

HOME MISSION REPORT GIVEN

Presbyterian General Assembly at Grand Rapids Hears 122nd Year's Achievements.

GRAND RAPIDS (AP)—A report of the 122d year of Presbyterian Home Missions in the United States was presented here to the Presbyterian General Assembly by the new board of National Missions with which the old home board has been merged. Dr. John A. Marquis, general secretary, reviewing the reorganization achievements of the past year, stated that the emphasis is no longer upon territorial expansion, but that the overwhelming problem is in the great and baffling complexity of our population. Dr. Marquis said that the rapid changes of

recent years have left the church bewildered and all but helpless in thousands of communities where once it was securely planted.

The work of national missions, says the report, is conducted with the border of every state in the union, and also in Alaska, Canada, Cuba, Porto Rico and Santo Domingo.

Within this field are gathered human beings of the greatest mixture that have ever dwelt under one flag in the history of mankind, a total of 125,000,000 people.

To give a concrete idea of how conglomerate this population is, the board of national missions every Sabbath preaches the Gospel in 42 languages.

While each part of this great area presents its own characteristic problems, there are certain problems, which cut across all lines. Five of these are singled out for particular mention. The first has to do with the readjustment of population as between city and country. During the lifetime of home mission work, says the report, we have changed from being overwhelmingly a rural people to being predominantly an urban people. In consequence there are thousands of country churches that find themselves declining because their populations are declining; thousands of others declining because they find their populations constantly changing and are unable to adjust themselves to their varied circumstances.

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ACCOMPANIED DEBATE TEAM

Union People Heard the State Championship Debate in Portland Recently.

UNION, Ore. (Special).—Martha Phyllis, Elida Miller and Willie Haggerty accompanied Union high school debating team to Portland to hear the debate between the Salem team. The debaters and their classmates left for Portland Thursday morning.

Mrs. George Bair and Mrs. Pearl Shaw went to Hood River the first of the week as delegates from Mountain Gem Kekekah lodge to the grand lodge. They returned to Union Friday.

Mr. and Mrs. John Wortman left by auto for Portland last Wednesday. They will enjoy a vacation and also take in the state debate at Portland Friday night. Mrs. Wortman coached the Union girls who participated in the contest.

Mrs. Lillian Widup and her son, Gerald, are here from Seattle, the guests of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ed. Mitchell.

Henry Griggs and his family seem to be receiving more than their share of misfortune lately. Rex, his son, recently underwent an operation for appendicitis, that his nephew was drowned at Perry, and now both his daughter and his daughter-in-law are seriously ill at La Grande.

Due to the threatened shortage of water for the summer our city dads have served notices on the water users that they must economize in regard to irrigation, both for gardens and lawns. As yet there is plenty of water but there is danger of a shortage later in the summer unless we have more rain.

Only one more meeting of the committees before the 1924 livestock show is ushered in. The booster committee has been busy touring the county and going as far as Baker, Enterprise and Pendleton. Miss Dillon is pushing the preparations for the pageant and promises something interesting and different. The pageant will represent the march of civilization and will have dances, even a circus, the latter to give a touch of comedy to the otherwise serious episodes to be shown. The amusement committee have secured a merry-go-round which will be put up somewhere on the street for the little folks. Music for both day and night performances will be furnished by the La Grande band.

Miss Lutha Ryder, the local telephone exchange manager, was called to Elgin Monday owing to the serious illness of her father who had suffered a paralytic stroke. The aged man failed to recover from the stroke and passed Thursday evening.

Born—Late Wednesday to Mr. and Mrs. Roy Hall, a son. Both mother and babe are doing nicely.

Miss Itha Winchell, who taught fifth grade here this year, planned to stay over for the stock show before returning to her home in Sprague, Wash., but was compelled to leave for the latter place Thursday on account of the illness of her mother. Miss Winchell will teach in Washington next year.

Dr. Schuster went to Portland Sunday where he will attend the meeting of the Oregon Alumni Clinic and also the State Medical society. Mrs. Schuster, her son, and her mother, Mrs. Martin, accompanied him.

Finally, there are the very considerable numbers of definitely non-Christian peoples, that is, those who nominally at least are adherents of some other religion than Christianity. Thus it will be seen that our population presents its religious blind spots increasing in intensity and significance as the complexity of our national life increases.

