

CONSEIL PROTESTANT DU CONGO.

MEETING OF LOCAL COMMITTEE, LEOPOLDVILLE, 19th DECEMBER 1933.

1. PRESENT.

Rev. C. E. Pugh, EMS.  
Rev. John Sodergren, SMF.  
Rev. Henry Erickson, ABFMS.  
Rev. H.W. Coxill, CPC. (Secretary)

*Copy for  
B. & F. B. S.  
Ross*

Mr. Erickson opened the meeting with prayer.

2. BOOKSHOP.

The secretary reported on the replies received to the C.P.C. circulars relating to the proposed union bookshop. The committee felt that sufficient favourable replies had been received from the missions in Congo to promise the shop a fair chance of success; it was therefore decided,

- a. That the secretary communicate this opinion to the B. & F. B. S. and seek to arrange with that society the engagement of the Manager, the time of his arrival and the date on which the Bookshop shall commence operations.
- b. That as the Committee feels the success or failure of the shop depends almost entirely on the type of man chosen as manager, this opinion be expressed when writing to the B. & F. B. S.
- c. That the Committee confer with the Board of Trustees of the Union Mission House as to the terms on which the manager of the Bookshop shall be provided with board and lodging.

3. 1934 CONFERENCE.

A generous invitation from the APCM for a conference to meet at MUTOTO, and extracts from a letter written by Mr. Emory Ross were read.

After careful consideration it was agreed;

- a. That a conference be held, but only one, in 1934.
- b. That we accept the invitation of the APCM and that the Conference meet at the Mutoto station of that Mission.
- c. That we are in full sympathy and accord with the decision reached by the APCM as to the type of conference favoured, as expressed in the letter of the Mission's secretary dated Luebo, 6th November 1933.
- d. That the CPC secretary arrange with the friends at Mutoto as to the best time toward the end of the year for such a conference.

- e. That the CPC decide later as to whether this conference to be held at Mutoto be known as a Regional or a General Conference.

4. NEXT COUNCIL MEETING.

It was decided to hold the next Council meeting at Mutoto immediately prior to the Conference to be held there, provided the local Committee of arrangements is agreeable.

5. NOTE OF COLONIAL MINISTER.

The Committee felt that this Note should not be circulated until we were also in possession of the reply to it which is being prepared and presented at the request of the CPC by the International Missionary Council.

6. L'IMPÔT PERSONNEL.

A letter of the Gouverneur Général dated 18th November 1933 regarding taxes was read and considered and it was decided that the secretary seek an opportunity of seeing Vice-Gouverneur Général Postiaux in person regarding it.

7. 1934 ESTIMATES.

The Committee decided to request the missions to endeavour to pay the C.F.C. Grants for 1934 as far as is possible in ~~France~~ Belge, or in other currency at current exchange values, according to the estimates in francs for the year 1933.

8. LINGALA GRAMMAR AND VOCABULARY.

Sincere appreciation was expressed of the work the Rev. M. Guthrie (BMS) is doing in finally preparing this work for the press. The secretary was requested to correspond with certain persons in Congo and Europe whose co-operation is desired, in an endeavour to hasten the publication of the completed work.

Mr. Pugh closed the Meeting with prayer.

H. Wakelin Coxill,  
Secretary.

STRANGE BEHAVIOUR OF ROMAN CATHOLIC PRIESTS  
AT PROTESTANT MISSION STATION OF GAHINI RUANDA

Extract from letter of  
Dr.A.C. Fisher, Royal Society Research Student  
while on his way from Yakusu to Uganda.24. 11. 33.

"A week ago there was a tremendous scene here with the priests. It chanced that they had in the school a girl who had been left them by protestant parents for her education. Her parents were dead and the girl having finished school asked to go into the hospital as a nurse for training.

The catholic relatives came secretly one night and stole the girl away. Thereupon next day the lady worker in charge went over to the village and called the girl out. In front of all the people she asked the girl to make her choice, and she immediately elected to return with the missionary.

The priests heard about this and having ascertained that all the men folk of the station were away decided it would be a good time to make a raid on the station and get the girl back. So the three ladies were awakened soon after mid-night with the news that two white priests were trying to break their way into the girl's dormitory. They found the two Fathers storming up and down the courtyard, and when they expostulated with them they were greeted with insulting remarks in the native language. When their demand for the girl was refused they sent off a runner to the Catholic station for a band of their followers to come up and force the girl to be given up.

Fortunately one of the ladies had a car and she went off to fetch the administrator forty miles away. They returned in the morning just in time to stop a band that was coming from the R.C. Station armed with spears etc. and they found the priests on the station awaiting them. The administrator had the girl out and asked her whether she wanted to go or to stay, and she without hesitation decided to stay. The priests were then packed off, and an "enquiry" is pending. One amusing incident occurred in the course of the night. The priests who were both half tight sent off for more beer to refresh themselves, but the head Christian boy would not have the liquor on the place and told the priests they would have to drink it off the station property. The serious thing is that if there had been no car to fetch the administrator there would undoubtedly have been bloodshed.

Mrs. Church, who is also a doctor was called in to see a dying patient in the hospital while the priests were on the place. Finding the man was an R.C. she asked the priests to go to him. To her astonishment he flatly refused saying that all his people were forbidden to enter the protestant hospital (there is no other) and that he would do nothing for him.

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EXTRACT from a letter written by the Field Secretary of the A.P.C.M., dated November 6th 1933 when inviting a 1934 Conference to meet at the A.P.C.M. Station of MUTOTO. (Actual date not yet Fixed.)

"With reference to the type of conference which our Mission favored the following action was taken:"

"We favor a conference in the Kasai-Katanga in which men and women will be brought together whose only purpose in life is to win other men and women to Christ. These should be missionaries now at work in the Congo and their coming together should be for the purpose of prayer and praise and for comparing notes one with the other that they may profit by each others' successes and failures.

"In view of the general financial condition throughout the world at this time, we favor the greatest amount of economy possible; and to this end suggest that no special effort be made to secure speakers, foreign secretaries, etc., from the outside."

Trusting that you are getting encouraging reports in regard to the Conference, and with kindest regards,

I am,

Very sincerely yours,

(Sé) Allen M. Craig.

"I have been having most helpful consultations with your colleague, Mr. Emory Ross. By this time he will have reported to you that I am hoping to be able to respond favourably to the invitation to visit the Congo area, at least briefly, next June right after my visit to South Africa."

2. From Dr. Robert