

✻ MINUTES ✻

of

General
...Conference

of the

BRETHREN
IN CHRIST

[River Brethren]

Held at

Stevensville, Ontario,

DOMINION OF CANADA,

May 15, 16 and 17, 1901.

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Minutes of General Conference
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§

1901.

Black Creek Meeting House, Stevensville, Ontario, Dominion of Canada, May 15, 1901; General Conference of the Brethren in Christ convened at 9:30 A. M., with thirty minutes devotional exercises of an impressive character.

The retiring Moderator, Martin H. Oberholtzer, formally opened Conference with prayer; after which the organization was effected as follows: Moderator, Eld. Martin H. Oberholtzer; First Assitant, Eld. B. F. Hoover; Second Assistant, Eld. H. Davidson; after which the Second Assistant, Elder H. Davidson, by request, read I. Cor. 13th Chap., followed by timely and appropriate remarks, and a hearty admonition to exercise love, wisdom and discretion during the considerations of this Conference; after which the Moderators elect appointed D. V. Heisy, reading clerk; S. R. Smith, secretary, and Eld. J. N. Engle, assistant secretary.

Conference then proceeded to enroll the delegates by districts, as follows:

Silver Dale Dist., Penn'a.—Eld. Jos. Detwiler, Peter Stover.

Manor District, Penn'a.—Eld. Henry L. Heisy, Eli M. Engle, Eli Grosh.

Donegal Dist. Penn'a.—Eld. Aaron Martin, Jacob N. Martin.

Rapho Dist., Penn'a.—Eld. Henry B. Hoffer, Amos Sheets.

Dauphin and Lebanon Dist., Penn'a.—Eld. Henry Davidsen, Jacob D. Books, A. B. Musser, Samuel Engle, S. R. Smith, Cumberland Dist., Penn'a.—Eld. Jonathan Wert, Jacob B. Nissley.

North Franklin Dist., Penn'a.—Eld. Martin H. Oberholtzer, Henry O. Wingert.

South Franklin Dist., Penn'a.—Eld. A. S. Leshner, John Wingert.

Morrison's Cove and Centre County Dist., Penn'a.—D. B. Stoner.

Lykens Valley Dist., Penn'a.—J. D. Keeter.

Dayton Dist., Ohio—Eld. J. B. Wengert, A. M. Engle.

Stark County Dist., Ohio—Eld. W. O. Baker.

Wayne County Dist., Ohio—W. J. Myers.

Ashland and Richland Dist., Ohio—Eld. B. F. Hoover.

Elkhart Dist., Ind.—Eld. John A. Stump.

Palo Dist., Ill.—No delegate.

Whiteside Dist., Ill.—No delegate.

Shannon Dist., Ill.—H. L. Shirk.

Dallas Centre Dis., Iowa—H. H. Garwick.

Des Moines, Iowa—J. R. Zook.

North Dickinson Dist., Kan.—Eld. Samuel Zook, Henry N. Engle.

South Dickinson Dist., Kan.—Eld. Jacob N. Engle, Christian Hoffman.

Brown County Dist., Kan.—No delegate.

Arizona Mission—Reported from N. Dickinson.

Black Creek Dist., Ont.—Elder Jonas Wengert, Asa Bearss, Peter Climenhaga, John Wengert.

Markham Dist., Ont.—John Bestard, David Lehman.

Nottowa Dist., Ont.—Isaac Swolm, Peter C. Doner.

Waterloo and Michigan Dist.—Jonathan Lyons.

After the enrolling of delegates the reading of the minutes of General Conference of 1900 was taken up until time for noonday adjournment.

After prayer, and appointing Elder John A. Stump to conduct the noonday service of thirty minutes, to begin at 1 P. M., Conference adjourned to convene at 1:30.

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON.

After a season of devotional exercises

of thirty minutes, led by Elder John A. Stump, Conference convened at 1:30 P.M., and opened with prayer by Eld. W. O. Baker; after which the reading of Conference minutes of 1900 was finished.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS.

Art. 1. The Committee on Revision of Conference Minutes reported, with explanations which were accepted, and on request a committee of seven was appointed to review the work of the Revision Committee, and report to this Conference. Committee: Eld. W. O. Baker, Eld. J. B. Wengert, Elder Aaron Martin, Eld. Chas. Baker, Eld. Jonathan Wert, Eld. John A. Stump and F. Elliott.

