

Blue River Quarterly Meeting of Friends held at Benjaminville Meeting House, near Holder, Illinois, 8th mo. 8th 1925.

Reports are received from Chicago and Clear Creek monthly meetings show that Thomas A. Jenkins, Stanley Flitcraft, Elizabeth M. Smith, John Wilson, Ruth L. Mills, Rush Ash, Chas Whitney, Harold Mills and Mattie M. Wilson were appointed as representatives to this meeting. Two of the twelve named are present. One written and two verbal reasons for absence were received. Information from Blue River meeting comes to us that Elwood Brooks Elizabeth Trueblood and Fannie Brooks were appointed as their representatives. None are present.

Statistical reports from Chicago and Clear Creeks meetings were read. They are directed to be forwarded with our reports to Yearly Meeting. The clerk is directed to ask that the statistical reports be made up and forwarded in time for publication in Yearly meeting minutes.

We find no unfinished business from the reading of the minutes of Fifth month Quarter.

One meeting only, that of Clear Creek has forwarded answers to the Queries according to discipline. Consequently, no summary answers can be made to forward with our reports. The following is a copy of the set of answers received —

- Ans. 1 Greater diligence in gathering together in meetings for worship and in business sessions for discussion and prayerful consideration of subjects which should vitally concern a religious body would be of material help in bringing the meeting to the place it should occupy in the community. Good order and a proper attitude is observed. Our members generally favor a free gospel ministry, but a better response to the freedom extended to each individual would be encouraging and beneficial.
- Ans. 2 A good degree of love and fellowship is generally maintained among our members. They endeavor to avoid unjust criticism, talebearing and corrupting conversation. Plain and honest living are encouraged.
- Ans. 3 So far as known our members are clear of the manufacture, sale and use of intoxicants and of harmful narcotics. They discourage the use of these as medicines. Socially and politically they quite generally extend an influence toward the enforcement of our prohibitory and regulatory laws. With few exceptions our members do not use tobacco in any form. Evidence of an increase especially in the use of the cigarette among the youth and young people makes it doubly important that the evil effects shall be stressed. Every possible safeguard and effort should be made to counteract the prevalent custom. A wholesome temperance influence is extended in our neighborhood.

Ans 4 We believe that our members are generally just, upright and punctual in their business transactions. No unemployed among us. Where any seem to be in need, aid is extended.

Ans. 5 Our common schools and the Colleges supply the needed educational advantages for our children and those under our care. By caution and advice care is extended that selection may be made of those activities and opportunities in school life which will develop a moral and spiritual growth along with the intellectual improvement of the student. Our members endeavor to provide wholesome and inviting literature for the home and encourage interest in the First-day School. More thoughtful reading of the scriptures should be urged.

Ans. 6 Our members favor arbitration as a means of settling difficulties between both individuals and nations. They bear a testimony against war and generally deplore the efforts to extend the military spirit even to the extent of discouraging amusements which tend toward militarism.

Ans. 7 We have no violations of our principles and testimonies to report. Patient Christian care is extended where differences arise.

Ans. 8 No meetings have been established and none discontinued.

 The queries have been read and answered as directed.

 Since the meetings have now, and so frequently of recent years, failed to forward answers to the queries regularly, the question has arisen as to the advisability of discontinuing the practice of formal written answers. Discussion brought out the expressed belief that the time heretofore occupied by these formal answers can be used in live, helpful discussions on social and religious topics. After deliberation this meeting directs that in our reports the Yearly Meeting be asked to consider seriously as to whether the time has not come to discontinue these required written answers to the queries. We also desire to ask the Yearly Meeting if it is not time to discontinue the reading in full of the epistles from other yearly meetings. We suggest preferably that these letters be referred to a suitable committee for curtailment or summarizing before presentation to the yearly meeting sessions.

 The clerk is directed to forward these suggestions to the yearly meeting.

 Our Quarterly meeting Treasurer is directed to pay to the yearly meeting Treasurer such funds as he has or may receive in payment on our portion of the yearly meeting funds.

 As representatives to the yearly meeting we appoint Thomas A Jenkins, J. Warner Coale, Candace E Mills, Isaac Wierman, Elizabeth M. Smith and Elwood Brooks. They are to report at next meeting.

It is believed that a brief letter from this meeting to the President commending him for his position toward any special "Defense Day" will be in good order. Also individuals and meetings are urged to give force and encouragement to all proper effort toward international peace.

Having transacted the business coming before us and feeling that the discussions of our problems should prove helpful to us, we conclude to meet in Eleventh month next at Clear Creek.

Clarence Mills, clerk
J. Warner Coale, asst.