



Dr. Harry Grant

During his life time Harry, a practising dentist in Vancouver, B.C. had a keen interest in History. As an one time president of the Vancouver and District Dental Society he was called upon to make several historical contributions in regards to the B.C. and Vancouver dental scene. He belonged to a family wherein several of his brothers died of heart attacks at very early ages. With this in mind he himself retired at age 53.

History of AOTS 1923-1971 Grant & Ellis

Harry and AOTS

Harry was a charter member of Ryerson AOTS which as we all know was where the movement started. He served AOTS well as club president at Ryerson, the Vancouver and District District and the Provincial Councils, as well as serving as a National Officer for a number of years. His greatest service was to the King's Men which was a young men's christian organization of which he was the founder. Its members were from the late high school and university age level. He attended many of the National Conventions including the the early ones.



The National Association of R
HISTORY OF UNITED CHURCH

AOTS MEN'S CLUBS

B Y

DR. HARRY R. GRANT

&

C. W. ELLIS

NATIONAL PRESIDENTS UNITED CHURCH AOTS MEN'S CLUBS

MR. CHARLES E. ATCHISON	1948 - 1952
MR. D. BRYDON McCREA	1952 - 1956
MR. DAVID J. SHERWOOD	1956 - 1959
MR. CHARLES C. BURRITT	1959 - 1961
MR. FRED SAUNDERSON	1961 - 1963
MR. JACK DAWSON	1963 - 1965
MR. ALLAN JONES	1965 - 1967
MR. LORNE THORNLEY	1967 - 1969
MR. JACK CLEAVE	1969 - 1971
MR. DOUGLAS PHILLIPS	1971 -

F O R E W O R D

No claim is made that this is a complete, fully comprehensive or final analysis of the AOTS Movement. I am aware that it may contain many errors, omissions and irregularities. It is recognizable how difficult it is to obtain accurate, complete and detailed information on the development and early history of AOTS in distant parts of the country when the only source of information is from reports, interviews and various types of communication.

I was commissioned by the Executive Committee at the Second National Convention of AOTS held in Calgary, June 1954, to write up the AOTS History. My only reason for accepting this responsibility was to establish and preserve the records of the Movement from its beginning to the present date. In a few more years most of the early pioneers and charter members will have passed on and it will become more difficult to obtain accurate records of that time.

I claim no special qualifications for this task other than to have had the privilege of knowing the founder, Dr. H.W. Riggs, and nearly all the officers of the original club and the first District Council. I count it an honour and privilege to have served on the Executive Committees of the original club, the District Council, the Provincial Council and the National Association and to have met many of the leaders of the Movement in these various fields.

No attempt has been made to write up the full history of the various Provinces. This would fill a considerable volume in each case. I think it would be of great value if some qualified person in each of these areas ~~would~~^{were} be commissioned to write up these histories for records in the National Archives.

The progress and development of the Movement in British Columbia is, however, more detailed and complete; this is merely to show the pattern established as it unfolded and gradually became a National Institution.

To make this report of any value, I have felt that it was necessary to name individuals. I realize that this lays it open to severe criticism. Many men have made devoted, loyal and sacrificial contributions to this type of men's work in the church and yet may not have held office or be mentioned in this thesis. I trust that I may be dealt with kindly for any omissions in this regard.

In compiling this data, I have consulted charter members of the original club, committee chairman, pioneer key men in the various Provinces, the Executive Secretaries, the Secretary of The Board of Men and numerous reports and manuscripts.

I am exceedingly grateful and wish to express my thanks to all those who have contributed in any way to this report.

Vancouver, British Columbia

June, 1958

Harry R. Grant, Historian.

FOREWORD (Continued)

The compiling of this History of AOTS was passed over to me for completion in the fall of 1958.

After contacting numerous individuals, it is now presented in its final cover.

I wish to express to Dr. Harry Grant my sincere thanks for a job well done and to Harry the credit belongs.

Toronto, Ontario

July the 5th, 1961

C. W. Ellis

HISTORY OF A. O. T. S.

For a number of years prior to 1922, Service Clubs had been functioning throughout the country, but as far as can be ascertained, no Service Clubs existed as such within the confines of the Church in Canada.

The late Dr. Herbert W. Riggs, A practicing physician and surgeon in the city of Vancouver, is now looked upon as the founder of the AOTS movement. In the fall of 1922 Dr. Riggs was on his way to attend a Kiwanis Convention in ~~the city of~~ Toronto. At Port Arthur a number of Presbyterian Ministers, who had been attending an Assembly ^{at} Winnipeg, got on board the ^{ship} ~~boat~~. In conversation the two groups discussed the principles of a service club in the light of Christian theology with such interest that when Dr. Riggs returned home he had a vision of a Service Club within the Church. It was a challenge to him and he could not dismiss the idea from his mind.

Dr. Riggs was a member of Kerrisdale Methodist Church in Vancouver B.C., ~~later~~ known as Ryerson United, after which ~~was the~~ church union in June 1925. The Minister was Rev. J.G. Brown, Principal of Union College, Vancouver, B.C. Dr. Brown took a keen and active interest in the club from its beginning.

The organization received its name from an inspiration that came to Dr. Riggs at Sunday Service when Dr. Brown read the scripture lesson containing the passage "I am Among You As That Serves", found in Luke, 22:27.

After the service Dr, Riggs went up to his Minister and said, "I have a name for the service club we have been talking about". Hence the name AOTS. It is taken from the first letters of the words in the

phrase, "As One That Serves",

In the fall of 1922 Rev. J.G. Brown, then Pastor of Kerrisdale Methodist Church in Vancouver, B.C. invited a group of ~~them~~ men of his congregation ~~over~~ to his house. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss ~~with them~~ the feasibility of organizing a new service club which would be sponsored by the church, yet be independent of the church in its management and constitution.

The following men were in attendance:-Dr. H.W. Riggs, the instigator and prime mover of the idea, W.W. Wagg, Albert Cotton, Fred Cleland, George Emery, Harry Colclough and Rev. J.G. Brown.

It was not an enthusiastic meeting. Dr. Riggs presented his case and pointed out that something should be done to make use of the unused and wasted lay ability in the average church and that the new club would be patterned after such clubs as Kiwanis or Rotary. However, the significant difference ^e ^o ^{be} would ~~have no such thing as~~ ^u restricted ⁱ membership, and that ~~every~~ man in the church or community, or regardless of any church affiliation, and would be eligible for membership. It was also pointed out that each member would belong to and work on a committee. This condition was not sharply emphasized at the time but grew out of subsequent meetings when a constitution was under advisement.

The membership fee was to be kept low - 25 cents per year. A monthly lucheon would be served where general business of the club would be discussed and an inspirational address given by an invited speaker. The club was to be strictly non-denominational and could be organized in any church, while the cost of the lunch would not exceed fifty cents per person. No name was suggested by Dr. Riggs at this time.

On January 8th, 1923 a meeting was held in Kerrisdale Methodist Church where a simple Constitution was adopted and the new Service Club of the Churches was born. The name AOTS was adopted shortly after this. The First President was Dr. H.W. Riggs; Vice-President, Chris Spencer; Secretary, H.G. Ingledew.

The first AOTS dinner meeting was held Jan. 8, 1923 and was enjoyed in the unfurnished hall of Kerrisdale Methodist Church, Vancouver, B.C.

The speaker was Rev. Mr. McGuigan, Minister of Chalmers Presbyterian Church, Vancouver. He said that he had heard that someone was "Rigging" up something in the Methodist Church and he had come to investigate. He spoke on "Working Together". The first dinner meeting cost 40 cents.

The Charter Members were:

C.G. Allin	F.A. Galbraith	F.R. Murray
A. Arkwright	A.C. Gauthier	T. Pearson
Arthur Ash	F.H. Godfrey	Thos. Peat
H. Anthony	Morely Godfrey	A.L. Ramage
W.R. Bell	M.C. Gordon	Dr. H.W. Riggs
W.G. Breeze	W.H. Gordon	
J.W. Boardley	Harry Grant	WM. Savage
Rev. J.G. Brown	E.H. Griffin	A.E. Skitch
Alan Bowles		Chris Spencer
W.H. Colclough	W. Ingledew	W.P. Smith
C.W. Cain	H.G. Ingledew	
Basil Cathro		Guy Temple
F.A. Cleland	Charlie Joyce	W.H. Thorpe
F.K. Collins		
A. Cotton	Thomas H. Latimier	A.T. Vroom
L.H. Dwinell	N. Loughheed	
Dr. J.G. Davidson	J.E. Lord	W.W. Wagg
George Emery	J.F. Noble	Dr. E.D. Washington
E. Warren Elliott	W.J. Llyod	
W.F. Farley		J.W. Watt
Lawrie Brown	John Muir	

DR. H.W. RIGGS

Herbert Wilkinson Riggs was born at Colborne, Ontario, in the year 1872. He graduated in medicine at Manitoba Medical College in 1898.

He took post graduate work in Edinburgh receiving the degree of F.R.C.S. He also was made a fellow of the American College of Surgeons in 1913. While in Vancouver he gave special attention to X-Ray work, and it is reported that he brought the first X-Ray machine into British Columbia. He was a charter member of the North Pacific Surgical Association, and later President of that organization. He took post graduate work at John Hopkins Hospital Medical School and studied in Germany and Austria in 1911-12. He was a member of the Board of Governors of the Vancouver General Hospital for 21 years preceding his death. He held the post of District Governor of the Kiwanis Club and was International vice-president at one time. He was a Past Master of Acadia Lodge A.F. & A.M. and a member of the Canadian Institute of International Affairs. He was interested in lawn bowling and golf. He was a member of Kerrisdale Methodist Church, which later became Ryerson United Church after Union took place. He died early in June 1950.

On May 31, 1952, at the National Convention of AOTS Clubs held in Winnipeg, Manitoba, a resolution was passed paying tribute to his memory. A suitable inscription was permanently recorded in the minutes and a copy sent to the late Dr. Riggs' family.

An article published in the Convention Report that year has this to say about him: "Being an earnest Christian and greatly interested in promoting the Laymen's movement in the church, he founded the AOTS Club at Ryerson Church in 1923. We believe that the greatest memorial to him will be the growth and development of AOTS which he founded and to which he devoted much of his time".

The Past Presidents of Ryerson Club are:-

1923 - 24	# Dr. H.W. Riggs	1940	Dr. M.P. Thorpe
1925	F.K. Collins	1941	J.S. Donaldson

1926	F. A. Cleland	1942	C. E. Atchison
1927	W. G. Breeze	1943	G. G. Lister
1928	Harvey Pearson	1944	E. F. Rea
1929	M. C. Gordon	1945	G. C. Skinner
1930	C. T. Hamilton	1946	L. R. Johnson
1931	Dr. H. R. Grant	1947	Sid Thompson
1932	L. H. Dwinell	1948	Hugh Lickley
1933	# Oliver Weber	1949	J. S. Sinclair
1934	# Walter Cain	1950	F. H. Stevens
1935	# J. A. Robinson	1951	E. H. Rohrer
1936	Len Osborne	1952	Roy Kerr
1937	# R. W. Ball	1953	# Fred Doeull
1938	R. C. Pybus	1954	Edward Cook
1939	J. C. Copithorne	1955	Robert Gourlay
		1956	Gordon Kerr
		1957	Dick Harris

(# Deceased)

LIFE MEMBERS:-

H. A. Brett
F. A. Cleland
George Emery #
Dr. H. R. Grant
Peter Runcie
W. H. Thorpe
O. T. Killick
Roy Johnson

The new club was successful from the beginning. Monthly dinners and well prepared programs became an established part of their activities in the church. They set about to find objectives and projects which they could do in their own church and community. They set up committees through which this work could be done. The following committees were struck; - Program, Membership, Community Service, Finance, House, Athletic and Educational.

