

*Record immediately
after April minutes*
1.

TO THE GENERAL SYNOD OF THE REFORMED CHURCH IN AMERICA:-

The Board of Trustees of Hope College, Holland, Mich., herewith offer their report for the year 1930-1931.

HOPE COLLEGE has just completed the sixty-ninth year of its work as a college. The first Freshman Class entered in September, 1862. The first Senior Class was graduated in 1866 with eight members. The Class of 1931 numbers one hundred.

The first four classes in residence numbered 22 as of June, 1866. The total enrollment in the College classes for the current year is 420, while the total for all departments is 566.

A digest of the financial report for the year is given herewith. It shows receipts from all fees,--tuition, laboratory and others,-- of \$46,171.36. The total amount received in church contributions, directly and through the various Boards and organizations within the churches, together with gifts from individuals and with bequests, amounted to \$28,590.84. Income from invested funds was \$46,835.09. The operating deficit for the fiscal year is \$8,231.72. The Permanent Fund of the College was increased by \$11,663.03.

The economic situation of the country is having its effect upon the various phases of the work of the College. Gifts from individuals have decreased. A general shrinkage in receipts by all the agencies of the Church, the Board of Education included, is naturally reflected in the amount received by the College. Doubtless the enrollment has been affected also, but it is impossible to ascertain whether conditions of large unemployment bring an increase or a decrease in the attendance of liberal arts colleges. It is certain that the student group as a whole finds it hard to meet college bills.

The character of the intellectual work has been maintained at the required high standing. Applicants who cannot meet the entrance requirements are not accepted, and failure to continue according to the regulations set by the faculty disqualifies a student for further residence. A church college faces a difficulty which public institutions do not meet. A church college has in mind the preparation of young men and women for Christian service. It realizes that the ethical and religious character of its whole denomination depends upon these recruits to the service. It must therefore govern all of its activities with a definite purpose. It has always been the aim of Hope College to serve the Reformed Church in America in this way and at the close of this current year the faculties and administrative groups feel that excellent results have come from following this principle with great care, both scholarship and character being rated high.

The usual generous proportion of the graduating class will enter a theological seminary in the autumn. Several of the class have already made application to one of the various missionary boards of the Church for educational appointment. At least two will begin professional preparation for work as medical missionaries. A large number of the young women will enter teaching and their influence

for the type of spiritual thought and living which the Reformed Church feels is of utmost importance to our individual and national life, will be a great contribution to the welfare of their communities. In all these ways Hope College continues its work for Church and State. It is deeply grateful to Almighty God who provides the means for this undertaking, and it moves forward into the coming year with as vital faith as in the years that have gone, assured that what the "faith of the fathers" sought and accomplished in their day is still the great need of the world. The generous assistance of the churches of the Denomination and of men and women who would prove faithful stewards in the work of the Lord, is necessary to the conduct of this work; and Hope College dares to hope for this help, while it makes bold to promise the same untiring effort and devotion.

On the 17th of June, 1930, Mr. Edward D. Dimment, A.B., Litt.D., L.H.D., LL.D., tendered the Board his resignation from the presidency of the College, to become effective September 1, 1930. Dr. Dimment was graduated from Hope College in 1896. Two years later, still a very young man, he was elected Professor of the Greek Language and Literature in his Alma Mater. Thus began a connection with Hope College which up to the time of his resignation and continued uninterruptedly for thirty-two years. During these years he not only served as member of the Faculty, but also as the Treasurer of the College and since 1918 as President. Dr. Dimment had woven a record of tireless devotion to Hope College, contributing most generously of time, energy and means to the upbuilding of the College. In the future written history of the College Dr. Dimment's efforts and directing wisdom will loom large. Since his accession to the presidency, the resources of the College have shown a most gratifying increase, the Faculty has been much enlarged, the attendance has shown a marked growth, and the standards and reputation of the College have been stoutly maintained. The whole Reformed Church in America owes Dr. Dimment a large debt of gratitude.

It was with great reluctance that the Board of Trustees, after repeated requests to Dr. Dimment to withdraw his resignation, felt obliged to accept it. Fortunately he consented to act as president until a new president could begin active work, and will close his presidency July first next.

On the 9th of October, 1930, the Board elected to the presidency Mr. Wynand Wichers, A.M. (Mich.), a graduate of Hope College of the Class of 1909; from 1909 to 1913 instructor in Latin and English in Hope College; from 1913 to 1925 Professor of History; from 1918 to 1925 Registrar; since 1925 Cashier and Executive Vice-President of the First State Bank of Holland, Mich. Mr. Wichers brings to the presidency ample experience on the Faculty of the College, familiarity with the problems of the institution, and an adequate financial experience. The Board believes that it has made a wise choice and submits to General Synod for confirmation the election of Mr. Wichers.

The Board regrets the loss by death of two able and valued trustees who were appointees of the General Synod. The Hon. Gerrit John Diekema, LL. D., died at his post as United States Minister to the Netherlands, at the Hague, Dec. 20, 1930. Mr. Charles Myron McLean, LL.D., died at his home in Holland, Mich., April 29, 1931. As members of the Board these men gave their time and efforts without stint. Mr. Diekema had served the Board thirty-seven years, during most of that time in the capacity of Secretary. His services as attorney and legal advisor for the College were invaluable and always at the command of the Board. Mr. McLean had served on the Board since 1921 and was at the time of his death the Board's esteemed Vice-President and Acting President. He brought the ripe judgment of an experienced educator and the financial insight of a banker and commercial leader to the meetings of the Board and its Executive Committee. Our denomination is deeply indebted to these men for their devoted service to the cause of Christian Education.

At this session the General Synod should elect three members to the Board of Trustees of Hope College, two to replace Mr. Diekema and Mr. McLean, whose unexpired terms extend to 1935; and one in the place of the Hon. Christian Jacob Den Herder of Zeeland, Mich., whose term expires this year. At its April session last the Board unanimously resolved to present to the Synod the name of Acting President Dimment, to fill the unexpired term of Minister Diekema.

James Sterenberg, Secretary,
the Board of Trustees of Hope College

Holland, Mich.,
May 15, 1931.

DIGEST OF THE FINANCIAL REPORT OF THE TREASURER OF HOPE COLLEGE

CURRENT FUND

Receipts:

Interest	46,835.09
Fees & Rents	46,171.36
Rents	1,221.90
Gifts and Con- tributions	28,590.84
Sundries	2,332.07

125,150.42

Operating deficit 8,221.72

\$133,372.14

Disbursements:

Salaries	85,004.03
Light, Fuel &c	4,049.78
Supplies &c	7,045.36
Plant Costs & Repairs	8,162.19
Interest & Trusts	4,931.14
Travel &c	1,210.80
Postage and Advert'g	237.69
Fee Refunds & Sund's	3,564.93
Contingent Fund	5,695.99
	<u>119,901.94</u>

Reserves:

Unearned Fees	10,634.55
Accrued Int	416.37
Unpaid Taxes	750.00
Bills Due & Payable	1,669.28
	<u>\$133,372.14</u>

PERMANENT FUND

Receipts:

Investment Funds	68,430.03
Endowment Fund	11,663.03
Trust Fund	13,967.50

Excess Cash P

Payments 14,492.65

\$108,553.21

Disbursements:

Investment Funds	94,325.15
Contingent Fund	10,570.71
Trust Fund	2,090.68

\$108,553.21

Holland, Mich.
March 31, 1931