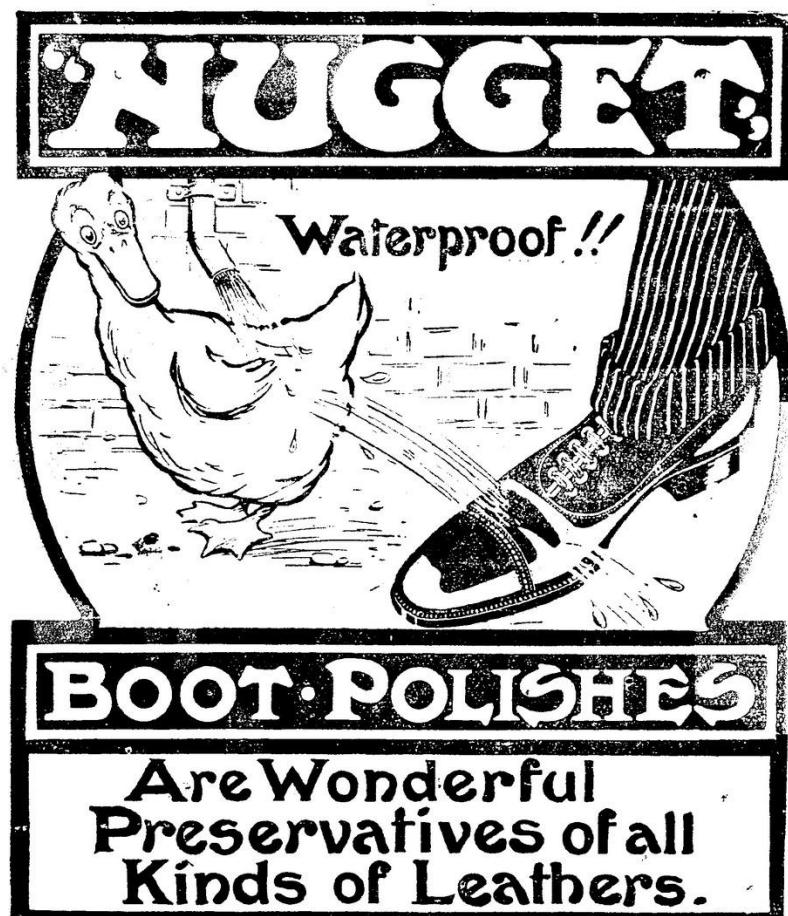


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Light for the Line,

THE SOUTH AFRICAN CHURCH RAILWAY MISSION MAGAZINE.

NO. LXXVI, QUARTERLY.

JULY, 1917.

2/- PER ANNUM, 2/6 POST FREE.

South African Church Railway Mission.

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Light for the Line.

Subscriptions, 2/- *per annum*, 2/6 *post free*, can be paid to the Editor or to any of the Mission Staff or Local Agents, or sent to the Diocesan Office, P.O. Box 133, Grahamstown.

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Members of the Staff are asked to send in to the Editor, every quarter, names of new members of *Guild of Good Shepherd, Mothers' Union*, and *G.F.S.*, for insertion in *Light for the Line*.

LETTER FROM THE HEAD.

Bulawayo,
June 9th, 1917.

As I have travelled some 10,000 miles since writing for the last issue of *Light for the Line* it will not be possible for me to give you now more than a brief outline of what I have been doing during the last three months.

Towards the end of March we had a meeting of our friends and supporters in Pretoria: it was held in the Cathedral Parish Hall, by kind permission of our old friend Dean Gordon, and was very well attended. Unfortunately Judge Bristow was unable to preside, owing to the illness of his son, but Judge Mason very kindly took his place and kept us all in order. I was most fortunate in being able to have the able support and help of our old friend Miss Attlee, who gave a very instructive account of what we are trying to do;

Lady Wessels, the President, and Miss Bristow, the Secretary, keen as ever, did everything in their power to make the meeting a success, and we trust the outcome will be not only a continuance of the support so far given to the Mission but also a real increase. Miss Holmes was unfortunately detained by her Red Cross work at the Hospital and was unable to be with us.

After the meeting my intention was to spend some time with Mr. Rossborough on his Section, but when I arrived at Waterval Boven I found him very ill with fever: fortunately we were able to get the advice of the doctor, who insisted on my taking him to the Hospital at Barberton as soon as possible—which, of course, I did. After attending the Pretoria Diocesan Conference—of which I will write later—I set off on my own to keep the appointments made by Mr. Rossborough, and a very happy time it was. The welcome everywhere was most hearty and I was able to judge of the splendid work and devotion of Mr. Rossborough, which otherwise I could not have done nearly so well. I am most grateful to him and also to those to whom he ministers, for the way they respond to his labours. Mr. Rossborough, when able to travel, was taken “by the hair” and forced down to Port Alfred for a rest and change, and there I left him, fast regaining his health and strength.

As most of you know, the Bishop of Pretoria who, probably, knows more of the actual state of things connected with the War than most of us—he has

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certainly seen much more, for he was in the thick of things in France in the "dark days" of 1915—felt the need for everybody facing the facts, and also for doing something to rouse the conscience of the people in the Diocese to a sense of duty. He called several meetings of the Clergy and Church Officers of the Diocese to consider the question of releasing all the Priests of military age who were medically fit, to offer themselves in some capacity for "war work." It would take too long for me to describe here fully the steps that were taken, but I can state, from my personal knowledge, that nothing was done without the hearty support, approval and good will of the people; nobody could have done more than the Bishop did to find out the real wish of the Diocese. And the outcome of it all is that most of the men have already gone, and Mr. Rossborough will be going as soon as he is medically fit: his one anxiety is the care of the people committed to his charge while he is away. The Bishop and his advisers have arranged plans by which all the people will be provided for—of course not so frequently as Mr. Rossborough has got about (that is hardly to be expected during such a time as this) and we have agreed to let him go on these conditions. If he is spared Mr. Rossborough hopes to come back to us at the end of the War: in the meantime the Mission is faced with certain necessary expenses connected with his going and to help meet them I would earnestly ask those who have been help-

ing us with the Sustentation Funds not to slacken off because he is away helping this cause of righteousness, but rather to continue and encourage others to help us to make it possible for him to do his obvious duty. If any of our friends living on Mr. Rossborough's Section need help, which I can give while he is away, I should be glad if they would kindly let me know at the Diocesan Office, Box 133, Grahams-town, and I will do what I can. This case is entirely different from that of any of the other Chaplains. Every one of them is most anxious to be off if only they could be liberated: it is only the very severest sense of duty that keeps them back, for they know only too well that if they do go *no provision of any kind* can possibly be made for the people to whom they minister. The life of each one of them is a life of very real sacrifice, and all they want is to do the right thing: while agreeing to let Mr. Rossborough go, on account of *some* provision being made, I have had no hesitation whatever in pressing the others to remain. *Nobody who knows us* will question our devotion to the Empire and our readiness to help, whatever it may involve—the rest do not matter. In many, many cases those who have had to remain have the hardest part.

