

# The McCook Tribune.

TWELFTH YEAR.

McCOOK, RED WILLOW COUNTY, NEBRASKA, FRIDAY EVENING, SEPTEMBER 22, 1893.

NUMBER 18.

ANDERSON'S  
GROCERY.

## THE CONFERENCE.

A Complete and Accurate  
Account of Proceedings  
of the West

## NEBRASKA CONFERENCE

Up to the Hour of Our Going to  
Press, This Noon.

Among the hundred or more of the Methodist ministers in town, the impartial onlooker sees a great variety, in regard to appearance, talent and character. Many of these clergymen wear the Grand Army button or pin. A great many of the Methodists of war times evidenced their loyalty to a government of the people by taking up arms in its defense. Some of these ministers are maimed from the service in the army. If the old-time Methodists understood "knock-down" arguments on the campmeeting grounds, no less did their sons prove that they were of good fighting stock. Here is a minister whose personal and family history is singular. He is the ninth in a line of preachers. He is the fourth in a line who have been Methodist preachers, the "fathers" back of that having been Episcopalians, in the north of Ireland. Some one suggested that he ought to train up his boys in the same way, but he said: "Yes—er, well—you—see—my boys are all girls."

These ministers meet each other with a hand shake and a salutation of the heartiest, and, they have, in the intervals of their piety, a great deal of pleasantries. Few people see more phases of life than do the itinerant preachers. No dreary monotony for an alert circuit rider. Elder Amsbury, who lost his life by accident a few days ago, loved to handle a gun only less than he loved the work of the church.

Bishop John M. Walden, who presides, is a splendid specimen of physical manhood. He has been long before the church in important places. A scholar, a veritable field marshal, he is approachable, and while he is a Methodist, every inch of him, he is "also a christian," as a recent literary character has put it. You should hear him preach, if possible.

During the day, on Tuesday, the various classes of candidates for the ministry were examined in theological studies by the committee appointed for that purpose at the last session of the conference. Every Methodist minister, even though he may have graduated from a theological seminary, is required to pass a course of study, with annual examinations, lasting five years. While this covers some of the points in a seminary course for a second time, much of it is new.

On Tuesday night the first public service of the conference gathering was held. Rev. D. F. Rodabaugh of Holdrege was appointed to preach the conference sermon, but owing to a temporary indisposition, he was compelled to ask to be excused, and Rev. P. A. Cool, D. D., president of Smith college, Sedalia, Missouri, preached the sermon of the evening. It was a very earnest and instructive discussion on "The Source of Spiritual Power." Rev. Manley S. Hard, D. D., of New York, conducted a devotional service at the conclusion of the sermon.

The conference session proper opened on Wednesday morning, at 8 o'clock. Rev. A. J. Clifton of Culbertson conducted a short prayer meeting. Bishop John M. Walden then took the chair, and led devotional services. He then conducted a sacramental service, being assisted by Reverends Mastin, Coffman, Henderson, Mather and Leonard, and Doctors M. S. Hard and P. A. Cool. Nearly all of those present partook of the communion.

At the session of the conference, a year ago, the West Nebraska conference was divided, a new conference being organized in the northwest part of the state. On this account the attendance at this session is smaller. At the roll call, by Rev. L. W. Chandler, former statistical secretary, fifty-one members responded.

After three ballots Rev. O. R. Beebe of Minden was elected secretary, with C. A. Hale, B. F. Haywood and James Lisle, assistants.

Rev. W. E. Hardaway of North Platte was elected Statistical Secretary, with E. Smith, I. F. McKay and W. H. D. Hornaday, assistants.

Rev. D. F. Rodabaugh of Holdrege, was elected treasurer, with S. Hartley, T. L. Ransom, B. C. Peck, and D. Street-er assistants.

