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The Pioneer Board

Alexander Henry, D.D.

We all know the character of the work done by a pioneer in a new country. When we think of the peculiar work the Board of Publication and Sabbath-school Work is doing, we may well call it "The Pioneer Board."

This is the Board which is laying the foundations upon which the Church and the various agencies of the Church will subsequently build.

The fundamental character of the service this Board renders the Church is not fully appreciated by us all, and is well worthy of our thoughtful consideration.

Working for the Children

Let us look at some aspects of it: First of all, it is, in an especial way, the Board which is working for the children. The children of our church are being trained and instructed in our Sabbath-schools. Before any other Board or agency of the Church begins to work with these children, the Board of Publication and Sabbath-school Work, through its lesson helps and Sabbath-school papers, is presenting truth to their youthful minds.

This is a great responsibility. Childhood is the time when the first and most lasting impressions are made. It is the desire of our Board to realize this responsibility and to meet it to the best of our power. We believe that our lesson helps and Sabbath-school papers are already of a high character. The fact that other Denominations, some of them leading Denominations, make use of our lesson helps and Sabbath-school papers in their schools, with but little change, is an evidence of the high estimation in which our work is held by others. This is but an incentive to

us to do still better work and to produce yet better helps and papers.

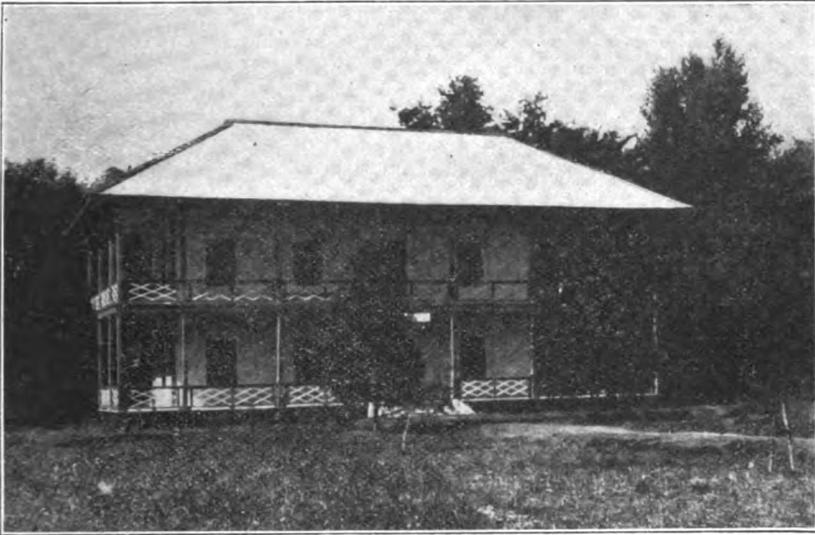
Pointing the Way to Sabbath-School Workers

We are not satisfied, however, with simply providing lesson helps for our teachers and scholars; we are desirous of aiding in the improvement and development of our schools.

This is one of the most important spheres of activity of the Board of Sabbath-school Work. We have more than 8,500 Sabbath-schools connected with our churches; and more than 3,500 under the care of our missionaries. Here are 12,000 Presbyterian Sabbath-schools, with more than 1,200,000 teachers and scholars. In addition to these schools, we are receiving a large number from what was formerly the Cumberland Presbyterian Church. In these schools we find a great variety of organizations and all grades of advancement. They need a leader; they need some one to suggest plans and methods of work, and to encourage them to adopt these methods and try these plans. They should have some one to inspire them with enthusiasm for the work in which they are engaged; to set before them its possibilities, its encouragements and its rewards.

This our Board aims to do. We wish to lead forth this great army of Presbyterian Sabbath-schools workers into fields of Christian growth and service.

We would do this by the preparation of literature suited to the needs of our schools; by publishing text books and helps of various kinds; and by holding Presbyterian Sabbath-school Institutes in our Synods and Presbyteries. We should be glad to see an annual



BOYS' SCHOOL-HOUSE—REV. BOON BOON ITT.

look to our Heavenly Father to raise up men who can be leaders of their people as these men have been.

As a fitting tribute to the memory of Rev. Boon Boon Itt, and to finish the work he intended to accomplish, a magnificent building is being erected, which will be thoroughly furnished to do a work for the 60,000 young men and boys of Bangkok, similar to our

Y. M. C. A. work in America. Many business men of Bangkok, the Diplomatic Corps, H. R. H. the Crown Prince of Siam, many nobles, and stanch, earnest classmates of Boon Itt in college and seminary in America have all united to make possible this fitting memorial to the unfinished work of Rev. Boon Boon Itt, the most lovable and most enlightened Christian young man of his country.

A Vacant Parish

Rev. A. Willard Cooper.

This article aims to present in brief outline the condition and claims of a parish now without a pastor.

1. An Extensive Parish.

In area this parish is four times as large as New Jersey or Massachusetts. It stretches across all northern Siam, from the Cambodian to the Burmese frontier and from the Laos border down to where the waters of three great rivers—the Nan, Yome and Ping—unite to form the Menam at Paknampho, giving that city a unique strategic location in the heart of Siam, akin to that of St. Louis in the heart of the United States. The parishioners number more than six hundred thousand souls.

2. A Presbyterian Parish.

In all this vast field our work is neither embarrassed by the rivalry nor diminished by the coöperation of any other Protestant denomination. Even the Roman Catholics, so active and aggressive farther south, are here scarcely a factor to be reckoned with. We practically face but two alternatives: pagan darkness or Presbyterian evangelism.