After only two clear days at Headquarters to clear things up a bit and to get ready, I set off to meet Mr. Wittington Ingram: but what a work it is arranging matters—as a result of three telegrams and several letters from me

to him and several telegrams and letters from him to me we both gave up in despair trying to plan a meeting. Only those who have been travelling the endless miles of line in N. Rhodesia and the Congo can have any idea of the difficulties even of correspondence. One who is pretty well used to travelling thought it could be easily arranged (of course he had not been up there) and suggested a certain post-office—the station for which is frequently being passed in the train; that post-office is only about two miles from the station: fancy calling in for your letters while the train waits, under such circumstances! So the only thing to do was to trust to luck, and I found him at Broken Hill. I regret to say he was suffering from a rather severe attack of fever and influenza. I often wonder whether our friends who are ministered to by Chaplains and other workers of the Mission ever stop to think what the wear and tear of the constant travelling, in health and when one is really not fit, means? Most of our Chaplains, at any rate, are about as healthy, sound and strong a lot of men as you could get, but the record of the last year alone tells its own tale of what the life means to them. However, they stick to it so whole-heartedly and nearly always turn up smiling, that many who see and meet them fancy it must be a soft and most delightful job. Well, after Services at Broken Hill and then a lecture on the war we had to press on—not on account of the lecture,

but on account of the trains—to Bwana M'Kuba, Elisabethville, Tachilonga, Railhead, and Kanbove. It was a great pleasure to meet many old friends and to make some new ones in those far distant parts: even at the last station on the Cape to Cairo Line the first man I met on getting out of the train was a man I know, and it is difficult to say which was the more surprised. As a result of what I saw I can assure you there is every reason for hope and encouragement—it is really an inspiration to see the old Church, usually thought to be so stiff and slow, pushing ahead and following her Children right up into the very heart of this vast country. To give one instance: at Elisabethville we were only able to begin regular monthly Services this year and now they have decided to have Lay Services in between the monthly visits of the Priests. Not long ago such a state of things would have been thought impossible. I only wish space allowed for me to tell you more of what is going on, but I must stop. On the way down Mr. Ingram and I met Mr. Seacome and Mr. Hobson, when we were able to discuss and settle several matters which had been outstanding for some time. At Wankie I had a very happy time: it was Whitsunday and the Services were well attended: on the day following we had the well-worn War Lecture, when our friends put up just over £21 for the War Funds. I am afraid I am never quite satisfied with the amount given to the War Funds, for, after all,

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however much we give, most of us take very good care to keep much, much more for ourselves and spend it on things that don't matter. In spite of the vast sums which are being raised many of us spend more on a circus, the pictures, drink and other pleasures than we offer for those who have given or are giving so much for us.

I am very glad indeed to be able to tell you that Mr. Esdaile is really better, has already returned to South-West Africa and is going strong. We offer our thanks to Almighty God for his restoration to health and strength, and trust that he will not attempt to do more than is possible.

Mrs. Lejeune's illness has made it necessary for Mr. Lejeune to find a warmer climate for her—Naauwpoort is noted for its intense cold during the winter months—and therefore we had to say "goodbye" to them in May. We are grateful to them both—for Mrs. Lejeune took a most keen interest in the Choir as well as in the general work—for what they have done during their stay with us, and we wish them "good luck" and Mrs. Lejeune a speedy recovery in the future. At present it is impossible to say what arrangements will be made for the Section recently ministered to by Mr. Lejeune, but we are doing our best and hope soon to get things settled again.

Now I *must* stop, and will do so asking you all for a continuance of your interest, sympathy, help and prayers.

R. THORNELY JONES.

PRETORIA DIOCESE.

Waterval Boven,
June 15th, 1917.

My dear Editor,

I am afraid that this time my letter will contain practically nothing in the way of Railway Mission news inasmuch as during March I went down with repeated attacks of fever which weakened me so much that, after I came out of hospital, the Head insisted on my going away for a rest.

I went down therefore to Port Alfred, that Mecca of all worn-out Railway Missioners, where I had a quiet, restful and most enjoyable time, taking only light duty in the absence of the Rector.

I only got back to the Transvaal at the beginning of this month, since when I have been busy getting ready for my approaching departure on war service in Europe. I am very sorry indeed to be leaving the work on the Line even for a time. The Bishop of Pretoria, however, is very keen that every one of the clergy in his diocese who is of military age and physically fit shall go and do his bit of war service at this critical time. More than 40 of us therefore (half the priests in the diocese) are going overseas in various capacities.

As far as may be possible the clergy who remain will carry on both their own and the work of the absent priests. The scheme, however, must naturally involve a considerable curtailment of work. An exodus of clergy on this scale must inevitably mean that Services, Classes and visiting cannot be carried on with the regularity of former times. But what *can* be done to keep things going *will* be done. Nearly every Railway Mission centre will be provided for as regards Services though they will naturally have to be fewer in number.

I have had very little time for goodbyes since I came back from Port

Alfred, and I would ask those whom I have not been able to see before leaving please to forgive me and to try and realise that it was simply impossible, anxious though I was to do so, to say goodbye to all. I received a splendid "send-off" from the Waterval Boven people the other night and a presentation from the Sunday School children, and I am very grateful for it all.

I am hoping very much that I may be spared to come back to this Section after the war is over. I have been most happy in the work here and I do most sincerely thank all friends along the Line for the real kindness they have shown me ever since I came. Goodbye and God be with you all!

