere long overtake immediate needs, I am hoping to be able to devote much more of my own attention to the Field. There are many things awaiting out there, but it was useless attempting more than has been done until Home Base organisation had been built up.

During my last bush trip, in Birdsville-Innaminka district, I was deeply impressed by the warm interest in our movement, displayed by the whole Community, and this interest was due almost entirely to hearsay, for up till that time the A.I.M. had done nothing in their midst. My own feeling is that the past twelve years have constituted merely a period of experiment and propaganda, and that the real work is only now beginning. To all who have so earnestly and patiently toiled to produce results to date, I desire to express heart-felt thanks, with the hope that they will redouble their efforts. For actual results seem to justify hopes infinitely larger than those which first moved this Assembly to dedicate the A.I.M. to Christ and the Continent.

JOHN FLYNN.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF AUSTRALIA.

HOME MISSION UNDERTAKINGS.

TABLE I.—STATIONS.

	Total (Latest Returns)	Separate.	Assistantships.	Opened during last Two Years.	Closed Down.	Reduced from full Status	Raised to Full Status.	Not Receiving Aid.	To be Opened Shortly.
Queensland	41	40	1	1	1	1	—	10	3
New South Wales ..	54	51	3	10	1	—	5	10	3
Victoria	101	98	3	5	—	—	7	29	6
Tasmania		No Returns							
South Australia		No Returns							
Smith of Dunesk	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Western Australia ..	9	9	—	1	—	—	—	1	—
Aust. Inland Mission:									
Missionaries	5	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nurses	8	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

TABLE II.—STAFF.

	In Regular Service.	Fully Qualified.	Preliminary Course.	At University.	Under H.M. Course.	Completed H.M. Course	Attending Theological Hall.	Not Studying.	Number Others Seeking to be Received.	Additional Required.
Queensland . . .	40	2	4	1	15	2	7	11	—	10
N. South Wales	56	—	2	3	26	—	14	16	2	12
Victoria	—	—	2	6	—	—	20	16	3	20
Tasmania	—	No Returns		—	—	—	—	—	—	—
South Australia	—	No Returns		—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Smith of Dunesk	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
W. Australia . . .	10	—	—	—	2	—	1	—	—	2
Aust. Inland Mis.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Missionaries . . .	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nurses	15	14	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2

TABLE III.—REMUNERATION.

	Maximum Salary.	Minimum.	Average.	Travelling Plant Provided.	Maintenance of Same.	Residences Provided.	Furlough Provided.
Queensland	£ 240	£ 156	£ —	—	—	10	41
New South Wales	—	208	208	54	—	13	54
Victoria	175	130	150	50	—	36	—
Tasmania	—	No Returns		—	—	—	—
South Australia	—	No Returns		—	—	—	—
Western Australia	200	200	200	—	—	3	—
Smith of Dunesk	250	250	250	1	1	1	1
Aust. Inland Mission—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ordained	350	—	—	2	2	4	2
Not Ordained	300	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nurses	100	—	—	—	—	3	3

TABLE IV.—REVENUE.
(Figures from last Financial Year.)

Actual Home Base Revenue.									
	Interest on Endowments.	From Overseas.	Bequests.	Collections.	Festivals.	Societies.	Personal Donations.	Total Home Base.	Field Revenue.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Queensland.....	477	300	—	—	69	142	28	1325	3811
New South Wales ..	3065	—	241	—	—	599	216	3851	14789
Victoria	2337	—	100	—	111	1909	223	8338	—
Tasmania	—	—	No Returns	—	—	—	—	—	—
South Australia	—	—	No Returns	—	—	—	—	—	—
Smith of Dunesk	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Western Australia ..	—	395	—	—	10	92	31	842	—
Aust. Inland Mission	112	194	200	—	—	—	—	7952	4400

XVII.—JUNIOR MEMBERSHIP.

At the last meeting of the G.A.A. an overture regarding Junior Membership addressed to the Victorian Assembly was forwarded by that Court to yours "with a recommendation for favorable consideration." The following motion there anent was carried:—

"That the Assembly sustain the overture; sanction the institution of a Junior Membership; refer the drafting of rule or rules to a Committee, with jurisdiction to send them to State Assemblies and Presbyteries to report to the next General Assembly." (Min. 141, G.A.A., B.B., 1922.)

The Rules, as finally drafted by the Committee, are as follows:—

1. Junior Members shall be defined as persons under 16 years of age, who:

- (1) After full and careful instruction, publicly profess their faith in Jesus Christ as their Saviour and their purpose to serve Him in love and loyalty;
- (2) Engage to attend some class after admission for the fuller knowledge of the Word of God and the better service of the Kingdom;
- (3) Promise to unite regularly in the worship of the Congregation, to observe faithfully the Lord's Supper, and to contribute to the support of the Church and its various activities at home and abroad according to their ability, being always ready to take their part, as opportunity offers, in the furtherance of Christ's Kingdom;
- (4) Are thereafter admitted by the Session in the presence of the Congregation, and enrolled as Junior Members.

2. Junior Members shall not vote in the affairs of the Church, neither shall they be reckoned as members for the purpose of any assessment that may be made on Congregations by the Higher Courts of the Church.

3. On Junior Members attaining the age of 16 Sessions shall, unless for good reason to the contrary, place their names on the ordinary Communion Roll, and they should be presented publicly to the Congregation and welcomed to participation in all the rights, privileges, and responsibilities of full Membership.

The following Questions are suggested as a basis for preparatory instruction and for use in public Profession of Faith:--

- (1) Do you profess your faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as your Saviour and your desire to serve Him as your Lord?
- (2) Is it your desire and purpose to cultivate the habits of prayer and Bible Study, attending, if possible, some class for the fuller knowledge of the Word of God and the better service of His Kingdom?
- (3) Do you promise to unite regularly in the worship of this Congregation, to observe faithfully the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, to contribute as you are able to the support and extension of the Church, and to assist, as opportunity offers, in the work of Christ's Kingdom?

HUGH. M. BURNS, Convener.

IMMIGRATION.

There are three outstanding features in Migration which your Committee have pleasure in reporting. These are:—

1. The increasing interest and liberality of the British Government towards immigration within the Empire. The Imperial Government has pledged itself to spend £1,000,000 a year in passage money and £2,000,000 upon settlement in the Dominions, provided that the Dominion Governments contribute an equal sum. The conviction which underlies this policy is that migration is the only true solution to Imperial safety and unity. By a better distribution of the population of the Empire, the overseas Dominions will be developed and the whole national life and influence strengthened.

2. The proposal of the Home and Commonwealth Governments that the Churches and other organised bodies should assist in securing migrants by a system of nomination suited to their capacities. It is recognised by all competent authorities that nomination is the best form of immigration to the Dominions. The responsibility under which the Churches come is not financial but moral in cases of tardy or delinquent debtors for advances made to those migrants nominated by them and relates only to employments, accommodation and assistance, when needed, to enable them to make satisfactory settlement in the State where they land. By this means it is expected that a larger number of suitable migrants will be obtained, greater safety and security to themselves and to the Government guaranteed, and the Churches strengthened. Your Committee recommends the General Assembly to sanction the scheme and encourage the State Committees to adopt and carry it out so far as practicable. The British Council of the Y.M.C.A. Migration Department has been accepted by the British Government as an agency to make the preliminary selection of Migrants for the Churches according to their denominations. Your Committee recommends the Assembly to advise the State Churches to use the agency of the Y.M.C.A. in the Homeland for this purpose, provided that the Colonial Committees of the Presbyterian Churches in England, Scotland and Ireland agree to form a co-ordinate body to act with the Y.M.C.A. in the work of publicity and the selection of Presbyterian migrants. Your Committee has invited Col L. I. Hurley, the Deputy Director of Migration and Settlement, to address the Assembly on the subject of Church Nomination. Your Committee is of opinion that the present scheme of immigration would be rendered more effective were a representative of the Presbyterian Church of Australia to visit the Old Country and organise the scheme there in so far as it affects Presbyterian immigrants, and recommends that the Commonwealth Government be asked to defray the cost of a passage from Australia to Britain and return.

3. The visit of the British Delegation to Australia in 1923 to enquire into the methods used for receiving and settling migrants in the Commonwealth. The delegation consisted of Sir William Wyndham, Miss Gladys

Potts, Mr. J. Wignall, M.P., of the Labor party, Mr. F. B. Smith, Major General Wauchope and Mr. R. G. Somerville. Several months were spent and the fullest enquiry made on migration arrangements in all parts of the Commonwealth. The results as published are very satisfactory as to methods and results in dealing with and settling migrants in Australia. Valuable suggestions for improvement have been recorded, which will no doubt receive attention. In the opinion of the delegation, 95 per cent. of the migrants brought to Australia make good. This is a very gratifying statement, as also the attitude of British Labor towards Imperial Migration as expressed by Mr. J. R. Clynes, a member of the British Cabinet and Leader of the House of Commons, at the Migration Conference at Wembley. "I believe," he said, "that under proper conditions, equitable and fair terms, the transference of the surplus population of this country to Canada, Australia and other lands could be made a thing of advantage to the working classes who remain behind here, just as it could be made a thing of enormous personal future welfare to those who go to settle overseas so that it should enlist the goodwill and sympathy of Labor in Canada and Australia and the other Dominions, as well as Labor on this side, in order that, by confidence and by allaying suspicion, every obstacle should be removed from the path of those who are advancing the cause of Empire settlement."

Your Committee is pleased to report that, since last Assembly, the N.S.W. Church has appointed an Organising Secretary. The value and efficiency of Mr. R. W. Wannan's work will be seen in the very satisfactory statement of work given in this report.

Funds have not yet been provided for extension work by your Committee. Until they are provided, the suggestion made by the N.S.W. Committee for the appointment of agents to board steamers at Albany and Fremantle and for holding conferences of State Committees cannot be seriously considered, as carrying them out would entail a good deal of expense.

Your Committee asks for power to approach the Home Mission Committees of the State Churches to solicit grants in aid of extension work in migration or for instructions as to how funds can be obtained for this purpose.

The Victorian Church answered the request of the Western Australian and South Australian Churches for the services of its agent, the Rev. William Thomson, in organising their immigration work by defraying his travelling expenses. Mr. Thomson, in June, 1923, spent three weeks in Perth, Fremantle and Adelaide. The Churches of Western Australia and South Australia acknowledged very gratefully the kindness of the Victorian Church and the benefit they received in their work from the advice and experience of Mr. Thomson.

The New Settlers' League, in the States where it is in operation, New South Wales, Victoria and Western Australia, is found to be a very valuable agency in fostering the Australian policy of migration and for keeping the Government informed on the conditions under which immigration can be stimulated and improved and land settlement more speedily and successfully secured. Its metropolitan branches in Sydney, Melbourne and Western Australia welcome and entertain migrants on the day of landing and the branches in the country assist the settlers with advice and hospitality.

The following reports have been received from the State Churches:—

NEW SOUTH WALES.
VICTORIA.
WESTERN AUSTRALIA.
SOUTH AUSTRALIA.
QUEENSLAND.
TASMANIA.

D. MACMILLAN, Convener.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

The New South Wales Assembly, realising that the matter of immigration is being more earnestly considered by the various Governments, and understanding the national importance of the subject, has been giving the most serious attention to immigration. The Assembly's Committee has kept in touch with, and is represented on, the New Settlers' League and the Domestic Immigration Scheme.

A suitable organiser, whose whole time is given to the work, is now employed; and the work of meeting the immigrants is being attended to in a most efficient manner. Members of the Committee meet every ship that brings immigrants. These are welcomed in the name of the Church, their names and addresses are taken and forwarded to the Minister of the parish wherein they intend to settle. A Welcome Club for those who settle in and around Sydney has been established, and already there is evidence of the success of this effort.

Last year some 5000 immigrants arrived in N.S.W., of whom over 1300 were Presbyterians. These numbers do not include the boys connected with the "Dreadnought Scheme." This most excellent scheme deserves commendation, for in connection with it a fine type of young manhood is being brought to our shores.

The Government of N.S.W. has taken up the system of group nomination, and in connection with this, special privileges have been extended to the Churches. The importance of this cannot be over estimated, and the Assembly has authorised the Committee to co-operate with the Y.M.C.A., who will attend to the matter of getting Presbyterians for the meeting of the needs of any district of N.S.W. that may be seeking any particular class of men and women.

While every effort is made to welcome those who are coming to N.S.W. and Queensland, and a personal welcome is given those whose names are known, it is felt that the Australian Church could make a greater impression by having an agent set apart for this work at the first port of call. We do not need to stress the importance of first impressions, but would ask members of the Assembly to consider what it would mean if the Church gave such a welcome to our brethren from overseas as soon as they touched our shores.

Annual conferences of State immigration committees should be held in order to co-ordinate the work.

We therefore recommend the appointment of an agent at Albany or Fremantle, and annual conferences of the various State Committees.

J. C. MILLIKEN,
Convener, N.S.W. Committee.

VICTORIA.

The work of the Immigration Committee in this State has been carried on on the lines that have proved satisfactory during the post-war period. The Church representative (Rev. Wm. Thomson) has met the selected new settlers (who number fully half of the whole) at the Government Bureau on the day of arrival. This arrangement has lately been made known by notice cards sent to the Welfare Officer at the first port of call, Albany or Fremantle. At the Bureau he has made their personal acquaintance, given the Church's welcome, and joined as a Vice-President of the Melbourne branch of the New Settlers' League in the entertainment given to them and their fellow voyagers by that organisation. He has also engaged lads and men for Presbyterian applicants and given information and advice to others about the offers of employment made to them. The nominated passengers, who, as a rule, go with their relatives or friends from the steamer, are welcomed by Ministers and Home Missionaries in the homes of their nominators, generally relatives. Many are the wives and families of men who were immigrants and have succeeded in making homes by their

industry. Ministers and Home Missionaries are notified within the week after arrival, requested to call and leave the letter signed by the Moderator, Convener of Committee and Mr. Thomson containing an appeal to begin their new life in Australia with the highest motives and aims, which fellowship with Christ and His Church will foster and promote.

From the 1st July, 1922, to 30th June, 1924, one hundred and seventy-five steamers arrived bringing 16,500 assisted migrants for Victoria, of whom 4758 were Presbyterians, a percentage of nearly 28. This percentage is largely in excess of the population basis of Presbyterians in Victoria. About 50 per cent. of the whole designate themselves as Church of England, which leaves 22 per cent. to be divided among Methodists, Baptists, Congregationalists and Roman Catholics.

The noticeable features of the men and lads are their youthfulness (ages varying from 16 to 24 years), their good physique, intelligence, anxiety to make good, and readiness to go, if engaged, to pioneering districts where the present conditions are hard. With a few exceptions, they have proved themselves to be of good moral character and likely to make good citizens and Church folk.

HUGH JONES, Convener.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

The 1923 State Assembly appointed a Standing Committee on immigration, with Mr. Marshall, Minister of Scots Church, Fremantle, its first Convener. In the month following, the Committee was encouraged by a visit from Mr. Thomson, of the Victorian Church.

Two types of migrants are received in W.A.—families for group settlement, and single men for farm work. To June 30th, 1924, 124 groups have been formed, comprising 2296 families. Each family receives £3 a week sustenance until such time as the blocks are producing. It is reported that 646 families have left the groups, generally for employment in the towns. The single men are found work immediately on landing by the New Settlers' League, a most active and efficient organisation. The wage paid the single farm worker is 25/- a week. Having served a probation of, say, two years at more or less constant work in the country, he expects to have a block of his own. Great difficulty is experienced by many in getting good land.

The migrants, on arriving in the State, are housed in the home in Fremantle until they leave for the country. For the year ending June 30th, 1924, approximately 10,000 reached us, all from the United Kingdom. Of these, more than one thousand were Presbyterian. The Churches unite in giving to each newcomer a letter of welcome, and at a welcome gathering in the home on the day of landing, the representatives of the Churches take part and meet their people. One is able to establish contact quickly, for the name and religion of each migrant may be ascertained a week before his arrival. Information slips are filled in by each migrant and placed in his Church box at the home. The Convener meets each batch of migrants, and spends on an average one day each week at the home.

It is out of the question to keep in touch with all the single men once they leave the home, but every effort is made to follow up the families. The members of the P.W.M.U. write to the Presbyterian women on the groups, and the "Presbyterian" is posted monthly to every family at the expense of the Home Mission Committee. The Welfare of Youth Committee sends Sunday School literature for the children. The Convener supplies these organisations with the names and addresses of migrants, advises and helps newcomers as far as possible, and finds employment for Presbyterian girls in Presbyterian homes.

As Fremantle is the first port of call in Australia for migrant carrying vessels, and the boats often remain in port for several days, there is a splendid opening for service on behalf of the migrants going on to the Eastern States. Undoubtedly there should be in Fremantle a representative of the whole Australian Church.

JAMES MARSHALL,
Convener.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

Though we have had an Immigration Committee for some time, nothing much has been done until the beginning of this year, when the Rev. A. C. Weber took over the work pro tem. Since February every boatload of the Barwell boys has been met, the lads welcomed by the acting Chaplain, also letters of welcome have been sent to each newcomer, and a notice of arrival to the Minister of the District. Unfortunately, most of the lads are sent to places where we have no Presbyterian Minister or Church, but we do our best for them. The Barwell Boys System has now ceased, being stopped at the end of June, and the Nomination Scheme is to be used exclusively. Your Committee has asked the Premier to convene a meeting of the Church Immigration Committees to confer together with him to further this plan. A good number of Nominated and Selected Immigrants are coming to South Australia; these are also met and followed up with a letter of welcome, and a notice to the Minister. We find a difficulty that so many of the Presbyterians style themselves as "Protestants" in their papers, but this is being overcome. 94 Presbyterian migrants have arrived since February, and records of their whereabouts are kept.

A. C. WEBER,

Acting Convener and Chaplain.

QUEENSLAND.

During the past year we had a slight increase in the number of our immigrants over the past year. Most of those who came were Anglicans. The Presbyterians were next in point of numbers. Many of them are fine people, and are proving a help to the Church. Others among them do not link up with the Church, but the fault for this lies, in many cases, I am sure, with the Minister and Church people. Were they a little less cold and indifferent to them, I feel better results would be got in the way of attachment to the Australian Church.

The Convener tries to meet as many of the steamers as he can, speaks a word of welcome to those who come, gives any advice he thinks is needed, or is asked for, and then sends on word to the Minister nearest whom they will settle. In many cases, they are not near any of our Ministers or Home Missionaries, so there is no contact with them after they leave Brisbane, except maybe when he gets an occasional letter from one or two of them. The Assembly turned down that Y.M.C.A. "Migration Scheme," but I hear there is another Y.M.C.A. representative in Brisbane this week from London, and I'll see him to-morrow and see if there is anything new beyond what Mr. Bavin submitted last year.

ALEXANDER DUFF,

Convener,

TASMANIA.

Re Immigration. We have had a very small percentage of the 400 odd immigrants who have arrived in Tasmania in the past year—about 26, not counting children. The most of these have come in connection with Paton's and Baldwin's Mill, and they have linked up with St. Andrew's or my own Church. The remainder are in other parts of the State, and in those cases where we have a Minister or Missionary in those parts, a letter of notification has been sent to him.

Things have been very dead during the last year as far as the New Settlers' League is concerned, but we had a meeting last week and there is likely to be a revival as far as immigration is concerned.

W. J. HARRIS,

Clerk of Assembly.

Chalmers Manse,
Launceston,

June 30th, 1924.

LEGAL AND FINANCIAL QUESTIONS IN REFERENCE TO CHURCH UNION.

This Committee was appointed by the General Assembly of Australia to enquire into legal and financial questions concerning property and funds in reference to the Church Union proposals and to prepare statements for circulation in connection therewith (see G.A.A. Blue Book, 1922, minute 91).

The Committee was divided into Northern and Southern sections, and several meetings were held.

In 1923 schedules containing inquiries of an exhaustive character regarding Church properties and debts were circulated, and partial returns had been received, when, for the reason mentioned later, it became unnecessary for the Committee to proceed further with its work.

A statement dealing with the legal position was prepared in time for submission to several of the State Assemblies in 1923 (including those of New South Wales and Victoria).

Owing to the fact that the Union proposals failed to secure adoption in a majority of State Assemblies, the Union Committee decided not to have the scheme of union sent down to the lower courts and congregations.

Consequently there was no need for this Committee to do more than report to the General Assembly.

The legal statement above referred to, though brief, was prepared with much care. It is accessible in the 1923 Blue Books of the New South Wales and Victorian Assemblies, and may be of use should the question be reopened in the General Assembly.

For the Committee,
A. G. PROUDFOOT,
Convener.

MISSION TO THE JEWS.

Since last Assembly increased pressure was brought to bear upon the Rev. E. C. Ettmann by the Dutch Presbyterians of South Africa, that he should leave Australia and become their missionary. The wider opportunity there, the ties of his early association with that land and that Church, the enthusiasm (in undeniable contrast to the support accorded him here) with which he had been welcomed at his recent visit—made it seem inevitable that we should lose him. Your Committee, however, is happy to report that he is still the missionary of this Australian Church. We have lent him to South Africa for a period not exceeding four years, and have reason to believe that he will return sooner than that. His colleague, Miss Richards, whom the Victorian P.W.M.U. loyally support, is bravely carrying on her difficult work, and keeping doors open which without her would permanently shut.

A visit from the Rev. S. H. Semple, of the U.F. Church of Scotland's Mission, in Galilee, has been all too brief; but it stimulated us by a glimpse of the ambitious and successful enterprise carried on in Christ's own land, and of the big circle of those who prize the Saviour too highly to leave Israel in ignorance of Him.

On behalf of the Committee,

ALEX. YULE,
Convener.

NAVAL AND MILITARY COMMITTEE.

In the present uncertain attitude of the Government and Parliament towards the Commonwealth Forces all Military matters are in a condition of transition. There seems a tendency, even a desire, to limit in various ways the work of, and necessity for, the Chaplaincy Service. In the Naval Department of the Australian Defence Force there seems also a desire to place all naval matters, more and more, under Imperial ideas and methods. It is satisfactory that in this somewhat difficult transition state of things the State Committees and Senior Chaplains seem to have continued, as far as opportunity presented itself, an active interest in the trainees and training camps. The Chaplain-General has done his best to maintain at headquarters the interests and dignity of the Chaplaincy service, and the welfare of the trainees in camps.

In relation to the report of the Victorian Senior Chaplain, we wish to add that, on the resignation of the Rev. A. MacCarlie, as Port-Chaplain, at Port Melbourne, the Rev. J. D. Landels (who has resigned that duty on his nomination as a Chaplain A.I.F.) is being re-appointed as Naval Chaplain at Port Melbourne. At Geelong the Rev. T. W. Maguire, B.A., High Church, Geelong, continues his valued "parades" for the naval men.

We have deemed that his view is right, that to lay before the Assembly a report from the Senior Chaplain at the Military Base in each of the six States is likely to be the most satisfactory mode of giving the Assembly the latest facts. He has asked and received a report from each. The reports in reply are laid before the Assembly accordingly.

No reports have been received from the Naval Chaplains on warships, but a report regarding religious services in the Royal Naval College at Jervis Bay is furnished by the Rev. J. H. G. Auld. None is forthcoming from the College at Duntroon. It is advisable, even necessary, that stated reports should be required at least annually from the two Naval Chaplains, and that the Naval and Military Committee of N.S.W. should ensure that there be careful oversight of the Presbyterian religion and its moral interests of the Presbyterian lads and men in the Royal College at Jervis Bay, and the students at Duntroon.

The Committee reports the death of the Rev. James Haynes, of Boulder, W.A., an active helper at the training camps, wherever opportunity offered. The sympathy of the Committee is conveyed to his family.

(Sgd.) J. LAURENCE RENTOUL,

Chaplain-General and Presbyterian Nominator on the Naval Chaplains' Nomination Committee.

I.—REPORTS FROM CONVENERS OF STATE NAVAL AND MILITARY COMMITTEES.

1st MILITARY BASE (QUEENSLAND).

From the Rev. James Cosh, B.A., B.D. (Senior Chaplain).

Towards the latter end of last year Dr. Merrington was transferred to New Zealand. At the last State Assembly the Rev. James Cosh was appointed Senior Chaplain.

The outstanding event of the year was the visit of the British Warships. Arrangements were made for special religious services, which were not well attended. Hospitality also was provided by the women of the Church in Brisbane, with the same result. It is anything but gratifying to witness such scant courtesy as was manifested by the officers and men.

As far as the ordinary work of the Committee is concerned, arrangements are being made whereby the various military camps and hospitals are to be visited and ministered to.

(Sgd.) JAMES COSH,

Senior Chaplain.

19th August, 1924.

II.—FROM THE SENIOR CHAPLAIN, 2nd MILITARY BASE
(NEW SOUTH WALES).

