## MINUTES

OF THE

## THIRTY-THIRD SESSION

OF THE

# Free Will Baptist General Conference,

HELD WITH THE CHURCH AT

## COFER'S CHAPEL, NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE,

OCTOBER 2-10, 1907.

The Time and Place for Holding Next Session will be Arranged by the Executive Committee

> AYDEN, N. C. FREE WILL BAPTIST PRINT. 1908.

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## PROCEEDINGS

-OF THE-

## FREE WILL BAPTIST GENERAL CONFERENCE.

The Thirty Third Session of the Free Will Baptist General Conterence, met in Cofer's Chapel, Nashville, Tenn., Oct. 2, 1907, at 10 a.m. A half hour's prayer service was conducted by Eld. Earnest Poston of the South Carolina Conference, assisted by Eld. E. B Joyner of the South Georgia Association. It proved a season of great spiritual interest. Eld. W. M. Brumit of the Cumberland, Tenn. Association, was chosen temporary moderator. Chose Eld. J. M. Emmanuel of Macon, Ga., reporter for the press. Appointed Eld. E. B. Joyner to lead the afternoon prayer service. Adjourned until 2 p. m. Prayer by Eld. Woods Springfield of the Mt. Moriah, Alabama Association.

#### Afternoon Session.

Prayer service led by Eld. E. B. Joyner. Letters read from the Ohio River Yearly Meeting, Cape Fear Conference, Western, N. C. Conference, Denton's Creek, Texas, Association and the Constitution of the General Conference. Suspended the rules and elected Eld. Dell Upton of W. Va., moderator, Elds. J. M. Emmanuel and Woods Springfield, assistants, Elds. Earnest Poston and E. B. Joyner, assistant clerks and Bro. W. R. Sawyer and Eld. W. C. Dowdy, trustees and members of the executive committee for five years. The address of welcome was very felicitously delivered by Eld. W. M. Brumit, pastor of the church. Response by Eld. Thos. E. Peden, Pres. of the Free Will Baptist Theological Seminary, Ayden, N. C, Adjourned until 7:30 p. m.

#### Night Session.

The usual half hour's prayer service was conducted by Eld. J. V. Klosser of the Chattahooche, Ga. AssociUpton, D. D. Adjourned until tomorrow 9 a. 11.

Oct. 3, 9 A. M.

Prayer meeting led by Eld. J. M. Emmanuel. Minutes read and approved. Appointed Eld. Woods Springfield to lead afternoon prayer meeting and Eld. W. M. Rodgers at night. Appointed Elds. W. M. Brumit, W. M. Rodgers and sister Nellie Wyatt, a committee on Supply of the Pulpit. On Printing Establishment, Thos. E. Peden, E. B. Joyner and J. M. Emmanuel. Education, E. L. StClaire, J. V. Klosser and W. R. Sawyer. Sabbath Schools, W. M. Brumit, Lizzie Brown and L. M. Wyatt. Temperance, W. M. Rodgers, W. R. Sawyer and Nancy Parker. Ministry, J. V. Klosser, Woods Springfield and W. C. Dowdy. Missions, Martha H. Dowdy, M. O. Myatt and Jerry Sullivan. Correspondence, J. M. Emmanuel, J. M. Brumit and Earnest Poston. Moral Reform, Elds. Woods Springfield, W. M. Brumit and J. M. Emmanuel. Popery, Elds. J. V. Klosser, sister M. Myatte and Bro. J. R. Binkley. Peace, Elds. Thos. E. Peden, J. V. Klosser and sister Sallie Hood. Sabbath Observance, Elds. Thomas E. Peden, E. L. StClaire and Earnest Poston. Doctrine, Elds. J. M. Emmanuel, W. M. Rogers, E. B. Joyner. State of the Denomination, Elds. Thos. E. Peden, E. L. StClaire and Woods Springfield.

Voted that no resolutions be received after the fourth day unless by special permission of conference. Appointed Elds. Thomas E. Peden, J. V. Klosser, J. M. Emmanuel and Eld. Dell Upton, committee on City Missions. Appointed Eld. W. M. Rogers corresponding messenger to the General Association of General Baptists. Eld. J. M. Emmanuel to the Southern Baptist Convention, Eld. Dell Upton to the American Baptist Union and Eld. D. A. Cush, to the church of Christ.

