

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

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MINUTES  
OF THE  
ANNUAL  
CONFERENCE

HELD AT AUCKLAND, 1951

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CHRISTCHURCH

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1952

### Dedication Service.

In order that the Dedication of our Deaconesses might receive due recognition, we strongly urge that this Service be held in the Conference Church in future, as is the case with the Ordination of our Ministers.

RAYMOND DUDLEY, Chairman.

ALAN F. COLLINS, Secretary.

### RESOLUTIONS.

1. That the Report and Financial Statements be received and adopted.
2. That the question of the status of Deaconesses who marry be referred to the Faith and Order Committee for consideration.
3. That whenever possible the service for the Dedication of Deaconesses be held in the Conference Church.
4. **Board for 1952:** The Chairman of North Canterbury District, Connexional Secretary, Superintendent Ministers of the Durham Street and Riccarton Circuits, the Revs. A. O. Harris, H. E. Harkness and A. F. Collins; Messrs. A. A. Harrow, H. W. Beaumont, R. G. Pearce, and A. G. Harris; Mesdames P. A. Le Brun, C. Colechin, H. W. Beaumont, W. McHarg, F. Crespian and E. McNeil. Corresponding Member: President of Deaconess Association.

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

## A—Auckland Children's Home & Orphanage Mt. Albert and Epsom

### THIRTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL REPORT, 1951.

Under the blessing and guidance of Almighty God we report the past year's work among the children committed to the Board's care in Auckland.

It is the determination of the Board that these children, who are deprived of their right to normal family life, shall be given an environment in which they can grow and develop, that they will know that they are wanted and loved, and that there are Christian people who are interested and concerned for their present and future welfare. If this is to be carried out, it is necessary that we provide happy surroundings and a Christian staff who will not only give the necessary supervision but who will give to these children the personal interest and love that they require.

#### The Family.

88 children have been cared for during the year. 12 have been admitted and the record number of 31 have left our care. Several children have been returned to their parents who have re-married or started life again. We are grateful to have been able to care for them during times of need, trial and bereavement.

#### The Girls' Hostel.

This has met a great need, but it is realised that it is not ideal to have a hostel and younger girls under the one administration. According to their earnings these girls contribute to their maintenance until they are able to support themselves. During the year two girls left to board in private homes and one, who had been in

Epsom since a very small girl, was married in our Epsom Church and the reception was held at the Home.

#### Property.

Properties continue to be maintained over a period of transition. The building of the New Home, delayed owing to the war and shortage of building materials, will be proceeded with at the earliest possible opportunity. Over the interim period certain repairs and additions are envisaged to enable the present homes to be maintained at the highest level.

#### Finance.

The cost of maintaining any Institution these days is difficult, but clothing and feeding a number of children as well as maintaining property and staff is a real problem. As this is an interim report and final figures are not yet available, it is not possible to give the cost per child. In the last five years the cost of keeping a child has risen from £52 per annum to £100 per annum. Rising costs in provisions, services, clothing and wages makes it impossible to run an Institution without a loss. Our only hope of raising our income is in the giving of our people. The work must be better supported if we are to have worthy Homes. Our Church members need more knowledge about the work being done among the children. It is difficult to bring the information to our people but a way must be found in which we can bring them into vital touch with the children and the work being accomplished.

#### Bequests.

Among the Bequests received we have been left an interest in the Estate of the late Mrs. Florence Findlay. Included in this Bequest is a property which has been left as a holiday resort for the children and to be known as "Florence Findlay House." Although at present unsuitable for this purpose, the Board will make every effort to carry out the wishes of the donor.

#### Staff.

We cannot speak highly enough of the women who give their lives to this work. The Matrons and their assistants are concerned with all aspects of the children's lives. Their health, diet, the care of teeth and eyes, their clothing and footwear, their manners and school progress. They must iron out their little difficulties and sooth their childish fears; also they have much to do with their religious training.

The housemaster at "Wesley," Mr. F. Long, has been replaced by a young University student, Mr. B. Takhar, as Male assistant. He is exerting a good influence and is liked by the boys. We are in urgent need of a Christian young woman as Sub-Matron in the Boys' Home.

The Ladies' Committee continue by their devotion and energy to raise funds to help clothe the children. The House Committees, under the Leadership of Mrs. Wigglesworth and Mrs. Myers, spend many hours replacing linen and keeping the furniture in repair. The President, Mrs. Chris Burton, and the Secretary, Miss Wagstaff, with their committee have worked hard to organise teams to sew, mend and patch, as well as supply help at the Homes when needed. Their Annual Treat and gift to each child is eagerly looked forward to, and the Staff as well as the Board are grateful for their fine spirit.

#### United Orphanage Council.

We record once more our indebtedness to this Council, who by

their hard work and enthusiasm have created public interest in the Children's Homes. The Board desires to express gratitude to the organisers and collectors in the Street Day Appeal. This year our Secretary was asked to give the Broadcast Appeal.