Their first objective was to raise money and with their own hands supply volunteer labor to build a church gymnasium. They found that ^{the} this project produced a fellowship and loyalty which has been characteristic of this club all down through the years. Their next project was, through the Athletic Committee, to provide a gymnasium instructor, equipment and administration for young and old who wished to use its facilities.

If this original club had not emphasized, in practice as well as in theory, the "Service" idea, the movement might soon have died a natural death.

It is to be noted that the SPIRITUAL aspect was foremost in the thinking of the early leaders and organizers. That spiritual attainment, however, was to be had through the medium of "FRIENDSHIP" and "SERVICE". According to the first printed Constitution there were five objectives and each of these had direct bearing on the words of ^{Jesus} ~~Leuses~~ in the motto, "I Am Among You As One That Serves".

They were:-

- "(a) To direct its activities toward molding the ~~community~~ life of its community on the pattern of the above motto.
- (b) To cultivate a desire in its members to be of the greatest service

- (b) in their church and community.
- (c) To elevate and reinforce the standards of good citizenship and to co-operate with recognized authority in their maintenance and protection.
- (d) To foster friendship and broaden human sympathy and express them in terms of social helpfulness.
- (e) To co-operate with the church or churches with which it is affiliated in the social service activities of such church or churches."

The service club idea seemed to work in the church as well as outside its walls. They set about to organize clubs in other churches. By the end of 1924 there were six clubs in existence. They were Mount Pleasant Methodist, Chalmers Presbyterian, Wesley Methodist, Marpole Methodist, Dunbar Heights and Kerrisdale Methodist.

The following is a statement from the record of the First General Council when Union was consummated June 10th, 1925. This reference appeared on Page 128 under the heading, "Promotion of Men's Organizations" and read as follows:-

"The General Conference approved our recommendation concerning the need of mobilizing the manpower of each congregation for the Kingdom of Christ, and placed upon our Board the responsibility of carrying out the plan. We seek in every possible way to foster such organizations, and endeavor to help each to become a vital force in assisting the Church to win success both in its local activities and connexional enterprises.

The AOTS (As One That Serveth) plan is proving a most valuable men's organization for Christian work."

The second reference is on Page 228 and is contained in the report of the committee on "Life and Work of the Church" subsection 5, reads^{ing} as follows:

"That believing it to be the will of God that the men of the United Church should take a more active part in the work of Christ's Kingdom, the General Council urges upon all our congregations the organizing of Brotherhoods, or Men's Service Clubs, for the discussion and practical undertaking of the manifold tasks facing the Church of this day, and that the General Council send this recommendation to the Prebbyteries".

The next step was to organize an over-all body which would correlate ~~their~~ objectives and activities. Twelve months after the first AOTS Club was organized at Kerrisdale Methodist Church, Vancouver, in 1923, a meeting was called for representatives of all existing clubs to discuss such an organization. These clubs were Kerrisdale Methodist, Chalmers Presbyterian, Wesley Methodist, Marpole Methodist, Mount Pleasant Methodist and Dunbar Heights Methodist.

The meeting was held in Dr. Riggs' office, 228 Rogers Building, on January the 21st., 1924, where it was moved by Dr. R. H. Clark and seconded by Fred Cleland "that a District Council of AOTS Clubs be formed for Greater Vancouver".

At a meeting held on February the 12th, 1924 Dr. Riggs read a draft constitution which was discussed and amended clause by clause, and adopted on Motion of H. R. McMillan. Dr. Riggs was elected President and L. H. Hambly, Secretary. Among others who were at this first meeting were Dr. R. N. Fraser, H. C. Wade, Oliver Weber, H. N. Kinnear, P. G. Drost, W. E. Pinchin and F. K. Collins.

It was to be known as The Vancouver and Lower Mainland District Council. Its objective was "to promote united action of the clubs in the interest of better community life and better citizenship by practical application of the teachings of Jesus in the life and organization of the community".

[Since that time the District Council has been useful ~~to the clubs~~ in a variety of ways, bringing the members of the clubs together for Round-Ups and Rallies, acting as a clearing house for information as to speakers and club experiences, promoting mutual aid in community service, and assisting in forming new clubs. Without limiting the freedom and independence of the individual clubs, it is available whenever combined action is required.

To meet the expenses incurred by the Council, each club paid a per capita fee of ten cents per member per year. In 1939 to meet heavier expenses this was raised to fifteen cents per member per year.

The parent club from the very beginning supported the District Council. This may be one reason why they have been a strong club all through the years. The First President of the District Council was Dr. H. W. Riggs and many of the succeeding presidents were former President of the Ryerson Club.

The Presidents of the Vancouver and Lower Mainland District Council from its beginning were as follows:-

1924 - 1926	# Dr. Herbert W. Riggs	1930 - 1931	F. K. Collins
1927	Harry C. Wade	1931 - 1932	# Roy Galbraith
1928	# Robert M. Millar	1932 - 1934	William G. Breeze
1929 - 1930	Frederick A. Cleland	1934 - 1935	Edward F. Odium

1935 - 1936	Dr. Harry R. Grant	1947 - 1948	George Williamson
1936 - 1937	# William J. Walton	1948 - 1949	Roy Johnson
1937 - 1938	Gilbert G. Lister	1949 - 1950	Gordon Kemp
1938 - 1939	Charles E. Atchison	1950 - 1951	Marc Grimmett
1939 - 1940	# John A. Robinson	1951 - 1952	Marc Grimmett
1940 - 1941	Ralph C. Pybus	1952 - 1953	Al Francis
1941 - 1942	Walter Rimes	1953 - 1954	Harry Murphy
1942 - 1943	# Frank Johns	1954 - 1955	Dr. William Hastin
1943 - 1944	Lacey L. Harris	1955 - 1956	Alex Gilmore
1944 - 1945	James E. Baine	1956 - 1957	Capt. K.Y. Sylling
1945 - 1946	W. J. Poulton	1957 - 1958	Gordon Bromley
1946 - 1947	George Skinner	(# Deceased)	

The most important work of the District Council in the early days was organizing new clubs, holding monthly meetings and promoting the annual rally, which later developed into the "Round-Up".

Most of the churches having clubs in these early days were ~~the~~ United, although in Vancouver there was a club at Fairview Baptist, First Baptist, Kerrisdale Baptist and later First Presbyterian, Bellingham, Washington, and Reformed Episcopal, Victoria, B.C. These only functioned for a few years and then disbanded, probably due to the lack of Denominational support.

It might be interesting to note that the following 35 clubs were on the roll in 1935:-

Ryerson	Douglas Park	Vancouver Heights
St. Giles	Grandview	Japanese United
Marpole	St. John's	First Baptist
West Point Grey	Wilson Heights	Mountainview
Windsor	Collingwood	Robson Memorial
St. Andrews-Wesley	Crosby	Capitol Hill
Chown	Beaconsfield	Scandinavian Mission
Burnaby	Jubilee	
Dunbar Heights	Grace	

Ladner, B.C.
Kamloops, B.C.
Kelowna, B.C.

Vernon, B.C.
Revelstoke, B.C.
Rutland, B.C.

Sixth Ave., New Westminster
Chilliwack, B.C.
First Presbyterian, Bellingham,
Washington.

Clubs were functioning at different intervals at Petaluma, California, Everett, Washington and as distant as Immanuel Parish Church, Ardoyne, Belfast, Ireland. Correspondence is on record concerning the former two and a card of "Membership and Object of Purpose" is on file concerning the latter. These distant clubs had corresponding membership only and had no direct affiliation.

The world-wide depression struck AOTS like everything else in the early 1930's. AOTS met the situation with two major projects and many small ones. These were the shipping of car loads of fruit, salmon, vegetables and clothing to the Canadian Prairies, ^{and} ~~The other was~~ the establishment of the AOTS Polytechnic School.

OLYTECHNIC

The Polytechnic was a free school for unemployed men. Here they could obtain instruction in useful trades, hobbies and academic subjects.

Due to the splendid promises of financial support made by the clubs, it was made possible to open the Polytechnic at 138 East Cordova Street in the Scandinavian Mission. Over fifty students enrolled for the free classes which began on February ~~the~~ 4th, 1935. The preliminary curriculum included English, Wood Carving, Mechanical Drafting, Penmanship, First Aid, Chemistry and Physics. The first three subjects were provided by Department of Education. All the teachers were specialists of high standing in their subjects and most gave their time without remuneration.

The new Polytechnic Committee consisted of W. R. O'Neill, President of Collingwood Club; Walter Cain, President of Ryerson Club; Douglas McNeil, President of St. John's; Rev. E. L. Nanthrup, Bentley Edwards and the AOTS Secretary, Tom Edwards. A great deal of help was secured from the City School Board as well as the Department of Education. After three years the Government took over the organization. During that time the District Council raised \$900.00 for the operation of the school, a lot of money during the depression.

The building at 138 East Cordova Street was provided by the United Church Home Mission Board free of charge and the teachers were remunerated by the Provincial Department of Education. Tom Edwards, Secretary of the District Council, was Director of the Polytechnic.

PRAIRIE RELIEF

The depression accompanied by drought on the Prairies brought about an exceedingly great and drastic hardship. AOTS was ^{among} the first to sense this need and undertook to organize the collection and distribution of food and clothing. The task was obviously too great for an organization such as AOTS and they accepted assistance from other agencies.

The Chairman for AOTS was Mr. G.G. Lister, Past President of the Vancouver District Council. His unselfish enthusiasm and able executive ability made him an ideal person for this great task.

The Prairie Relief Committee was set up under the Chairmanship of Rev. Dr. Gerald Switzer, then Minister of West Point Grey United Church, Vancouver, B.C., Mrs. (Dr.) Frank Patterson was treasurer and the Committee was made up from all denominations, both Roman Catholic and Protestant.

A warehouse was established on Hamilton Street with practically all voluntary help. Gifts of money, produce, clothing, etc. was solicited throughout the Province of British Columbia. It was shipped into this central warehouse and redistributed to Prairie points.

The church organizations throughout British Columbia contributed generously both in money and goods. The money was used to buy mainly fruit and vegetables over and above donations.

The fruit growers of the Okanagan Valley co-operated in contributing apples and for just the loading charges of approximately \$2.00 a ton.

The purchasing committee was mainly made up of Mrs. Patterson, Mr. J. A. Robinson, Mr. G. G. Lister, Mr. Bill Walton and others.

It is estimated that over 250 carloads was distributed throughout the Prairie Provinces.

BOYS' WORK

After the formation of the Central Council of AOTS Clubs in 1940 the Council was inspired by Rev. Robert A. McLaren, B.A., Christian Education Secretary for the B.C. Conference of the United Church to commence a fund of \$5000.00 for the promotion of Boys' Work. "Bob" McLaren was one of the most energetic workers in ~~the promotion of~~ Boys' Work in Canada and in the short time he had been in British Columbia he had gained the confidence and esteem of the large body of AOTS men who were solidly behind him in this enterprise. By the early part of 1945 the total amount of \$5000.00 had been raised through the generous contributions of the Clubs - one of the larger clubs having raised \$1500.00 and another \$1000.00. The cheque for the balance of the fund was turned over to the Boys' Work Committee at a rally of all AOTS Clubs held in

Canadian Memorial Chapel in 1945, presided over by Jim Baine who was then President of the Central Council.

