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Ciskei Missionary Council

FOURTEENTH MEETING

AT

King William's Town

15th November, 1939.

THE LOVEDALE PRESS.

THE CISKEI MISSIONARY COUNCIL

15th November, 1939

MINUTES AND REPORT

The Council was constituted at 9.30 a.m. in the Twemlow Hall, King William's Town, the Chairman, the Revd. R. H. W. Shepherd, presiding.

After *Prayer* :

I. *Minutes* of the previous Meeting, as circulated, were approved.

II. The following *Representatives* were duly accredited by their constituent bodies (*p*—*Present* ; *—*Sent an apology*) :—

Methodist Church of South Africa :

- p* 1. Revd. A. A. Wellington (*Committee*)
- p* 2. „ A. J. Cook
- p* 3. „ S. Mdala
- 4.

Church of the Province of South Africa :

- * 1. Ven. Archdeacon Hanley
- p* 2. Revd. W. S. Hall
- p* 3. „ Canon A. E. Jingiso
- p* 4. „ W. S. Gawe

Congregational Union of South Africa :

- * 1. Revd. D. Tolmie Fraser
- 2. Pastor Frank Briggs
- 3. Revd. F. C. Bota
- 4.

Bantu Presbyterian Church :

- p* 1. Revd. Mungo Carrick
- p* 2. „ H. Mama
- 3. „ G. G. Ndyzotana (*Committee*)
- 4.

Dutch Reformed Church :

- * 1. Revd. G. de C. Murray
- p* 2. „ C. J. Steyn
- 3. „ W. S. Conradie

Lutheran Church :

1. Revd. Frans Nickschat
2. „ G. H. Pakendorf
3. „ H. Xatasi

Baptist Union of South Africa :

- * 1. Revd. B. Pape
- 2.

Moravian Church :

- * 1. Revd. P. Moths
- p 2. „ L. Ngqakayi

Anglican Order of Ethiopia :

1. Mr. Mile Kika
- 2.

African Methodist Episcopal Church :

- * 1. Right Revd. R. R. Wright
- 2.

Presbyterian Church of Africa :

1. Revd. V. R. Kwatsha
2. „ L. M. Mzimba

Presbyterian Church of South Africa :

- p 1. Revd. J. N. M. Paterson
- * 2. „ F. Stakes

Free Church of Scotland :

- p 1. Revd. A. Dewar

Church of Scotland :

- p 1. Revd. A. W. Wilkie (*Committee*)
- p 2. „ R. H. W. Shepherd (*Chairman*)

Associated Heads of Native Institutions :

- p 1. Rt. Rev. C. J. Ferguson-Davie (*Committee*)
- p 2. Revd. E. H. Roseveare (*Secretary & Treasurer*)

South African Native College :

- p 1. Principal A. Kerr (*Committee*)

Student Christian Association :

- * 1. Mr. H. le Roux

Cape Education Department :

- * 1. Mr. G. H. Welsh
- p 2. „ E. R. O. Gardiner

Department of Native Affairs :

1. The Secretary for Native Affairs
- p 2. Mr. A. L. Barrett

S. A. Institute of Race Relations :

- * 1. Senator the Hon. J. D. Rheinallt Jones
- p *Secundus* : Revd. E. W. Grant (*Committee*)

Cape African Teachers' Association :

- p 1. Mr. W. Ncwana
- p 2. „ S. Rajuili

Accredited by the Council :

- p 1. Revd. W. E. Cordingley
2. „ A. J. Antoni
- p 3. Mrs. E. W. Grant
- p 4. Miss J. Rogers
- 5.
- 6.

Fraternal Delegate from Transkei Missionary Council :

- 1.

Others present, introduced by Members of the Council :

- Dr. H. M. Bennett
Dr. D. Ryan
Revd. S. Mokitimi
Miss Graham Harrison
Dr. Ferguson-Davie
Mr. D. T. T. Jabavu
Mr. Z. K. Matthews

New members of the Council, and visitors, were welcomed by the Chairman.

