

It is our pioneer missionary paper, and we are putting forth every effort to increase its circulation. We ask the co-operation of our English Sabbath keepers in circulating it among their French neighbors. One man found a copy of this paper on a train, sent for more literature, and became a Seventh-day Adventist.

In 1921, we began to publish for the French Sabbath keepers a French church paper, similar to our union papers; and it has been a great blessing to the people and the department, especially to the French Sabbath keepers who do not understand the English language.

In the past, there has been a strong sentiment that our French publications could not be sold, or rather, that colporteurs could not support themselves by selling them. While many difficulties are in the way of the French colporteurs, and at the present it may be necessary to help them, still we believe the time is coming when we shall see great advancement in that line.

We can report several persons awaiting baptism, who have been brought into the truth by the reading of our literature. A family of seven left the Roman Catholic Church who first became interested by reading the French *Signs of the Times*. Their cattle were poisoned, their barn was burned down, and they had to leave the place, but they remained faithful.

For the first time, to our knowledge, last year several of our young people earned their way, or mostly so, by the sale of bound books in the French language, using chiefly "Practical Guide to Health," published by the Brookfield branch of the Pacific Press. \$8,000 worth of literature has been sold by our colporteurs during this last year. Previous to May 1, 1920, we had no colporteurs at all. This year we hope to have ten colporteurs in the field by the first of June, and we should sell \$25,000 worth of French literature.

"Steps to Christ" is now being printed in Oshawa. 100,000. "Leaves of Autumn" are also being printed, and a series of French tracts.

#### Harvest Ingathering

As a department, we are thankful for the privilege of having a part in the Harvest Ingathering campaign. In 1920, 11,000 papers were printed and \$3,500 was collected. In 1921, we had a first edition of 15,000. These were soon disposed of, and a second edition of 8,000 copies was printed, but this did not supply the need. We have placed an order for 30,000 for this year. The department collected, during this past year, \$12,000. One small church averaged over \$117 a member.

We are glad to report that a real spirit of love, confidence, and co-operation prevails among most of our people, and they readily answer to our call to work and sacrifice. The foregoing are some of the results. Our goal for next year is \$15,000.

#### Finances

As far as we have been able to ascertain from the reports received, the French constituency pay an annual tithe of about \$10,000. The Sabbath school offerings last year were about twenty-eight cents per capita, and their mission

offerings, over sixty cents per capita, weekly. One of our churches reached as high as sixty cents a week per capita to the Sabbath school, and \$3.11 a week per capita to missions. This included their Harvest Ingathering.

One Sabbath school, which in 1910 paid fifteen cents a week per capita to missions, has increased its gifts to sixty cents. One of our churches, which in 1918 gave \$386 to missions, increased its gifts in 1920 to \$1,622.31; and in 1921 to \$2,607.98, an increase of 574% over 1918. The same church had an increase in tithe of 321%. Other churches also have made substantial increases.

#### Educational

Advance has also been made in this department. Six of our students, during the past year, have entered the field as workers, and are doing very acceptable work.

Elder Curdy, who is the principal of the French department in Oshawa, spares no pains or sacrifice to make real missionaries of his students; and every one of them is planning to enter the canvassing work this summer, and thus earn a scholarship by the sale of French literature. We have a fine class of students, and an excellent spirit prevails among them.

This department can be greatly strengthened if our educational institutions in the United States will encourage all our French young people to attend the French department in Oshawa. Some have felt that French-speaking young people could finish their course in English and then take up the French; but we could cite many cases of young people who have been lost to the French work because they have received their training in the English-speaking schools.

#### Our Needs

More workers, strong, efficient men, because we have a hard work. We should have workers in the large French centers of the New England States, where there are many precious gems among the French; also in the Lake Union Conference, and in other states. Then think of 1,200 towns north of Montreal without a single Protestant.

We need more students in our college, young men and young women that are willing to sacrifice, who have a love for souls and will fear nothing but evil. These students we must have to supply the need of workers for the field. Sometime in the future, it will become necessary to have a French school entirely among the French, where our students shall be trained right among the people for whom they are to work, and thus not be led away into some other work.

But the need of all needs is a baptism of the Spirit. We realize that it is not by might nor by power, but by the Lord's Spirit, that we shall succeed.

#### Home Missionary Work

We are told by the spirit of prophecy that God's work in the earth can never be finished until the men and women comprising our church membership rally to the work, and unite their efforts with those of the ministers and church officers. And this is especially true of the French Department, with so few workers, and a membership scattered all over the United States and Canada.

