

J. L. STAUFFER IS MODERATOR OF MENNONITE CONFERENCE

Oscar Burkholder, old Stouffville Boy, Re-elected Executive for Six Year Term

WOOSTER, OHIO, Aug. 29—The 25th annual Mennonite General Conference here ended this noon, as new officers conferred on church business for the next two years.

Bishop J. L. Stauffer, president of the Eastern Mennonite School, Harrisonburg, Va., was elected moderator of the Mennonite General Conference at the Thursday August 29, session.

Election results were announced late last night. Including Bishop Stauffer, four new administrators were elected to high church offices.

Bishop H. R. Shertz, Metamore, Ill., will be assistant moderator of the Mennonite Church; George R. Brunk, Denbigh, Va., is assistant secretary. C. B. Shoemaker, Scottsdale, Pa., was re-elected to the office of treasurer.

Additional members of the executive committee are Oscar Burkholder, Breslau, Ont., Canada, re-elected for a six year term, and Milo Kauffman, Hesston, Kansas, elected for a four year term.

New officers of the church will serve a two-year term, ending with the 1949 General Conference.

Bishop Stauffer, who succeeds Bishop Allen H. Erb of La Junta, Colo., as moderator, is the older brother of the Rev. Rudy Stauffer, minister of the Wooster Mennonite Mission Church.

Gives Gripping Address

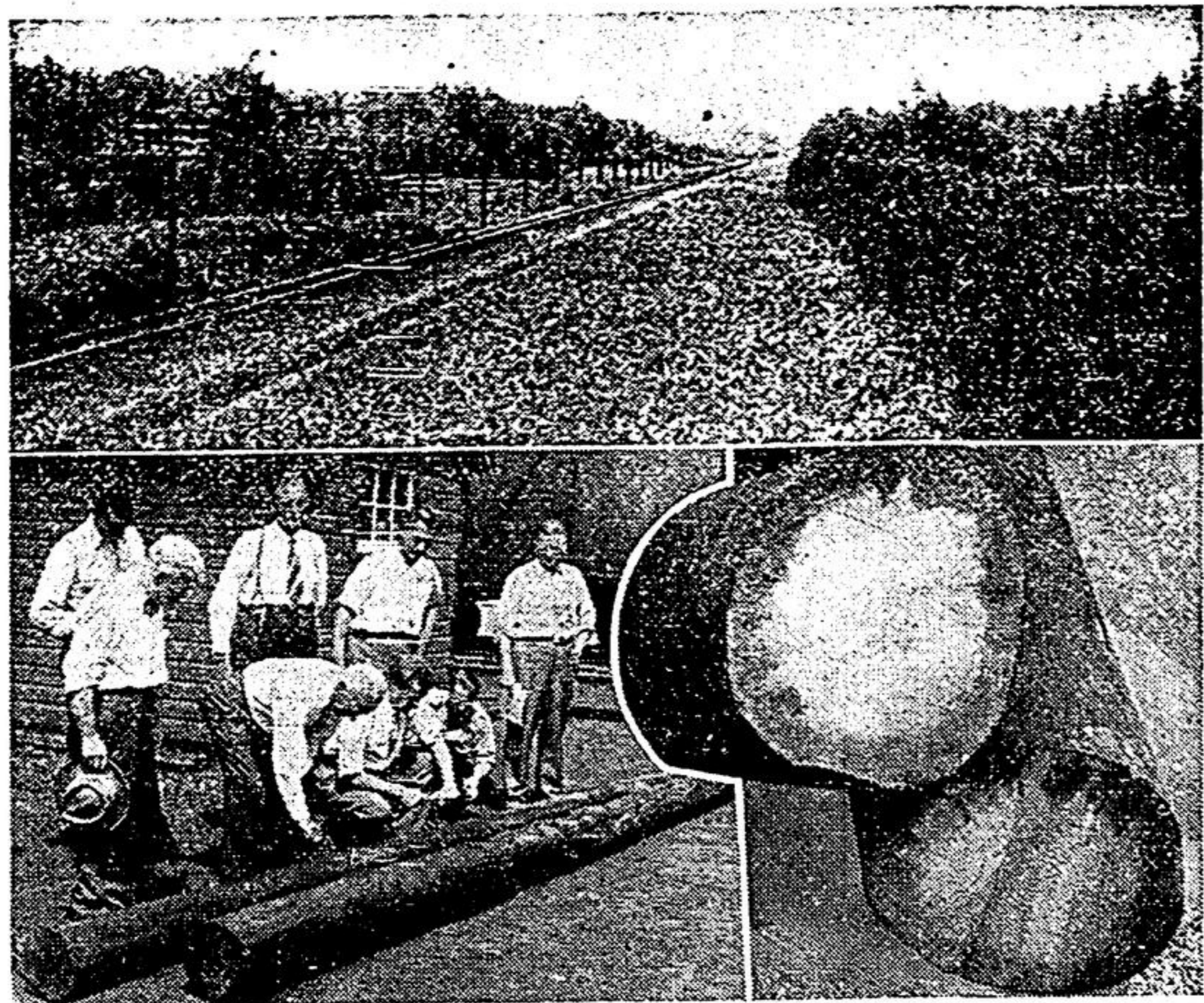
Most gripping short address of the entire four-day General Conference was made Thursday night by Peter Dyck, Russian-born Mennonite who has been serving abroad under the Mennonite Central Committee for the past six years.