The Revs. F. L. A. Schoeffel and A. R. McVittie, M.A., Port Chaplains at Sydney and Newcastle respectively, continue their work with satisfaction to the Committee. A considerable number of Camps have been held at Liverpool and elsewhere, since last Assembly, and where possible Chaplains have served with the troops. When camps were established in distant parts of the State, the Committee received assistance from Ministers of different parishes.

Three Chaplains—one on the active list and two on the retired list—have been awarded the Colonial Auxiliary Officers' Decoration (Chaplains J. Paterson, James Jackson, and J. B. Fulton).

The Committee, in the near future, hopes to secure a hut for the accommodation of Chaplains at Liverpool Camp.

The establishment consisting of 12 Chaplains, including the Senior Chaplain, is complete.

(Sgd.) R. SCOTT WEST,

15th August, 1924.

Senior Chaplain.

III.—FROM THE REV. D. MACRAE STEWART, EX A.I.F., SENIOR
CHAPLAIN, 3rd MILITARY DISTRICT (VICTORIA).
NAVAL AND MILITARY COMMITTEE.

There has been little activity during the year, and correspondingly little call for Chaplaincy service. Camps were concentrated at Seymour, and the Rev. J. A. Barber, B.A., C.F., and the Rev. R. C. Foyster, M.A., C.F., acted as resident Camp Chaplains for a week each. A vacancy on the regular establishment, created by the transference of the Rev. F. W. Rolland, M.A., M.C., C.F., to the unattached list, was filled by the appointment of the Rev. J. T. Kelly, C.F., as Chaplain to the Garrison at Queenscliff.

(Sgd) D. MACRAE STEWART,

August 17th, 1924.

Senior-Chaplain, 3rd District Base.

FOURTH MILITARY DISTRICT.

IV.—From Senior Chaplain, 4th Military District, The Rev. W. Floyd Shannon, B.A., O.B.E., ex Senior Chaplain, Headquarters A.I.F., London.

I have to report that until recently there were only two Chaplains actually on the active list in this State; Rev. Dr. Seymour, and myself as Senior.

During the past year I got our staff increased by the appointment of Revs. A. C. Weber and E. A. Davies. I still need one more, but have as yet failed to get anyone to consent to act. I hope soon to arrange for the completion of our allotment.

While camps are being held, they are visited as regularly as possible; but I was informed by the Military authorities that as the camps were in existence only for a very short time—usually less than a week—there would be no religious services held. Chaplains were, however, encouraged to attend the camps at their own expense, and take an interest in the welfare of the men; and I availed myself of this opportunity.

The only other occasions on which Chaplains had any duty to do, were in connection with ceremonial affairs, such as Anzac Day, Unveiling of the Cross of Honor, etc. And I arranged for a proper representation of our Chaplains at each of these.

With regard to the Naval Chaplaincy, Rev. H. Morris holds that position in Port Adelaide; but there has been little occasion for his services, as there are very rarely any naval men calling at this harbor.

I am, yours faithfully,

(Sgd.) W. FLOYD SHANNON,

Senior Chaplain (Presbyterian), 4th Military District.
18th August, 1924.

V.—FIFTH MILITARY BASE, PERTH (WEST AUSTRALIA),

August 18th, 1924.

The Rev. George Tulloch, Senior Chaplain, reports on behalf of the Committee:—

There are now three Military and no Naval Chaplain on the establishment. The Chaplains are Rev. J. L. Smith at Katanning, Rev. James Haynes at Boulder, and the Rev. George Tulloch at Perth. The Rev. Robert Hanlin, who for many years was the Naval Chaplain at Fremantle, resigned the position on his retirement from Scot's Church, and your Committee has requested the Chaplain-General to request the Naval Authorities to appoint the Rev. F. G. H. Brady, B.A., to fill the vacancy.

During the year attention was given to the camps of continuous training. At the Karrakatta Camp, Chaplain Smith took up residence in November, and his duties were carried out to the entire satisfaction of officers and men.

A lecture was given in the camp at Karrakatta by Chaplain Tulloch, which was much appreciated by officers and lads. Chaplain Haynes visited the camp at Kalgoorlie and was well received, and his interest in the men appreciated. Chaplain Tulloch took part in the service held annually in the King's Park in memory of the South African soldiers who gave their lives for Australia.

In conclusion, we beg to express our gratitude to the officers at Military Headquarters for their unfailing courtesy and assistance.

Signed on behalf of the Committee,

GEORGE TULLOCH,

Senior Chaplain, 5th Military Base.

VI.—From Senior Chaplain, G. M. Baird, B.A., Ex A.I.F., 6th Military Base, Tasmania.

In reporting on the Chaplaincy arrangements of Tasmania, I beg to state that the unsettled condition of the Military arrangements of the Commonwealth has been felt here, and has dislocated our arrangements in common with others. Our staff consists of two chaplains on the active list and one on the unattached list. The naval chaplains are, so far, limited to one in Launceston and one in Hobart.

Senior Chaplain Mabin retired from that post, and has been placed upon the list of unattached Chaplains. Mr. Mabin has taken this action because he feels that the best interest of the church will be reached if the office is held by one stationed in either of the cities. Rev. G. Mackie Baird has been appointed to that office.

Great difficulty is being experienced in arranging for church parades—the trainees do not seem to care for the extra turn-out involved, and the officers do not care to risk the small response. Better success seems to be achieved by the naval chaplains, especially in Launceston, where a monthly parade has been instituted and is well attended.

Services have been held in the various detention camps as far as possible.

The military authorities here report their intention to allot chaplains to certain brigades, who will be called up for service with the brigade. If this is carried out, it will prevent the repetition of last year's omission when none of the chaplains were communicated with for duty at the Annual Training Camp.

GEO. M. BAIRD,

Senior Chaplain, 6th Military District.

Launceston, August 19th, 1924.

REPORT RE ROYAL NAVAL COLLEGE, JERVIS BAY.

By the Rev. J. H. G. Auld, B.A.

I desire to report that I pay occasional visits to the Naval College, and have sometimes been able to arrange for a religious service amongst the cadets. Owing to the fact that I have a large parish with many calls upon my time and service, it has not been easy to organise regular religious work. Out of the total of 40 cadets there are very few Presbyterians.

I hope in the near future to be able to undertake more definite and regular work at the College.

I am,

(Sgd.) J. H. G. AULD,

12th September, 1924.

Minister of Shoalhaven Church.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS.

As all the State Assemblies have committees dealing with public questions, it is difficult for your Committee to take independent action, excepting when on matters peculiarly affecting the whole Commonwealth, the Federal Government has to be approached, or a general representation or appeal has to be made either to our own Church people throughout Australia or to the Australian people as a whole.

Even where action taken in a State does not affect the whole Commonwealth it might strengthen local effort if the Moderator-General and the Public Questions Executive were invited to co-operate. Following the instruction of last Assembly, a statement upon the subject of Sabbath Observance was being prepared for circulation. It also dealt with other moral issues urgently demanding attention. But as a summary of the pamphlet on Sabbath Observance, by Dr. Gillies, was published in "The Presbyterian Messenger" before your Committee's statement was ready for publication, and as in several States means were being used to ventilate the special question referred to, it seemed unnecessary to proceed further.

As no occasion has arisen to demand separate action by your Committee, it has been thought advisable to submit in this report a summary of the work overtaken by the corresponding committees (by whatever name called) of the various State Assemblies.

Three questions mainly have occupied the attention of these committees, viz., Gambling, Control of the Liquor Traffic and Sabbath Observance. In Victoria and Tasmania strenuous efforts have been made to get the Condemnium in the New Hebrides replaced by a more just and humane form of government. The Victorian Assembly has urged Ministers, office-bearers and members of the Church to give moral and material support to the League of Nations—a decision that this Assembly might also see fit to make.

QUEENSLAND.

In Queensland a Government lottery known as the Golden Casket has been carried on for some years in aid of philanthropic institutions. The Protestant Churches have set their faces against this demoralising method of

money-raising, and a movement has been initiated to substitute Hospital Sunday collections for this gambling agency. The Queensland Assembly entrusted the Rev. A. McKillop with the preparation of a pamphlet for the purpose of combating the influence of gambling. 8000 copies were distributed.

In Brisbane, as in other centres of population, determined efforts have been made to introduce sports in public parks on Sunday. By the opposition of the Churches, these attempts have been frustrated so far. Unfortunately, the last vote taken throughout the State on the question of the control of the liquor traffic showed again in favor of continuance. This fact should stimulate to greater activity the Queensland Church acting in conjunction with such societies as are working for temperance reform.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

In South Australia there is a Life and Work Committee, which is concerned with public questions. It has dealt with the following matters:—

A Home for Children (in co-operation with other Churches), the No Temere Decree, Bible Reading in State Schools, Sabbath Observance, Prohibition, Gambling, Impurity. The Children's Home referred to has been secured at a cost of £7,000.

A united appeal in favor of keeping sacred the Lord's Day was signed by the official heads of the non-Roman Churches and circulated broadcast. The Ministers of these Churches were requested to preach on the subject on an appointed Sunday.

TASMANIA.

The Tasmanian Public Questions Committee is really a sub-committee of the Victorian one. Special work that it undertook was to get a petition widely signed praying the Federal Government to move for a change of government in the New Hebrides.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

In Western Australia extensive inquiry has been made regarding laws and practices relating to Gambling and Sabbath Observance. It is reported that in W.A. efforts are being periodically made by public bodies to raise money for charities by gambling methods. Sometimes a gambling movement is continued for weeks under some such name as The White City, and even children are tempted to gamble with their little coins.

The influence of Picture Theatres received attention. Visits to some of them and reports from Children's Courts convinced the Public Questions Committee that a stricter censorship ought to be exercised.

VICTORIA.

In Victoria attention was exercised over a wide field embracing efforts for a change of government in the New Hebrides, successful representations to Parliament against introduction of the totalisator, against permission for games in the Melbourne parks on Sundays, and against provisions in a new licensing bill which would have limited the power of the people to deal with the liquor traffic. The local committee also considered the duty of giving help to nations rendered destitute by the war, and recommended the Assembly to give unflinching allegiance to the ideals of the League of Nations. The question of lawful divorce was considered, and the decision of the G.A.A. was emphasised.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

In the New South Wales Assembly the matters dealt with have been the Temperance question. The Assembly is pledged to Prohibition without compensation, and supports a referendum. Not a great deal of progress has been made, although it is thought that the public is turning towards abolishing the liquor traffic. The excessive amount of horse-racing in the State

amounting to over 200 days in the year has also been brought before the Assembly, and the Government has been asked to reduce it.

The mind of the Assembly has been directed to a great Spiritual Mission. The Assembly of 1923 instructed the Committee on Church Life and Work to proceed, and we are looking forward to a great spiritual awakening throughout the Church.

JOHN MATHEW, Convener.

RECEPTION OF MINISTERS.

Your Committee has to report that the prayer of the petition of the Rev. Thomas McDougall, B.A., which was referred to it by last General Assembly to be finally dealt with, was granted subject to a period of probation for twelve months. Mr. McDougall has since satisfactorily served his probation, and is now settled at Mudgee, N.S.W.

The Assembly also instructed this Committee to convey to the New Zealand Assembly the resolution passed regarding reciprocity in the admission of Ministers passing from one Church to the other. This was done, and the favorable reply from the New Zealand Church is now submitted in the extract minute appended to this report.

It now remains for this Assembly to finalise the matter.

The petitions from Ministers and others to the Assembly are also submitted.

A petition from the Rev. G. A. Kelly, the receipt of which has been reported to Presbyteries, has since been withdrawn.

A. STUART McCOOK,

Convener.

RECEPTION OF MINISTERS' COMMITTEE.

REPORT ON PETITIONS.

The Committee met at the church offices, York Street, on September 9th, and was constituted, the Convener presiding.

Inter alia, petitions for admission were dealt with as follow:—

Recommend that the petitions of Mr. W. T. Alexander and Rev. G. H. Balfour, M.A., B.D., be granted.

That the petition of Rev. J. F. Christian be granted, subject to (a) attendance for two years at a Theological Hall, and passing the Exit Examination in all subjects except Hebrew; (b) satisfying the executive of this Committee regarding his views on baptism.

That the petition of Rev. E. Coleman be granted, subject to (a) attendance for one year at a Theological Hall, and passing the Exit Examination in all subjects except Hebrew; (b) satisfying the executive regarding his views on baptism.

That the petition of the Rev. W. J. Coulson be not granted.

That the petition of Mr. G. E. Howland be granted, subject to attendance for two years at a Theological Hall, and passing the Exit Examination in all subjects except Hebrew.

That the petition of the Rev. A. J. Parker, B.A., be granted, and that the period of service already rendered be counted as his full probation.

That the petition of the Rev. A. E. Page, B.A., be granted, subject to a period of probation for twelve months, during which time he shall serve as a preacher without a fixed charge under the direction of the Home Mission

Committee of South Australia, and without being eligible for a call; and that thereafter he continue in the service of the Church in South Australia.

That the petition of the Rev. F. J. H. Steward, B.A., be granted, and that the period of service already rendered be counted as his full probation.

That the petition of the Rev. P. E. Wylde be granted, so far as to permit him to accept a call within the State of South Australia.

A. S. McCOOK, Convener.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF NEW ZEALAND.

Christchurch,
24th Nov., 1923.

“The General Assembly again convened and was constituted, inter alia:

The Assembly called for the report of the Judicial Committee on the Exchange of Commissions with Australia, which was given in by the Clerk, Convener.

The Clerk moved, Rev. J. D. McKenzie seconded, and it was agreed:— ‘That Book of Order, par. 234, be amended to read as follows:—When a Minister or probationer of the Presbyterian Churches of Scotland, England, Ireland, Wales or Australia, presents his Presbyterian Certificate, together with a Commission from the Colonial or other appointed Committee of his Church, the Presbytery, if satisfied, and if the applicant has been approved by the Assembly’s Receptions Committee, places his name forthwith upon the list of Ministers and Probationers of this Church open for a call. Ministers and Probationers of this Church are received on the same terms in the Church of Australia.’ ”

Extracted from the records of Assembly by

JAMES H. MACKENZIE,

Assembly Clerk.

REPORT CHURCH REUNION.

As the outcome of the Lambeth appeal for Re-union of Christian Churches, conferences have been held in or near Sydney on three occasions. The first occurred before last meeting of General Assembly in Melbourne, the next was held at Cronulla on 1st to 3rd May, 1923, and the third in Sydney on the 30th November and 1st December, 1923.

The Churches conferring were the Anglican, Presbyterian, Methodist and Congregational.

At Cronulla the subjects dealt with were:—

1. The Nature of the Church in its Bearing upon Unity.
2. Ordination and the Ministry.
3. Possibilities of Preliminary Action towards Closer Fellowship.

On the Nature of the Church ten propositions were submitted which were taken *verbatim* from the Report of a Joint Conference held at Lambeth, in May, 1922.

As these were submitted simply as expressing substantially the very large measure of agreement, which, after full and frank discussion, the Conference at Lambeth had reached and as these would probably be generally approved by the members of this Assembly, it is not necessary to refer to them further.

On the question of Orders and the Ministry certain findings would be approved by this house, but the following might not be acceptable, viz., (1) We consider that the Ministry should consist of at least the following orders or kinds:—Deacons, Presbyters and Bishops. (2) The Episcopate in association with the Presbyterate should be accepted for the United Church of the future as the means whereby the authority of the whole body is given to the Ministry of the Church.

At the instance of the non-Episcopal representatives the following resolution was adopted:—

“That this Conference desires it to be recorded that the members of the Conference belonging to the Presbyterian, Methodist and Congregational Churches, while earnestly desiring and seeking the larger re-union, respectfully intimate to the representatives of the Anglican Church that in entering into the Re-united Church, they cannot see their way to accept any commission which, in the form of the rite, implies or may be taken to imply for either party an act of ordination.”

On the question of Possibility of Closer Fellowship it was affirmed that as a preliminary action towards closer fellowship a statement of agreement on points of faith and order can, and should, be drawn up, that the Churches co-operating should be called “Churches Contemplating Re-union,” that a treasurer should be appointed to receive contributions for expenses, and that it was desirable that a common Australian Council and State Councils should be appointed to meet from time to time for consultation. Such Councils for the present to be appointed by the heads of the Churches in whatever way these respective Churches may decide, the number of representatives being 18 for the Anglican Church and 6 for each of the other Churches.

At the third Conference held in the Diocesan Church House, the following subjects were considered, and there was general agreement as to action to be taken in connection with them (1) United Prayer and Conferences on Re-union; (2) Annual Sunday of Prayer for Re-union; (3) Social and Economic Questions; (4) Public Morality; (5) Sunday Observance; (6) Study in Common of Christian Institutions and Matters of Faith and Order.

Rev. Professor T. J. Smith submitted a statement of the views of those in the Presbyterian Church opposed to Church Union in the form of Incorporation. Although rejecting incorporate union the said statement expressed the desire for “a system of true co-operation between the various branches of the Christian Church.”

JOHN MATHEW.

STATISTICS.

Your Committee have pleasure in submitting the following figures, which, although not complete, will serve as a basis of comparison for future reports.

Distance from the Western State has made it impossible to include all the figures under the heading of “Western Australia.” It is hoped, however, that future reports will be more complete.

Thanks are tendered to Conveners of Statistical Committees, and General Secretaries, of the various States, for information supplied.

For and on behalf of the Committee,

S. J. CARRUTHERS,

Acting-Convenor.

No. of—	N.S.W.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	Tas.	Vic.	W. Aust.
Churches	485	166	38	53	570	36
Sittings	78,919	24,415	8,000	9,620	101,549	5,827
Manses	168	54	22	18	239	17
Schools	137	54	24	13	216	—
Other Properties	146	44	—	21	162	—
Values of—						
Churches	£640,697	£151,691	£51,630	£57,033	£799,433	
Manses	190,465	39,659	23,908	18,485	241,522	
Schools	107,549	41,582	8,871	6,480	161,029	
Other Properties	74,022	2,700	10,613	10,271	112,782	
Elders	1,199	389	135	74	1,282	96
Deacons and Managers	3,451	1,070	315	280	5,627	234
Communicants	25,116	9,953	2,559	1,948	36,442	2,200
Adherents	68,017	2,188	—	1,610	24,026	
Fellowship Associations	121	20	—	—	55	
Bible Classes	89	19	—	5	181	
Sunday Schools	402	169	43	40	528	38
Teachers—Men	775	311	102	64	890	87
" Women	1,958	793	224	185	3,068	313
Scholars—Boys	11,412	4,452	1,035	823	15,670	1,095
" Girls	14,680	5,554	1,281	1,008	18,596	1,386
No. of State Schools ..	13,810	482	—	—	2,450	
No. of State Schools in which Religious In- struction is given ...	822	125	—	—	873	
No. receiving Religious Instruction in State Schools	33,804	9,537	—	—	118,721	

XXVIII.—UNIFICATION OF HOME MISSION WORK.

At the close of last Assembly the Special Committee appointed to consider the question of unification met in the Church office in Melbourne. At this meeting executives were appointed for the various States, and, in addition, a sub-committee was appointed to draft an overture, according to Assembly instructions, and forward it to the Clerks of State Assemblies for distribution among the Presbyteries throughout the Church. The overture was prepared and dispatched as directed, but so far replies have only been received from South and West Australia. Your Committee is therefore not in a position to give a complete report on the opinion of the Church concerning this question. Until a definite expression of opinion has been secured, the Committee is unable to proceed to any degree with its work.

Certain movements, however, have taken place which clearly indicate the desire, on the part of the weaker States, for a change in our divided policy. In May, 1923, South Australia decided to take independent action, and seek union with Victoria along the lines now existing in Tasmania. Shortly afterward, West Australia communicated with the Convener of this Committee, requesting that the Convener and Mr. Wood should visit the West to consult with their Assembly regarding their needs, and the possibility of securing closer connection with the larger life of the Church. Unfortunately, Mr. Wood could not go at the time, and the Convener had to make the visit alone during July of this year. In the meantime, by arrangement, the Assembly of West Australia appointed a Commissioner, the Rev. J. R. Blanchard, to attend the sessions of the Assembly in New South Wales, and present the needs of the West to the sister Church. His mission has had fruitful results, as the following resolution taken from the minutes of the New South Wales Assembly will show: "This Assembly, having regard for the need of men for the Western Australian Home Mission field, cordially invites the Convener of the Home Mission Committee of the Presbyterian Church in West Australia to keep the Convener of the Home Mission Committee of this Church informed of the conditions of the Western Australian Home Mission field, and authorises the Home Mission Committee

of this Church to give, or lend, or exchange, men for work in Western Australia.”

In addition to the above resolution, the Church in New South Wales has set aside a grant of £1000 to assist the Church in the West. Of this amount, £500 is to be used in the employment of a Home Mission Director, and the balance will be devoted to the development of new charges.

With regard to provident funds, a very important step has been taken in the direction of an Australian scheme by the Church in New South Wales. With a view to meeting the needs of the men in the West, their Committee has been given authority to take such steps as may be found necessary to obtain the passage of an act of Parliament, at the earliest possible opportunity, to clothe the Assembly with power to make such alterations in the conditions of admission to their funds as will make it possible for Ministers in the West to become associated with the Provident Funds of New South Wales.

From the above resolutions, it will be seen that a vital connection has been established with our struggling Church in the West. Likewise a definite advance has been made in the direction of an Australian Provident Fund. All this indicates the trend of feeling throughout the Church. It is not expected that unification of the nature desired can be accomplished in a year or two. The reconstruction of our present machinery will require time and careful consideration. Your Committee, however, is convinced that the Church is definitely moving in that direction.

On behalf of the Committee,

J. A. SEYMOUR,

Convener.

UNION WITH OTHER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCHES.

The Committee appointed to communicate with other Presbyterian Churches in Australia with a view to union, reports as follows:—

Your Committee found that the following Presbyterian Churches—other than our own—are represented in Australia:—

- (1) The Free Presbyterian Church of Australia.
- (2) The Reformed Church of Ireland.
- (3) The Welsh Calvinistic Church.

Each of these Churches was communicated with, and each asked to appoint a Committee to meet with the Committee appointed by the General Assembly. The Free Presbyterian Church replied as follows: “.....that until your General Assembly has declared its belief in the inspiration, inerrancy and supremacy of the Old and New Testaments no good purpose can be served by conferring about the subject.”

The Reformed Church of Ireland “think that it is undesirable to appoint such a Committee.”

The Welsh Calvinistic Church acknowledged the receipt of our first letter, but have not sent any definite reply.

For the Committee

J. C. MILLIKEN,

Convener.

XXXI.—REPORT ON WELFARE OF YOUTH.

Since last Assembly there have been encouraging developments in connection with Youth work in most of the States, and the links uniting the various State departments have been strengthened. The need for a Commonwealth Department of Youth representing the whole Church grows year by year, but owing to various difficulties, it has not been possible as yet to bring the matter before the Assembly in well-considered form. Your Committee asks that further time be given for the consideration of some of the problems involved.

YOUTH AGENTS IN STATE DEPARTMENTS.

Victoria and Tasmania.—The Rev. Wm. Goyen, the Director, is at present on a visit to Britain. Miss Tope, Travelling Secretary for the Presbyterian Girls' Association, is also in Britain. Miss Hopkins continues her work as Directress of kindergarten work. The Rev. J. C. Jamieson was appointed Assistant Director in November, 1923, and entered upon his duties in February of this year.

New South Wales.—The Rev. N. H. Joughin, the Director, has been re-appointed for a further term of five years. He is assisted by Miss Quine, the kindergarten organiser. Mr. Stewart Lang, the Travelling Secretary of the Fellowship Union, has also visited most of the Presbyteries of the Church. He retires from the work at the end of his present year of office.

Queensland.—The Rev. J. B. Galloway, the Director, has agreed to continue in his present position until July 31st, 1925. Miss Purnell, Kindergarten and Primary Supervisor, resigned at the end of November, 1923.

West Australia and South Australia.—In those States no special agents are set apart for Youth work, but assistance has been given from the stronger States as is indicated elsewhere in this report.

THE AUSTRALIAN GRADED LESSONS.

The circulation of these lessons has increased considerably since the last report was presented, and in some States they are now used almost exclusively by our schools. The following figures will indicate the growth of circulation amongst Presbyterian Schools in recent years:—

	First half of 1918	1920	1922	1924
"The Teacher"	7,100	10,060	13,000	14,350
"The Scholar"	19,415	35,465	46,500	55,250
Packets of Leaflets	789	958	1,150	910
"Senior Text Book"	2,625 (½-yearly)	3,500	4,000	4,500
"The Open Door"	1,482	1,300	1,200	1,650

The total monthly circulation of these publications amongst the schools of all denominations for the first half of 1924 was as follows, viz.: Teachers 33,100, Scholars 113,350, Leaflets 1835, Senior Text Book 10,000. In addition, the monthly Missionary Magazine, "The Record," has a monthly circulation of 10,100 copies.