Bob McLaren reported on the progress already made in Boys' Work as follows:

BOYS

"We have an increase in church-centred clubs and boys registered in them.

AND THEIR LEADERS

"Four one-evening leadership courses with an average attendance of 25 leaders were given last year. There was an attendance of 10 at the Leader's School sponsored by Kiwanis.

The general policy for leadership has been to use several leaders for each group, one man in each part of the work; intellectual, physical, spiritual and social. This gives a wider field for lay leadership and relieves the difficult situation created by the lack of young men.

A leadership council has been formed with Bill Steele, of Chown Memorial AOTS, as Chairman. Through this Council we hope to give inspiration and practical help to the leaders of the lower mainland.

AND PROGRAM

Hobbywork - has been stressed. Power tools have been purchased and distributed at lowest wholesale prices. Salvaged materials have been used. A number of clubs have held very commendable and profitable displays. Among these are:- Chown, Knox, Canadian Memorial, Henderson-Jubilee and other whose reports have not come in officially.

Literature - Because of financial assistance given by AOTS to the Christian Education Book Department, we have a full stock of books, the best from ^{all} any publishing houses, giving excellent leadership. Eight boxes of boys' books are in circulation with very favorable comments coming in regarding their use.

Camping - Donations to the Provincial Campsite at Ocean Park by AOTS helped in accommodation. These included a valuable supply of equipment, including a motor, pottery wheel, carving tools, saws, one hundred beds and mattresses purchased from the army, besides materials for signs and some good axes donated by an individual of AOTS as well as organized time and effort on the part of the men themselves. Ten boys camps with five hundred boys and forty-five leaders were held last year (1944).

Boy's Parliament - Plans are underway for a B.C. Boy's Parliament to be held during the coming Christmas holiday.

Sport - A Boys' Work Sport Association has been organized jointly by the Vancouver Y.M.C.A. Gordon House, Vancouver Boys' Club Association and United Church Boys' Groups to promote sport for all organized boys' groups.

PROMOTION

Boys' work promotion through the use of glass slides and kodachrome slides is being undertaken, actually showing how the program is carried on.

"The strength of our Church lies in the laymen. AOTS is releasing some of that Strength. We have only made a beginning. We have elaborate plans for organizing the boys of British Columbia. I say "Thank You"

for your fine help, leadership and support. I look forward to your sustained interest and help. Let us not be weary in well doing."

The AOTS also donated two Motion Picture Projectors for Boy's Work.

Community Service:- It is not necessary to record the Community Service carried on by AOTS. To give statistics would only be superfluous. Suffice it to say, that a major part of the program is to help those in need.

UNSHINE
PROGRAMS

One little item from the "Handshake", September 1935, reports:-

"Sunshine Programs" provided free for the unemployed, concerts, athletic equipment, toys for children, two tons of magazines for Relief Camps, 268 phonograph records, 26 pairs spectacles, eleven razors, quantity of razor blades, 1000 books collected for Coast Missions, 258 Christmas Hampers. 183 families had been supplied with clothing and 231 pairs of shoes, 7 cords of wood, 13 tons of coal; 19 helped to find employment; 82 cars used to take invalid and aged people to church and many other things of similar nature.

Ashford Truck" Money was raised by the District Council to purchase a truck for Rev. Herbert Ashford, Missionary in India in 1938. The amount raised was 1850 rupees (nearly \$830.00) at that time.

New Haven" The Council, over a period of time, put on a Saturday night concert and a Sunday Service for the "New Haven", young offender's unit. They also provided concerts for soldiers during the war every Sunday night. Special credit for this should be given to Messrs. Walter Rimes, Court Haddock, Jack Robinson, Bill Walton, Bill Breeze, Lacey Harris, Ed. Odlum, Ralph Pybus, Frank Johns, Jim Baine and Gil. Lister.

Libraries" Thousands of books were collected for libraries and given to logging camps, light houses, canneries and similar institutions up the Coast. Mentioned for this should be the late Jack Robinson, Ed Odlum and the late Dr. George Pringle.

AOTS "Search for Talent" Probably no single event in the history of AOTS has attracted as much publicity as the "Search for Talent". These contests brought out hundreds of fathers of young children who were participating and claimed their interests. The AOTS "Search for Talent" in Vancouver and vicinity extended from September 1942 to March 1948.

There were 36 preliminary contests held in the various district with over 10,000 people in attendance. There were 1000 contestants, approximately ranging in age from 6 to 19 years.

The four divisions of the contest were vocal, dramatic, dancing and instrumental. The finals were held in the Georgia Auditorium before a full house. \$1200.00 was awarded for scholarships. A number of the contestants have since become outstanding Canadian Artists.

The motto of the Contest was "Talent for Service".

The last paragraph of an editorial in the Vancouver Sun newspaper read:- "The Community will be proud to watch the contestants future progress. It will also be grateful to the members of ~~the~~ AOTS for undertaking such a worthwhile and cultural work".

This project was eventually taken over and sponsored by one of the large international Service Clubs. Tom Galloway was Chairman of this Committee for the District Council and was largely responsible for its organization and success.

"Handshake" Publication: - In 1932 a mimeographed monthly paper called the "Handshake" was published and edited by the Secretary, Tom Edwards. He carried this work on continuously for eight years until poor health forced him to resign. The new secretary, Jim Baine of Chown, assumed the editorship, changing form to a letter-sized eight page booklet.

The following tribute to Tom Edwards appeared after his resignation in the "handshake" of October 1940:

"It is with deepest regret that we have to announce that Tom Edwards, who for eight years edited and published the "Handshake" has found it necessary to send in his resignation as Editor. When will we get another who will give such faithful service? Presidents and other officers have come and gone but Tom Edwards, in his quiet unassuming way, has carried on as Secretary and Editor of the "Handshake", asking no reward, other than the satisfaction of a job well done and that he might be of real service to his fellow members. He has the friendship and best wishes of all who have been associated with him. We hope he will still be able to attend our meetings and give us the benefit of his unusual wise counsel."

Mr. Edwards was made Honorary Vice-President for life of the Vancouver and Lower Mainland District Council.

The successor, Mr. Jim Baine, was a capable and talented Editor; one whose delight it was to put out a newsy, attractive publication each month. He immediately enlarged the paper to 7 or 8 pages, mimeographed size 8½ x 11 inches. At a later date it was printed instead of mimeographed. Mr. Baine carried on this work for a number of years. AOTS is deeply

indebted to both these men for contributing so many, many hours of unselfish labour to this necessary work. Mr. Baine was elected President of the District Council for the term of 1944-45.

TRAVELLING GAVEL

In the year 1934-35 the Inter Club Committee was presented with the "Travelling Gavel" by Charlie Atchison, then President of the Grace Club and a member of the District Council. It was enclosed in a beautiful case and bedecked with ribbons and accompanying it was a book to keep a record of its peregrinations from club to club. The Council solemnly presented it to the West Point Grey Club and this Club in turn at a later meeting, turned it over to another. The visiting club was responsible for the program while the host club who received the gavel provided the dinner. By arrangement of the Inter-Club Committee, there have been many such visits, and the gavel has travelled to many clubs. The idea of inter-club visits has grown and much of it is done even apart from the movement of the gavel.

RALLIES

Early in the history of the Clubs, an annual District Council Rally and dinner was instituted. Two outstanding rallies were held in the Hudson's Bay Dining Room, one addressed by Rev. Dr. Endicott, former moderator of the United Church, and one by Dr. John R. Mott. Rallies have been held in the hall of St. Andrews-Wesley, St. John's, Chown, First Baptist and at the Hudson's Bay Dining Room. Sometimes the meetings were for members only but in later years the ladies were invited, as welcome guests. Because of that, the Hudson's Bay was the only dining room large enough to accommodate the crowd. Outstanding speakers were secured. The following indicates the year, President in office and speaker:-

1926	- President,	Dr. Riggs	Ryerson Club	Mr. Stanley Brent
1927	"	Wade	Chalmers	Dr. Endicott
1928	"	Millar	St. Andrews- Wesley	Conference
1929	"	Cleland	Ryerson	John R. Mott
1931	"	Collins	Ryerson	Dr. E. H. Oliver
1932	"	Breeze	Ryerson	Major Harold Brown
1933	"	Breeze	Ryerson	Wm. McNeil
1934	"	Odlum	Grandview	Rev. Dr. J. B. Magee
1935	"	Dr. Grant	Ryerson	Rev. Dr. Harry L. Meyer
1936	"	Walton	West Pt. Grey	Rev. Dr. Gerald B. Switzer
1937	"	Lister	Ryerson	Mrs. George Black, M.P.
1938	"	Lister	Ryerson	R. L. Maitland, K.C.
1939	"	Atchison	Grace	Rev. C. T. Rae
1940	"	Robinson	Ryerson	Rev. De Wendell Field
1941	"	Pybus	Ryerson	Rev. Burton L. Thomas

Attendance has been from 130 men to a maximum of 800 when Dr. Endicott spoke to a mixed audience. At the last three rallies 575, 525 and 425 were seated.

A notable feature of the May 1938 Rally was the presentation by the treasurer, Ed. F. Odlum, of a miniature truck to Mr. Jack Robinson to be forwarded to Rev. Herbert Ashford, Missionary in India. Instead of sending the toy truck, he remitted the funds collected by AOTS District Council to buy a real one.

In later years the First Annual Vancouver District Council Convention was held on a Saturday, followed by a dinner in the evening. The first convention was held in West Point Grey United Church, on April 19th, 1939 followed by a rally at the Hudson's Bay Dining Room. The second was held in Canadian Memorial United Church on April 26th, 1940.

The third was held in Chown Memorial United Church on April 23rd, 1941. The Central Council was formed at this Convention when Mr. Jack Robinson was President of the Vancouver and Lower Mainland District Council. It was not incorporated until 1947.

INCORPORATION

The only certificates of incorporation on file in the National Office are:

- 1) Certificate of Incorporation No. 3249 by which THE CENTRAL AOTS COUNCIL was incorporated in the Province of British Columbia under the "Societies Act" on July 23rd, 1947.
- 2) Certificate of change of name to "NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF AOTS CLUBS" issued on May 1, 1950.

Since 1949 a "Round-Up" has been held over the Labor Day Weed^k-end; first at Oc^{en} Park United Church Camp and latterly at the Christian Leadership Training School at Naramata, B.C. About two hundred men and their wives have registered each year.

EXTENSION

It was difficult to extend AOTS beyond Vancouver and the Lower Mainland or at least beyond the boundaries of British Columbia. One travelling man, however, did all he could on every occasion to spread information concerning the Movement, and tribute should be paid to him at this time. In Rev. Hugh Dodson, D.D., western Secretary of the United Church Board of Evangelism and Social Service, AOTS had a staunch friend. The following quotation is from the December, 1933 issue of the "Handshake" in which Dr. Dobson says:-"When I am asked to advise on method of organization for the men of the church, I give enquirers a copy of the AOTS Constitution, saying that this is the type that has best stood the test of time in Canada. There are some critics who say that AOTS is not religious. This is an objection you have to meet sometimes, and the reply is that the 'Acid Test' of the Christian religion is given in the story of the Last Judgment, 'Inasmuch as ye have done it unto the least of these, ^{my} Mr Brethren, ye have done it unto me'."

It would require too much space to record the many trips that were made in the early days to churches and out-lying towns to tell the AOTS story. Time, transportation and energy were freely given without any thought of remuneration or return, other than the advancement of the Kingdom of God through the Brotherhood of man.

