Minutes of the Fifty-Fourth Annual Session

Erie Conference

Of the Church of the United Brethren in Christ Held in Buffalo, New York September 1-5, 1915

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Harrisburg, Pa.

He was a strong leader, a faithful pastor, a mighty preacher. He loved God, the ministry, the work. He had read his Bible through consecutively 106 times and had nearly completed the 107th time. He and one all-absorbing passion for the salvation of men.

While his presence is no longer visibly with us, yet his influence will long be felt. He has left the imprint of his great life upon the Conference. "He being dead, yet speaketh." He was a faithful under-shepherd and according to the blessed promise, he has received his crown of glory.

Rev. E. F. Swanson gave the address on the life and character of Brother C. D. Swart.

Clemence D. Swart was born in the town of Harmony, N. Y., April 17, 1843. Died February 11, 1915, aged 71 years, 9 months. and 24 days.

He was converted in the M. E. church at Blockville, January

15, 1878, under the labors of Rev. O. Babcock.

In February, 1880, he moved to Niobe, Pa., and soon after united with the United Brethren church at Watts Flats, Rev. E. E. Belden, pastor. He served that class eight years as class leader and Sunday-school superintendent.

In the year 1885, he received exhorter's license, Rev. Mr. Bennehoff, presiding elder. On the ninth of June, 1888, he was licensed to preach the gospel by Rev. L. L. Hager, presiding elder. In the spring of 1889, Rev. R. Smith sent him to Salamanca Circuit to fill a vacancy caused by the resignation of Rev. E. F. Amy. He joined the annual conference at Sugar Grove, August 29, 1889 (Bishop Weaver presiding), and was assigned to Eric Circuit.

At the conference held in Grand Valley in 1891, he was given the Pine Grove Circuit. He was ordained at the conference held at the Diamond church by Bishop E. Kephart, August 30, 1893. That year he held a revival in Frewsburg, New York, and organized a class of twenty-five members. They bought the Congregational church and repaired it. On July 22, 1894, our first United Brethren church in Frewsburg was dedicated by Rev. J. Hill.

At the fall conference of 1894 Frew Run appointment was detached from Pine Grove and annexed to Frewsburg, and called Frewsburg Circuit. He was assigned that charge. It was a mission without an appropriation. He was there two years. In 1896. he was sent to Conewango Circuit; in 1898 he was sent to Keating Circuit and was there a year. From Keating he went to Great Valley for three years.

At the conference at Bradford, in 1902, he was appointed to Degolia Circuit; he remained on that work four years. At the Corry conference in 1906, he was sent to Erie, or what is now Albion Circuit; was there two years, then in 1908 was assigned to Niagara Circuit for three years.

At the Conference in Buffalo he was sent to Conewango in 1911.

He was given Lakewood and Watts Flats in 1912.

The conference held in Erie, Pa., 1913, gave him a superannuated relation on account of failing health. In twenty-six years he only missed one session of Conference.

He always accepted his appointments as from the Lord, and he never resigned or complained, but was faithful to his chosen call-

ing. He was a student of the Word of God.

When told he could not live, he chose II. Timothy 4:7, 8 for a

text to be used in the memorial services.

Rev. E. F. Swanson, his pastor, conducted the funeral services, assisted by Revs. E. W. Matteson and A. O. Sloane. He was buried in the Watts Flats cemetery.

Rev. W. A. Knapp spoke on the life and character of Brother J. Hal. Smith. as follows:

Rev. J. Hal. Smith was born on September 15, 1862, in Mt. Pleasant, Iowa, His parents were carnest Christians and were members of the Baptist Church. Brother Smith received his early religious training in that church. In regard to his early religious experiences, he says: "I received my first religious impression when I was seven years old; but, being only a child, not knowing what was the matter with me, my people also not understanding my condition, nothing came of it." His next definite impression came when about sixteen, but the full assurance of his acceptance with God did not occur until he was about twenty-five years of age, and, at the time, a member of the Methodist Church.

He received a common-school education and had special training for his life work in a Bible school in Kansas City, and in the Christian Workers' Training School at Nyock, New York.

Feeling the divine call to missionary work in Africa, he sailed in November, 1892. From that day until the hour of his translation, he served his Lord faithfully and well in that most difficult field. It can truthfully be said of him, he was "faithful unto death." His was a many-sided life. He was missionary, pastor, teacher, doctor, nurse, builder-in fact, everything and anything that needed to be done, he did it, if it would push forward his Master's work. Mr. Hursh, one of our missionaries, and an intimate friend of Brother Smith, spoke of him thus: "He preached and taught, and healed and lived as one having authority—not in

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