

A 979 | Dg 1

(omission)

To be inserted after first paragraph.

The Rev. Geo. Lowe, the Convener of this Conference was unanimously elected Chairman and the Rev. E. Gottschling of the Berlin Mission as Secretary.

Present Were:

MINUTES.

Orthography Conference.

JOHANNESBURG.

Wednesday, 23rd February 1910 at 10.30 a.m. the Conference met at the Committee Room of the British & Foreign Bible Soc. and was opened with prayer, by the Rev. J. Arndt in German and by the Rev. F.J. Briscoe in English.

The Rev. Geo. Lowe, representative of the B. & F. B. Society, the Revs. A. J. Wookey & J. Tom Brown of the L. M. S., Rev. F. J. Briscoe, Geo. Rolland & J. Monyatsi of the Wesleyan Mission. Rev. E. Penzhorn of the Hermannsburg Mission, Archdeacon L. Fuller, representing the English Church Mission, attended part of the morning's session only. The Bechoana Mission of the Berlin Society was represented by the Revs. R. Brune & J. Arndt.

The Revs. J. Wedepohl and C. Hoffmann represented the Berlin Mission of the Northern Transvaal, and Revs. H. Kusohke P. E. Schwellnus, the Berlin Mission in Southern Transvaal. The Revs. G. Truempelmann, E. Gottschling & G. Schwellnus were also present.

The Chairman, Rev. Geo. Lowe, welcomed the members of the Conference on behalf of the British & Foreign Bible Society and also read a letter of welcome from the Editorial Superintendent, Dr. Kilgour.

Some other communications having been read and the object of this Conference discussed, it was resolved to primarily deal with the Secwana Orthography; the representatives of other closely related languages to accept as many signs as possible,

for sounds which their languages have in common with the Secwana.

With regard to the Orthographical Signs to be used, the following resolutions were carried.

To retain only the open and the closed E ; and that we agree to use the grave accent for the open E, viz: `e, and leave the

ordinary E unaccented viz: E Ema Hèla
 e eme hedile

No distinguishing sign is required for the short i. The open O only to be accented the same as the open E, by the grave accent viz: O, the middle O being dropped just as the middle E.

At 12.45 p.m. the meeting was adjourned till 2.30 p.m. when Rev. E. Penzhorn opened the afternoon session by prayer. The discussion of the signs to be used in Secwana was continued.

With one dissenting vote, it was resolved that only one U is necessary ; and also with one dissenting vote, that in Secwana W is the only Semi-vowel required. The letter Y was put in the alphabet as a consonant, only with 6 votes against 3. The letters O.U. drop also out as semi-vowels. The Gutturals in Secwana are, G K & KG.

The Labials are:

B P M F BY PY.

The letter L was, with one dissenting vote, retained as a Dental. With reference to the D, it was resolved by 9 votes against 1 vote, that this letter be retained as a distinct sign for the sound sometimes expressed by L or R, especially before the vowels I and U, as for instance in the words: Modimo, Diha, Lodi, Poduhali, Dula, Ducha. R, represents a distinct sound, and is therefore also necessary.

NASALS.

N, ñ to represent that distinct Spanish sound and to do away with the NG. Three members voted against this. NY was unanimously retained. As Sibilants the letters C, TS, S and SH were retained.

In Secwana there are no Laterals.

The Aspirates are:

H, KH PH (aspirated P) TH TLH TSH & CH.

This gives for Secwana the following alphabet, agreed to by the Conference, viz:

VOWELS

A E e I O • U

SEMI-VOWEL

W.

GUTTURALS

G K KG

LABIALS & COMPOSITES.

B P M F BY PY

DENTALS.

D T L R.

NASALS.

N ñ & NY

SIBILANTS

C TS S SH.

and the Aspirates,

H KH PH CH TH TLH TSH

or in alphabetical order:

RECOGNIZED ALPHABET.