We have felt that every member, if possible, should have something to do; and while it is difficult to give a detailed report of the work done, our members are reporting through the regular channels, their local churches. We know, by reports, correspondence, and personal visits with the people, that our French people are responding well, and are generally willing to do for their neighbors and friends the work that they are asked to do. This is an encouragement to us.

#### Conclusion

The outlook for the French work was never better than now. We sincerely appreciate the hearty co-operation and the financial help and counsel from the General Conference and the Home Missions Bureau, the co-operation of our local and union conferences and our publishing houses, and the unity and co-operation of our workers and laity.

We are very thankful to our heavenly Father for His watchful care over the work, and for what has been accomplished—for the souls that have been won for Jesus. However, when we think of what God is willing to do for us and through us, we feel ashamed, and ask His pardon for failures and past mistakes, and implore His mercy and grace, that we may become better workers in days to come.

L. F. PASSEBOIS.

The meeting was adjourned, Elder E. W. Farnsworth pronouncing the benediction.

ALLEN MOON, *Chairman*.  
J. L. SHAW, *Secretary*.

#### FOURTEENTH MEETING

3:15 P. M., May 19, 1922

Elder Allen Moon, called to the chair at the preceding meeting, continued to preside.

Prayer was offered by Elder J. K. Humphrey.

The conference listened with delight to the singing of several selections of the old Negro songs of faith, rendered by a quartet,—Professor F. L. Peterson, of Oakwood Jr. College, and Elders J. G. Dasent, of Louisville, J. W. Allison, of Little Rock, and H. D. Greene, of Houston, Texas.

The chairman called upon Elder W. H. Green to report progress in the North American Negro Department. The report follows:

#### REPORT OF THE NORTH AMERICAN NEGRO DEPARTMENT

BY THE SECRETARY

About the year 1619, twenty Africans were brought into this country and sold into servitude. From that number, they grew, through the slave trade and by births, to about four millions at the close of the Civil War, when they were freed.

Since that time, they have increased to more than twelve millions. And in spite of being hampered on all sides, and beset by their own shortcomings inherited from heathenism and exacting servitude, they have made substantial advancement along religious, educational, industrial, and other lines, as is evidenced by their churches and educational institutions, which have reduced illiteracy to a very

small per cent, and also by the millions in wealth that they have been piling up the past sixty years.

With this brief statement of history, we now pass to consider the Negro in connection with this threefold message and its activities.

#### In This Message

"Who hath despised the day of small things?"

When God set His hand to deliver Israel from Babylonish and Persian captivity, inspiration raised this question; and God answered it by returning His chosen to their own land, and moving upon people, princes, and rulers to aid them in rebuilding their wasted country and desolated shrine.

When we view the small beginning of this message and movement, and see how it has grown and swept around the world, we stand amazed. What has God wrought in these few years, through weak mortals with scanty means, in pressing His truth to the remotest confines of the earth!

When we think of the progress and development of the truth among the colored people, the foregoing question seems especially fitting. The growth of this work has been marvelous, in spite of many hindrances all along the way. God has been back of it, and He is yet the power and strength in this special branch of the movement that is to be wondered at in growth and development.

In order that you may know something concerning the progress of the Negro work and department, some facts will here be submitted.

#### Work Begun in 1890

A little more than thirty years ago, about the year 1890, the effort by this denomination to reach the colored people throughout the southland was definitely shaped by Elder J. E. White. The earliest record compiled, more than a quarter of a century ago, shows about fifty Sabbath keepers, who paid in one year about fifty dollars in tithe, and who owned scarcely five hundred dollars' worth of property in the South or elsewhere in the United States. While there were a few colored believers in the various Northern churches at that time, I think it is safe to state that there were not more than fifty, making altogether throughout the country about a hundred. The secretary of the department, at the General Conference held here four years ago, reported that rapid strides had been made by our department in the previous five years. The membership had grown to 3,500; the tithes and offerings paid in during that period were \$174,000, of which amount \$34,000 was for missions; while during the same time, about \$200,000 was expended for the departmental growth and development, thus leaving a shortage of about \$26,000.

Church and school properties were valued at about \$175,000, and hundreds of our children were attending our several schools, to fit themselves for usefulness and service in the message. Some who had received training, especially in the Oakwood Junior College, were engaged in evangelical, educational, colporteur, and other branches of useful service.