3. A Destitute Parish.

In this "extensive territory," where our denomination stands alone, we have one lone station at Pitsanuloke. The nearest other stations are those of the Laos Mission, a week's journey to the north. Our own Siam

Mission has occupied no other point nearer than Aynthia, two hundred miles distant southward. With the best facilities for travel likely to be available for long years to come, a pastoral visit from Pitsanuloke, say to Raheng, in the western part of this parish, would require more time and money than to cross the United States from ocean to ocean. To evangelize this whole field from any one station were scarcely feasible, even with workers whose whole time was absolutely free for long tours; how much less when every worker is likewise held responsible for stated church services, school, hospital, or other routine local work. But this parish has never yet had an associate pastor, while more than once, as now, the exigencies of the work have left medical missionaries or other lay workers in sole charge.

Greatly as the work might be facilitated by a second base of operations at some strategic point like Paknampho, more central and convenient to the territory south and west, the dubious prospect of being able to find workers to hold such a point of vantage, or funds to house them, makes the mission pause, even though while we hesitate and wait upon the home Church, for our supports, the most

favorable time of opportunity for such a forward movement may be lost.

4. Its First Pastor.

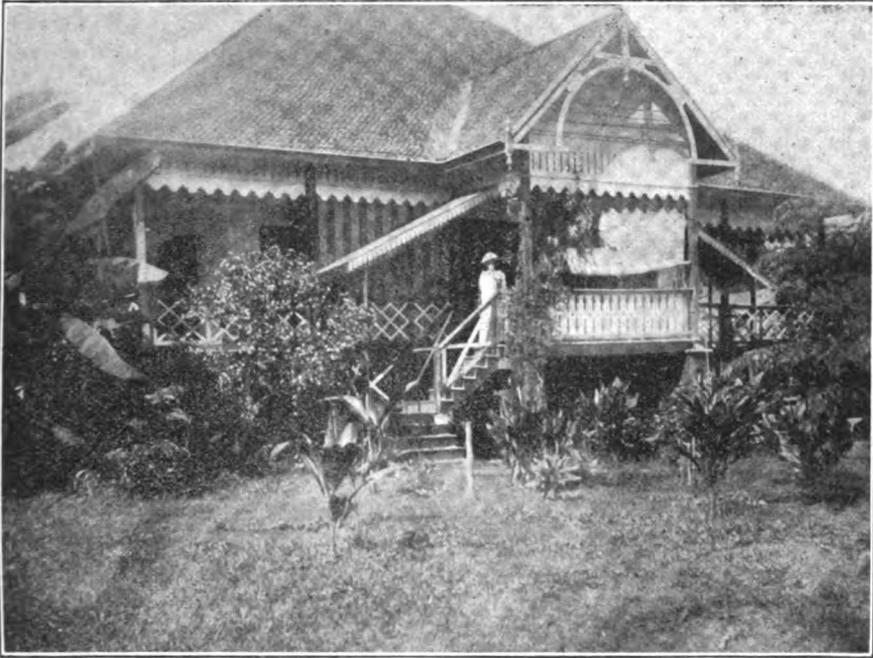
The pioneer ordained missionary of this parish was the late Rev. Boon Boon Itt. His personal influence and exertions secured on the field all the funds for the school building on which he also labored with his own hands. His influence, too, was a most potent factor in planning and preparing the way for the evangelistic work of his successors.

The accompanying picture (see page 218) shows what is left of the cheap bamboo house he built and occupied. His willingness to endure, for years the discomfort of such quarters, contrasting as they do with the companion picture (see page 219) which shows the comfortable new frame house now vacant and awaiting the use of the next pastor, attests his conviction that here was a field worth occupying, even at the cost of no small personal sacrifice.

The story of his quiet, faithful work in this parish is less widely known than that of the Bangkok work, which occupied the closing year of his life, appreciation of which has found expression in liberal gifts to the Y. M. C. A. building fund, which aims to consum-



PITSANULOKE HOSPITAL.



DR. C. J. SHELLMAN'S HOUSE, PITSANULOKE.

mate that work. Yet with this Pitsanuloke work he was in fact most closely identified of all. To this he devoted the major part of his best working years in Siam, and bequeathed this unfinished work to the living as a sacred

legacy in trust. How can the many who loved and honored this pioneer worker pay more fitting tribute to his memory than by making it our business fully to evangelize this, his first parish abroad?

Sri Tamarat Memorial Hospital, Nakawn Sri Tamarat, Siam

W. J. Swart, M.D.

Completed at a cost of about 23,800 ticals, equivalent to nearly \$8000.00 gold.

Received from the United States 6800 ticals. Raised by subscription in Siam 17,000 ticals.

If any medical missionary thinks there is danger of getting into a rut in the practice of his profession he should launch out on building a new hospital for himself. I do not say that it will help him to keep abreast of the times on the latest drugs in use, especially their names, but it will enable him to make a diagnosis in less than half the time

usually spent, his medical assistants will do nearly all of the minor surgery that used to be the pride of his heart, and he will not only write prescriptions on the usual pad while sitting at his office desk, but any old telegram or back of an envelope will suffice, and the place, well that will be wherever the patient happens to find you the busiest. On the other hand, if there is an important operation on the docket about the time your hands are sterilized and the patient is reported "under" in comes the carpenter, or mason, painter or plumber, with "Oh! I did not know you were