The accomplishment of the Movement had established confidence in the churches where it was operating, but marked expansion began only when Mr. D. R. Poole became the Executive Secretary. In 1946 he came on as part time Secretary with a meagre salary, far below the worth of a man of his stature and caliber. His experience, organizing ability, consecration and pleasing personality immediately injected new life and vision into the whole movement.

D. R. Poole Delbert Russell Poole was born October 15, 1882, on a farm near Woodstock, Ontario. A minister came through his district telling of the need of young men for religious work on the Canadian Prairies, which ~~was~~^{were} rapidly opening up at that time. Although not much more than a boy he responded to this call and found himself doing student ministerial work near Humboldt, Saskatchewan, with singular success. Later he attended Brandon College but before graduating he went into Y.M.C.A. work at Saskatoon and Toronto. He finally became Boy's Work Secretary of the National Council of the Y.M.C.A. for Manitoba and Saskatchewan. In 1926 he became National Boy's Work Secretary succeeding Taylor Statten. Following this he became General Secretary of the Religious Education Council of Canada.

The depression forced him into business where he eventually became Sales Manager of a large Canadian Food Products Company located in Vancouver.

He probably did more, during his ten years as Executive Secretary of the AOTS, to put the Movement on a national basis than any other man. ~~His experience, organizing ability and pleasing personality fitted him for extension work at an opportune time.~~

The number of clubs multiplied in a very short time until in January 1949 there were 75 clubs from east to west. In 1957 there were 300 clubs in all of Canada .

CHINA Dr. R. Gordon Agnew, M.A., Ph.D., D.D. S of China was in contact with AOTS men in various ways while in Vancouver in 1947. He was enthusiastic about the purpose, policy and program of AOTS, and stated that it was the type of organization that would appeal to Chinese men. He said that he planned to organize clubs on his return to China. Rapidly changing political conditions in China prevented Dr. Agnew from ever realizing his vision.

Dr. Agnew was appointed the official representative of the Central Council in China.

ESTABLISHMENT OF RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED CHURCH

By 1942 the AOTS Movement was 19 years old. The number of clubs was about static. Some new ones were being organized and some old ones were being disbanded. The denominations outside the United Church had ^{dropped out} discontinued until only the United Church ^{clubs} remained. Some members of the Executive Council who had been active for many years were discussing the advisability of a change of policy. It was quite evident that men who were busily engaged in their daily vocations could neither afford time nor money to go far afield in organization and extension

work. On the other hand some held strongly to the view that the AOTS movement must maintain its original perspective of all inclusive Denominational set-up. Discussion on the subject became more and more evident.

[The following is a quotation from the AOTS "Handshake", March 1942:-

"The Executive of the AOTS District Council together with some of the Club Presidents had a Luncheon at the Devonshire Hotel on Monday, February 9th. Rev. Aubrey S. Tuttle, M.A., D.D., LL.D., Moderator of the United Church of Canada, was introduced by Rev. G. H. Villett who spoke briefly. Dr. Harry Grant and Ralph Pybus explained to the Moderator the aims and objects of AOTS Clubs. Owing to the limited time at our disposal not very much was accomplished but the Moderator was given a good idea of the organization and work carried on by the Clubs in British Columbia. As far as could be learned there is no similar organization east of B.C. and the Moderator seemed to be impressed with the idea of such an organization spreading out."

"He took some copies of our Constitution and promised to send us a letter of recommendation which could be used when we were endeavoring to form AOTS Clubs in Alberta or further east".

Referring to the same meeting with Dr. Tuttle the following is a quotation from the same issue:-

"After referring to the wide-spread anti-christian doctrine the Moderator approved the broad unsectarian basis of the AOTS and said we might do much to promote co-operation of the protestant churches, [^] cause in which he himself was earnestly and hopefully engaged.

To bring our organization into closer touch with the United Church he advised us to make use of the Lay Association, to which Dr. Grant replied that we were already doing our best in that way, but would like to be

allowed to tell our story to the General Council without any intermediary. Ralph Pybus suggested financial aid from the United Church headquarters in forming AOTS Clubs in other provinces and spoke of the valuable service given by Dr. Hugh Dobson, Secretary, Social Service and Evangelism, in making us known in British Columbia. The Moderator gently "passed the ball" back to us, saying there was a lot of preliminary work to do first and we ought to correspond with other clubs in the United Church to persuade them to link up with our organization. In reply to this a member spoke of his disappointment when he attempted AOTS propaganda in Toronto, saying he found very few clubs were awake to the call of Community Service, which proved that spasmodic voluntary effort was inadequate for so great a mission".

CONSTITUTION
BOOKLETS

As the organization grew, new methods and technics developed and it became necessary to change the constitution from time to time. Several ~~booklets~~^{booklets} of Constitution of different editions are on file at the National Office. Past President, E.F. Odum, had much to do with drafting, revising and editing the Constitution. His legal and editorial mind seems to make him especially fitted for this task. One of the earliest, probably published in the beginning of the 1930's, has no date. The later ones are larger and contained more detailed material. These were published by the Vancouver and Lower Mainland District Council, the Central Council and latterly by the National Association of AOTS Clubs. ~~Copies of each of these are on file at the National Office.~~

An interesting document also on file is a mimeographed copy of a Constitution of the "AOTS District Council of the Lower Mainland". Although it has no date, it probably was the first Constitution and was adopted in the year

1924. Under section 4, entitled "AREA" is the following quotation:-

"The operations of this District Council are to be carried on chiefly in that part of the province of British Columbia known as "The Lower Mainland"."

At the May 1939, United Church Conference of British Columbia, after an address by Charles Atchison, the following resolution was passed:-

"This Conference heartily endorses the work of the AOTS Clubs within its bounds and commends its work to all our Congregations. Our thanks are also extended to Charles E. Atchison, President of the District Council, and also to his officers for their untiring efforts to assist the work of our church through this movement."

The following is a resolution which was adopted at the United Church Conference of British Columbia on May 15th, 1947:-

"WHEREAS, for men in the congregation of a church the most effective organization for men for Christian work is the AOTS Men's Club, THEREFORE, we would recommend that this Conference approve of the AOTS Men's Club as an adult movement within the church, and recommend that wherever possible an AOTS Men's Club be formed within the local congregation".

The following resolution is taken from the minutes of the AOTS District Council held in Chown Memorial United Church on Friday, March 24, 1942 at 8 P.M.

NOTICE FOR CONSIDERATION.

IT IS MOVED BY RALPH PYBUS, SECONDED BY L. L. HARRIS

WHEREAS AOTS is interdenominational in scope endeavoring to draw men of all churches together for greater service and through association to a greater strength for social righteousness,

AND WHEREAS AOTS has failed to accomplish this objective through the individual club contacts, of developing and bringing new clubs into the Association, for today AOTS is almost wholly of the United Church of Canada,

AND WHEREAS it is believed that co-operation between men of all denominations can be accomplished through group affiliations within a Central Council of Church Men's Service Clubs, for AOTS is now considered by many to be of the United Church of Canada and other denominations wish to retain the identity of their respective groups,

AND WHEREAS it is believed that AOTS through affiliation with the United Church of Canada would be better able to join with other denominational groups, would gain strength from within our own church and would be of greater service to our church,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Central Council of AOTS Clubs be instructed to make application, as soon as possible, to the appropriate body or bodies of the United Church of Canada for official affiliation with the United Church of Canada.

AND FURTHER that all member clubs of AOTS be requested to declare their position on this question in writing addressed to the Secretary before a meeting of the Central Council to be held on April 4th, 1942, or other date as may be selected, or to be prepared to declare their position at said meeting".

NOTE: May it be born in mind that the Women's Associations and the Women's Missionary Society are officially affiliated with the United Church

of Canada.

In the early forties a few men, including Ralph C. Pybus, who is responsible for the resolution included in this history which was passed at one of the Council Conventions, expressed a conviction that this movement should become more closely related to the United Church of Canada. As early as 1946 and 1947 the AOTS National Council began negotiations with the Lay Activities Committee, which preceded the National Committee of United Church Men and The Board of Men of the United Church of Canada, having in mind a conference to lay the foundation for a closer relationship. In 1952 when the first National Convention of the Association of AOTS Clubs was held in Winnipeg a great deal of time was given to discussion in respect to closer relationships with the United Church of Canada through the National Committee of United Church Men. A resolution was passed at this convention accepting in principal a constitution which was to be drawn up by the Constitution Committee of Judge Thomson and D. R. Poole. It was to provide a basis for relationships of AOTS as a Department of the National Committee of United Church Men. This Constitution was submitted to the various clubs and approved by them, after which it was submitted to the National Committee of United Church Men in Hamilton. At the time of meeting of the General Council of the United Church of Canada this Constitution was approved by the National Committee of United Church Men and such approval was reported by them to the General Council in session and was accepted by them. This relationship is expressed in the full statement which was approved by the National Committee of United Church Men and the National AOTS Council.

At the Annual Meetings of the National AOTS Council considerable time

was spent discussing relationships, and from time to time certain resolutions have been passed regarding this. These resolutions were presented to the National Committee of United Church Men, now the Board of Men, and have been approved by them. Starting in 1955, negotiations were under way, very far reaching both in policy, organization and program, which would unite all Men's Club organizations in a common program for Men's Club work, touching every United Church in every part of Canada.

In September, 1952, at General Council, AOTS officially became a part of the United Church of Canada, under the Committee of United Church Men and in 1954 was established as a Department within the Board of Men.

CENTRAL COUNCIL

By 1940 the movement was rapidly spreading afield and into distant parts of Canada. Members of the Vancouver and Lower Mainland District Council felt that the time had come when there should be a larger and more representative central body than the Vancouver District Council. Therefore, at the Annual District Council Convention held in Chown Memorial Church, April 26th, 1940, the following resolution was placed before the Conference:- It was moved by Mr. Ed. Odlum, seconded by Mr. Wm. Breeze and carried unanimously:-

"Resolved that this Conference now assembled do hereby establish a Central Council of AOTS Clubs, whose duty it shall be to act as an advisory and promotional board, co-ordinating the work of the District Councils and individual clubs not associated with District Councils for general publicity and development of clubs in areas not covered by District Councils",

"AND BE IT RESOLVED FURTHER The Council shall call and arrange for the Annual Conference and Rally or any other general assembly deemed advisable. This Central Council shall be composed of five officers namely; a President Vice-President, Secretary-Treasurer, Chairman of the Inter-Club and Extension, and Past President. Until such time as a larger and separate board is deemed necessary, the Executive Officers of the District Council of Vancouver and Lower Mainland shall be officers of the Central Council. Officers shall be appointed annually by the Conference Assembly".)

It will be noted that this change in Constitution took place during the Second World War. Concerted efforts were being made in every quarter to hasten victory. It was difficult to carry on expansion and, as will be observed in the foregoing resolution, the Vancouver District Council officers, along with certain others, acted as officers of the Central Council. The Council cannot boast of much activity during this period but the change gave clubs outside Vancouver and those farther afield a sense of belonging to a large organization than the Vancouver District Council. The following resolution adopted two years later emphasises this point. ["At a meeting of the AOTS Central Council held in the Ladies' Parlor of Chown Memorial Church on Friday, November 27th, 1942, twenty members attended representing the following clubs:- Canadian Memorial, Chown, Crosby, Dunbar, Grace, Grandview, Knox, Ryerson, St. George and West Point Grey. Lacey Harris acted as Chairman. "On motion of President Frank Johns, seconded by Cecil Killam, it was approved that a new Executive position be created known as Second Vice-President. All appointments to this new office to be chosen by the incoming President, selecting an individual from a club outside the Vancouver area. Frank Johns declared Mr. H. Mitchell of Kelowna, AOTS Club, the newly declared Vice-President

for the unexpired term 1942 - 1943rd.

