

CENTRAL BRAZIL MISSION

Bulletin n. 7

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH U. S. A.

The Twentieth Century Very Limited

The Twentieth-Century Very Limited was finally made up on Tuesday March 1st and was so extremely limited that it traversed the distance of approximately 77 leagues in the unlimited time of three weeks. There were, however, several stops on the way which could not be attributed to break-downs on the part of the train but rather to the vagaries of the passengers. The passengers, most of whom also occupied official positions which entailed more or less labor, demanded rest at times, and the youngest caused a stop of three days by inconsiderably developing a temperature of 103 and consequently not feeling equal to the effort entailed in occupying even first class accomodation in the T. C. V. L. Sundays also were rest days and much appreciated and the fact that the T. C. V. L. carried no dining car, but carried the chef and provisions, necessitated the Harvey restaurants being sought early in the evening and left rather late in the morning.

The T. C. V. L. consisted of 13 mules and 3 horses. It carried 7 people, 5 cargos and there were therefore 4 spare animals. The hotels occupied, varied in splendor, but it is fair to say that none really equalled the Hotel Judson, though all provided a cordial hospitality even excelling that of any high class hotel in so-called «civilized» countries. The passengers consisted of the Reese family, including maid and boy, Sr. Octacilio's son who left his father to complete his cure in Ponte Nova, and a man in charge of the cargos. The very first night, two leagues from Ponte Nova, the chief engineer thought the baggage man knew



THE START OF THE T. C. V. L.

(in The Back ground May Be Seen The Hospital Buildings At Ponte Nova)

that the country people prefer to bury stillborn babies in the house; so the poor little room was left alone and part of the expedition put up its beds and hung its hammocks in the one big room and part slept outside until a heavy rain drove it in also for refuge. Strangely enough the last Sunday of the trip was spent in a similar mansion with a similar damp spot and weeds, but many miles further on. This latter varied the program by harboring rats; nice friendly rats, who thought that the Chief engineer had hung his hammock for their benefit and proceeded to use it as a ladder. He promptly rose, unslung his hammock, and went outside accompanied by the Head of the Commissariat, who was afraid that the rats might want her bed next. The poor chief spent the night in a steamer chair, while the chef and the youngest member slept inside, at least one of them not even knowing that an exodus had taken place. The second Sunday night was spent at a neighboring house.

Except in these two cases the accomodations

the way and trusted to him with the result that we had quite an hour travelling in the dark back and forth, but finally landed at our destination. The next night we spent in a little mud hut with no door and consisting of only two rooms. Even these palatial accomodations were rather diminished by the fact that no one wanted to occupy the small room. It was damp and when the Head of the Commissariat looked, she decided against it. There was a certain damp place, with weeds growing new and green, which reminded her too vividly of the fact

found were very good. The cooking generally was done outside, but as the weather was fine that was an advantage. The three days of the first Sunday stop, lengthened by the indisposition of the youngest member, were spent on the wide porch of an hospitable farmhouse. The host and his family were a little distressed at our not using the domestic regions but it was so pleasant out of doors and so much easier for the chef to be in her own little corner that we persuaded them to allow us to live outside and sleep in the front rooms. One poor old man further on was seriously disturbed when a child ran and told him that there were a lot of people at the door, and he came up from his farm work with visions of bandits and gypsies, and when he saw us «he gave thanks to God that we were people like himself». He had had 20 sons and daughters, and they all lived at home but 4, so we did not lack an audience for all our preparations for the night!

The route took us through all kinds of scenery. After leaving the diamond region, 2 days were spent on the moors at the foot of a long range of blue mountains. The altitude must be considerable for on the morning of the third day a gradual rise took us to a point where we began such a steep, and stony descent that nothing but a T. C.V. L. could have negotiated it in safety. Any other kind of train would have been obliged to seek a more circuitous route. But it had its compensations, for we turned our backs on the one range of mountains and faced another stretching for miles on the other side of the valley. We also had the comforting thought that we should not be bothered with them as we were to follow the river valley. But we did cross them, though we had not meant to, for a few days later we missed our way and spent a weary afternoon climbing and descending a very steep and stony mountain and had thereby two compensations—one of having a marvelous panorama of a vast plain with winding rivers and dotted lakes, cultivated land and wooded spaces, occasional hills rising cone shaped from the plains, and a distant range of mountains: the other of having cut off about 15 miles of our journey by our adventurous mistake.