#### Afternoon Session.

Prayer service led by Eld. Woods Springfield. Letters read from South Georgia Association, West Virginia Yearly Meeting, Chattahooche Association. S. C. Conference and Midway Georgia Association. 7:30 p. m. Anniversary of the Home Mission Society. Prayer service led by Eld. T. E. Peden. Report read by the clerk. Addresses were delivered by Elds. E. L. StClaire and Dell Upton.

#### Oct. 4, 1907, 9 A. M.

Prayer service conducted by Eld. J. V. Klosser. Chose Eld. Thomas E. Peden, W. A. Brown, W. M. Brumit, Bro. W. R. Sawyer and Bro. David Lasley executive committe of the Home Mission Society and Eld. R. I. Corbett, Ayden, N. C., Treas. vice Eld. E. T. Phillips, resigned. Sisters Sallie Hood and M. O. Myatt paid one dollar each and became annual members. Eld. Dell Upton having paid twenty-five dollars, was enrolled as a life member. Business of General Conference resumed. Journal of yesterday read and approved. Roll call showed nearly all the members present. Eld. J. N. Booth was introduced as a visiting brother from the Baptist denomination and in response made a few very felicitous and fraternal remarks. Adopted the report of the committee on the ministry as follows: As the success and progress of the denomination depends largely on the efforts of the ministry, we recommend that every young man who gives satisfactory evidence that he is called of God to preach the Gospel, be encouraged by offering him help to educate himself for the work and when prepared to sustain him in the field.

That we be careful not to recommend any one who does not sustain a good moral character.

We advise all our ministers to refrain from the use of tobacco and our churches to refuse license to young men addicted to the habit. We request our Theological Seminaries to receive no one, as a ministerial student, who is in the habit of

smoking eigarettes.

Correspondence Adopted—We recommend, in the interest of Christian unity, that our denomination correspond with the Church of God, Church of Christ, Southern Baptist Convention and American Baptist Union.

Printing Establishment Adopted—We urge the increase of the use our own literature, this includes our paper, The Free Will Baptist, and all our publications issued by and for our denomination as our hymn book, Sunday School quarterlies etc.

#### Afternoon Session.

Prayer meeting conducted by Eld. J. N. Booth. Adopted report of committees as follows:

EDUCATION .- We recommend that the Triennial General Conference adopt some means, or plans, by which the Free Will Baptist Theological Seminary, at Ayden, N. C. can be endowed. That the Conference now in session in Nashville, Tenn., appoint one or more agents to carry out the plan it may adopt and raise the aforesaid endowment. We recommend that each Association, Yearly Meeting or Conference send their young ministers to Ayden and insist that the Elders in charge of churches preach annually a sermon on Education and take a collection for the support of ministerial students and send the amount realized to the Treas. of Education Society, Ayden, N. C. Popery, Roman Catholic and other Episcopal sects, are the greatest enemies of protestant Christianity and no possible effort should be spared to warn the people against prelacy and idolatry. As the Bible is our rule of faith and practice, we should labor more assiduously to place this blessed -Book in the hands of every person in the world, and make great sacrifices to bring, by love and kindness as our blessed Savior did, them to understand the Word of God, and with Christ's help lead them from darkness, thatthey may rejoice in the gospel light through his infinite grace.

SABBATH SCHOOLS.-Whereas, Sunday Schools are in-

dispensable factors in successfully training the young, the hope of our country, our states and the church.

Therefore, resolved, that our ministers ought to use every possible effort to establish and maintain Sunday Schools in their respective churches and that evangelists should do the same wherever they go. That our schools should use our own literature, which is second to none. We insist on the schools selecting teachers from our own ranks as far as practicable.

TEMPERANCE.—Resolved that as Christian men and women, we cannot tolerate whiskey or strong drink in any form. We, in common, with all Christian denominations, apprized of the baneful effects of the liquor traffic, on the citizens of our country, morally, intellectually and financially, oppose the traffic in all its numerous forms and recommend total abstinence for the individual and the entire suppression of the traffic for the good of our country.

RIO GRANDE COLLEGE.—We appoint Eld. Thomas E. Peden, D. D., a committee of one to employ counsel and test in the courts the eligibility of the acting trustees of Rio Grande College, located in Gallia Co., Ohio, and we will sustain him in the effort. Resolved, that we instruct our secretary to draw on the treasury for money, as it may be provided, to pay for the printing of the minutes and defray the expenses of the suit for control of Rio Grande College. The entire amount not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000.)