Ever yours very sincerely,
VERNON ROSSBOROUGH.

DIOCESE OF
KIMBERLEY AND
KURUMAN.

28, Milner Street, Kimberley,
June 6th, 1917.

My dear friends,

I am just getting to know my Section a little bit now from Kimberley up to Plumtree, though there are still several of the smaller places which I have not yet had the pleasure of visiting. It's through no lack of good intention, I assure you—I am not responsible for the great expanses of this country! The hope of us Missioners is to let every one on the Line know of our existence; and better still know us as friends, or perhaps even better still, know us as "their servants for Jesus' sake." I am proud to think of myself as your "servant," one who is appointed to attend to your needs, the needs of immortal souls. I like to think of myself as being at your beck and call, and I assure you that in any case of need,

for example sickness, if you would just let me know, I would be there as quickly as the train would carry me. (I would not like to say exactly how quickly that would be!)

Our aim is to have monthly Services at the larger centres, such as Warren-ton, Lobatsi, Gaberones, Mahalapye, Palapye Road, an Evening Service followed by a Celebration of the Holy Communion on the following morning, with more occasional visits to smaller centres. The spare time is well filled up by visiting, preparing candidates for Confirmation, helping people individually to receive the Sacraments worthily, and guiding those who want to come back to their religion. I can't help feeling too what a good opportunity the tennis-court gives not only for exercise but for making friends. Don't forget that there is always a spiritual end in view in all our visits to your homes, even though the word religion may not come into the conversation. It is good for a priest to get to *know* people, so that even if they don't want him for religion yet, they may still feel there is someone they can turn to who knows them and really cares for them, if they do begin to feel that way inclined.

I am full of gratitude to many, far too many to name, along the Line and in neighbouring farms, who have shown themselves full of the spirit of hospitality. Indeed, I feel that I am becoming almost a professional beggar! Thanks to your kindness I would face any of you now and say "Give us a bit of bread." And I invariably get more than I ask!

I hope that my time among you, which you have kindly allowed to begin so happily, may have the continued blessing of God and may be profitable for you and for me for our mutual advancement towards Him.

Believe me, your affectionate friend,
ARTHUR C. HOBSON.

N. RHODESIA AND THE CONGO.

There is nothing very eventful to report for this quarter. We are still held up at Broken Hill over the matter of the site for the Church: the delay is unavoidable, but very harassing. In May the Head paid a most welcome visit to this Section, and we covered the ground between Broken Hill and the Railhead together. At the conclusion of his trip, the Head, Mr. Seacome, Mr. Hobson and myself contrived to meet at Victoria Falls for a day or two, for an "indaba" about things in general, and incidentally for a little jaunt in each other's company, which we rarely enjoy.

Beginning from the south, I have paid two visits to KALOMO: the first was the occasion of the Confirmation, when I met Bishop May there. The Service was very impressive, and everything went off splendidly. I returned on the following Sunday, for the first Communion. On my next visit, Whit-sunday, I found that preparations were made for a Harvest Thanksgiving, and the schoolroom was most suitably decorated. We had a rather larger congregation than usual: but trains interfered with the Celebration. It is always a great treat to spend Sunday here. I have to thank Miss Bayley and Mrs. Gorten for great assistance in preparing the schoolroom, etc., and Mr. and Mrs. Garrick for much kind hospitality. I hope to try and put in a weekday visit here, in addition to the bi-monthly Sunday.

Both CHOMA and PEMBA have been visited, and I was very glad to be able almost for the first time, to have Evening Song and Celebration in both places. We are sorry to lose Mr. and Mrs. Thorne and family from Pemba: they have been good friends to the Mission, besides being positively landmarks on the Railway. They are transferred to

Umtali: as also are Mr. Watson and family from Choma, friends whom I am very loth to part with.

In the MAZABUKA district, I was fortunate enough to be able to coincide with a picnic held by the local residents at LUBOMBO siding. Besides having a delightful time, I was able to hold a short Service, at which I baptised Mr. Dent's little daughter. We also had quite a nice Service at Mazabuka station on the previous Sunday: Mr. Morrison kindly fixing up a "Church" for us, under the lee of his house! A big agricultural show is to be held at Mazabuka in August, and I am glad to say that at Lubombo, the Committee agreed to invite farmers to send in produce, etc., for a Harvest Thanksgiving at the same time, in aid of the Red Cross.

KAFUE, I'm afraid, I have seen very little of, as last time I arrived there, I went straight to bed, and did not emerge from it till three days after. Mr. and Mrs. Havard were very good to me. I hope to pay another visit there shortly.

I have at last paid CHILANGA a call: and although a Celebration was not possible, owing to scarlet fever being about, I was able to take the christening of Mr. and Mrs. Hind's infant. Mr. Venning kindly put me up. The weather was much more favourable for bicycling than on the occasion of my last visit, and I had no need to plough through!

LUSAKA was visited in April, and though the Evening Service does not produce a large congregation, yet I am glad to say that one gets quite a nice number of communicants here. The Children's Service is becoming quite a big affair: 30 or 40 present: I am sorry not to be able to go there more often: but there are not enough Sundays in a month!

BROKEN HILL is still going strong, and the population is likely to increase as soon as the new smelters

start work. The monthly Services always seem to go well, and the only time there was a break-down was, unfortunately, the night when the Head was with me! I am sorry not to be able to report further progress with the Church, but until the site is fixed, we can do little or nothing. The Bishop has, however, put us into touch with an architect of well-known position, and he is going into the matter already. The Head and I were able to attend part of the Empire Day Concert here, on our way south, and very good it was. Mr. and Mrs. Woods have left the Boma, and gone to Kasempa: and on the Railway and Mine there have been a good many changes. Canon Jones gave a Lantern Lecture on the War while he was here, which was well attended and, I believe, appreciated.

We were only able to visit BWANA-MKUBWA on a weekday, and the Head again gave his lecture. I hear that the Confirmation Service went off splendidly, and that everybody was delighted to meet the Bishop. It will not be till next month that I can get back to my proper routine, and give Bwana-Mkubwa a Sunday again: but in the meantime I have been there twice on a weekday, and it is generally possible to have a Celebration there, if not Evensong. Thanks to the kindness of Mrs. Kawstorne, the Confirmation was held at her house. As usual, Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence have been most hospitable and kind on the occasion of my visits.