A	ama, batho
B	Becwana, lóba
BY	lobywa
C	coma, cwa
CH	choga, chaba
D	dilo, bobodu
E	lela, tekò
è	tlogèla, thèkò
F	used principally in foreign words as, Tafole, mofeiga.
G	gama, gopola
H	mahoko, hapa
I	dira, lohika
K	Kana, sekaka
KG	Kgomo, Kgama
KH	Khumò, Khwibidu
L	Loma, lata
M	motho, mala, mmele
N	nako, nopa
ñ	ñwana, nagõn
O	rona, roka
ò	nabò, bogògò
P	pula, lepa
PH	phate, phupu
PY	Phalapye
R	rata, rita, ruta
S	sòba, soga
SH	shupa, nashò
T	tala, tòpò

continued

TH thapelo, thaba
 TLH tlhomamo, setlhare
 TS tsena, tsola
 TSH lehatshe, tshala
 U upa, busa
 W Kwala, segwagwa
 Y yala, seyo.

At the close of the day's meeting, the following notices of motion for the next days meeting were given, viz:

1. Rev. J. Arndt; for uniform spelling of foreign names.
2. Rev. Wookey; of forming a Literary Association, which ought to issue a Weekly Periodical for the Natives.
3. Rev. J. Tom Brown; for a Secwana Bible, revised by all the Societies working amongst the Becwana.

The Meeting was closed at 5.30 p.m., with the Benediction pronounced by the Chairman.

Thursday, 24th Feb. 1910.

The proceedings of to-days meeting were opened with prayer by the Rev. Geo. Rolland at 9.30 a.m.

The Minutes were read and confirmed.

The Chairman welcomed the Rev. Ferd. Jensen, of the Hermannsburg Mission and the Rev. H. Bennett of the Church of England.

A question of Rev. Ferd. Jensen, regarding the use of the W in Secwana, which was decided prior to his arrival, having been answered at considerable length, by the Revs. J. Tom Brown and

Geo. Rolland, the Conference discussed the desirability of a uniform spelling of foreign names in Secwana.

The subject was introduced by Rev. J. Arndt.

After some discussion it was agreed that this matter be referred to the same Committee, which, as a result of Rev. J. Tom Brown's motion, will have to be appointed for the Revision of the Secwana Bible.

On the motion of the Rev. J. Arndt, it was resolved:

That the Committee, to be appointed by the B. & F. B. Society, in order to revise the latest Secwana Bible, be instructed to decide also, upon a uniform spelling of biblical and other foreign names.

As the result of the motion introduced by Rev. J. Tom Brown, and discussed at length by the Conference, it was resolved to request the B. & F. B. Society to arrange with the following Mission Societies, viz:

The London Mission Soc., Wesleyan, Church of England, Dutch Reformed Church, Hermannsburg & Berlin Missions, for the appointment of a Commission, to undertake a revision of the last edition of the Secwana Bible; and that each of the above Societies be asked to appoint one representative; but that the Rev. A. J. Wookey of the L.M.S., be appointed by the Bible Society, in addition to the representative, to be nominated by the L.M.S.

The Rev. Geo. Lowe, promised to apply at once to the Bible Society for a doubly interleaved copy of the Secwana Bible, to be sent to each Missionary working amongst the Secwana, whose assistance in the Revision would be valuable to the Commission.

The Rev. A. J. Wookey expressed his gratitude to the Chairman and members of this Conference, for the kindly appreciation expressed to him for his share in the translation of the present Secwana Bible.

Rev. A. J. Wookey introduced his motion for the founding of a Literary Association, from members of all the Mission Socie-

tics, with the object to issue a Weekly Periodical, in order to enlighten the natives by this means.

The suggestion was favourably received and discussed by the Conference.

A Sub-Committee, consisting of the Revs. Brown & Pénzhorn and the Secretary, having been appointed, for the purpose of selecting sample words to illustrate the Secwana Alphabet agreed upon, the Conference adjourned at 11. 30 a.m.