The Presidents of the Central Council were:-

Jack Robinson	1939 - 1940
Ralph C. Pybus	1940 - 1941
Walter Rimes	1941 - 1942
Frank Johns	1942 - 1943
Lacey L. Harris	1943 - 1944
James E. Baine	1944 - 1945
W. J. Poulton	1945 - 1946
1946xxxx1947	GEORGE E. SKINNER
George C. Skinner	1946 - 1947

While the Central Council existed for a period of only seven years it served its purpose as a forerunner of a larger organization to follow.

Due to the ever-increasing responsibility laid upon the Central Council, it was decided to incorporate under the Societies Act. In this connection the Council acted upon the legal advice of the Honorary legal advisor, Major Kay Collins, President of District Council 1925, who always gave counsel without thought of remuneration to himself.

The following Certificate of Incorporation is on file in the National Office:

Certificate of Incorporation is No. 3249 by which the CENTRAL AOTS COUNCIL was incorporated in the Province of British Columbia under the "Societies Act" on 23rd, July 1947.

NATIONAL COUNCIL

The war ended and conditions began to get back to normal. Mr. D. R.

Poole was now employed as a full time Executive Secretary and became actively engaged in extension and promotional work across Canada. New clubs were being organized on the Prairies and in Ontario. In July 1948 it was reported that there were 78 clubs in Canada, 47 of which were in British Columbia.

It was again felt that the name of the senior body should be changed. This change took place in May 1947, and a new slate of officers were elected, and the name of CENTRAL COUNCIL changed to THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF AOTS CLUBS.

Certificate of change of name to the National Association of AOTS Clubs was issued on May 1, 1950, under the "Societies Act".

Officers elected were as follows:-

Honorary President	Dr. H. W. Riggs
President	George C. Skinner
1st Vice-President	Jack Robinson
2nd Vice-President	Dr. J. C. Wilcox
Honorary Secretary	James Baine
Treasurer	John Campbell
Executive Secretary	D. R. Poole

Directors:- J. E. Fitzwater, Kamloops Club; L.L. Harris, Knox Club; G. G. Lister, Ryerson Club, Gordon Mercer, 6th Ave.; New Westminister Club; Ed. Odlum, Grandview Club; W. J. Poulton, Canadian Memorial Club.

The succeeding National Presidents were:-

1948 - 1949(1949 - 1950(	C. E. Atchison	Vancouver, B.C.
1950 - 1951(1951 - 1952(	C. E. Atchison	Vancouver, B.c.
1952 - 1953(1953 - 1954(	G. Brydon McCrea	Winnipeg, Manitoba
1954 - 1955(1955 - 1956(	G. Brydon McCrea	Winnipeg, Manitoba
1956 - 1957(1957 - 1958(1959 - 1960(	D. J. Sherwood	Toronto, Ontario

~~xxx~~

At a meeting of the national Association held May 11, 1949, the officers elected were from distant parts of Canada for the first time. They were as follows:

Hon. President	Dr. H. W. Riggs
Hon. Secretary	James E. Baine
President	Charles E. Atchison
Treasurer	J.A. Robinson
<u>Vice-Presidents</u>	
Alberta	Allan R. Jones
British Columbia	Gordon Mercer
Manitoba	A. A. Sykes
New Brunswick	M. W. Chepesuik
Ontario	W. Ralph Lett and D.J. Sherwood
Quebec	H. A. Bragg
Saskatchewan	Justice H.F. Thompson

To meet new demands and changing conditions the constitution at the National Conventions had undergone many changes. From this time onward development took place on a National scale as will be revealed by Annual Meeting and Convention reports.

In 1948 Mr. Charles E. Atchison of Vancouver became the National President and held office for two terms of ^{two} ~~four~~ years. During these days of rapid expansion the need for development of National policy and organization became apparent. Mr. Atchison had the qualities of leadership to meet the demands. Amongst other things he sought at once to establish a financial policy that would meet the requirements of rapid expansion. A resolution presented by treasurer, Mr. Jack Robinson, was adopted fixing the assessment of \$1.00 per member, per year, from each club to the National AOTS budget. He spent much time in visiting clubs across the country and giving inspirational addresses.

During Mr. Atchison's term of office he instituted the "President's Letter". This was originally a mimeographed message from the President, which also contained reports of club activities across Canada. This became so popular and proved so valuable that during his successor's term of office it resolved into a printed paper with pictures, news items and reports. In 1956 it had a circulation of 12,500 copies.

At the Winnipeg Convention the Executive Committee, including the newly elected President, was composed largely of Winnipeg men. At their request an Advisory Committee of Vancouver representative was formed, because for years they had carried the responsibility of the movement. Their function was to act in an advisory capacity only. From June 1952 until June 1956, the National Executive at Winnipeg and the Advisory Committee at Vancouver worked together in closest harmony.

Later, when the Executive Committee was composed largely of Toronto *area* men, the Advisory Committee was selected from the experienced Winnipeg men.

Mr. G. Brydon McCrea was elected President in 1950² and also served two terms, for a ^{total} period of four years. He was Past President of the Manitoba Council and had a burning desire to see God's Kingdom extended through the medium of the AOTS Movement. He had good executive ability as was ably demonstrated during his term of office. He also proved to be an excellent public relations man. He covered thousands of miles visiting clubs, organizing and giving addresses. On one occasion he travelled all the way to the Pacific Coast to be the guest speaker at a District Council Convention. Mr. McCrea studied every phase of AOTS work and during his term of office carried the burden of establishing satisfactory relations between AOTS and the Board of Men. He conferred with both bodies several times which necessitated special trips east when he could ill afford the time from his business. His experience and wise counsel will be much sought after in future days.

The next National President ⁽¹⁹⁵⁶⁾ came from Ontario in the person of Mr. Dave Sherwood, a pioneer of the AOTS movement in that Province. He had served as Provincial Vice-President, of National, and was a member of the National Executive before the First Convention in Winnipeg. His knowledge of the movement and his inexhaustible efforts in expansion work made him a unanimous choice for the Presidency at the Third National Convention at Muskoka Beach in 1956. He is an excellent public relations man and fills ^{at} his office as a worthy successor of the previous Presidents.

The Honorary Presidents to date, 1957, have been Dr. H. W. Riggs, Mr. Justice Harold F. Thomson and the late Mr. Jack Robinson.

In 1955, Provincial Councils were organized in Ontario, Saskatchewan and British Columbia. The first Presidents of these Provincial

Councils were:- Ontario, Dave Sherwood; Saskatchewan, Fred Saunderson; British Columbia, Dr. Harry R. Grant. At this time (1956) there were ~~several~~ and several more in the process of or

CONVENTIONS
47-52
COAST TO COAST CONVENTIONS
FEW OUTSIDE OF B.C.
4 CONVENTIONS
WINNIPEG CALGARY
MUSKOKA SASKATOON

There ~~is~~ imate membership of 11,000.
In Sep ~~tember~~ ice was moved from 1012 Nelson Street, Vancouver Toronto. Mr. D. R. Poole relinquished executive Secretary and his successor office.

CONVENTIONS

For many years District Council Conventions or Rallies were held in the west, and latterly in the east. During part of the Central Council period, from 1947 to 1952, "Coast to Coast" Conventions were held in Vancouver but did not have many delegates beyond British Columbia.

At the Annual Meeting of the National Association held May 11, 1949, in Vancouver, the first across-Canada slate of officers was elected for 1950-1951. Their names represent many provinces of the Dominion and their names are recorded elsewhere in this history.

As of 1956 Provincial Conventions or Round-Ups, as they are called, have been held in Ontario ^{and} British Columbia.

*Change in
nature of
passing of
Ont Prov
Council*

The first National Convention was held at Winnipeg, Manitoba, May 30, 31 and June 1, 1952; the Second ~~was held~~ in Calgary, Alberta, June 21, 12 and 13, 1954; the Third ~~was held~~ at Muskoka Beach, Ontario, on June 8, 9 and 10, 1956. The Fourth Convention ^{was at} ~~will be held at~~ Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, June 13, 14 and 15, 1958.

R. POOLE RETIREMENT FUND

In recognition of outstanding services contributed by Mr. D. R. Poole to ACTS during the past years it was agreed at the Calgary Conventionⁿ in 1954 that a Retirement Fund be set up on his behalf.

Mr. Poole did not come under any pension or superannuation plan of the United Church; therefore, it was felt that this was ~~only~~ a just obligation. Mr. Roy Johnson, Chairman of the Finance Committee organized the plan for raising funds on a National basis. Other members of this committee were C. E. Atchison, ^{and} Ralph Pybus. All clubs were contacted and after certain publicity the drive culminated in a "D.R. ~~Rx~~ Poole Month".

The object was \$10,000.00. \$1,000.00 of this was to be paid from the National budget and the balance from individual members and clubs. The amount raised by the end of 1957 was \$5,049.69.

ALBERTA

In 1948 D. R. Poole, Executive Secretary of the National Association of ACTS Clubs, was making his second trip across the Prairies and went as far east as Toronto. During that trip he organized the first club in Alberta at Red Deer and the second at Central United Church, Calgary. Several other clubs were organized in Calgary and the surrounding area during the next year following much the same pattern as had been followed elsewhere. The Alberta Council, later the Calgary Council, was organized and centered in Calgary with Al Jones as the first President. This council took its work very seriously and organized several clubs in various parts of the Province, often travelling hundreds of miles to do so.

As late as 1952 there were no clubs in the Edmonton or Lethbridge

areas, but the Extension Committee under the Chairmanship of Douglas Agnew of the Alberta Council was eager to establish clubs here. They made several trips to Edmonton and were successful in organizing clubs at Avonmore, Jasper Place and Wesley. On January 14th, 1953 and additional trip was made, in a temperature of 20° below zero, at which time a very successful rally was held in Metropolitan Church with approximately 200 men in attendance. D. R. Poole was the guest speaker of the evening. At this meeting the three ^{above} mentioned clubs were presented with charters and officers installed.

A committee ^(was also) appointed to investigate the possibility of organizing an Edmonton Council. Later this was done and Art Gregg was elected the first President. Subsequently clubs were formed at Turner Valley ^{and} Barons-Nobleford as well as additional clubs in Edmonton. A little later new clubs were added at Pincher Creek and Taber. Following this the Committee made several trips to Lethbridge and after considerable correspondence a club was organized at Southminister United Church on February the 11th. On March 11th the officers were installed and the charter presented. When the Lethbridge Council was organized the first President was ~~Kix~~ Phil King.

To illustrate that fine work these clubs were doing, one project might be mention. The Edmonton Council in 1956 presented to the Edmonton United Church Presbytery a plan for developing a Christian Education Camp for boys and girls and young people and received their approval. Since that time they bought 286 acres at Pigeon Lake for \$10,000.00 and are developing plans for buildings and equipment which will cost another \$75,000.00. Alberta produces more than oil.

At the first National Convention in Winnipeg, President Al Jones reported 16 active clubs in ^{Alberta} ~~the Province~~, five being added during the ^{previous} ~~past~~ year. One country club promoted a food campaign and sent 1½ car loads of farm produce to the Christian Leadership Training School at Naramata, B. C.

Jack Wood, President of the Calgary District Council, along with Past President, Al Jones, deserve great credit for their untiring efforts in promoting AOTS in these early days. Gordon Leslie who succeeded Jack Wood followed up the good work along with Ralph Harrison.

