NEBRASKA MAY BE DIVIDED

Methodist General Conference Promises to Redistrict State.

QUESTION OF DIVORCE DISPOSED OF

Convention After Spirited Debate Decides Solely Upon Scriptural Grounds—Sermon and Catholic Questions Raised.

LOS ANGELES, Cal., May 24.—(Special.)—There will be a general readjustment of general conference districts by the Methodist general conference, which may divide Nebraska, by placing two of its conferences in one district and two in another.

Mrs. Nickell of Beatrice made a fine speech on a resolution requiring pastors to preach once a year on civic righteousness.

Rev. C. C. Cissell, L. A. Harman and wife, I. H. Clark of Omaha, are recent arrivals.

The date of conference adjournment has been fixed for May 30.

The morning session of the conference was without special incident, the time being taken up in consideration of minor matters, balloting for the editors of the eleven church publications and hearing the report of the committee on the consolidation of benevolent societies of the church. The committee recommends that the several benevolent societies shall be consolidated into three under the following corporate names:

First. The board of foreign missions of the Methodist Episcopal church. Second. The board of home missions and church extension of the Methodist Episcopal church. Third. The board of education of the Methodist Episcopal church, or the board of education, Freedmen's and Sunday schools of the Methodist Episcopal church (as the general conference may determine).

While the result of the ballot for editors will not be given out until this afternoon, it can be stated with every assurance of accuracy that the following have been elected:

W. V. Kelly, editor of the Methodist Review.
J. M. Buckley, Christian Advocate.
D. D. Thompson, Northwestern Christian Advocate.
C. B. Spencer, Central Christian Advocate.
W. B. Hammond, Southwestern Christian Advocate.
D. L. Rader, Pacific Christian Advocate.
A. J. Nast, Christian Apologist.
Frederick Munz, Haus and Herd.

Several matters of material importance to Methodism have been passed upon by the standing committee on state of the church, and its recommendations on the subject will be reported to the conference, where, in all probability, they will be fully sanctioned by a majority of the delegates.

Canonical Rule on Divorce.

Most important of these many matters are those of divorce, Romanism, Mormonism, the Bible in the public schools and regulations of church membership. The question as to what shall constitute the recognized grounds for divorce was the cause of a spirited contest in the committee, in which some of the ablest delegates in the conference took active part. After hours of discussion, in which arguments were made urging the sanctioning of two or three distinct causes as legitimate grounds for divorce the committee finally voted to make the crime of adultery the sole legal reason for separation to be recognized by the church. Final desertion and extreme cruelty were the additional grounds that were urged for adoption as a part of the discipline, but these were opposed by a majority of the committee.

The resolution on Mormonism which will be presented to the conference is brief and asks congress to enact a constitutional amendment that will make impossible certain practices of Mormonism in any part of the United States or in any country subject to its jurisdiction.

Another resolution denied the charge that the teaching of the Bible in the public school, without note or comment, was a sectarian act, and deplored the reputed efforts of the Roman Catholic church to secure a division of the public school fund along sectarian lines as a menace to the public school system, and called upon congress to provide an amendment to the federal constitution which would forever make impossible the accomplishment of such an object. The resolution also provided for the extension of every aid and support to Methodist missionaries engaged in the propagation of the Protestant faith in Roman Catholic churches.

A resolution regulating the membership of the church also was adopted. It provides that those who fail in their duties of attending services and paying their share toward church expenses may be dropped from the roll of membership by the pastor of the church, after he has made due investigation, with the provision that on demand they may receive a regular trial. The latter resolution evoked considerable debate, but was finally accepted.

The balloting for editors of church publications, excepting the Epworth Herald, resulted as follows: Methodist Review, W. V. Kelly; Christian Advocate, J. M. Buckley, New York; Western Christian Advocate, Levi Gilbert; Northwestern Christian Advocate, D. D. Thompson; Central Christian Advocate, C. B. Spencer; Pittsburg Christian Advocate, C. W. Smith, Pittsburg; Southwestern Christian Advocate, H. E. Jones; Pacific Christian Advocate, D. L. Rader, Tacoma; Christian Apologist, A. J. Nast; editor of Haus and Herd, Frederick Munz.

A special report from the episcopacy committee recommending the following places as the episcopal residence for the sixteen bishops was taken up at the afternoon session: New York, Boston, Philadelphia, Nashville, Buffalo, Cincinnati, Chattanooga, St. Louis, Chicago, Minneapolis, Denver, Portland, San Francisco, Zurich, Buenos Ayres and Shanghai.

Objections were raised to Philadelphia, Nashville, Buffalo, Cincinnati, St. Louis, Chicago, Portland and Buenos Ayres. The conference had speeches in favor of those opposed to those places at the afternoon session, called especially for that purpose.

