

The following pages are an extract from The Methodist Church of New Zealand Minutes of the Annual Conference .

The extract contains the reports to Conference for the following three Methodist Children's homes:

- The Auckland Children's Home and Orphanage, Mt Albert and Epsom
- Masterton Methodist Children's Home
- South Island Orphanage and Children's Home

The Methodist Church of New Zealand

MINUTES

OF THE

Annual Conference

OPENED IN

PITT STREET CHURCH,

AUCKLAND.

On Thursday, 21st February, 1946

CHRISTCHURCH

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(d) General religious services among the Maoris and services in adjacent English circuits shall not be taken by a Deaconess excepting by arrangement with the Superintendent of the Maori work in the District in which the Deaconess is located.

(e) No Deaconess shall accept responsibilities such as the adoption or maintenance of Maori children without the consent of the Home Mission Board.

(f) The General Superintendent of the Home Mission Department may grant permission to a Deaconess engaged in Maori work to administer the Sacrament of Baptism where a minister is not available.

(g) Senior Deaconesses engaged in Maori work (and Deaconesses holding the status of acting home missionaries) may be gazetted as officiating ministers under the Marriage Act if nominated by the General Superintendent of the Home Mission Department.

(h) The Deaconess Committee may allow any trained Deaconess of the Maori race to retain official status after marriage provided that she is fully employed in Deaconess work under the Home Mission Department and provided further that satisfactory arrangements are made with respect to her connection with the Retiring Fund.

RESOLUTION.

That the Rules and Regulations of the Training Institution for Deaconesses be referred back to the Deaconess Committee to consider amendments suggested by the Deaconess Association, and report to Synods of 1946 and Conference of 1947.

QUESTION XLVIII.—What are the Resolutions of Conference respecting Connexional Orphanages?

A.—THE AUCKLAND METHODIST CHILDREN'S HOME AND ORPHANAGE, MT. ALBERT AND EPSOM.

Thirty-second Annual Report, 1945.

In presenting this Report of the year's work we thank our Heavenly Father for the privilege of Service among His children. The cloud of war which has overshadowed our lives during the last six years, has now passed. Surely we in New Zealand have much for which to thank God. May our gratitude be expressed in Service for others that His Kingdom may come on this earth. Surely we are especially favoured in our opportunities.

"For he who gives a child a home
Builds palaces in Kingdom Come."

Resignations.

Owing to the sudden illness of Rev. F. E. Leadley, the Secretary-Treasurer, his resignation had to be accepted with regret. He had served the Board, firstly as Treasurer, then in the dual capacity over a number of years. Efficient and diligent in all his duties, untiring in his service for the children, he will always be remembered for his unflinching Christian courtesy and understanding.

In January the resignation of Mrs. R. M. Butterworth was accepted with very real regret. She had rendered excellent service as Matron of "Epsom" for over seven years. The Board placed on record its grateful appreciation of the splendid service rendered. It was largely owing to her initiative and enthusiasm that the Girls' Hostel was established.

New Appointments.

Matron, Epsom: Miss G. Benton, L.R.S.M., who was Sub-Matron at Epsom, was appointed to succeed Mrs. Butterworth.

Secretary-Treasurer: Sister Ivy Jones, J.P., was appointed to this position. She took up her duties on the 1st August.

Girls' Hostel.

Eight girls are in residence. They greatly appreciate their comfortable quarters and we are grateful for a longer period of contact with these young lives.

Admissions and Withdrawals.

During the year 26 children were admitted and 18 withdrawn. Our numbers have been in the vicinity of 70 most of the year, but on September 30th we had 39 boys at Wesley and 30 girls and 7 small boys at Epsom, a total of 76, with a staff of 11.

Building Projects.

Permission is still awaited to erect the Boys' Home at Mt. Roskill. The need for an Infants' Home has not been lost to our view, but the building situation makes it impossible to supply this accommodation at present. The Epsom Hostel is fulfilling a great need in the girls' lives. What of the boys? Many go to farms, but some of the most promising look to the professions and trades. Just at the age when they need a guiding hand and the protection and help of home life, we have to turn them out into the world to fend for themselves.

