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1943 CONSEIL PROTESTANT DU CONGO

MINUTES - MEETING 21

LEOPOLDVILLE, CONGO BELGE, MARCH 12-18, 1943.

582 Meeting. The Conseil Protestant du Congo met at Léopoldville Congo Belge, March 12-18, 1943.

583 Present. The following were present;

American Baptist Foreign Mission Society:

Rev. P. A. MACDIARMID, *Councillor.*

Dr. G. W. TUTTLE, *Councillor.*

Africa Evangelistic Band

Rev. H. WAKELIN COXILL, *Proxy.*

African Inland Mission:

REV. H. WAKELIN COXILL *Proxy.*

American Presbyterian Congo Mission:

REV. J. MORRISON, *Councillor.*

REV. J. H. LONGENECKER, *Alternate.*

Baptist Missionary Society:

REV. C. E. PUGH, *Councillor.*

REV. L. J. TAYLOR, *Alternate.*

Congo Bololo Mission:

REV. H. F. YOUNG, *Ex-Officio.*

Congo Inland Mission:

REV. R. F. SCHNELL, *Alternate.*

Christian & Missionary Alliance:

REV. M. KNUDSON, *Councillor.*

Disciples of Christ Congo Mission:

REV. F. L. ROWE, *Councillor.*

Mission Baptiste Danoise:

REV. H. WAKELIN COXILL, *Proxy.*

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Mission Baptiste Norvègienne:	REV. J. OHRNEMAN,	<i>Proxy.</i>
Methodist Episcopal Congo Mission:	REV. I. U TOWNSLEY,	<i>Substitute.</i>
	MISS ANNIMAE WHITE,	<i>Alternate.</i>
Methodist Mission of Southern Congo:	REV. I. U. TOWNSLEY,	<i>Proxy.</i>
North Sankuru Mission:	REV. H. WAKELIN COXILL,	<i>Proxy</i>
Svenska Baptist Missionen:	REV. J. OHRNEMAN,	<i>Proxy.</i>
Svenska Missions-Förbundet:	REV. J. OHRNEMAN,	<i>Councillor.</i>
	REV. J. SODERGREN,	<i>Councillor.</i>
	DR. E. MATSSON,	<i>Ex-Officio.</i>
Unevangelized Tribes Mission:	REV. H. WAKELIN COXILL,	<i>Proxy.</i>
La Librairie des Missions Evangéliques:	REV. H. M. PUNT,	<i>Manager.</i>
Conseil Protestant du Congo:	REV. H. WAKELIN COXILL,	<i>General.</i>
		<i>Secretary.</i>
	MRS. H. W. COXILL,	<i>Women's</i>
		<i>Committee.</i>

Proper credentials were presented where necessary, and the Secretary read letters regarding all representations by proxy. Miss M. Eldrige, A.B.F.M.S., attended several of the meetings of the Council as a visitor by invitation.

**584. Officers.** The Rev. Ohrneman presided as president of the Council. The Rev. I. U. Townsley was elected Minute Secretary.

**585. Times of Meeting.** It was agreed that morning sessions would be held from 8:30 to 11:30 with a short recess at 10:00 followed by devotions, and the

time for the afternoon meetings would be from 2:30 to 4:30.

**586. Devotions.** Various members of the Council conducted the daily devotions. On Sunday, March 14th, a special service was held in remembrance of the late Rev. E.D.F. Guyton and Dr. T.T. Stixrud.

The meetings were closed with a Communion service conducted by the President of the Council.

**587. Special Committees.** The Chair appointed the following committees to serve during the Council meetings:

*Nominating:* REVS. PUGH, MACDIARMID,  
MISS. WHITE.

*Finance:* REVS. MORRISON, ROWE,  
OHRNEMAN

*Bookshop:* REVS. YOUNG, LONGENECKER  
TAYLOR,

*Otterbein Recommendations:* DR. TUTTLE, REVS.  
TOWNSLEY, SCHNELL.

*African Representation:* REVS. TAYLOR,  
MORRISON, KNUDSON.

**588. Elections.** The Nominating Committee presented the following names for officers of the Council and they were elected:

*President* REV. H. YOUNG, C. B. M.

*Vice Presidents* REV. W. F. P. BURTON,  
C. E. M.

REV. J. P. BARKMAN, C. I. M.