The afternoon Session, commencing at 3.p.m. was opened with prayer by the Rev. J. Monyatsi.

It was attended by the following members of the Conference, viz:

Revs. Geo. Lwo, A.J.Wookey, J. Tom Brown, J. Arndt, E. Pénzhorn, Ferd. Jenson, J. Wedepohl, R. Bruno, P.E.Schwellnus, O. Hoffmann, J. Monyatsi, H. Bennett, F.J.Briscoe and the Secretary.

The sample words selected to illustrate the Secwana Alphabet agreed upon by the Conference, were read and explained by the Rev. J. Tom Brown and it was resolved:

That the alphabet as now presented, be issued as the officially recognized alphabet of this Conference, and that it be used in all future versions of the Holy Scriptures in Secwana and that the various Mission Societies be requested to accept it for books to be published in that language after this date.

It was also resolved: That this Conference respectfully recommend to the B. & F.B. Society, that for Secwana, two editions of the Bible in three different classes of binding are sufficient. The sizes of the Bible to be in Ruby Octave and Royal Octave. The sizes of the New Testament to be 32 mo. & Ruby Octave.

It was further agreed to recommend to the Committee for the Revision of the Secwana Bible, that some editions of the New Testament and of the Bible, be printed with marginal references and that to some editions of the New Testament, the Psalms be added; also that the Gospels & Acts be issued in one volume.

at a cheap rate, for use in Schools.

The Members of the Joint Orthographical Conference of the Berlin Mission for North and South Transvaal, reported to this Conference on the few differences left between the Secwana, as now adopted and the Sesethe Orthography resolved upon by them, at their recent Conference. In reply it was resolved:

That this Conference expresses its delight at the unanimity of its members in accepting the Secwana Orthography and places on record the fact that the brethren representing the Berlin Mission Society working among the Transvaal Basotho people, accept also the Secwana Orthography with the following exceptions: NG for n; TSH in place of TSH and THL in place of TLH.

After a prayer of thanks, by the Chairman, for the guidance received by the Spirit of God during the deliberations of this meeting, the Conference authorised the Chairman and the Secretary to sign these Minutes on behalf of the Members who took part in it.

The votes of thanks, proposed by the Rev. A.J. Wooley, to the B. & F.B. Society, the Rev. Geo. Lowe and the Secretary, were unanimously passed by a standing vote of the Conference.

The Chairman and the Secretary having responded to, the Conference was at 4.30 p.m. closed with prayer by the Rev. J. Tom Brown and the Benediction pronounced by the Chairman.

On behalf of the Conference:

Geo. Lowe
Chairman,
E. Gottschling
Secretary.

Collection Number: A979

Silas T MOLEMA and Solomon T PLAATJE Papers

PUBLISHER:

Publisher:- Historical Papers, University of the Witwatersrand

Location:- Johannesburg

©2012

LEGAL NOTICES:

Copyright Notice: Copyright for all materials on the Historical Papers website is owned by The University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg and is protected by South African copyright law. Material may not be reproduced, distributed, transmitted, displayed, or otherwise published in any format, without the prior written permission of the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg.

Disclaimer and Terms of Use: Provided that you maintain all copyright and other notices contained therein, you may download material (one machine readable copy and one print copy per page) for your personal and/or educational non-commercial use only.

People using these records relating to the archives of Historical Papers, The Library, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, are reminded that such records sometimes contain material which is uncorroborated, inaccurate, distorted or untrue. While these digital records are true facsimiles of paper documents and the information contained herein is obtained from sources believed to be accurate and reliable, Historical Papers, University of the Witwatersrand has not independently verified their content. Consequently, the University is not responsible for any errors or omissions and excludes any and all liability for any errors in or omissions from the information on the website or any related information on third party websites accessible from this website.

This document is part of a collection owned by the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg and deposited at Historical Papers at The University of the Witwatersrand.