During the year extensive repairs and alterations have been carried out at "Wesley" at the cost of £1,200. Painting inside and out, papering and the construction of a large dormitory in the place of several small cubicles—improvements to the H.W. service have made working conditions much easier for the staff.

£175 has been spent on repairs on the Epsom Home.

Street Day Appeal.

This was again a great success. Our share at £12 per head was £792. We are not unmindful of the splendid work accomplished by the Auckland Orphanages United Council.

Finances.

The Treasurers report a total income from Churches and Y.P. Organisations of £974 19s. 9d., which is about £31 less than last year.

The Bequests received during the year total £570 18s.

Mr. J. H. Whitburn, our City Collector, has again given splendid service. Through his services the donations in cash have totalled £79 3s. and goods valued at £67 6s.

Thanks.

We are grateful and very much appreciate the services of Miss Rogers and the Minute Secretary who attended to the essential business of the Board during the four months period without a Secretary-Treasurer.

Appreciation and Thanks.

The thanks of the Board are offered in appreciation of their services to:

The Hon. Medical Officers—Drs. J. Rule and J. Kirkwood.
Messrs. C. Martyn and Sons, Opticians.

Mr. K. W. White, Chemist.

Auckland Brush Co.—for brooms.

Mr. L. S. Dearing, Butcher.

Mr. and Mrs. Faulkner—bread cutter.

President Mrs. A. L. Caughey and the Ladies' Committee for their devotion to the needs of the children.

Childswear Ltd., Mt. Eden Happiness Club, Miss Brookes and Mr. A. L. Caughey, for clothing.

The Ladies' Guilds and Churches—Harvest Festival gifts.

Mr. Faulkner and Mr. Turley—work on grounds, both Homes.

Govt. Research Farm—gifts of vegetables.

Henderson friends (2), Mrs. Freeman, Messrs. Platt & Wright, large gifts of fruit.

Rev. A. E. Orr, Central Mission—Holiday accommodation, Health Camp.

Ladies who regularly assist—mending and darning.

All business houses who have contributed so generously to the appeal of our collector.

Friendly Road, Travel Club, Rotary, for treats and parties.

Sympathy.

The sincere sympathy of the Board is tendered to the family of Miss E. Waddingham, who was a member of the Board for many years.

To Miss Wagstaff, who has suffered the loss of her mother.

Board of Management.

Life Members—Mrs. W. R. Emerson and Mr. W. Astley.

Chairman—Rev. E. T. Olds.

Secretary-Treasurer—Sister Ivy Jones, J.P.

Revs. E. W. Hames, M.A., W. Walker, V. R. Jameson, Ministers of Epsom and Remuera Churches, W. Parker, A. E. Orr, Mesdames A. H. White, T. Clark, A. L. Caughey, A. Peak, C. J. Burton, C. K. Wigglesworth, K. J. Rosser, Misses E. Mason, A. E. Rogers, C. E. Wagstaff, B. M. Brooke, Messrs. J. E. Astley, T. Clark, F. Penn, A. Williams (on leave), F. L. Rudd (on leave), A. L. Caughey, J. H. Whitburn, J. Hargreaves, J. Tyler, R. T. Garlick, G. W. Turley, D. E. Parton, W. H. Faulkner, C. K. Wigglesworth, C. E. Goode, W. E. Burley, B.A., F. C. Matthews, and the Chairman and Secretary of the South Auckland District.

Signed on behalf of the Board,

E. T. OLDS, Chairman.

I. H. JONES, Secretary-Treasurer.

RESOLUTIONS.

1. That the Report be received and adopted.

2. That the Financial Statements be adopted.

3. Resolution by the Annual Conference of the Methodist Church of New Zealand relating to the Trust Fund in the Estate of John Currie, of Auckland, Settler, Deceased, to be divided between the said Church and the Presbyterian Church of New Zealand in accordance with the order of the Supreme Court.