Art. 2 The Church Hymn Book question, which was continued from Conference of 1900, was laid over for action later in Conference.

MISSION REPORTS.

Art. 3 The Philadelphia Mission report was given by Peter Stover and delegates from eastern Penn'a. The financial report is as follows:

Total cost of Philadelphia Mission, including property bought and remodeling, - - - -	\$2,873.83
Amount paid on above, - - - -	2,173.83

Balance debt on Philadelphia Mission property, - - -	\$700.00
Brother Stover and others reported	

that the Mission was doing a good work for the Master, and hereby humbly asked continued support to help propagate the Gospel, that more effective work might be done.

Art. 4. The resignation of Bro. Henry F. Anglemoyer, treasurer of the Philadelphia Mission was tendered and accepted, with the provision that the committee in charge of Philadelphia Mission shall appoint a brother to fill the vacancy occasioned by the resignation of Bro. Anglemoyer as treasurer. The committee appointed Bro. S. G. Engle to fill the vacancy, which was confirmed by Conference.

Art. 5. The report of Chicago Mission was given as follows, and approved:

Total receipts and balance on hand from 1900, for Conference year ending May 15, 1901,	\$327.40
Expenditures during Conference year,	321.73
Balance on hand,	\$5.67

Art. 6. Since there is no regular ordained minister in charge of the Chicago Mission, Bro. D. D. Steckley was appointed to have the oversight of the Chicago Mission, on condition that he comply with the requirements of items 1st and 4th of continued Art. 7th, p. 6, of minutes of General Conference of 1899,

and on condition that if his examination does not meet the approval of the examining Board, the said examining board shall make provision to fill the vacancy.

Art. 7. The report of J. R. Zook, who has charge of Des Moines Mission, was submitted as follows:

Disbursements for maintaining, conveyances, etc., for the Conference year,	\$371.57
Received donations during the year,	72.25
	<hr/>
Balance due Mission,	\$299.32

Since there is no provision made to meet the balance due the Des Moines Mission, and yet some provision necessarily must be made, it was, on motion, agreed that the matter shall be submitted to the different districts, throughout the church, to make an immediate attempt to raise the amount by voluntary contributions.

Conference adjourned at 5:30 to convene again at 8 A. M. Thursday morning.

THURSDAY MORNING.

Conference convened at 8 A. M., and opened with prayer by Eld. Samuel Zook; after which the following was considered:

Art. 8. Charges that have been preferred against the Des Moines Mission

management were presented for consideration, upon which it was decided to appoint a committee of three to investigate said charges and report at this Conference. Committee: Eld. W. O. Baker, John D. Wingert and J. N. Martin.

Art. 9. A verbal report of the Carland Mission was given by Bros. Jonathan Lyons and Peter Steckley, stating that there was a call that a minister should be supplied to take charge of the work; agreed that Eld. S. Baker, of Gornley, Ont., shall see that proper provisions are made.

Art. 10. A verbal report of the Buffalo Mission was given by Bro. J. W. Hoover, showing that there is a small amount due the Mission, and that the spiritual work of the Mission is favorably progressing; this report was accepted.

Art. 11. The report of Bro. Saxton Bowers, Treasurer of General Mission Fund, was submitted as follows:

Balance in treasury May 16, 1900, \$ 82 88	
Receipts during the Conference year,	285.80
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Total,	\$368.68
Expenditures during Conference year,	\$350.81

Bal. in Treas. May 13, 1901, \$17.87

Art. 12. A written report of Bro. A. B. Musser, Treasurer of the Messiah, Rescue

and Benevolent Home of Harrisburg, Pa., was given, and adopted, as follows:

Balance in treasury May, 1900,	\$29.05
Contributions received during Conference year,	870.33
Received from admissions,	\$2,015.00
Received from sale of land,	<u>2,650.00</u>
Total,	\$5,564.38

Bal. debt May, 1900,	\$3,139.61
House expenses dur- ing Conference year,	704.68
Repairs, interest, etc.,	432.10
Land money refunded,	<u>800.00</u> 5,076.39

