

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

**WESLEY CHURCH, TARANAKI STREET,
WELLINGTON.**

On Thursday, 20th February, 1947

CHRISTCHURCH

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(b) That Conference sanction an immediate appeal being made to the membership of the Church for £1000, the appeal to be carried through by the Deaconess Committee.

(c) That Conference appoint a special Committee to investigate the matter of the status and training of our Deaconesses, and the future policy of our Church in relation to the Deaconess Institution, and that this Committee report to Synods 1947 and Conference 1948.

Members of the Deaconess Committee, together with the President of the Conference, Revs. W. A. Burley, W. T. Blight, E. W. Hames, A. H. Scrivin, G. I. Laurenson, E. C. Leadley, J. D. Grocott, A. K. Petch, M. A. McDowell, L. R. M. Gilmore, L. B. Neale, A. E. Orr; Sisters Rita Snowden, Ivy Jones; Messrs. G. S. Gapper, W. E. Burley, C. R. Edmond, and N. R. Seddon. Convener: Rev. J. M. Blight.

9. Deaconess Committee:

The Chairman of the District, Connexional Secretary, Superintendent Ministers of the Durham St., Christchurch East, St. Albans, Cambridge Terrace, Woolston and Riccarton Circuits; Revs. E. Drake, A. N. Scotter; Sister Mabel Morley; Mesdames R. Dudley, A. A. Sandford, S. H. Provost, A. Allen, F. Crespin, J. E. Purchase, E. A. Costain; Messrs. E. H. Andrews, J. E. Purchase, W. C. Francis, A. A. Harrow, H. W. Armitage; with Mrs. H. E. Lamb and Mr. C. A. Newman as Honorary Members.

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-THIRD ANNUAL REPORT, 1946. 33rd ANNUAL REPORT.

Surveying the past year we acknowledge with gratitude to God His guidance and blessing in the sacred task of caring for children bereft of parents or of a home. Through many problems and times of difficulty we have been sure of His unfailing love and mercy.

Our family of 74 boys and girls is a great responsibility and an important work is being done in this corner of God's Kingdom. Under our guidance these young lives are developing physically, mentally and spiritually.

Staff.

Miss G. Benton, L.R.S.M., Matron at "Epsom," and Miss P. Grove, Matron at "Wesley," are splendid Christian women who are giving of their best in consecrated service for the children. Miss Grove came to us in June with a good record, having been Sub-Matron at Wesley College, Paerata, for many years. She has already worked wonders at "Wesley," and we are grateful for the quality of service she is rendering. Our two Sub-Matrons are Methodist Young Women. Miss Warren comes to us from our Dominion Road Church and Miss Ching from Nelson.

The staffing of our Homes has been our greatest problem. For months we have been carrying on with a skeleton staff and it seemed as though we would have to reduce the number of children or the willing few would break down. It is our hope that in the future this work may appeal to our young Methodist women as a real piece of

Missionary work. At the present time we are glad to report that both Homes are fully staffed. We attribute this to the fact that the Board has made a generous increase in salaries.

Maintenance of Homes.

The bequests received during the year total £494/7/3. We also acknowledge and thank those of our Church members who are regular donors. The Treasurers report a total income from Churches and Young People's Organisations of £929/1/1, which again shows a decrease on the previous year.

Street Day Appeal.

From this source the Board received the sum of £887/10/-, an increase on the previous year of £95/10/-. The Auckland Orphanages' United Council is rendering valuable help to the different Denominational Homes in the Province, and we record our gratitude for the money and clothing received through this Council.

City Collector.

Through the services of Mr. J. H. Whitburn we have received donations in cash £104/13/6, and goods valued at £61/18/8.

After six years of war and the difficulty of purchasing equipment we have had to replace two stoves, furniture, mattresses, blankets, washing machines, linen, crockery, tools, and cooking utensils. During this and the coming year we will have to face a heavy outlay to replace what in normal times would have been spread over a number of years.

Admissions and Withdrawals.

During the year 25 children were admitted and 22 withdrawn. On September 30th we had 39 boys at "Wesley" and at "Epsom" there were 28 in the Junior House and 7 girls in the Hostel.