The standing committee on episcopacy has under consideration its recommendation to the conference on the subject of selecting the places of residence of the newly elected bishops, but the preparations of its report has not been finished, and no reliable information as to what its final report on the subject will be is obtained. The proceedings of the episcopal committee are secret.

BAPTIST THOUGHT ON DIVORCE

Home Missionary Society Adopts Resolution on Subject at Cleveland Meeting.

CLEVELAND, May 24.—The Baptists put themselves on record with the other great Protestant denominations by the action taken on the divorce question at the meeting of the American Baptist Home Mission society today. The following resolution on the subject was unanimously passed with applause:

Whereas, There is a general movement among the churches of the country in which we are deeply interested and with which we are in warm sympathy, looking toward the protection of the sanctity of the marriage relation, and,

Whereas, Our church policy being purely congregational does not allow us to take action as some other bodies can, enjoining either our churches or ministers in this matter, yet we desire to place on record our united opinion and firm conviction.

First, That the country ought to have a uniform law on the subject of divorce, based upon scriptural teachings; and,

Second, The Christian ministers and Christian churches of all names ought to be at all times, and especially in these times, courageous and positive in their adherence to the instructions of the scripture concerning the marriage relation.

Besides the resolutions on divorce the Baptist Home Mission society unanimously adopted resolutions condemning Mormonism. The resolutions were presented after a strong speech against Mormonism by Rev. Bruce Kinney, general missionary of the society in Utah. Mr. Kinney is of the belief that the present generation will see the finish of polygamy and that Mormonism is losing ground. The resolutions follow:

"Whereas, The recent investigation at Washington has revealed the un-American and lawless attitude of the Mormon hierarchy, and

"Whereas, The officers in Utah are either inert or powerless to enforce the laws against polygamy and polygamous cohabitation; therefore be it

"Resolved, That we, as representatives of the American Baptist Home Mission society in annual meeting assembled, express our sincerest sympathy with all remedial missionary efforts now being put forth; be it further

"Resolved, That we express our hope that the Smoot investigation may be most thorough and that if such sufficient grounds be found Senator Smoot be removed from his seat.

"Resolved, That we also petition congress to take such action as may be proper looking toward a constitutional amendment giving congress law making power in all matters pertaining to marriage and divorce.

"Resolved, That copies of these resolutions be sent to Senator Burrows, chairman of the committee on privileges and elections of the United States senate."

PRESBYTERIANS ON CHURCH UNION

Southern Assembly Desires Conference.

MOBILE, Ala., May 24.—At today's session of the general assembly of the Presbyterian church Fort Worth was chosen for the meeting place next year. The committee on closer relations with other Presbyterian churches submitted its report today. It recommends a conference with representatives of other churches on the subject. The report was made the special order for tomorrow afternoon.

DALLAS, Tex., May 24.—The general assembly of the Cumberland Presbyterian church today took up the momentous question of church union. In expectation of an interesting and spirited debate there was a large attendance. Final action on the question is not expected before Wednesday night. The opposition forces to the report are under the leadership of Judge Joseph P. Russell of Tennessee and Judge F. H. Prendergast of Texas. The report of the committee is being defended by its chairman, Dr. W. H. Black and other members.

PRESBYTERIANS AND COLLEGES

Assembly at Buffalo Receives Report of Committee Which is Raising Funds.

BUFFALO, May 24.—A matter of general interest to members of the Presbyterian church is the conclusion reached by the committee appointed by the last general assembly of the Presbyterian church of the United States to raise $12,000,000 with which to endow colleges, especially the weaker ones in the west. The report, which may be presented today, recommends the union of the Board of Aid for Colleges and the endowment committee under the name of "College board," and the removal of the headquarters of the board from Chicago to New York. At today's session reports from the Board of Standing Committee were received and a number of addresses were made by men who have devoted their lives to the amelioration of economic conditions in this country.

The report shows the amount of money received this year was $820,606. The amount needed for next year's work is $1,000,000.

The report says that arrangements have been made by an interdenominational commission to fittingly celebrate the centennial of the Louisiana Purchase exposition at St. Louis on October 29 and 30 and November 1, and the commission recommends that all evangelical churches of every name throughout the country shall observe Sunday, October 30, as a day of thanksgiving and rejoicing for what has been done "in bringing the west to the knowledge and obedience of Jesus Christ and a day of consecration to renewed efforts to carry on the work so gloriously begun."

It is urged that one feature of the celebration be a special offering of the Board of Missions, and that especially the churches west of the Mississippi river which have been planned during the century shall realize that occasion with a special offering of thanksgiving. The report was unanimously adopted.

WOULD UNITE THREE CHURCHES

Methodist Protestants Think They Might Join with Others.