#### Chairman.

During the year the President, Rev. E. W. Hames, had to relinquish this position and the Rev. W. E. Allon Carr was nominated as Chairman. His keenness and vision have already made themselves felt and we are grateful for the thought and time he is giving to this important work.

#### Thanks.

This Report would not be complete without recording our gratitude to the many people who give in service and goods to this work.

Mr. F. C. Matthews has given hours of time in giving oversight to the grounds at Epsom and the Rev. F. Copeland has willingly taken the same position at "Wesley."

To the many friends who provided the children with a holiday at Christmas time we say "Thank you" and trust you will be able to open your homes again to these little ones.

This work among the homeless and unwanted children is surely the responsibility of Christian people. These children must be assisted to find their rightful place in society. They have been deprived of so much, and if their lives are not adjusted the nation will be deprived of good citizens.

We commend this work to your prayers and support.

W. E. ALLON CARR, Chairman.

IVY H. JONES, Secretary-Treasurer.

#### RESOLUTIONS.

1. That the Report and Financial Statements be received and adopted.
2. That thanks be tendered to Revs. J. C. Draper and G. E. Brown for their work as Chaplains to the Auckland Orphanages.
3. **Board of Management, 1952:**—Chairman, Rev. W. E. Allon Carr. Life Members: Mesdames W. R. Emerson and A. H. White, Mr. J. E. Astley, and Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Faulkner. Secretary-Treasurer, Sister Ivy Jones; Lay Treasurer, Mr. P. Dellow; Revs. E. W. Hames, W. Walker, Walter Parker, A. E. Orr, F. Copeland, the Ministers of Mt. Albert, Dominion Road, Epsom and Remuera Churches, Mesdames A. L. Caughey, C. J. Burton, C. K. Wigglesworth, and R. C. Hemmings, Miss C. E. Waffstaff, Messrs. F. Penn, A. L. Caughey, J. Tyler, R. T. Garlick, C. K. Wigglesworth, C. E. Goode, W. E. Burley, F. C. Matthews, N. North, and the Chairman and Secretary of the South Auckland District.

## B—Masterton Children's Home

### ANNUAL REPORT, 1951.

The Home continues to care for the needs of a large family. We now have 37 children in our care and have been full to capacity for most of the year and it has been necessary to decline a large number of applications for admission for this reason. There were seven children admitted during the year, six of whom are brothers and sisters. Four of the family have been discharged. One of these was

under school age and returned to relatives; one boy took up a position in a music store where he will receive tuition in piano tuning. Of two girls who left the home one is at photographic work and the other is engaged in domestic duties.

Twelve of the children were received into Church membership and to each a Bible was presented. These were provided from special trust funds.

The Committee is indebted to the Master and Matron, Mr. and Mrs. H. Bateup, who together with the able assistance of Misses Fell and Potter, have rendered excellent service in the interests of the children. We are singularly fortunate in the staffing position.

Substantial renewals of furnishings and household linen have been undertaken in view of anticipated price increases and scarcities. Total expenses for the year were over £700 higher than last year, an increase of over 25%. On the other hand there was a small increase in maintenance fees received but collections from circuits were slightly lower. This meant that an increased amount was required by way of grants from the Wellington Board.

The following legacies were received and remitted to the Wellington Board for the credit of the capital funds of the Home:—Estate George Devonport £50, Estate E. P. E. Sunnex £100 and income from other estates £55/12/6. The Committee has been notified of legacies in the Estates of F. A. W. Frost and George Jones.

Investigation was made of the possibility of laying down hard tennis courts but it was soon apparent that the cost was prohibitive. There was little or no interest shown by contractors when tenders were invited. It has now been decided to sow grass courts and the preparatory work has been commenced. Funds held for providing recreational amenities now stands at £379/0/9, including £74/9/- received this year from the Police Charity effort for which we are very grateful.

The Committee desires to express thanks to all who have assisted the Home and the children. Financial support from the Circuits and individuals is gratefully acknowledged. Many friends have given produce and clothing and others have opened their homes to the children over holiday periods. We thank the members of the Wellington Board for their efforts in the interests of the Home.

We give thanks to God for what has been achieved on behalf of the children and seek His guidance and blessing on the activities of the Home and the young lives cared for within it.

#### Committee.

The following Committee is nominated for the ensuing year:—Mr. A. K. Hodder (Chairman), Mr. D. E. Lyttle (Vice-Chairman), Mr. W. R. Nicol (Secretary-Manager), Mr. J. F. Cody (Assistant Secretary), Dr. N. H. Prior, Rev. Dr. W. G. Slade, Mesdames J. H. Conly, C. D. Shoosmith, A. K. Hodder, D. E. Lyttle, W. G. Slade and H. C. Wood, Misses M. Burton and L. Cocker, Messrs. F. E. Wells, A. H. Daniell, C. D. Shoosmith, H. C. Wood, J. H. Conly and W. E. Layton.