There is no longer any question as to the suitability of these graded lessons for the schools of Australia and New Zealand. The field has been effectively occupied by our own publications. It is now necessary that the position won after so many years of labor should be firmly held. Ministers, Superintendents and Teachers should loyally support the plans and publications approved by the Assembly, and, on the other hand, those responsible for Lesson Courses and Helps must aim at the very highest standard of excellence. It is with sincere thankfulness that your Committee can report that the Graded Lesson Course published locally for the schools of Australia and New Zealand is now established upon a broad and strong foundation.

PARTNERSHIP IN PUBLICATIONS.

Although the Presbyterians and Methodists of Victoria were the original proprietors of the Graded Lessons Publications, they deliberately kept the door open so that their brethren in other States might enter into partnership and share in any benefits that might accrue to the partners. Since last Assembly, the Presbyterian Churches of New South Wales, Queensland and New Zealand have entered into the partnership and are securing substantial benefits for their schools. It is highly desirable that the other States should also take this step. Until a partnership between the States has been firmly established, a Youth Department covering the whole Commonwealth cannot be effectively organised.

THE BUSINESS SIDE.

In Victoria and New South Wales book rooms for the sale and distribution of Sunday School literature and material have been established. These institutions are meeting a felt need, and their usefulness is capable of indefinite expansion.

HELP TO WEAKER STATES.

Through the generosity of State Departments, it has been possible to give practical assistance to the great States of the South and West, where the distances are so vast and the population so scattered. On his way to Britain in 1922, Rev. Frank Hanlin, formerly Assistant-Director in Victoria, spent a month in visiting the schools of West Australia. In 1923 Rev. J. B. Galloway, of Queensland, spent six weeks in South Australia, and after visiting the main centres, presented a valuable report to the State Assembly. Before the end of the present year Rev. N. H. Joughin, of New South Wales, expects to make an extended visit to West Australia, and it is hoped that, in response to an urgent request, Rev. J. C. Jamieson may be able to visit South Australia early in 1925. There is ample evidence of the value of such visits to the States in which Youth Work is at present imperfectly organised, and in every case high appreciation has been expressed of the action of the departments in setting their agents free for this work.

GLASGOW SUNDAY SCHOOL CONVENTION.

One of the first practical results of the formation of the Australian Sunday School Council was the sending of a strong delegation to represent the Commonwealth at the Glasgow Convention in June, 1924. Amongst those who were present was Rev. Wm. Goyen, of Melbourne. At the time of writing this report, information was not available as to the resolutions and results of the Glasgow Convention, but by the time the Assembly meets such information should be to hand. So far it has been impossible effectively to organise a National Sunday School movement in Australia or to relate it in any vital fashion to the world movement. In most of the large centres, however, inter-Church S.S. Councils have been established, and with these as a basis a larger work should, in the near future, be possible. At present teacher-training classes are being conducted by these Councils in Sydney and Melbourne. In the securing and training of teachers and leaders, however, the efforts of the Churches still lag painfully behind the needs of the situation.

MEMORY LESSONS.

Unfortunately, a scheme of Memory Lessons for the whole of our Sunday Schools in Australia is not yet ready for presentation to the Assembly. In the main, the lessons set in the Scholars' Treasury are used, but differences of opinion have arisen as to the amount of time to be apportioned to Catechism, Hymns, etc., and until agreement on these points is reached, your Committee is not in a position to formulate a scheme. The Assembly is asked to authorise the issuing of such a scheme so soon as agreement between the departments is reached.

JUNIOR CATECHISM.

Many of the difficulties concerning Memory Work centre upon the question of providing young children with a suitable Junior Catechism. It is felt by most teachers that the Shorter Catechism is quite unsuitable for very young children, while many of the other Catechisms in use are far from being satisfactory. The Victorian Assembly (1923) forwards a request to this Assembly that it will either select, revise or prepare a Junior Catechism. In the meantime an unofficial Catechism for Juniors has been issued in Melbourne, and the demand for it indicates how real is the necessity for action on the part of the Assembly. Your Committee recommends the appointment of a special Committee to deal with this matter and to report to next Assembly.

THE PROBLEM OF ADOLESCENCE.

Since last Assembly some progress has been made in developing and extending work amongst the adolescents of our Church. In New South Wales, as a result principally of the work of Mr. Stewart Lang, there has been a considerable increase in the number of members of the Fellowship Union, and better provision is being made for carrying on Camps and Conferences. In addition, after prolonged discussion and conference between the Welfare of Youth Department and the Fellowship Union, it was agreed to endeavor to form a Senior Department in every Sunday School consisting of the boys and girls over 14 years of age. In the promotion of such departments, members of the Fellowship Union agree to take an active part, and it is proposed that all classes in the Senior Department should be affiliated with a "Guild of Youth." The following aims and objects of the Guild have been agreed to:—

- (1) To foster the Senior Department of the Sunday School along the lines of the Organised Class.
- (2) To unify and develop the week activities of members of such Class.
- (3) To develop the Boy Scout and Girl Guide Movements as adjuncts of the Sunday School.
- (4) To give young people a definite interest in the work of the Church.

It is expected that this new movement will speedily make its effect felt upon the life of the Church—already an enthusiastic group of men is organising a successful effort amongst boys. In Victoria a union has been effected between the Young Women's Bible Class Union and the Senior Girls' Missionary Union. Within this larger union there are now over 3000 girls organised for study and service. A successful Summer Conference is held annually, and at Easter over 600 young men and young women were in camp in various centres throughout the State. Since his arrival in Victoria, Rev. J. C. Jamieson has given special attention to this side of the work, and a course of lectures by him on problems of adolescence was largely attended. In South and West Australia the first steps have been taken towards a more definite policy in this sphere of Youth Work. In Queensland the Fellowship Union shows an increase in membership, and Ministers are reported to be experimenting along the different modern methods of holding the Senior Scholars. In Tasmania great difficulty is experienced in securing suitable teachers and leaders for all grades of the school.

In this sphere it is apparent that a consensus of opinion as to the problem and the method of its solution is being slowly but surely matured. As several of the movements at present being "tried out" amongst adolescents are in the experimental stage, it has not been thought desirable or, indeed, possible, to present to this Assembly a complete programme of work for young people. Your Committee has also been hampered by its inability to secure a meeting of Directors during the present year. Either at this Assembly or shortly afterwards it is hoped that a representative conference may be possible. There can be no doubt that the problem of winning and holding the young men and young women of our land for Christ and the service of His Church has become abnormally acute. It is time that a new appre-

See §50(7)
+ §93.

ciation of the gravity of the situation were awakened in the hearts of our people. Thousands of lads and girls pass out from Sunday Schools every year in the most impressionable period of their life, and, in doing so, sever their last effective link of connection with the Church. No price is too high to pay providing that drift can be stayed.

STATISTICS AND SUNDAY SCHOOL EXTENSION.

Your Committee still finds it difficult to secure reliable and up-to-date statistics of Youth Work in the various States. So far as is apparent, there has been practically no increase in the number of Scholars and Teachers for the past eighteen or twenty years. In view of the fact that there has been so substantial an increase of the population during that time, this is a fact that should receive the most serious consideration. In South Australia the tide seems to have turned in favor of a larger enrolment, and in New South Wales there has been an increase of over 3000 scholars and 190 teachers during the past two years. Recent investigations in Melbourne by the Synod have proved that in nearly 30 centres new schools and congregations are urgently needed in suburbs recently established if the Church is not simply to extend its influence, but merely to hold its own people as they move out from the congested centres. Experience has proved that out of a new Sunday School there will usually grow a new congregation. There is urgent need of co-operation between Church Extension and Welfare of Youth Committees, with a view to the launching of a more aggressive and systematic policy of Sabbath School Extension. It would be a sound investment for our Church to set apart several Home Mission Agents (men and women) for this great pioneering task.

THE GENERAL SITUATION.

It is not necessary to attempt to describe in detail the social conditions which make work amongst the young in these days exceedingly difficult. The facts are familiar to all engaged in Christian work. The Church, the Home and the School are opposed by evil forces that would seem invincible were it not for the power of Christ's Gospel and the might of His Spirit—there are, fortunately, evidences all over the world that the problem of religious education is being faced in a spirit of increasing seriousness, that the magnitude of the task is at last being recognised, that the wisest and most Christ-like minds are being captured for this service, and that when there is the right kind of leadership there is, on the part of the young themselves, an immediate response.

In a recent report on the situation in Scotland presented by Rev. A. S. Kydd, M.A., for five years Secretary of the Youth Committee of the U.F. Church, the following suggestions (summarised) were submitted for the earnest consideration of the Church, viz.:—

- (1) The Church should enlist the Home to a much greater extent than is at present done. Parents as well as children need practical spiritual education.
- (2) The Church should co-operate to a greater extent with the Day School and its Teachers. It should induce more of the best of its men and women to enter the teaching profession, with a view to definite Christian service.
- (3) A much more definite effort should be made to win and hold adolescents. Outside Clubs, Guilds and Societies have done much to prepare the way, but their work should be part of every congregation's activities.
- (4) Adolescent boys and girls, unconnected with the Church (roughly ten per cent. of the population) should be sought out and provided for. Efforts should also be made to interest them in some branch of higher or technical education.
- (5) Those of the cultured and capable women of the Church should be enlisted for special service amongst girls and little children.

- (6) The Church should set apart some of its gifted Ministers for stated periods for special work amongst the young.
- (7) Larger congregations should give their Ministers' colleagues or assistants whose main responsibility would be leadership of work amongst children and young people. The work of a modern congregation is beyond the power of one man.
- (8) The Church must recognise that in the disposition of its forces to meet a new grouping of the population, it is fifty years behind the times. It must travel with the people, not follow them afar off.
- (9) Every Christian is warranted in holding that, unless it be against God's will, there is nothing impossible for a body of Christian men, if they care enough about it.

These suggestions are worthy of consideration by our own Australian Church and people.

JOHN MACKENZIE,

Convener.

YEAR BOOK.

Last Assembly instructed your Committee to continue the publication of the Year Book and to carry out, if practicable, its recommendation to the Assembly that the issue be increased. The Committee, however, upon further consideration, decided that it was best to continue for the next issues upon the same lines as before. The number of copies sold of the 1924 issue is 491, which is only a few more than half the number printed. The receipts for the same issue amount from sales (£18/8/3), advertisements (£13/10/-), and the Victorian Theological Hall (£5), to £36/18/3. The printing bill was £41/17/3, while £21 goes to the Editor, and there are some other small expenses besides. The G.A.A. will have a smaller deficit than usual to make up on this publication. The average deficit per issue for the past nine issues has been £18/3/9; when the book was revived it was on the understanding that it was to cost not more than £20 per issue—the average is well within this limit. If the whole of the copies printed could be sold there would be no difference to be made up.

The Committee's further recommendation that Ministers be asked to make an effort to get the book into all Church families every 3 years needs to be repeated with a kindly but strong emphasis. Much could be gained also if the official Church organs gave the book greater prominence, and we would like to have particulars of its existence, contents and value to the Church given in parish monthlies.

The book is a valuable and indispensable instrument of the Presbyterian Church of Australia. Its catalogues and lists and collections of ecclesiastical information are absolutely required at all active points in the Church. If it costs the Church £20 or £30 per issue, the Church gets value for the money. Other great Churches have their year books—there is one for every Anglican diocese in Australia covering a greater range of matter than ours.

All moneys are now by request of Mr. William Wood paid through the account of the G.A.A. Treasurership Committee. Arrangements were made last year with the Victorian Welfare of Youth Department to publish the book and collect the accounts. The Committee have reason to be well satisfied with these arrangements, and have found Miss Lamont, the book-keeper, both efficient and interested in carrying out the duties involved.

The Committee, acting on the Assembly's instruction, made enquiries as to the cost of printing more particulars of congregations, but considered the extra cost would be too great. However, in view of the improved income, the Assembly might now give definite sanction to print such particulars in future, provided that the deficit per issue shall not exceed £30.

The Committee wish to express admiration of the Editor's care in assembling and arranging the large mass of particulars for each issue of the book.

R. ARTHUR GREEN,

Convener.

CHURCH ORDINANCES AT CANBERRA.

The duty of initiating Church Ordinances at Canberra was referred by last Assembly to the Home Mission Committees of Victoria and New South Wales. Information having been obtained that Church sites were to be made available to various denominations, the Minister for Home and Territories was communicated with and as a result of enquiry it was considered advisable for the following representatives of the Home Mission Committees of Victoria and New South Wales to visit Canberra and inspect the sites that were to be available, viz., the Right Rev. A. Thain Anderson, Revs. D. A. Cameron and W. G. Forsyth, Mr. Wm. Wood and the Moderator-General. This party met at Queanbeyan and visited Canberra on the 14th, 15th and 16th April. The local officers in charge were most courteous and helpful. Mr. Rolland especially gave all the assistance he possibly could as regards plans and showing the party the sites proposed to be allocated. It was learned that the principle upon which allocation was to be made was the relative numerical strength of the different denominations in the Commonwealth, and that two denominations larger than ours had already indicated their preference.

Your representatives, after very careful inspection and deliberation, decided to indicate three sites, one of which should be applied for, the choice to be expressed in order of preference so that if the first preference were unavailable the other preferences would be known to the Home and Territories Department. This decision was intimated to the Government. It is expected that a Cathedral site of about 5 acres will be granted on easy terms, but subject to the expenditure of a certain amount of money in buildings within twenty years. Probably the allocation will be made before the end of this year. The visitors desire to express their great indebtedness to Rev. A. Carter and Mr. Rolland for valuable assistance rendered.

JOHN MATHEW.

XXXIV.—UNION OF CHURCHES IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA AND VICTORIA.

The Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of South Australia meeting in April, 1923, decided to negotiate with the Presbyterian Church of Victoria with a view to Union, to the extent and in the manner set forth in the deed of union between the Presbyterian Churches of Victoria and Tasmania.

A Deputation consisting of the Revs. W. Floyd Shannon, Clerk of Assembly, and F. S. Souter, attended the Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria meeting in May, 1923, in Melbourne, and stated the wish of the South Australian Church.

The Victorian Assembly appointed a Commission to attend a pro re nata meeting of the South Australian Assembly with a view to reporting to the Commission of the Victorian Church in November and the Commission of Assembly in November was clothed with power to mature the business for the State Assembly of Victoria, meeting in May, 1924. The pro re nata meeting was held and the Commissioners heard. The deed of union as between Victoria and Tasmania was amended and adopted as appended, and was sent down to Presbyteries of South Australia. It was referred to the Assembly of Victoria meeting May, 1924, which approved generally, and sent down to Presbyteries, and with it recommendations with regard to the Beneficiary and Sustentation Funds, and the Infirm Ministers' and Widows and Orphans' Sustentation Funds respectively, were sent down to the Committees in charge of these Funds. The Presbyteries in South Australia approved and also the Presbyteries in Victoria.

The Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of South Australia meeting in April, 1924, approved of the Union and authorised its Moderator to sign on its behalf.

The Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Victorian, meeting in May, 1924, also approved of the Union with the Presbyterian Church of South Australia on the terms set out in the deed of union agreed to in Adelaide and at the Commission of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria in November, 1923, and decided to send on the basis of agreement for ratification to the General Assembly of Australia, meeting in September, 1924.

The Victorian Church also carried a resolution in the following words:—
 “At the same time the Assembly draws the attention of both Churches to the increased financial and other responsibilities to be incurred when the union comes into operation.”

The matter is now referred to the General Assembly of Australia, meeting in Sydney in September, and ratification is asked for the agreement.

DONALD A. CAMERON,
 Convener of the Victorian Committee on Union with
 South Australia.

W. FLOYD SHANNON,
 Clerk of Assembly, South Australia.

XXXV.—BUSINESS COMMITTEE; SPECIAL REPORT.

Your Committee begs to report that a petition was received through the Presbytery of Melbourne West from Rev. J. Downey. The petition was considered by the Business Committee, which decided that in view of the terms of the petition, and particularly, (1) In that it contains language seriously reflecting on the character of a minister of the church; and (2) in that it deals with a matter outside the function of the Assembly, the petition should not be forwarded as a document for the Assembly, and consequently not printed in the White Book.

This decision was intimated to Mr. Downey and to the Presbytery of Melbourne West, at the same time pointing out to both parties that they had the right of appeal against this decision. Mr. Downey has intimated that he exercises the right of appeal. The Presbytery has intimated that it has resolved to make no appeal and to take no further action.

In view of Mr. Downey's appeal the Business Committee begs to submit the matter for the Assembly's decision.

RONALD G. MACINTYRE, Convener.

COMMUNICATIONS

I.—COMMUNICATION FROM STATE ASSEMBLY OF VICTORIA.

Relative to Re-Marriage After Divorce.

At Melbourne, and within the Assembly Hall, Collins St., the 8th May, 1924, the Assembly met pursuant to adjournment, at 10 a.m., and was duly constituted. Inter alia:—

The Report relative to Divorce was submitted by the Rev. H. M. Burns, who moved:—

“That in view of the Assembly's decision to make plain the position of the Presbyterian Church in relation to those who have been divorced on

either or both of the grounds set forth in the confession of Faith, chap. XXIV., and in the General Assembly's resolution of 1912 (G.A.A. Blue Book, Min. 32), this Assembly re-affirms the principle therein set forth, and declares: In the case of divorce pronounced by the civil courts, on the ground of adultery, or of wilful and persistent desertion on the part of one of the parties, 'the innocent party, who has obtained a divorce by regular procedure, is not subject to any censure, and is entitled, on request, to be re-married at the hands of the Church.' But the Assembly gives no sanction to any minister to perform the marriage ceremony for the guilty party in any such case, if such guilty party should seek remarriage at the Church's hands with another person. Yet, if any minister, in utterly exceptional circumstances, should take the responsibility of departing from the rules, he must report and justify his action to the General Assembly. The Assembly further draws the attention of its members to the following decision of the General Assembly of 1912:—'Other grounds than those of adultery and wilful desertion are not recognised as valid grounds for divorce by the Westminster Confession, chap. XXIV., and the Assembly instructs its ministers not to re-marry persons who have obtained divorce on any such grounds.'"

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

It was moved as an amendment by the Rev. Dr. Rentoul, and seconded by the Rev. Dr. Adam:

"That the words from 'yet' to 'justify this action before the Assembly' be omitted.

The amendment was approved.

The motion as amended was approved.

Extracted from the Minutes of the State Assembly of Victoria.

GEORGE TAIT,
Clerk.

COMMUNICATION.

(2) Letter from Presbyterian Church of England, re Churches in Malaya,

Presbyterian Church Offices,
15 Russell Square, London, W.C. 1.
19th March, 1924.

Rev. John Burgess, D.D.,

Clerk of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia
in the State of New South Wales.

The Manse,

14 Warren Road,
Marrickville,

New South Wales, Australia.

Dear Sir,

At the request of the Committee in charge of the work of the Presbyterian Church of England in the Malay Peninsula, I very earnestly ask your attention to the following Appeal, hoping that you will find a suitable opportunity of placing it before your Assembly for consideration.

Many of your members are resident in British Malaya, and more particularly in the State of Perak—the chief town of which is Ipoh, headquarters of the Tin mining industry, in which so much Australian capital is invested, and so many Australians are engaged.

Our Church is responsible for the work which is being done by the Presbyterian Church in Malaya. There are three congregations at present, in Penang, Singapore and Kuala Lumpur. For some time services have been held in Ipoh, which is midway between Penang and Kuala Lumpur (over 100 miles from each). These services are well attended, and there is much local interest.

Our friends in Malaya now write us that it is proposed to start a congregation at Ipoh, with regular services, ultimately having a Church building

and a minister stationed there. They feel that your Church has an interest in this enterprise—Ipoh is a well known place in the business world of Sydney—and such a Church would be of real service to your members, and especially to your young men, who set out to win their way in Malaya.

Would you be able to help us in this enterprise? It is in the experimental stage yet, and all the preliminary work will be done by our ministers in Penang and Kuala Lumpur. We have the organisation to commence and foster the work. But when we launch out on the scheme of a Church and minister in Ipoh, we should be greatly encouraged if we felt that your interest and sympathy were with us. Up and down the country our ministers are always coming into contact with Australian Presbyterians, and we would welcome a closer link with your Church in this matter.

We give a list at the foot of our ministers in Malaya, who will always welcome the sending of names of those coming to the country, and will be glad to visit any of your people, and so help to keep them in touch with the Church of their fathers.

Penang.—Rev. A. Ewing, The Manse, Penang, S.S.

Kuala Lumpur.—Rev. R. D. Whitehorn, M.A., The Manse, Kuala Lumpur, F.M.S.

Singapore.—Rev. G. H. Douglas, The Manse, Singapore, S.S.

With cordial and fraternal greeting,

I am,

Yours faithfully,

W. LEWIS ROBERTSON.

Extract Minute of the N.S.W. Assembly, May 21, 1924.

A letter from the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of England anent the work in British Malaya was read.

It was moved, seconded, and agreed:—

That the Assembly receive the letter; express appreciation of the splendid efforts of the Presbyterian Church of England to supply ordinances to the residents of British Malaya, but regret that owing to the serious shortage of men to meet her own urgent needs the Church in New South Wales is unable to supply a Minister for the position indicated, and refer the communication to the General Assembly of Australia.

JOHN BURGESS,

Clerk of Assembly.

III.—WORLD CONFERENCE ON FAITH AND ORDER.

Boston, U.S.A., July 7, 1924.

Rev. George Tait, M.A.,
Arnold Street,
South Yarra, Melbourne, Australia.

Reverend and Dear Sir,—

At the suggestion of the Rev. J. R. Fiddian, I write to enlist your help in securing the active co-operation of the Presbyterian Church in Australia in the preparations for the World Conference on Faith and Order. I am writing also to the Clerk of Assembly. As you will see from the enclosed List of Commissions, most Presbyterian Churches throughout the world are co-operating in this undertaking. In 1914, on the motion of the late Rev. Dr.

John Meiklejohn, the Assembly referred the matter to its Federation of Churches Committee for report at the next Assembly, but no report was made by that Committee, no doubt in consequence of the outbreak of the world war.

The Committee in charge of the preparations for the World Conference on Faith and Order would be very grateful for the appointment of a Commission to represent the Presbyterian Church of Australia. As you will see from the List of Commissions, page 23, Commissions have been appointed by the Presbyterian Church of Australia in South Australia, and by the Presbyterian Church of New Zealand.

I think that you are familiar with the nature of the preparations, but we shall be glad to send any further information which you may desire. I enclose also a copy of "Twenty Paragraphs" containing a list of previous publications.

In consequence of the recent death of Robert H. Gardiner, who had been secretary of the movement since its beginning, the offices have been transferred to Boston, and correspondence should now be addressed to the Secretariat, P.O. Box 226, Boston, Mass.

Very sincerely yours,

RALPH W. BROWN,

OVERTURES

*See Min. 91 &
Vic. B.B. 1926.
p.p. 5-6 &
CXXXIII.*

I.--OVERTURE RELATIVE TO BOARDS OF MANAGEMENT AND CHURCH COURTS.

(From State Assembly of Victoria.)

Whereas an Overture, expressing the desirability of bringing Boards of Management into more intimate relation to the Courts of the Church, was submitted to the State Assembly of Victoria in 1921, and a Committee appointed to consider the matter and report to the Commission of Assembly in 1921.

Whereas this Committee reported that in its opinion the first step to the solution of the problem raised by the Overture is to simplify the formula for Elders, and to limit their tenure of office in the Congregations they are elected to serve; and the Committee was authorised to prepare an Overture to the General Assembly of Australia in terms of the Report.

Whereas the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of England, having the same problem before it, solved it by adopting the following formula: (B.B. 1921, p. 743).

1. Do you confess your faith in God, revealed to us in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord and Saviour?

2. Do you own anew the Lord Jesus Christ as your personal Saviour and Lord; and will you seek, in dependence on the Holy Spirit, to order your life in accordance with His will?

3. Do you acknowledge as the Supreme Standard of Faith and Duty the revelations of God recorded in the Scripture of the Old and New Testaments and perfected in Jesus Christ?

4. Do you declare your loyalty to this Church and to the principles of Presbyterian polity?

5. Do you accept the office of Elder in this Congregation, and, in so doing, promise to take your part in the administration of its affairs, and faithfully to discharge the duties of the Eldership?

Whereas the limitation of the tenure of Elders is not inconsistent with the principles of Presbyterian polity. It is hereby humbly overtured to the General Assembly of Australia to take this matter into consideration and to take steps to modify the present formula for Elders, and to limit their tenure of office in the Congregations they are elected to serve, or to deal otherwise with the matter as it deems fit.

GEORGE TAIT,
Convener.

II.—OVERTURE FROM VICTORIAN COMMITTEE ON STANDING ORDERS.

Relative to Rules and Forms.

