

1915

THE ALABAMA CONFERENCE

President Rev. E. Teter, Sheridan, Indiana
 Vice-President Rev. J. A. Wood, R. No. 4, Blocton, Alabama
 Secretary W. E. Hobson, Jr., 1416 8th St, Tuscaloosa, Alabama
 Advisory Board—Rev. E. Teter, Sheridan, Ind.; Rev. R. E. Snipes, R. No. 1, Centerville, Ala.; Bro. R. M. Bearden, Blocton, Ala.
 Sunday School Board—W. M. Cleaton, West Blocton, Ala.; E. R. Tubb, R. No. 1, Tuscaloosa, Ala.; J. O. Bailey, R. No. 1, Centerville, Ala.
 Missionary Board—Rev. E. Teter, Rev. M. A. Medders, Rev. R. A. French, W. E. Hobson, Jr., J. O. Bailey.
 Missionary Executive Board—Rev. E. Teter, W. E. Hobson, Jr., J. O. Bailey.
 Vacancy Committee—Rev. P. C. Ramsey, W. M. Cleaton, Rev. R. G. Ramsey, West Blocton, Ala.; W. T. Wood, R. No. 4, Blocton, Ala.; Rev. R. E. Snipes, R. No. 1, Centerville, Ala.

CONFERENCE ROLL

ELDERS—Rev. P. C. Ramsey West Blocton, Alabama
 Rev. R. G. Ramsey West Blocton, Alabama
 Rev. W. H. Massey West Blocton, Alabama
 Rev. J. A. Wood R. No. 4, Blocton, Alabama
 Rev. R. E. Snipes R. No. 1, Centerville, Alabama
 Rev. R. A. French Pell City, Alabama
 Rev. M. A. Medders R. No. 2, Bankston, Alabama

LICENTIATES ON THE STATIONED LIST:

Rev. J. D. Avery R. No. 1, Centerville, Alabama
 Rev. Robert French Pell City, Alabama

DELEGATES—J. O. Bailey, Miss Jimmie Brown, W. E. Hobson, Jr., L. W. Moore, Mrs. M. T. Patterson, I. M. Newman, C. A. Weaver, W. T. Wood.

CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

The Sixth Session of the Alabama Annual Conference of the Wesleyan Methodist Connection of America, met at West Blocton, Alabama, November 4, 1915, at 10 a. m., and was called to order by Rev. E. Teter, President.

Devotional exercises were conducted by Rev. P. C. Ramsey. The Secretary then called the roll of Elders and Licentiates on the Stationed List, the following answering to their names: P. C. Ramsey, R. G. Ramsey, J. A. Wood, R. E. Snipes, M. A. Medders, R. A. French, J. D. Avery, and L. A. Bamburg.

The following names were presented as lay delegates from the

various charges and their names placed on the roll : J. O. Bailey, W. E. Hobson, Jr., L. W. Moore, I. M. Newman, C. A. Weaver and W. T. Wood. Conference was then declared ready for business.

On motion Rev. E. Teter, Rev. P. C. Ramsey and W. E. Hobson, Jr. was appointed a committee to examine Ministers and Pastor's Statistical reports.

On motion Conference to meet at 8:30 a. m. and 1:30 p. m. and to adjourn by motion. It was voted to hold religious service at 11 a. m. and 7 p. m. Committee on Religious Service: J. A. Wood, R. E. Snipes and I. M. Newman.

On motion Pastoral Supplies to be considered by a committee.

On motion the bar of the Conference was fixed to include all the seats in front and side of the pulpit as far back as the second seat rear of the stove.

Rev. W. H. Massey was introduced to the Conference as a member of the Georgia Conference, and made an honorary member of the Conference.

Committee on Pastorial Relations was elected as follows: Rev. R. E. Snipes, Rev. R. A. French, Rev. J. A. Wood. Lay members: J. O. Bailey, W. E. Hobson, Jr., L. W. Moore.

Committee on Itinerancy and Orders: Rev. R. E. Snipes, 4 years, Rev. R. A. French, 3 years, Rev. M. A. Medders, 2 years, Rev. J. A. Wood, 1 year. Bros. W. T. Wood and C. A. Weaver were elected as Lay Members of the committee.

On motion Conference adjourned.