The second National Convention came to Calgary June 11 - 13, 1954 at which time the Calgary Council accepted full responsibility for promotion and organization. At this convention the National President reported 30 active clubs in the Province of Alberta. Al. Jones, known in this area as "Mr. AOTS", was appointed Chairman of the Committee of Convention arrangements and did a "terrific job".

Reporting at the annual meeting of the National Association at Sparrow Lake, Ontario, June 7th, 1957, Al Jones reported 3 district Councils in the Province, and that some concrete move might be made at the forthcoming Banff Conference to have representatives set up an active Alberta Provincial Council. In October, 1957 a fourth District Council was established in the Lloydminster-Vegreville Area. At the Banff Conference, September 28th, attended by Presidents of all four District Councils, the Alberta Council was organized.

SASKATCHEWAN

In 1947 D.R. Poole, Executive Secretary of the National AOTS Council,

on invitation, visited Winnipeg and met a group representation of thirty-one churches in respect to the organization of AOTS in that city.

On his return from Winnipeg he was invited to address a meeting of men in Metropolitan Church, Regina. The men of this church were considering the advisability of trying to revive their men's club which had failed to function for some time.

After listening to the AOTS story they voted to organize an AOTS club and the next evening a committee was set up in the office of ^{Mr.} Justice Harold F. Thomson to nominate officers and carry out the organization. A month later they were presented with a charter. This was the first club organized in Saskatchewan. It got off to a good start and has ever since been an active and vigorous club, which has an excellent record of achievement over the years.

The work and progress of the AOTS Club of Metropolitan was watched with great interest by the other churches in the City and in 1949 Mr. Poole was again invited to come to Regina and to address a series of meetings in various churches, with the result that Clubs were organized in Lakeview, Carmichael, and Westminster Churches.

In the fall of 1949 the four clubs in Regina decided that the time had come to establish a District Council to co-ordinate the work of their clubs and to advance the work of establishing Clubs in other churches throughout the Province. Accordingly at a meeting in December representatives of the City Churches established a District Council and elected the following officers:

President	Justice H. F. Thomson
Vice-President	John A. Christie
Secretary	Alex B. MacKenzie
Treasurer	Austin XXXXX Hunt

The first executive meeting of the new Council was held on January 18th, 1950, when arrangements were made to draft a constitution for the Council. Plans were made to co-ordinate the work of the various Clubs within the District Council and tentative proposals for the organization of other Clubs were considered. The financial needs of the District were modest and each of the existing Clubs was asked to contribute \$10.00 to take care of the immediate needs of the Council.

On May 3rd, 1950, the first annual general meeting was held in Metropolitan Church and they were fortunate in having 31 delegates representing 8 clubs present. In addition, various other persons attended by invitation, or request. The meeting commenced with a supper and continued to a late hour in the evening. It was then found that there was not time to consider many questions of importance and it was decided that the next annual meeting should be of longer duration.

The following were elected as officers for the Council for the following year, namely:

President	Justice ^{H.} F. Thomson
Vice-President	John A. Christie
Secretary	Alex B. MacKenzie
Treasurer	Frank MacDonald

In October, 1950, they again had a visit from D. R. Poole and he and Justice Thomson, not only visited the Regina Clubs but also made trips to Moose Jaw, Assiniboia, Indian Head and Davidson, and D. R. Poole then went to Melville, Yorkton and Saskatoon in interviewing men interested in the ^Sestablishment of an active men's organization in their respective churches.

At this time the Council named the Rev. R.W.K. Elliott and E.O. Walker, chairman of the Conference Lay Activities Association, as members at large, and they have been members of the Council and a tower of strength to it.

During the course of the year Clubs were established at Assiniboia; Zion Church, Moose Jaw; Sixth Avenue, Regina; Moosomin; St. Andrew's Church, Regina; Indian Head; Knox Church, Saskatoon; Riverhurst; Central Butte; and Melville. The council ^{was} ~~is~~ very grateful for the efforts of the AOTS Club of Zion Church, Moose Jaw, for their assistance in organizing clubs at Riverhurst and Central Butte.

Since its formation, the Executive of the District Council met from time to time at fairly frequent but irregular intervals. Early in the year 1951 it was decided to hold regular monthly meetings on the first Saturday of each month. Those meetings were luncheon meetings, followed by a lengthy business meeting when reports were made on the work of the Council. Consideration was given to extension work; and ideas for worthwhile projects were discussed and exchanged.

Saskatchewan is a very large Province and it was scarcely advisable to hold more than one general meeting of the Council in any year. It was felt by the members of the Executive that it would be very advantageous to ask each club to send at least two representatives to the ~~XXXXXX~~ regular meetings of the Executive. All of the City Clubs thereafter regularly were represented at the meetings of the Executive to obtain full and complete reports from each of the Clubs in the City. At each of their meetings ideas were pooled and the information so obtained was passed out to other Clubs which were not represented.

The second Annual General Meeting of the Council was held in Lakeview Church, Regina, and on this occasion 40 delegates were present representing 13 Clubs. The ~~last~~ meeting lasted all afternoon and well into the evening, and again time was found to be all too short for the business to be transacted, but it was felt that they could not yet justify a two day meeting. A banquet was held in the evening to which the wives of the delegates and members present were invited. The meeting was addressed by the Rev. Thomas Bray and was exceptionally well attended.

The Executive named E. E. Eisenhower as a third member at large, so that throughout the year they had the benefit and assistance of Messrs. Elliott, Walker, and Eisenhower, and their advise and influence was a real contribution to the work of the Council.

In this connection Rev. R.W.K. Elliott ^{was} ~~has always~~ been most helpful and took every available opportunity to put in a good word for the Club with the result that many places became interested in affiliation with AOTS.

Early in 1952 representatives of the Council attended a rally at Moose Jaw. Clubs from Saskatoon and Swift Current also ^{were represented} ~~held~~ there.

In March they were favored with a visit from Ralph Young, General Secretary of the Committee of the United Church Men, who met with the members of the Executive at a luncheon meeting to consider steps being taken to bring the National Council into closer co-operation with the National Committee of United Church Men. Ralph Young was able to give the members of the Executive a better understanding of the situation in that connection.

In part at least as a result of the visits of D.R. Poole to Yorkton, a Men's Club was formed in the United Church there, but the Club was

somewhat reluctant to formally align itself with AOTS. The Club, however, was very friendly to the movement and the Rev. Mr. Jones and Mr. Smith, representing that Club, attended the second Annual Meeting in 1951.

A Yorkton-Melville District Council had been in operation since before 1956 and consists ^{consist of} of Melville, Yorkton (not AOTS but co-operating 100%), Esterhazy, Kamsack, Balcarres, Saltcoats and Russell, Manitoba. They are affiliated with the Saskatchewan Provincial Council.

The third annual meeting of the District Council was held at St. Andrew's Church in Regina on May 10th, 1952. There was an attendance of 47 delegates. They were particularly fortunate in having Ivan Robinson of Calgary as a speaker at their evening luncheon. It was evident from the discussion that the leaders of AOTS in the Province were acutely aware of their responsibility and that there was an earnest determination to improve their methods and techniques. The Officers elected for the ensuing year were:

President	F. Saunderson, 87 Angus Dresent, Regina Saskatchewan.
Vice-President	A. Lloyd Morris, 3312 Albert Street, Regina, Sask.
Secretary	Stewart Young, 2822 Rae Street, Regina, Saskatchewan.
Treasurer	

As of May, 1952, there were 17 AOTS Clubs in Saskatchewan. "We felt for some time past there was, on the part of some ministers in the Province, a feeling that there ^{was} be an active conflict between AOTS and United Church Men, and it is sincerely hoped by your council that any misunderstanding in that regard can be cleared up at an early date, so that we may be able to receive the active sympathy and co-operation of the ministry of the United Church in the Conference of Saskatchewan.

If that can be obtained, there should be no difficulty in organizing many new Clubs in the Province of Saskatchewan". So reported Judge Thomson at the National Convention on 30th day of May, 1952, at Winnipeg.

Judge Thomson was President of the First Provincial Council in Saskatchewan and a great deal of credit must be given him and other men whom he interested in those early days for the growth of AOTS in every part of the Province. These men travelled thousands of miles spreading this Movement.

The first Club in Northern Saskatchewan was organized at Wesley Church, Prince Albert. During the first year of its existence Clubs were organized, mainly through their effort, at Melfort, Birch Hills and Nipawin. Soon after this a Council was organized known as the Northern Saskatchewan AOTS District Council. In the Prince Albert Club alone, which had over 100 members, there were 24 men organized into 8 teams of three men each to take the responsibility of providing church services in several out-lying communities in that northern area - churches which would have no service had it not been for these AOTS men.

It is impossible to record the names of all those who have worked in the development of AOTS in a province as large as Saskatchewan. No one could record the many thousands of miles travelled by individuals and groups who were fired with an enthusiasm for men's work in the United Church and who were determined that other men should know of the opportunity for service offered through AOTS.

By clubs and by councils projects of all kinds were carried on for the enrichment of men's lives in service to their church, assistance in building churches, leadership among young people, labour in helping to

to build the Prairie Christian Training Centre and provision of a craft room for the Centre, taking church services and otherwise serving when called upon, were but a few of the projects. Through the projects ran that thread of fellowship which has succeeded in bringing into full activity in the church many men who had been content to remain out of the church or on the outer fringes only.

In May 1954 Frank Hill of Moose Jaw was elected President of the Saskatchewan District Council. At that time most of the clubs were in the southern part of the province. With the organization of the Prince Albert District Council in the fall of that year and the Saskatoon District Council in the spring of 1955, the southern group changed their name to the Regina District Council and a Saskatchewan ~~Provincial~~ Provincial Council was formed for liason purposes. Early in 1956 the Yorkton-Melville area in the north-east of the province formed a District Council under the presidency of Les Clark, of Yorkton.

Geo. Thurston, Regina, became President of the Regina District Council in 1956 and Frank Hill became President of the Provincial Council and National Vice-President for Saskatchewan the same year.

On Sunday, November 21, 1954, a carload of men from Regina headed by Fred Saunderson visited Prince Albert to assist them in their organization. The President elected was Frank Culp and the Secretary Tom Barrie.

In February, 1955, a Council was formed in Saskatoon at a meeting attended by the National President, Brydon McCrea and the National Honorary President, Justice Harold F. Thomson. Albert Milne was elected President and John V. Montgomery Secretary.

It is worthy of note that the Saskatchewan Provincial Council took on as an objective an expenditure of some \$3,000.00 to assist the Prairie Christian Training Centre at Fort ^u Appelle. This money was to be used for building and equipping a craft room.

Fred Saunderson, National Vice-President for Saskatchewan in 1954, travelled hundreds of miles in organizing and promoting AOTS throughout the Province.

As of 1956 this Province reported 59 Active Clubs.

MANITOBA

The story of AOTS in the Province of Manitoba is interesting to record. In early October, 1947, in the city of Winnipeg, 150 men representing thirty-one United Churches gathered at St. Stephens - Broadway, for a men's supper to hear D. R. Poole interpret the significance of the AOTS Movement. Laymen came from Westminster, Young, Grace, Knox, Rosedale, St. Vital, Fort Garry, ^u Dugald in rural Manitoba, and two car loads drove in forty miles from Morris for the occasion. They came from seventy-five percent of the churches invited. Following the supper these men listened to an informative and inspiring address by D. R. Poole; they asked questions, and most of them left with the conviction that this AOTS Movement was really what they had been looking ~~for~~ for, and was needed in their churches.

