

1917

Native Conference--Matopo

Our native brethren and sisters met in Conference at Matopo, March 13, 1917. H.P. Steigerwald, Moderator, H.J. Frey, Secretary.

Art. I

What shall be done to a member of the Enquirers' Class who persists in the use of Kaffir Beer?

Decided that such a one should be admonished and prayed for; but if he refuses to yield, he shall be reported to the missionary in charge upon his visit to the school; and he shall deal with him as he and the church at that place shall deem advisable.

Art. II

What about a person who refuses to come to evening prayers at the kraal?

Decided as in former council, that all believers should attend prayers.

Art. III

It is the custom of our parents to plant grain that has been mixed with medicine from witchdoctors. Is it right for believers to eat of the grain that grows from doctored seed?

Decided that there is nothing wrong in eating such grain, but for believers to put medicine into their seed and trust to that for a good yield, is very wrong.

Art. IV

Is it right to have our children treated to prevent the falling of the soft spot in their heads should they pass through a garden that has been specially treated with medicine?

Many spoke on this question, some in favor of the custom, and some opposed. All the missionaries were against the custom. But the question was not settled. It will come up again.

Art. V

Some believers send their children to live with their grand mothers, where they are given beer. Is this right?

Decided that Christian parents should bring up their children in the fear of the Lord, and they should not be allowed to learn the use of Kaffir beer or other evil practises.

(Note) Slowly but surely our people are throwing off their superstitions. The custom mentioned in Art. 4 is hard for many to leave; but the light is shining, and a number are not pronounced against it. The entrance of Thy Word giveth light.

H.J. Frey, Secretary.