FIRST DAY—AFTERNOON MEETING

Conference called to order by the President and devotional services were conducted by Rev. R. E. Snipes.

Mrs. M. T. Patterson of Pell City charge presented credentials as a delegate from said charge, and her name was entered on the roll. The Pell City charge was received by the last annual Conference, but reports from it were received too late to be shown in the minutes. Miss Jimmie Brown from Moon Lake church at Mentone, Ala., presented credentials as a lay delegate from said church and her name was entered on the roll.

On motion Miss Jimmie Brown was elected as Committee on Statistics.

The following committees were read as being appointed by the Vice-President prior to the meeting of the Conference:

MORAL REFORM—Rev. M. A. Medders.

MISSIONS—Rev. R. E. Snipes.

SECRECY—W. E. Hobson, Jr.

SUNDAY SCHOOLS—J. O. Bailey.

THANKS—W. T. Wood.

On motion conference adjourned.

SECOND DAY—MORNING MEETING

Conference called to order by the President and devotional services were conducted by Rev. M. A. Medders.

Roll called, minutes read and approved.

On motion all recommendations were referred to the Committee on Itinerancy and Orders.

Rev. H. C. Bedford, president of Central College, Central, S. C., was introduced to the Conference and made an honorary member of its body.

Mrs. K. A. Shafer, of Chattanooga, Tenn., was introduced to the Conference and made an honorary member of its body.

On motion Conference adjourned, to meet at the call of the chair, for work of the committees.

Conference called to order and the election of permanent officers was taken up, which was the order of the day, the election resulting as follows: Rev. E. Teter, President; Rev. J. A. Wood, Vice-President; W. E. Hobson, Jr., Secretary; Rev. E. Teter, Treasurer.

By motion and vote of the Conference the Missionary Board was made, to be composed of five members, which were elected as follows: Rev. E. Teter, Rev. M. A. Medders, Rev. R. A. French, J. O. Bailey and W. E. Hobson, Jr.

Committee on Vacancies was then elected as follows: Rev. P. C. Ramsey, Rev. R. G. Ramsey, Rev. R. E. Snipes, W. T. Wood and W. M. Gleaton.

The Advisory Board was then elected as follows: Rev. R. E. Snipes and R. M. Bearden with the President an ex-officio member.

The Sunday School Board was elected as follows: W. M. Gleaton, E. R. Tubb and J. O. Bailey with the latter named as Secretary.

On motion Conference adjourned.

SECOND DAY—AFTERNOON MEETING

After an able and instructive sermon by Prof. H. C. Bedford, Conference was called to order by the President, and then proceeded to the examination of characters. The following names were called and characters passed: Rev. P. C. Ramsey, Rev. R. G. Ramsey, Rev. R. E. Snipes, Rev. M. A. Medders, Rev. J. D. Avery, Rev. L. A. Bamburg and Rev. R. A. French.

Committee on Pastoral Relations made its first reading.

On motion Conference adjourned.

THIRD DAY—MORNING MEETING

Conference called to order by the President. Devotional exercises were conducted by Rev. W. H. Massey. Roll called, minutes read and approved.

Committee on Secrecy reported. Report adopted. See report Number 1.

Committee on Sunday Schools reported. Report adopted. See report Number 2.

Rev. G. B. F. Stovall of Birmingham, Ala., and Rev. Robert French were introduced to the Conference and were by motion made honorary members of its body.

Camp-Meeting committee made a partial report.

Committee on Thanks made its report which was adopted.* See report Number 3. This report was authorized to be read at the Sabbath morning services.

On motion conference adjourned.

THIRD DAY—AFTERNOON MEETING

Conference called to order by the President and devotional exercises were conducted by Rev. Robert French. Roll call omitted.

Missionary Board reported. Report adopted. See report No. 4.

Treasurer reported. Report adopted. See report Number 5.

Camp-Meeting committee made its final report which was adopted. See report Number 6.

By motion and vote the Conference authorized the Blocton Camp-Meeting Association to take charge of the camp-meetings.

By motion the Blocton Camp-Meeting Association was authorized to arrange for and hold an annual camp-meeting this year.

J. A. Wood made his pastoral report which was adopted and his character passed.

Committee on Statistics reported. Report adopted. See Statistical report.