7:30. Prayer meeting conducted by Eld. J. M. Emmanuel. Anniversary of the Foreign Missionary Society. Reelected the Executive Committee. Sermon by Eld. Woods Springfield of Alabama.

#### Oct. 5, 9 A. M.

Prayer meeting led by Bro. W. R. Sawyer. On account of great interest the time was extended fifteen minutes. Letter from the Scioto, Ohio River Yearly Meeting received and read.

Committee on missions made the following report, which was, after discussion, unanimously adopted:

We recommend both Home and Foreign Missions and that a General Financial Secretary be elected who

shall give his whole time to planning and raising funds for the mission cause and pay all money coming into his hands to the Treasurer of the Mission Board. That this Conference fix his salary and pay the same, including his expenses out of the Treasury. We request each minister to preach four sermons a year on missions and co-operate with the Secretary in raising money for the good of our cause. That the Secretary make a monthly report to the Board and that it be published in the FREE WILL BAPTIST. We request each Sabbath School to take a mission collection the first Sunday of each month and promptly send the amount collected to Eld. Redding I. Corbett, Treasurer, Ayden, N. C. We advise the Foreign Mission Board to aid Eld. M. R. Allen, Foreign Missionary elect, in completing his education and preparing himself for, as we believe, his divinely called work.

ed, that we elect Eld. Dell Upton, D. D., Financial Evangelist and general agent for the Theological Seminary at Ayden, N. C. That his duties shall be to travel through our denomination, present the general interests of our church to the people and raise funds for their support. Resolved that fifty per cent of the money collected by him, within his term of office, shall go to the endowment of the aforesaid Seminary and the remaining fifty per cent to the Executive Committee of the General Conference, to be used for Missions and the general interest of the church. He shall receive such compensation for his services as he and the Executive Committee may agree upon.

Report of Eld. Thomas E. Peden, Treas., was received, approved and he was re-elected Treas. of the General Conference. Report of committee on Moral Reform adopted as follows: We heartily endorse the many Christian movements for the elevation of society and advise our people to take an active part in all the great moral reforms of the day. Adjourned until 2 p. m.

#### Afternoon Session.

Prayer service conducted by Eld. Thos. E. Peden. Adjourned until Monday morning 9 o'clock. 7: 30. An-

niversary of the Education Society. Prayer service led by Eld. J. M. Emmanuel. Collection and dues \$3.51. Reelected the executive committee. Sermon by Eld. Thos. E. Peden.

### Oct. 6, 1907, 9 A. M.

Eld. Woods Springfield lectured to the Sabbath School. Prayer service led by Eld. Earnest Poston. Sermon by Eld. E. L. StClaire D. D., on the Doctrines and usages of the Free Will Baptist denomination.

#### 2:30, P. M.

Prayer meeting led by Eld. Thos. E. Peden. A large number communed and washed each other's feet per the example of our blessed Savior. The Holy Spirit was poured upon them copiously and many praised the Lord and shouted for joy. 7:30. Sermon to a crowded house by Eld. Dell Upton, D. D.

#### Oct. 7, 9 A. M.

Prayer service led by Eld. W. C. Dowdy. Read the letter from the Flat Creek, Tenn. Association. Passed with gratitude the following resolution. We hereby tender the members and friends of Cofer's Chapel Free Will Baptist church, Nashville, Tenn., our sincere thanks for their kindness and unbounded hospitality to the delegates and visitors of this session of conference.

City Work—We urge our brethren to plant missions in every city and pay particular attention to the unchurched masses who are seldom, or never, found in the house of God. We advise them to observe the same discipline and point out sin, especially carnal amusements, as plainly as in our country churches. We ask our members moving into cities to remain true to their principles and denomination, open their doors for cottage prayer meetings and aid in every possible way in securing the organization of a Free Will Baptist church and securing a site and erecting a suitable church edifice at the earliest time possible.

Publications-The FREE WILL BAPTIST should be taken, promptly paid for and read by every family con-

nected with our churches and it is the duty of each pastor to see that it does reach each family of his congregation.