So, after all sorts of experiences, Condeúba was reached on the afternoon of March 22nd. The house which had been arranged for us had been badly damaged by a cloudburst in February and we are obliged to occupy a much smaller one until repairs can be made, but about the end of April we should be finally installed.

All the way over we sought opportunities to commend the Gospel of Christ to those with whom we came in contact. Sometimes a family worship; sometimes a more formal service, often in the open air. Hymn singing especially appeals to those who have never heard it and gives a good opportunity to explain the meaning of the words. The second Sunday was spent with Christians and a

young man professed his faith. As we neared Condeúba we found that people knew of our coming and were very cordial though the whole region has been very little worked as yet. Properly speaking, our evangelistic field is the North of Minas but we are very hopeful that this corner of the South of Bahia will yield much fruit and there will be many souls awakened and born again.

Constance W. Reese

First Fruits of Newspaper Evangelism

A student of race psychology has said that the sixth sense of the Latin people is literature. In South America the printed page is looked upon by many with something akin to reverence. At the Montevideo Congress it was said that serious-minded books have a larger appeal to Latin Americans than to those of many other countries.

The circulation of literature presents one of the most outstanding opportunities and at the same time one of the most difficult problems confronting the Christian forces of Latin America. This phase of work has never been adequately stressed and yet no other country has such possibilities. Vast sums of money have been spent in support of missionaries and in building schools, but only the far end of appropriations have been applied to literature. Literacy is improving in South America. What have we to offer to compete with the secular and profane literature offered from every side?

The Central Brasil Mission is trying to answer this pressing question by putting into action the Newspaper Evangelism Plan of the Council of Missions of Japan. Dr. Albertus Pieters of the Reformed Church is the originator of the Plan. For the past six months we have been inserting small ads in the leading papers of Bahia, announcing that Christian literature will be sent free to anyone who would send his name and address. Upon the receipt of the request a small package of tracts is sent with a letter, informing the reader that by paying a very small sum each month in stamps, he can join a Reading Club which entitles him to draw out books from the Circulating Library of the Club.

Since the inception of the plan, 370 requests have come in from seven different states and 75 different cities and towns. Of this number 68 have joined the Reading Club and thereby have shown a willingness to know more about the Bible and the teachings of Jesus. When a Club member has read four or five books, a decision card is sent in the endeavor to bring the reader to make a definite stand for Christ and to prepare himself for membership in the Evangelical Church. Within the past few months three cards have been signed and returned. A young lady in Bahia, a young man in Amargosa and another in Bomfim are the ones who have shown a desire to dedicate themselves to the Master and His cause. Some of the Club members like the books so much that they have bought them. In this way Bibles and other evangelical books have been put into homes where the missionary has not yet been given a hearing.

Printed propaganda has largely supplemented personal advocacy in the commercial, political and economic world. Certainly the children of light should be as wise and far-seeing as the children of the world. The spoken word lives chiefly in the memory while the printed word, at small cost reaches thousands and its influence extends into the future.

Peter G. Baker

A GROWING EVANGELICAL INFLUENCE

In no year in the history of Protestantism in South America, has its work attracted so much attention from the general public, from government officials and from the Roman Catholic Church. Following the Montevideo Congress the last mentioned organization published a two volume report of the gathering, which while grossly misrepresenting the procedure of the Congress, published in their entirety the twelve commission reports of the Congress, thus making available to a wide public the carefully prepared documents which express the facts and attitudes of the Evangelical Church in S. A. on the great religious, educational and social issues faced by the Continent.

Writing from Chile, a well informed person says: «There is a noticeable change in the religious situation in these countries. The Catholic Church is giving more emphasis to the Bible and there are more sermons in the language of the people. There seems to be much less emphasis on the Virgem Mary than formerly».

Two governments have passed special laws to allow free admission of building material for new edifices, Uruguay for the new Y. M. C. A. building, and Paraguay for the new school buildings erected by the Disciple's Board. An executive decree in Santo Domingo also provides for free admission of all supplies for the Evangelical Hospital. One of the buildings of the People's Institute in Rio de Janeiro has been selected as a public health center maintained by the Department of Health of the city. Following the lectures of a Secretary of the Y. M. C. A. at the University of La Plata, that institution voted to found a chair of religion and invited the secretary to be its first occupant.

