

3796

Government's Exhibit 30

avvoce e di poter raccontarti tutti quelle che im che sto possando.

So hiti tutti i frotelli d classe Italiani e Americani a mi diso il vostro

Off mo Froello per il Signore

(Signed) FRANK D'ONOFRIO,

Company D, 307th M. G. Batt.

Military Branch,

Camp Dix,

Trenton, N. J."

3797

Government's Exhibit 30.

(Same as Govt. Exhibit 22.)

Government's Exhibit 31.

(Copied from Minutes of Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society Board of Directors' Meeting.)

July 17, 1917.

3798 "The following resolution was then offered:

"Whereas the President of the Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society has this day made a statement in writing before the undersigned, who are now members of the Board of Directors, setting forth his acts done and performed since the death of Brother Russell, and his election as President;

"And Whereas, it is the sense of this Board that the President should prepare and publish, for the benefit of the Church at large, a statement of facts concerning his said activities;

"And Whereas, it is well known that opposition has arisen against the President;

"And Whereas, we have heard a statement at length by Brothers Rutherford, Hirsh, Hoskins, Wright, Ritchie, MacMillan, Van Amburgh, Bauerlein and others:

"And Whereas, it appears from the facts brought before us that Brothers I. F. Hoskins, R. H. Hirsh, A. I. Ritchie and J. D. Wright have not been legally members of the Board of Directors of the Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society for more than six months prior thereto, and are not now members thereof, and the necessity having arisen for a full and complete Board of Directors; and the President, acting under the power and authority conferred upon him by the terms of the Charter and the laws of the State of Pennsylvania, has appointed four members to complete said Board;

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"Now therefore be it Resolved, that we, the undersigned members of the Board of Directors, do hereby express our hearty approval of the acts and conduct of our President, and General Manager and Executive officer of the Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society, which duties we desire him to continue; and we take this occasion to express our utmost confidence in him as a brother and servant in the Lord, and to commend him, with loving prayers and assurance of our support, to all who love our dear Pastor Russell and who believe that he was sent to be the guide of the Church to the end of her way;

3801

"And be it further Resolved, that the President be, and he is hereby requested to prepare a full statement of the facts leading up to the conditions now existing in the work at Brooklyn; and a full statement of the necessity arising for the appointment of members of the Board of Directors and why the same is done;

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and such other facts as may be necessary in this connection for the good and welfare of the Church at large; and that said statement be published if deemed necessary.

"In the name of the Master of the Harvest, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, Amen.

Brooklyn, New York, July 17, 1917.

"(Signed) A. N. PIERSON

"(Signed) W. E. SPILL

"(Signed) W. E. VAN AMBURGH

"(Signed) J. A. BOHNET

3803 " (Signed) A. H. MACMILLAN

"(Signed) GEO. H. FISHER

"It was moved and seconded that the resolution be adopted and spread upon the minutes of the Society. Motion carried, and Resolution signed by all the members of the Board.

Government's Exhibit 33.

Brooklyn, N. Y., Bethel Home,
July 17, 1917—9:30 A. M.

3804

Pursuant to the call of the President, J. F. Rutherford, for a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Watch Tower Bible & Tract Society, to be held at the Bethel Home 9:30 A. M., July 17th, the following members were present: Brothers J. F. Rutherford, A. N. Pierson, W. E. Van Amburgh, A. H. MacMillan and George H. Fisher, W. E. Spill and J. A. Bohnet. The President called the meeting to order. Prayer by Brother Van Amburgh.

The President stated that he had inquired of Brother A. I. Ritchie if the date of July 17 would be convenient

for Brothers Ritchie, Wright, Hoskins and Hirsh, and was informed verbally that the 17th would be acceptable, and, probably, a preferable date. Written notices had then been sent by mail to Brothers A. I. Ritchie, I. F. Hoskins, J. D. Wright and R. H. Hirsh; but he had a written statement from Brothers Ritchie, Hoskins, Wright and Hirsh that they would not attend the session on that date.