Balance in favor of the Home, \$487.99

Bro. A. B. Musser also gave an account of the bequest as under Art. "C," page 7, of minutes of General Conference of 1900, as follows:

Paid for erecting Orphanage building,	3,525.00
Paid for steam heat, fixtures, etc.	<u>451.24</u>

Total cost of Orphanage,	\$3,976.24
Recd. from Barbara M. Kern,	\$3,525.00
Balance Orphanage indebted- ness to Messiah Rescue and Benevolent Home,	<u>\$451.24</u>

In connection with the above report the managing board of the Messiah Rescue and Benevolent Home, of Harrisburg, Pa., presented a statement through the secretary, that the building of the

Messiah Home Orphanage as ordered under Art. C, page 7, of minutes of General Conference of 1900, was completed and ready for occupation, and asked Conference to appoint a board or committee to superintend the Orphanage work; whereupon Conference approved the report and appointed the board of managers of the Messiah Rescue and Benevolent Home, of Harrisburg, Pa., to superintend the work of the Messiah Home Orphanage, of the same place.

Art. 13. A petition from Dauphin and Lebanon Districts, Penn'a., to appoint a committee of three brethren not members of Messiah Rescue and Benevolent Home, to formulate conditions as to how church members from various districts, who have no means of support, shall be admitted as members of the Messiah Rescue and Benevolent Home. On motion, agreed that the Moderator, with those of the Board of Managers present, shall select the committee for approval. The committee as reported, was: Eld. Jonathan Wert, Carlisle, Pa.; Jacob H. N. Martin, Elizabethtown, Pa., and John D. Wingert, Fayetteville, Pa. The appointment was confirmed by Conference.

Art. 14. The resignation of Bro. Simon Shumberger as member of the Board of Managers of the Messiah Rescue and

Benevolent Home, was submitted and accepted.

Art. 15. Bro. J. M. Wolgemuth, of Elizabethtown, Pa., was appointed to fill the vacancy occasioned by the resignation of Bro. Shumberger, as member of the Board of Managers of the Messiah Rescue and Benevolent Home.

Art. 16. Conference appointed Bro. Eli Eshelman, of Florin, Pa., to be one of five trustees of the Messiah Rescue and Benevolent Home, of Harrisburg, Pa., to fill the vacancy occasioned by appointing J. M. Wolgemuth, a former trustee, to the Board of Managers, to fill the vacancy caused by Bro. Shumberger's resignation.

Art. 17. A petition from Polo, Ill., asking for an appointment of competent brethren to hold Bible conferences. For want of proper explanations this petition was referred back to it's origin.

Art. 18. A set of resolutions of North Franklin District, Franklin county, Pa., pertaining to the action taken by said district in dealing with affairs which have arisen from the work of a class of people which called themselves the "Fire Baptized Holiness Association," were presented for consideration. On motion, agreed, that the resolutions referred to were proper and in keeping with the doctrine of the Church.

Conference adjourned, with prayer, at 12 M., to convene at 1. P. M.

THURSDAY AFTERNOON.

For want of time and urging business on hand, the usual order of noonday service was dispensed with, and after prayer by Eld. Henry B. Hoffer, Conference proceeded with the following order of business:

Art. 19. A petition from Kansas Joint Council to have General Conference of 1902 convene in Kansas, was granted.

Art. 20. A petition from Kansas Joint Council asking General Conference to appoint an impartial committee to reconsider and ventilate Art. 1, of the minutes of 1891, and report at General Conference of 1902. After some consideration the above petition was not granted.

Art. 21. The General Foreign Missionary Board presented their report of the Matoppa Mission, Bulawayo, South Africa, as given by the Treasurer of the Matoppa Mission, Sister Francis H. Davidson:

Balance on hand from previous year,	\$66.00
Received from U. S. A. Mission Fund,	400.00
Received from produce sold,	581.00
Received from special donations	29.75

Total balance and receipts, \$1,076.75

Disbursements as follows:

Household expenses,	\$289.56	
Native trade,	136.70	
Native labor,	153.72	
Hardware, furniture and blacksmithing,	93.66	
Other expenses and inci- dentals,	162.16	835.80

Balance on hand, \$240.95
Special poor fund of Matoppa Mission
report:

Balance left from 1899,	\$73.50
Expended for charity since 1899,	9.38

Balance January 1, 1901, \$64.12
Report of Eld. Samuel Zook, Treasurer
of the Foreign Mission Board, was pre-
sented and approved:

Balance on hand last Con- ference year,	\$616.24
Received during Confer'ce year,	533.63
	\$1,149.87

Disbursements:

Amount ordered to be paid by Gen. Con. of 1900,	\$500.50
Paid Matoppa Mission at sundry times,	402.40
	902.90

Balance on hand, General
Mission fund, \$246.97
Report of the Matoppa Mission special
fund in the hands of Treasurer of General
Foreign Mission fund:

Amount received during last Con-
ference year, \$400.09

In connection with the financial re-
ports, the Foreign Mission Board pre-
sented the following articles, which were
separately considered and adopted.:

1st. That the Church shall make a
special effort to increase the Matoppa
Mission special fund for the purpose of
making building improvements at the
Matoppa Mission S. A.

2nd. That the Foreign Missionary
Operating Board shall not issue certi-
ficates to mission workers who refuse to
work under the auspices of the Church,
and who refuse to go to the fields desig-
nated by the aforesaid board.

3rd. That any member of the Foreign
Missionary Board who cannot be pres-
ent at General Conference, shall appoint
a brother from his district to fill his
place.

4th. That this Conference urge more
preaching on missionary lines through-
out the Church.

Art. 22. The committee appointed to
investigate the Des Moines charges, as
reported under Art. 8, reports as follows:
"We, the committee, have heard the
testimony relative to charges against the
Des Moines Mission management; have
not found sufficient evidence to sustain
the charges."

W. O. BAKER,
JOHN D. WINGERT, } Committee.
J. N. MARTIN, }

Conference adjourned at 5:00 P. M. to reconvene at 6:15 P. M.

THURSDAY EVENING.

Conference convened at 6:15, and opened with prayer by Eld. Aaron Martin; after which the following business was transacted:

Art. 23. A report from Elkhart, Ind., sends greetings to General Conference, and reports that love, peace and unity prevails.

Art. 24. Is it wrong to have public entertainments in a mission? Referred to district from which it came.

Art. 25. Is it right to have instrumental music in Sunday school and mission services? This question is referred to Art. 6, page 5, Conference minutes of 1899; and, on motion, agreed that the matter which gave rise to this question shall be submitted to the Examining Committee to be dealt with as the case may require.

Art. 26. A petition from Pennsylvania State Council asking whether brethren or sisters from other districts or States, be allowed to collect money, or solicit aid for church or mission purposes, either home or foreign, or for missions not authorized by the church, throughout

different districts, without first being authorized by their own districts, and consulting with the officials of the districts in which such collections and solicitations are made? After some considerations, the following resolution was adopted: Whereas, there is complaint with regard to members going out and soliciting aid for mission purposes; Resolved, therefore, that no person shall undertake to solicit money or other aid, without authority from the church local or general, and likewise have the consent of the officials of the districts in which the solicitations are to be made.

Conference adjourned with prayer at 8:30 P. M. to convene again on Friday at 8 A. M. The evening session was followed by devotional exercises.

FRIDAY MORNING.

Conference convened at 8.00 A. M. Opened with prayer by Bro. A. M. Elgle; after which the following questions were considered:

Art. 27. Will Conference grant permission to issue missionary certificates to ministers' wives? Decided, not, unless they are actually engaged in mission work.

Art. 28. Decided that Conference minutes shall hereafter be issued in the same size and form as in 1900.

Art. 29. That the name and address of the members of the Standing Committee, General Foreign Mission Board, Operating Board, Board of Publication and Examining Committee shall be inserted in the minutes of General Conference from year to year. After prayer, Conference adjourned to reconvene at 1 P.M.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON.

Conference again dispensed with the usual noonday service and opened at 1 P. M. with prayer by Eld. H. L. Heisey, after which the following was transacted:

Art. 30. The mission property on Second and Grand Avenues, Des Moines, Iowa, was taken in consideration, and, after counseling, it was decided, before taking a vote, that Conference unite in a petition to God for divine guidance in the undertaking; whereupon Conference joined in a body in fervent and heartfelt prayers long to be remembered; after which it was decided, by a rising vote, to appoint three brethren, in connection with the trustees appointed by Eld. Chas. Good, to oversee the Des Moines Mission property on Second and Grand Avenues, Des Moines, Iowa. The brethren appointed to assist in the oversight of the Des Moines Mission are, Eld. W. O. Baker, Louisville, O.; J. B. Knupp,

Garrison, Iowa; S. R. Smith, Harrisburg, Pa.