On motion Conference adjourned for a recess.

Conference being called to order, Rev. W. H. Massey of the Georgia Conference, was made a member of the Alabama upon the condition that he furnish a letter of standing later from the said Georgia Conference.

Conference then took a vote on the Tobacco question, which resulted as follows: 12 for and 0 against the amendment.

Committee on Pastoral Relations made its final report which was adopted as amended. See report No. 7.

Committee on Itinerancy and Orders made its report which was adopted as read. See report No. 8.

On motion the committee on Itinerancy and Orders was authorized to examine and report as last year.

By motion and vote of the Conference, the Secretary was authoriz-

ed to change the name of the church at Tuscaloosa from the name Pierce Chapel to The First Wesleyan Methodist Church of Tuscaloosa.

On motion the Sunday School Board was authorized to hold its conventions as last year.

On motion Conference authorized the minutes printed.

On motion Conference authorized the Secretary to have the Minutes printed.

On motion a collection was authorized to be taken at the night service to pay the Secretary for his services.

By motion the next annual conference is to be held at Pell City, Alabama. Time with officials.

On motion Conference adjourned.

REV. E. TETER, President

W. E. HOBSON, Jr., Secretary.

REPORT No. 1—SECRECY

Why do we as a church oppose and bear witness against Secret Societies? The following are some of the reasons:

1. God says, "Thou Shalt Have no Other Gods Before Me." We find the members of the different secret societies who will attend their society meetings in preference to their church service, when such chances fall on the same night. Some secret societies teach that if you keep the rules of the society, you will be saved, at the same time the name Jesus Christ is not allowed mentioned in their society. The Bible says, "There is none other name under Heaven given among men where-by we must be saved."

2. Thousands of souls are sent to destruction through the little truth that is mixed with the error of their teachings.

3. They are a bondage. Every member of a secret society is in bondage, in the sense that he is bound to keep and never reveal the things which are done in the society whether they be good or bad, even though it be a plan to take the life or do an injury to your fellow-man, you are oath bound never to reveal it. The Bible says, "If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed." And again it says, "Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers." Jesus also said, "In secret have I done nothing."

4. Secret societies tend to produce lawlessness and anarchy. Many people only join them for a shield to protect them in their lawlessness and riotous life; to prohibit the laws of God and the laws of our country being enforced as they should be. It is the native-born duty of every citizen to obey and protect the laws of his native country, and it is christian duty to obey and work for the obedience of the laws of God.

Therefore Be It Resolved—That we as a church stand firmly against secret societies.

Respectfully submitted,

W. E. HOBSON, JR., Committee

REPORT No. 3—RESOLUTION OF THANKS

We, your committee on Thanks, beg to submit the following report:

Whereas God in His great wisdom has seen fit to bring us the members of the Alabama Annual Conference of the Wesleyan Methodist Church, among you. We wish to thank the pastor and members of the West Blocton Wesleyan church and friends for their loyal support and entertainment. We also extend our thanks to our friend and Brother Williamson, for his good service in transferring our brethren and sisters from and to the railway station.

May God's richest blessings rest upon them in this world and may they inherit eternal life in the world to come.

Respectfully,

W. T. WOOD, Committee

REPORT No. 4—MISSIONARY BOARD

We, your Missionary Board, beg to submit the following recommendation:

We recommend that Rev. W. H. Massey be employed as Conference Evangelist, that he hold the quarterly conferences of the different charges when desired and that he be paid five dollars for each of said services. He is to devote his entire time to the Alabama Conference, and that he preach at least once in each meeting held in the churches of the Conference on the subject of Missions, take pledges and collection for the same. He is to make quarterly reports to the executive board of the Missionary Board. He is to have all collections of meetings which he may hold.