Many other examples could be given illustrating the growing influence of the evangelical cause. The new interest in spiritual questions is shown in various ways. At the close of the term of Pres. Bernardes of Brasil, he sent a special telegram to the Governors of each State, requesting that they «by common accord begin a campaign to elevate the national character... The setting in all Brazilian primary schools of the last day in the week for the moral, civic and social, chiefly the moral development, of our young countrymen, appears to me to be the starting point of the crusade of making men».

(From Annual Report of Com. on Cooperation).

MISSION JOTTINGS.

Rev. and Mrs. Harold C. Anderson sailed from Brazilian shores last month for a six months furlough in the U. S. A. Their home address will be 707 First Ave. E., Oelwein, Iowa.

We welcome back to the work, Rev. and Mrs. Fred E. Johnson and their two little daughters, Ruth and Violet. They will make their home in Orobó. For the time being their Post Office address will be Caixa 350, Bahia, Brasil.

THE C. B. M. BULLETIN

*Published by the Central Brazil Mission
(Presbyterian Church U. S. A.)*

OUR FIELD

Area—Larger than France.

Population—4,000,000.

The members of this Mission are:

BAHIA

Rev. and Mrs. Peter G. Baker

PONTE NOVA

Dr. and Mrs. W. W. Wood.

Rev. and Mrs. C. E. Bixler.

Mr. and Mrs. S. I. Graham.

Miss. Lydia Hepperle.

Miss. Ellen Williams.

CAETETE

Rev. and Mrs. C. C. Carnahan.

NORTH MINAS

Rev. and Mrs. A. Reese

RECIFE

Rev. and Mrs. H. C. Anderson. (in U. S. A.)

LAVRAS FIELD

Rev. and Mrs. F. Johnson.

The Post Office address of the Ponte Nova missionaries is as follows: Ponte Nova, E. da Bahia, Brasil. Mail for Mr. and Mrs. Carnahan should be directed: Caetete E. da Bahia, Brasil; for Mr. and Mrs. Reese: Condeúba, E. da Bahia, Brasil; for Mr. and Mrs. Baker: Caixa 350, Bahia, Brasil.

On a recent evangelistic tour Rev. H. C. Anderson preached 52 times in two months and traveled a great many miles on the back of a mule in order to reach all the points of the field.

The whole Mission is looking forward to the end of the year when the Grace Memorial Hospital in Ponte Nova will be inaugurated. More than 15,000 patients were treated last year. Present figures point to 20,000 for this year.

There was great rejoicing in Ponte Nova when the news came that the Board had appointed Dr. and Mrs. J. L. Downing to substitute Dr. and Mrs. Wood when they go on furlough next year. Dr. Downing served as a medical missionary in Brasil for some years under the Board of the Southern Baptist Convention. His coming will give Dr. and Mrs. Wood an opportunity for a well earned rest and at the same time allow the medical work to continue without interruption.

The Editor of the Bulletin has just received mail from Mr. and Mrs. Carnahan who are making a long evangelistic trip on mule back into the far interior of Bahia. Mr. Carnahan writes, "So far we have received 9 people on confession of faith and baptized 15 children. Here in Cocos there are about 10 people wanting to profess their faith in Christ and we have a harvest of children to baptize." Mrs. Carnahan adds, "Since leaving Caetete we have traveled some 250 miles. The remainder of the circuit includes something over 400 miles. Cocos is the last town until you get well into the state of Goyaz. Here we have the largest congregation in the whole field. We plan to remain here 10 days and sosaphe Aontfn legre, Galos and back via Lapa."

Due to the fact that the composition work of these Bulletins is done by workers who do not know English, we ask our readers to overlook the few errors that may appear from time to time.

Who Will Help

The outstanding property need in the Central Brazil Mission field is that of the American School in Bahia, capital of the State of Bahia.

Six months ago the school opened its doors with sixteen pupils enrolled. To-day it numbers 56. Should the school continue to grow at the present rate, the rented building now occupied will soon be too small. Even now things are rather crowded, for besides serving as a school, it must house a missionary family, the book store of the Mission and serve as an hotel to missionaries who pass through the city or who come here for supplies.