#### 2 O'clock, P. M.

After the usual half hours prayer service, passed the

following resolutions:

North Dakota University—We continue to recommend North Dakota University and hope it will soon have grounds and buildings of its own in the city of Bismark.

Peace—We rejoice in the progress the principles of peace, have made within the past two centuries, that prrisoners of war, are treated with more humanity and the rights of non combatants more fully respected than in former times. We favor referring all disputes between nations to the Hague Tribunal and abiding by its decision, thus avoiding war and bloodshed. We believe when the mission is fully accomplished that war, funds, neighborhood and family broils, will entirely cease and peace on earth and good will to man will universally prevail.

#### 7 P. M. Anniversary of Woman's Missionary Society.

After prayer service, the Woman's Missionary Society convened. Reelected the officers. Sermon by Eld. E. B. Joyner. Report of the Treas. sister Allie Harrington, received and adopted.

#### Oct. 8, 9 A. M.

The prayer service was very interesting. Letter read from Central Conference.

Adopted the report of the committee on Moral Reform. We insist that our laity and especially our ministers, do all in their power to promote morality in the strictest sense.

Requests for the next session were received from Ohio in the letter of the Ohio River Yearly Meeting, Nashville, Tenn., per pastor, W. M. Brumit Dothan, Ala., per Dr. E. L. StClaire Macon Ga., per Eld. E. M. Emmanuel. Referred the location to the executive committee.

Prayer service at 2 P. M. as usual. Time taken up by general discussion and hearing reports. 7:30 P. M., Anniversary of the Historical Society. Prayer service. Elect Eld. Dell Upton, President and re-elected the other officers. Sermon by Eld. W. C. Dowdy.

## October 9, 1907, 9 A. M.

Began with the usual prayer service. Adopted the following closing resolutions: Resolved that the peace, harmony, love and union of sentiment that have prevailed throughout this session of the General Conference, cheers our hearts and gives us strong hope in the future development and growth of the denomination. We hereby tender our heartfelt thanks to the church and citizens of Nashville, Tenn., for the very excellent and satisfactory manner in which they have entertained this session of the General Conference.

#### 2 O'clock, P. M.

Opened with the usual prayer service, Letter read from the State Line Association of Alabama and Florida and from Liberty Association. Alabama passed a unammous vote of censure against Evangelist W. H. Goff for collecting Foreign Mission money in Free Will Baptist churches and sending it to support a mission that ignores plain Bible teaching on one of the ordinances of God's house and perverts it on the others. Adjourned to the call of the Moderator.

Prayer service at 7 P. M. as usual. Grand Temperance rally. Sermon by Eld. E. B. Joyner, a Theological student in the Seminary at Ayden, N. C.

## Oct. 10, 1907, 7 P. M.

General testimony and farewell meeting. A large number participated, although all felt sad in view of the fact that in a few hours we would separate and many never meet again, but in hopes a majority would grasp each others hands in the General Conference of 1910, and all finally meet around the Great White Throne to glorify God forever and ever. Adjourned.

#### Abstract of Reports.

Eld. E. L. St. Clair D. D., had attended to his work as closely as finance and health would allow, several hundred were converted, baptized and taken into the churches. A colored Free Will Baptist Association had been organized in Florida of eight churches, as the result of his baptizing a regro minister, namely, Eld. Samuel Miller. Seven Apache Indians were converted, baptized and he expects soon to organize them into a church. Eld. Dell Upton D. D. had devoted most of his time to holding and saving church property but believes the trouble with those who left us is about over and we can spend our time in saving souls instead of property. Eld. S H. Norman failed to send a report but others stated that he is doing a very successful and much needed work in the Kanawha Valley. Eld. H. F. Wogan D. D. and wife, reported fifty conversions in and around Bismarck, N. D., Eld. W. H. Goff baptized 25, and collected for missions \$150,00. Eld. E. B. Joyner labored through vacation as Sunday School Missionary in the South Georgia Association, with fair success. Eld. J. V. Klosser began work, Nov. 1906. Preached 58 sermons, three conversions, baptized two, solemnized one marriage, raised \$17.00, for Bethelchurch and received \$6,55. Eld. M. A. Woodard, eighteen conversions, a number of churches greatly strengthened and on account of attending school, was compelled to de-. cline several invitations to hold meetings. Many working under Yearly Meeting appointmentment did not realize the importance of reporting to the Home Missionary Society.