Respectfully,

W. E. HOBSON, JR., Secretary

W. T. WOOD, Chairman

REPORT No. 5—TREASURER'S REPORT

RECEIPTS

BUDGET MONEY—M. A. Medders	\$15.55
J. D. Avery	22.85
J. A. Wood	31.00
R. E. Snipes	26.25—\$ 95.65
HOME MISSIONS—R. E. Snipes	16.00
J. A. Wood	25.00
L. A. Bamburg75—\$ 41.75
EDUCATION—J. A. Wood	7.75—\$ 7.75
Total	<u>\$145.15</u>

DISBURSEMENTS—General Conference Fund	\$25.00
H. C. Bedford	7.75
H. C. Bedford, on Budget	31.90
R. A. French, for tent use	30.00
French Bros.	20.00
P. C. Ramsey	15.00
R. G. Ramsey	10.00
L. A. Bamburg	15.00
R. E. Snipes	15.00
M. A. Medders	15.00
J. D. Avery	15.00
J. A. Wood, Conference expense	7.50
J. A. Wood	7.50
W. H. Massey, travel expenses	8.60
Overdraft	78.10
\$223.25	<u>\$223.25</u>

E. TETER, Treasurer

REPORT No. 6—CAMP-MEETING COMMITTEE

We, your Camp-Meeting committee, submit the following report:

Total cost of Tabernacle, \$675.75; collected and paid \$335.31, balance indebtedness \$340.44. Camp-meeting held August 18-29, 1915, Rev. J. A. Clement and Rev. W. H. Massey being employed as speakers with G. W. Wall as singer. Collections

1915
for expenses \$84.50; paid Rev. J. A. Clement \$47.50, Rev. W. H. Massey \$10.00, G. W. Wall \$12.00. Incidentals \$15.00.

Respectfully,

Committee { J. A. Wood,
R. M. Bearden.

REPORT No. 7—PASTORAL RELATIONS

We, your committee on Pastoral Relations, beg to submit the following report: Friendship Charge, composed of Friendship and Eoline churches—Rev. R. E. Snipes, pastor; Waycross Circuit, composed of Waycross and Mt. Ivah—Rev. J. D. Avery, pastor; Pell City Circuit, composed of Pell City and Wolf Creek—Rev. R. A. French, pastor; Bibb Circuit, composed of West Blocton and Ada Chapel—Rev. J. A. Wood, pastor; Tuscaloosa Charge, composed of Tuscaloosa and Moon Lake—Rev. Robert French, pastor with Mrs. K. A. Shafer assistant pastor; Mt. Vernon Charge, composed of Mt. Vernon and surrounding territory—Rev. M. A. Medders, pastor; Conference Evangelist, Rev. W. H. Massey; Rev. P. C. Ramsey and Rev. R. G. Ramsey—General Evangelistic work; Rev. L. A. Bamburg and Rev. Willie French to choose their own field of labor.

By motion and vote of the committee, each charge is made to include its surrounding territory where work may be done.

By motion and vote of the committee, Eoline was added to the Friendship charge.

Respectfully,

W. E. HOBSON, JR., Secretary

J. A. WOOD, Chairman

REPORT No. 8—ITINERANCY AND ORDERS

We, your committee on Itinerancy and Orders, beg to submit the following report: We met November 5, 1915 at West Blocton and organized as follows: J. A. Wood, chairman and M. A. Medders, secretary. Rev. J. D. Avery passed a satisfactory examination on the Discipline and Binney's Compend. Rev. L. A. Bamburg took examination on the Discipline. We recommend that Rev. G. W. Wall take the Course of Study during the following year. We recommend that Mrs. K. A. Shafer take up the Course of Study. We recommend that Rev. Robert and Willie French take the Discipline and that their school work be compared with our Course of Study and that they be given credit marks for the same.

REV. J. A. WOOD, Chairman,

REV. M. A. MEDDERS, Secretary.

REPORT No. 9—PRESIDENT'S REPORT

1. Immediately after Conference, Rev. L. A. Bamburg was appointed as pastor of the Tuscaloosa Charge by its request.

2. With the consent of R. M. Bearden, a member of the Advisory Board, we received a church of five members at Eoline organized by P. C. Ramsey and appointed R. E. Snipes as pastor.

3. On October 22, 1915, we received a church of eleven members organized by R. A. French at Mentone, Ala. known as Moon Lake Charge.

4. By failure of the report of Pell City Charge no reaching the secretary in time to be placed on the records last year the same is now placed in this year's report, it having been received last year.