WASHINGTON, May 24.—The Methodist Protestant conference today officially received the plan of union to embrace the Congregational, the United Brethren and the Methodist denomination. The essential feature of the plan provides for a general council composed of representatives from each denomination on the basis of one for each 5,000 members.

The frequent general applause of the speakers, together with the approval given President Tagg of the conference in announcing his sincere conviction in view of union, indicate favorable action.

GERMANS ARE WITHOUT A NAME

Baptists at Carthage Cannot Agree on Official Designation.

CARTHAGE, Mo., May 24.—The German Baptists in convention here today decided that the next annual convention should be held in May of next year in the state of Tennessee, the city to be selected later by a committee. A report that the words "German Baptist" had been selected as the official name of the denomination was in error. The vote on this matter was taken a second time and the committee could not agree on an official name. It was decided today that the matter of a name should be laid on the table until next year, when another vote will be taken.

NEW RAILROAD IS UNDER WAY

Gould Interests, it is Said, Have Decided Upon Line from California.

SAN FRANCISCO, May 24.—The engineers of the transcontinental railroad project, now engaged in surveying a route in the Gould interests, it is said, under the corporative name of the Western Pacific Railroad company, have decided to abandon the idea of securing an exit from California by way of Beckwith pass, but will take a route through the Sierras by way of Fredonia pass, in Lassen county. This decision was arrived at only a few days ago.

It is the plan of the promoters of the new road to tunnel under the pass to a distance of 2,000 feet, by which means they will make a great saving in grade and distance. It was also learned yesterday that construction operations along the route will begin inside of three months. Important changes have yet to be made in the survey of the route through Nevada, but in the meantime it is the intention to start grading crews at work on this end of the line and to undertake some of the tunneling.

CANAL AND EIGHT-HOUR LAW

Contractors and Labor Organizations Deeply Interested in Question Raised by Them.

DECISION IN HANDS OF COMMISSION

Prospective Bidders and Prospective Workingmen Desire to Know if Federal Law Extends to Canal Zone.

(From a Staff Correspondent.)

WASHINGTON, May 24.—(Special.)—One of the most important questions with which the Panama Canal commission will shortly have to deal is whether the present eight-hour law, act of August 1, 1892, applies to the construction of the Panama canal, and whether, if passed, the eight-hour bill now before congress will so apply. Not only are thousands of prospective contractors and subcontractors vitally interested in a decision on these points, but also the public at large, as the application of either the present laws or the pending bill would extend the time of construction at least two years and increase its cost by many millions of dollars. It is understood that the American Anti-Boycott association, which includes in its membership many builders and dredgers and others who may become directly or indirectly interested in canal contracts, will undertake to secure a decision from the proper officials. In this event Mr. Daniel Davenport of Bridgeport, Conn., the executive agent of the association, who has been so prominently identified with the opposition to the eight-hour bill, will have charge of the case.

The leaders of organized labor are also looking into this matter carefully, for although the canal will be located far from the United States, it will be dug on American territory, or territory under the jurisdiction of the United States, and be constructed and owned by the government, and the application of the eight-hour principle to a government work of this magnitude would not only be a triumph, but have a far-reaching and, they believe, wholesome moral effect. On the other hand, those who, like Mr. Davenport, regard the present eight-hour law as vicious, and the bill for its extension as socialistic, hold that under no circumstances should either be so applied.

Contractors Desire Certainty.

It is argued by some that as the canal zone is entirely under the control of the canal commission, acting, of course, under the supervision of the secretary of war, and by the direction of the president, the eight-hour act of 1892 does not ex proprio givore apply to the zone, and that until congress shall determine otherwise the matter rests entirely with the commission. It is further represented that as the canal will necessarily be constructed so largely by labor other than from the United States, the commission will not restrict such labor to eight hours a day. But while it is not probable that the commission would undertake to enforce this law should the canal be constructed directly under its supervision, what the prospective contractors want to know is whether they would be exempt if the work should be done under contracts and they should be fortunate enough to secure some of them. In the absence of an authoritative opinion in advance they fear the question might be raised at a later time by the labor organizations at home and they might be heavily mulcted.

Of even greater consequence to the members of the Anti-Boycott association is the matter of the application of the eight-hour bill. That provides for the employment of labor on all kinds of government work for only eight hours a day, and the question is whether it would apply to the manufacturers of engines, dredges, rails, spikes, picks, shovels, steam shovels, cotton duck, stone, cement, carts, wagons, derricks, windlasses and the thousands and thousands of articles which will have to be supplied for the canal. These articles must be manufactured in the United States under contract or subcontract, and while labor on the isthmus may be exempt from the operations of the present act, the impression prevails that the pending bill will cover all contracts for materials furnished from the United States, as the first clause specifically includes "every contract hereafter made for or on behalf of the United States," etc.