Health.

The usual epidemics of measles, mumps and chicken-pox have not passed us by, but the general health of the children has been good. Our Hon. Doctors have been most attentive, giving their time to inoculate the children against diphtheria and whooping-cough. All the children except one were able to have some period of holiday during the Christmas vacation. We are deeply indebted to the folk who gave the children seaside and country holidays.

Maintenance of Children.

This year we have collected £2530/12/9 maintenance. Included in this is the Universal Family Benefit from April 1st, 1946, of which £397/1/6 has been transferred to the Matrons toward the clothing and incidental expenses of those children for whom maintenance is already paid by parents. For quite a large number of children all that is received toward their entire maintenance is this benefit of 10/- per week.

Building Project.

The Board regrets that it is unable to report any favourable scheme for the new building at Mt. Roskill. The Committee is in touch with the Controller and is fully alive to any possibility of getting on with the scheme.

Appreciation and thanks.

The thanks of the Board are offered to all those who have taken a practical interest in the children by giving them outings, treats and gifts, and remembering birthdays, and for the faithful service rendered by the Ladies' Committee and those who have knitted and mended garments. We would especially mention Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Caughey, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Faulkner, Miss Harbutt, and Mr. G. W. Turley.

The Board also records thanks and appreciation to the following: The Hon. Medical Officers, Drs. Rule and Alan Knight, Messrs. C. Martyn & Sons, Opticians, Mr. K. W. White, Chemist, Auckland Brush Co. for brooms, National Brush Co. for brooms, Mr. H. S. Saunderson for plywood and globes, Mr. L. S. Dearing, butcher, the Ladies' Guilds and Churches for Harvest Festival gifts, Childswear Ltd. and Mt. Eden Happiness Club for clothing, Government Research Farm for vegetables, Kempthorne Prosser & Co. for medical supplies. Dominion Brace Co. Ltd., Friendly Road, and Rotary Club, for treats and parties, Henderson friends (Mrs. Freeman, Messrs. Pratt and Wright) for large gifts of fruit.

"He who invests in the future of the child invests in golden security."

Signed on behalf of the Board,

E. T. OLDS, Chairman.

IVY H. JONES, Secretary-Treasurer.

RESOLUTIONS.

1. That the Report and Financial Statement be received and adopted.

2. That the Board be as follows:—

Life Members: Mrs. W. R. Emerson and Mr. W. Astley. Chairman: Rev. E. T. Olds. Secretary-Treasurer: Sister Ivy Jones. Revs. E. W. Hames, W. Walker, Walter Parker, A. E. Orr, J. C. Draper, and Wesley Parker; Mesdames A. H. White, T. Clark, A. L. Caughey, C. J. Burton, C. K. Wigglesworth, K. J. Rosser, W. H. Faulkner; Misses C. E. Wagstaff and A. E. Rogers; Messrs. J. E. Astley, F. Penn, A. Williams, 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, F. C. Matthews, and the Chairman and Secretary of the South Auckland District.

B.—MASTERTON METHODIST CHILDREN'S HOME.

Report of the Management Committee, for the Year Ended
30th September, 1946.

Children.

At the beginning of the year there were forty children in residence—admissions numbered seven and removals eight, leaving thirty-nine children under our care on 30/9/46. School reports indicate that all children are making good progress—while June Hayward was Dux of the Masterton Methodist Sunday School for 1945 and Nester Henwood secured that honour for 1946. Three of the children are in employment and for the present remain in the Home.

Staff.

Mr. and Mrs. H. Bateup, as Master and Matron, with Miss M. Potter and Miss C. Fell as assistants, continue to care for the children in the Home. The Committee takes pleasure in extending to its staff warmest appreciation of their work during another year.

Repairs and Renewals.

During the year it has been possible to replace worn out beds with seven new ones—thirty-four dining room chairs have been purchased and a large cupboard built. To facilitate the work of the Home an electric ironer has been purchased and has proved of great assistance to the staff. Major renewals and maintenance work still remain to be completed, and will be proceeded with as circumstances permit.

