

LUTHERAN SYNOD ENDS

TO HAVE PUBLISHING HOUSE

United Synod of Lutheran Church Concludes Busy Session at Dallas to Meet at Savannah, Ga., in October, 1906—Proposition to Establish Publishing House in Columbia, S. C., Involving Outlay of \$400,000, Endorsed—Funds to be Furnished by Private Parties—Expression Against Remarriage of Divorced Persons—Colleges in Prosperous Condition—Many Reports Heard and Other Business Transacted.

Special to The Observer.

Dallas, July 14—After the altar service this morning the United Synod resumed the consideration of unfinished business, which was carried over from yesterday afternoon. The first subject considered was the fixing of the time for the holding of the next convention of the United Synod. Savannah was yesterday selected as the place of meeting, and after discussing at length the time of meeting, it was finally decided that the next convention meet Tuesday evening before the second Sunday in October, 1906, the hour for meeting to be 8 o'clock.

Mr. C. M. Ehrd, of Columbia, S. C., was yesterday elected a member of the publishing committee, and this morning he asked to be relieved from membership on the same, giving as his reason his poor health. His request was granted, and his brother, Mr. D. Ehrd, was elected a member of the committee in his stead.

PUBLISHING COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

The publishing committee appointed yesterday held a meeting last night and this morning the chairman, Rev. W. L. Seabrook, submitted the following report from that meeting: Whereas, a proposition has been laid before this committee by private parties from Columbia respecting the purchase of a property in said city for the purpose of furthering the publication interests of this synod.

W. L. SEABROOK, Chairman.

"GEO. H. CROMBER, Secretary."

Mr. Seabrook explained the matter fully to synod, assuring the body that the synod as such would in no way whatever bring financial obligation upon itself in making this purchase. The question was thoroughly discussed and much interest was manifested in it. Some members of the synod were of the opinion that to purchase this property at this time would be an undertaking too large for the synod, during this session, has taken several very advanced steps already. All of the members evidently realized the value such an investment would be.

The Lutheran visitor, explained that all financial responsibility of the purchase would be assumed by individuals and that already several thousands of dollars has been subscribed to the purchase of this property in Columbia and elsewhere. He stated further that the property is located in the central portion of the business section of Columbia and that it was considered an excellent investment by prominent business men in Columbia.

He said also that the property could be sold at an advance of the price asked, \$14,000, at any time, and that a first mortgage could easily be secured amounting to \$20,000 and that a second mortgage of \$10,000 could be arranged, thus enabling the committee to arrange for the purchase of the property, the erection of a building and the provision of equipment and that this could all be accomplished for \$38,000, leaving only \$2,000 to be secured in addition to the amount secured from the mortgage.

Dr. W. L. Seabrook offered the following resolutions:

Resolved, That in the conserving of the best interests of the publishing cause of the United Synod, it is of the highest importance that it own and operate its own publishing house.

Second, That it is the sense of this synod that it own, as soon as practicable, its own printing plant, if same shall be approved by the publication committee.

Rev. W. F. Mitchell offered the following substitute:

Resolved, That it is the sense of the United Synod that, as soon as practicable, the synod own and operate its publishing house.

This substitute was laid on the table, and the resolution offered by Dr. Seabrook was adopted. The report of the committee as a whole was then adopted.

This is a decidedly forward step on the part of the synod and one that will no doubt result in the benefit of the church, and will largely advance its interests.

ATTITUDE ON DIVORCE AND REMARRIAGE.

The following expression of the synod on the subject of divorce and remarriage was given at the conclusion of these sessions and was strongly reiterated:

The attitude of the church of Christ in regard to the sacredness of the marriage bond and its indissoluble character should be made clear and unmistakable by the reviving of the original of this subject in this synod. It is proper that the United Synod should give utterance to what it believes to be the teaching of the scriptures, and that in terms unequivocal.