NDOLA has had to go without a Service for some time, owing to my being unable to manage a Sunday recently. After this month I hope to be more regular.

I ought to mention that at SAKANIA, thanks to the presence of Mr. and Mrs. Noble at the station, I was able to hold the first Service within the memory of man there, one evening, and a Celebration on the Coach next morning. The British population here is purely Rail-

way, which makes it all the more gratifying, and it is very small, only about eight all told.

As regards the CONGO, my monthly visits to ELISABETHVILLE have continued without a break. It has been rather a terrifying experience at times, with the line in such a bad condition owing to the heavy rains; but I am glad to say that is over now, and journeys are more normal if less exciting. On the May visit, I was very fortunate to have the Head with me, and as he took the Services in the town, I was able to go out and try my luck at the Star. People responded splendidly here, and nearly all the British population attended this, the first Service I have held there. The Head, I'm glad to say, also had good congregations, and I know that his words and influence have made a deep impression on people, and that his visit will be a great help to me. The subject of Lay Services, to be held weekly when the Chaplain is not present, was broached, and very well received by the Church Council. It will be a great day when such a step forward can be taken, as we hope it will shortly.

From here we travelled together to TSHILONGO, spent two days there, on one of which we visited the Rail-head. We had a most auspicious trip, and although the British population is small, yet it is a great thing that the Church should at least show itself in such places. It is just as well also that the Head should know the conditions of the work at such extreme points. The railhead is still where I saw it last; but we heard that plate-laying was now recommencing, which will probably mean an increase of population.

We returned back to KAMBOVE, and spent a delightful week-end there. Through the kindness of Mr. Lewin, we were given the manager's new house, vacant for the moment, to live in: the men came well to the Service,

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and there were four communicants. We also had a little spare time, very acceptable, to look round the mine, and write some letters, and play tennis. It was a most enjoyable experience for us both.

It seems likely that a new centre is opening up for me at LIKASI, 17 miles distant, where there will soon be a large population. Quite a number of church-people from Lubumbashe and Kambovo are going there, and must be followed up.

I think this ends the account of happenings up here recently: the more regular one's routine becomes, the less easy it is for one to write fresh news. But at least signs are not lacking to show that there is plenty of work to be done.

E. F. WINNINGTON-INGRAM.

**DIOCESE OF
SOUTHERN RHODESIA.**

Sandown Siding,
June 14th.

Smoke on the horizon made me rush over a most sandy stretch of road to this Siding only to find that it was a ballast train, which rattled through at full speed. So I will start this quarter's notes while I cool down in the waiting-room pending the arrival of 4 Up.

The Head's visit has been a real encouragement and he has said and done just what an older man can and what I myself have left unsaid and undone. I am sorry that his Mazunga trip through Liebig's territory to Messina has had to be abandoned owing to lack of transport from West Nicholson, but he hopes to get to Mazunga later on from the other side. We have just got back from a visit to GWANDA, where we found many people had gone away, and so expected a "thin" congregation. However, those who were left rolled up in great style to Evensong

and we had nine communicants. I was so sorry to hear that Mr. Hoal, the Assistant Magistrate, was still very seedy, but I hope his trip to Capetown will soon restore him to health and Gwanda: we missed Mrs. Hoal, who is one of the very few able to extract music from my box of whistles, as the Head calls my harmonium. Also she was doing so well with the Sunday School, and my own personal loss was the kind hospitality which she always extends. Mrs. Hodge is also just off for the holidays, and so the Sunday School is temporarily defunct; however, I hope we shall soon be able to carry on. Mr. Yates, the Magistrate, was also away, and we just missed the school holidays by a week when his two boys will be back from Plumtree. Both represented the school against Milton, and played a jolly good game against boys half as large again as themselves —very soon the 21-3 reverse will be wiped out. On my previous visit to Gwanda I walked out to the Long John Mine, where I was most hospitably entertained, and I hope to arrange at least a quarterly visit. Further down the Line WEST NICHOLSON grows more deserted each time and we eagerly await the construction of the Messina link!

HEANY Junction works in well now with ESSEXVALE, and it has the additional advantage of a connection from Bulawayo at 10.30 on a Saturday night: Ganger Andrewes has the most perfect cycle stretch on his Section that I know and I was very impressed to find that he and his family had stayed at home all the Sunday to meet me on my way through to Essexvale. Here the Bishop is to hold a Confirmation on the 27th, when I hope we may get the loan of the Police Camp dining-room, which makes a most beautiful church. Corporal Edwards has been transferred to Plumtree and I shall miss him very much as nothing was too much trouble for him and Trooper

Rogers so far as the Mission was concerned. The Postmaster will just be able to be confirmed before leaving at the end of this month, when the post-office becomes a postal agency under Miss Horte—seven hours a day in a tin office is a noble bit of work. I hope the Richardson boys will be home from Johannesburg by the 27th and they will add two more to the large roll of communicants in the district: next Sunday the Rorkes are to have a Morning Service at their farm, when there should be a good muster of those in the BUSH TICK district.

On my southern stretch I have held Services at SYRINGA, BOSOLI and RAMAQUABANE of the smaller places: the farms in Tati are scattered and a long way from the Line on very sandy roads, but the keenness of the people makes it well worth while. I was able to get down to FRANCIS-TOWN for Empire Day—about thirty children and the same number of grown-ups: the Service was followed by the ceremony of saluting the flag and the singing of two verses of the National Anthem. Captain Martin had taken great pains over the erection of a special flagstaff, and all went off without a hitch. If the children enjoyed their picnic and sports as much as did one of the grown-ups, they were fortunate beings. To the Police also we are indebted for our new organist, Mr. Knott, and his playing is a real help, and a great joy after so many unaccompanied Services. The Vestry Meeting—the first I have ever attended—passed off in a most harmonious manner.

The Head's visit to PLUMTREE should result in the resuscitation of our Sustentation Fund, if the people appreciate a regular monthly Service. Mrs. Pitt-Schenkel was to have taken over the Fund, and now the Captain has been suddenly moved to Victoria: her sister has been most kindly looking after the Sanctuary for some months and their departure is a real blow to

church life at Plumtree.