**589 General Secretary's Report.** The Secretary read a report of the activities carried on by him for the Council during the the year 1942.

The Council accepted the report with great appreciation for the many and varied services performed by the General Secretary during the past year. It was

voted to make the report available to all those on the C. P. C. mailing list.

**590. Local committee** The minutes of the two meetings of the Local Committee held since the last meeting of the Council were read and adopted.

It was voted to incorporate certain of these minutes in the printed minutes of the Council.

*1. Property Alterations.* In accordance with the request of the Council (Min. 551) the Local Committee discussed the alterations that would be required; and agreement was reached on the following:-

*a Residence.* The present General Office to be used as a bedroom.

The annex to this Office be converted into an additional Office for special uses. To effect this, the large cupboard is to be moved into the archway between the two rooms. Since this cupboard has no back, this must be fitted in wood, and the wall of the annex now serving as a back to the cupboard, must be made good.

*b. Outside Building.* This consists of a Garage, two centre rooms with verandah room attached, now used as Boys quarters, and a Clerks' Office and Document store.

A proposal to convert the Clerks' Office into the General Office was rejected on the grounds that storage must be provided for the important documents now stored there; that many of the fixtures are built in and cannot be removed without difficulty and expense; and that, facing the west, it becomes very hot during the afternoon. Since the Boys' Quarters are not required for the accommodation of the Native Staff, it was decided that these should be put into shape to serve as the

General Office for the present. This will involve the following alterations.

*Doors* must be fitted to open on the front of the building, and a suitable pathway from the residence be laid

*Ceilings.* These must be raised, and eternit or other available material substituted for the mats now in use.

*Roof.* It was found that a number of roofing sheets are now rusted through, and must be replaced, the whole roof to be re-painted with red-lead or similar paint.

*Floors.* These must be repaired where necessary.

*Walls.* These require partial replastering, and distempering.

c. *Telephone.* It was agreed that an extension to the present telephone connection will be necessary.

2. *Evangile en Afrique* A reply from Miss Lawson to the effect that she would not be able to undertake the editorship of *L'Evangile en Afrique* was reported to the Committee. The Secretary was requested to approach Mr and Mrs Punt, and invite them to undertake this service.

3. *Council Reserve Funds.* After discussion the following Minute was agreed upon:-

"It is agreed that the General Secretary keep, as far as possible, the Funds of the Council in Dollars, Sterling and Congo Belge Francs in as nearly equal value as convenient. The Pension Fund shall remain, for the time being at least, in dollars, in the hands of the U.C.M.S.; it being understood that should the Dollar depreciate and in consequence, the Franc or Sterling holdings of the Council increase in relative value, the Council shall effect an equitable adjustment."

4. *Lingala Committee.* The following Minutes of an Emergency Meeting of the Lingala Committee were presented and adopted:-

- a. "The Meeting was called to discuss matters arising out of the fact of the leaving of the Secretary for furlough.

It was decided to recommend to the C. P. C. Local Committee that Mr. Newbery of Upoto, (BMS) be asked to act as Secretary of the Lingala Committee during the absence of Mr. Chilvers.

*Lingala N. T.* It was noted that a letter had been received from London stating that the printing of the N. T. was proceeding satisfactorily and that Mr Guthrie was reading the proofs.

*Lingala Hymn Book.* The Secretary reported that the old Lingala Hymn book was being revised and that a number of hymns were to hand for the supplement. It was decided to proceed with the work of revision immediately in order to send to the press as soon as possible, as the old edition was completely exhausted."

Signed by C.H. Chilvers, Hon Sec. C. P. C. Lingala Committee.

b. *Action taken.* The Local Committee, on behalf of the Council desire to record their deep appreciation of the work accomplished by Mr Chilvers in connection with the Lingala Committee. They cordially endorse the invitation to Mr Newbery to undertake this Secretaryship.

5. *Congo Force Funds.* The Committee approved the action that had been taken by the Secretary in connection with a Congo Forces Fund to aid Protestant Soldiers and Chaplains serving with the army of the Belgian Congo. Great satisfaction was expressed that we had been able to get one car for the use, parti-

cularly, of Mr. Hamelryck; but the Committee wished it could be possible to obtain cars for all our Chaplains.

