

THE MINNESOTA WORKER.

"Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might."

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Notice.

The Canvassers Institute for Minnesota will be held at Minneapolis, Minn., March 20th to April 9th. I hope every one who expects to canvass will be present at the commencement, as we have the promise of good help.

I would like to hear from each one who expects to attend so as to make room for them. All who come should bring their bedding. C. M. EVEREST.

Sunday in the Legislature.

As all will be interested to know the present state of the proposed Sunday bills, I will say that House File 183 has been referred back to the House with a recommendation "that it pass". It has since been up for consideration, and after some discussion they voted to report "progress" on the bill.

Senate File 323, is still in the committee, with but little favor so far as the committee is concerned. I secured a hearing of about fifteen minutes on the first, and was allowed five minutes on the Senate bill.

I hope no one will slack their efforts with the petition work. A remark from one in the lobby who was evidently a friend of the bills, was overheard, to the effect that they were going to keep quiet till near the end of the session, when all of a sudden they would spring the Sunday question, and hoped it would succeed with little or no opposition. So let those protests come in by the score from all parts of the State. If any more blanks are needed, let me know.

Address me at: 470 Martin St., St. Paul, Minn.

H. F. PHELPS.

PROGRESS OF THE WORK.

Canby.

We were much blessed and encouraged by a short visit from Eld. H. R. Johnson, who stopped here five days on his return from S. Dak. He spoke on the following subjects: How to get Faith, The Seal of the Living God, Fullness of the Life of God, Temperance, Arise and Shine, The Spirit of Anti-Christ or Self-love, Seven Last Plagues, The Value of this Life Compared with the Eternal.

The Lord gave freedom to speak the truth as it is in Jesus.

Some were deeply interested, and attended the meetings to the close, expressing a desire to learn more about the dear Savior. Some have taken their stand with the people of God, and will be baptized soon. Pray for us that we may hold up the Standard of truth and prove faithful till the Lord comes.

J. W. CHRISTOFFERSEN.

Owatonna Society.

We are working the envelope plan, and although not many wish the second envelope, still there are several who are much interested in the truth. A copy of the "Signs" is often left with the second package, and one lady, at least, wishes to pay for the paper each week. We believe that more might be done by way of selling our papers in this way. The experiences gained in this personal work are related in our missionary meeting every Sunday evening, and help to make the meetings interesting.

We count it a privilege to be workers together with God, and we are only sorry that we have been so negligent in the past.

As librarian, I am in hearty accord with what Sr. Mead has said in a late WORKER concerning First Day Offerings. It does seem too bad that so little is done in this direction. May the dear Lord help us to be faithful givers hereafter.

N. K. HILL.

The German Work in N. Dak.

Since my last report I have been working in different places. While Bro. H. Dirkson was making a short visit near Sykerton, six began to keep the Sabbath, but as they were not yet fully converted, I went there for a few days and had a good time with them seeking and finding the Lord. In connection with my visit there, I held a few English meetings which were well attended, considering the cold weather.

From there I went to Cathay, where I spent a few days. Here one young man began to keep the Sabbath. We also got a letter from a man and his wife who were here on a visit, and heard the truth for the first time and were also convinced of it. They began to keep the Sabbath when they reached their home in Canada. Now there is quite an interest created in that neighborhood. We have sent tracts and letters there and hope that others will begin to keep the Sabbath. Satan is not quiet as he sees this work progressing, and the "no Law" theory advocated by the Baptists is taking a deep hold on those who seek for an easier way of serving the Lord. We hope to see others join us soon.

We are of good courage in the Lord and desire the prayers of God's people.

C. J. KUNKEL.

On account of so many of our laborers being absent from the State, in attendance at the General Conference, the reports for the WORKER have not been as numerous as usual. We will try, however, to more than make up the deficiency in future issues.

E. E.

THE MINNESOTA WORKER.

THE MISSIONARY WORK.

Many letters have been received of late, asking for information as to the best way of conducting the weekly missionary meetings. If all had a file of the MINNESOTA WORKER for the past year, we could answer all these questions by referring to back numbers of that paper, as the subject has been fully considered in its pages. But some have not kept the WORKER, and there are many new librarians who have not had it, so we cheerfully comply with the request to "say something about it in the WORKER." We are glad there is so much interest manifested in this subject.