The President then stated that peculiar conditions had arisen which had made necessary certain action upon his part. He also submitted legal brief from an eminent authority and the Articles of Incorporation of the Watch Tower Bible & Tract Society and of the People Pulpit Association; also referred to statements made by various brethren to him personally. He further stated that, acting under the authority conferred upon him by the charter of the Watch Tower Bible & Tract Society and the laws of Pennsylvania, he read the following:

3806

"Whereas, the charter of the Watch Tower Bible & Tract Society corporation existing under the laws of Pennsylvania provides for a board of directors consisting of seven members, three of whom the law requires shall be residents of Pennsylvania; and

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"Whereas, there is now, and for more than six months has been, only three members of said Board of Directors, to wit, J. F. Rutherford, President, A. N. Pierson, Vice-President and W. E. Van Amburgh, Secretary and Treasurer, who were elected to their respective offices by the shareholders at the annual meeting thereof held according to law in Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, January 6, 1917, and who, by virtue of their said election and the terms of the said charter, are members of the Board of Directors; and

"Whereas, A. I. Ritchie, J. D. Wright, Isaac F. Hoskins and R. H. Hirsh, who have assumed to act as members of said Board of Directors, are not in law nor in fact members of said board, but that there is now and for a long time has been four vacancies on said Board of Directors; and

"Whereas, the charter of said corporation provides, that where a vacancy occurs in said Board of Directors the remaining members thereof may within twenty days thereafter meet and fill such vacancy, and failing to do so for a period of thirty days, then the duty and the obligation devolves upon the President of the Corporation to appoint some suitable person or persons to fill such vacancy or vacancies; and

"Whereas, there are now four vacancies on said Board, as aforesaid, which vacancies have existed for a period of more than thirty days and the remaining members of said Board of Directors have not filled such vacancies;

"Now therefore know all men by theses presents, that I, J. F. Rutherford, President of said Watch Tower Bible & Tract Society, by virtue of the power and authority conferred upon me by the Charter of said Corporation and of the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, have appointed and by these presents do hereby appoint the following named persons, at least three of whom are residents of the State of Pennsylvania, to fill such vacancies on said Board of Directors, to wit: W. E. Spill, Pittsburgh, Pa., J. A. Bohnet, of Allegheny County, Pa., George H. Fisher, of Scranton, Pa., and A. H. MacMillan, of Brooklyn, N. Y., as members of said Board of Directors, each to hold office as provided by the Charter of said Corporation and the laws of Pennsylvania.

"Given under my hand at Pittsburgh, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, this 12th day of July, A. D. 1917.

(Signed) J. F. RUTHERFORD,
President of Watch Tower
Bible & Tract Society.

State of Pennsylvania }
County of Allegheny } ss:

On this 12th day of July, 1917, before me personally appeared J. F. Rutherford, to me known and known to be the person who executed the foregoing instrument, and acknowledged that he executed the same as president of said corporation, in my presence, for the purposes therein mentioned.

(Signed) L. H. McCABE,
Notary Public.

Witness my hand and official seal
the day and date last above written.

(Commission Expires January 19, 1919)."

He then produced letters as follows, from Brothers J. A. Bohnet, George H. Fisher, W. E. Spill and A. H. MacMillan, originals of which are on file with the Secretary:

N. S. Pittsburgh, Pa., July 12, 1917.

Mr. J. F. Rutherford,
Brooklyn, N. Y.

Dear Brother Rutherford:

I write to inform you that I hereby accept the appointment as a member of the board of directors of the Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society, and agree to a meeting of the board to be held at Brooklyn, N. Y., on July 17, 1917.

Faithfully yours,

J. A. BOHNET.

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Scranton, Pa., July 14, 1917.

Hon. J. F. Rutherford,
 Pres. Watch Tower Bible & Tract Socy.,
 Brooklyn, N. Y.

Dear Brother:

In answer to yours of 12th July, I accept, as the will of our Lord, the appointment of which you notify me as a member of the board of directors of the Watch Tower Bible & Tract Society. In the name of our dear Lord and Redeemer,

3815

Yours in Him

GEO. H. FISHER. .

 July 17, 1917.

Mr. J. F. Rutherford,
 President of the Watch Tower
 Bible & Tract Society,
 Brooklyn, New York.

Dear Brother:

3816

I Hereby accept the appointment as a member of the Broad of Directors of the Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society.

W. E. SPILL

July 17, 1917.

Mr. J. F. Rutherford,
 President of the Watch Tower
 Bible & Tract Society,
 Brooklyn, New York.

Dear Brother:

I hereby accept the appointment as a member of the Board of Directors of the Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society.