The Committee on Standing Orders of the State Assembly of Victoria met on July 4th, 1924, and was duly constituted. Inter alia:

It was agreed to request the General Assembly of Australia to prepare and issue a standard copy of its Constitution and Rules.

Extracted from the Minutes of the Committee.

GEORGE TAIT,
Convener.

2a.—OVERTURE FROM STATE ASSEMBLY OF VICTORIA.

Relative to Question VI., Chapter III., Rules and Forms.

At Melbourne, and within the Assembly Hall, Collins St., the 6th May, 1924.

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

Inter alia: The Overture from the Presbytery of Melbourne South, relative to Question VI. of I., Chapter III. of the Rules and Forms, was submitted by the Rev. J. Smiley and supported by the Rev. A. Yule.

The Rev. J. Barnaby moved and the Rev. G. S. Brodie seconded:—

“That the Overture be sustained, and transmitted to the General Assembly of Australia.”

The motion was approved.

RE QUESTION VI., CHAPTER III., RULES AND FORMS.

(From the Presbytery of Melbourne South.)

To the Venerable the State Assembly of Victoria.

Whereas Question VI., Chapter III., of the Rules and Forms is not in harmony with the other questions, and therefore lowers the tone of the Ordination or Induction Service; and whereas this question should be dealt with at the time when the Presbytery concerned is considering the sustaining of the call; and whereas this question is omitted in the ordination or induction of elders and deacons; the Presbytery of Melbourne South therefore respectfully Overtures the Venerable the State Assembly of Victoria to take these premises into consideration, and to approach the General Assembly of Australia, with a view to having the question deleted; or to deal otherwise with the matter as the Assembly in its wisdom may deem fit.

Adopted by the Presbytery of Melbourne South, at its meeting on 10/3/24.
The Revs. J. Smiley and A. Yule were appointed to support the Overture.

J. SMILEY, Presbytery Clerk.

Extracted from the Minutes of the State Assembly of Victoria.

GEORGE TAIT, Clerk.

III.—OVERTURE FROM STATE ASSEMBLY OF VICTORIA. RELATIVE TO ANZAC DAY.

At Melbourne, and within the Assembly Hall, Collins St., the 6th May, 1924.

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

Inter alia: The Report on Public Questions was submitted by the Rev. J. Mackenzie, who moved:

“That the Assembly. . . . appoint Armistice Day (Tuesday, November 11, 1924), as a day of special prayer and thanksgiving throughout the Church. . . .”

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

It was moved as an amendment by Mr. J. M. Balfour and seconded by the Rev. R. W. Macaulay:—

“That the following words be inserted before the words ‘appoint Armistice Day’; ‘recommend to the Federal Government that the public holiday on April 25th (Anzac Day) should be preserved as a National Day of Thanksgiving in dutiful commemoration of the sacrifices and sufferings of Australian sailors, soldiers and nurses during the Great War, and in grateful recognition of the inspiration given us by their examples of devotion to duty.’”

It was moved as an amendment on the amendment by Mr. A. L. Pryde, and seconded:—

“That all the words on the amendment after the word ‘recommend’ be omitted, with a view of inserting the words ‘the General Assembly of Australia to consider on what day and in what manner Anzac Day should be observed.’”

The amendment was approved, and the words inserted in the amendment of Mr. Balfour, and the amendment as amended was inserted in the motion.

The motion as amended was approved.

Extracted from the Minutes of the State Assembly of Victoria.

GEORGE TAIT, Clerk.

IV.—OVERTURE FROM STATE ASSEMBLY OF VICTORIA. RELATIVE TO THE NEW GUINEA MANDATE.

At Melbourne, and within the Assembly Hall, Collins St., the 14th May, 1924.

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

Inter alia: According to notice, the Rev. W. H. Ash moved:—

“That the following Overture be transmitted simpliciter to the General Assembly of Australia:—

“Whereas, by the Treaty of Peace, of 28th June, 1919, Australia was given a Mandate over certain territory in New Guinea and adjacent thereto, and is responsible, among other things, for the spiritual welfare of some 335,000 people there, and the religious training of many thousands of children; and whereas it appears that the religious agencies at present working in the Territory are inadequate to the performance of what is necessary to be done;

“It is hereby humbly overtured by the General Assembly of the State of Victoria, to the General Assembly of Australia, to take this whole matter into consideration, and, in conjunction with other Protestant Churches in the Commonwealth that are willing to act, devise such ways of assisting the people in question as to the Assembly may seem best.”

The motion was seconded by the Rev. J. G. Scarfe, and approved, and the Rev. K. Forster was appointed to introduce the Overture.

Extracted from the Minutes of the State Assembly of Victoria.

GEORGE TAIT, Clerk.

V.—OVERTURE FROM STATE ASSEMBLY OF VICTORIA.
RELATIVE TO MODERATORS-GENERAL.

At Melbourne, and within the Assembly Hall, Collins St., the 14th May, 1924.

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

Inter alia: The Rev. E. E. Baldwin moved the motion, of which he had given notice, relative to Moderators-General, in the following form:—

“That the following Overture, prepared by the Special Committee, be transmitted simpliciter to the General Assembly of Australia:—

“Whereas it seems desirable that any minister who is to be elected to the Moderatorship of the Venerable the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia should be a member, both of the Assembly over which he is to preside, and of all subsequent Assemblies held throughout his lifetime.

“And whereas there is no certainty, under Article III. of the Articles of Agreement, that he shall be a member of all or any of these,

“Now, therefore, the State General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria humbly overtures the Venerable the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia to take these premises into consideration, and so to alter the said Article III. as to secure the desired object, or to do otherwise as in its wisdom it may see fit.”

The motion was duly seconded and approved.

Extracted from the Minutes of the State Assembly of Victoria.

GEORGE TAIT, Clerk.

VI.—OVERTURE FROM THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA, ANENT THE ELIGIBILITY OF WOMEN TO THE ELDERSHIP.

“Whereas the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Western Australia, in recognition of the full share of the work of the Church which has been done by women and of the desirability of extending their opportunities for further service, has affirmed the eligibility of women for election and ordination to the Eldership, and whereas many branches of the Church of Jesus Christ have derived much help and support through the appointment of women to such office, and whereas it is in accord with the teachings of

democracy and the action of our Commonwealth in civil matters to afford equal rights to both men and women, the General Assembly of Western Australia respectfully overtures the General Assembly of Australia to take these premises into consideration, and declare women eligible, equally with men, for election and ordination to the Eldership throughout the Presbyterian Church of Australia.''

To be supported by Rev. S. B. W. Richardson and Prof. A. D. Ross.

VII.—OVERTURE FROM THE VICTORIAN ASSEMBLY RELATIVE TO A JUNIOR CATECHISM.

At Melbourne and within the Assembly Hall, Collins St., the 6th May, 1924.

The Assembly met pursuant to adjournment and was duly constituted, inter alia:—

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

“That the Assembly..... request the General Assembly of Australia to select, revise or prepare a Junior Catechism.....’”

The motion was seconded by Dr. J. Smyth.....

It was moved as an amendment.....

The amendment was seconded..... and approved.

The motion as amended was approved.

Extracted from the Minutes of the State Assembly of Victoria.

GEORGE TAIT,

Clerk.

P.S.—The amendment referred to was not upon the clause relative to a Junior Catechism.

G.T.

VIII.—OVERTURE FROM THE STATE ASSEMBLY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA RELATIVE TO MELBOURNE COLLEGE OF DIVINITY.

At Adelaide and within the Flinders Street Presbyterian Church there, the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in South Australia met on Friday, the 1st day of May, 1924, and was duly constituted, the Moderator, Right Rev. R. Campbell, presiding, inter alia:—

It was agreed that the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia be overtured as follows:—

“Whereas considerable difficulty has been experienced by Students prosecuting their studies for the Holy Ministry in connection with the General Assembly, who are also desirous of taking advantage of the L.Th. examination of the Melbourne College of Divinity, owing to the fact that there is a measure of diversity between the subjects prescribed for such latter examination and those of the Exit examination of the General Assembly.

And whereas owing to the fact that these two examinations have in reality a marked similarity the one to the other, it is therefore humbly overtured to the Venerable the General Assembly of Australia by the State Assembly of South Australia, that the College Committee of the General Assembly be instructed:—

1st: To credit passes in the L.Th. Examination of the Melbourne College of Divinity as equivalent to passes in the Exit examination subjects, or

2nd: To make the Exit Syllabus coincide as far as possible with that of the Melbourne College of Divinity; or to deal otherwise with the matter as the General Assembly in its wisdom may see fit."

W. FLOYD SHANNON,
Clerk of Assembly,
South Australia.

Rev. Dr. Seymour was appointed to support the Overture at the General Assembly of Australia.

IX.—OVERTURE RE HOME MISSIONS.

Overture anent Board of Home Missions (General Assembly of Australia), ordered to be sent by Unification of Home Missions Committee to State Assemblies and Presbyteries.

(Blue Book, 1922, Minute 29, Clause 5.)

Whereas the General Assembly of Australia at its meeting on the second day of October, 1906, saw fit to strike out in Article X. of the Constitution the words "Home Missions" and "the General Assembly shall further be free in conjunction with the State Assemblies to originate new Home Mission schemes."

And whereas the said General Assembly at its meeting on September 7, 1922, appointed a Special Committee to consider in detail, with a view to the greater efficiency of our Church as an Australian Church, the practicability of the unification of the work in the Home Missions, and instructed the Committee to draft and send to Presbyteries and State Assemblies an overture relative to the abovementioned matter, with instructions to report the same to next General Assembly.

It is, therefore, humbly overtured to the Venerable the General Assembly by the State Assembly of South Australia that the General Assembly, in terms of the resolution arrived at on the abovementioned date, shall, at each ordinary meeting, appoint a Board for the management and administration of Home Missions, which shall be called the Board of Home Missions:—

1. The Board of Home Missions shall consist of 24 members. Ministers and Elders, 16 of whom shall be appointed on the nomination of the State Assemblies—4 by Victoria, 4 by New South Wales, 2 each by Queensland, Tasmania, South Australia, and Western Australia, and 8 by the General Assembly itself. Should a State Assembly fail to nominate, the General Assembly shall appoint in its stead.

2. Committees shall be appointed as at present by the State Assemblies for the purpose of stimulating interest in Home Missions, originating and actively directing the work in each State, controlling their own agents, and collecting money, and these Committees shall report to the General Assembly through the Board of Home Missions, as well as to their State Assemblies.

3. The money raised by the State Assemblies for the support of their Home Missions shall be held by their respective Treasurers on behalf of the State Assemblies, and the responsibility for supporting such Home Missions shall rest with the State Assemblies respectively concerned therewith. The Board of Missions may, with the consent of the State Assembly, raise money in any State for the general support of Home Missions, and shall administer such funds on behalf of the General Assembly.

4. The General Assembly shall have power with the consent of the State Assembly concerned, to take over any special territory or Mission, and to work it in conjunction with the General Assembly.

5. The Board of Missions shall appoint two Executive Committees, one of which shall sit in Melbourne and the other in Sydney, unless the matter be otherwise ordered by the General Assembly.

Or to do otherwise as the General Assembly in its wisdom may deem fit.

REFERENCES

I.—REFERENCE FROM STATE ASSEMBLY OF VICTORIA.

RELATIVE TO SOUTH AUSTRALIAN UNION WITH VICTORIA.

At Melbourne, and within the Assembly Hall, Collins St., the 9th May, 1924.

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

Inter alia; The Report on the Union with South Australia was submitted by the Rev. D. A. Cameron, who moved:—

“That the Assembly receive and adopt the Report, thank and re-appoint the Committee and Convener, approve of the union with the Presbyterian Church of South Australia on the terms set out in the deed of union agreed to at the Commission in November, 1923, and send on the basis of agreement for ratification to the General Assembly of Australia meeting in September, 1924. At the same time the Assembly draws the attention of both churches to the increased financial and other responsibilities to be incurred when the union comes into operation.”

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

DEED OF UNION.

This Indenture made the day of One thousand
nine hundred and twenty.

Witnesseth that the Presbyterian Church of Victoria (hereinafter called “the Victorian Church”) and the Presbyterian Church of South Australia (hereinafter called “the South Australian Church”) agree to unite for the period to the extent and in manner set forth in the following Articles and subjects thereto:—

ARTICLES.

1. The South Australian Church shall be received as part of the Victorian Church; and its Presbyteries, Ministers, Sessions, and Congregations shall be received as Presbyteries, Ministers, Sessions and Congregations of the Victorian Church and shall be subject to its jurisdiction, and shall be entitled to be represented in the State General Assembly of the Victorian Church in the same way as the other parts of that Church.

Provided that—

- (a) The representatives of the South Australian Church shall not be reckoned for purposes of representation of the Victorian Assembly in the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia and shall not have a vote in the Victorian Assembly on remits sent down from the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia relating to proposed changes in the Basis of Union or the Articles of Agreement.
- (b) The Presbyteries of the South Australian Church shall retain the right of appointing representatives in the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia.
- (c) The Victorian Church shall have no right to or interest in the properties or the capital funds of the South Australian Church or of any of its congregations, and

II.—REFERENCE FROM STATE ASSEMBLY OF VICTORIA.

RELATIVE TO TASMANIAN UNION WITH VICTORIA.

At Melbourne, and within the Assembly Hall, Collins St., the 15th day of November, 1923.

The Commission met, pursuant to adjournment, and was duly constituted.

Inter alia: The Report of the Committee relative to the revival of the Deliverance on Corporate Union with the Tasmanian Church was submitted by the Rev. Dr. Adam, who moved:—

“That the Commission receive and approve of the Report; thank the Committee and the Convener; recommend to the General Assembly of Australia that, at the expiration of the present agreement, the union on the present basis of the Tasmanian and Victorian Churches be, with the approval of the Tasmanian Assembly, extended for another ten years, but resolve either (a) that there be one Presbytery for the whole of Tasmania, and that it should sit as the Assembly or governing authority of the Presbyterian Church of Tasmania for all legal purposes—Standing Order No. 3 being altered so as to make this possible; or (b) that the number of Presbyteries in Tasmania be reduced to two; according as the Tasmanian Assembly may prefer.”

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

CORPORATE UNION OF THE TASMANIAN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
WITH THE VICTORIAN.

Your Committee submitted the opinion of the Law Agents of the Presbyterian Church of Tasmania to the Law Agents of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria as to what might be involved in Corporate Union. Mr. Campbell agreed with the views therein expressed, that there would have to be statutory authorities of the Parliaments of both the States of Tasmania and Victoria for such action. Mr. Campbell also stated that the Basis of Union would have to be altered, and that for this purpose the General Assembly of Australia would have to give its sanction.

Your Committee is of opinion that the benefits desired may be secured in a simpler way, as, for instance, by the extension of the present union for another 10 years, with such modifications as may seem desirable. Suggested modifications are that there should be one Presbytery for the whole of Tasmania, and that it should sit as the Governing Authority, with the Moderator of Presbytery as the Moderator of the Tasmanian Assembly for the time being. The annual meeting of the Tasmanian Assembly could be held at the same time as the meeting of the Presbytery of Tasmania, and so travelling expenses could be minimised and time saved.

Your Committee considers that, owing to the difficulties of getting Parliamentary interest and sympathy at present, legislation would have risks that might not compensate for the advantages to be gained. It recommends that the present union be extended for another 10 years; that the Victorian Assembly or the General Assembly of Australia be asked to sanction the incorporation of the three Presbyteries of Tasmania into one, and give sanction for this Presbytery to act as the Assembly of Tasmania for legal purposes, and for such other duties as may necessitate the presence in Tasmania of a local Moderator of Assembly and a local Governing Authority.

The Committee wishes the Assembly to know that this finding is not unanimous, and that the Tasmanian members of the Committee still think that a Corporate Union would be preferable.

DONALD A. CAMERON, Convener.

**2a.—REFERENCE FROM PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA.
REGARDING UNION OF VICTORIAN AND TASMANIAN CHURCHES.**

At Melbourne and within the Assembly Hall, Collins St., the 9th May, 1924, inter alia:

The Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria resolved to "recommend to the General Assembly of Australia that at the expiration of the present agreement, the Union on the present basis of the Tasmanian and Victorian Churches be, with the approval of the Tasmanian Assembly, extended for another ten years, with the proviso that there be one Presbytery for the whole of Tasmania, and that it should sit as the governing authority for the Presbyterian Church in Tasmania as regards property, the present basis of Union being altered accordingly, and also the general rules of the Presbyterian Church in Tasmania, so far as may be necessary, and resolve to report this proposed action to the General Assembly of Australia.

GEO. M. BAIRD,
HUGH M. BURNS,
Joint Conveners.

(3) Reference from the Public Questions Committee of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria:

Relative to Delegate to Presbyterian Alliance.

At a meeting of the above Committee on 18th June, 1924, it was resolved, inter alia, to respectfully suggest to the General Assembly to appoint a delegate or delegates from the Presbyterian Church of Australia to the General Council of the Alliance of Reformed Churches, holding the Presbyterian System Meeting at Cardiff, June, 1925, and to the Universal Conference on Life and Work Meeting at Stockholm, August, 1925.

HUGH M. BURNS,
Convener, Public Questions Committee (Victoria).

**IV.—REFERENCE FROM THE VICTORIAN STATE ASSEMBLY RE
THEOLOGICAL HALL.**

The State Assembly of Victoria on 7th May, 1924, resolved as follows:--
"That subject to the approval of the General Assembly of Australia the Theological Hall session be lengthened by four weeks and, if this change be approved, resolve that Monday lectures in the hall be discontinued; authorise the Committee to approach the General Assembly with a view of securing this change."

Reference to be stated by Rev. Dr. Mathew.

RETURNS TO REMITS

I.—JUNIOR MEMBERSHIP.

PROPOSED RULES.

1. Junior Members shall be defined as persons under 17 years of age, and not, as a rule, under 13, who

- (1) After full and careful instruction, publicly profess their faith in Jesus Christ as their Saviour, and their purpose to serve Him in love and loyalty.
- (2) Engage to attend some class for the fuller knowledge of the Word of God and the better service of the Kingdom;
- (3) Promise to unite regularly in the worship of the Congregation, to observe faithfully the Lord's Supper, and to contribute to the

support of the Church and its various activities at home and abroad, according to their ability, being always ready to take their part, as opportunity offers, in the furtherance of Christ's Kingdom;

- (4) Are thereafter admitted by the Session, if possible, in the presence of the Congregation, and enrolled as Junior Members.

2. Junior Members shall not vote in the affairs of the Church, neither shall they be reckoned as members in any assessment that may be made on Congregations by the Higher Courts of the Church.

3. On Junior Members attaining the age of 17, Sessions shall, unless for good reason to the contrary, place their names on the ordinary Communion Roll, and they should be presented publicly to the Congregation and welcomed to participation in all the rights, privileges and responsibilities of full Membership.

The following returns have been made:—

Approve:—

New South Wales: Presbyteries of New England, Hawkesbury, North Sydney, Monaro (with amendment).

Victoria: Assembly (with amendments), Presbyteries of Melbourne East (with amendments), Seymour.

Queensland: Presbyteries of Rockhampton and Maryborough.

South Australia: Presbyteries of Onkaparinga, Belalie (with amendments).

Tasmania: Assembly, Presbytery of Launceston (with amendments).

Western Australia: Assembly, Presbytery of Fremantle.

Disapprove:—

New South Wales: Assembly, Presbyteries of Sydney, The Hastings, Wagga Wagga, Moree.

Victoria: Presbyteries of Geelong, Ballarat, Melbourne West.

South Australia: Assembly, Presbytery of Adelaide.

II.—REMIT ON UNIFICATION OF HOME MISSIONS.

Approve: Vic., Presbytery of Macedon. Tas., Assembly. S.A., Presbyteries—Adelaide, Onkaparinga.

Disapprove: S.A., Presbytery Belalie. Vic., Assembly, Presbytery Melbourne East.

PETITIONS

I.—REV. W. T. ALEXANDER.

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

The Petition of the undersigned, being a Licentiate of the United Free Church of Scotland, respectfully sheweth:—

That he was born in the year 1888 at Bonnyrigg, Midlothian, Scotland, and baptised into the Free Church of Scotland, now the United Free Church of Scotland.

That he was educated at a private school known as the Durham School, near Edinburgh, at the Royal High School, Edinburgh, and at the University of Edinburgh, where he completed the Graduate course in arts.

That in May, 1914, he completed four years in Divinity at New College, Edinburgh, and along with other exit students, joined H.M. Forces at the outbreak of war, and served five years in the army, made up as follows: 1914 to 1918, as a Combatant Officer; 1918 as acting Chaplain to Prisoners of war; 1919, as education officer with the Army of the Rhine.

That the petitioner's army record of service was submitted at Sydney on arrival.

That on the termination of his war service he was accepted by the National Council of the Y.M.C.A. as Migration Officer and as a lecturer to General Secretaries in the Midlands of England.

That on hearing of the difficulties of the Australian Inland Mission he volunteered service, and relinquished his Y.M.C.A. appointment.

That the petitioner has been identified with the enterprises of the Presbyterian church from youth.

That the petitioner is at present in charge of the Cloncurry district of the Australian Inland Mission.

Your petitioner attaches letters, etc., bearing on his life and work.

Your petitioner therefore prays your Venerable Court to receive him as a Licentiate of the Presbyterian Church of Australia, eligible for a call on the completion of the necessary period of probation.

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

W. T. ALEXANDER.

Dated this 17th day of October, 1923.

The Manse,

Cloncurry,

Queensland.

At Sydney, and within St. Stephen's Church, on Tuesday, March 11th, 1924, which place and date the Presbytery duly met and was constituted with prayer.

Inter alia—

“That the petition of Mr. W. T. Alexander, Licentiate of the United Free Church of Scotland, be forwarded to the General Assembly of Australia, with the recommendation that the prayer thereof be granted, and that the service already rendered to the Church by Mr. Alexander be counted as his full probation.”

“The motion was duly seconded and carried.”

Extracted from the minutes of the Presbytery of Sydney this 21st day of March, 1924, by me,

JAMES C. MILLIKEN,

Acting Clerk of Presbytery.

Letters in support from—

- (a) J. Leslie, Staff Captain, British Rhine Army of Occupation Education Staff.
- (b) Edward Bellingham, D.S.O., C.M.G., General, and four other officers; British Officers Prisoners of War Camp Grandesse, West Prussia, November, 1918.
- (c) Victor H. Ryan, State Immigration Officer, Adelaide.
- (d) C. J. Sutton, Captain Y.M.C.A. Migration Department, London. Certificate of License from Presbytery of Dalkeith, U.F. Church of Scotland.

R. F. LOUDON, M.A., B.D., Clerk.

Certificate of Baptism.

II.—PETITION OF REV. GRAHAM H. BALFOUR, M.A., B.D.

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

The petition of the undersigned respectfully showeth:—

1. That your Petitioner was born at Melbourne on 22nd June, 1866.
2. That your Petitioner was educated at Brighton College, Toorak College, Melbourne University, at which he took the degrees of B.A. and M.A.; Theological Hall, Ormond College, New College, Edinburgh, Marburg.
3. That your Petitioner received the degree of B.D. from St. Andrew's, Scotland.
4. That your Petitioner was ordained as Minister of West Hawthorn in 1895, and was afterwards Minister at Brighton, at East St. Kilda, at First Church, Dunedin, N.Z.
5. That your Petitioner received the attached certificate on his resignation of his last charge.
6. That your Petitioner prays to be received into the Ministry of the Presbyterian Church of Australia, and as in duty bound will ever pray.

GRAHAM H. BALFOUR,

p. GEORGE TAIT.

PRESBYTERY OF MELBOURNE EAST.

The Manse,
Oakleigh,
Victoria.

Convener of Committee on Reception of Ministers.

Rev. and Dear Sir,

Herewith I am forwarding you a Petition from the Rev. Graham H. Balfour, M.A., B.D., applying for reception into the Presbyterian Church of Australia.

The Minute of the Presbytery of Melbourne East is as follows:—“Agreed to receive the Petition and forward it to the Reception Committee of the General Assembly of Australia with the recommendation that the prayer of the Petition be granted.”

Yours sincerely,

E. H. CHAPPLE,

Presbytery Clerk.

PRESBYTERY OF DUNEDIN.

Dunedin, 6th March, 1923.

On which day the Presbytery of Dunedin met and was constituted.