The noble FIGTREE congregation waited over five hours for me on the occasion of my last visit, and we had Evensong instead of Mattins at 11: I hope to enable all the communicants in that district to make their Communion this month. Another great loss is the departure of Mr. Barnes from the Hotel, as he has been always one of the best friends of the Mission, and I am most grateful to Mr. Willsworth, the Station-master, for his kind offer to fill the gap: his hospitality knows no bounds, as the long wait occurred during the interregnum at the Hotel, and he and his wife dispensed meals to the waiting congregation throughout the day.

On the Wankie Line I have held Services at NYAMANDHLOVU, GWAII and the FALLS: at WAN-KIE I was asked to the St. George's Day dinner and was glad of the opportunity of expressing my admiration of the pluck and grit of the ladies living in that sultry spot: I am sure they don't realise what an influence is theirs. Congregations at the Station Hotel keep up well, but I rather dread the heat when summer comes on as it lies in the hottest part. Five days on the 75-mile Straight enabled me to see all the gangers and pumpers—it was a dusty time and I wonder how they can stick it month after month.

RAYLTON has been suffering from a bad bout of influenza, which has had a bad effect on the congregations: we have always managed a sung Service, and I am most grateful to Miss Ross and the choir for their most regular help. The Sunday School is growing and we ought to manage a treat next month—perhaps to the Matopos. There the post-office now makes a nice little church. Mr. Beck recently passed away at a ripe old age after a life of loyal and staunch adherence to the Church; may I offer my sympathy to his wife and Mr. and Mrs. Sansome?

RALPH S. SEACOME.

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S.W. AFRICA.

Haalenberg,
June 11th, 1917.

My dear Editor,

I found myself crossing the border and entering the S.W. Protectorate, once more on April 18th, after an absence of nearly seven months, the doctor at last granting the necessary permission. For the second time I missed a colossal washaway by a narrow margin, and got to WINDHUK punctually. I found a visit from the Bishop of Bloemfontein impending, and was able, by means of daily classes crowded into the last three weeks, to present five candidates for Confirmation at KEETMANSHOOP and three at Windhuk. The Bishop's sermons and addresses were much appreciated, and a great number of churchpeople at Windhuk availed themselves of the opportunity of meeting the Bishop afforded by the generous hospitality of the Administrator and Mrs. Gorges, who gave a garden party for that purpose. I was also lucky enough to accompany the Bishop on a visit to the Wireless Station, which is a very wonderful place, though I am afraid that Colonel Venning's technical explanations went in at one ear and came out at the other. I was one of the four priests working in the Protectorate, who met together for a Quiet Day on May 14th at Windhuk. How rarely we clergy get the chance of coming together, with the additional help of one like the Bishop to speak to about the things that matter! At Keetmanshoop, Major Manning with the Church Committee not only gave a reception at the Magistracy, but also a children's party, which was a great success. I am glad to report that Keetmanshoop, like Windhuk, has started a Church Sunday School, the former being inaugurated by the Bishop himself. Occasional children's services held by chaplains could not meet the children's

need of regular instruction in the catechism, and it is to be hoped that other place will follow suit.

In spite of the time being so fully occupied I succeeded, with the energetic co-operation of Mr. Howells and Mr. Horn, in organising a Railway Social, consisting of a musical programme followed by a dance. It is important to keep cheerful, when there are Germans about, even if you have to pay a German band to do it, which we didn't! It was quite informal, and everybody thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Mr. Airth made an excellent chairman, and the audience was most appreciative, not even kicking at the idea of supporting a Railway Chaplain, whom they were not likely to see again, which was the tenor of my remarks in the interval. I have just heard that the proceeds of the evening, after paying all expenses, came to over seven pounds, which was much more than I expected. I think we ought to have a more sociable spirit amongst Railway people of the various departments, and if I can do anything to create that spirit I shall be only too glad; the money is really a secondary consideration. Our best thanks are due to the following people, who contributed to the musical programme:—

Miss Tetley, piano solo; Mrs. Long, song; Mr. Nicholson, song; Mr. Bristol, song; Mr. Tate, whistling solo; Misses Dorothy Leith and Dorothy Tetley, piano duet; Mr. Mullin, song; Mr. Wock, song; Accompanist, Mrs. Mullin; Banjo Troupe, Miss Neetling, Messrs. Stegman, Howells, Bristol, Bone and Rouch.

I also found time at Windhuk to support the Railway at football, and assisted at the presentation of a Union Jack to the Boy Scouts, who have made an excellent start, under Mr. Wilkins at Scoutmaster.

On the 22nd of May, I started on the road in 205, my new caboose, from Keetmanshoop, stopping first of all at

KLEINKARAS, where Mr. and Mrs. Allan were very kind to me, teaching me elementary mountaineering, and I went on, somewhat behind scheduled time, with the interrupted task of distributing Christmas toys. I found some eighty children between SEEHEIM and NAKOP, to whom the residue of the toys went, and none of them made a single complaint about my unseasonable behaviour. I only hope that the dear children of St. Aidan's, Yeoville, who sent them, won't think that the Railway Chaplain plays with them all first by himself before he gives them out, which would seem to be the simplest explanation of the delay. If they had seen me erecting a doll's house with the skilled assistance of Mr. Pay at KANUS, I am sure they could hardly have thought anything else. I spent Whitsunday at KALKFONTEIN, and during the following week managed to hold Services at NIEUWEFONTEIN, HAM RIVER, where Mr. and Mrs. Peasley made me feel as usual that there is room for me in S.W., KUMS, where the sight of a ganger carried into his cottage by his Hottentots made me feel my ignorance of first-aid, though it turned out that I was able to supplement the remedies for a very violent attack of colic, and NAKOP, where Mr. and Mrs. Marsh looked after us when "14 up" had taken my coach to Kalkfontein, where I picked it up from the up mail. At nearly all these places my new portable harmonium was indispensable, after breaking down at Kleinkaras and receiving necessary repairs at Kalkfontein by the kindness of Mr. Gadd. Then, after two days at Seeheim, where I made up for my previous neglect of Mr. Hindle at KOLSMANSKOP, to KUIBIS, and the generous hospitality of Mr. and Mrs. Vicary (not forgetting the stove, which is not to be sneezed at when the wintry rain is driving off the AUS hills for days at a time). Kuibis now possesses

a troop of police, though the school seems to have become defunct without due cause, and the afternoon Service was well attended.