III. *CORRESPONDENCE* :—

(a) *Missionary Research Library, New York* : The Secretary read a letter received from the Librarian, asking that a copy of the Council's Reports be mailed annually to the library. This was being done.

(b) *Bantu African Teachers' Union* : A resolution from this body, concerning the employment of Ciskei teachers in the Transkei, was read and discussed. The matter was left to the Standing Committee to deal with.

IV. SUNDAY SCHOOL WORK :—

(a) *Report on Sunday School Teachers' Training Course :*

The Revd. W. E. Grant reported that the response to a widely-distributed circular, about the Course proposed by the Council in 1938, had not been sufficient to justify the holding of the Course. He and other members of the Council expressed regret at the lack of interest shown, but it was pointed out that constituent bodies were doing much in their own ways to quicken Sunday School work in line with the Council's resolutions of 1937 and 1938, particularly in the neighbourhood of the Native Institutions.

The general opinion of the Council was expressed that, whilst it would give its blessing to any efforts made at the Institutions and elsewhere to increase the efficiency of Sunday School Teachers, it would not again attempt, for the time being, to organize a course as proposed in 1938.

(b) *World Sunday School Convention :* The Revd. W. E. Grant reported that, owing to the international situation, the Convention planned to be held in Durban in 1940 would not take place. Twenty-five different non-European religious bodies had arranged to send delegates to the Convention, and an embryo committee was being continued with a view to the Convention being held at a later date.

The following Resolution (Revd. E. W. Grant and Canon Jingiso), to be forwarded to the Convention authorities in New York, was carried unanimously :

" This Meeting of the Ciskei Missionary Council expresses its deep regret that the world situation makes it impossible for the World Sunday School Convention to be held in Durban in 1940 ; and earnestly trusts that this will mean, not the cancellation of the Meeting of the Convention in South Africa, but only its postponement, and that it may be held in this country as soon as the time is opportune."

V. NATIVE HEALTH :—

(a) *General Survey and Hospitals :* A paper under this heading by Dr. N. Macvicar was read by the Secretary. After dealing with the Christian obligation to relieve suffering and the special need for Mission Hospitals amongst the Bantu, the writer pointed out that the present number of beds available for

the Bantu in all Ciskei Hospitals is now only 642, or one bed for each 800 of the Native population, as compared with one to 200 or less in Britain and America. The home-treatment of chronic illness and disablement amongst the Bantu was touched upon, and a long section of the paper was devoted to the incidence and treatment of tuberculosis in its various forms. The paper ended with an appeal for the consideration of the need for invalidity grants to persons unfit to earn a living and, as an outcome of this, the Council unanimously carried the following Resolution, to be forwarded to the Department of Social Welfare:

“ This Session of the Ciskei Missionary Council recommends to the Department of Social Welfare that subject to the necessary certification, where a Bantu wage-earner is totally disabled (1) from some non-tuberculous condition, or (2) from chronic tuberculosis, the patient being suitably isolated and cared for at his home, an invalidity grant be made to him.”

(b) *Field Work*: A discussion on “ Field Work in Medical Missions ” was opened by Dr. H. M. Bennett, who spoke with abundant illustrations from his own wide experience of medical work in the country districts. After dealing with the special difficulties of the work due to ignorance, negligence, and superstition, the speaker expressed the need of combating them by (1) the establishment of rural clinics regularly visited by a medical man, (2) visits to individual patients in their homes whenever possible (assisted by Native Medical Aids), and (3) extended district nursing services for the prevention of disease and the propagation of hygienic habits among the people. A keen discussion followed on all these points.