Many seem to get the idea that there is some set plan or form by which to conduct the weekly meeting, and that if they can only plan the meeting rightly, it will be a success. Well, there should be planning done, and careful planning too; but the most beautiful form on earth, if dead, is powerless. So let us seek earnestly the life giving spirit, by which, alone, our plans may become living ways to reach hearts.

If we will remember the objects of the weekly meeting, it will help us in planning our work. Some of these objects are mentioned in the WORKER of Oct. 30, 1894 as follows:

1. To seek the blessing and guidance of God in our work.
2. To attend to any business that may be necessary in carrying on the work, and to perfect plans and arrangements by which every member of the society may be given something to do, not only in the meeting but every day in the week.
3. To encourage each other by speaking of our experiences, and telling of the help we have received from God.
4. To study concerning mission fields, methods of work, means to be used in its advancement, needful preparation, and in fact, any and all things that will help us to become intelligent workers for Christ.
5. To prepare for the mail any literature we may wish to send out, and to contribute of our means for the support of the work.

These objects cannot always be gained the same way. Circumstances differ so widely, that a plan which would be very successful in one society would be a failure in another; and even in the same society, what would bring about good results at one time would be powerless at another. So that the study of each librarian should be, "How can these objects best be met in our society just now?" The plan is quite generally followed, of considering one department of our work each week, thus bringing in every month, the study of Home Missions, Foreign Missions, Religious Liberty and Health and Temperance. These subjects are not always all mentioned in the Home Missionary, but if they should not be, there is abundant material in our other publications from which the desired information may be gained. Where there is a large membership and good talent which can be utilized, a program is usually arranged for each evening in which a number take part, presenting essays, papers, studies, music etc. bearing upon the subject under consideration. This

plan works well provided the leader is careful to make sure that the idea of improvement and spiritual advancement is strictly adhered to. In smaller societies, where few advantages are enjoyed, not so much can be presented in the way of original matter, but there is abundant material in the Home Missionary and in our different periodicals, and in what can be easily gathered from other sources, so that if the leader will give the meeting some thought, it may be made very profitable. One thing should be guarded against, and that is, continuous reading. Some seem to think there is no way to present an article but by reading it. This may be the best way sometimes, but just try another way a little while, and I am sure you will not always read. Study the article thoroughly, and get the points well fixed in mind, with any illustration which may be used, then tell it. If you have time for only one or two points, get them clear and short. If you don't succeed at first, try it till you do. It takes less time than reading, and if you are lively about it, people are much less likely to get sleepy. A number of articles may be presented in this way, by different persons in half an hour.

The studies on mission fields which are now being printed in the Home Missionary, may be made an interesting feature of the weekly meeting. It is designed that they should be thoroughly studied at home; and if this has been done, the lesson for the week may be recited at the meeting. Have some one conduct it who is sufficiently familiar with it to ask the questions and bring out the points without using the paper, and be sure the children and younger members are called upon individually to answer. Sometimes the blackboard may be used to advantage in these exercises. If all have studied the lesson, it takes but a few minutes.

Avoid long, tedious exercises of any kind, and let the meeting be, as some one has said, "always too short." The minutes of the previous meeting should always be read, the reports collected, the collection taken up, and the literature prepared for mailing, and consecrated by prayer. Try to have different ones take part in the meeting, so that all will feel the responsibility of the work.

With these suggestions, and a careful consideration, as before stated, of the objects of the meeting, I think any librarian can plan the work so that a profitable hour may be spent each week in the interests of the missionary work. But there must be careful thought and earnest work. A missionary meeting will not "run itself" to a successful issue.

And let us constantly recognize the connection between the missionary meeting and the missionary work. If we are daily doing, with honest, earnest purpose, the will of Him by whom we are sent, we shall love to come together to consider his work; and the blessing gained in the missionary meeting will in turn strengthen us for further efforts.

We will try to give, in the next number of the WORKER, the minutes of several different meetings, in societies both large and small, that those who have had no experience in the work may gain a more definite idea of how the meetings may be carried on.

A. E. E.