E. TETER, President.

REPORT OF THE CONFERENCE SECRETARIES TO THE CONNECTIONAL EDITOR

How many elders are on the conference roll?.....7

Who of the elders are on the stationed list? (Give names and P. O. addresses)

Rev. P. C. Ramsey West Blocton, Ala.;

Rev. R. G. Ramsey West Blocton, Ala.;

Rev. W. H. Massey West Blocton, Ala.;

Rev. J. A. Wood, R. No. 4, Blocton, Ala.;

Rev. R. E. Snipes, R. No. 1, Centerville, Ala.;

Rev. R. A. French Pell City, Ala.;

Rev. M. A. Medders, R. No. 2, Bankston, Ala.;

By transfer? Rev. W. H. Massey

Who of the licentiates are on the stationed list? (Give names and P. O. addresses)

Rev. J. D. Avery, R. No. 1, Centerville, Ala.;

Rev. Robert French Pell City, Ala.;

Mrs. K. A. Shafer, Chattanooga, Tenn.;

PASTOR'S LABORS

Time employed, months.....72

Appointments.....11

No. church societies.....11

PERIODICALS

Wesleyan Methodists taken.....54

Wesleyan Lesson Helps taken:

Primary Class Paper.....205

Teacher's Quarterly.....151

Scholar's Quarterly.....346

Junior Quarterly.....252

Our Little Folks Cards.....253

MEMBERSHIP

Received.....191

Expelled.....10

Discontinued.....11

Died.....1

Granted letters.....7

Number reported last year (356).....424

Number at beginning of year.....424

Present number.....585

Gain.....161

Associate members.....1

Baptized.....156

Licentiates.....9

Membership Tithing.....48

SABBATH SCHOOLS

No. of Sabbath Schools.....10

No. of Officers, not teachers or scholars.....38

No. of teachers.....47

No. of scholars in Cradle Roll.....32

No. of scholars in Main School.....741

Total No. in Sabbath School.....858

Average attendance.....363

No. of scholars converted.....87

No. of scholars joining church.....85

No. of Departmental Supts.....8

No. of scholars in adult bible class.....72

No. of books in library.....12

CHURCH PROPERTY

No. of church buildings.....8

Value of buildings.....\$6,050.00

Amount of indebtedness.....\$270.00

No. of Parsonages.....3

Value of Parsonages.....\$950.00

Cash or other values on hand.....\$246.11

AMOUNT CONTRIBUTED

For Pastors:

Salary.....\$663.70

Parsonage rent.....\$25.00

Fees—Marriage and Funeral.....\$21.50

Gifts.....\$33.15

Total Pastors' receipts.....\$743.35

AMOUNT CONTRIBUTED

For churches:

Evangelistic help.....\$1080.70

Sabbath School expense.....\$119.22

Building and repairs.....\$525.67

Incidental expenses.....\$92.63

Total for churches.....\$1818.12

AMOUNT CONTRIBUTED

For benevolences:

Undivided Budget.....\$95.65

Missions.....\$158.65

Education.....\$71.41

Other benevolent objects.....\$310.10

Total for benevolences.....\$635.81

TOTALS

Total for pastors.....\$743.35

Total for churches.....\$1818.12

Total for benevolences.....\$635.81

Total for all purposes.....\$3197.28

BUDGET

Undivided Budget.....\$95.65

Missions.....\$158.65

Education.....\$71.41

Total.....\$325.71

When and where shall the next Conference be held? Pell City, Ala., Nov. 2, 1916

How is the work supplied? Bibb Circuit—West Blocton, Ada Chapel, J. A. Wood.

Friendship Charge—Eoline, Friendship, R. E. Snipes.

Mt. Vernon Station and surrounding territory, M. A. Medders.

Pell City Circuit—Pell City, Wolf Creek, R. A. French.

Tuscaloosa Circuit—Moon Lake, Tuscaloosa, Robert French, Mrs. K. A. Shafer, assistant.

Waycross Circuit—Mt. Ivah, Waycross, J. D. Avery.

Conference Evangelist—W. H. Massey.

Who are the Conference officers? President, Rev. E. Teter, Sheridan, Ind.; Vice-Pres. Rev. J. A. Wood, R. No. 4, Blocton, Ala.; Secretary, W. E. Hobson, Jr., Tuscaloosa, Ala.; Sunday School Secy., J. O. Bailey, R. No. 1., Centerville, Ala.

W. E. HOBSON, Jr., Secy.