The following day a dinner meeting was held for representatives of several of the interested churches, and a provisional AOTS ~~mem~~mittee was set up with A. C. Garvin as Chairman and Harold Stinson as Secretary. A week later this Provisional Committee met again and set up a nominating

committee and an extension committee.

In addition to speaking at the men's banquet D.R. Poole addressed two church service, had a special meeting with the United Church ministers of the city, and presented a charter to the First AOTS Club to be organized in Manitoba at St. Vital United Church.

After spending three and a half days in Winnipeg D.R. Poole moved on to portage la Prairie where he met with an interested group of laymen at the home of Rev. Allan Martin. The next evening a supper meeting was arranged at Roblin in Northwestern Manitoba. This meeting was organized by Rev. Jim Taylor, and laymen attended from all the surrounding towns. One car load from Swan River motored eighty five miles across the Duck Mountains to renew ~~acquaintances~~ acquaintances with "D.R.". Virden, in Western Manitoba, was the next stop, with a banquet attended by some sixty men. The week ~~of~~ in Manitoba was concluded at Souris in Southwestern Manitoba, when "D.R." spoke at the evening service and addressed a meeting of laymen at the conclusion of the service. In every case the pattern was the same; inspiring and informative addresses, questions, discussions, a decision to organize AOTS and the setting up of a provisional committee. The result of D.R. Poole's visit to Manitoba was that the laymen of the Province were able to receive first hand information on AOTS work. Some Clubs organized right away and it was estimated that the following month would see at least twelve clubs organized in Winnipeg. To use a quotation in respect to this ⁹beginning someone said:-

"Manitoba is set for a great forward movement in the enlistment of manpower in the interests of the Kingdom of God."

u+lc

Winnipeg men demonstrated a lively interest in AOTS from the beginning. They formed a District Council and set about organizing new clubs at once. Men like Art Sykes, Brydon McCrea, Dave Coulter, Fred Tulley, Dr. J. W. Simpson, Dr. J. L. Davidson, Brock Coleman, Roy McPhail, Graham Standing, Milt Herner, and many others were most active in this early extension work.

The Council published a Club paper called "AOTS On The Job" which was mailed directly about six times a year to members (Rate 25¢ a season). It contained news of general interest as well as reports of each local club.

A District Council was later organized in the Superior District, ^(within Manitoba Conference) the first Club being organized in Trinity Church, Port Arthur, followed by Clubs at First United and Knox United at Fort William. Jim Barclay, Earl Hunt, Phil Spence, Guy Beals and Gordon Stinson were very active in this extension work. The first meeting of the Council was held on October 27, 1950. Later Knox at Port Arthur, Beardmore, Current River, Broadway, Fort William and St. Paul's Port Arthur organized, making a Council of eight member clubs.

In 1951 the Council provided leadership for a campaign which raised \$1,100.00 to make some badly needed repairs to the United Church Camp at Loon Lake, only one of many worth-while projects.

At the Annual Meeting of the National AOTS Association held June, 1953, in Regina, the Manitoba Council reported 32 active clubs, and that they had contributed \$1,000.00 to the National budget, which is indicative of the ~~xxxx~~ splendid way in which the member clubs responded.

The first Round-Up of the Manitoba Council was held October 18th, 1952, at Westminister United, Winnipeg. During the year 1953-54 the President, Dr. J. W. Simpson, visited practically all the Winnipeg Clubs and most of the country clubs, a most commendable effort for the top executive, ~~to do~~.

One of the most active clubs in the Manitoba Council was formed by D.R. Poole in Dryden, Ontario, in 1950. Here, by applying the principle that the club existed to meet the needs of all men of the church and community, the club in seven years built their membership up to more than 100 members. In 1957 at a Round-Up in Dryden the six clubs of the Kenora - Rainy River Presbyteries formed a District Council with Bill Nygren as President.

In November 1954 a new accomplishment was the formation of the Western Manitoba Council, composed of Reston, two Brandon Clubs, Minnedosa, Russell and Gladstone. J. Lasby Lowes of Brandon was chosen the first president.

In 1952 the National Association was honored by the election of its President from the City of Winnipeg, in the person of Brydon McCrea. This not only demonstrated the calibre of AOTS men this province had produced but the stature to which the Manitoba Council had attained. In Brydon McCrea was to be found one of the pioneers of the movement in the province, an untiring and most capable worker. He had travelled hundreds of miles and given most freely of his time to organizational work. As it later proved, he was an able, versatile and dignified leader and added so much credit to his exalted office that he was again

elected President for another term of two years.

The report of the Manitoba Council at the Annual Meeting at Sparrow Lake 1957 indicated the importance of versatile leadership in our Clubs all across Canada when the President A. D. Kayser said "This has been a year of holding the line". The Superior Council which at one time was as high as eight clubs, was now reduced to three.

Manitoba has made a great contribution to AOTS and from this Province has come much strong, talented, consecrated leadership.

The past presidents are:

1948 - 49.....	D. G. McKenzie
1949 - 50.....	G. Brydon McCrea
1950 - 51.....	Arthur Sykes
1951 - 52.....	Dave B. Coulter
1952 - 53.....	Fred K. Tully
1953 - 54.....	Dr. J. W. Simpson
1955 - 56.....	Aubrey Kayser
1956 - 57.....	Brock Coleman

ONTARIO

Prior to 1947, AOTS was unknown in Ontario. Sometime during that year Col~~l~~in B. Mooney, an active member of the organization in British Columbia, was transferred by his company to ~~the City of~~ Toronto.

He located in the western Part of the City and joined High Park United Church. Finding that they had no satisfactory men's organization he proceeded to talk about this active and verⁱle movement in the west. The minister, Rev. F. E. James, was enthusiastic and gave his full support. The result was that they were successful in getting the first AOTS Club organized in Ontario at High Park United Church, Toronto, in March, 1947. Gil Lister of Hamilton, and Past President of Vancouver

District Council, installed the officers.

Shortly after getting High Park started it became known that Dr. Willard Brewing, Pastor of St. George's United, Toronto, had formerly been a minister of St. Andrew's-Wesley, Vancouver, where an AOTS club had functioned. St. George's had no men's club, so with the assistance of High Park the second Club in Ontario was organized at this church in January 1948. This club manifest great enthusiasm from the beginning and ^{became} ~~is now~~ one of the largest clubs in Canada with a paid up membership of 197 as of 1957. Ralph Lett, formerly of Vancouver, assisted in this organization.

In the fall of 1948 Rhodes Avenue United called ~~a replacement~~ to their pulpit ~~in the person of~~ Rev. Harold Frid of Winnipeg. Upon his arrival, finding no men's club operating, he talked to his board about this organization called AOTS. The men became interested, ~~and~~ about this time D.R. Poole, the executive secretary, of the movement came through from the west and this group was organized. Colin Mooney was transferred back to the west.

^{also,}
About this time [^]Chalmers, Mount Dennis, a suburb of Toronto organized a Club, bringing the total in Ontario to four. These clubs operated independently until 1950, when Dave Sherwood paid a visit to Western Canada and learned something about District Councils. Upon his return to the East a meeting was called of club Executives and the first District Council in Ontario was formed with Dave Sherwood as President.

In the fall of 1950 a new club was organized at Yonge Street ^{Church} and was chartered by Ralph Lett and Dave Sherwood. In the spring of 1951 Metropolitan was chartered by the Rhodes Club.

At the First National Convention held in Winnipeg in 1952 there were six clubs in Toronto comprising some 300 men. While this ~~may~~ seems somewhat slow progress it may have been due to the fact that AOTS was not yet an official part of ~~the~~ United Church of Canada. However, in 1952 Eddie Ross, a member of Rhodes Avenue Club, was transferred to Paris, Ontario, and was instrumental in forming one of the first ^{Ontario} clubs outside Toronto. A great deal of credit must be given him for his part in helping organizing clubs in Brantford and surrounding areas. He was the first President of the Grand Valley Council.

In 1953 at the First Elgin House ^{United Church Men's Guild} Conference, AOTS was on the agenda and the organization was represented by the National President, Brydon McCrea, the Executive secretary, D.R. Poole, and the Expansion Chairman, Art Sykes. After this gathering, men caught a vision of the Movement in Ontario with the result that the National Executive was requested to send D.R. Poole on an extended visit through the Province. Soon after this visit clubs were formed in Sarnia, North Bay, Sudbury, Blenheim and other places, resulting in a total of 22 new clubs.

The movement spread rapidly throughout the Province and in 1954 there were 35 Clubs and 4 District Councils.

The first all-Ontario Round-Up was held at Wildwood Inn, Sparrow Lake, May 14 - 16 this same year.

In 1955 they organized 17 new clubs and now had a total of 50 active clubs and 5 District Councils in the Province.

The movement was now making rapid growth. At the Third National Convention held at Muskoka Beach, June 8, 9, 10 1956, Ontario reported 74

active clubs. AOTS had made such outstanding progress that the Conference honored the Province by electing Dave Sherwood of Toronto their National President. This was an ~~an honor~~ ^{richly} rightly deserved as Dave had just served as Provincial President and had been most active in extension of AOTS in Ontario from the beginning.

H. L. Turner succeeded Dave Sherwood as the Provincial President and at the Executive Committee meeting at Sparrow Lake June 7, 1957, reported 87 active clubs in Ontario. Twelve of these had been organized during the past year.

He finally finished his report by saying "The future of AOTS looks promising in this Province where the potential is so obvious".

QUEBEC

The first club to be organized in the Province of Quebec was in Chalmers United at Verdun in November 1947. Six months later they reported 44 paid up members with an average attendance of 54. Their officers were as follows:

President.....	Harold Bragg
Vice-President.....	Jack Allen
Secretary.....	Norman Crawford
Treasurer.....	James Ray
Membership & Attendance.....	Allan Hilton
Programme.....	Robert Thompson
Fellowship.....	Dave Turnbull
Community Service.....	Earl Wilfong
Boy's Activities.....	Rev. G. C. Ward

This club existed for a number of years alone in this area. Later several men became interested in AOTS work, such as Gerry Palmer, formerly of Winnipeg, ^{and} Allan MacLaine of Queen Mary Road Church, Montreal, ~~Art Sykes, Chairman of the Extension Committee of the National Association and Dr. R. Poole, Executive Secretary also of the National.~~

In June 1953 Art Sykes visited Montreal and met several men from ten churches at a luncheon and presented AOTS. This meeting also had an open discussion following.

In October of the same year D.R. Poole spent a week in Montreal at which time he addressed the Montreal Presbytery on AOTS and met groups of men every evening, representing different churches. These meetings were organized by Allen MacLaine. Clubs were formed, officers installed and charters granted. During the next few weeks a Montreal and District Council was organized with Gerry Palmer as the first District Council President. A Council bulletin was issued called the "Counsellor".

As of 1954 the following clubs were members of the Council:

Chalmers at Verdun; Queen Mary Road and Montreal Rosedale in Montreal; Valois, and St. Andrews in Lachine.

In 1955 D.R. Poole again visited Montreal for several days and amongst his activities was the delivering of an inspiring address to local clubs. The meeting was sponsored by the District Council and St. Andrews was the host club. On this occasion the Council presented "D.R." with a gavel as a ^εmomento of his visit.

The Annual Meeting of the Council ^{that that} ~~this~~ year was held at St. Luke's Church, the home of the newest club and, despite one of the worst blizzards of the season over 60 people attended. Following the dinner the election of officers took place. Ted Jones replaced Gerry Palmer and all former officers were re-elected. Rev. Buchannan of Beaufort gave a very timely address, after which the meeting broke up into discussion

groups and dealt with various aspects of AOTS work.

