

1915 Native Conference

About one hundred of our native brethren and sisters met in Conference with their missionaries at Matopo Mission, Monday, Apr. 5, 1915. H.P. Steigerwald, Moderator, H.J. Frey, Secretary.

Art. I

Some of our young people, who are under the control of their parents, find it difficult to dispense entirely with the making of beer and work connected with it. To such we advise as last year that they endeavor to be freed from the same. But they should exercise wisdom and patience rather than rashness in doing so. When husband and wife are both believers, however, their lot is easier, and they should refuse.

Art. II

From Art. IV, 1914, Decided again to try the plan proposed last year, to close the schools for three months during the summer.

Art. III

In reconsideration of Art. 2, 1914. Decided that in the custom of receiving lobolo there are many dangers. We therefore think it good to depart from the custom. But if any find it difficult to depart entirely immediately, we agree that a gift may be received. But there should be no asking for lobolo, nor any coercion. Neither should children be taken from their parents.

(Art. III--in reconsideration of Art. II, 1914, Dec.)

Art. IV

In regard to wedding feasts. Decided that when the bridal party leaves the church, they should sing only Christian songs on the way. Having reached the kraal and partaken of the feast, there should be a season of prayer and religious service with all the people, after which the crowd should return to their homes. There should be no dancing now what is called "Vagatya".