I have said nothing about the luxurious style in which I travel, with Jacobus Fredericks polishing my brass door-handles. But I must not attempt to do justice to my roomy "German short" in what is already an enormous letter.

I remain, yours, etc.,
EVERARD ESDAILE.

WOMEN'S WORK.

DIOCESE OF GRAHAMSTOWN.

Again this quarter we have been without Miss Beckwith, and have of course missed her much. But we are all trying to do our best not to let things drop while she is away. Naauwpoort is now undergoing a time of epidemics among the children, and the Sunday school as well as the day school has had to be stopped for the present. However, there is a good band of teachers there and when a start is made again I feel sure much good work will be in progress. My visits to STORMBERG, CYPHERGAT, ROSMEAD, WITMOSS, COERNY, MIDDLETON, THEBUS, NORVAL'S PONT, NAAUWPOORT, WOLVEFONTEIN and CRADOCK camp have been full of interest though I have given less time to most of these places than I could have wished. Wolvfontein, which I visited for the first time, gave me a very warm welcome and the children are very keen about the Bible Reading, so I am hoping that next year they will again send in their names for the examination. Only by keeping on steadily year by year can the children really get a thorough knowledge of the Scripture subjects. In this connection I must thank very heartily the mothers and teachers who are taking so much trouble to help the children in the

SOUTH AFRICAN CHURCH RAILWAY MISSION QUARTERLY. 13

study of the passages given.

At this time when we are asked to join in the sacrifice that so many are making throughout our Empire each one of us is bound to do his and her best to keep things going, and not the least important thing is the teaching of the children—the keeping before them the great truths of our religion, so that when they come to have to take their part in the world's work they may have sound Christian principles to guide them. This is why we ask all parents, especially mothers, to see that their children get religious teaching, *definite and clear*. I hope that as many children as possible will ask me to send them the papers to help them in their Bible reading, and I will do all I can to put quite simply and clearly the subjects they are studying.

COOKHOUSE and NAAUWPOORT are going through a time of deprivation as regards Services, but this is an opportunity for us lay-folk to prove our loyalty to our Church. There is no need for church life to languish because we cannot have regular Services.

It is always up to us to have Family Prayers and in some cases it is possible to have a lay Service in the church; and at any rate we can everywhere make arrangements for the *children* to get some teaching on Sunday. If we have not done it before we can begin it now, and so do a real bit of work for God's Kingdom in this difficult time. Miss Beckwith sends her love to all her friends along the Line.

One word to those who are knitting socks for the soldiers—several pairs of well-knitted socks have been sent to me and I am very glad to get them, but because the heels were not the correct pattern they had to be undone and re-knitted. With the wool that I gave the heel flap ought to be quite 36 rows and the intakes after the heel is turned must have two rows between each—there should be at least 15 stitches to take up after the heel is done. The toe

was quite well done, but the fastening off must be done from side to side, not from top to bottom of the foot. If any of you are in difficulties I can send you a written paper of instructions. I am glad so many of my friends along the Line are doing useful work now in place of mere fancy-work. This is so obviously not a time for "frills and furbelows" in any department of life. We are all up against most tremendous realities, and not one of us can afford to be idle. It has taken many people nearly three years to believe that this war has anything to do with them or they with it.

As I go about along the Line I find more and more how each one is feeling the personal responsibility these days are entailing. And surely this is something to be thankful for, since it assures us that we are not wholly selfish, though some of us seemed to think of little but our own pleasure before the war came and aroused in us better and nobler ideals.

A. BURT.

BLOEMFONTEIN DIOCESE.

Having the Coach ever since Easter has made it possible to do some pioneering up the Branch Lines. RENDEZVOUS, VIERFONTEIN, BOTHAVILLE and PHILIPPOLIS ROAD have been visited besides some fresh places on the Main Line. Sunday schools have kept on regularly and except at WOLVEHOEK the numbers have increased. At Wolvehoek three children took the Bible Examination, and the fourth was anxious to do so but was from home. As the same subjects are to be studied next year no fresh papers need be given out and the children can start straight away. My Sunday time-table has to be altered again and from now I hope to be at BRANDFORT on the second Sunday,

WOLVEHOEK third and MEYERTON first, KOPJES remaining the same.

Mr. Growden, who has been our agent for *Light for the Line* at Lindley Road, has been shifted to Kroonstad, so will be unable to continue. I hope to find someone else who will kindly undertake the work for us.

P. GLASIER.

**BIBLE EXAMINATION,
May, 1917.**

This year, owing to interruptions and shortage of workers, we have had to modify the plan for this examination. Some schools that were keen on entering for it have been given the chance of doing so, and much interest has been shown in the work.

Those schools that have taken advantage of the help afforded by the outline papers prepared and sent periodically by the editor find that this plan gives them a definite line to work upon and they are glad to be offered this plain lead.

For the present quarter I propose to issue copies of papers of the kind alluded to on the following subjects:

S. Luke, chapters 12 to 18 inclusive.
The Lord's Prayer and some sections of the Catechism.

Those who would like to have these papers can get them from Miss Burt, The Hermitage, Grahamstown.

The answers to the examination this year are good on the whole, though some papers were very weak. There are signs of a good deal of carelessness in spelling and *in thinking*. The very simple question on the commandments was answered correctly by only two candidates, and that about the Lord's Prayer was also unsatisfactory. Take special notice of what is put on the paper that will be sent on this and other subjects. And read the verses in the Bible very carefully, *thinking*

about what you read. We all want to know what we can of the Gospel story so that we may be able to live as good Christians ought to live. If you try to learn what is taught you and understand it you will be able to help others, but if you go on without knowing now you are young, you will not be able to help other people when you are older.

We were glad to welcome Stormberg, Plumtree and Cyphergat candidates this year, and much hope that they will keep on steadily as Wolvefontein and Wolvehoek children have done.