Mr. Dyck's work had more than one moment of heartbreak and terrible fear, particularly when his staff tangled with the Russians.

"A strange group — only 33 of them — somehow got out of Russia and made their way on foot to southern Holland. They were members of our own Mennonite Church, which has been established in Russia for 150 years.

"That is where our story begins, in Holland.

"We received permission from the Dutch to issue 'Menno-passes', which would permit others of the 35,000 who surged out of Russia after Stalingrad to cross into Hol-



Twenty-four years ago the communications department of the Canadian Pacific Railway more or less as an experiment, installed a new type of telegraph pole along 31 miles of track of the Algoma district in Northern Ontario. The poles were made from the lowly jack pine, long considered the comparatively useless poor relation of the Canadian forest, treated with creosote—the first installation of any consequence in

Canada. In order to provide increased clearances for new automatic block signal wires, 495 of the poles in this section are to be replaced with longer poles this year. But so successful was the "experiment" of 1923 that many of the shorter poles are to be used elsewhere on the system, and not a single pole has had to be replaced since that time due to rotting. In the top picture some of

the poles can be seen, still as good as new, along a stretch of the main line west of Ramsey, Ont., with a standing jack pine snow break, effective and economical, on the right hand side of the track. At the lower left Canadian Pacific officials test two of the poles to discover the penetration of creosote as forestry experts look on, and the outer rings on the pole sections in the third picture show the 100% penetration of the creosote

land. But the Russians and also the Communists in Holland pressed the Dutch government with these questions: "Who is letting them in? Where are they now staying? When are we getting these, our Soviet citizens, back?"

"Only 442 of the 5000 Menno-passes were used. The Russians demanded that every one of these people be repatriated, and although they held 12,000 Dutchmen as prisoners, the Dutch never let them have one of our people.

"It was sad and horrible and gruesome. These people lived in fear, fear of being returned forcibly to Russia or Siberia..... Let it be to everlasting credit of the little Netherlands that she did not surrender one of these refugees."

Tells of Stranded 150

Mr. Dyck then turned to the plight of 150 other Russian Mennonites stranded in Berlin and "living black."

Food and supplies sent by the Mennonite Central Committee twice weekly in Dutch Red Cross ambulances kept these refugees alive until the final "miracle" — getting

out of the Russian zone and onto a Paraguay-bound refugee ship.

"In the midst of mine enemies Thou preparest a table before me was never more dramatically illustrated," Mr. Dyck said.

Some 10,000 refugees in Germany were reached through the relief commission, and of these some 1000 were set with passports and passage on a chartered refugee ship.

"Then word came from General Clay that those in Berlin might not go.

"Nothing could happen in Berlin without agreement of all four powers — and Russia would never agree to letting me leave.

"When I had to face those people and tell them, they just sat there quietly and did not move. 'If this is the will of the Lord,' they said 'we will go east instead of west. My wife and I wept, and they said 'We are so sorry for you.'

Pray for Miracle

Then they prayed for a miracle, while I went on to Bremerhaven,

General Clay said he could do nothing..... Washington, not prepared to go to war with Russia, said 'no'..... Then, a few hours before the ship left General Clay's office phoned to hold the ship, that the refugees were coming after all.

"This was not human effort. This time that was not enough: this time the Lord opened the way.

"God in the 20th Century has wrought another miracle."

Aftermath of the terrible days of suffering in Europe is the happy resettlement of the refugees in Paraguay.

"They do not have much. But they have two things: faith in the Providence of God, and the admissions of failings in their plea 'Help us to be that which we want to be'.

"Relief and service are not enough—there must be salvation," Mr. Dyck concluded.

Among those from Canada appointed to positions on the various committees were: Peace Problems Committee—S. F.

Coffman, Vineland, A. L. Fretz, Selkirk, and Jess Martin, Waterloo. For Western Canada, Milo Stulzman, Kingsman, Alta. Industrial Relations—Milton R. Good, Kitchener. Historical Committee, S. F. Coffman, Vineland; J. C. Fretz, Kitchener. Christian Education — Roy Knock, St. Jacobs, Ont.

CLAIMED TO BE M.O.H. FACES SERIOUS CHARGE

Following a complaint from a suburban Richmond Hill housewife that man claiming to be the Medical Health Officer for Vaughan Township had examined her for Polio, myelitis, York County police arrested Charles H. Knox of Toronto, 55, on a charge of indecent assault.



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