Art. 31. The report of the Board of Publication was read and approved, which was as follows:

Balance on hand May 1, 1900,	\$ 469.95
Money rec'd on subscriptions,	1,253.41
Rec'd from benevolent fund,	30.50
Postage, paper, etc.,	10.56

	\$1,764.42
	1,415.79

Disbursements, . . .

Bal. in treasury May 1, 1901,	\$348.63
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In connection with the above report the Board of Publication submits the following: 1st. We heartily recommend that an effort be made to increase the Benevolent Fund. 2nd. We recommend that Bro. Geo. Detwiler be retained as editor of the *Evangelical Visitor* for another year.

Art. 32. Conference confirmed the appointment of Bro. George Detwiler as Editor of the *Evangelical Visitor*.

Art. 33. On motion, decided to leave the publication of the *Evangelical Visitor* at Abilene, Kansas, for another year.

Art. 34. On motion, the retiring member of the Standing Committee, Eld. Jonathan Wert, was reappointed.

Art. 35. The Church Hymn Book matter, deferred from unfinished business under Art. 2, was considered, and, on

motion, decided to reissue the old Church Hymn Book.

Art. 36. A petition from Ohio State Council, praying General Conference to make provision to issue a new Hymnal of about 200 selections with music, for Sabbath School and other purposes, was considered, and, on motion, decided to postpone it indefinitely.

Art. 37. Conference appointed three brethren as a committee to reissue the Church Hymn Book, as ordered under Art. 35. Committee: Fred. Elliott, Richmond Hill, Ont.; S. R. Smith, Harrisburg, Pa., and Amos H. Engle, Mt. Joy, Pa.

Art. 38. The retiring member of the Publication Board, Bro. Henry Trump, was reappointed.

Art. 39. The report of the committee appointed under Art. 1, was presented as follows: "We, the committee on revising of the minutes, would recommend a classified subject index for convenience in reference. We find the work of the revising committee, with a few exceptions, chiefly with the phraseology, which we have corrected, satisfactory; and herewith submit the result of our united labors to Conference."

W. O. Baker,
F. Elliott,
J. A. Stump,

Jonathan Wert,
Aaron Martin,
J. B. Wingert.

On motion, the report of the Reviewing Committee was accepted, on condition that the original committee, Eld. H. Davidson, Eld. Samuel Zook, and Eld. B. F. Hoover be retained, and proceed with the publication of revised minutes.

Art. 40. An appeal from Greenwood, Mich., for aid from the Church in general to build a house of worship, was granted, and ordered that all contributions be sent to Bro Samuel Reichard, Yale, Mich.

Art. 41. Bro. J. R. Zook, who is in charge of the Des Moines Mission, tendered his resignation to this Conference; and, on motion, was decided that it could not be accepted, but that he be retained in charge of the mission at Des Moines, Iowa.

Art. 42. Will Conference allow any person to hinder or retard the work of any person, trustees, or committees appointed by Conference for a designated work? On motion, agreed that no person shall be allowed to interfere in the work of any person, trustees, or committees appointed by Conference, for a designated work, as long as that person, trustees, or committee act in good faith with the Church; and if any person shall

interfere as aforesaid he shall be amenable to Matt. 18.

At 5 P. M. Conference adjourned with prayers, to reconvene again at 6:15, to close up the work.

At 6:15 Conference convened again, and opened with prayer by Moderator, when the following was considered:

Art. 43. Whereas, the following mission workers now in Matoppa Mission, Bulawayo, South Africa, Sister Francis H. Davidson, Bro. and Sister Isaac O. Lehman, whose labors have been blessed with good results in the conversions of natives.