It was agreed that a 3rd Party Insurance Policy for the Chaplain's Car, which is held in the name of and is the property of the C. P. C., would be sufficient.

**591 Admission to Membership.** Letters and reports of the work of the Africa Evangelistic Band were read, and since an amicable agreement had been reached regarding boundaries between this Mission and the Disciples of Christ Congo Mission, (See Minute 512. b. 1941) it was voted to accept the Africa Evangelistic Band as a participating Mission in the C. P. C.

**592. Finance.** The Secretary read a statement of the accounts of the Council for the year ending December 31, 1942 and commented on various items. The report was received and approved by the Committee with appreciation.

(a) Position. It was noted with satisfaction that the Secretary was able again to report that income had been in excess of expenditure. The Council was particularly thankful for this in view of the difficulties of the times.

It was noted that the Council had raised considerable sums of money for the *Missionary Relief War Fund* and also for the *Congo Forces Fund*. The *Congo Mission News* had been published regularly for another year without financial loss though it was noted with regret that this had not been the case with *L'Evangile en Afrique*.

(b) Budget. The revised budget for 1943 and the projected budgets for 1944 and 1945 were presented by the Finance Committee and after careful consider-

ation and certain amendments had been agreed upon these were approved by the Council.

(c) Notification. It was agreed that the Financial Statement presented by the Secretary, the Budgets approved by the Council and minutes relating to C.P.C. finance, be mimeographed and copies sent to all Member Missions of the Council.

The attention of all friends of the Council is drawn to the fact that owing to increased living and purchasing costs the Council has had to budget for an increase in expenditure over past years and, acting in faith, hopes that the additional grants and gifts needed from missions, missionaries and other friends will be forthcoming.

### 593. **La Librairie des Missions Evangéliques.**

(a) Report. The Manager of the Bookshop, the Rev. H. M. Punt, serving during the furlough period of Dr. George Carpenter, presented a report of the activities of the Bookshop and submitted a financial statement for the year 1942. The Council voted to accept this report and statement with sincere gratitude to Mr. and Mrs Punt for the fine work they have done.

(b) Notification. It was agreed that the Report of the Bookshop Manager together with financial statements and decisions taken thereon by the Council, be mimeographed and copies sent to the Member Missions of the Council.

594. **Ad-Interim Bookshop Management.** The Council voted to replace Minute 555 with the following:

(a) That we request the continuance of the services of Mr and Mrs Punt with the Bookshop to the end of a two full year period.

(b) The C. P. C. assures Mr. and Mrs Punt, at the end of two-year period of service, passage to England and furlough salary for six months. In the event of Mr and



Mrs Punt leaving the Bookshop, on three months' notice before the expiration of the two-year period, the Local Committee is asked to make a fair adjustment regarding furlough and passage expenses.

(c) It is understood that Mr. and Mrs Punt will regularly confer with and accept the decisions of the Bookshop Committee of the C. P. C.

**595 Financial Status of the Congo Educational Advisor.** Correspondence was read indicating that Dr. Carpenter had been released by the American Baptist Foreign Mission Society as from January 1, 1943 for work as Congo Educational Advisor. The Council expressed its gratitude for the large-hearted attitude of the A.B.F.M.S in releasing Dr. and Mrs Carpenter for this union project. The Council requested the General Secretary to take up with Dr. Carpenter the question of the financial standing of the Educational Advisor's work.

When this information is received, he, in consultation with the Local Committee, shall prepare and forward proposals to the different missions for their consideration. It is hoped that recommendations from the missions will then be available for the next meeting of the Council so that the question of the Educational Advisorship may be thoroughly discussed and definite plans made for the future.

It was also asked that the relationship between the Educational Advisor's work and that of the Bookshop management be defined.

**596 Educational Secretary** The Council requested the Rev. E. H. Morrish of L'Ecole de Pasteurs et d'Instituteurs Kimpese, to act as Educational Secretary during the absence of Dr. Carpenter, the Educational Advisor, and to deal as far as possible with corres-

pondence which may be received at the Council Secretariat addressed to Dr. Carpenter.

**598. Standing Committees: Language** The General Secretary read the report of the Lingala Committee as prepared by the Rev. S. J. Newbery. The report was accepted by the Council. Mr. Newbery was authorized to try and arrange for the translation of the Old Testament; the standard vocabulary of such translation to be the French edition of the Lingala Grammar. The C.P.C. will appoint an editing committee to consider the translation when complete. Nominations to this committee are asked for.