Committee.

Mrs. F. C. Daniell withdrew from the Committee during the year. New members are Mrs. G. F. Whitlock and Mr. and Mrs. C. D. Shoosmith.

Bequests.

During the year the Committee has received advice of sums of money from three bequests.

Finance.

Receipts from Circuits reached the substantial total of £520, and maintenance fees amounted to £926. As indicated, repairs and renewals necessitated an increased grant from the Wellington Board. Staff salaries have been increased during the year.

Thanks.

The Committee records its appreciation of the widespread help and kindnesses received from many friends of the Home and the children in the Circuits and Sunday schools throughout the Home district.

The thanks of the Committee is extended to all those who received our children into their homes during the holiday periods.

The ready co-operation of the Wellington Board is much appreciated.

Board for 1947.

Mr. J. H. Conly (Chairman), Mr. W. R. Nicol (Secretary-Manager and Treasurer), Mr. W. H. J. Watson (Asst. Secretary), Dr. N. H. Prior, Rev. G. H. Goodman, Mesdames J. Elliott, G. H. Goodman, G. F. Whitlock, and C. D. Shoosmith; Misses M. Burton, L. Cocker and R. Elliott; Messrs. G. F. Whitlock, D. A. Barnes, F. E. Wells, A. H. Daniell, and C. D. Shoosmith.

For the Committee,

W. R. NICOL, Secretary-Manager.

G. F. WHITLOCK, Chairman.

RESOLUTION.

1. That the Report and Financial Statement be received and adopted.

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

32nd ANNUAL REPORT, 1946.

With hearts full of gratitude to God for His guidance and help, we present our 32nd Annual Report of our Work in the South Island Methodist Children's Home.

Many have been the problems confronted and the difficulties to be overcome, and those responsible for the care of our large family, both Board members and staff, look back over the past year with a very real knowledge that the Father has very richly blessed what we have sought to do for His little ones.

The Home. 85 children have been under our care during the period under review, 10 have been at work, 10 at Secondary School, 57 at Primary School, and 8 under school age.

The Health of the Children. With such a large company living together, it is inevitable that we should have our share of sickness, and there have been occasions when the time and strength of the Matron and Staff have been heavily taxed. Nevertheless we are thankful that there have been very few cases of serious illness and a happy freedom from epidemics. Our most sincere thanks are due to Dr. S. C. Peddie, our Honorary Physician whose interest in, and care for our sick bairns has done much to make the way easier.

So many children who come to us are retarded and in poor health, that considerable part of our work among them at the beginning is concerned with their physical welfare. This often throws a heavy burden on Miss Barclay, but their improvement as they settle down to a well-ordered life with good meals and adequate rest, is more than a reward for the time and thought spent on them.

School Life. Educational problems have to be faced in many cases and we would take this opportunity of expressing our keen appreciation of the help and co-operation which is so gladly given at all times by the Headmasters and Staffs of the Waimairi Primary School, the Papanui Technical College, and also those in charge of the Christchurch Vocational Guidance Centre. Without the help of these good friends our work would be considerably heavier.

And so to Work. The Board recognises that its duty towards the boys and girls under its care does not cease until each individual child has reached the stage when he or she is capable of assuming the full responsibilities of living.

With this end always in view, the greatest care is taken, not only in the choice of employment to which the children go, but in the finding of suitable homes in which they shall live. Much difficulty has been found in placing working boys in a Christian environment and the help of our Church people is most earnestly solicited in this direction.

As children leave school and go into employment, every effort is made to keep them in touch with the Church, and with the friendly oversight of the Superintendent and Miss Barclay, encouragement is given them to save and to use their money wisely.

The Part Played by the Church. The association of our children with the life and work of the Church is a close one and we owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to a host of voluntary workers who assist us through Bible Classes, Sunday School, Girls' Life Brigade, Boy Scouts and Clubs. In addition to our many friends in Papanui, we would express our appreciation to the staff of the St. Albans Sunday School and the members and helpers of the Christchurch District Youth Council who give so freely of their time and thought to the work of the Kingdom among our children.