Resolved, therefore, that this Conference sends an earnest appeal to the Church in general to unite in her prayers in behalf of the Matoppa Mission, that she may be kept under the guidance of Him in whose name the work was undertaken. And, Resolved, that the Church unite in her prayers in behalf of Bro. Levi Doner and Sister Emma C. Long, who are now on their way to Matoppa Mission, that they may be kept in the order of God.

Art. 44. Whereas, it has pleased God in his wisdom to call Elder Joseph Hershey, of Stark county, O., and Eld. Joseph Shirk, of Carrol County, Ill., and Brother Eber Zook, of Calcutta, India, from their fields of labor, and from the

active duties of life, and while we bow in humble submission to the will of our Master, we believe that what is our loss will be their eternal gain. Resolved, that this Conference hereby expresses her deep and heartfelt sorrow for the loss of those who were so much needed in perpetuating the Master's cause. And be it further Resolved, that this resolution be placed on the minutes of this Conference.

Art. 45. After reading and adoption of the minutes, Conference united in tendering a heartfelt vote of thanks to the brethren, sisters and friends of Black Creek District, Ont., who lent a helping hand in so kindly entertaining the members of Conference.

In conclusion, would say that, seemingly, this was one of, if not the most, impressive General Conferences held by the Brethren in Christ. Since from the beginning there were heavy clouds overhanging this body, which, seemingly, had a tendency to destroy the unity of the brotherhood; but we must believe, that in answer to the agonizing prayers of heavy laden hearts, God has lifted the cloud and left a bright ray of hope, that the closing sentiment of Conference was that love, peace and unity were born anew; and that after a fervent closing prayer all could join in the hearty petition

in song, "Lord dismiss us with thy blessing," and extend the parting hand with an "All hail the power of Jesus' name."

Conference adjourned at 8:30 P. M., to meet in Kansas in 1902.

MARTIN H. OBERHOLTZER,
Moderator.

S. R. SMITH,
Secretary.

We hereby submit the names and addresses of members of the different committies and boards as far as we were able to ascertain without delaying the issuing of Conference minutes. It will be noticed that the General Foreign Mission Board is wanting three names, and the General Mission Board is wanting eight names. Would those who know the names and addresses kindly forward them to the *Visitor* for publication? so each one can copy them for himself in the space left blank for that purpose.

EXAMINING COMMITTEE.

Eld. Samuel Zook, Abilene, Kan.
Eld. M. H. Oberholtzer, Culbertson, Pa.
Eld. Chas. Baker, Nottawa, Ont.

STANDING COMMITTEE.

Eld. H. Davidson, Harrisburg, Pa.
" B. F. Hoover, Mansfield, O.
" Jonathan Wert, Carlisle, Pa.
Peter H. Dohner, Cashtown, Ont.
Daniel Climenhaga, Stevensville, Ont.

OPERATIVE FOREIGN MISSION BOARD.

Eld. H. Davidson, Haraisburg, Pa.
" Samuel Zook, Abilene, Kan.
" W. O. Baker, Louisville, O.

GENERAL FOREIGN MISSION BOARD.

Eld. M. H. Oberholtzer, Culbertson, Pa.
" John A. Stump, Nappanee, Ind.
A. M. Engle, West Milton, O.
H. L. Shirk, Shannon, Ill.
Amos H. Engle, Mt. Joy, Pa.
J. R. Zook, Des Moines, Iowa.
Samuel Whisler, Ashland, Ohio.
M. M. Shirk, Goshen, Ind.
J. M. Sheetz, Moonlight, Kan.

BOARD OF PUBLICATION.

A. M. Engle, West Milton, Ohio,
 D. V. Heisey, Clarence Centre, N. Y.
 Eld. H. R. Heise, Victoria Square, Ont.
 " Jonathan Wert, Carlisle, Pa.
 " J. N. Engle, Belle Springs, Kan.
 S. E. Brehm, Hummelstown, Pa.
 H. L. Trump, Polo, Ill.

GENERAL MISSION EXECUTIVE BOARD.

J. B. Myers, Canton, O.
 Ezra Moore, _____
 Saxton Bowers, Canton, Ohio,

GENERAL MISSION BOARD.

Eld. Samuel Zook, Abilene, Kan.
 " W. O. Baker, Louisville, Ohio,
 D. V. Heise, Clarence Centre, N. Y.,
 M. M. Shirk, Goshen, Ind.