With this brief reference to the 1918 report, some notice should now be given to the growth and development of the work of the department for the past four years, closing December 31, 1921, which will show that rapid strides have been made during this short period.

#### Statement

According to the official report, the membership has increased from 3,500 to about 7,000. This, of course, is not an exact statement of the full growth, which would be somewhere around eight thousand. But taking the official statement as it stands, it shows double the membership of four years ago. The tithes have gone up from \$140,000 the previous five years to \$533,000; the offerings to missions through the Sabbath schools and other channels, from \$34,000 to \$309,579; and the offerings for all other local conference and church purposes, a trifle more than \$220,000. This last item is the only one we have to estimate, as a complete report regarding it is very difficult to get. The amount brought in by Negro collections, including \$6,000 from a special collection taken in July, 1920, for the Oakwood Junior College, was about \$60,000. It should be remembered, however, that these items refer only to churches and companies that are organized, and do not include the members in our Northern churches scattered through the United States and Canada. A safe estimate would place their tithe and offerings for the last four years at about \$25,000, which should be added to these amounts, bringing up the total collected among our people, with the exception of about \$50,000 known as the Annual Negro Collection, in which we have been assisted by our white churches, to \$1,147,579.

A conservative estimate places the valuation of our church properties at about \$300,000, which includes churches we have recently purchased. And in addition to this, we have more than \$100,000 invested in school properties, including the Oakwood Junior College.

Of the \$1,100,000 given, in the last four years, by the Negro constituency, there has been more than enough to meet all operating expenses of that work, including the Oakwood Junior College, and then leave \$300,000 to go in the mission fund for home and abroad. But to make sure that we have met all expenses, not only the last four years, but for the last nine years, we will take off \$100,000 from the mission fund, and add it to the operating account, which leaves more than \$200,000 for the mission fields at home and abroad.

But this is not all. When we take into account the publishing work, it should be remembered that thousands and tens of thousands of dollars' worth of our books and periodicals have been sold and distributed, which has been a great asset to our publishing houses in pulling themselves out of debt, and piling up surplus funds to extend the work in mission lands.

The foregoing is undeniable evidence of the hand of God in helping us to finish this work, not only among our people, but among the nations of the earth.

#### Education

While the mission schools have decreased, our church schools have been increasing, and there are at present be-

tween fifty and sixty of them in operation. The number of pupils has multiplied, until we have hundreds attending them, preparing for Oakwood Junior College and other advanced institutions, to be properly trained for service in this cause.

We desire ever so much to have the Oakwood Junior College firmly established as a high and efficient training center for the thousands of our youth who should be preparing to enter the work. And in addition to this institution, another college should be located in the North, somewhere in the vicinity of the Columbia Union Conference, to meet the growing need of our educational requirements for our youth to be prepared for efficient work in this cause. And in the face of all this, we feel that the doors of our schools throughout the North and the West and the East, where the schools of other denominations and of the various states are open, should be ever kept ajar for the reception and training of worthy young men and women of our department who may reside in the vicinities or adjacent thereto. This is but right and just, in the light of our great world-wide message and movement.

#### Medical

We are greatly in need of a sanitarium, well located, to care for the sick and suffering among us, and where also an education may be given along medical lines, training worthy men and women as nurses and medical missionaries to do efficient work among our people, together with a liberal policy followed in the various institutions of our denomination in the East, the North, and the West, in helping us in that respect with those who are worthy, living adjacent thereto, as far as it is wise and consistent.

#### Our Needs

First of all, we need a deeper and broader conception of the supreme Being, our relation to Him and to our fellow men, with an impelling spirit to do the right thing at the right time and in the right way, for the unity of His movement and the finishing of His work in the earth.

Secondly, we need a well organized department all the way along, administered by liberal men of unflinching integrity founded upon the eternal truth of the Scripture, "All things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them; for this is the law and the prophets." Matthew 7: 12.

This is a brief statement of the history of the colored people in connection with this nation and this movement. In the affairs of state and church, they have exhibited, under pressure and under liberty, loyalty and devotion, with but few exceptions. And those who have been soundly converted, and most thoroughly instructed in the principles of this closing message, may be counted upon to do all they can, by the grace of God, for its furtherance and glorious triumph.

W. H. GREEN.

Elder W. W. Eastman, assistant secretary of the Publishing Department, in special charge of the book work in North America, presented a brief report as follows: