

AME Church Daniel Smith Coll.



MINUTES

—OF THE—

THIRTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL SESSION

—OF THE—

BERMUDA ANNUAL  
CONFERENCE

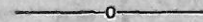
—OF THE—

AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

HELD AT

BETHEL CHURCH, SHELLY BAY

September 21st to 25th, 1921.

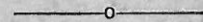


Rt. Rev. JAMES M. CONNOR, D.D. LL.D., *Presiding Bishop*

Rev. E. D. ROBINSON, M.A., *Presiding Elder*

Rev. THOS. A. KENNEDY, *Secretary*

Rev. WM. B. BABER, *Pastor.*



Bishop Connor travelled to Hamilton in the afternoon, and again preached a very practical and powerful sermon at St. Paul's A.M.E. Church, Rev. E. D. Robinson, M.A., Pastor, at the 7.30 p.m. service. The Bishop took as the basis of his discourse Romans I. 13-16 verses, and truly he delivered in his own energetic and forceful manner a sermon that will long be remembered by the large audience that filled the spacious auditorium of St. Paul's Church.

The offering having been taken and announcements made, the Bishop read the Appointments as under:—

- St. Paul's, Hamilton—Rev. E. D. Robinson, Presiding Elder.
- Bethel, Shelly Bay—Rev. Wm. B. Baber, Pastor.
- Richard Allen, St. Georges—Rev. J. W. Miller, Pastor.
- Allen Temple, Somerset—Rev. Thos. A. Kennedy, Pastor.
- St. John's, Baileys Bay—Rev. Austin Richardson, Pastor.
- St. Philip, Tucker's Town—Rev. Austin Richardson, Pastor.
- Mount Zion, Southampton—Rev. Thos. A. Kennedy, Pastor.
- Lighthouse Mission—Rev. R. J. Stovell, Pastor.
- St. David's Mission—Rev. J. W. Miller, Pastor.
- Warwick Mission—Rev. J. H. Simmons, Pastor.
- North Shore Mission—Rev. J. S. Johnson.

The Benediction was pronounced by Chaplain T. G. Steward, D.D., and thus a most interesting and successful Session of the Bermuda Annual Conference closed.

THOS. A. KENNEDY, *Secretary of Conference.*  
Hamilton, September 25th, 1921.

### PRESIDING ELDER'S REPORT.

*To the Bishop and Members of the Thirty-Eighth Session of the Bermuda Annual Conference.* GREETINGS:

After another year's toil in the Master's Vineyard we come to make our fourth annual report. We are thankful to our Heavenly Father for the way in which He has lead His servant during the past year. While many of the veterans of the Cross have fallen out of the ranks in the different parts of the boundary of our church, we are able to say that we have not had reason to complain of a single day's illness during the year.

We began the conference year with the people greatly encouraged by the visit of our Episcopal Head. The high cost of living and high rate of exchange which we deplored last year, we are still deploring, though exchange has fallen about ten per cent. We had the honour of having with us during the year the Hon. William Howard Taft, Ex-President of the United States, who has since been made Chief Justice. The only public address that he made in Bermuda was made in my church. The ministers were invited and most of them were present and listened with a great deal of delight to "The work of the Negro in America and his comparison with those of the British Empire." A great tribute was paid to the A.M.E. Church and its able ministry.

We are sorry to report that the college idea suggested by the Bishop and outlined could not be put into effect because of certain movements already begun by the government.

*Revivals.*—Most of the churches have put forth special efforts in

conducting revival services this year, and several valuable additions have been made. The most notable increase is to be found among the Sunday School. There are more than eleven hundred enrolled in the respective Sunday Schools and with properly trained ministers most of them may be won to African Methodism.

*District Meetings.*—November 25th and 26th, 1920, the District Conference was held at Allen Temple, Somerset, and was royally entertained by Rev. T. A. Kennedy and his good people.

August 11th, 1921, we held our Sunday School Convention at Tucker's Town. The Sunday School Conventions are the most largely attended gatherings that meet during the year in the A.M.E. Church. This year's attendance was the largest on record in Bermuda.

*Financial Condition of the District.*—The financial condition of the District is good. The average workman is making more than he ever made before in this colony, yet his consumption seems to compare favourable with his increase. The great hurricane which struck Bermuda, September 14th and 15th somewhat interfered with conference finances because many had to use what they had to repair damages done by the storm. We have emphasized the five-million-dollar drive in every charge during our quarterly conferences, we also met the ministers in a body and talked it over.

### PASTORAL CHARGES.

*St. Paul's, Hamilton—Rev. E. D. Robinson, M.A., B.D., Pastor.*

Rev. Robinson closed his fourth year at this point in August. The standard of efficiency has not waned. Several additions have been made and the church is in splendid condition. Harmony exists between pastor and people. The people showed their appreciation this year by giving the pastor, in addition to his salary, thirty pounds, which is equivalent to a hundred and forty-four dollars, and Christmas present of sixty dollars.

*Allen Temple, Somerset—Rev. T. A. Kennedy, Pastor.*

Rev. Kennedy is serving his first year at this point. This has been a banner year for Somerset, especially along the financial line. This church gives a Colonial Exhibition and Flower Show every year, and this year was the largest in the history of that charge.

*Bethel, Shelly Bay—Rev. W. B. Baber, LL.B., Pastor.*

At the last annual conference Rev. Baber was transferred from the Michigan Conference and placed in charge of the work at Bethel. Rev. Baber has done good work, spiritually and financially. He recently began the work of building a vestry and vestibule, which when completed will be a credit to the church.

Harmony exists between Pastor and people.

*St. George's and St. David's—Rev. J. P. Stephens, Pastor.*

Rev. Stephens has laboured hard at these points, yet there does not seem to be that mutual agreement between pastor and people which we would expect to see. The pastor desires to receive his transfer at this conference, which we feel would be for the best of all concerned.

*St. John's, Baileys Bay and Tucker's Town—Rev. Austin Richardson, Pastor.*



Rev. Richardson has laboured hard at these points and while they have not had a great material success the best of harmony exists between pastor and people. At Tucker's Town the people are labouring under a great disadvantage, due to the purchase of the Tucker's Town property by the Furness-Withy Steamship Company. By a special act of legislation the people are compelled to sell their property or have it decided upon by special jury selected for that purpose.

*Mt. Zion, Port Royal—Rev. T. A. Kennedy, Pastor.*

The work at this point has advanced, several members have been added and electricity installed.

*Lighthouse Mission—Rev. R. J. Stovell, Pastor.*

This mission has but few members, yet they have several followers. It was for this mission that the attempt was made to have the Extension department loan or contribute something for the purpose of helping to finish a building which was started a few years ago. This resulted in a refusal, on the grounds that all foreign work was under the Missionary department.

*Warwick Mission—Rev. John Simmons, Pastor.*

Rev. Simmons has done the best he could with a few members.

*North Shore—Rev. John Johnson, Pastor.*

Rev. Johnson has done as well as could be expected under the present conditions. A few additions made.

Thanking the brethren for their co-operation,

I am, respectfully,

E. D. ROBINSON, *Presiding Elder.*

## THE STATE OF THE COUNTRY.

A decade ago, Bermuda, thought in point of strategic importance ranking among the first of His Majesty's Dominions, and though vast sums had been expended in fortifications and in the construction and maintenance of H.M. Dockyard, in order that, in combination with nature, Bermuda might be rendered impregnable, and fitted to be the headquarters of the North American squadron, and though tourists, health-seekers as well as pleasure-seekers, had become acquainted with Bermuda as a winter resort, yet, to the outside world, speaking generally, Bermuda was unknown.

To-day this is not the case. During the great World War, Bermuda in common with other and larger British Colonies, sent her quota of brave and loyal men abroad, white and coloured, while from her purse she contributed nobly to the relief of those peoples upon whom the first brunt of the war so cruelly and heavily fell, and thus she was brought as she never could have been otherwise, into favourable notice in England, Canada, and in other parts of the huge British Empire, as well as the United States. In addition to this, means have been taken by the Legislature, by hotel companies, as well as private individuals, to advertise Bermuda abroad, with the result that the Summer Tourist trade bids fair to rival the Winter trade, as evidenced by the fact that the Furness Withy Co., have had two commodious boats on the New York-Bermuda route this summer arriving here weekly, each with a large passenger list.

Agriculture is generally looked upon as the backbone of a country's

prosperity. The past crop season, from a financial view-point especially, was a complete failure.

The weather conditions were most unfavourable, being unusually dry, and therefore the crop yield was far below normal in quantity, and decidedly poor in quality. The prices which obtained were correspondingly low.

The high prices of farm products that prevailed during the two previous years, had induced many large and rash speculations, with the result that many of the farmers lost heavily. Luckily, the summer has been a busy one. Large operations at Tucker's Town and Riddell's Bay, where Golf Links are being constructed, offered steady employment to hundreds of men and boys, and many farmers who were almost or quite impoverished by the hard season, found employment, many of them supplying horses and carts at fairly remunerative prices.

Within the past twelve months the Furness Withy Company were empowered by the Land Development Act to acquire large tracts of land in Tucker's Town in order to construct Golf Links, which, in point of size and beauty, would compare favourably with any to be found on the North American continent.

The Land Development Act is said to have provided that, if any person or persons refused to sell his or their property at Tucker's Town to the Company, if required to do so, by a certain method of procedure, representatives of the Furness Withy Company could make it obligatory upon such person or persons to sell, with the result that some property owned by our people at Tucker's Town have changed hands without their acquiescence, to put it mildly, and the fact has been emphasized in many cases, that even liberal remuneration will not compensate a man for the loss of his home, hallowed to his heart by so many tender memories.

EDUCATION—defective, but improving. The change from the old order to the new is gradually taking place, and it speaks volumes for the broad-mindedness and far-sightedness of the Director of the Board of Education, in that they have succeeded in getting the Legislature to make a special grant-in-aid of something like £2100 to three secondary schools in the Colony, thus placing the educational system on a much higher and broader plane than it has heretofore occupied.

TEMPERANCE—Bermuda today is just as wet as ever. An effort was made by the Citizen's League of Bermuda to get a Local Option Bill through the House, but the effort was unsuccessful, beyond causing the License Act to be amended by considerably raising the cost of Liquor Licenses, so that the rich man can now sell liquor and becomes rich, and the poor man drinks it and becomes poorer.

The Moral condition of the people is on the decline, and, to be brief, would admit of many degrees of improvement before it could be termed good.

How are we to deal with Juvenile Offenders and youthful vagrants? is a much vexed question here. As yet, no effective means of dealing with this class who are daily increasing and becoming more daring—has been instituted. We have no Juvenile Court, no reformatory or workhouse. Many plans have been suggested but none acted upon. There is a private effort known as the "Sunshine League," conducted

by some philanthropic ladies of colour of Pembroke and the adjacent parishes. This institution has been doing laudable work among juvenile vagrants; but, to my mind, it would be much more effective if it were less exclusive.

**TRANSPORTATION**—This may be characterized in a few words as very ancient, very expensive, and very inadequate. There is a crying need for some better and cheaper means of conveyance. Among the working classes, at least, social intercourse with its attendant benefits, is seriously hampered.

Commerce is carried on chiefly between England, the United States and Canada, with the latter to an ever-increasing extent.

The high cost of commodities is due partly to the high rate of exchange, partly to labour troubles abroad, and largely to the love of making huge profits, especially does this latter refer to dry good dealers. Emigration from Bermuda to the United States goes on apace. Many of our best young men and women go thither, where larger opportunities intellectual and otherwise, and a wider field of action invites them; but the sad thing about it is, that many never return to benefit their native land, because the inducements are so meagre as to be almost nil.

**RELIGION**—There are various denominations operating on the Island, but by far the larger number of our people belong, or claim to belong to the Church of England.

Notwithstanding the large number of Churches situated within easy walking distance of most of the inhabitants of the Island, it is regrettable that quite a considerable number (men especially), seldom or never enter a place of Divine worship on Sundays. You will almost invariably find, that under ordinary weather conditions, a large majority of the congregations at the various churches are women, especially is this true of the morning services; hence, there arises a laxity of morals which presents a field of combat for the Church.

It is to be hoped that the pious and religious element of all the Churches may feel their responsibility to an ever-increasing extent, and in their sphere of life, however circumscribed it may be, exert an influence which shall tell on the side of righteousness and God.