For the Committee,

A. KEITH HODDER, Chairman.

WELLINGTON:

Report adopted.

#### RESOLUTION.

That the Report and Financial Statements be received and adopted.

# C—South Island Children's Home

ANNUAL REPORT, 1951.

It is with a deep sense of thankfulness to God that we present this brief Report of another year of service among the children of our Home. In many respects the past year has been a most encouraging one.

## Staff.

The good results anticipated by having the Master and Matron, Mr. and Mrs. G. Howells, reside in the Home have been fully realised. Their ready accessibility to members of the Staff and the confidence they have won among the children is both evident and pleasing to see. This, added to the fact that there have been fewer changes than usual in the personnel of the Staff, has brought a sense of continuity. Miss Melville, who has been a valued member of the Staff for over two years, has relinquished her position. Her personal gifts and graces endeared her to all. For a long time Sister Rona was without an assistant in the Boys' Block, but we are glad to welcome Miss Dale, a retired Nurse, at least temporarily, to this position. All other members of the Staff continue to render untiring service for Christ among the children and for the good of the Home. To them all we tender our grateful thanks.

## Children.

There are 57 children in the Home at present, comprising 25 girls and 32 boys. During the year there have been 17 admissions and 13 discharges. Some of those who have left us have gone to re-established homes, while others have found suitable employment. One boy is apprenticed to the carpentering trade, another has gone farming, while several girls have found positions as shop assistants. Suitable accommodation has always to be found for those who leave the Home and for as long as they are under our supervision. In this respect we are fortunate to have some private homes available to our boys and girls.

In the recent Scripture Examinations our children acquitted themselves well. Of the 26 who sat for the Examination, 24 passed with the high average of 75 to 80 marks. To the delight of all, they won the A Shield this year.

The health of the children has been good. We are grateful in this connection for the continued services of Dr. S. C. Peddie.

## Friends.

Among the many friends who take a practical interest in the welfare of the children, mention must again be made of "Uncle" Ern Smith who arranges for Saturday night games. The Rotary Club has generously donated sports equipment for football and basketball. This gift was in lieu of the usual Christmas Party. Mr. L. J. Dale, a one-time member of the Board, continues to take a personal interest in the children and is proving a real friend. We are grateful to Mr. S. W. Worner, of Southbridge, for the gift of 50 sacks of potatoes.

## Maintenance.

The expense of maintaining such a Home as ours continues to call for the closest scrutiny. On the one hand young lives are being rescued, whose value to society cannot be estimated. No legitimate expense must be spared which will enable these children to take their

place as worthy Christian citizens. But the provision of all the facilities we have, educational, social and spiritual, becomes more costly each year. In spite of all our efforts to keep down expenditure our financial statement indicates that for the current year our running costs were more than £1150 in excess of income.

We record our thanks for legacies received, and for the increased amount sent in through the Combined Street Appeal. Without these gifts we would be greatly restricted in our work. At the same time, we appeal to the Circuits throughout the South Island to increase their Annual Subscriptions. We urge the appointment of Circuit Agents to keep the needs of the children before our people and to collect promised amounts. "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these, ye have done it unto me."

## Hospitality.

Mention must be made of the homes which have been opened to the children at Christmas time. This has served the double purpose of giving our children an insight into Christian homes and of relieving the Staff.

## Thanks.

To the Conveners and members of Committees, who have given constant oversight to the affairs of the Home, both inside and outside, we express our grateful appreciation.

The following Board of Management is nominated for 1952: The Chairman of the District, Connexional Secretary, Superintendent Ministers of Durham Street, Christchurch East, Cambridge Terrace, St. Albans, Woolston, Papanui Circuits, Revs. A. N. Scotter and A. O. Harris, Messrs. H. de R. Flesher, H. J. S. Harrington, W. S. Worner, F. A. Sheat, C. J. Palmer, A. A. Harrow, Mesdames M. A. R. Pratt, F. C. Thornton, R. A. Marsh, A. Black, and Miss D. Horrell.

H. J. ODELL, Chairman.

A. O. HARRIS, Secretary.

## RESOLUTION.

That the Report and Financial Statements be received and adopted.

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

# A—Methodist Times Committee

ANNUAL REPORT, 1951.

## Circulation.

Interest in our Church paper is being maintained and increased, as evidenced in our circulation figures which now reach 4,650.

This is particularly gratifying in view of the fact that this year it has been necessary to increase the cost of the annual subscription from 7s. 6d. to 10s. Our people have shown their desire for the paper by steadily maintaining their subscriptions with no more withdrawals than is normal in any year through a variety of circumstances.

It is necessary to repeat what has been stated in this report on previous occasions, that much more can be done locally in Churches to interest people in this important phase of our Church work. There is ample evidence that where there are definite efforts to enrol subscribers good results are obtained. One Circuit, for example, with a membership of well over 200, returns 11 subscribers; while one Home Mission station with a membership of about 100 records 44.