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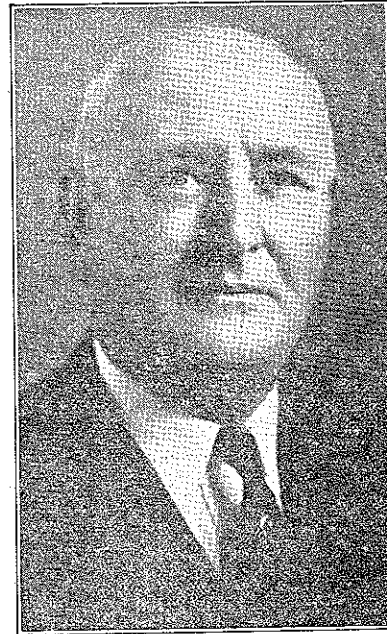
MINUTES

of the

Indiana

Annual

Conference



Bishop Titus Lowe

of

The Methodist Church

One Hundred Seventeenth Session; held in the
First Methodist Church

Bloomington, Indiana, June 16-20, 1948
Being the Tenth Session since Unification

Successor to Indiana Annual Conference of The Methodist Episcopal Church, organized in 1832, and The Southeast Indiana Annual Conference of The Methodist Episcopal Church, organized in 1852, and that portion of The Indiana Annual Conference of the Methodist Protestant Church, organized in 1839, which lay within the boundaries of the Indiana Annual Conference; and that portion of the Central German Conference of The Methodist Episcopal Church, organized in 1864, and which lay within the boundaries of The Indiana Conference.

BOUNDARY, INDIANA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

On the north and the east by a line beginning where the National Road intersects the west line of Indiana; thence along said road to Terre Haute; thence along the Vandalia Railroad to Maywood Road, West Indianapolis; thence north on Maywood Road and Tibbs Avenue to West Tenth Street and thence east to the Lafayette and Indianapolis Railroad; thence north on said railroad to the Michigan Road; thence on said road to the north line of Marion County; thence east on said county line to the northeast corner of said county to the National Road; thence east on said road to the state line of Ohio including Elizabeth, Hamilton County, Ohio; on the south by the Ohio River; and on the west by Illinois.

**ADOPTED BY THE CONFERENCE AS ITS OFFICIAL
RECORD.**

226996

because of the illness and subsequent death of the pastor there. He was pleased to feel needed by the Edgewood congregation, and it was his special joy to have his wife accompany him when her health permitted.

He so often said that he "preferred to wear out, rather than rust out," and he surely did. He had supplied at Barth Place when it was necessitated by the serious illness of the pastor there, and he preached until only a few weeks before the date of his entry into the Methodist Hospital. As a patient at the hospital, he entered into well-deserved rest on May 20, 1948. He would have been eighty-one years of age on the first day of June.

No one—least of all his own family—could ever think of him as being really old; his spirit, his step, his outlook and interest in life was so vital and alert. For twenty-three years he was Treasurer of the Indiana Conference, and for twenty years was president of the Deaconess Board. He was also president of the Board of Home Missions for thirteen years. The entire conference loved and respected C. M. Kroft for his kindness, humility, integrity and devotion to duty.

Final services were conducted in the East Tenth Street Church in Indianapolis, where the Reverend Kroft was a member at the time of his passing. Dr. Sumner L. Martin, District Superintendent, delivered the sermon, and Theron Castleman, a young pastor whom Reverend Kroft had guided into the ministry, presented a touching and sincere eulogy. The brother-ministers present participated in the customary and beautiful farewell service.

His son, Merritt V. Kroft, of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, his daughter, Ruth K. Holman, with whom he made his home in Indianapolis, and four grandchildren have suffered a double loss. Truly, that their children "rise up and call them blessed" can be said of the Reverends Charles M. and Ella L. Kroft.