#### Digest of Letters.

Ohio River Yearly Meeting. Two new meeting houses have been dedicated within the past three years, three new churches organized and received, namely: Hawk, Prattsville and Zaleski, Eld. P. T. Flythe of

Gladesville, W. Va., has died. Statististics: 34 ordained ministers, 4 licentiates and 4,200 communicants. Delegates to General Conference: Elds. Dell Upton, W. I. Carrier, Silas Moore and Thomas E. Peden, with power of substitution.

THOMAS E. PEDEN, Clerk, Sciotoville, Ohio.

#### Scioto, Ohio, Yearly Meeting.

State of religion is good. A general spiritual awaken. ing exists throughout the yearly meeting. We have three quarterly meetings, viz, Pine Creek, Porter and Portsmouth, 18 churches and 550 members. Eld. D. A. Cush is our delegate.

G. D. Webb, Strobel, Ohio, Clerk.

## Liberty, Alabama Association.

The association appointed me delegate but failed to to provide for my expenses.

R. M. CHAMBLESS, Lottie, Ala., Clerk.

#### South Carolina Conference.

We have 18 ministers, 27 churches and 1500 members and are in a preperous condition.

EARNEST POSTON, Lake City, S. C.

### Flat Creek Tenn. Association.

We appointed a delegate but he met with an accident and is so crippled that he cannot attend and I cannot leave the P. O. on account of special duties. We are a small body of 10 churches, 12 ministers and 310 members. Received by baptism within the past three years 14, by letter 7, dismissed 19, died 9. We send \$1.00 on minutes. We desire the aid of one of the national evangelists.

W. A. POOLE, Jackson, Tenn., Clerk.

#### Georgia Union Association.

We number 10 churches, 400 members, 6 ordained ministers and three licentiates.

J. M. EMMANUEL, Macon, Ga.

#### South Georgia Association.

We number 28 churches, 27 ordained ministers and 1600 communicants. Value of church property is \$4000. The writer is the delegate.

E. B. JOYNER, Glennville, Ga.

#### Tennessee I iver Association.

Eld. W. C. Dowdy was chosen delegate. Received within the past three years by baptism 114, by letter 9, died 31, expelled 14, ordained ministers 21, licentiates 8. Total men.bership 514. For minutes \$2.50.

W. G. Watson, Florence, Ala.

## State Line Florida Alabama, Association.

Eld. G. W. Cherry alternate. Statistics received by baptism 170, by letter 78, by confession, 63, by restoration 24, dismissed letter 86, excluded 62, died 24. Received for Home Missions \$21.95. We have 17 ordainel ministers, 8 licentiates and 16 churches. Value of church property \$3000.00.

J. W. D. STEPHENS, Bascom, Fla., Clerk.

### Central North Carolina Conference.

We have 58 churches, 32 ministers, 50 Sabbath Schools and 5441 members, 5000 children attend the Sunday schools. Value of church property \$40.000.00. Eld. W. A. Hobstetter was appointed delegate and Eld. M. A. Woodard, alternate. Our cause is on the upward trend. Our church organ, The Free Will Baptist is in most of our homes and our Sunday School quarterlies, published at Ayden, are nearly universally used. We wish our Zion success everywhere.

JAMES M. BARFIELD, Ayden, N. C.

## Cape Fear Conference,

Number of churches 55, members 3500. Value of church property \$30.000.00. We have 4 union meetings. Raised for Foreign Missons \$400.00. Have a home missionary a part of the time, in each of the union meetings. Raised for Christian Education \$250.00. W. A. Jackson, Cooper, N. C., Clerk.

## The Alabama Free Will Baptist State Convention.

To the Triennial General Conference of Free Will Baptist. Dear brethren at the session of our convention, held with Mt. Moriah church, Pickens county, Ala., Sept. 5, 1907, it was ordered that we send delegates to your body and Eld. Woods Springfield of the Mt. Morian Association and Bro. R. M. Chambless of Liberty Association, were chosen delegates to represent us. WM. A. KENDRICK, McCalla, Ala., Clerk.

## Chattahooche Georgia Association.

The Chattahooche Association is in a good spiritual condition. Number of churches 17, communicants 850, ordained ministers 24, licentiates 5.