Inter Alia:—

It was moved, seconded and agreed to:—“The Presbytery having heard the Report of its Committee, and the statements made by the Representatives of First Church, and the Rev. G. H. Balfour, resolves to accept the Resignation of the Rev. G. H. Balfour, B.D., as from the 31st of March, 1923. The Presbytery comes to this decision with much reluctance, after his twelve years strenuous service, including, as it does, the trying period of the great war. Mr. Balfour has proved himself to be a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, evincing Ministerial gifts and graces of a high order, worthily

and acceptably discharging the duties of his responsible and influential office. While serving his own congregation with much diligence, he has taken a full share in the work of the Presbytery, and in the Committees of the Church. He has also taken a keen interest in Public Affairs, and in the general welfare of the community. In all his work, Mrs. Balfour has proved herself a true help-mate, and the Presbytery appreciates the many services she has rendered to the Congregation and to the Church. In parting from him the members of Presbytery assure Mr. Balfour of their brotherly esteem, of their sympathy with him in his illness, of their best wishes for a happy holiday, and of their earnest prayer that soon he may be restored to his wonted vigour, and that he may have many years of useful and honourable service in the Church of the living God."

Extracted from the Presbytery Records by

JOHN KILPATRICK,
Presbytery Clerk.

III.—REV. J. F. CHRISTIAN.

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

Rev. John Faragher Christian. The Petition of the undersigned respectfully sheweth:—

(1) That your Petitioner was born at "Foxdale," Isle of Man, England, in the year 1892, is married, and has one child.

(2) That he received his early education at the Board School, Foxdale, I.O.M., where he reached the highest grade.

(3) At the age of 14½ years he was apprenticed to the joinery trade, having served four years, he decided to come to N.S.W., Australia.

(4) In March of 1914 he left Sydney for his native home, and while on holiday, the call to the Christian Ministry was first felt. On his return to N.S.W. in January, 1915, the call became clearer and more definite, and the way gradually opened for training, in answer to prayer.

(5) In June, 1915, your Petitioner entered the Australian Chapman Alexander Bible Institute of Adelaide, S.A., with the hope of taking a full course of study, under the Rev. Principal Elliott. Owing to a shortage of men in the Baptist Church, a tempting offer was made to him by the Baptist Union of S.A. and thinking he was doing the right thing he accepted the oversight of the Angaston, Eden Valley and South Rhine Churches and instead of a full course of study, only six months was spent in the Institute.

The following subjects were studied, 1st Term: (a) Bible Doctrine Course, Justification, Adoption, Sanctification Assurance Prayer, etc.

(b) Practical Method Course, Evangelistic Work, the Divine Pattern, Personal Work. The Evangelistic Sermon, Lessons from the life of Finney and Moody.

2nd term (a) Bible Doct. The Church. Last things, including 2nd Coming, Resurrection Judgments. Angels. Satan, origin, power, doom.

(b) Practical Method Course.

Preparation lay sermon.

Bible Lessons, etc.

Selection of texts, topics, outlines, constructions, topical, textual, expository, Evangelistic and passed in every subject as certificates will show.

(6) Your Petitioner, in 1917, was accepted by the Baptist Home Missionary Society of N.S.W. as a Home Missionary. With a desire of entering the fuller ministry he took up the Home Mission course, covering 2 years, studied, and sat for the subjects, and passed successfully. The subjects were as follows: English, Gk. Bible History, Christian Evidences of the Life of Christ. During this time he was in charge of the Barmedman District, and later on Walla Walla District.

(7) In March of 1919, at the age of twenty-seven, being accepted as a student by the College Council of N.S.W., your Petitioner entered the Baptist Theological College of N.S.W. His training there embraced the following subjects, covering a period of three years, two of which were under the late Principal, Rev. Alex. Gordon, M.A., and the latter one under Principal Morling, B.A. 1st Year: O.T. Exegesis; Church History, Greek; Bible Introduction; Theology and English Homiletics. 2nd Year: Theology; Bible Introduction; Greek N.T. Exegesis, Church History; O.T. Prophets; Christian Psychology, including Spiritual Ascent of Man by W. J. Jones; English and Greek. 3rd Year: Theology; English; Church History, Bible Introduction; N.T. Exegesis, Baptist Prin. and History; 2nd Advent, Heresies. He passed in all these subjects as diploma will show. The college year began at the beginning of March and terminated at the end of November.

(8) Your Petitioner was in charge of the Bankstown Baptist Church and also Blackheath Church, during his college years, and did excellent work, especially at Bankstown, as reference will prove.

(9) On finishing his College course in 1921 he accepted a call to the Mortdale Baptist Church and at the following Annual Assembly he was ordained to the ministry of that Church. Toward the end of Oct., 1922, he resigned from the Pastorate of that church and denomination. He left the Church in good standing under no censure or liability of censure on any ground whatsoever.

(10) With an earnest desire to enter the Home Mission work of the Presbyterian Church your Petitioner called at the Church offices, and met the Rev. W. Anderson, and the Rev. Thomas Morgan. Having made application for work, the Pulpit Supply Committee appointed him to preach at Epping Presbyterian Church one Sabbath Day, and Botany another Sabbath Day.

(11) Toward the end of February of 1923, your petitioner took the oversight of the Goolmangar-Nimbin charge, for five weeks, but the weeks grew into months, the Home Mission Committee having granted the request of the Board of Management to settle your Petitioner for at least twelve months. During this short period the work has steadily increased and the work is full of encouragement.

(12) The reasons of your Petitioner for seeking a change is based on an intense conviction that the polity of the Presbyterian Church is preferable to that of the Baptist Church. He is convinced that he can best serve the Kingdom of Jesus Christ in the Presbyterian Church.

(13) Your Petitioner is in all respects physically sound and enjoys good health. Herewith are the following documents in support of the statements made in this petition:—

(1) Certificates from the Chapman Alexander Bible Institute.

(2) Diploma from the Baptist College of N.S.W.

Statements by—

Rev. Dr. John H. Elliott, Late Principal of Bible Institute, Adelaide.

Rev. Dr. A. J. Waldock, Superintendent and Secretary of the Baptist

Home Missionary Society of N.S.W.

Mr. A. W. Lillecrapp, Secretary Baptist Church, Eden Valley, S.A.

Mr. H. Owen, Secretary Baptist Church, Bankstown, N.S.W.

Rev. A. P. Mann, Baptist Church, Clare, S.A.

Rev. E. C. Davies, Congregational Minister, Willoughby.
 Mr. E. H. Trollope, Secretary Baptist Church, Mortdale.
 Mr. H. C. Norman, Secretary Goolmangar-Nimbin Charge.
 Rev. F. L. A. Schloeffel, Presbyterian Church, Palmer St., Sydney.
 Rev. Davis Galloway, Interim Moderator of Goolmangar-Nimbin Charge.

(14) Your Petitioner now prays your Venerable Court to receive him as a Minister of the Presbyterian Church of Australia and your Petitioner, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

JOHN F. CHRISTIAN.

“The Manse,” Goolmangar, N.S.W.

January 15th, 1924.

At Lismore, and within the Presbyterian Church, there, on Thursday, April 17, 1924, which place and time the Presbytery of the Richmond being duly met and constituted with prayer. Inter Alia:—

“A Petition with relative Documents from Rev. John Faragher Christian, Home Missionary at Nimbin-Goolmangar, to the General Assembly of Australia, praying to be received into the Ministry of the Presbyterian Church, was read and laid upon the Table.

“It was moved, seconded and agreed that the Petition be received and, together with relative documents, forwarded simpliciter, to the General Assembly of Australia.”

Closed with prayer.

Extracted from the Records of the Presbytery of the Richmond this 23rd day of April, 1924, by me,

RICHARD MILLER,

Clerk of Presbytery.

IV.—REV. ENOS. COLEMAN.

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

Rev. Enos. Coleman: The Petition of the undersigned respectfully sheweth:—

1. That your Petitioner was born in South Wales in the year 1885, is married, and has four children.

2. That he received his early education at various county schools, and the Higher Grade School of Ferndale (South Wales).

3. That upon leaving school he learned the trade of a waggon and carriage builder at the Glamorganshire Colliery, Tonypatedy, South Wales.

4. That at the age of 22 he left the above place, and by private tuition of two years from Rev. W. Lamb, Baptist Minister, South Wales, and by an attendance at the Pontypridd Academy (a private coaching college) he sought to prepare himself for the Baptist Ministry in Wales. During this time he was engaged in supplying various pulpits in Wales and carried on a Mission Church in Unyser, South Wales.

5. That financial circumstances prevented him continuing his course, and for four years he engaged in regular preaching with the Churches of Christ. At the same time he pursued a private course of training in Hebrew, Greek, English and Bible Knowledge and Homiletics under the tuition of Mr. John Oliver, the head of the training school of the Churches of Christ.

6. That in 1912 he came to New South Wales by invitation of the Church of Christ at Cannon Street, Petersham, and for two and a half years had

charge of that church. During his stay over 80 were baptised and joined the church.

7. Feeling the need for more efficient training, in 1914 he entered on the course of the Baptist Ministry, which involves five years training. Two years as a Home Mission Agent before entrance to the College, and three years in College. His preparatory work was spent in Blackheath, N.S.W., in charge of the Baptist work there.

8. That while at Blackheath, besides preparing for and passing the Entrance Examination of the Baptist College of N.S.W. in Greek, English, Theology and Mathematics, he also prepared himself for the Matriculation Examination of the Sydney University in Greek (Higher), English (Higher), Latin, Mathematics. He passed in the first three, but failed to satisfy the examiners in Mathematics. As the College course was to commence in Melbourne the same month, he was not able to complete his matriculation.

9. That in 1915 he proceeded to Melbourne to commence his training in the Baptist College and did the prescribed course for one year. The subjects taken were as follows:—

1. Hebrew.
2. Greek Testament (Galatians).
3. Old Testament Exegesis (1 Samuel).
4. Bible Introduction (Angus and Peake).
5. Church History (Apostolic Age).
6. Homiletics.
7. Elocution.
8. Egyptology (Queen's College, Prof. Sugden).

He passed in all these subjects, except Egyptology. (This examination he did not sit for, as it was outside his prescribed course, but he obtained permission to attend lectures.)

10. That on account of a Baptist College being established in New South Wales, he continued his training under the Principalship of the Rev. A. Gordon, M.A., in his home state.

During the two years he received the lectures and passed the Examinations in the following subjects:—

I.—At the College:—

Year II.

Theology	85 per cent.
Homiletics	82 per cent.
Apologetics	90 per cent.
Church History	91 per cent.
Greek New Testament	74 per cent.
English O.T. Exegesis	81 per cent.

Year III.

Bible Introduction	86 per cent.
Church Polity	80 per cent.
Theology	82 per cent.
Homiletics	85 per cent.
Greek New Testament	82 per cent.
Ethics	97 per cent.

II.—At the Sydney University—

1. Psychology and Logic, being Philosophy I. in Arts Course.
2. Ancient Philosophy, being Philosophy II. in Arts Course.

11. That upon his return from Melbourne to N.S.W. in 1916 he undertook the charge of the Hurlstone Park Baptist Mission then meeting in the Hurlstone Hall, Duntroon Street. He was in this charge for seven and half (7½) years; during which a Church was formed, a brick church building seat-

ing 250 was erected, and at the close of his Ministry a thriving Church, which was on the point of being self supporting, was left.

12. That in June, 1923, he accepted a unanimous call to the Grafton Baptist Church, where he was still labouring successfully at the time of this Petition.

13. He is a Minister in good standing of the Baptist Denomination, and under no censure or liability to censure on any ground whatsoever.

14. That his reason for seeking admission to the Ministry of the Presbyterian Church is that he feels its Polity gives that larger mental and spiritual freedom which is essential to an effective ministry.

15. That as an additional reason for seeking admission to the Presbyterian Ministry, he would say that, brought up in a Presbyterian home, his father being a Presbyterian Minister in Wales, he feels drawn to serve his Master in the Church of his fathers.

16. Herewith are the following documents in support of the statements in this Petition:—

1. Baptist College Certificate.
2. University Certificates.
3. Address on leaving Hurlstone Park Baptist Church.
4. Statement by Rev. Principal G. H. Morling, B.A.
5. Personal Testimonies:
 - (a) Rev. Principal G. H. Morling, B.A.
 - (b) Rev. Ambrose Williams.
 - (c) Rev. T. Macdougall, B.A.
 - (d) Rev. David M. Benjamin.
 - (e) Rev. W. D. M'Ilwraith, B.A.

17. Your Petitioner is in all respects physically sound and enjoys excellent health.

18. Your Petitioner now prays your Venerable Court to receive him as a Minister of the Presbyterian Church of Australia and your Petitioner, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

ENOS. COLEMAN.

May, 7th, 1924.

“The Manse,”
Grafton.

EXTRACT MINUTE RE REV. E. COLEMAN.

At Cowper and in the Church there on the tenth day of May, 1924, the Presbytery of the Clarence being duly met, was constituted with Prayer.

Inter alia:—A petition from the Rev. Enos. Coleman, Baptist Minister of Grafton, praying to be admitted to the Ministry of the Presbyterian Church, was considered.

The certificates and commendatory documents accompanying the Petition were carefully examined.

It was resolved to transmit the petition to the General Assembly with the recommendation that the prayer thereof be granted.

Extracted from the Records of the Presbytery of the Clarence this second day of June, 1924, by me,

W. D. M'ILWRAITH,
Presbytery Clerk.

V.—REV. WILLIAM JOHN COULSON.

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

The Petition of the undersigned humbly sheweth:—

That he was born in Sydney, N.S.W., in 1868, is married, and has two children.

That he received his early education in the National and Public Schools of New South Wales, and in the Technical College of Sydney. He then assisted his father in business for some ten years, during which period, at the age of eighteen years, he joined the Baptist Church, and engaged in Christian work therewith, including Christian Endeavour, Band of Hope, Sabbath School, Choir, Open Air preaching, etc. Thereafter, in 1898, he first enrolled as a Home Missionary with the Baptist Church, and then entered on their course of training in the Melbourne Baptist College, studying under Rev. Principal Dr. Whitley, Professor Holdsworth, and Dr. Wilkin, and Professor Sugden and Mr. Arthur, of Queen's College, Melbourne, for three years, taking up English, Bible History, Criticism and Exegesis, Christian Evidences, O.T. and N.T. Introduction, Systematic and Biblical Theology, Homiletics and Pastoral Theology, Church History, Apologetics, N.T. Greek, Logic, Psychology, Ethics, and qualified for the ministry.

He then entered on a pastorate of three years as Baptist minister at Hinton, N.S.W., was translated to Wangaratta for two years, to Shepparton for five and a half years, and Hamilton for three and a half years, from which he resigned in 1916. He took up his residence at Frankston, where he became connected, first as a worshipper, and then as an occasional preacher with the Presbyterian Mission. He undertook occasional work for the Home Mission Committee of the Presbyterian Church, and was, in 1920, finally asked by the Home Mission Committee to take charge of work from time to time at Ultima, Meeniyan, Montague Mission, Glenorchy, Ararat (as Assistant to the Rev. J. J. Spalding, B.A.) and Glencoe, S.A.

From all his pastorates, the applicant received letters of commendation on being translated, and was recognised as an efficient minister of the Baptist Church.

Your Petitioner's reason for seeking to enter the Presbyterian ministry is that, being in good health, and feeling that he can still serve the Church of God for some years, he would wish again to enter upon duties of a Minister in full standing. He accepts the Presbyterian teaching regarding Infant Baptism and the Lord's Supper, as being in accord with the teaching of the New Testament, and accepts the Presbyterian form of Church government as being Scriptural and justified by historical results.

Your Petitioner made application for acceptance in 1922. He believes that the prayer of Petition was not granted because of his age. He, therefore, seeks to make known to your Venerable Assembly the fact that he owns property that makes provision for his infirm age, and would not, therefore, expect or ask to come on any of the beneficiary funds of the Church, nor would he in any way become a burden on the kindly feeling of the Church.

He, therefore, prays your Venerable Assembly to receive him into the ministry of the Presbyterian Church of Australia.

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

Documents accompanying petition:—College Certificate from the Baptist College; Certificate of Disjunction from the Baptist Union.

Letters of commendation from:—Dr. F. J. Wilkin, Secretary of the Baptist Union of Victoria; J. F. Mackeddie, M.D., Rev. F. H. L. Paton, Secretary of the Foreign Mission Committee of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria; Mr. W. H. Melville; Revs. A. D. Brodie and J. A. Barber, Presbyterian Ministers and Convener of Victorian Home Mission Committee.

W. J. COULSON.

Also certificate from Rev. John A. Crockett,
Convener Home Mission Committee of Victoria.

St. Andrew's Manse,
Narracoorte,
South Australia.
16/7/'24.

REV. A. S. M'COOK.

Dear Mr. M'Cook,

Re petition of Rev. W. J. Coulson, as clerk of Presbytery, I received word some time ago from Mr. Coulson to the effect that his petition would be forwarded to me in a few days time. Our Presbytery met last Wednesday. The petition has not yet come to hand. We decided, however, to transmit it to the General Assembly of Australia simpliciter.

Yours sincerely,

HUGH ADAMS,

Clerk of Presbytery of Penola.

VI.—REV. GEORGE ERNEST HOWLAND.

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

The Petition of the undersigned respectfully showeth:—

1. That your Petitioner was born in Clarendon, South Australia, on January 9th, 1900, is married, but has no family.

2. He received a sound early education in one of the Adelaide Public Schools.

3. He openly confessed Christ through influence of Home Training, was baptised (by sprinkling) and joined the Methodist Church in 1912.

4. He gained his Qualifying Certificate on December, 1913, and entered the Unley High School in 1914.

5. The "Primary" (1914) was passed, your Petitioner coming First in the class by obtaining seven subjects: (1) English, Grammar, Composition and Dictation; (2) Arithmetic; (3) Geography; (4) English History; (5) Latin; (6) Algebra; (7) Geometry.

6. Then (1915) the "Junior Public" certificate was won.

7. And in 1916, he gained the "Senior Public" by passing in (1) English Literature; (2) Arithmetic and Algebra; (3) Geometry; (4) Trigonometry; (5) Physics. Latin, Chemistry and History were also studied. Owing to satisfactory Attendance, Diligence and Conduct during the three years spent at the Unley High School, he also gained the "Leaving Certificate."

8. During these years your Petitioner was Librarian of a Sunday School, a teacher in the Kindergarten, and treasurer of an Intermediate Christian Endeavour Society.

9. At the close of 1916, a decision was made to enter upon more definite training for the Ministry of The Word at "The Methodist Training Home," Brighton. At the Final examination (November, 1917), your Petitioner gained Second position in the College, with an average of 70.6 per cent. The subjects studied were:—

Theology (Bank's Manual and No. II. Catechism) ...	69 per cent.
Bible (Robertson's O.T. and Contents)	64 per cent.
Bible (M'Clymont's N.T. and Writers)	50 per cent.
English (Davidson and Alcock's Grammar, Lennie, Storyed Past, Nesfield)	75 per cent.
English History (Ransome)	64 per cent.
Arithmetic (Pendlebury and Beard)	98 per cent.
General Information	74 per cent.

During 1917, your Petitioner preached many times in Churches in and around Adelaide, and after having passed the necessary examinations became an accredited Local Preacher.

10. On March 9th, 1918, he set out to take charge of the Yaninee-Yantanabie Methodist Mission. In the same year he successfully entered for "The Candidates' Examination," gained Second Position among the Candidates, and in 1919 entered Prince Alfred College as the "John Williams" Scholar.

11. During 1919, he gained the "Higher Public" in English, and came first in the examinations on "Theology" (Rev. Shaw), "Church History" (Rev. Bullock), and "Apologetics" (Rev. Blacket). He came second in "Bible Introduction" (Rev. Gratton), and "Homiletics" (Rev. Potts). "Greek" and "Elocution" were also studied, but no examinations were given to the students.

The other subjects studied in 1919 were "Higher Public History," Arts course "Psychology" and "Economics" at the Adelaide University, but because of not getting to College till very late in the year (detained through work in Yaninee Mission), and having so much to do, your petitioner was not able to pass these last-named subjects (3).

12. 1920 was also spent at P.A.C., and your Petitioner was also Circuit Assistant at Freeling (about 40 miles from Adelaide). A pass was obtained in "Senior" Latin. The other subjects studied were Senior "Greek," Higher Public "English," and "History," also "Bible" (Rev. Gratton), "Theology" (Rev. Shaw), "Church History" (Rev. Bullock), "Apologetics" (Rev. Blacket), "Homiletics" and "Law" (Rev. Shaw).

13. At the close of 1920, he went to live in Blyth, and was Circuit Assistant in the Clare Circuit for five months.

14. He was then (1921) sent to Murat Bay as the Probationer in Charge of that circuit. The First Year Probationers' Examination was passed in February (1922), the subjects being:—

	Per cent.
(1) Greek (Cambridge Greek Testament and Green's Handbook)	68
(2) Theology (Beet's Manual, pp. 1-228)	68
(3) Old Testament (Peake's Commentary, pp. 121-343)	55
(4) Psychology (James' Talks to Teachers on Psychology and Hocking's, The Master's Service)	75

15. Your petitioner was then sent to Blyth (second time). The Second Year's Examination (1923) was passed with "Second Honours," subjects being:—

	Per cent.
(1) Old Testament (Historical, Poetical and Wisdom Books; Peake's Commentary, pp. 244-423)	50
(2) New Testament (Greek); (Lightfoot's Galatians and Green's Hand-Book)	80
(3) Theology (Beet's Manual, pp. 231-437)	80
(4) Psychology (Macdougall's Social Psychology)	91
(5) Sociology (Ranschenbusch's Christianity and the Social Crisis)	100

16. He was then sent to Moorook. The Third Year's Examination (February, 1924) was passed with "Second Honours," the subjects being:—

	Per cent.
(1) Old Testament (Peake's Commentary on the Bible, P. 1-49 and P. 423-521)	93
(2) New Testament (Greek); (Romans i.-vi.; Landay and Headlam, with Introduction to the whole book)	53

(3) Theology (Mackintosh's The Person of Jesus Christ (whole book)	51
(4) Ethics (Dewey and Tufts' Ethics, Part I.)	84
(5) Apologetics (Bruce's Apologetics, P. 1-261)	95
(6) Essay (The Church and The Missionary)	75

Problem.—Five books set. The subject given (three hours paper), "Missionary work in the Pacific; its Origin and Development."

17. Your applicant has received numerous letters of commendation, and is now in the employ of The Presbyterian Church of Australia in South Australia, Home Mission Committee, and in charge of St. Andrew's, Port Pirie, and has been so for some months.

18. Your petitioner accepts the Presbyterian teaching and form of Church Government.

19. Your petitioner attaches letters bearing on his work and character, and humbly prays your venerable court to take these premises into favourable consideration and to receive him into the Ministry of the Presbyterian Church of Australia.

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

GEORGE ERNEST HOWLAND.

St. Andrew's,
Port Pirie, 1924.

Documents in support:—

- (1) Rev. E. S. Jew, Methodist Minister, Waikerie.
- (2) Rev. J. C. Scarborough, Methodist Minister, Auburn.
- (3) Alf. G. Carne, Secretary Church Trustees, Moorook.
- (4) Rev. Robert Campbell, Moderator, S.A. Assembly.

PRESBYTERY OF ADELAIDE, S.A.

Adelaide,
9th June, 1924.

Which day the Presbytery of Adelaide, being duly met and constituted with prayer. Inter alia:

"Dr. Seymour brought forward a Petition from Rev. George Howland, asking to be received as a Minister of the Presbyterian Church of Australia. On the motion of Dr. Seymour, seconded by Mr. A. D. Young, it was agreed to transmit the petition to the General Assembly of Australia, with a recommendation that the prayer thereof be granted."

Extracted from the records of the Presbytery of Adelaide, by me, this 2nd day of July, 1924.

W. FLOYD SHANNON,
Clerk of Presbytery.

PETITION.

VII.—REV. A. J. PARKER, B.A.

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

The Petition of the undersigned, Archibld John Parker, respectfully sheweth:—

1. That your petitioner was born in Sydney, N.S.W., on March 16th, 1888, is married, and has one child.

2. That he received his primary education in the Public Schools at Burwood and Wellington, and later received instruction from the Rev. W. Craig, M.A., at the Casino Grammar School.

3. That at the age of 15 he obtained employment with Mr. W. Buckingham, of Oxford St., Sydney, with whom he remained for four years.

4. That whilst at business he passed the entrance examination for students for the Baptist Ministry, and completed the first year of the Home Missionaries' Course.

5. That in January, 1908, he left business to accept an engagement under the Baptist Home Mission Committee as assistant in the Richmond River district.

6. That in March of the following year he entered the Baptist College of Victoria, where he completed the three years course of study and obtained the College Diploma. The following subjects were taken:—Hebrew and Greek, Old and New Testament Exegesis, with Biblical Introduction, Theology and Church History, Apologetics, Comparative Religion, Homiletics and Elocution.

7. That he returned to Sydney and took up the Arts Course at Sydney University in 1912, and was admitted to the degree of B.A. in 1916.

8. That he was ordained to the Baptist Ministry in 1913, and was appointed to the pastoral charge of Arncliffe and Bexley.

During his Ministry there, Church buildings were erected at both places. At Bexley, he commenced the work and formed the Church, and latterly had charge of this branch alone. Whilst pastor of the Bexley Church, he founded the Bexley Men's Own, which had a successful career and during the war rendered useful aid in several branches of war work.