A. H. MACMILLAN.

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He further produced written statement signed by Brothers W. E. Spill, J. A. Bohnet and George H. Fisher, consenting to the holding of a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Watch Tower Bible & Tract Society at 124 Columbia Heights, Brooklyn, N. Y., the 17th day of July, 1917, (Original paper on file with the Secretary). Copy follows herewith:

"We, the undersigned, W. E. Spill, of Pittsburgh, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, and J. A. Bohnet, of Allegheny County, Pennsylvania; and George H. Fisher, of Scranton, Pennsylvania, members of the Board of Directors of the Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society hereby consent to the holding of a meeting of said Board at 124 Columbia Heights, Brooklyn, New York, on the 17th day of Jul, 1917.

3819

"(Signed) W. E. SPILL

"(Signed) J. A. BOHNET

"(Signed) GEO. H. FISHER."

He also produced written statement signed by Brothers J. F. Rutherford, A. N. Pierson, A. H. MacMillan and W. E. Van Amburgh, consenting to the

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holding of a meeting of the members of the Board of Directors of the Watch Tower Bible & Tract Society at 124 Columbia Heights, the 17th day of July, 1917. Copy herewith (original on file with the Secretary):

3821

"We, J. F. Rutherford, W. E. Van Amburgh and A. H. MacMillan, of Brooklyn, New York; and A. H. Pierson, of Cromwell, Conn., members of the Board of Directors of the Watch Tower Bible & Tract Society, do hereby consent to the holding of a meeting of said Board of Directors, to 124 Columbia Heights, Brooklyn, New York, on the 17th day of July, 1917.

"(Signed) J. F. RUTHERFORD

"(Signed) A. N. PIERSON

"(Signed) A. H. MACMILLAN

"(Signed) W. E. VAN AMBURGH."

The President made the following report as to some of his activities as President and Manager:

"Dear Brethren:

It seems due to you that I make a report of my activities since the management of the Society has been placed in my hands.

3822

After Brother Russell's departure it was exceedingly difficult for anyone to take up matters where he had left off, because he had peculiar knowledge of the affairs of the Society that no one else possessed. I fully realized this, for I had been closely associated with him for many years as counsel. I would not speak of these matters but it is due you, under the peculiar circumstances that have arisen; and because of this the following matters are here mentioned:

"At the time of Brother Russell's death there was a certain matter left unfinished which meant an immediate loss to the Society of some \$11,000.00 unless certain action was taken forthwith. I took the neces-

sary action at once and was successful in saving the Society that amount in cash.

"A certain paper company with which the Society held a contract attempted to repudiate that contract by placing a certain construction upon its terms, and refused to carry out its obligations with the Society. I took the matter up with the Paper Company personally, which after considerable effort, resulted in a saving to the Society of some \$14,000.

"There was an outstanding contract at this time which involved the Society in a large sum of money, the other party claiming damages from the Society in the sum of \$32,000.00. The prospects of saving any of this money were very poor. The parties, with their attorneys, called upon us demanding the money, and after three strenuous sessions, by the Lord's grace, I was able to get the matter adjusted, with a saving to the Society of over \$26,000.00.

"In the month of January, last, there came on for trial in the City of New York a suit against the Society involving taxes upon the Bethel Home and the New York Temple covering several years involving upwards of \$22,000.00. After a long and strenuous effort, assisted by other counsel, this case was won for the Society.

"In the above matters there was saved for the Society in actual cash the sum of \$51,000.00, and in addition thereto the tax case was decided in our favor, which may result in a further saving of some \$20,000.00 for the Society.

"Brother Wilson of Iola, Kansas, having died leaving some property to the Society, his heirs contested the Will. After taking depositions in Virginia and Florida, I Succeeded in adjusting this matter, thereby recovering more than \$5,000.00 for the Society.

"In Los Angeles, California, there was instituted

a law suit against Brothers Scott Anderson and Homer Lee in which wrongful charges were made against the International Bible Students Association and Brother Russell's good name. In the month of February, last, I went to Los Angeles and, taking advantage of the conditions in the case, I filed an answer setting forth an epitome of the entire Divine Plan of the ages which our dear Brother has been teaching for years. This became a part of the Court records which probably has never been done in any other case anywhere. The case was decided in favor of our brethren and has resulted in a great witness for the Truth in Southern California.