J. V. Klosser, Reynolds, Ga.

## Cumberland, Tennessee Association.

Number of churches 35, members 2500, church building 29, value \$17,725.00, ordained ministers 27, licentiates 8. Members received within the last three years by experience and baptism 425 by letter 42, by recommendation 46, by restoration 20, total 533. Lost in various ways 210, net gain 323. Spiritual interest very good. Outlook hopeful.

W. M. BRUMIT, Nashville, Tenn., North Station.

## West Virginia Yearly Meeting.

We are moving along pleasantly in W. Va. We have 7 church buildings, valued at \$10.000.00, 35 ordained ministers, 4 licentiates and 3583 members. We send Bro. S. Viavis to sit with you in conference of whom further information can be obtained.

Dell Upton, Waterloo, W. Va. National Evangelist.

## Western North Carolina Conterence.

Our conference has been fairly successful the past three years, 476 have been baptized. We have 3555 members, 52 churches 45 ordained and 6 licensed ministers. Value of church property \$40.000.00. Sunday Schools in many of the churches. Much more interest in missions and education than formerly. We send as delegate Eld. A. R. Flowers.

## E. T. PHILLIPS, Ayden, N. C., Clerk.

## Dentons Creek, Texas Association.

The Denton Creek is the mother of two other Associations each stronger than it is, at present. Statistics baptized 16, received by letter 5, ordained ministers 7, number of churches 7, members 289. Value of church property \$1000.00. Raised for home missions \$62.40. Eld. — Green died praising the Lord, since the last General Conference.

H. B. Bennet, Coppell, Texas, Clerk.

We send Eld. E. L. StClaire, D. D., to represent us in conference and \$10.00 on the minutes. We have 1000 members, 6 ordained ministers and 2 licensed ministers. Church houses 14, value \$12,000.00

James Cheshire, Edison, Georgia, Clerk.

Remarks by the Clerk.

The denomination has made wonderful advancement within the past three years, union, harmony, love and

a disposition to work has prevailed.

In a few locacities especially, in Ohio and W. Va., the Seceders tried to hinder revival work and keep souls from coming to Christ but God's Spirit was more powerful than their opposition and the efforts were crowned with glorious results. Some of the delegates on Thursday, the last day of conference, visited the Hermitage, the former home of General Andrew Tackson, and were kindly given a good dinner, at the Soldiers' Home, about a mile from it. A prayer service was held in the little brick Presbyterian church in which Pres. Jackson worshipped and to which he belonged. At least one more day should have been given to the work of the conference for many important matters had to be hurried through without sufficient thought, or consideration. We should never try to get through in less than ten days. Some other denominations continue a whole month and then find some things not sufficiently matured. The weather, with the exception of one day, was very pleasant and agreeable. No better time could have been found.

All should go to work at once for the next General Conference in 1910, and make sure of a full delegation from each Conference, Association and Yearly Meeting in the work.

> DELL UPTON, Moderator, WOODS SPRINGFIELD, AND J. M. EMMANUEL, Assistants.

THOMAS E. PEDEN, Clerk, E. POSTON AND E. B. JOYNER, Assistants. STATISTICAL

YEARLY MEETINGS, CONFERENCES OR ASSOCIATIONS.	CLERKS AND THEIR ADDRESSES,	Unions. Q. M's or	Ministers.	Members.	Scholars. School Sabbath
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ennsylvania	L. B. LentMills, Penn	1	13	390	19
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South Carolina	Jas Swift		37 18		
lorry	Eld. J. H. Baker		7	144	15
lamburg	W. D. Carter		4	285	20
enton Creek	H. B. BennettCoppell, Texas		10	500 289	A
iberty	R. M. ChamblissLottie, Ala. W. G. WatkinsFlorence, Ala.		20	900	
	Woods SpringfieldFlorence, Ala.		29	S (25000000000000000000000000000000000000	
Bear Creek			33	680	
eorgia Union	Eld. J. M. EmanuelMacon, Ga.		10		
Vest Florida			12	600	
			10		
	***************************************		12		
Aartin			20	1,600	
ittle River			7	800 450	1
Iorth Georgia			6	500	
)conee			4	200	
Culman (Ala.)			4	250	
South Eastern (Ala.)			. 5	300	
		1	22	000	
			11		4