**598. Standing Committees: Medical.** Dr. Elon Mattsson, Secretary of the Medical Committee, gave a report of the medical work carried on by Protestant Missions in Congo during the year 1942. The report was accepted with sincere thanks to Dr Mattsson for his fine interest and devotion in this important branch of missionary service.

**599. Special Committee on Higher Scholastic Training.** A special committee was appointed by the chair as follows: Revs MacDiarmid, Södergren, Knudson and Miss White to study the question of Higher Scholastic Training for Protestants in the Congo.

The Report which was later presented by this Committee was accepted by the Council and is as follows:

(a) The Committee feels that a longer time than was at our disposal is needed to form any plan and program for higher education.

(b) We request the Educational Secretary and the Educational Advisor, on his return, to continue investigating the possibility of union work in higher education.

(c) Apart from the training that looks forward eventually to a college course the Committee was impressed by the need of more practical training for life's demands for the large number of students who will complete primary education but will not enter college.

(d) We request that Missions, in regional group meetings, should consider plans for courses not only covering pre-college or pre-university training but also courses in agriculture, vocational and medical training, etc.

In response to a cable from Dr. Carpenter it was agreed that a committee of ten members be formed to co-operate with our Educational Secretaries in a further study of the subject of higher scholastic training and that this committee report back to the C.P.C. at its next meeting.

The committee was also requested to study not only the problem of higher education as already outlined but also the immediate question of the problem of union medical schools.

The following persons were selected to compose the committee together with Dr. Carpenter and Mr. Morrish.

Messrs. Carrington, B.M.S. MacMurray, A.P.C.M., Stenstrom, S.M.F. Booth, M.M.S.C., Herbert Smith, D.C.C.M. Ross Manning, C.B.M., Townsley, M.E.C.M., Dr. Stanley Smith, C.M.S. and Miss Bonar, A.B.F.M.S.

It was requested that Drs. Tuttle, Mattsson and Holmes be consulted regarding the question of union medical schools.

**600. Commission on Church Polity.** The Secretary of the Commission Rev. L. J. Taylor, reported that he was disappointed in view of the very few replies received to his enquiries but that the information contained therein was very encouraging.

The Council earnestly requests the other members of the Commission to reply to Mr. Taylor's letter as soon as possible.

**601. Development of Christian Councils.** In reply to Rev. H. M. Grace's letter the Council requested the General Secretary to continue his efforts towards co-operation with other African Missionary Councils. It was also recommended to call the attention of the Congo Missions to the editorial "Call for closer Co-operation" in the April 1943 number of the CONGO MISSION NEWS. The Council feels that more should be done to deepen the interest and increase the responsibility and co-operation of African Christians in our missionary task.

The Council recognized that much had been done along this line by the various Missions, but it recommends that further study be made of ways and means by which African co-operation may be increased.

**602. African Representation on the Council.** The following statement was presented by the special Committee appointed to study the possibility of African representation on the Council and was adopted:

While we recognize the desirability of having as much co-operation as possible from the Africans in our missionary work and are steadily working towards this end we do not believe that the time is yet opportune for their participation in the C.P.C. owing to language and other difficulties.

We request the General Secretary to reply to the letter of Mr. Grace referring to this question embodying the points outlined by the special committee appointed by the C.P.C.

**603. Preacher's Helps.** The Council expressed their thanks to Mr. Punt for his willingness to translate into French the Lovedale Preacher's Helps and

requested Mr. Punt to ascertain the number required should such a French edition be published. If the data received is satisfactory the Local Committee can authorize publication.

**604. Commercial Kongo Conference.** The Council requested the General Secretary to endeavour by correspondence to convince the Missions concerned of the inadvisability of printing the New Testament in Commercial Kongo, bringing out the points mentioned in Mr. Guthrie's letter, and fully agreed with the Bible Societies of America and Great Britain that two versions of the New Testament in this "language" could not possibly be encouraged.

The Secretary was requested to continue in his efforts to find the best solution possible to this problem.

**605. Teaching English to Congolese.** The Council wished to go on record as strongly deprecating the teaching of English to Protestant Congo Africans. If, in specific cases, English should be really required by a Congolese, the Council urges that previous consent of the Belgian colonial government should be obtained before courses be held.

