

work of a missionary was the preaching of the Word".<sup>1</sup> There was full concurrence to this request and actions were taken indicating that five out of seven missionaries were exclusively engaged in preaching the gospel. It was voted that the cold season should be mainly devoted to traveling and that instead of passing rapidly through the country, several days should be spent at each important place. The necessity of traveling as simple as health would permit, when going on preaching tours, was urged. They emphasized, however, that the appropriation of the Executive Committee for the department of evangelizing was entirely inadequate.<sup>2</sup>

Actions outlining the work of the native assistants were taken and seven were appointed, namely James Tripp, Lucien D. Hayden, Charles S. Thomas, and Monroe B. Weed for Nowgong; Nidhi L. Farwell and Bipsu for Sibsagar; and Apinta for Gauhati. It was further voted that the native assistants be divided into two classes: assistant preachers and colporteurs — including the duties of exhorters and tract distributors. The rules that were laid down for the assistants indicate, to a certain extent, the sincerity with which these early missionaries looked upon their task. No assistant was to receive salary as a preacher or colporteur for periods when not actually engaged in missionary work. It was also expected that every native assistant should present monthly a full report in writing, to the missionary under whom his labors were directed, namely, tours, places visited, kind and number of tracts and Scripture distributed, and conversations held.

Government schools under their supervision and missionary schools which they themselves had established were discussed. It is evident from records that schools were considered of great importance in the evangelizing

program. The experience of all missions, they claimed, favored the plan of educating both sexes. Girls' schools were established in Sibsagar and Gauhati. The orphanage at Nowgong was a co-educational institution and was considered of common interest to the whole mission. They, therefore, pledged to the principal of the Orphanage "their united co-operation, sympathy, and prayers."

The consideration of advance took up much of their time, and it was earnestly recommended to the Executive Committee that Golaghat and Mongoldai be immediately occupied. This, they felt, was indispensable to the efficiency of the mission. Golaghat was the connecting link between Sibsagar and Nowgong; and the occupancy of Golaghat would enable the missionaries to reach one another's fields of operation most advantageously. Further, it was a door to all the Naga tribes on the southern frontier; and it was an important civil and military station. Mongoldai was desired because of its dense population and its location. It was not far from Gauhati, easy of access, and in a vicinity where the Cachari tribe was abounding. The Cacharis were free from the shackles of Hinduism and were in many respects superior to the Assamese. The mission was unanimous in the opinion that no time should be lost in the occupying of these two stations.

Although this first Conference lasted for three weeks, the reader is impressed with the amount of work they accomplished. The missionaries were in no hurry to get back to their stations until they had completed their task. At that Conference the various forms of work were systematized and uniform methods adopted. Foundations of church order were laid and provision made for more extended and permanent evangelistic la-