9. That he was elected secretary to the Baptist College in N.S.W., and on the recommendation of the Principal, Rev. Alexander Gordon, M.A., was appointed tutor in Greek, N.T., which positions he resigned to go abroad as a Y.M.C.A. military secretary.

10. That in 1917 he received a pressing invitation to the Pastorate of the Bathurst-st. Church, which he accepted on account of the urgent needs of the work there.

11. That having been eager for some time to go on active service, and having failed to secure nomination as a Chaplain, he offered in July, 1918, to go abroad as a Y.M.C.A. worker.

Mr. W. Gillanders, then secretary of the Sydney Association, recommended his appointment as a lecturer, especially in Christian Evidences. The National Council not feeling able at the time to make such an appointment, your petitioner went abroad as a troopship secretary. When the armistice was signed, he was sent back to Australia, and arrived home the last week in December, 1918.

12. That as there was no opening in the Baptist Church in N.S.W., he settled at Mt. Barker, S.A., and about 12 months later accepted an unanimous call to the Church at Parkside, in Adelaide.

On leaving Mt. Barker your petitioner received an illuminated address from the townsmen, on account of the share he had taken in the religious and educational movements in the town. This testimonial is subscribed to by about 40 of the leading citizens, including all the Protestant Ministers.

13. That finding himself out of harmony with prevailing views amongst the Baptists, he resigned from the Pastorate of the Parkside Church in 1922, without plans for the future. When the Church accepted his resignation it passed an unanimous vote of confidence and appreciation.

14. That on account of family ties, he returned to N.S.W., and, for the last nine months has been filling appointments under the direction of the Pulpit Supply Committee of the Presbyterian Church.

15. That his understanding of the teaching of the New Testament is in harmony with the Presbyterian conception of the Church and the Christian Ministry. He no longer holds the Presbyterian practice of Infant Baptism to be in conflict with the Spirit of the New Testament.

16. Your petitioner 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.

A. J. PARKER,

Sydney, 11th September, 1923.

Documents submitted:—

- (1) Diploma from Baptist College of Victoria.
- (2) B.A. Certificate (Sydney).
- (3) Certificate of good standing as a Baptist Minister in South Australia.
- (4) Letter from Rev. Alex. Gordon, M.A., testifying to my work as tutor in the N.S.W. Baptist College.
- (5) Copy of address presented by the citizens of Mt. Barker, S.A.
- (6) Copy of resolution passed by the Parkside Baptist Church, on the occasion of my resignation.

It was through my friend, Rev. R. Atkinson, who had charge of the Presbyterian Church at Mt. Barker, and Mr. William Wood, your Financial Secretary, that I was brought into touch with the Presbyterian Church. I shall be glad if you will refer to these gentlemen.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

ARCHD. J. PARKER.

At Sydney, and within St. Stephen's Church, on Tuesday, March 11th, 1924, which place and date the Presbytery duly met, and was constituted with prayer. Inter alia:—

It was moved: "That the petition of the Rev. A. J. Parker be forwarded to the General Assembly of Australia with the recommendation that the prayer thereof be granted, and that the service already rendered to the Church by Mr. Parker be counted as his full probation."

The motion was duly seconded and carried.

Extracted from the minutes of the Presbytery of Sydney this 21st day of March, 1924, by me,

JAMES C. MILLIKEN,

Acting Clerk of Presbytery.

VIII.—REV. A. E. PAGE, B.A.

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

The Petition of the undersigned respectfully sheweth that:—

I have read and approved the constitution and rules of the Presbyterian Church of Australia, and I hereby petition to be received as a minister of the Presbyterian Church of Australia.

In support of my petition, I beg to state that I am the son of the late Richard Page, farmer, and was born at Aldinga, in the state of South Australia, in the year 1874. Removing at an early age with my parents to a farm near Minlaton on Central York's Peninsula; I spent my early life at that place.

My schooling was received at Brentwood Public School, where I was awarded the Compulsory Certificate, but did not immediately enter College. My love for books, however, was not lost, and I was a constant reader of Holy Scripture. I attended Sabbath School and Church Services, and never abandoned the practice of prayer, which I had learned at my mother's knee.

At the death-bed of my dear father, I decided to yield my heart to God, and one year later, at the age of 17, I made a public confession of faith in the local Methodist Church under the pastorate of the late Rev. Archibald Grewar.

My mother and other members of the family were at that time Baptists, but my decision was to unite with the Methodist body, the reason probably being that I would thus be afforded more scope for the exercise of my gift of preaching. Both bodies, however, found use for my services, and my preaching career commenced at the age of 17, has continued practically without a break, up to the present time.

The call to labour in foreign fields was felt by me in my early years, but my first application to be employed in the active ministry was made to the Methodist Bush Mission, in response to earnest appeals for workers. My first appointment with the Methodist Home Mission was to the station of Renmark, where I laboured for 11 months, and experienced much joy in the work.

It appeared, however, to be absolutely essential that I should receive a College Education, and with that end in view, I resigned my charge, and made application to the Baptist College for admission. Upon being accepted as a student, I entered upon a three years' course, during which time I resided with my mother at Parkside. On the completion of that term I was duly received into full ministry and the College Certificate was handed to me. That document, I can produce, together with that of my University Senior Public in six subjects, and my Pass Degree as Bachelor of Arts, which I completed while doing full pastoral work in my first charge. I studied, among other teachers, under Professors Mitchell, Henderson, Hollidge and Darnley Naylor, and am personally known to those gentlemen.

I served the Norton's Summit Church for a term of six years, when at the request of our Home Mission Committee I formed a Baptist Church at Port Lincoln, where I laboured for nearly three years. From there I removed to take charge of the Morphett Vale and Aldinga Churches, and a little over five years later I entered upon the pastorate of the Black Forest and Edwardstown Churches, which settlement took place towards the end of the year 1920.

On a review of my work as a Minister I am driven to the conclusion that, in order to do my best work, I must be allowed the opportunity of labouring in one sphere for a reasonably extended period. This cannot be assured to any man in the Baptist Denomination, as under the present constitution, each church possesses the right to determine for itself the length of the term for which their pastor shall serve. This matter, I have always contended, should remain with the Pastor himself, guided by the Holy Spirit and led by the circumstances in which he is placed. And believing that the frequent changes at present common in our Churches are neither in the interest of the men, nor the congregations, I find I am unable to labour under the system any longer.

I believe the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be the Word of God, and the only rule of faith and practice, I heartily agree that the Presbyterian form of Government is founded on the Word of God, and is agreeable thereto, and I cheerfully promise to conform to the rules and practices of that Church.

I am a married man, with a family of three. My wife is a professing Christian, and is a daughter of a Godly Minister—the late Rev. R. Woolcock. My physical health is good, as indicated by my acceptance by the A.M.P. Insurance Society for four separate policies after searching examinations.

My desire is to spend the rest of my life in labouring for the extension of my dear Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Let me express the hope that your favourable consideration will be given to this, my petition and your petitioner, as in duty bound, will ever pray,

ALBERT E. PAGE,
Minister of Baptist Church.

17th April, 1923.

Letters submitted from:—

- (1) Rev. A. H. Bell, Hon. Secretary S.A. Baptist Union.
- (2) Rev. A. C. Hill, President S.A. Baptist Union.
- (3) Rev. B. E. C. Tuck, Hon. Sec. Home Mission Department, S.A. Baptist Union.
- (4) Mr. A. A. Brice, Chairman and Treasurer, S.A. Baptist Union.
- (5) Rev. Geo. Hogben, Gen. Secretary, S.A. Baptist Union.
- (6) Copies of Educational Certificates.
- (7) Copy of Bachelor of Arts Diploma, University of Adelaide.
- (8) Copy of Certificate from Baptist College of S. Australia.

Adelaide,
14th May, 1923.

Which day the Presbytery of Adelaide, being duly met and constituted with prayer. Inter alia:

An application from the Rev. Albert Edward Page, B.A., Baptist Minister, at present laboring at Black Forest, asking to be received into the Ministry of the Presbyterian Church of Australia, was laid on the table. This was accompanied by a Petition addressed to the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia, to the same effect. These were accompanied by a Certificate from the Baptist College, and the B.A. Certificate of the University of Adelaide. On the motion of the Clerk, seconded by the Rev. R. Campbell, these, being found in proper order, were received. On the motion of Rev. Dr. Davidson, seconded by Rev. H. Morris, it was agreed that the Petition lie on the table meanwhile, and that the Clerk ask Mr. Page to forward Certificates from the Baptist Union and from any prominent Ministers he may know, as to character.

Adelaide,
11th June, 1923.

Which day the Presbytery of Adelaide being duly met and constituted with prayer. Inter alia:

A number of Certificates of character and educational qualifications were submitted by Rev. R. Mitchell, on behalf of Rev. A. E. Page, and they were considered quite satisfactory by the Presbytery.

Rev. J. Hall Angus moved that Rev. A. E. Page be recommended to the Home Mission Committee for employment, and that the Presbytery transmit his Petition to the General Assembly of Australia, with a recommendation that it be granted. Seconded by Rev. R. Mitchell, and carried.

Extracted from the Records of the Presbytery of Adelaide, by me this second day of April, 1924.

W. FLOYD SHANNON,

Clerk of Presbytery of Adelaide.

Presbyterian Church of Australia,

South Australian State Assembly,

At Adelaide, the 28th day of April, 1924.

Which day the South Australian State Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia being met and constituted, inter alia:

A petition of Rev. A. E. Page to be received as a Minister of the Presbyterian Church of Australia was sustained; and on the motion of Rev. D. Chapman, seconded by Mr. Black, it was agreed to transmit it to the G.A.A. with the recommendation that the prayer thereof be granted.

Extracted from the Records of the South Australian State Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia, this 19th day of May, 1924, by me,

W. FLOYD SHANNON,

Clerk of Assembly.

IX.—REV. F. J. H. STEWARD, B.A.

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

The Petition of Frederick John Harold Steward, the undersigned, respectfully sheweth:—

1. That your Petitioner is 33 years of age, is married, but has no children. Your Petitioner was born at Corsham, England.

2. That he received his early education at the Grange Public School, that he subsequently attended Kyre College from 1904-1907, passing various Public University Examinations, including the Senior Public in eight subjects.

3. That during 1908 and 1909 he was teaching at Kyre College, also attending evening classes at the Adelaide University, thus commencing his Arts Course.

4. That in 1910 and 1911 he was employed by the South Australian Baptist Union as a Home Missionary serving in the Terowie and Pinnaroo districts.

5. That from March, 1912, to December, 1914, he was trained for the Ministry by the S.A. Baptist Union.

6. That in December, 1913, he graduated as a Bachelor of Arts in the University of Adelaide. included in his Course were the following subjects:—

English Language and Literature.

Medieval History.

Greek (two years).

Latin (two years).

Philosophy.

Psychology.

Logic.

Ethics.

7. That he also took Lectures and passed examinations in Old Testament Exegesis, New Testament Exegesis, Comparative Religions and Elocution.

8. That since graduating, he has taken Lectures and passed examinations in Economics (two years), and has also taken a very thorough special course of Lectures in Philosophy.

9. That he has lectured at Baptist Ministers' School of Theology on:— St. Paul, Traveller and Roman Citizen (Ramsay); Idea of God (Pringle Pattison); Conscience; Hamlet; and Conduct of Public Worship.

10. That he lectured for W.E.A. at Gawler on English Literature (eighteen lectures).

11. That he examined Extra-Mural Students for the Baptist Union in:— Church History, New Testament Introduction, Ethics and Sociology.

12. That he is now proceeding to complete his course for the B.D. in the Melbourne College of Divinity.

13. That during his course of training in the Baptist College he was for eighteen months in charge of the Baptist Church at Finsbury Park, Woodville, and during his pastorate a new church was erected there.

14. That he was ordained to the work of the Ministry in December, 1914.

15. That for twelve months from January, 1915, he was Co-pastor to Rev. J. Johnson at Port Pirie and Telowie Baptist Churches.

16. That during 1916 and 1917 he was for sixteen months Missioner on the East-West Railway under a joint committee representing the Baptist, Congregational, Methodist and Presbyterian Churches.

17. That from 1917 to 1922 (five years) he was in charge of the Baptist Churches at Gawler and Lyndoch.

18. That at the conclusion of his five years pastorate at Gawler, though there were openings for him in churches of the Baptist Union, he doubted the wisdom of continuing as a Baptist Minister. He consulted with Dr. Seymour and Rev. H. Morris, and after mature consideration, applied to the Home Mission Committee of the Presbyterian Church for work in South Australia.

19. That in February, 1923, he was appointed to the charge of the Woodside and Tweedvale Presbyterian Churches.

20. That when he severed his connection with the Baptist Union he was a Minister of good standing in the Baptist Church, under no censure or liability to censure on any grounds whatsoever.

21. That he believes he can best serve the Kingdom of God in the Presbyterian Church. That he believes that Presbyterian Polity is better suited than Independency for the conditions of life in Australia. That he now holds a broader view than formerly of the Sacrament of Baptism, and his views are in harmony with those held by the Presbyterian Church.

22. Herewith are copies of letters in support of the statements in this petition from the following:—

S.A. Baptist Union.
S.A. Baptist Ministers' Fraternal.
Professor W. Mitchell, M.A., D.Sc.
Professor H. Darnley Naylor, M.A.
Mr. D. H. Hollidge, M.A.
Rev. Chas. Bright.
Rev. John Paynter.

23. Your Petitioner now prays your Venerable Court to receive him as a Minister of the Presbyterian Church of Australia, and your Petitioner, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

F. J. H. STEWARD.

Woodside,

9th July, 1923.

PRESBYTERY OF ONKAPARINGA.

Church Office,
Flinders St.,
Adelaide.
July 12/23.

Which day the Onkaparinga Presbytery, being duly met, and constituted with prayer.

Inter alia:—

“That Mr. Steward’s Petition, together with the accompanying documents, be transmitted to the General Assembly of Australia, through the State Assembly, with the recommendation that the prayer thereof be granted.”

Extracted from the records of the Onkaparinga Presbytery by me this 12th day of July, 1923.

J. A. SEYMOUR,
Clerk of Onkaparinga Presbytery.

Presbyterian Church of Australia,
South Australian State Assembly,
At Adelaide, the 28th day of April, 1924.

Which day the South Australian State Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia, being met and constituted, inter alia,

A petition of Rev. F. J. H. Steward to the General Assembly of Australia, praying to be received as a Minister of the Presbyterian Church of Australia, was sustained, and on the motion of Mr. Holdsworth, seconded by Mr. Lampe, it was agreed to transmit it to the G.A.A., with the recommendation that the prayer of the petition be granted.

Extracted from the Records of the South Australian State Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia, this 19th day of May, 1924, by me,

W. FLOYD SHANNON,
Clerk of Assembly.

PETITION.

X.—REV. P. E. WYLDE.

The Second Petition of Percy Edward Wylde to the General Assembly to be eligible for a call:—

To the Venerable the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia:—

The Petition of the undersigned respectfully sheweth:—

That on July 23rd, 1919, he was ordained to the Ministry of the Presbyterian Church, and was inducted as Pastor of St. Andrew’s, Port Pirie. In February, 1923, he was compelled to demit the charge for health reasons.

The Petitioner in September, 1922, petitioned the General Assembly to remove the restrictions passed by the Venerable Court in 1920. The prayer of the petition was not granted.

Your Petitioner once more (with the prayer of importunity) petitions the Venerable Court to remove the restrictions and allow him to accept a call.

As the Petitioner has given twenty-one years' faithful service to the Church, he humbly prays your Venerable Court to take this petition into favorable consideration. And your Petitioner will ever pray.

P. E. WYLDE.

30th January, 1924.
Koolunga,
South Australia.

(1) Certificate of health submitted from Dr. C. Yeatman, Port Pirie.

EXTRACT MINUTE.

At Jamestown, the 25th day of February, 1924, which day the Presbytery of Belalie, being duly met and constituted with prayer, inter alia,

Rev. P. E. Wylde forwarded a petition for transmission to the General Assembly of Australia, praying that the restriction placed upon his ordination by the Assembly of 1920 be removed and that he be eligible for a Call.

It was resolved that Presbytery transmit the petition with a recommendation that the prayer thereof be granted, and that the Presbyteries' representatives support the petition before Assembly.

Closed with prayer.

Extracted from the Records of the Presbytery of Belalie by me,

J. McD. FORSYTH,

Clerk.

Clare,
27/2/1924.

Presbyterian Church of Australia,
South Australian State Assembly,

At Adelaide, the 28th day of April, 1924, which day the South Australian State Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia, being met and constituted, inter alia.

A petition of Rev. P. E. Wylde to the General Assembly of Australia was laid on the table. On the motion of Mr. Holdsworth, seconded by Mr. McEwin, it was agreed to sustain the petition, and transmit it to the General Assembly with a recommendation that the prayer of the petition be granted.

Extracted from the Records of the South Australian State Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia, this 19th day of May, 1924, by me,

W. FLOYD SHANNON,

Clerk of Assembly.

XI.—Mr. A. B. ERSKINE.

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

The petition of the undersigned respectfully showeth:—

That he was born in Pennsylvania, in U.S.A., in 1882. Although born in America, he lived most of his early life in Scotland. He was educated in the Board School. He studied English and French in the High School continuation classes in 1901-2, and Mathematics in the Technical School in 1902-3.

He took a full course in Anatomy and Bone-setting by private tuition under Dr. George Robertson one night a week for three years, 1901-4.

He has his Diploma from the Bible Training Institute, Glasgow, 1904-6. Besides taking the ordinary subjects of the Institute, he also took English and Logic.

He was engaged in Y.M.C.A. and Evangelistic Mission work for many years in Scotland.

He came to Australia in 1910 to take up work in the North-West Mission in the State of New South Wales. He was stationed in Bourke for ten months, and from this centre he travelled thousands of miles in the back-blocks. In June, 1911, he became assistant Minister to Rev. Philip Norman in Scone-Aberdeen parish. He remained there until November, 1914, when he took charge of Narrabri-Wee Waa parish. He remained in Narrabri for 5½ years and then visited Scotland.

While in Scotland, he was in the United Free Church. On his return to Australia, he took charge of Murray Bridge-Monarto parish, where he is still laboring. During his ministry in Murray Bridge, the congregation has increased considerably and the debt on the Church been greatly reduced.

Your petitioner, therefore, prays your Venerable Court to consider favorably the work he has done for the Church in New South Wales and South Australia, and raise him to the full status of a Minister.

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

ALEXANDER BLACK ERSKINE.

Documents submitted:—

- (1) Resolution and testimonial from Kirk Session of Murray Bridge and Monarto, S.A.
- (2) Rev. Thomas Morgan, Superintendent of Home Missions, N.S.W.
- (3) Kirk Session of Narrabri-Wee Waa, N.S.W.
- (4) Committee of Management of Narrabri-Wee Waa, N.S.W.
- (5) Rev. Philip Norman, Scone, N.S.W.
- (6) Testimonial from Presbytery of Moree.
- (7) Rod Mansen, Hon. Sec. W.F. Church of Scotland, Edinburgh.

Presbyterian Church of Australia,
In South Australia,
Presbytery of Onkaparinga.

October 25th, 1923.

To the Convener, General Assembly's Committee, on the Reception of Minister.

At Woodside and within the Presbyterian Church, the 25th day of October, 1923, which day the Presbytery of Onkaparinga, being duly met and constituted with prayer, inter alia,

Mr. A. B. Erskine, Home Missionary at Murray Bridge, petitioned the General Assembly of Australia through the Presbytery for ordination.

It was agreed to transmit the petition and the accompanying papers and relative documents with a recommendation that the prayer thereof be granted.

Extracted from the Records of the Presbytery of Onkaparinga this 25th day of October, 1923, by me,

F. S. SOUTER,

Clerk.

XII.—Mr. THOMAS GOY.

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

The petition of Thomas Goy, the undersigned, respectfully sheweth:—

That your petitioner is fifty-five years of age and married. He was born in Lincolnshire, England, where his father had migrated from Perth, Scotland. The nearest Presbyterian Church being fifty miles distant, your petitioner's family made the local Free Methodist Church their spiritual home. At the age of eighteen your petitioner was asked to begin studies with a view to entering the ministry of the Church. He conducted his first service on 12th September, 1886, since which date he has kept a careful record of every appointment received and every service conducted. He began a regular course of study under Mr. Con. Hurley and Mr. James Hickling, the preachers' secretaries, and had for examiners Revs. Samuel Sellars, C. Tregonning, J. Travis and W. L. Smith, all of whom have now passed to their reward. The subjects taken were:—Old Testament and New Testament History, Apologetic, New Testament Ethics, Contents of Bible in English, New Testament Exegesis, Homiletics, Cobbett's English and a strict doctrinal course of doctrinal subjects, Field's "Theology" and Wesley's Sermons being the principal text books. Your petitioner passed his examinations, both oral and written, with good marks, and also satisfied the examiners in four public preaching tests.

At the age of twenty-one, your petitioner was duly accepted as a Minister of the Church on probation at Eastgate, Louth. The service of reception was conducted by the aforesaid Ministers, with prayer and the laying on of hands. He was then to do one further year in the college, after which he was to go into full circuit work. These plans, however, were upset by the visitation of death in his home circle, his father, sister and brother passing away within nine months. Your petitioner had, therefore, to resign his church work and return home to his mother for two years. At the end of that period, his brother took charge of the business. Your petitioner migrated to London, where he joined the Civil Service, remaining therein six years, when he resigned. During this period he continued his Church interests and his theological studies. He joined the Bible School at Westminster College under Dr. Campbell Morgan, and was constantly employed in preaching both in London and the country. He became a member of the London Church Extension Committee, his principal colleagues being Revs. Joseph and Silas Hocking, H. Mann and many others well known in the religious life of London. He acted as Organising Missioner in the suburbs where new Churches were being built and established. In this connection most successful work was done, especially at Mount Pleasant, West Green, Tottenham, where the first set of buildings cost £9,000. This began with your petitioner and two others.

Your petitioner had a breakdown in health at this time, on recovering from which, he labored in Whitechapel slums for eight years in City Mission work. He was then asked to co-operate with Sir John Kirk in organising his great work known as Waifs and Strays' Society. Again your petitioner's health failed him, and he was compelled to leave this work. Acting under the best medical advice obtainable, he migrated to Sydney, where he was asked to fill a vacancy in the Sydney City Mission work caused by the death of Mr. James Mathers, of No. 1 District, Miller's Point. This work grew from about thirty people, meeting in a hired hall, to a great cause, to accommodate which a new building was erected containing 35 rooms and two large halls. This cost £4,500. The strain of carrying out these building operations, together with the supervision of fourteen meetings weekly, led your petitioner, after seven years' strenuous service, to resign and take six months' rest, after which he decided to offer his services to the Church of his fathers.

His services were accepted, and he took charge of Double Bay Congregation under Rev. John Ferguson, of St. Stephen's, who can testify to his work at that centre. In August, 1917, your petitioner was asked to go to the country, and went to the Scone charge as assistant to the Rev.

Phillip Norman. He was stationed at Aberdeen, where he succeeded in fully restoring the Church buildings, and opened the same free of debt. A new Church Hall was built at a cost of £370. This portion of the charge was completely reorganised, and became a sanctioned charge. Your petitioner was then sent to Coff's Harbor, on the North Coast, a sanctioned charge which had caused much difficulty for years. For nearly three years he labored there, organising the work both in its spiritual and material aspects. After this, your petitioner was sent to Crookwell, in the Goulburn Presbytery, where he remained for eighteen months, leaving there only to come to Western Australia and take charge of the work of our Church in Northam of that State.

There are many to whom your petitioner may refer for testimonies in regard to his work. While in Sydney, he was waited upon by the President and Secretary of the Methodist Conference, who sought him for immediate work in the ministry of that Church. This overture your petitioner refused, desiring to give his services to the Church of his fathers. Those to whom reference may be made in connection with your petitioner's work in Australia are:—Rev. John Ferguson, Rev. Thomas Tait, M.A., B.D., Rev. F. L. A. Schloeffel, Rev. Phillip Norman, Rev. Hugh Paton, Rev. W. D. McIlwraith, B.A., Rev. J. Milliken; the presbyteries of the Clarence, Goulburn and Perth; the congregation of St. Paul's, Northam, W.A., and Sir Arthur Cocks.

Your petitioner's reason for seeking reception into the ministry of the Presbyterian Church is that he may the more effectively carry on his work in Western Australia.

He therefore prays your Venerable Assembly to receive him into the ministry of the Presbyterian Church of Australia.

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

THOMAS GOY.

References additional to those mentioned in the petition:—

- (1) The Board of Management, Scone, N.S.W.
- (2) The Home Mission Committee of the Presbyterian Church in Western Australia.
- (3) Numerous excerpts.