Topographical Work in South Dakota.

Mr. W. H. Herron, topographer, left Washington, D. C., on April 25 for Belle Fourche, S. D., to organize topographic and level parties for work in that vicinity. The work outlined includes the survey of three fifteen-minute quadrangles, and the completion of the Belle Fourche quadrangle commenced last season; also a great deal of large-scale work for the reclamation service. The work will be in the hands of several parties, all under the general direction and supervision of Mr. Herron.

WESTERN MATTERS AT CAPITAL

South Omaha Man Gets Hastings Building Contract.

(From a Staff Correspondent.)

WASHINGTON, May 24.—(Special Telegram.)—J. H. Wiese of South Omaha was today awarded the contract for construction, except heating apparatus, of the new public building at Hastings, Neb. Mr. Wiese agrees to complete his contract by October 1, 1905. Price, $104,810.

Rural routes ordered established June 15. Nebraska—Cambridge, Furnas county, three additional; area covered, 140 square miles; population, 1,545. Iowa—Bayard, Guthrie county, one route; area, twenty-eight square miles; population, 400.

Miss Ethel M. Nixon has been appointed postmaster at Roy, Sully county, S. D., vice Albert I. Peck, resigned.

REPAIRING DAMAGE AT CHEYENNE

Recent Flooded Ground Deserted by Occupants of Buildings.

CHEYENNE, Wyo., May 24.—(Special.)—Now that the floods have subsided ranchmen in the Crow valley and residents of West and South Cheyenne are investigating the damage wrought by the torrents of water that rushed down the valley Friday night. The ranchmen lost heavily in buildings, corrals, hay and live stock, while the city residents lost household goods and in many instances their houses were badly damaged.

Today there was a general exodus from the bottoms to higher ground. Persons who lived in rented houses are moving their belongings to tenements on higher ground and owners of buildings are arranging to move the houses to other sites. There is no desire, either among the owners or renters, to again run the risk of being washed out. Other floods could occur at any time as this one did and the people would probably not get off so easily. If a flood should visit the lowlands in the middle of the night there would be many fatalities.

The relief committees are hard at work. Many liberal donations of food, clothing and money have been made, and soon the flood sufferers will be as comfortable as they were before the deluge of water came down upon them.

General Hugo Donselman yesterday gathered a generous purse for the members of the Thirteenth artillery and Eleventh infantry who rendered valuable aid to the flood sufferers Friday night.

Late reports indicate that the washouts on the Cheyenne & Northern were more serious than at first supposed, and it will be some time before the roadbed is restored to its former condition. Temporary repairs will be made at once so as to permit of the passage of trains.

Ready to Build Oregon Basin Ditch.

CHEYENNE, Wyo., May 24.—(Special.)—The last barrier in the way of the Oregon basin irrigation project, which has for its object the reclamation of 225,000 acres of fertile land in the Big Horn basin country, was removed today when the United States general land office telegraphed the Wyoming Land board that list No. 22 of the Oregon basin segregation had been approved, and that the irrigation company could now go ahead with its enterprise.

DEATH RECORD.

Henry Meier, Sr.

HOOPER, Neb., May 24.—(Special.)—Henry Meier, sr., one of the early settlers of Washington county, died at his home, about ten miles northeast of here, at 8 o'clock last evening. The deceased was injured about a week ago by being dragged by a horse and suffered considerably ever since. Last evening lockjaw set in and death soon relieved his sufferings. Mr. Meier was born in Lippe, Germany, June 30, 1835, and came to America thirty-seven years ago, making his home near Fontanelle. He is survived by a widow, two sons and five daughters.

Funeral of William D. Sisson.

BEATRICE, Neb., May 24.—(Special.)—The funeral of William D. Sisson, the young man who committed suicide in Lincoln Friday evening, was held Sunday afternoon at 3 o'clock at Ryan's undertaking parlors and was quite largely attended by friends of the deceased. The remains were interred in Evergreen cemetery. Mrs. Sisson, who was prostrated from the shock occasioned by the suicide of her son, was unable to attend the services and since attempting to take her life, she is being closely guarded by her friends.

Louis Schrade.

HOOPER, Neb., May 24.—(Special.)—Louis Schrade, a prominent citizen of this place, died at 6 o'clock yesterday morning at the home of his brother, William. The deceased was unmarried and was born in Michigan about forty years ago, but came to Nebraska when quite young and has since made his home here.

Mary W. Gibson.

PENDER, Neb., May 24.—(Special.)—Mary W. Gibson, wife of P. W. Gibson, agent for the Omaha road at this place, died this morning after an acute attack of spinal meningitis.