EDWARD ISAAC LA RUE

(E. F. Schneider)



On Thursday morning at four-thirty, October 2, 1947, Rev. Edward Isaac LaRue departed this life. He was 76 years of age. For nearly half a century he was a prominent figure in the Methodist ministry. He was born at Brookville, Indiana, October 31, 1870, the son of William R. and Matilda Baker LaRue. In this community he was reared. Here he attended high school, graduating in 1890. At the age of 12 years, under the pastorate of E. A. Campbell, he accepted Jesus Christ as his personal Savior and united with the Methodist Church. He enthusiastically spoke of his home church as well organized. He became a member of the Epworth League. In this organization especially he was much impressed for Christian Service for the Master. It is no wonder at all he spoke graciously of his home church as being well organized to give its youth good training. This benefit became his portion.

For four years he taught in the public schools of Franklin County. During that time he studied law in the offices of Berry and Berry of

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Brookville. As an ambitious youth he followed his desire for more
education and entered Moores Hill College, graduating in 1897 in the
Bachelor of Science Course. Two years later this college awarded him
the Master of Science Degree for his faithful effort to achieve that
goal. In 1917 this institution conferred on him the honorary degree of
Doctor of Divinity.

During his student days he felt the call to the Christian ministry.
Yielding to that call, during the pastorate of Henry G. Wood, he was
licensed an exhorter and later as a local preacher. During the summer
months he supplied Elizabethtown. In September of 1897 he was
received on Trial in the Indiana Conference. At that session he was
appointed Junior pastor of the Milroy Charge. After that year he was
appointed pastor of the Scottsburg Circuit which he served for four
years. Then a four-year pastorate on the Hartsville and Burney
Circuit. This was followed by his pastorates at Corydon, Centenary,
New Albany, Fletcher Place, Indianapolis, and Franklin. From here
he was appointed District Superintendent of the Moores Hill District.
During his first year the two churches at Greensburg were united,
making Greensburg one of the strong churches of the Conference.
Bishop Francis McConnell appointed him as pastor of the Greensburg
Church. Brother LaRue made a splendid record as a pastor of the
Indiana Conference. Many were added to the churches that he served.
During his pastorate at Franklin this church entertained the Confer-
ence. He led in movements to extensively repair and beautify the
properties. During his pastorate of the Scottsburg Circuit two churches
were built, one at Vienna and the other at Scottsburg.

After only two Sundays at Greensburg he was stricken with influ-
enza. This kept him out of his pulpit for five months. At the next
Conference he was appointed to Liberty. Here another attack laid
him low. It being deemed wise to change climate, he was sent to a
copper mining camp in Ajo, Arizona. At the end of two years he was
transferred to the California Conference where he served Turlock and
Napa. His health having improved, he was transferred to the Missouri
Conference where he served Marysville, Salem, St. Louis, and Smithton.
Transferring back to his home conference, he served Batesville for
four years. He retired in 1943 because of having reached the age limit.
In all he served 48 years in the active ranks of the church. Brother
LaRue was a good minister of Jesus Christ. He entered the ministry
because of a definite call. His philosophy of living was eminently
Christian. He was firm in his living and in preaching the standards of
the Gospel. He was kindness personified in his attitude toward others
and was a wonderful companion and helpmate to his loved ones.

On May 31, 1899, he was united in marriage to Nettie Grace
Stewart. Besides his widow he leaves a son, W. Stewart LaRue, a
granddaughter, Jane LaRue, a daughter-in-law, Ruth Ralston LaRue,
and a brother, Lincoln LaRue of Gaston, Indiana.

The funeral services were held on Saturday morning, October 4, in
the Greensburg Methodist Church attended by a large number of
ministers. Rev. Stanley Mahan was in charge, assisted by T. J. Scull,
Gladys Marsh, R. E. Badger, S. J. Cross, and E. F. Schneider. His
body was laid to rest in the cemetery at Lebanon, Indiana. Here
Branson A. Morgan officiated.