The Examination this year was only on a limited part of the Syllabus as many children had not had a chance of studying regularly and we thought it better to get a small part well known than too much attempted in a short time.

Seniors and Juniors had the same paper, and this change is fully justified by the results, as some of the younger children sent in better answers than the older candidates. The Stormberg papers were neatly done and most of the Cyphergat and Wolvefontein papers also, but many of the others were badly written and carelessly spelt. This should be noted for attention next year.

HONOURS.

Victor Knipe, Wolvefontein, 11 years, 82 marks (Max. 100).
Barbara Macleod, Cyphergat, 13 years, 79 marks.
Muriel Macleod, Cyphergat, 12 years, 74 marks.
Grace Ferguson, Plumtree, Rhodesia, 16 years, 74 marks.
Hilda Watson, Wolvefontein, 12 years, 71 marks.

PASSED.

Ivy Maguire, Wolvefontein.
Harry Skinner, Wolvefontein.
Lily Ferguson, Plumtree, Rhodesia.
Millicent Liedtke, Plumtree, Rhodesia.
Eliza Ferguson, Plumtree, Rhodesia.
Avice Howard, Plumtree, Rhodesia.
Irene Howard, Plumtree, Rhodesia,

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Elaine Howard, Plumtree, Rhodesia.
 Elizabeth de Klerk, Stormberg.
 Winifred Burnett, Wolvehoek, O.F.S.
 Failed: 12.

,, 7—Alexander Isaac Burch Gobey, at Rayton.
 May 13—Petrus Conraad Le Cordeur, at Waterval Boven.
 „ 29—Charles George Blyth, at Delmas.
 June 21—Edith Edna Watson, at Machadodorp.

CHILDREN'S PAGE.

Dear children,

As I am now your Mission worker as well as editor I must not take up much space with my letter. You will find in the report what I might have said here, so read that and try to think what you can each do to help on the work. All the work has not to be done by the grown-up people. There is plenty for you to do. Just one thing I want to remind you about, and that is, Sunday school. Some of you think if you go to the church Sunday school once now and then it is all that you need do. Now if you really want to learn anything well you must stick to the lessons regularly. I hope lots of you will send to me for the papers of lessons that I am getting ready for you. If you follow out these and do not get tired of doing so, they will teach you many things that will help you to be good and happy.

I shall be round to see you very shortly and hope to find the sick children well and all quite ready to go on with duties and good works.

Your friend,
 THE EDITOR.

HOLY BAPTISM.

At Tses, Dec. 11th, 1916, Gordon Leslie Rautenbach.

DIOCESE OF PRETORIA.

Mar. 5—Stanley Aston Partington, at Tzaneen.
 „ 5—Harriet Thomlina Petronella Naude, at Tzaneen.
 April 2—Louis Johannes Venter, at Dryden.
 „ 4—William Marius Adolf Oldenkamp, at Hatherley.
 „ 4—Muriel Grace Strike, at Hatherley.
 „ 7—Bertie Albert George Eshmade, at Rayton.

N. RHODESIA AND CONGO.

Mar. 21—Douglas Watson, at Pemba.
 April 17—Sheila Hinds, at Chilanga.
 „ 22—John Lewis Bothma, at Mazabuka.
 „ 24—Patricia Dent, at Lubombo.
 May 5—Joyce Broughall Woods, at Broken Hill.
 June 4—Mavis Patricia Abernethy, at Broken Hill.

CONFIRMATIONS.

(By the Bishop of Bloemfontein.)

SOUTH-WEST AFRICA.

ARCHDEACONRY OF DAMARALAND.
 At Windhuk, on Sunday, May 15th:
 Maurice Gilbert Dodd.
 Reginald Ivan Beckley.
 George Frederick Growdon.
 At Keetmanshoop, on Saturday, May 19th:
 Hubert Patrick Charles.
 Arthur Clement Rimbault.
 Madeline Elizabeth West.
 Annie Maria West.
 Gertrude Mary Margaret Broderick.

BURIAL.

March 12—Percy Dobson, at Elisabethville, Congo Belge.

COLLECTIONS, &c.

DIOCESE OF S. RHODESIA.

March.—Plumtree, £1/2/9; Francistown, £2/2/-; Leighwoods, 6d.; West Nicholson, 8/9; Balla-Balla, 12/6; Elizabeth Mine, 11/-; Fred Mine, £3/5/9; Essexvale, 11/6; Rayton, £1/13/6; Gwaii, 10/-; Wankie, £2; Figtree, 14/-.
 April.—Figtree, £1/14/6; Sandown, 13/6; Plumtree, 6/6; Francistown, 7/6; Fred Mine, £1/2/6; Elizabeth Mine, 10/-; Essexvale, £3/4/3; Gwanda, 14/6; Rayton, £1/16/-; Wankie, £1/17/9; Ramaquabane, 4/9; Matopos, 8/-; Rayton, £1/1/6.
 May.—Plumtree, 18/-; Francistown, £2/2/-; Heany Junction, 15/-; Essexvale, 12/-; West Nicholson, 10/-; Sabiwa, 11/-; Gwanda, 10/6; Rayton, £1/6/6; Francistown, 4/6; Rayton, £1/10/6; Gwaii, 8/-; Nyamandhlovu, 8/3; Falls, £2/15/-.

N. RHODESIA AND THE CONGO.

Broken Hill, £5/8/3; Bwana-Mkulwa, £2/4/9; Ndola, 11/-; Choma, £1/4/-; Pemba, 13/3; Kalomo, £6/0/3; Sakania, 14/-; Lusaka, £1/6/3; Mayabuka, £1/13/-; Lubombo, £1/18/6; Kambove, £5/10/6. Elisabethville Sustentation Fund, £30. Fees and offerings, £2/10/-.

SOUTH-WEST AFRICA.

ARCHDEACONY OF DAMARALAND.

Offertories and donations, April 19th—June 11th.—Keetmanshoop, 9/6; Kleinkaras, 14/-; Kalkfontein South, £1/0/1; Ham River, 16/7, 14/7; Nieuwefontein, 5/6; Kums, 6d.; Nakop, 7/-; Kanus, 8/-; Kuibis, 15/-; Garub-Kuibis Sustentation, £5; Windhuk Social, £7/4/6; *Light for the Line*, £2/12/-; Sale of Photographs, 18/6; Sale of Book, 2/6; Wells Missionary Association, £2; F.L.C., £1; J.S.B., 5/-; Anon., £1. Total, £25/13/3.