It is resolved this 22nd day of February, 1946, that the Annual Conference of the Methodist Church of New Zealand authorises The Methodist Orphanage Trust Board of Auckland, on behalf of such Church:—

(a) To deal with the claim of the Trustees of the Estate for commission or remuneration in respect of the services of the Trustee and of his late co-trustee to the estate, and to agree upon the amount thereof, or take such other steps as the Board may think advisable to settle such claim.

(b) To deal with any other claim that may be made in respect of the said Trust Fund and settle same as it thinks proper or reasonable.

(c) To agree if thought fit to the allocation or appropriation in specie of any asset comprised in the Trust Fund to the Methodist Church or to the Presbyterian Church as part of its half share in such fund, and to agree upon the value to be placed upon each asset comprised in the fund for the purpose of division of such fund, to authorise the sale or disposition of any asset by the Trustee at such price or on such terms as the Board thinks fit, and generally to agree upon any matters arising in connection with the realisation of any asset comprised in the fund or the division of the fund between the two Churches.

(d) To accept a transfer of any asset comprised in the fund allocated or appropriated to the Church as part of its share therein, and to receive or give directions for the disposal of any moneys or other property forming part of such share and to give full discharges to the Trustee for any asset or moneys transferable or payable to the Methodist Church of New Zealand.

(e) To deal with and settle any other matter that may arise in connection with division of the said Trust Fund.

4. That the Board of Management for 1946 be as named in the Report.

B.—MASTERTON METHODIST CHILDREN'S HOME.

Report of the Management Committee for the Year Ended
30th September, 1945.

Children.

At the beginning of the year there were 37 children in residence—admission numbered 8 and removals 5—leaving 40 children in the Home on 30/9/1945.

With one exception the health of the children has been good and school reports disclose excellent progress.
Staff.

Mr. and Mrs. H. Bateup as Master and Matron, with Miss M. Potter and Miss C. Fell as Assistants, have continued to give outstanding service in the interests of the children and the committee is most appreciative of their excellent contributions to the well-being of the Home. Of particular interest to the Committee has been the evidence of co-operation between children and staff, manifesting itself in the excellent appearance of the Home grounds and gardens and the smooth performance of all duties within the Home.

All members of the staff have co-operated in every way with the Committee and the children to provide the ideal setting for our large family.

Buildings.

During the war years it has not been possible to do more than the most urgent maintenance work. The Committee is now making a complete review of the buildings and furnishings with a view to giving early attention to major maintenance repairs and renewals.

Committee.

The committee has functioned without change of personnel during the year. Considerable attention has been given to the careful selection of suitable occupations for our senior children. In each case educational courses most suited to the individual need are pursued.

A pleasing innovation this year has been the quarterly tea in which children, staff, and committee join in pleasant fellowship round the festive board.

Thanks.

The committee is ever mindful of the widespread help received from many kind friends and supporters of the Home in the Circuits and the Sunday Schools of the Home district.

To all who have helped the children with donations of both cash and kind we extend our thanks.

Of special merit was the action of the young people of Ngaio Church in raising the sum of £18 8s. 6d. to be used in providing holidays for the children. £15 6s. 2d. has been expended in this connection during the year.

The Committee also expresses its thanks to all those who opened their homes to the children during the holiday periods.

The ready assistance and co-operation of the Wellington Board so promptly and cordially available at all times has been most appreciated by the Masterton Committee.

Bequests.

The Capital Funds of the Home have been further added to during the year by three bequests which have been reported to the Wellington Board.

Nominations.

The following nominations for 1946 are submitted:—Mr. G. F. Whitlock (Chairman), Mr. J. H. Conly (Deputy Chairman), Mr. W. R. Nicol (Secretary-Manager and Treasurer), Mr. W. H. J. Watson (Assistant Secretary), Dr. N. H. Prior (Physician), Rev. G. H. Goodman, Mesdames J. Elliott, F. C. Daniell, G. H. Goodman, Misses M. Burton, R. Elliott and L. Cocker, Messrs D. A. Barns, A. H. Daniell, E. E. Wells.