The school was opened to meet the needs of believers families and also of a large class who do not come into contact with the Gospel but who have confidence in American Educational methods. It is hoped that it will satisfy the desires of this class and at the same time open the doors for the entrance of the Gospel. For years Bahia has turned deaf ears to the claims of the Gospel. Those who have made a profession of their faith have come from the least influential classes of the city. We believe that a good American school will create a favorable interest in our work and enable us to make contacts with students and the more influential families of the city.

What are the results up to the present time? Of the pupils now enrolled, only one fifth are from Protestant families. The daily opening exercises are religious and every pupil is compelled to take the Bible course. During Holy Week, when every other school was closed, all the pupils except one attended classes. Several weeks ago we started a little Sunday School in the school building and were pleasantly surprised to find 18 of the pupils in attendance. One of the girls said that they always had a Bible but never read it at home. Now that she is taking the Bible course, the Bible has been dusted off and the stories of Ruth, Samuel and David read by the father to the whole family. At the beginning of the year some of the mothers actually entered our home with fear and trembling because we were "protestantes". Now there is no hesitancy or fear. They come to call for their children and often stay for friendly visits.

From present indications, the school will double its enrollment next year. Where shall we put these new pupils? A year from now we shall be desperately in need of a new property. The Board is asking for \$15,000.00 to meet this great need. Who will help? Send your contribution to Mr. Russel Carter, 156 Fifth Ave. New York City.

The Recife Seminary

Last year, Rev. H. C. Anderson was appointed by the Mission to teach in the Recife Seminary. Mrs. Anderson gives some impressions of the place and the work:

"Although Recife is only 36 hours journey, by steamer from Bahia, when we stepped ashore there we felt like strangers in a strange land, far away from the Brasil we knew and loved. Everything seemed so different—the people, the language, the customs, the lay of the land. What especially struck us during the first days was the strong Indian strain evident in the common people.

Recife is 390 miles nearer the equator than Bahia. It is flat sandy and hot. The trade winds blow over the city, direct from the ocean, day and night, and save Recife from being too excessively hot. Recife is more progressive and more modern than Bahia. It is cleaner and has good water and sewer systems. Well-kept little parks scattered about, help to relieve the monotony of long, flat, view-less streets.

In the Seminary we had Presbyterian, Independent Presbyterian and Congregational boys, some of whom showed a woeful lack of preparation. How thankful we were for the preparation our boys had had in Ponte Nova. We have come to appreciate more than ever the value to our Mission and to the Presbytery, of Ponte Nova as a place where future workers begin their preparation, and to see the great need for such schools within reasonable reach of all believers.

A Back Ward Look

Events of 1926 only add to those of former years to show that on spiritual forces are thrown back the responsibilities for developing the real friendships and deep understandings necessary for the building of the Kingdom of God in Latin America. The precarious powers of diplomacy are shown this past year by such well known events as the withdrawal of Brasil from the League of Nations, the intense feeling developed over the failure of the Tacna and Arica arbitration, the sharp notes passed between the U. S. and Mexico, the return of the U. S. Marines to Nicaragua, the breaking of relations between Uruguay and Cuba, a number of public criticisms of the Pan American Union, and the endorsement by the Pan American Centennial Congress at Panama, against the opposition of the U. S. delegation, of a plan for an American League of Nations.

(From Annual Report of Com. on Cooperation)

IMMEDIATE PROPERTY NEEDS

It is the object of this Bulletin to give information about the work of the Mission and of its members, thus saving much individual correspondence. For the information of the Church in the U. S., we append a list of improvements that we are seeking to obtain for the better evangelization of the region for which we are responsible.

The Property Committee of the Board has approved the following items of the property list for Central Brazil Mission:

Purchase of property for American School, Bahia City	\$15,000.00
Purchase of property for school in Caeté field	5,000.00
Ponte Nova—School equipment (maps, books, simple laboratory equipment etc.)	1,000.00
Ponte Nova—Farm machinery (plow, planter, cultivator etc.	1,000.00
-Ponte Nova—Dynamo (15 KWW)	500.00
Ponte Nova—Accessories for electrical equipment for dormitories	500.00

Contributions should be sent to Mr. Russel Carter, 156 Fifth Ave., New York, accompanied by a clear statement that the contribution is for the Central Brazil Mission.