3827

"In the month of March Brother P. S. L. Johnson instituted a law suit in the High Court of London, England, tying up all the finances of the Society there. Upon receipt of information by cable as to what had taken place, I directed a course of action which resulted in a decision in this case in our behalf. The costs in the case amounted to more than \$700.00, and \$200.00 of which Brother Johnson paid from money which he wrongfully took from the safe of the Society at its London Branch. The other \$500.00 his Solicitor was required to pay. Brothers Hirsh, Hoskins and Wright advocated before the Board the payment of this \$500.00 by the Society, after the High Court of London had decided that it must be paid by the Solicitor according to law, because of information and evidence from the Society's President that the suit had been instituted without authority.

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"I beg to submit that the office management is in far better shape than it has been in for a long time. A short while before our dear Brother Russell's death, he removed Brother Ritchie as manager of the office, and placed Brother Martin in his place. Brother Russell also appointed Brother Macmillan as Presi-

dent's Assistant. Furthermore, he took Brother Hoskins out of the Colporteur Department, and directed Brother Macmillan to institute a general reformation in the office; but Brother Russell died before putting into operation all changes which he had in mind. Since then, however, his wishes have been faithfully carried out, the office now being on an efficiency basis and the work is being carried on quite successfully, but with a decreased office force.

"As is well known to all, Congress passed a Conscription Act, and considerable time has been required by me in the examination of this Act and in giving advice to inquiring brethren throughout the country. I made a visit to the War Department at Washington, and after a personal interview gained favorable concessions for the Society and our brethren. My personal correspondence has been greatly increased because of the Conscription Act, and for several months has required the services of two stenographers.

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"Being a lawyer by profession, and glad to serve the brethren in any way I can, I have had considerable work in advising the brethren regarding their personal affairs, in all parts of the country and abroad.

"I have held at least two meetings every Sunday, and sometimes three, as well as speaking at other times as opportunity has afforded.

3831

"In general, I have endeavored to acquaint myself with every part of the work in this country and in foreign lands, and to do all in my power to aid the same.

"It seemed good to the Lord to have the Seventh Volume prepared and two faithful brethren, Brothers Woodworth and Fisher, did this work, other faithful ones assisting in the mechanical part of it. I have read considerable manuscript and printers proofs while traveling on the trains. When time came for publishing this work, we were in the midst of much opposi-

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tion; and, knowing that to consult the opposers would hinder the publishing of the volume, I took counsel with Brothers Van Amburgh, Macmillan, Martin and Hudgings of the office force. After praying over the matter, the Lord seemed to open the way so that the opposition might not interfere. A certain brother, without solicitation, placed in my hands the necessary money with which this book should be published, and the Lord's favor seeming to be upon it and the publication was undertaken; and now, by the Lord's grace, we have had a small bit in aiding other brethren throughout the world by placing with them this last heritage of our beloved Brother and Pastor the dear Israel of God.

3833

"In all these matters I have tried to act faithfully, and it must be conceded by everyone who is acquainted with the operations of business that to have taken into my confidence the Brothers Hirsh, Hoskins, Ritchie and Wright would have been disastrous to the Society and its work. Subsequent facts prove that this is true. I am now in receipt of a letter from Brother Work of Philadelphia, in which he states that Brothers Hirsh and Hoskins have appeared before the Philadelphia congregation and stated that money amounting to some \$200,000.00 has been kept in the office safe. If this were true, that such an amount was in the safe here, anyone who pretends to be on the Board of Directors and who would disclose that fact would thereby prove that he is an unsafe person to be consulted with in confidence about anything.

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"What little I have done, I have accomplished, of course, by the Lord's grace, and I am sure I have had no personal ambitions in it. I would have preferred to have kept this matter all to myself, as Brother Russell always did, but the necessities of the case seem to require otherwise. I am glad to submit my case to the

Lord, knowing He is merciful and judges my imperfections lovingly. I am glad I do not have to submit to the judgment of any earthly creature. In the language of the dear Apostle Paul, "I count not my life dear unto myself"; and having put forth an effort to do my best I respectfully submit the matter and patiently await the verdict of the Lord. I call upon the officers and Board of Directors of the Watch Tower Bible & Tract Society, in the interests of the cause which we love dearer than this life, to aid in holding together the truly consecrated and in putting down this uprighteous religion which has arisen amongst us.

