

FINANCIAL SYSTEM

The immigrants, having come from a society where the church was tax supported, were rather awkward in their handling of the financial affairs of the congregation. The four members of the church council divided the members of the congregation into classes according to their estimated wealth. Families in class I were assessed \$16.00 a year for the support of the pastor. Those in class II were assessed dues of \$12.00; class III, \$8.00; and class IV, \$4.00. On top of that, the land-owners were required to bring four bushels of corn for the pastor's horse, and renters were assessed two bushels. Building projects called for an additional assessment of money plus labor and the use of the wagons and teams to haul building materials. Any new expense during the year required another canvass of the congregation. In spite of all this economic activity, the church was constantly in financial trouble. A main concern at almost every congregational meeting was the collection of delinquent dues of one kind or another.

During the Sunday services a free-will offering was taken, usually in the amount of a nickel or a dime per person. To facilitate this collection, in 1899, the congregation bought a "KLINGELBEUTEL". This was a pouch with a bell attached to a long stick. At one congregational meeting objection was raised about the noise made by the KLINGELBEUTEL and the fact that it was held by the ushers, sometimes, it was thought, a little too close to the worshipers' face. But the motion to discontinue its use failed to carry.

PRESS

After serving the church for about a year Rev. Raase left with his new bride from the local community, Mary Stern. He was followed by an old man, Rev. G. Press, who moved into the parsonage with his wife. His four sons, all ministers, had already moved out and had families of their own. One son, Sam, later became president of Eden Seminary, the denomination's school of theology in St. Louis. After serving three and a half years, Pastor Press moved to Houston to live in retirement with another son. Since the church was unable to get a pastor for eight months, Press was asked to return to Coupland from time to time to conduct services.

KREBS

During the months that the pulpit was vacant the congregation became restless and vented its frustration in December, 1904, by voting to withdraw from the denomination. The Texas District responded anyway by sending a young man from Baltimore, Maryland, Rev. G. Krebs. Even so, the church did not re-unite with the denomination until 1907 by a vote of 11 to 1.

Krebs arrived by train on the first Sunday in January, 1905, to conduct a guest service. The 23 members present voted unanimously to call him as pastor at a salary of \$400 per year plus heat and extra fees for ministerial services. Pastor Krebs, his wife and one daughter moved into the newly redecorated parsonage. Another daughter, Ruth, was born while he served as pastor here.