COLLECTIONS, LANTERN SERVICES.

(P. Glasier.)

Brandfort, 10/4; Welgelegen, 4/1; Ventersburg, 8/2; Theunissen, 6/1; Kopjes, 3/9; Roodival, 5/1; Eensgevonden, 3/-; Glen, 7/6; Edenburg, 6/2; Nataalspruit, 7/6; Coalbrook, 2/9; Trompsburg, 6/2; Vierfontein, 4/8; Rendezvous, 6/-; Norval's Pont, 4/9; Philippolis Road, 8/3. Middleton, C.P., per Mr. Wadmore, 6/-. Stormberg, C.P., Box per Marjorie Roberts, 4/8.

Local Agents "Light for the Line."

GRAHAMSTOWN DIOCESE.

Grahamstown—Miss Booth, Worcester Street. Sandflats—Mrs. T. H. Bruton. Couway—Mr. Moffatt. Zwartkops—Miss Austin. Uitenhage—Mr. Corbett. Cookhouse—Mr. Wise. Cradock—Mrs. Judd.

Nieuwpoort—Mrs. Williams. Port Elizabeth—Miss Hannam, Sundridge, Park Drive. Bellevue—Mrs. Harrison. Middleton—Mr. Wadmore.

PRETORIA DIOCESE.

Nylstroom—Miss Hope Reinecke, c/o L Forssman, Esq. Volksrust—Mrs. Milton. Waterford Boven—Rev. Vernon Rossborough. Platrand—Mrs. Gill. Silverton—Miss Louie Schuch.

BLOEMFONTEIN DIOCESE.

Bloemfontein—Miss Glasier. Wolvendaal—Mr. Burnett. Bethlehem—Miss Wiggill. Lindley Road—Mrs. Growden. Thaba 'Nchu—Mr. Davidson.

DIOCESE OF S. RHODESIA.

Rev. Ralph Seacome, P.O. Bulawayo.

NORTHERN RHODESIA & THE CONGO.

Rev. E. F. Winnington-Ingram, Broken Hill.

LOCAL REPRESENTATIVES IN SOUTH AFRICA.

Pretoria—Mrs. Christie. Bloemfontein—Mrs. Frood, 29, Kellner St. Port Elizabeth—Mrs. Grant Robinson. Kimberley—Rev. A. C. Hobson. East London—Lady Crewe.

CHILDREN OF THE VELD

SECRETARIES FOR SOUTH AFRICA.

General Secretary in South Africa—Miss Burt, Grahamstown. Johannesburg—Mrs. Callow, Houghton Ridge. Pretoria—Mrs. Christie. Port Elizabeth—Mrs. Edward Brown; Miss H. Hannam, Park Drive. Bloemfontein—Miss Howell, S. Michael's School; Mrs. Martin. Grahamstown—Mrs. Seale, Hill Street.

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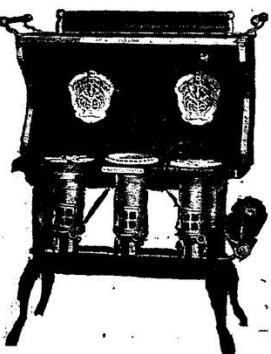
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INTERCESSIONS.

Your prayers are asked :—

That God will guide those who are responsible for the future of the Railway Mission.

That God's Blessing may rest upon those who are responsible for the new Church scheme at Broken Hill.

For past and present members of our staff who offered their services in the war :—Eustace Hill (wounded); George Knapp Fisher, chaplain to H.M.S. Chatham; Arthur Austin.

For all on Active Service, especially : From Naauwpoort (in Europe) : Bert Craddock, Derrick Damant, George Deacon, John Turner, Harry Clench, Percy William Hughes, Dan Macdonald, Willie Delport, James Horne, Cyril Dixon, Samuel Leggett, E. Harris; Jack Vincent and Harold Vincent, Craddock (in Europe); Ernest Roberts, Stormberg (in Europe); Vivian Dudley Jamieson, Rosmead (G.E.).

In German East: Tom Weston, Archie Baird, A. J. Ring, Albert Nicolas, James Jamieson (Rosmead).

PRAYERS IN TIME OF WAR.

For our Empire.

O Thou who hast said, If ye shall ask anything in my Name I will do it, hear our prayers for our empire. Many of us have forgotten thee and never worship thee or pray, and we want to come back to thee. Set us right where we are wrong. We want to love thee more. Give us grace to know thee better, to love thee more, and to work our best for thy sake. *Amen.*

O God, who lookest down in thy fatherly love upon the nations of the earth, assuage the pains of warfare, restore the sick and wounded, relieve those that are in anxiety, comfort the bereaved, and in Thy mercy forgive the sins of all, through JESUS CHRIST our Lord. *Amen.*

PRAYER FOR SCHOOLS IN WAR TIME.

O God our Father in Heaven, strong and full of love to all, we thy children pray thee to bless our country in this sad time of war. Watch over all those who have gone away from us to fight in our country's cause, especially the father or the brother of any of us, or of other children like ourselves. Keep them safe, if it be thy will, in all times of danger, and bring them home again to us in peace. Be with all the wounded and the sick, and ease their pain. Take care of us also, who stay behind in this quiet land. Thou hast something for us to do; help us to do it. Give us grace to be good and unselfish and loving, that we may cheer those about us who are anxious or unhappy. Look down in mercy upon those who are now fighting against us. And soon, if it please thee, make glad all the whole world with thy blessing of peace; for Jesus Christ our Saviour's sake. *Amen.*

N.B.—Friends and relatives of men "along the Line" who are serving their king and country are asked to send in names that they may be added to those who are specially remembered in our intercessory prayers. Names may be sent in at any time to the Editor for insertion in the next issue of this magazine. In this way all friends have an opportunity of joining in prayer for their comrades, for those who are missing, prisoners of war, or who have laid down their lives in the great cause of justice, freedom and right.