Holiday Joys. The abundant happiness that is evident on the faces of the boys and girls as they return from Summer holidays spent with new-found friends, is sufficient proof of the tremendous value of such an experience. To our many generous-hearted friends—near home and distant—who offer hospitality in this way, we give our most grateful thanks. Last Summer twelve of our primary school boys enjoyed to the full the facilities offered by the Y.M.C.A. Camp at Wainui.

Our Lady Helpers. Human standards of measurement would be quite inadequate to assess the value of the contribution made to the work of the Home year by year by the Ladies' House Committee under the Chairmanship of Mrs. Pratt. To these kind helpers, and to those from the city and suburban Guilds who render such notable service in the sewing room week by week, we say "Thank you."

And Those Who Help in Other Ways. For over thirty years our work has been maintained through the love and goodwill in the hearts of hosts of men and women, and we give thanks for financial help—so badly needed in these days of high costs—and for those many gifts of eggs, jam, produce and clothing that help so much to keep costs within control. We are not unmindful of all these things.

Finance. The past year has brought a considerable financial burden to the Board in the form of increased maintenance and essential service costs. In spite of every effort to limit expenditure, we have to report a deficit of £1168/7/8 on the year's working.

Combined Orphanages Appeal. The Fifteenth Combined Orphanages Appeal representing the Anglican, Methodist, and Presbyterian Churches of Christchurch eclipsed all records, and we express our keen appreciation of the splendid work done by the Committee, Bible Class members, and all those who helped to make such a success of the undertaking. Our share this year was £839—a very substantial aid to our funds.

Staff. In common with many other institutions in the Dominion, staffing problems continue to give us much concern. Despite all our efforts to secure adequate help, there have been times during the year when we have been in a most serious position. At the moment, through the help of two of our senior girls, things are a little easier. To Miss Barclay and her team of helpers the Board expresses its most sincere gratitude.

"In Memoriam." The past year has brought to our Home a very heavy burden of sorrow in the passing of the Rev. M. A. Rugby Pratt and Mrs. C. W. Barrell, both for many years members of the Board and deeply interested in the welfare of the children. To their dear ones who are left, we offer our most sincere sympathy.

And in Conclusion. It would be impossible in the small compass of such a report as this to do more than touch the fringe of all the things about which we would like to speak. The work we seek to do, under the guidance of God, among the little people committed to our care, is fraught with many difficulties, but the sunshine breaks through the clouds, and as we look back on the twelve months that have passed, we give thanks and unite our voices with those who, in every generation have said "Hitherto hath the Lord helped us."

A. M. COSTAIN, Chairman.

GEO. H. COLEY, Superintendent.

RESOLUTIONS.

1. That the Report and Financial Statement be received and adopted.

2. **Board of Management:** Revs. A. M. Costain (Chairman), H. L. Fiebig, R. Dudley, E. Drake, A. N. Scotter, Superintendents of Papanui, St. Albans, Christchurch East, Cambridge Terrace and Woolston Circuits, Messrs. L. J. Dale, H. de R. Flesher, A. A. Harrow, H. J. S. Harrington, C. L. Palmer, F. A. Sheat, W. S. Worner; Mesdames M. A. R. Pratt, W. Cock, R. A. Marsh, M. Opie, H. Queree, and Miss Horrell.

GENERAL RESOLUTIONS.

1. That Conference expresses appreciation of the fine work of the staff in each Home.

2. That Conference requests Ministers on suitable occasions to bring before their congregations the opportunities for service available for women in our Children's Homes.

3. That Conference request the three Orphanages Boards to collaborate in bringing their claims before the Church and general public by means of pamphlets suitably Methodist, and by advertising in such periodicals as the "Law Journal." It further requests that special attention be given to bringing the claims of the Orphanages before the Public Trust Office, Trustee Companies, and Legal Firms.

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

(A)—METHODIST TIMES COMMITTEE.

REPORT FOR 1946.

Circulation: It is gratifying to report that the number of subscribers at date is the highest on record. Since May of this year 263 new names have been recorded. While we can never rest content with our work in this sphere, it is well to note that statistics indicate that our circulation compares more than favourably with that of other Churches on a membership pro rata basis.