The program of the board is dictated not only by its motives and ideals but by the particular circumstances which it confronts in its service throughout this extended field. It deals in the main with people of a lower than average economic status, unable to support their own institutions, with areas of meager and undeveloped resources, with the less stable and less prosperous elements in the richer sections, with those elements who are strange to our environment or handicapped by lack of knowledge or our language, with elements initially hostile to the Protestant religion, with elements who either are or think they are oppressed, exploited and despised by nominally Christian people. In much of its work it must overcome an initial barrier of prejudice. The soil in which it seeks to plant the seed of the Gospel is often enough soil in which grow very readily radicalism and suspicion.

"A democracy and, in particular a Christian democracy," comments the report, "can only exist among an educated people. Education, therefore, is one of the oldest forms of mission service. In many sections it must actually precede the church and open the minds before the ears can be touched. The board's educational program carries all the way through from the kindergarten to the theological seminary."

The report covers in detail the entire process of reorganization and every branch of its service. Under the section concerning buildings and property it was stated that four out of five of the country churches need to be rebuilt. The board has established a bureau of architecture to improve the architecture of church and manse buildings.

company the doctor on the trip. County Agent Fred Dennison of Umatilla county, was over and visited the experiment station last Thursday.

Vera Shaw, who graduated from the Union high school as a member of the teacher training class this year, had secured a school near Summerville for next year, but decided to retain her position in the First National bank here, where she has been doing clerical work for some time. She resigned from the school appointment she had secured.

Women Students in Germany Turn to Technical Courses
HEIDELBERG (AP)—The number of women students in the German universities has more than doubled in the last ten years. Recent statistics show that in 1914 there were 4166 women students, while today there are 9531.

Medicine, jurisprudence and studies designed to fit the students to become teachers are the most popular courses notwithstanding the fact that these professions already are very much overcrowded.

German women this year have taken a greater interest in agricultural subjects than at any other time, and all of the universities report enlarged classes also in architecture, engineering, and other technical studies.

Garden Pens Picked.
COTTAGE GROVE, Ore.—Mrs. George Kappaut claims the honor for the first garden pens for this season. She served them upon the family table upon May 21, which is somewhat early even in this favored portion of the famous fertile fruitful Willamette. Pens are going to be a good crop this year. So far weather conditions have been ideal and there have been no aphids to bother them.

To Enforce Better Business Methods

STOCKHOLM (AP)—Believing that an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure, representatives of a number of industrial organizations in Sweden have formed a central institute for the prevention of graft. The function of the organization is to keep an eye on any persons in business who are exposed to the temptation of bribery, and to nip in the bud any attempt at corrupt practices. The membership includes the association of hotels and restaurants, and associations of brewers, dealers in lumber, hardware, automobiles, books, paints, the corporation of iron masters, importers of coal, etc. While there have been no cases of corruption on the part of high

public officials, there have been a few cases of petty graft recently where unwarranted personal commissions have been collected by agents for deals carried through. The new institute has broadcast demands for confidential reports of suspicious circumstances. These will be investigated immediately, and where guilt is found, the offenders will be brought to justice.

Homesick Ex-King Manuel Secretly Revisits Portugal

LISBON (AP)—If a story that is being whispered among royalists and scoffed at by republicans is true, Dora Manuel of Braganza, ex-king of Portugal recently broke his exile and paid a clandestine visit to his favorite old country place of Villa Viçosa. Manuel was exiled when the republic was declared in 1910 and forbidden to

re-enter the country.

His brief return, however, was not to conspire against the republic, but was impelled by an irresistible homesickness, according to reports, to revisit the scenes of his happy youth in this beautiful palace and park.

While there he is said to have received two personal friends and to have made close inquiries as to the administration of the Braganza estates.

Chester A. Lyons Speaks.
HILLSBORO, Ore.—Chester A.

Lyons of the Big Brothers farm spoke before some 50 members of the Hillsboro Rotary club and their guests along the line of his special interests in the prevention of delinquency among boys. Mr. Lyons takes the logical stand that it is better that young people, parents and all who work with them be informed on the causes leading to delinquency as a matter of prevention rather than to wait until something has happened to bring the child into relation with the courts.

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