For the Committee,

G. F. WHITLOCK, Chairman,

W. R. NICOL, Secretary-Manager.

RESOLUTIONS.

1. That the Report be received and adopted.
2. That the Financial Statement be received and adopted.
3. That the Management Committee for 1946 be as named in the Report.

C.—SOUTH ISLAND METHODIST ORPHANAGE AND CHILDREN'S HOME.

31st ANNUAL REPORT, 1945.

As we present our 31st Annual Report, we are deeply grateful to God that our work has been safely guided through the past year.

Our Board meetings have had fine average attendances and the work in all its branches has received the keen attention of those who have set their hands to the care and upbringing of our large family.

All the work in connection with the children is based upon the principle that the needs of the individual transcend all other claims.

Our Family. During the year 92 children have been under our care, and to-day our numbers stand at 74. Of this number, 10 are senior boys boarding out. Every effort is made to maintain contact with these lads and regular visits are made to their homes.

Education for Life. Physical Health. Quite a large number of the little ones committed to the Home come to us in a state of neglect and the advice and help that we have received from both our Honorary Physician and Honorary Optician has been of inestimable value. We take this opportunity of paying a tribute to the help we have had from Dr. A. J. Orchard, who for the past 31 years has cared for the physical health of the young people.

School. Not only physically, but educationally, many of the children have suffered from lack of security and from frequent changes of domicile during their formative years. We are grateful for the help that has been so cheerfully given by the staffs in the three schools attended by our pupils—Waimairi Primary, Normal, and Papanui Technical College.

A generous grant under the Arthur Hall Fletcher Trust helps us to further the education of orphan girls, and by this means one girl is taking her second year in Home Science at Otago University.

The Great Future. One of the most important duties that lies to our hand is that of helping our boys and girls to choose their life work. The Vocational Committee, dealing with each individual, and studying the aptitudes and wishes of the child, seeks always to direct and guide along the most constructive lines. During the year one girl commenced Nursing Training at Timaru Hospital, and boys were placed as follows: Electrical Wireman 1, Engineering 3, Fruit Farming 1, Sheep Farming 2, General Farming 1, Sheet Metal Working 1, and Wood Turning 1.

Religious Education. Through Church, Sunday School, Bible Classes and Easter Camps our aim is always to direct the thoughts of our children to the things that are highest, and to present the claims of Jesus Christ as a personal Saviour. Our most sincere thanks are due to the Rev. C. R. Taylor and those teachers and leaders of the Papanui Church who give so freely of their time to the work of God in our Home. Whenever free from preaching appointments, the Superintendent conducts a Sunday afternoon Sing-Song Service for children and staff.

Spare Time Activities. Every encouragement is given to the boys and girls to associate themselves in some way with character-building movements in their leisure hours. Girls' Life Brigade, Clubs, Scouts, Cubs, and Toc H all have their devotees, and Church social activities play their part. The Canterbury District Youth Council is doing a fine job in the entertainment of the boys on Saturday evenings. During the winter school holidays, visits to industrial concerns and places of interest have been organised.

Holiday Homes. Most welcome hospitality was offered to the children during the summer holidays, and we are deeply grateful for this most valuable form of help offered by the people of our country circuits. Our young folk returned to school refreshed in body and spirit and thrilled by the many kindnesses shown.

Ladies' House Committee. No report would be complete without making mention of the service rendered by the ladies under the chairmanship of Mrs. Pratt. In their devotion to the work and in their care for those things that help to make a mere building into a Home, their work has been an inspiration. A special tribute should be paid to their efforts in connection with the most successful Garden Party in which they had the cordial co-operation and assistance of the Ladies' Guild. We include too, in our measure of appreciation, the help so willingly given in our sewing room week by week by the ladies of our city churches.

Our Subscribers. Friends of our Home have again subscribed generously to the work, and special thanks are due for the many gifts of jam, fruit, produce and clothing that help so splendidly to solve the problem of feeding and clothing our large family. The welcome and hospitality extended to the Superintendent on his visits to country circuits have been much appreciated.