Editorship: This year the Rev. H. E. Bellhouse lays down his pen as Editor after almost 11 years' service. During that long period he has maintained the paper at a high level of excellence. A journal such as ours must be sufficiently broad in its outlook and varied in its content as to meet the needs of the Church as a whole and not of one section of it only. Under the direction of Mr. Bellhouse this has been done, the steadily increasing circulation being the best testimony to that fact. A suitable resolution concerning his record of distinctive service will be presented to Conference.

Associate Editor: During the period for which the Rev. H. S. Kings has occupied this position he has revealed his capacity for the task which has been carried out in a thorough and eminently satisfactory manner.

Appreciation is expressed of the manner in which those responsible for the various sections of the paper have contributed to its witness and usefulness; also of the continued activity of Circuit agents which is demonstrated in the mounting number of subscribers.

Editor for 1947: The Conference of 1946 instructed the Methodist Times Committee to submit to the following Synods and Conference recommendations in respect to the Editorship for 1947.

Several names were before the Committee which finally decided to make only one nomination—that of the Rev. W. T. Blight, B.A., B.D. It does so for the following reasons:—

(a) Mr. Blight is endowed with strong intellectual powers and is able to express himself with a lucidity that makes a strong appeal.

(b) Not only is he a scholar of no mean order; but also he has kept himself abreast of modern thought and has a strong grasp of contemporary situations, religious, social, and international.

(c) He is a man of rich spiritual experience and of sound judgment. His sympathies do not run in a narrow channel, but are broad enough to express themselves through our Church Journal in a way that will evoke a wide response.

(d) He is steeped in Methodism and out of his knowledge and experience gained through thirty years of effective service to the Church is able to give a strong and wise lead in all matters affecting the life of our Church and its witness in the community.

In view of the proposals respecting the appointment of an Editor-Manager in due course, it is recommended that the appointment of the Rev. W. T. Blight as Editor be for one year, commencing April, 1947.

Committee for 1947. The following are nominated:—The Connexional Secretary, Revs. E. Drake, R. Dudley, L. C. Horwood, A. J. Johnston, and A. O. Harris; Messrs. E. H. Andrews, H. de R. Flesher, D. McHarg, and H. W. Beaumont.

E. H. ANDREWS, Chairman.

H. L. FIEBIG, Business Manager.

RESOLUTIONS.

1. That the Report and Financial Statement be received and adopted.

2. That the Rev. W. T. Blight, B.A., B.D., be appointed Editor for one year, commencing April, 1947, and that the Rev. H. S. Kings be thanked for his services as Associate-Editor and be re-appointed.

3. That Conference record its deep appreciation of the outstanding service rendered to the Church by the Rev. H. E. Bellhouse as Editor of the "Methodist Times" during the last eleven years.

Bringing to the task his richly furnished mind, he has steadily maintained the paper at a high literary and spiritual level throughout that period.

Conference rejoices that this signal service crowns a Ministry noted for its impact upon the life of our Church, and that Mr. Bellhouse retires from office with our Connexional journal recording the highest circulation in its history.

(B)—METHODIST BOARD OF PUBLICATIONS.

REPORT TO CONFERENCE.

The Methodist Board of Publications report on its work throughout the year 1946 as follows:—

The Board and its Committees have held numerous meetings, and given much thought and prayer to the duties allotted to them.

1. **Approving Manuscripts for Publications.** It has approved the publication of "Homes for All," and "God and the Family," both by Rev. C. T. Symons, M.A., B.D., published by the Youth Board with the co-operation of the Spiritual Advance Committee; "Temperance Hot-Points," by Rev. C. T. Symons, M.A., B.D., published by the Youth Board; "Methodist Maori Missions," by Rev. G. I. Laurenson, published by the Wesley Historical Society (N.Z.); and "What—No Religion?" by Rev. Dr. H. Ranston, M.A., published by the Spiritual Advance Committee.

2. **General Matters.** Considerable thought has been given to the drafting of a suitable constitution for the Board. Ways and means of financing the Board's activities have also been considered.