The system observed in the Methodist conference relative to the collection and publication of statistics of the churches, is exceedingly comprehensive. Every pastor is furnished with a set of blanks for the purpose of making reports in a uniform manner. And woe to the care-

less man who neglects this matter, or does the work in a slovenly manner. By the time the Bishop hauls a man over the coals in open conference once or twice, he generally learns to attend to the business in a business-like way. No other church is so careful in this matter. In fact the Methodists were the first people who ever, in America, reported their church membership. In 1775, when the Revolutionary war broke out, the Congregational church reported only its ministers, over 500, and the Methodists reported their membership, less than 1,200. The number of Methodists in the United States, active communicants, is to-day more than 4,000,000.

The conference received, Wednesday morning, from the Methodist Book Concern, the publishing house of the church, a draft for \$635, dividends from the house, which is to be used for the assistance of needy ministers in the conference. This is one of the largest publishing houses in the world that is devoted to the publication of denominational literature.

On the nomination of the presiding elders, committees were appointed to attend to all the divisions of church work. By the work of these committees, the business of the conference is greatly expedited.

On Wednesday night was held the anniversary of the Church Extension Society; Rev. R. D. Black, of Kearney, presided. Addresses were made by Bishop Walden and Dr. M. S. Hard. The Bishop emphasized the fact that far more and better work can be done by means of organization than if each tries to stand for himself. The address of Dr. Hard was a very interesting one. He has a great deal of humor, and by his bright sallies, kept the large audience in the best feeling. Everybody was convulsed when he told how his mother "attended to his case" when necessary, never stopping to say: "Now mind, I'll tell your father." His many illustrations to show the value of a church home cannot be forgotten.

As to the work done by the Church Extension board, he presented figures that were singularly impressive. During its life of twenty years, the board has aided in building nearly nine thousand church buildings. Very many of these buildings—probably the most of them—could never have been built but for the timely aid thus afforded. If this array of churches were set side by side—with the eaves touching—they would form a solid front more than forty-seven miles long.

Thursday morning, after a short devotional service, beginning at 8 o'clock, Rev. J. W. Shank, D. D.,—editor of the Omaha Christian Advocate—preached a short sermon on "Obedience Better Than Sacrifice." The sermon was very appropriate to the occasion, but the limited time allowed the speaker made it impossible for him to cover the ground fully.

Several visitors were introduced, as follows: Rev. J. W. Jennings, financial agent of the Nebraska Wesleyan University; Rev. E. W. Jeffries, publishing agent Upper Iowa Conference; Rev. S. R. Madeland, Missouri Conference; Mrs. Mary A. Claffin and Miss Allie Frimmer—a deaconess—representing the Methodist Hospital and Deaconess Home of Omaha; Mrs. Isabella Spurlock, representing the Mother's Jewel's Home, located at York, Neb., and Mrs. Louise Collins, widow of a former member of the Conference—Rev. Asbury Collins—who died at Kearney two or three years ago. Later in the morning these ladies made short addresses.

The work done by the Methodist hospital at Omaha is phenomenal in extent and importance. More than 1,000 patients have been treated since May, 1891, over 800 of these being surgical; and during the whole time there have been but twenty-five deaths in the institution. Among the members of the medical staff are physicians, surgeons and specialists of the highest class of ability. And so well has this become known among persons in the vicinity that the institution is crowded beyond its capacity. A great deal of gratuitous work is done for the needy poor, and in case of accidents and emergencies. On this account the management finds it necessary to appeal to the public for donations. Anything that can be used in such a place—money, food, goods, anything—is received with thanks. The ladies are here, hoping to receive such assistance as will enable them to add to the number of free beds they now maintain for the benefit of the public.

The work represented by Mrs. Spurlock—and which she introduced by a telling speech, fairly bristling with sharp points, made yet more impressive by the eminently pleasing manner of the speaker—is The Mother's Jewel's Home, at York. This is under the charge of the Woman's Home Missionary Society of the church, and is intended for orphans, or half orphans, from any part (Continued on 5th page.)

# WEDNESDAY

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