In the period of the State marriage is a civil contract and nothing more. Divorces of divorce affect such contract only in the civil sense. Therefore an annulment by the State of the bonds of marriage can have no binding effect upon the consanguinity of the church of Christ which resting upon the Holy Scriptures, recognizes in marriage an institution ordained of God and be held apart from civil sanctions and limitations.

While the church cannot look upon with disfavour upon the family with which the bonds of marriage are dissolved under the laws of the State, because of its natural duty of benefiting a perverted view of the character of the marital bond, yet it is not in our province to dictate to the State how it shall deal with this subject, viewed as simply a contract between citizens of the Commonwealth. It is our duty, however, as churchmen, to consider marriage as more than a civil contract and to set it as to emphasize its divine and Scriptural character.

The special function of the church therefore is to indicate by faithful teachings, proper sentiments as to the sacredness of the marriage relation as of divine sanction, and through the ministry to testify to the indissolubility of the marital bond by declining to officiate at the remarriage of divorced parties while both are living.

"Blessed is the light of Scripture, marriage is an engagement as long as both parties do live, and the vow prescribed in the ritual so affirms. While for one specified cause and perhaps also for willful desertion, there may be a proper dissolution of that bond and of all obligations growing out of such marriages, there is no Scriptural warrant for either party to re-marry, while the other is living. Therefore no minister of the church of Christ should officiate at the re-

marriage of divorced parties, unless he is assured that the marriage bond has been dissolved by God Himself—that is by the death of one of the parties.

COMMUNICATION FROM WOMAN'S CONFERENCE.

The following communication from the woman's missionary conference was read to synod:

"To the United Synod of the South: "Dear Brethren: Whereas the women of the Missionary Conference of the United Synod have pledged themselves to unflinching effort in behalf of the \$20,000 movement until such time as the original purpose shall have been accomplished; and in consideration of the fact that \$10,000 of this amount when realized, will be devoted to the much-needed school for Japan, and since the probable contributors to this fund can best be reached through the aid of the pastors, therefore,

"Resolved, That, expressing grateful appreciation of the sympathetic support extended by this body in the furtherance of this movement in the past, we beg that it will take such action as in its wisdom will best secure the personal interest and cooperation of each pastor of this United Synod in having a special offering made to this fund at the Christmas-tide, this being the season especially fit by this conference for special effort in behalf of this movement.

"MRS. W. O. KREPS, "MRS. R. C. HOLLAND, "Committee."

On motion of Dr. Scherer, this paper was received and was referred to the board of missions. This was the first communication ever received from the women of the church and synod appreciated the same. This marks a new era in the history of the synod and the woman's work.

REPORTS.

The report of the committee on District Synod records was read and adopted. This report recommended that appointment of a statistical secretary of synod and Rev. H. Cox, D. D., was appointed statistical secretary by the president.

The report of the committee on minutes of last synod was read and adopted.

The report of the committee on the Common Book of Worship was read and adopted.

CHANGE ON COMMITTEE.

On motion of Dr. W. L. Seabrook, Dr. R. C. Holland was relieved from membership on the publication committee, at his own request. Dr. Seabrook announced that Dr. Holland's request was due to the fact that he has already so many demands upon his time that he felt his request to be justified. Dr. Holland was relieved, and on motion of Dr. Seabrook, Dr. J. A. Scherer was elected to the committee in Dr. Holland's stead.

Synod adjourned with prayer, to meet again at 2 o'clock.

The afternoon session of synod convened at 2 o'clock and was opened with prayer.

OTHER REPORTS.

The report of the committee on literary institutions was read and adopted. This report showed the institutions of the church, Newberry College, Roanoke College, Lenoir College, Marion College, Mr. Amosna Seminary and Elizabeth College, all to be enjoying liberal patronage and to be in flourishing condition.

Rev. W. H. Grover, official visitor to Elizabeth College, submitted his report. He was re-appointed visitor to that institution.

The report of the committee on president's report was read and adopted.

