

DF

EYEWITNESS REPORT ON WHAT THEY SAW AND EXPERIENCED
at the
MINNEAPOLIS CONFERENCE

Confirmatory Statements

Elder W. C. White, who was present through the entire Conference and who, as a member of the newly elected General Conference Committee was asked to serve as acting president until Elder O. A. Olsen could come from Europe some six months later, wrote two letters, one from Minneapolis and one from Battle Creek in which he makes a first-hand and contemporary report of his observations. We quote the pertinent portions of those letters:

"We are just at the close of another General Conference, and in a few days, the delegates will be scattered to their respective fields, and another year's work begun.

"This has been a very interesting conference, and although not accompanied with all that peace and harmony that sometimes has been manifest, it is perhaps as profitable a meeting as was ever held, for many important principles were made prominent, and some conclusions arrived at, that will be of great value, as they may influence our future work. Many go forth from this meeting, determined to study the Bible as never before, and this will result in clearer preaching.

"As you have no doubt noticed in the Bulletin, many advance steps have been taken as to our foreign missions, also some good moves for the advancement of the work in the South."--W. C. White Letter to Elder Smith Sharp, Nov. 2, 1888. (Written from Minneapolis) W.C.W. D. 1

"In many respects this Conference was a peculiar one. I suppose that many of your friends have written to you about it. There were some features of it that I could not understand, and some other features which I thought I could understand, that are not very pleasant to write about. Certain influences had been working for some time which culminated at this meeting in the manifestation of a spirit of phariseeism. So mother named it.

"The delegates at the close of the meeting carried away very different impressions. Many felt that it was one of the most profitable meetings that they ever attended; others, that it was the most unfortunate conference ever held. Some who left the meeting before it closed carried high colored reports to Battle Creek and other places, of quite a discouraging character. Mother has met this spirit, and rebuked it at every turn, and there is quite a change in the aspect of matters in this state. (Michigan)

✓ "Mother is now getting out Testimony No. 33, which I trust will let

in considerable light. Yesterday was her 61st birthday, and although quite feeble when she left California she is now quite strong and is doing lots of work."--W. C. White Letter to O. A. Olsen, Nov. 27, 1888. (Written from Battle Creek) WCW D:30

Some Ministers Rebaptized after 1888

"My father [W. S. Hyatt] frequently rehearsed to me the great spiritual revival that took place among the ministers at that meeting, and he personally shared in that revival. It has always been my understanding that, while a few of the workers failed to accept and understand the principles of righteousness by faith at that time, yet the great majority of the workers accepted it and entered into a new experience. A number of them showed their sincerity by being rebaptized; among them was my father. I believe that that experience my father gained at Minneapolis followed him in his work throughout the rest of his life time."--Statement by Elder W. S. Hyatt, October 19, 1960.

Elders Jones and Waggoner And the Decade After 1888

Perhaps the true attitude of the church and its leaders towards Elders Jones and Waggoner after the 1888 Conference is best reflected by the invitations which were extended to these two men to conduct the Bible studies in the General Conference sessions held during the next ten years. In fact, they became the principal Bible exponents of that decade. Be it noted that the leaders of the church are responsible for choosing the speakers at the General Conference sessions. They did not have to ask Elders Jones and Waggoner to speak. There were many other able preachers among us. Here is the true historical picture:

In 1889 Elder A. T. Jones took the 8:00 Bible study from day to day and spoke on righteousness by faith. Elder E. J. Waggoner also spoke. See Selected Messages, Book II, p. 361.

In 1891 seventeen Bible studies were recorded in the General Conference Bulletin. All but one of them were given by Elder E. J. Waggoner--sixteen in all.

In 1893 Elder A. T. Jones gave twenty-four consecutive Bible studies which were published in the General Conference Bulletin.

In 1895 thirteen consecutive studies by A. T. Jones were recorded.

In 1897 there were eleven Bible studies by A. T. Jones and nineteen by E. J. Waggoner. One man spoke on consecutive mornings, the other on consecutive afternoons. A large part of the Bulletin is made up of the reports of their thirty studies.

In 1899 Elder E. J. Waggoner gave three studies and Elder A. T. Jones seven.

The records reveal that at the important gatherings of the church for more than a decade after 1888 Elders Jones and Waggoner were the much sought after and principal speakers. These are the facts, facts which make it clear that the rank and file of workers and laity alike respected and appreciated the men and benefited from their earnest ministry of the Word. It is clear that unprecedented opportunity was given for the presentation of the message which was the burden of their hearts.--A. L. White.