Respectfully submitted,

R. J. STOVELL.

## Dollar Money Roll, St. Paul's, A.M.E. Church

Theodocia Williams 4/5; Louise Williams 5/-; Sarah Brown 2/2; Stuart Frith 4/-; Veriel Stovel 2/-; Adessa Ming 5/-; Jane Wears 4/-; Rosalie Bascome 5/-; Edward Matthews 5/4; Henretta Harvey 5/-; Mrs. Peter Bucher 2/-; Caroline Simmons 5/4; Mrs. Alice Smith 4/6 Mary Holliday 4/-; Mary Wilson Wilson 4/6; Emily Dill 5/-; Vivian Ratteray 5/6; Eleanor Bean 4/2; Margaret Perinchief 4/-; Mrs. Andrew Richardson 4/-; Joseph Trott 4/2; John James 4/-; A. Ratteray 4/2; Dorothy Stovel 4/-; Henry Stovel 5/-; George Richardson 4/-; Agnes Perinchief 4/-; H. G. Hill 5/-; Mrs. H. G. Hill 5/-; Mrs. Steward Bean 4/-; John Smith 4/-; Maud Bascome 5/-; James Mallory 4/2; Amelia Mallory 5/-; Usula Mallory 3/-; Sarah Darrell Hall 5/-; Althea Bascome 5/-; R. C. Crawford 4/2; James Williams 4/-; Lillian Ball 4/-; Milissa Simmons 5/3; J. C. Swan 4/2; Helen Allen 4/3; Solomon Simmons 5/-; E. C. Wilhams, Sr. 4/-; E. J. Raynor 5/-; C. E. Simons 5/-; Mrs. F. E. Simons 5/-; R. Bascome 5/-; Stephen A. Swan 5/3; Mary Lloyd 2/-; Olive Swan 4/2; Claud Burrows 4/3; Alice Simmons 3/-; Sarah Taylor 4/2; Kenneth A. Simons 4/-; Thomas Masters 4/2; C. D. Simmons 5/-; Sarah Pearman 4/2; Margaret Ingham 2/1; Geraldine Gibbons 3/-; Anna Stovell 4/-; Catherine Crawford 5/-; Samuel A. Smith 5/-; Wycliffe Stovell 4/-; Eva Wellman 4/-; Jane Elizabeth Tuzo 4/3; Doris Simmons 2/-; Mrs. Thomas Stephens 4/3; F. G. Richardson 5/-; Charles Astwood 5/-; John A. Simmons 5/-; D. A. Brown 4/3; Eldridge Somersall 4/2; Gertrude Stovell 4/6; Melvina Frith 4/6; Lesseline Robinson 4/-; Catherine Harvey 4/2; Samuel Thomas 5/3; Mrs. Louise Jackson 5/6; Vernon Jackson 5/6; Andrew Richardson 6/-; W. A. Ratteray 4/2; Elizabeth Bristol 4/3; C. W. Hinson 5/-; Mrs. C. W. Hinson 2/1; James Frederick 5/-; Ethel Simmons 4/-; Samuel Benjamin 5/-; John Allen 5/-; Gerald Smith 4/-; James Trott 5/-; Rosie Pearman 4/-; Grace Fox 4/2; Edith Crawford 5/-; Mabel Crawford 2/6; Laura Crawford 2/6; Rosalie Burrows 4/2; Bearsford Pearman 4/2.

## Committee on Finance Report

Bethel, Shelly Bay,

September 24th, 1921

To the Bishop and Members of the 38th Session of the Bermuda Annual Conference:

We your Committee on Finance, beg leave to submit the following:

### RECEIPT.

	£	s	d
Dollar Money .....	72	13	8
Easter Day .....	31	3	5
Home & Foreign Mission..	11	16	6
Mite Missionary .....	16	6	6

### Conference Branch Mis-

sonary .....	1	18	3
Children's Day .....	5	10	10
Drive .....	65	10	3
Miss. Roll Call .....	2	5	10
Miss. Anniversary .....	4	15	9
Contingent .....	3	1	0
Minutes .....	2	9	6
Endowment .....	7	11	8
Collection .....	2	19	6
A.C.E. League .....	2	1	6
Registration .....	3	10	0½

Total ..... £233 14 2