3836

"Humbly submitted,
 "(Signed) J. F. RUTHERFORD."

Following this a resolution was presented to the Board. Owing to the lateness of the hour, adjournment was then taken until 8:00 P. M.

8:00 P. M.—Continued adjourned meeting with all the members present. Further discussion of the resolution followed: The following resolution was then offered:

3837

"Whereas, the President of the Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society has this day made a statement in writing before the undersigned, who are now members of the Board of Directors, setting forth his acts done and performed since the death of Brother Russell, and his election as President;

"And Whereas, it is the sense of this board that the President should prepare and publish, for the

benefit of the Church at large, a statement of facts concerning his said activities:

"And Whereas, it is well known that opposition has arisen against the President;

"And Whereas, we have heard a statement at length by Brothers Rutherford, Hirsh, Hoskins, (Wright, Ritchie, Macmillan, Van Amburgh, Baerlein and others;

3839

"And Whereas, it appears from the facts brought before us that Brothers I. F. Hoskins, R. H. Hirsh, A. I. Ritchie and J. D. Wright have not been legally members of the Board of Directors of the Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society for more than six months prior thereto; and are now new members thereof; and the necessity having arisen for a full and complete Board of Directors; and the President, acting under the power and authority conferred upon him by the terms of the Charter and the laws of the State of Pennsylvania, has appointed four members to complete said Board;

3840

"Now, Therefore, be it Resolved, that we, the undersigned members of the Board of Directors, do hereby express our hearty approval of the acts and conduct of our President and General Manager and Executive Officer of the Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society, which duties we desire him to continue; and we take this occasion to express our utmost confidence in him as a brother and servant in the Lord, and to commend him, with loving prayers and assurance of our support, to all who love our dear Pastor Russell and who believe that he was sent to be the guide of the Church to the end of her way;

"And be it further Resolved, that we believe that our dear Brother Rutherford is the man the Lord has

chosen to carry on the work that yet remains to be done in Pastor Russell's name and in the name of the Lord; and that no other in the Church is as well qualified as he is to do this work; or could have received at the Lord's hand greater evidences of His love and favor.

"And be it further Resolved, that the President be, and he is hereby requested to prepare a full statement of the facts leading up to the conditions now existing in the work at Brooklyn; and a full statement of the necessity arising for the appointment of members of the Board of Directors and why the same is done; and such other facts as may be necessary in this connection for the good and welfare of the Church at large; and that said statement be published if deemed necessary.

3842

In the name of the Master of the Harvest, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, Amen.

"Brooklyn, New York,

"July 17, -1917.

"(Signed) A. N. PIERSON

"(Signed) W. E. SPILL

"(Signed) W. E. VAN AMBURGH

"(Signed) J. A. BOHNET

"(Signed) A. H. MACMILLAN

"(Signed) GEO. H. FISHER."

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It was moved by Brother Spill and seconded by Brother Bohnet, that the Resolution be adopted and spread upon the minutes of the Society. Motion carried, and Resolution is signed by all members of the Board.

Adjournment then taken until 8:00 A. M., July 18th.

8 A. M. July 18th, 1917.

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Adjourned meeting—all the members of the Board present. Brother Rutherford stated that he had received a communication from Brother W. M. Hersee of Woodstock, Ontario; that the Brother has been a heavy contributor to the Tract Fund and had been very zealous in his loyalty and support of the work of the Society, but that, owing to financial conditions which he had not anticipated, he was at present in need of some aid and asking, if it were possible to receive some from the Society. He further stated that during the management of Brother Russell, Brother Hersee had been assisted several times under similar conditions. Following some discussion to the effect that the services of Brother Hersee had been much appreciated by the Society, it was moved by Brother Macmillan, and seconded by Brother Pierson, that Brother Hersee be placed upon the regular Pilgrim list and an allowance of \$50.00 per month be made for the sustenance of his family until further action.

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The question of future regular monthly meetings of the Board was discussed, and it was decided to hold the next regular meeting on August 6th, unless otherwise called by the President. The Secretary was asked to notify each member by card, or personally, prior to said meeting, that there might be a full attendance of the Board. There being no further business, motion was then made to adjourn until the next meeting, Monday, August 6th. Carried unanimously.

W. E. VAN AMBURGH.