**606. School for White Children.** The Council requested the General Secretary to investigate the possibilities and to approach the Belgian colonial government as well as the British and American Consuls concerning possible financial and other aid should the C.P.C. agree to sponser a school for white children in which, while French would be taught, the basic language would be English.

**606. Protestant Chaplains.** (a) Correspondence with the Chaplains on active service was presented to the Council by Mr. Coxill and was considered.

(b) Mr. Coxill was requested to write a general letter to the Chaplains on behalf of the C.P.C., expressing the Christian greetings of the Council. The Council also wished to assure them that what they are doing for Christ and the soldiers of Belgian Congo is most highly appreciated by all the missions in Congo and that they are being continually upheld by the prayers of the entire Church of Christ in Congo.

(c) In regard to baptism, Church membership and related matters, the Council would make the following suggestions:

1. That when Chaplains are working in Congo we consider it desirable that they consult with the missionaries of the area in which they work about such matters.
2. That where such consultation is impossible in Congo, and especially when Chaplains are working outside of Congo, we realise that it may be impossible at times to follow the full course of instruction before baptism which is ordinarily required by many of our Missions. In such cases the Chaplain should, in our opinion, give to all candidates for baptism as much instruction as the actual conditions may permit. Then, if after examination, the Chaplain is satisfied that a candidate for baptism has truly accepted Christ, he may proceed to baptise him and let him enjoy the benefits of church membership.

(d) The Council noted with approval the call for more chaplains and trust that the Lord will yet raise up more volunteers for this greatly needed work.

The Council deeply urges all Protestant missionaries who may be eligible, to consider carefully and prayer-

fully the possibility of becoming chaplains to the Belgian colonial army. Any information regarding qualifications may be received from the C.P.C. Secretary.

(c) It was voted to ask the General Secretary to approach the government concerning the possibility of securing help in providing another car for the Protestant Chaplains.

**608. Appreciation of work among Armed Forces.** The Council expressed its commendation and appreciation of the initiative taken by the General Secretary in furthering the work among Congo soldiers by the establishment and administration of a Congo Forces Fund.

The Council further recognised and recorded its appreciation of the activity of the Secretary and the local Missions in providing for the spiritual and social needs of the several contingents of the United States, British and South African medical and armed forces which have been stationed in and around Léopoldville.

**609. Constitution.** The Council voted to have the revised and ratified Constitution of the C.P.C. printed. The names of the Member Missions and the date of final ratification of the Constitution shall be included.

**610. L'EVANGILE EN AFRIQUE.** Due to the fact that the A.B.F.M.S. would no longer be able to continue with this undertaking, it was voted to ask the S. M. F. at Matadi to print L'EVANGILE EN AFRIQUE. The Council wished to thank the A. B. F. M. S. for the valuable service rendered to the Council in printing this C. P. C. publication in the past.

**611. Proposed Visit of Miss Wrong.** The Council heartily approved the action of the Secretary and the Local Committee in extending a most cordial welcome to Miss Wrong on her proposed visit to Congo.

### **612. World Fellowship on Religious Education.**

The Council heard the correspondence concerning a World Fellowship on Religious Education and empowered the Secretary to approach those on the Committee on Higher Education with a view to their serving on such a committee in the future.

### **613. Recommendations from the Church Conference on African Affairs.**

(a) The Council voted to recommend wholeheartedly a thorough study of the book "Christian Action in Africa"; the report of the Conference held at Otterbein College, Westerville, in June 1942, by each Congo missionary individually and by each Mission collectively.

The following sections were considered as demanding most urgent consideration:

1. Religious Liberty and Missionary Freedom
2. American Negro Missionaries
3. Africa and Peace Aims
4. Belgian Congo.

(b) The Council also draws the attention of the Missions to the following sections of "Christian Action in Africa" with the view that they be studied, and requests the Missions to report their findings or opinions on these subjects to the General Secretary before the next meeting of the Council.

1. Evangelism and the Building of the Church
2. Christian Education
3. Christian Literature
4. Unity in Christ
5. Christian Ministry of Healing
6. General Recommendations
7. Missionary Personnel

(c) The following recommendations as formulated by Otterbein Conference, and as stated in the Report, were adopted by the Council:



## RELIGIOUS LIBERTY AND MISSIONARY FREEDOM

43. (p. 167) "We here again as members of Protestant Churches record our purpose and determination to practise and by all Christian means to defend religious liberty and missionary freedom."