MINUTE OF PRESBYTERY OF PERTH.

At and within the Church Office, Perth, on April 17th, 1924, the Presbytery met and was duly constituted with prayer, *inter alia*,

A petition from the Rev. T. Goy (of Northam) for admission to the ministry of the Presbyterian Church of Australia was laid on the table by the Clerk. The following resolution was carried unanimously:—That Presbytery forward the petition to the General Assembly of Australia through our own Assembly, with the strong recommendation that the prayer of the petition be granted in the interests of the Church at Northam specially, and in Western Australia generally.

Extracted by me this 13th day of May, 1924.

JOHN R. THRUM,
Presbytery Clerk.

Extract Minute from the proceedings of the State Assembly of Western Australia, anent the petition of the Rev. T. Goy.

At Perth and within St. Andrew's Church on Thursday, the 15th day of May, 1924, at 10 a.m., the Assembly met pursuant to adjournment and

was duly constituted, the Rt. Rev. S. R. W. Richardson, M.A., B.D., Moderator, inter alia,

The Convener of the Business Committee presented a petition from the Rev. T. Goy to the General Assembly of Australia for status as a Presbyterian Minister.

The House sat in camera.

Mr. Tulloch moved:—

That the Assembly of Western Australia strongly recommend that the prayer of the petition be granted.

Mr. Hogben seconded the motion. Discussion ensued. The motion was unanimously approved.

Extracted by me this 10th day of June, 1924.

E. F. CAMERON,
Clerk of Assembly.

XIII.—Mr. GEORGE McGREGOR.

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

The petition of the undersigned respectfully sheweth:—

That his parents were Presbyterian, and that he himself has always been connected with the Presbyterian Church.

That he was educated for a business career, first at the High School, Academy, and a Business College in Glasgow, Scotland, attaining the certificate of the London Society of Arts for business education.

That he became a communicant of the Established Presbyterian Church of Scotland, and was active in the Church's service while working in a Commercial House. He then decided to take up preaching as his life's work, and underwent two years' training at the Bible Training Institute, Glasgow, in 1905 joining the staff of the Glasgow City Mission, and serving there in both slum and institutional work.

That in 1906 he was appointed by the Established Church of Scotland to the Mission of St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, John Street, Glasgow, under the direction of Rev. James Paton, D.D.

That in 1910, having been in communication with the Church in New South Wales, he came to Australia, and was appointed to the Kurri-Kurri and Weston Mission Station in the Maitland coal fields. After 2½ years' service in this Station, where he gathered good congregations, and was the means of having a Church built, he was appointed as Immigration Agent, and also Assistant to the Rev. J. Dill-Macky, Scots' Church, Sydney. His references show that his work met with the approval of our Church authorities during this period.

That in 1914 he came to Victoria for health reasons, and received an appointment with the Melbourne City Mission, having charge of Collingwood and Fitzroy.

That in 1918 he was appointed by the Home Mission Committee of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria as a Special Missioner to the community of which Young Street, Fitzroy, is the centre. This was work that it was thought he had special aptitude for, and where his previous experience would prove valuable. There he made special efforts, by means of varied services, to gather together men, women and children who were suffering from misfortune, extreme poverty and evil surroundings. During his time in this Mission, the building has been twice enlarged, and the premises more than doubled. This Mission is now free from debt, and has the unique honour of

being largely freed from debt by the efforts of the people themselves. He was urged to enter the Hall, and considered doing so, but found that his work could not be carried on as a Missioner if he did so, and gave this as a reason which the Home Mission Committee of the Church accepted.

That the petitioner believes that ordination would assist him with his work, and he thinks that his experience and his success in dealing with the very poor warrant the Church in conferring this privilege on him.

That enclosed are letters of commendation from the Home Mission Committee of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria; The Established Presbyterian Church of Scotland; Rev. J. Dykes Lang, City Mission, Glasgow; Rev. J. Paton, D.D., St. Paul's Church, Glasgow; Mrs. Paton, St. Paul's Church, Glasgow; Presbyterian Church of New South Wales; Scots' Church, Sydney, N.S.W., Wm. Howat, Esq., Melbourne City Mission; Cr. C. A. Miller, J.P., ex-Mayor of Fitzroy; Cr. A. Boel, J.P., Mayor of Fitzroy; A. Wheeler, M.B., C.M., Health Officer, Fitzroy; John Livingston, Esq., House of Representatives, Melbourne; Rev. J. Barnaby, M.A., B.D., Superintendent of the Group Mission.

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

GEORGE MCGREGOR,

Presbyterian Mission, Young Street, Fitzroy, Melbourne, Victoria.

Presbytery of Melbourne North,

Alphington,

8th July, 1924.

The Presbytery of Melbourne met at the Assembly Hall on July 7th, 1924, Rev. J. A. Forrest, Moderator presiding. Inter alia:—

“The Rev. D. A. Cameron moved and the Rev. J. Caldwell seconded, that Mr. George McGregor's application be transmitted with the Presbytery's approval. It was moved by the Rev. R. W. Macaulay that all the words after 'transmitted' be omitted with the object of inserting 'simpliciter.' This amendment was seconded by the Rev. J. Gillies and carried. On being put as a substantive motion it was carried.”

Extracted from the Minutes.

G. M. CONNOR,

Clerk.

XIV.—RE GEORGE McLEAN.

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

The Petition of George McLean, the undersigned, respectfully sheweth:—

That he was 34 years of age on the 22nd of March, 1924, and is married, but has no children.

That your Petitioner is a Home Missionary stationed at Bourke, in New South Wales, and is an Elder of your Venerable Church. He entered the Home Mission Service in 1914, and served two and a half years in the charge of Gosford-Woy Woy.

In 1917 he was transferred by the Home Mission Committee to the Charge of Bourke in the Far North West of New South Wales, with an area of 30,000 square miles; the vast distances to be covered entails long and tedious journeys, one trip occupies three weeks and the distance covered is 600 miles, no trip in the Charge is less than 200 miles; Bourke is the centre, the boundary on the east is 60 miles, on the south 160 miles, on the west 212 miles, on the north 85 miles to the Queensland border.

That the Interim Moderator lives 225 miles from Bourke. The long distance, coupled with the expense, makes it prohibitive for him and his Elders to proceed to Bourke to dispense the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. The Communicants are deprived of that Blessing and have to wait until the Home Mission Superintendent visits the Charge. The last Sacrament was dispensed 2½ years ago. Intending Communicants have been waiting two years for admission to the Fellowship of the Church.

The crying need for Services, with the constant travelling, and hard difficult nature of his parish work, has not permitted him to study with any degree of success for the Home Mission Examinations.

That in 1922 the Home Mission Committee of the Presbyterian Church of Australia in the State of New South Wales unsuccessfully petitioned Your Venerable Court with the request that the undersigned should be ordained a Minister in full standing of the Presbyterian Church of Australia.

Your Petitioner humbly prays your Venerable Court to take into favourable consideration, the great disadvantages which he labours under and raise him to the status of a Minister in full standing.

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

GEORGE McLEAN,

“The Manse,”
Bourke,
May 9th, 1924.

PRESBYTERY OF ORANGE.

Extract Minute of Presbytery.

At Orange and within the Manse on Thursday, the 17th day of July, the Presbytery of Orange met pursuant to notice and was duly constituted with prayer.

A Petition from Mr. George McLean, Home Missionary at Bourke to the General Assembly of Australia, praying for Ordination to ministry of the Presbyterian Church, was laid upon the table.

On the motion of the Rev. H. G. Ford, seconded by Rev. M. J. O'Doherty, it was unanimously agreed:—“That in view of the long and faithful service of Mr. McLean as Home Missionary at Bourke, and his adaptability for work in this particular area, and in consideration of his willingness to continue in the service of the Church in the pastoral charge of Bourke, the Presbytery of Orange recommend that the prayer of the petition be granted.”

The meeting was closed with prayer.

Extracted from the records of the Presbytery of Orange this 17th day of July, by me,

R. J. HOWIE,
Presbytery Clerk.

XV.—PETITION FROM THE CONGREGATION AT TRANGIE, NEW SOUTH WALES, FOR THE ORDINATION OF Mr. C. J. MACKAY AND HIS INDUCTION TO TRANGIE CHARGE.

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

The Petition of the undersigned being:—

The Kirk Session of the Presbyterian Church at Trangie in the State of New South Wales, the Committee of Management of the said Church, and the Congregation of the said Church, including Representatives of the Congregations of outlying preaching centres connected with the said Church.

Respectfully sheweth:—

1. That the office of the Minister of the said Church has been vacant since the resignation of the Rev. W. F. Craigie, 1st October, 1920.

2. That at a meeting of the Trangie Congregation held on 29th June, 1921, the matter of Pulpit Supply was considered and the Rev. A. Ford, Interim Moderator, offered to hold a monthly service at Trangie until supply could be obtained, and that the offer was accepted.

3. That the Rev. A. Ford did conduct the aforesaid monthly service at Trangie from June, 1921, until August, 1923, with the exception of two breaks—one in December, 1921, and the other in May and June, 1922, on which occasions Pulpit Supply was obtained with a view to settlement.

4. That such supply did not result in a settlement, although the Congregation was anxious to obtain a suitable Minister.

5. That on the 22nd July, 1923, Mr. C. J. Mackay, who is a Home Missionary of the Presbyterian Church in New South Wales, was called to Trangie to officiate at a burial service, while he was "Supply" at Narromine, and that his personality and work so impressed the Presbyterians present, that the Session and Management were requested to make every effort to secure his services.

6. That at a meeting of the Trangie Congregation, held on the 26th August, 1923, it was decided to call for "supply" as from 1st October, 1923, and that a suitable man be asked to come for at least three (3) months with a view to a call.

7. That as a result of the Congregation's application to the Home Mission Committee of the Presbyterian Church of New South Wales, Mr. C. J. Mackay was appointed as Supply at Trangie from 16th September, 1923, till further notice.

8. That since Mr. C. J. Mackay has acted as Pulpit Supply at Trangie his preaching has been so much to the satisfaction of all concerned, that the Presbyterians of Trangie are most anxious to retain his services.

9. That with this end in view, a Special Meeting of the Congregation was held at Trangie on Wednesday, 14th November, 1923, which was presided over by the Rev. A. McCallum, Interim Moderator of the Charge, and at this meeting it was decided to ask the Home Mission Committee of the Presbyterian Church of New South Wales, for a year's extension of Mr. Mackay's term in order that a petition might be made to the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia, for his Ordination and Induction into the Trangie Charge.

10. That Mr. C. J. Mackay is a married man with two children, a son and a daughter, that he is thirty-nine years of age, that he was born in Glasgow, Scotland, 1884, that he was baptised by the Rev. James Rennie, of St. Vincent's Street, U.P. Church, Glasgow, that as a boy he was connected with Wilton Established Church, the Minister of which was the Rev. Grant Forsyth, now Vice-Convener of Home Missions of New South Wales, and that he came to Australia in 1910.

11. That he is a Home Mission student, who has passed through a four years course prescribed by the College Committee of the Presbyterian Church of Australia.

12. That in support of our petition we would submit for your consideration the following reasons that have influenced us in wishing to retain the services of Mr. C. J. Mackay:—

(a) We have learnt that Mr. Mackay served Hillston, a far Western Charge, for four years, and he is, therefore, specially suited to deal with the problems of such a Charge as Trangie.

(b) He is a competent mechanic and is quite self reliant as regards his ability to get round the Charge in a car.

- (c) Mr. Mackay has been well received in the houses of the people, and his social conduct commends the message that he bears.
- (d) We have learnt that, in Wellington there was a sincere desire to retain Mr. Mackay's services, but in view of the proposed settlement, no steps were actually taken, apart from questions asked at the meeting.
- (e) A letter, received from the Rev. W. G. Forsyth, Vice-Convener, of Home Missions Committee, and dated 8th September, 1923, acknowledges Mr. Mackay's ability to establish the position of the Church permanently and beyond question wherever he is stationed.
- (f) We have been spiritually starved for the last four years.
- (g) Since Mr. Mackay's advent, there has been a marked spiritual awakening that promises well for steady growth in that direction in the future.
- (h) There has been a marked increase in Church attendances since the arrival of Mr. Mackay.
- (i) Through Mr. Mackay's efforts, the Sunday School, the Choir and the country services have been effectively re-organised.
- (j) The efforts of Mr. Mackay have been so appreciated by our community, that, at a Bazaar recently held, the net proceeds were over £300. This result is in no small measure due to the influence of Mr. Mackay.
- (k) In order to retain Mr. Mackay, promises have been made of sustentation subscriptions of communicants, who had previously withdrawn their subscriptions.
- (l) The withdrawal of Mr. Mackay from our midst would result in the serious deterioration in our spiritual life.
- (m) The earnestness and sincerity of the man has endeared him to us, and we, as a body, feel that his presence with us is essential to our spiritual welfare.
- (n) Our Church is free of debt and a Manse has just been completed at a cost of £1700 or thereabouts, on which only £200 is owing to the Church and Manse Loan Fund.

13. That in support of this petition, the Church of Trangie communicated with the Presbyterians of Hillston and Wellington, where Mr. C. J. Mackay previously laboured, and received replies thereto, copies of which are annexed to the petition and marked 1 to 14. The originals are with the Clerk of Sessions at Trangie.

14. That the annexures prove that in the judgments of the Presbyterians of Hillston Charge, Mr. C. J. Mackay is eminently suited for the work of the Ministry.

15. That there are at Trangie, special circumstances which make it most desirable that a settlement should be made in accordance with the wishes of the Congregation.

16. Your petitioners accordingly pray that your Venerable Court will take all these premises into consideration and ordain Mr. C. J. Mackay to the Ministry of the Presbyterian Church of Australia, and instruct the Presbytery of Orange to induct Mr. C. J. Mackay into the Trangie Charge.

17. And your petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray,

Signed by:

C. W. WILSON, Session Clerk.

GEO. GORDON, Elder.

Eleven Members of Committee of Management, Sixty-one Communicants, and one hundred adherents.

Copies of letters submitted from:—

- (1) J. Murray Campbell (Hillston).
- (2) Geo. F. Sides, Elder (Hillston-Gunbar).
- (3) Eric A. Eldridge (Hay).
- (4) A. C. McGowan (Wellington).
- (5) Residents at Ravensfield end of Hillston Charge.
- (6) Maurice Knechtli (Hillston).
- (7) Robert McKenrie, Elder (Hillston).
- (8) A. C. Thompson, Hon. Sec. (Hillston).
- (9) John Gibson, Session Clerk (Gunbar).
- (10) A. M. Dunn, Elder (Wellington).
- (11) Thomas McFarlane (Hillston).
- (12) A. Nixon (Hillston).
- (13) M. L. and W. J. H. Armstrong (Hillston).
- (14) B. Varcoe (Hillston).

Presbyterian Church,
Trangie,
June 3rd, 1924.

Rev. Stuart McCook,
Convener of Reception of Ministers' Committee,
Sydney.

Reverend and Dear Sir,

At a meeting of the Presbytery of Orange held in Narromine Church on March 5th, 1924, this petition was submitted by three Commissioners from Trangie congregation, who asked that it be approved of by the Presbytery and sent on to the General Assembly.

At the request of the Presbytery, and in order to gain its approval, the Trangie Commissioners reluctantly consented to the proposal that certain verbal alterations should be made in the petition.

At a subsequent meeting of the Presbytery of Orange held in the Presbyterian Church, Narromine, two Commissioners from the Trangie congregation attended and again submitted the petition in its amended form.

At the request of the Presbytery the Commissioners again consented to take the petition back to the Trangie congregation and ask for permission to alter the prayer of the petition from:—

“And ordain Mr. C. J. Mackay to the Ministry of the Presbyterian Church of Australia, and instruct the Presbytery of Orange to induct Mr. C. J. Mackay into the Trangie Charge,” to:—

“And if possible, shorten Mr. Mackay's Theological course and ordain him to the Ministry of the Presbyterian Church of Australia, and instruct the Orange Presbytery to induct him into the Trangie Charge.”

This the congregation refused to do by a resolution, seconded and carried unanimously, as follows:—

“That the original petition be adhered to.”

This decision was duly arrived at, after a lengthy discussion by a very representative meeting, its attitude being subsequently strengthened by other adherents, after the facts brought out by the discussion were placed before them.

In view of the above the original petition has been forwarded to the Presbytery for transmission to the General Assembly.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

C. W. WILSON,
Session Clerk.

PRESBYTERY OF ORANGE.

Extract Minute.

At Dubbo and within the Manse on June 25th, 1924, the Presbytery of Orange met pursuant to adjournment and was duly constituted with prayer. Inter alia:—

A Petition from the Congregation at Trangie, N.S.W., praying for the ordination of Mr. C. J. Mackay and his induction to the Trangie Charge was laid on the table, with the intimation that the Congregation could not accept the suggestions made by the Presbytery when the petition was discussed on an earlier occasion.

On the motion of the Rev. R. G. Cruikshank, seconded by Rev. R. J. Howie, it was unanimously agreed that:—

“Whereas the Congregation of Trangie cannot see its way clear to accept the suggestions made by the Presbytery with regard to its Petition for the ordination of Mr. C. J. Mackay, the Presbytery transmit the petition simpliciter to the General Assembly of Australia.”

The meeting was closed with prayer.

Extracted from the records of the Presbytery of Orange this 26th day of June, 1924, by me,

R. J. HOWIE,
Clerk of Presbytery.

REV. GEORGE W. T. LAVERACK.

Notice has been given that a petition from the Rev. G. W. T. Laverack, Methodist Minister of Rutherglen, Vic., has been received by the Presbytery of Sydney, and referred to a Committee.

The petition and report are not yet to hand.

A. W. McCOOK,
Convener.

Albury,

July 24th, 1924.

XVII.—PETITION FROM Mr. R. J. S. CULLEN.

The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia.
Right Reverend, The Moderator, Fathers and Brethren,

I, Robert James Stewart Cullen, a member of the Murrumbreena Presbyterian Church, in Victoria, and your respectful Petitioner, sincerely request and claim the attention of your Supreme Court that I be heard in the Petition which I herewith make.

My Petition is:—

That I request your Court to have such action taken so that there may be expunged from the Records of the Presbytery of Melbourne South as it existed prior to the charge of Murrumbreena being taken away from such Presbytery and placed under the jurisdiction of the Presbytery of Melbourne East; all those such minutes as relating to myself and dealing with my relation to the said Murrumbreena Congregation as one of its Elders, and as are so recorded therein of their meetings, held the 12th May, 1919, and the 9th of June, 1919, respectively.

The grounds of my Petition are:—

(1) That so long as these minutes remain recorded, an unwarrantable and unjustifiable stigma attaches to my character.

(2) That the existence of such minutes in the Presbytery's records is inconsistent with the repeated assurances of not only the Presbytery of Melbourne South, the Assembly of Victoria, and the General Assembly of Australia, that no reflection has been placed upon my character.

(3) That your Court did in September, 1920, grant my request in relation to those such minutes as I in my Petition to you then, did ask to have deleted.

(4) That though your Court did grant the deletion of all those such minutes as I had petitioned you in September of 1920 for, it was not until I was forced to Petition the General Assembly of Victoria in May, 1923, who then granted my request and appointed Assessors to the Session for such purpose did the Session of Murrumbena so act.

(5) Finally, I appeal to this Honorable Court, not out of any vindictiveness, but conscientiously feeling that a grave injustice has been inflicted upon me, and that the stigma that so attaches to me has been one of a severe endurance for these past five years, and even should the Church which I am even yet proud to be associated with, consider that I warrant all that has been placed upon me, surely out of a true Christ-like spirit, if there is any clemency forthcoming from Her, it should be extended to me in this, the granting of my Petition.

Ever praying as your humble Petitioner,

Yours obediently,

ROBERT J. S. CULLEN.

Dalkeith,

Tranmere Avenue,

Murrumbena,

16/6/1924.

Transmitted simpliciter by the Presbytery of Melbourne East.

E. H. CHAPPLE,

Clerk.

XVIII.—PETITION OF K. R. McKENZIE.

The Manse,

Landsborough,

15/5/'24.

To the College Committee of the Presbyterian Church of Australia,

Dear Sirs,—I beg to make application to the General Assembly of Australia for exemption from Greek as a subject, during the Home Mission Course, on the following grounds:—

- (a) War service from July, 1915, to June, 1920; thus throwing me back in my studies for the Ministry.
- (b) Because of injuries received during the war, particularly to my eyesight.

I have forwarded a Doctor's certificate to the Secretary of the College Committee, stating the extent and nature of my disability.
Praying that you may grant this application.

Sincerely yours,

KENNETH R. MCKENZIE,

The Presbytery of the Wimmera considered the above application at a meeting held at Rupanyup on May 22nd, and agreed to recommend the application.

JOHN J. SPALDING, Clerk.

Ararat, 28/5/24.

XIX.—PETITION OF MR. F. H. PATTERSON.

Adelaide, S.A.,

14th July, 1924.

Which day and place the Presbytery of Adelaide being duly met and constituted with prayer, inter alia:

“A request was received from Mr. F. H. Patterson, asking the General Assembly of Australia to credit him with having passed the Melbourne College of Divinity Examination in—

- (1) Old Testament, general in English.
- (2) Old Testament exegesis.
- (3) New Testament exegesis.

and to deduct these three subjects from his Exit Examination in 1925.

On the motion of Rev. Dr. Seymour, seconded by Rev. J. A. McLellan, it was agreed to transmit the request to the G.A.A. with the recommendation that it be granted.”

Extracted from the Records of the Presbytery of Adelaide by me this 15th day of July, 1924.

W. FLOYD SHANNON,

Clerk of Presbytery of Adelaide.

XX.—PETITION OF Mr. W. KINMONT.

To the Venerable

The General Assembly of Australia,

Whereas,

I made application to the Assembly of New South Wales and was accepted as a theological student in Sydney. I have been informed that it is necessary for me to petition the General Assembly of Australia to obtain exemption from the Entrance Examination and from Hebrew.

I hereby humbly petition the Assembly to grant me exemption from the Entrance Examination on the ground that I have already satisfied the requirements of the New Zealand Church in that respect. History is not included in our Entrance Exam. here, but in 1915 I took that subject at Otago University as a private student, taking no examinations. Again, during some three years while I was teaching, History was one of my subjects.

I also beg to be exempt from taking Hebrew, in view of a weakness of eyesight, which caused the Committee here to grant me exemption. I enclose a medical certificate concerning that weakness.

I enclose certificate from the Theological College Committee here to the effect that as an accepted student of the Church I passed the Entrance Exam. and attended the first year's classes at Knox College.

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

W. KINMONT.

44 High Street,
Musselburgh,
Dunedin,
29th July, 1924.

Accompanying documents:—

- (1) Certificate from College Committee, Dunedin.
- (2) Certificate from Prof. Adams, of Otago University.
- (3) Medical Certificate.

XXI.—PETITION OF Mr. J. W. STEWART LANG.

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

The petition of the undersigned respectfully showeth:—

That he was born in Melbourne, Victoria, on February 19th, 1901.

That he matriculated in Melbourne University in 1920, and subsequently passed the examination in British History 1.

That he has since passed in English 1, and Deductive Logic and Psychology in the University of Tasmania.

That since March, 1923, he has been Travelling Secretary of the Fellowship Union of the Presbyterian Church in N.S.W., where his character and work are known to many members of Assembly.

That he is a communicant member of the Croydon Park, N.S.W. Congregation.

Your petitioner desires to become a Minister of the Presbyterian Church of Australia, and therefore prays your Venerable Court to receive him as a Theological Student of the First Year on condition of his passing the Entrance Examination in 1925.

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

J. W. STEWART LANG.

XXII.—PETITION OF MR. L. A. MASSIE.

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

The petition of the undersigned respectfully showeth:—

- (1) That he was born at Hay in the State of New South Wales, and is twenty-six years of age.
- (2) That he is a communicant of Hurstville Congregation, N.S.W.

- (3) That he is a matriculated student of the University of Sydney and hopes to complete this year four subjects for the degree of Bachelor of Arts, namely, Greek 1, Philosophy 1, History 1, English 1.
- (4) That he wishes to enter the Theological Hall, Sydney, as a student for the Ministry of the Presbyterian Church.

Your petitioner, therefore, humbly prays your venerable Court to grant him leave to sit for the Entrance Examination in February next, 1925, subject to his producing to the College Committee certification of having passed the University examinations in the subjects named above.

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

(Sgd.) LINDSAY ARMSTRONG MASSIE.

Accompanying Petition.

Certificate from Principal Anderson of St. Andrew's College, Sydney.