On motion, synod ordered that 3,500 copies of the minutes of synod be published, and that the secretary receive \$25 as appreciation for his services.

It was ordered that an advertisement of the Lutheran Theological Seminary be included in the cover of the published minutes.

VISITORS TO OTHER BODIES.

At the last session of synod Dr. J. C. Moser and Dr. J. W. Greiner were appointed to bear fraternal greetings from this body to the General Council and the General Synod, respectively, and report to this body. Neither was able to attend the meeting of the bodies named, and so reported to synod. It was decided by synod that an assessment of one-half cent per member annually be made to defray the expense of publishing the minutes of synod and to pay other incidental expenses.

Synod also voted to defray the expenses of the delegates to be appointed to bear the synod's greetings to other bodies.

MEMORIAL OF DR. GILBERT.

On motion Dr. L. L. Smith was appointed to write a memoir of Rev. D. M. Gilbert, D. D., who was the first president of the United Synod and president at the first session 20 years ago, and did much for the cause of the church.

RESOLUTION OF THANKS.

On motion of Dr. M. G. Scherer, the

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thanks of synod were extended to the pastor and membership of the Church of the Holy Communion in Dallas for courtesies extended during the meeting of synod in this church, and to the people of Dallas for entertainment, also to the railroads for reduced rates and to the press for the notices of the sessions. In addition to the above, a special vote of thanks was given to The Charlotte Observer for sending a representative to the meeting of synod, and for the liberal space and accurate reports of proceedings furnished.

DAY OF PRAYER FOR SEMINARY.

On motion, synod voted that a Reformation Day, (which is observed annually on the Sunday nearest the 31st of October) special prayer be offered for the Theological Seminary. COLLECTION IN APPRECIATION.

On motion of Dr. Holland a collection was taken to assist in defraying the expense of the excellent missionary exhibit which was displayed in the college chapel for several days this week. This exhibit was secured by Rev. and Mrs. Brown, missionaries to Japan, and synod expressed appreciation to them. Appreciation was expressed also to the American Bible Society here at this time for exhibition. The minutes of the two sessions of to-day were read and approved, after which the president, Rev. A. G. Voigt, D. D., led in the prescribed form of worship by the closing of synod, and at 4:45 synod adjourned sine die, Dr. Voigt pronouncing the benediction.

The majority of the delegates have returned to their homes, but special services will be conducted here tomorrow by members of synod. In the Lutheran church, Rev. G. D. Bernheim, D. D., of Charlotte, will preach at 11 a. m. and at 8 p. m. Rev. J. W. Horine, of Charleston will preach.

THE WEATHER.

Washington, July 14.—Forecast—Virginia: Showers Sunday and probably Monday; cooler Monday; light to fresh south winds. North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia and eastern Florida: Showers Sunday and Monday; variable winds. Western Florida, Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana: Fair Sunday; Monday showers and cooler; light to fresh southwest to west winds. Eastern Texas: Partly cloudy Sunday; showers and cooler in the northwest portion; Monday showers and cooler; fresh southwest winds on the coast. Western Texas: Showers and cooler Sunday; Monday showers and cooler. Tennessee: Showers in east, fair in west portion Sunday; Monday showers, cooler in the west portion. Kentucky and West Virginia: Showers Sunday and probably Monday; cooler Monday. Arkansas: Showers and cooler Sunday afternoon or night; Monday showers.

LOCAL OFFICE U. S. WEATHER BUREAU.

Charlotte, July 14.—Sunrise 5:49 a. m.; sunset 7:38 p. m. (Standard time).

LOCAL WEATHER REPORT.

Highest temperature 78; lowest temperature 58; mean temperature 67. Deficiency for the day 0.07; accumulated deficiency for month 0.29; accumulated excess for year 3.29; precipitation for 24 hours ending 8.26; in inches 0.43; total precipitation for month 1.73; accumulated deficiency for year 6.42; prevailing wind direction 0.00.

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