44. "We commend the action of the Foreign Mission Conference of North America and the Federal Council of Churches of Christ in America in creating jointly a commission to study these questions in their currently changing world settings."

45. "We request that Commission and the African Committee to give special consideration to and help in righting the relationships between the African Protestant, Roman Catholic, and Muslim communities in those large African areas where forced inequalities exist and where the full principles of religious liberty and missionary freedom do not rule."

### BELGIAN CONGO

*"We recommend:"*

143. (p. 177) That it be recorded as the considered judgement of this Conference:"

(A) "That the policy of the Belgian Colonial Government, progressively developed for some fifteen years against repeated and reasoned protests, of financially supporting and otherwise favoring Roman Catholic educational work exclusively, is a flagrant violation of the principles of religious liberty and missionary freedom which are embodied in basic treaties and laws of the Colony, and is contrary to the legal practices in Belgium itself;"

(B) "That this policy is developing in Congo a privileged class of Roman Catholics and a seriously

underprivileged class of Protestant Africans, heavily restricting the opportunities of the latter large group for effective participation in public life solely on the ground of religious affiliation; and"

(C) "That this state of affairs should be brought to the notice of the Belgian and other appropriate Governments, with a plea that bases of absolute equality of treatment and support be adopted in respect to all missions doing work beneficial to the peoples of the Congo and measuring up to the result-standards adopted by the Government, and that post-war settlements be assured which will provide effectively for a more equitable administration in the spirit of religious freedom and equality of opportunity for all, irrespective of religious affiliation"

144. "That efforts be made through the Foreign Missions Conference and the International Missionary Council to ensure that the Congo Protestant Council in common with the other Christian Councils in Africa shall have effective representation in the deliberation and proceedings leading to the peace settlements after the present war."

(D) The Congo Protestant Council voted to request the General Secretary of the C. P. C. to implement the findings of the Otterbein Conference following the suggestions contained in the House motion referring to that question.

**614. Retirement of Dr. A. L. Warnshuis** The retirement of Dr. Warnshuis as a Secretary of the International Missionary Council as from December 31, 1942, was noted and the Council expressed its deep appreciation for all that Dr. Warnshuis had done for the Church Universal and the African Church of Christ in particular. A sincere welcome was extended to Dr. Decker as his successor.

**615 World-Wide Communion Sunday.** The Council agreed to invite the Missions of Congo to join in the observance of a World Communion Sunday on October 3rd 1943 and to urge the various Missions to join in this world-wide fellowship by celebrating the Lord's Supper throughout their respective Missions on that day.

**616. Problems connected with the Marriage of Africans.**

Revs. Young (C. B. M.) and Davidson (B. M. S.) were asked to serve as a committee of two to investigate and collect information regarding problems in connection with the marriage of Africans and to send this information to the various Missions for their consideration.

**617. Retirement of Rev. P. A. MacDiarmid.** It was noted with deep regret that this was the last meeting of the C. P. C. which Rev. P. A. MacDiarmid of the A. B. F. M. S. would be able to attend as he would be retiring from active missionary work on the field this year. The Council expressed its deep gratitude to Mr. MacDiarmid for his wise counsel throughout the years and assured him that our prayers, would follow him and his family, trusting that God's richest blessing may be theirs in the years to come.

**618. Next Meeting.** It was decided that the next meeting of the Council would be held early in March 1944, at Léopoldville, at the call of the Secretary.

**619. Vote of Thanks to the President.** The Council rose to express its thanks and appreciation to the retiring President, Rev. J. Ohrneman, for his capable leadership throughout the meetings.

**620. Vote of Thanks to the B. M. S.** A rising vote of thanks was extended to the B. M. S. and their staff for the use of the Church building for the C.P.C. meetings and

for the many courtesies and kindnesses shown to the Council members.

**621. Adjournment.** The 1943 meeting of the Council was adjourned with prayer.

J. OHRNEMAN, *President.*

I. U. TOWNSLEY, *Minute Secretary.*

H. WAKELIN COXILL, *General Secretary.*



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