	Salary.	Expenses.	Total.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Port Hedland—			
Rev. K. D. McDonald	237 10 0	130 6 4	
Sister Inglis	58 6 8	28 6 10	
Miss Inglis	30 6 8	25 0 0	
Sister Cameron	93 15 0	27 15 0	
Sister Donald	93 15 0	27 15 0	
			752 16 6
Victoria River—			
Sister King	50 0 0	0 6 0	
Sister Gray	50 0 0	0 6 0	
			100 12 0
Undistributed Expenses—			
Rev. J. Flynn	400 0 0	164 15 0	
Advertising		5 0 0	
Cable Address: "Inlander,"		2 2 0	
Exchange on Cheques		10 18 0	
Freight on Parcels to Inland		22 8 10	
Inlander—Blocks, Hensios,			
Blue Prints		4 15 3	
Insurance (Accident)		45 7 6	
Interest		128 2 9	
Maps		84 8 11	
N.T. Times		1 10 0	
Postages		49 0 5	
Printing Minutes		2 1 0	
Printing and Stationery		16 15 11	
Reprints from Messenger		32 19 10	
2 per cent. on Revenue		84 0 0	
			1,054 5 5
Office Expenses—			
T. Ramage	300 0 0		
Rent		26 0 0	
Printing and Stationery		5 1 3	
			331 1 3
	2,955 15 10	1,471 15 4	4,427 11 2
Transfer to—			
Aeroplane Account		21 4 3	
Alice Springs Account		200 0 0	
Birdsville Account		20 0 0	
Property Account		1,058 0 0	
Victoria River Account		1,080 0 0	
			2,379 4 3
	£2,955 15 10	£3,850 19 7	£6,806 15 5
Balance at 1st July, 1922			£2,625 15 0
			£9,432 10 5
To Balance			£2,093 9 9

Interest from Reserve	28 2 6
Transfer from Alice Springs Account	£6,939 0 8
	400 0 0
Balance	£7,339 0 8
	£2,093 9

126

Examined and found correct.
 Sydney, 4th August, 1924.

HOWARD W. CRANE, F.I.I.A.,
 Official Auditor to Presbyterian Church of New South Wales.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF AUSTRALIA HOME MISSION FUND.

Dr.

STATEMENT, 1st July, 1923, to 30th June, 1924.

Cr.

DISBURSEMENTS.				RECEIPTS.					
	Salary.		Expenses.	Total.	By	£ s. d.		£ s. d.	
	£	s. d.				£	s. d.	£	s. d.
Field Expenditure—					Victoria (including Fete)	6,019	15	7	
Alice Springs—					New South Wales	1,545	11	11	
Town Lease, No. 125			1 1 0	1 1 0	Queensland	325	0	0	
Broome—					South Australia	56	0	0	7,946 7 6
Organ			60 9 0	60 9 0	Subscriptions from Field—				
Beltana—					Hall's Creek	200	0	0	
Sister Jørgensen	100	0 0	0 12 0		Marranboy	1 17 0			
Miss Symons	52	0 0	0 6 0		Cloncurry Girls' Guild	20	0 0		
License Fee			0 5 0	153 3 0	United Free Church of Scotland				221 17 0
Birdsville—					Presbyterian Church of England				125 0 0
Sister Francis	91	13 4	20 10 6		Presbyterian Church in Ireland				19 14 6
Sister Boyd	91	13 4	20 10 6		For Victoria River—Commonwealth Gov. .				50 0 0
Medicine			2 18 1		Adelaide, P.W.M.U.				1,354 17 10
Freight on Furniture			59 1 0	286 6 9	E. G. Arnold				5 0 0
Carnarvon—					J. Bernhard				1 10 0
Rev. J. Waugh	247	18 4	73 3 1		F. Fleming				1 1 0
Rev. E. D. Pearson	233	6 8	49 3 6		A. Grant				0 16 0
Refund to McGarvie			9 0 0	612 11 7	James Hunt				1 1 0
Cloncurry—					Hubert F. Kessel				3 10 0
Rev. W. T. Alexander	300	0 0			Mrs. McCartney				5 5 0
Motor Car			105 2 6		J. Scharber				0 8 6
Tyres and Repairs			28 16 0	433 18 6	Jack Webb				1 1 0
East West Mission—					J. Williams				0 10 6
Rev. W. Rutt	75	0 0	0 3 0	75 3 0	J. Woods				1 1 0
Hall's Creek—					Syd. Peacock, from Employees				14 0 0
Sister Hepburn	25	0 0	0 2 0		Anon—in memory of late Rev. Hume				25 0 0
Nurse Gill	25	0 0	0 2 0		Robertson				31 19 0
Sister Cousin	100	0 0	5 2 4		British Aust. Wool Realisation Association .				200 0 0
Sister Bennett	100	0 0	2 1 4		Estate late Sir Robert Philp				56 5 0
Organ			20 2 0		Interest from Gas Shares				
Organ Repairs and Freight			15 3 19		Refunds—				
Materials			1 1 5	293 14 11	Sister Cameron	3	11	0	
					Miss Colley	2	0	3	
					Sister Donald	4	17	3	
					Sister Gill	12	9	1	
					Sister Hepburn	12	9	1	
					Sister Larard	0	1	0	
					Sister Martin	1	13	4	

Innimiacka—				
Sister Lenik	3 0 0	10 4 6		
			13 4 6	
Marranboy—				
Sister Larard	50 0 0	4 11 7		
Sister Simpson	50 0 0	4 11 7		
Sister Roberts.n	105 10 2	30 14 4		
Sister Bywater	105 10 2	30 14 4		
Instruments		2 16 0		
			384 8 2	
Oodnadatta—				
Sister Martin	50 0 0	19 19 8		
Miss Colley	65 5 0	19 8 0		
Sister Norman	75 0 0	20 6 8		
Sister Wood	75 0 0	15 8 0		
Insurance		8 16 6		
License Fee		0 5 0		
			349 8 10	
Port Hedland—				
Sister Cameron	37 10 0	30 0 0		
Sister Donald	37 10 0	30 0 0		
Sister Bird	81 5 0	14 18 9		
Sister Lipscombe	81 5 0	14 18 9		
Sister Herd		4 11 7		
Nurses' Travelling Expenses		50 6 2		
			382 5 3	
Victoria River—				
Sister King	100 0 0	0 12 0		
Sister Gray	100 0 0	0 12 0		
Sister McKenzie		25 1 3		
Sister McGain		25 1 3		
			251 6 6	
Undistributed Expenses—				
Rev. J. Flynn	400 0 0	75 0 0		
Rev. J. Waugh, Organiser	131 5 0			
Advertising		5 0 0		
Cable Address: "Inlander"		2 2 0		
Exchange on Cheques ..		21 12 6		
Freight on Parcels to Inland		25 18 4		
Insurance		84 10 7		
Interest		77 15 6		
Inlander, Blocks, Prints, etc.		87 9 4		
N.T. Times		1 11 0		
Postages		60 16 1		
Printing Minutes		8 8 9		
Printing and Stationery ..		62 2 3		
Reprints from Messenger .		7 12 4		

Sister Norman	4 13 6	
Maranboy	0 15 6	
Garvig	4 0 0	
		46 10 0
£10,113 15 10		
.. Transfer from Property Account	609 4 8	
		£10,723 0 6
.. Balance	£229 17 1	

Refund to John McKay ..		16	0	0			
Scales		0	17	6			
Typewriter Repairs, etc. .		3	14	0			
Travelling Expenses, Sydney							
Members to Conference in Melbourne		32	0	6			
Organiser—							
Lantern Screen & Lamp		9	12	9			
Insurance Car		11	9	0			
Registration of Car ...		4	18	8			
2 per cent. on Revenue ..		94	11	7			
					1,174	7	8
Office—							
T. Ramage	300	0	0				
Rent		26	0	0			
Typewriter Repairs, etc. .		3	17	10			
					329	17	10
	3,289	12	0	1,511	14	6	4,801 6 6
Transfer to—							
Alice Springs Account		52	1	0			
Birdsville Account		325	0	0			
Property Account		3,481	0	4			
Victoria River Account		200	0	0			
					4,058	1	4
	£3,289	12	0	5,569	15	10	8,859 7 10
Balance at 1st July, 1923					£2,093	9	9
					£10,952	17	7
To Balance					£229	17	1

Examined and found correct.
Sydney, 4th August, 1924.

HOWARD W. CRANE, F.I.A.,
Official Auditor to Presbyterian Church of New South Wales.

£10,952 17 7

BOARD OF MISSIONS.

Statement of Receipts and Payments from 28/7/22 to 7/8/24.

RECEIPTS.			PAYMENTS.				
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.	£	s. d.
Victoria, to 30/6/24	2,679	0 0	Balance, 28/7/22			1,559	8 1
New South Wales, to 30/6/24	1,889	0 0	North Queensland—				
Queensland	712	15 5	Salaries, Missionaries and Assistants at				
South Australia, to 30/6/24	234	5 0	Mapoon, Aurukun, and Mornington				
West Australia—on a/c	210	0 0	Island, 1 year	1,946	15 0		
Tasmania, to 30/6/24	186	0 0	Fares and Incidental Exes., do., do.	211	16 2		
Bequest late Isabella Henderson	300	0 0	Saw Mill, Aurukun	358	2 0		
Advance for purchase of cattle, Port George IV.	174	0 0	Grant in Aid Queensland Executive ...	1,000	0 0		
Mapoon Natives	9	5 1	Isabella Henderson Bequest paid to				
South Australia S.S. for Mapoon	7	2 0	Queensland Executive	300	0 0		
" " " " Port George IV.	6	0 0	On a/c cottage building and furnishing				
Balance (deficiency)	2,061	7 5	Teacher's room at Mapoon	59	5 11		
Arrears—			South Australian Church, re Beneficiary				
South Australia	£27	5 0	Funds for Rev. J. R. B. Love	12	7 0		
West Australia	258	0 0	Workers' Compensation Premium (4				
	£285	5 0	years)	80	12 0		
			3,968	18	1		
			Port George IV.—				
			Salaries—G. I. Beard, to 30/6/24	598	0 0		
			N. A. Paull, to 30/6/24	400	15 7		
			Alwyn Beard, to 30/6/24	169	0 0		
			Boat Maintenance, Stores, etc.	800	0 0		
			Fares and Incidental Expenses	106	4 7		
			Broome Agency	40	0 0		
			Advance for Cattle	174	0 0		
			Materials for kitchen, tanks, furniture				
			and plough	116	0 11		
			2,404	1	1		
			Charge for keeping a/cs, etc. (2 years)	100	0 0		
			Lantern Slides, Medicines, etc.	11	14 9		
			Grant to Coranderrk (15 months)	25	0 0		
			Printing, Postages, Drafts, etc.	46	0 11		
			Interest on Overdraft	249	12 0		
			Pension, Rev. N. Hey	64	0 0		
			Honorarium to Secretary	40	0 0		
			£8,468	14	11		
			£8,468	14	11		

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF AUSTRALIA EXPENSES FUND ACCOUNT.

Dr.

STATEMENT, 10th August, 1922, to 31st July, 1924.

Cr.

DISBURSEMENTS.				RECEIPTS.			
	f	s.	d.		f	s.	d.
To Meeting in Melbourne, September, 1922—				By Balance, 10th August, 1922			108 13 5
Communion Wine	0	8	0	Proportion of Expenses—			
Organist	6	6	0	For 1920—			
Reporters	3	3	0	Tasmanian Church	21	5	0
Advertising	6	18	9	For 1921—			
Preparing Church	0	6	0	Tasmanian Church	21	5	0
Church Officer and Attendant	5	1	0	For 1922—			
Postages, Freight, Exchange	7	2	8	Tasmanian Church	21	5	0
			29 5 5	For 1923—			
College Committee—				Victorian Church	205	6	9
Secretary's Honorarium—Rev. K. Foster	40	0	0	N.S.W. Church	205	6	9
Exam Papers—Rev. H. M. Burns	3	3	3	Queensland Church	60	12	0
			43 3 3	South Australian Church	34	15	6
Union of Churches—				West Australian Church	34	15	6
Travelling Expenses to Conference	42	16	7	Tasmanian Church	34	15	6
Printing	165	15	6				575 12 0
			208 12 1	For 1924—			
Year Book—				Victorian Church	205	6	9
Honorarium to Rev. J. R. Fiddian	21	0	0	N.S.W. Church	205	6	9
Printing	12	7	3	Queensland Church	60	12	0
			33 7 3	South Australian Church	34	15	6
Commission to Tasmania—				Tasmanian Church, on A/c.	9	15	6
Travelling Expenses			42 16 6				515 16 6
Western Australia—				Honorarium Secretary College Committee—			
Rev. Dr. Seymour's Expenses		21	0 0	Victorian Church	12	10	0
Honorarium to Moderator, 1922/23		100	0 0	N.S.W. Church	12	10	0
Honorarium to Clerk of Assembly		30	0 0	Queensland Church	5	0	0
Printing Blue Book and Minutes		307	17 6	South Australian Church	5	0	0
Binding Blue Books		2	14 0	West Australian Church	5	0	0
Printing for Moderator		4	9 6				40 0 0
Postages		6	11 6	Year Book Sales	46	19	9
Exchange on Cheques		2	14 0	Refund from States A/c. Printing Basis of Union—			
Interest		11	0 4	West Australian Church	13	17	4
2 per cent. on Revenue, 1922	7	14	6	Tasmanian Church	13	17	4
2 per cent. on Revenue, 1923	10	19	2				27 14 8
			18 13 8	Refund from States for Printing A/c. Union	255	12	6
Discipline Account, transferred as per Blue Book, 1922			16 2 0	Tasmanian Church—			
Travelling Expenses, transferred as per Blue Book, 1922			395 17 4	Expenses of Commission	42	18	6
				Late Hon. J. T. Walker	5	5	0
			£1,274 4 4	Refund Travelling Expenses	1	10	0
Balance			£471 9 0	Printing Petitions in Blue Book	2	10	0
				Interest to 31st December, 1922	6	17	10

	<u>£1,745 13 4</u>
Annual Expenses due by—	
Tasmanian Church, 1924, balance	£25 0 0
West Australian Church, 1924	34 15 6
	<u>£59 15 6</u>

Interest from Capital	1 19 2	
Sales of Discipline	1 7 7	
Transfers, as per Blue Book, 1922, page 33, min. 71, Sec. 7—		
Capital Account	34 17 8	
Chaplains Account	14 3 9	
	<u>1,636 19 11</u>	
By Balance		<u>£1,745 13 4</u>
		£471 9 0

JOHN FRAZER FOREIGN MISSION ENDOWMENT ACCOUNT.

DISBURSEMENTS.	f	s.	d.
To Treasurer, Board of Foreign Missions—			
Interest to 30th June, 1924	130	0	0
.. Balance	1,000	0	0
	<u>£1,130</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

RECEIPTS.	f	s.	d.
By Balance, 1922	1,000	0	0
.. Interest to 30th June, 1924	130	0	0
	<u>£1,130</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
By Balance	£1,000	0	0

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF AUSTRALIA HOME MISSION FUND.

Dr.

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS, 1st July, 1922, to 30th June, 1924.

Cr.

DISBURSEMENTS.			RECEIPTS.		
Reserve Account.					
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
1922—June 30—			1922—July 1.		
To Interest to Home Mission Account for 1922	28	2 6	By Balance	500	0 0
„ Balance	528	2 6	1924—June 30.		
			By Interest, 1922/1923	56	5 0
	<u>£556</u>	<u>5 0</u>		<u>£556</u>	<u>5 0</u>
			1924—July 1—By Balance	£528	2 6
AEROPLANE ACCOUNT.			1922—July 1.		
			By Balance	137	1 4
			1924—June 30.		
			By Sister Rogasch	21	4 3
			„ Interest, 1922/23	17	0 6
				<u>£175</u>	<u>6 1</u>
A.I.M. PROPERTY ACCOUNTS.			1922—July 1.		
1924—June 30.	£	s. d.	By Balance	1,062	17 10
To Carnarvon Church	534	18 9	1924—June 30.		
„ Cloncurry—Land Sites	74	5 11	„ Australian Traveller	21	0 0
„ Cloncurry—Motor Car	16	10 0	„ P. J. Bennett	5	0 0
„ Victoria River—Building Material	832	18 10	„ Mrs. A. C. Bennett	1	0 0
„ Victoria River—Gramolo	75	12 0	„ Miss Campbell	16	10 0
„ Organiser—Motor Car	245	2 6	„ T. Barr Smith	1,000	0 0
	<u>£1,779</u>	<u>8 0</u>	„ Mrs. S. B. Sutherland	83	7 0
„ Balance	£3,943	16 3	„ Mrs. Williamson	0	10 0
			„ Wool Certificates	67	9 0
			„ Commonwealth Government A/c., Victoria River	832	18 0
			„ Victorian Fete—4/5 of proceeds	2,511	6 4
			„ Interest	121	6 1
	<u>£5,723</u>	<u>4 3</u>		<u>£5,723</u>	<u>4 3</u>
			1924—July 1.—By Balance	£3,943	16 3

DISBURSEMENTS.

ALICE SPRINGS BUILDING ACCOUNT.

	£	s.	d.
1924—June 30.			
To Lease, No. 125	1	0	0
„ B. K. Wilkinson	9	0	0
„ Refund to Home Mission Account	400	0	0
„ Balance	101	2	1
	<hr/>		
	£511	2	1

BIRDSVILLE BUILDING ACCOUNT.

	£	s.	d.
1924—June 30.			
To Medicine	98	15	10
„ Furnishing	322	2	2
„ Birdsville	126	5	0
	<hr/>		
	£547	3	0
„ Balance	771	4	2
	<hr/>		
	£1,318	7	2

VICTORIA RIVER BUILDING ACCOUNT.

	£	s.	d.
1924—June 30.			
To Medicine	57	11	8
„ Materials for Building	786	10	0
„ Balance	473	3	5
	<hr/>		
	£1,317	5	1

RECEIPTS.

	£	s.	d.
1922—July 1.			
By Balance	237	2	7
1924—June 30.			
By Sir Sidney Kidman, from Crown Point and Bond Springs Stations	50	0	0
„ Victoria	2	1	0
„ Interest	21	18	6
„ Home Mission Account	200	0	0
	<hr/>		
	£511	2	1
1924—July 1—By Balance	£101	2	1

	£	s.	d.
1922—July 1.			
By Balance	907	16	7
1924—June 30.			
By Sir Sidney Kidman, from Bluff, Monkira and Glengyle Stations	125	0	0
„ Estate late Sir Robert Philp	200	0	0
„ Queensland	20	0	0
„ Interest	65	10	7
	<hr/>		
	£1,318	7	2
1924—July 1—By Balance	£771	4	2

	£	s.	d.
1924—June 30.			
By Commonwealth Government	1,280	0	0
„ Interest	37	5	1
	<hr/>		
	£1,317	5	1
1924—July 1—By Balance	£473	3	5

Examined and found correct.

HOWARD W. CRANE, F.I.I.A.,

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF AUSTRALIA TRAVELLING EXPENSES ACCOUNT.

Dr.

STATEMENT, 10th August, 1922, to 31st July, 1924.

Cr.

DISBURSEMENTS.				RECEIPTS.					
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
To Paid Travelling Expenses to Meetings in Melbourne, September, 1922--							116	11	0
Victorian Representatives	15	12	10				395	17	4
New South Wales Representatives	162	13	1						
Queensland Representatives	78	18	4						
South Australian Representatives	25	16	0						
West Australian Representatives	166	17	10						
Tasmanian Representatives	17	6	0						
				467	4	1			
„ Interest				45	4	3			
				<u>£512</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>4</u>			
							<u>£512</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>4</u>

CHURCH HYMNARY ROYALTY ACCOUNT.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
To General Assembly Travelling Expenses Account ..	116	11	0	By Royalties received from Trustees in Edinburgh—to 31st December, 1922 .	38	17	5			
				Ditto., to 31st December, 1923	57	17	1			
								96	14	6
				„ Oxford University Press, 1922	6	15	4			
				„ Oxford University Press, 1923	11	6	11			
								18	2	3
				„ Interest				1	14	3
								<u>£116</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>0</u>
								<u>£116</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>0</u>

Examined and found correct.
Sydney, 4th August, 1924.

HOWARD W. CRANE, F.I.I.A.,
Official Auditor to Presbyterian Church of New South Wales.

JOHN FRASER FOREIGN MISSION SCHOLARSHIP FUND.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Balance 28/7/22	65	5	1	Scholarships—			
N.S.W. Treasurership Committee	130	0	0	Robert Blair	39	11	8
Refund of Scholarship	75	0	0	H. R. Pearson	29	3	4
				F. D. Pearson	29	3	4
				G. K. Kirke	20	16	8
				J. W. P. Gillan	12	10	0
				Miss Janet Watt	16	13	4
				Miss Anna White	4	3	4
				Balance, 7/8/24	118	3	5
	<u>£270</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>1</u>		<u>£270</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>1</u>

“ROLLAND” INSURANCE FUND.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
To Balance, 28/7/22	20	0	0	By Balance in Savings Bank, 7/8/24	45	10	8
„ 20 per cent. on earnings of “Rolland”	24	16	0				
„ Interest	0	14	8				
	<u>£45</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>8</u>		<u>£45</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>8</u>

Audited and found correct.

11/8/24.

MORTON, WATSON & YOUNG,
Auditors.

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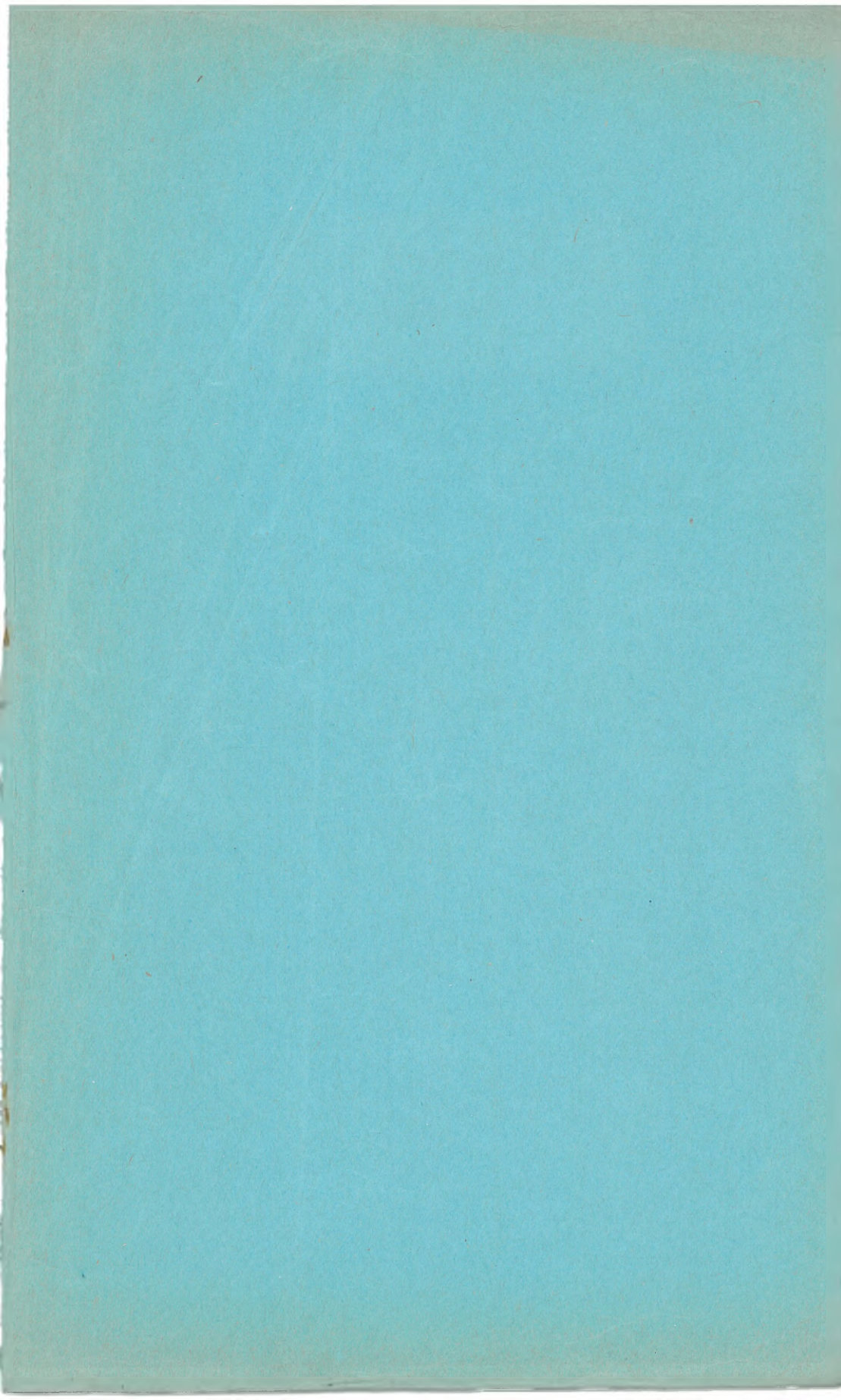
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