Combined Orphanages' Appeal. Thanks to the sustained effort of the combined Orphanages' Appeal Committee under the chairmanship of Mr. J. L. Hay, and the splendid response of the Christchurch people, this year's appeal again met with great success. Our share in the proceeds amounts to £736.

Finance. The increased cost of living and of all the other services is having its effect on the finances of the Board. The financial statement shows a deficit of £616/7/9 for the year, throwing upon all the churches a greater responsibility in connection with this most important work.

Staff. The backbone of this most important form of Christian service is, and always has been, the devoted service rendered by our Matron and staff. These are they who literally bear "the heat and burden of the day," and we offer our most sincere thanks for all that they have done, praying God's blessing on their work. The critical shortage of help that had to be faced at the beginning of the year was largely relieved by the addition to the staff of three members of the Ashburton Church.

We rejoice that Miss Barclay, after a period of convalescence following a serious operation, has been restored to health and is with us once again.

Conclusion. The year just concluded has been one of inspiration to all associated with the work of our Home. With the coming of peace and the vision of a better day drawing nearer, we turn afresh to the work to which we have been called, believing that we can "do all things through Him Who strengtheneth us."

J. E. PURCHASE, Chairman.
G. H. COLEY, Superintendent.

RESOLUTIONS.

1. That the Report be received and adopted.
2. That the Financial Statement be received and adopted.
3. That the Board of Management be:—

Revs. A. M. Costain, E. Drake, A. N. Scotter, C. R. Taylor, R. Dudley, D. O. Williams, W. H. Greenslade, N. P. Larsen, F. O. Prosser; Messrs. F. A. Sheat, W. S. Worner, H. de R. Flesher, J. E. Purchase, H. S. Harrington, W. G. Wright, C. Palmer, L. J. Dale, A. A. Harrow; Mesdames M. A. R. Pratt, F. C. Thornton, W. Cock, M. Opie, R. A. Marsh, H. Queree; Miss Horrell. Superintendent: G. H. Coley.

Accommodation of Young Children:

Resolved—That Conference draws the attention of our Children's Homes Committees to the urgent need for accommodation for children under 3 years of age, and asks them to give earnest consideration to the matter.

QUESTION XLIX.—What are the Resolutions of the Conference respecting Connexional Literature?

A.—REPORT OF AUCKLAND COMMITTEE.

(Mins. Conf., 1945, pages 144-145.)

The Committee has met on eight occasions and has given careful consideration to the matters remitted to it. It co-opted the Revs. H. E. Bellhouse and H. C. Matthews, and received correspondence from all parts of the Dominion. It set itself to examine the ways and means of improving our connexional paper, giving its main attention to positive suggestions rather than negative criticisms. It kept in touch with the Rev. M. A. Rugby Pratt, business manager, and corresponded with the associate editor, the Rev. G. R. Harris, both of whom it thanks for their courteous helpfulness.

A. "Methodist Times."

1. The following general recommendations were made:—

The pages should be 10½ x 8½ inches, and have two columns; the cover page to be of coloured imitation art, or a similar gloss, paper that would lend itself to a better reproduction of blocks and quality printing. Blocks should be used more extensively and effectively and be in keeping with a religious paper. The type, for most articles, should be 10 pt., using 8 pt. for matters of less general interest; the layout of headings and captions should be made more attractive by the use of appropriate sizes and styles of type.

Contributors should be requested to write in a style of sufficient clarity and simplicity as to make a better appeal to modern readers, and as a general rule, no article should exceed one page in length.

Advertisements should not be assembled on the pages given to reading matter, but on the opposite pages; each Synodal District should be urged to provide one page of advertisements, at least.

2. The Committee analysed the contents of the paper in detail and recommend the following improvements—always keeping in mind that the "Methodist Times" is a "Family Paper":—

The central left side page to be used for leading articles, usually by the Editor, but also by others selected by him. Primary importance should be attached to these and their aim should be informative and the propagation of the progressive policy of our Church. The Leader page should be regarded as the most important in the paper, and therefore sermons and addresses, unless specially complying with the above-mentioned conditions, should have no place in it.