The Extension Committee headed by Allen MacLaine was very active and missed no opportunity of making contact with churches that had no AOTS or other men's organization. In 1954 six active clubs were reported in the Montreal Council. In 1955 the number was seven.

The report to the annual Meeting of the National Association held at Sparrow Lake, Ontario, On June 7, 1957, indicated a new club organized at Dorval United. The sponsoring club was Valois, which did the spade work. The Council also assisted in organizing ^a men's club the previous fall at Crawford Park, which ^{was} ~~is~~ registered with the Board of Men. ~~Good prospects for a club next fall, are at St. Marks Church.~~

Too much credit cannot be given Allan MacLaine, National Vice-President for the Province of Quebec for his untiring efforts to advance the AOTS movement over a period of year. In spite of some ill health he has contacted by telephone, letter or personal visit nearly fifty of the one hundred congregations in the Montreal Presbytery. The latest report 1956, shows only three active clubs in the Montreal District Council, but this does not discourage our courageous Vice-President. He sums up his ~~re~~ report by saying, "Next Season our efforts will be continued with undiminished vigor".

MARITIMES

In 1948 D.R. Poole, Executive Secretary of the National AOTS Council, made his first trip to Quebec. On invitation from Mike Chepesuik, representing the session of the Central United Church at Moncton, N.B., D.R. Poole visited the Maritimes and for the first time told the AOTS

story there.

There were about 140 men at a banquet in Moncton when "D.R." spoke. The men represented many ^{denominations} faiths besides United Church. A club was organized as a result of this trip in Central United. After four years it ceased to function. Despite the fact that the start was not very auspicious the seed had been well sown and it was felt that the growth only awaited a favorable climate and environment.

The Maritimes were somewhat different from other parts of ~~XXXXX~~ Canada in that the Lay Association had organized several Men's Groups under different names. Men in the churches were naturally loyal to their men's work and did not respond to the organization of AOTS Clubs.

Credit must be given here to Art Sykes of Winnipeg, National Chairman of the Extension Committee, for carrying on a large correspondence with minister and laymen in the Maritime Conference. He kept Mike Chepesuik supplied with copies of his correspondence which enabled contacts to be followed up as opportunity arose.

In June 1954 Allan MacLaine of Montreal came to the Annual Meeting of the Maritime Conference. He spoke to Men's groups in Amherst, N.S. and Moncton, N.B. on the AOTS movement.

In 1954 the Second Conference of United Church Men was held in Berwick. Although the planning committee responsible for the programme had not included any items on the agenda where presentation of the AOTS work could be made, Ralph Young very kindly and graciously arranged for Mike Chepesuik to give a talk on AOTS. In the same year D.R. Poole visited

the Maritimes and spoke to men's groups in St. John, N.B. and as^a direct result a club was organized at Centenary-Queen's Square. Rev. Dr. J. D. MacLeod was elected Honorary President and Don A. Morgan, President. Officers were installed and a charter presented. Following this a club was organized at Gunningsville, N.B., a suburb of Moncton. Rev. Ken Findlay gave ~~an~~ able leadership to this club.

At the third National Convention held at Gravenhurst, Ontario, in June 1956 Mike Chepesuik, National Vice-President for the Maritimes reported the formation of ~~clubs~~^{AOTS} at Shediac, Lakeville, Scotch Settlement Charge, and of ~~men's~~ clubs at Mountain View United and Central United at Moncton, both of these latter ^{having} ~~have~~ strong leanings toward AOTS.

At Burin, Newfoundland, and AOTS Club was organized entirely by correspondence. Rev. Calvins Evans, the minister, provided the spark.

A club ~~being~~ organized in 1955 at Whitehorse, Yukon, now extends^{ed} the movement from East to West and from North to South in Canada.

Early in the spring of 1956 Ralph Young called a meeting of key men of the Maritimes Conference at the Atlantic Christian Training Centre at Tatamogouche, N.S. Ralph at this time took ~~part~~^{part} to advise the meeting of a new and closer relationship that AOTS was acquiring in the United Church under the Board of Men. He also had on display an excellent volume of AOTS literature and helps along with other material used by the Board.

Reporting at the Annual Meeting of the National Association in 1957, Mike Chepesuik said the two new clubs in Newfoundland had been organized at Corner Brook East and Curling. At Pugwash, N.S. a club had been organized.

The Honorary President is Rev. Ellis Boyd and the President John Mac Quarrie.

The Maritimes are making a good start and the National Executive is optimistic for the future of AOTS in this part of Canada. X

SUMMARY

AOTS WAS NOW REACHING National stature. This was marked by the First National Convention held in Knox United Church, Winnipeg, on May 30, 31 and June 1, 1952. This, however, was merely a beginning in view of the thousands of United Church congregations and charges across the Dominion of Canada that had no AOTS Clubs.

To take a perspective of the Movement over a period of 35 years it is one of growth in spiritual development and service to ones' fellow man. From a humble beginning, the result of one man's vision, the latent man power of the church became awakened to the possibilities of active, ^verile consecrated Christian Service.

The Movement is a spiritual one based on the words of Jesus, found in Luke 22, 27, in which he says in part, "I am among you As One That Serves". It seeks to bring about the Kingdom of God here on earth through the medium of fellowship and Service. It is a service club, church centered, offering its service from the door step of the Christian Church.

The first club was organized on January 8, 1923, in the Kerrisdale Methodist Church, Vancouver, B.C. This Club has never ceased to function throughout the succeeding years and is today an active force for good in the church

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and community.

The first District Council was organized in Vancouver on January the 21st, 1924.

The Movement was at first not confined to the United Church and functioned in the Baptist, Presbyterian and Reformed Episcopal Churches for some time. For about 23 years AOTS was limited, chiefly, to the Province of British Columbia with the nucleus centered in the Vancouver District Council.

Extension and promotional work was done voluntarily by local men at their own time and expense. The pattern of operation and government now is the local member club, the District Council, the National Association of AOTS Clubs, The Board of Men and finally General Council of the United Church of Canada.

At General Council appointed a Committee to look into the matter of setting up a board to supervise, promote and co-ordinate men's work in the church. The following year a committee on Lay Activities was appointed and Dr. W. B. Cowan, Q.C. was appointed Chairman. The Lay Advisory Council appointed by General Council was to have an over-all direction of men's work. AOTS for the first time was officially given real consideration as a men's organization in the highest court of the church.

In 1950 Ralph C. Young, a young man with wide experience in Y.M.C.A. and other church work () was appointed Secretary of the Committee of United Church Men. Shortly after this a constitution was set up for men's clubs to be known as "United Church Men".

While AOTS was not yet officially a part of the United Church, many felt that the two organizations, ^{- AOTS and United Church men -} were conflicting in their scope of work.

Neither the United Church Men or the AOTS desired to have such a situation exist and steps were taken for unification of effort. ^{It was} All felt that there should finally develop a men's club program which would bring together the best traditions of both AOTS and United Church Men.

The Board of Men in their ~~committees~~ and the Executive and Conventions of the National Association ~~gave great and weighty~~ consideration to the matter. ~~At the National Convention in Winnipeg and one of the things they did was to pass a motion which would give the National Executive power to negotiate ways and means to come through that door. In 1954 in Sackville, New Brunswick, the name was changed from the Committee of United Church Men to the Board of Men.~~ ^{came a department of The} Board of Men, whose function ^{service club" pattern} of the work within the ^{Department}

Encourage unification

with Mr. Young as Secretary

PHIL H. SPENCE

The Executive Secretary, D.R. Poole, had served AOTS well for a decade and he felt that it was now time to retire. At the Annual Meeting held in Winnipeg 1955 a Committee was set up to study applications for a succeeding secretary. The Committee was composed of Brydon McCrea, Jack Robinson, Judge Thomson and Laurence Turner.

Many names were submitted and after much consideration the Committee reached a unanimous decision re the name of Philip H. Spence, ^{then} presently of Winnipeg, Manitoba. ~~Phil, 46 years of age, is married and the father of two children.~~ ^{Mr. Spence had} He taught school for three years. He had a successful business career as Production Manager of The Canadian Car and Foundry Co. Ltd. at Fort William. He was also President of the first Aircraft Union in Canada. From 1948 to 1952 he was ~~xxxxx~~ in the Construction Business and for 18 months was employed by the Dominion Government in charge of aircraft contracts in Western Canada.

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Neither the United Church Men or the AOTS desired to have such a situation exist and steps were taken for unification of effort. ^{It was} felt that there should finally develop a men's club program which would bring together the best traditions of both AOTS and United Church Men.

The Board of Men in the United Church of Canada has given consideration to the Board of Men, whose function is to coordinate the work within the

committee and the Executive and Conventions of the National Association of United Church Men. In 1952 AOTS held their first National Convention in Winnipeg and one of the things they did was to pass a motion which would give the National Executive power to negotiate ways and means to come through that door. In 1954 in Sackville, New Brunswick, the name was changed from the Committee of United Church Men to the Board of Men and AOTS was made a Department of that Board.

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PHILIP H. SPENCE

The Executive Secretary, H.R. Poole, had served AOTS well for a decade and he felt that it was now time to retire. At the Annual Meeting held in Winnipeg 1955 a Committee was set up to study applications for a succeeding secretary. The Committee was composed of Brydon McGree, Jack Robinson, Judge Thomson and Laurence Turner.

Many names were submitted and after such consideration the Committee reached a unanimous decision on the name of Philip H. Spence, ^{then} presently of Winnipeg, Manitoba. Philip, 46 years of age, is married and the father of two children. ^{Mr. Spence had} He taught school for three years. He had a successful business career as Production Man for of The Canadian Gas and Foundry Co. Ltd. at Port William. He was also President of the first Aircraft Union in Canada. From 1949 to 1952 he was ~~also~~ in the Construction Business and for 18 months was employed by the Dominion Government in charge of aircraft contracts in Eastern Canada.

He was always interested in young people's work, Sunday School and Boy's work. He represented Superior and Rainy River Presbyteries at General Council in 1950. He was first President of First United AOTS in Fort William and second District Council President.

In 1952 he attended the First National AOTS Convention.

At a special meeting of the Board of Men on Saturday, June 9th, 1956, Phil Spence was appointed Executive Secretary of the National Association of AOTS Clubs effective September 1, 1956.

INTEGRATION

After careful deliberation and study the National Association sent many recommendations and resolutions to The Board of Men which might be helpful in creating a new pattern for men's work. At their Annual Meetings in 1956, 1957 and 1958 The Board of Men also spent a great deal of time in writing a new pattern for all types of men's work, seeking to remove confusion and create unity in this field. A new unified programme for men's work ^{was} ~~will~~ be submitted for consideration and action at the 4th national Convention of AOTS Clubs at Saskatoon June 1958.

The basis of AOTS activity lies in the individual member club. It is here that accomplishment for God and his church is activated. In a given area of three or more clubs a District Council may be formed for mutual benefit, help and strength and to pool successes and failures of attempted projects. In each Province or Conference, as the case may be, is a Provincial Council whose President automatically become Vice-President of the National Association. The over-all body is the National Association whose office and executive Secretary ^{are} ~~is~~ housed with the

Board of Men in United Church headquarters, St. Clair Avenue⁸⁵ East,
Toronto.

Looking back over the years; while there have been successes there have also been many failures. Probably the failures should cause more concern than the successes because they may reflect apathy, irresponsibility and lack of devotion to the cause of Christ. The harvest truly is great and the laborers are few. It, therefore, behooves the laborers to courageously and vigorously face the tasks lying before in the spirit of the Master who said "I am among you As One That Serves".