(c) *Child Welfare*: Dr. D. Ryan, well qualified to speak on Child Welfare from her experience and experiments at Lovedale, Middeldrift, and elsewhere, then opened a valuable discussion on this side of medical work which, she showed, is at present at a very pioneer stage of development. The great number of children dying between the ages of two and five years proved how necessary it was to follow children over this critical period, to procure accurate statistics, and to train Native nurses and midwives with a special view to child welfare. The speaker had found in her clinics how necessary it was to educate the people to understand the need of *prevention* as well as the cure of sickness, and to stress the importance of suitable diet. In this

connection she specially urged the need of (1) organizing milk-rations for Native children of pre-school age and the encouragement to eat eggs, (2) village gardens of vegetables, and (3) village markets for barter and exchange (on the lines of one near Debe Nek). In the discussion that followed, much was said in support of Dr. Ryan's aims in all the points, and special emphasis was also laid on the extreme need that exists for the proper notification of births and deaths amongst the Bantu. But who can be relied upon to report these things—Headmen, *Abafundisi*, Teachers ?

The Council expressed its strong desire that more publicity should be given to Dr. Macvicar's paper, and that the two other openers of these discussions on *Native Health* should be asked to write down their speeches in the form of Papers, with a view to their being published in pamphlet form together with Dr. Macvicar's paper. The Revd. R. H. W. Shepherd expressed the desire of the Lovedale Press and *The South African Outlook* to help in this connection ; and Mr. A. L. Barrett reported an offer of £5 towards the cost of publication, provided the booklet could be sold for not more than one penny a copy. The matter was referred to the Standing Committee, with power to act.

VI. *Glebe Lands* : Mr. A. L. Barrett brought to the notice of the Council the unsatisfactory condition of much of the land owned by the missionary bodies in Native areas, and urged that the Church should insist that fertility was secured and erosion combated on such lands, as the Native Affairs Department insisted elsewhere. After a short discussion, the following Resolution was adopted :

" *This Council recommends that where portions of Glebe Land are leased to Natives for cultivation, the leases should include a condition that the land is to be used so as to preserve its fertility and to avoid erosion, to the satisfaction of the proper officers of the Department of Native Affairs.*"

VII. *Devotional Session* : The morning session of the Council closed, during the discussion on Native Health at 12.15 p.m., with a Devotional period conducted by the Revd. A. J. Cook.

VIII. *Finance*. The Treasurer gave a Financial Statement showing a balance-in-hand of £8 2s. 3d. to date, to which

several unpaid levies (5s. each representative) were still to be added, and from which various annual expenses would have to be paid. The Council adopted the Statement, and desired the Standing Committee to go into the matter of unpaid levies.

IX. *Officers* : The following were elected for the ensuing year :—

Chairman : The Revd. W. E. Grant (for two years)

Secretary and Treasurer : The Revd. E. H. Roseveare

Standing Committee : The Revd. A. A. Wellington

The Revd. A. W. Wilkie

Principal A. Kerr

The Right Revd. C. J. Ferguson-Davie

The Revd. Canon A. E. Jingiso

The Revd. R. H. W. Shepherd

X. *Thanks* : The sincere thanks of the Council were accorded to Archdeacon Hanley and the Churchwardens of Holy Trinity, King William's Town, for the free use of the Twemlow Hall for the present meeting and for the public meeting to be held later in the evening ; to the Revd. R. C. Doe for the local arrangements he had made in connection with the meetings during the absence of Archdeacon Hanley in Cape Town ; to the ladies who had provided refreshments ; to those who had opened the day's discussions ; and to the retiring Chairman.

The Meeting of the Council was closed with Prayer at 5 p.m.

PUBLIC MEETING.

A Public Meeting was held in the Twemlow Hall at 8.15 p.m. the same day, attended by about sixty people. Mr. A. S. Weir presided, and the speakers were Dr. A. F. Guinness and the Revd. S. Mokitimi. Prayers were led by the Revd. W. S. Hall, and the Revd. A. W. Wilkie pronounced the Benediction. The Revd. E. W. Grant moved a vote of thanks to the Chairman and speakers. Three hymns were sung, accompanied by Mrs. Hanley at the piano. There was no collection.

A full report of the Meeting appeared in *The Cape Mercury* on Thursday, 16th November, 1939.

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