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Minutes of the "Volksvergaderingen"

Barabra Lampen

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The first Volksvergadering, convened on October 11, 1848, at the home of Walvoord.

Art. 1

After a fair number had gathered, the general desire was expressed that a chairman should be chosen. Verhorst was unanimously chosen.

Art. 2

The chairman, or president, announced the purpose of the meeting. At the request of some, he began the activities with prayer.

Art. 3

On account of the many subjects that must be considered, the chairman deemed it necessary to have a secretary appointed, who should be appointed immediately, as moved by the chairman and all those present. H. Doesburg was the choice.

Art. 4

Next it was decided to mention the items that should be considered. These were as follows: Verhorst wants to consider instruction at school, and the road to the log-church, plus the long distance involved; Vander Haar remarked about the trustee Stokking, and the freedom of the pigs; Binnekant asked about a place to hold the meetings, and the location of the school; Schrader asked about the bridge across the river.

Art. 5

The chairman began by stating that all these matters should be considered in the order in which they were presented. Verhorst proposed to introduce the Dutch language in connection with English; this met with approval, although it was not unanimous. A vote was taken. When it was Vander Luyster's turn to speak, he had many scruples as to whether the people could request such a thing. Therefore the voting was stopped, even though the subject was beneficial.

Next Verhorst's question about the church was discussed. Everyone agreed that they should begin work on the road. Rev. v. Raalte promised to point out to the surveyor its direction, and Trente was appointed as overseer to carry it to completion.

Art. 7 (seems to be no Art. 6)

Next the first part of v. d. Luyster's point was discussed again. He (apparently at this point) was absent, which made it difficult to discuss this question, and was detrimental to the

discussion, his absence was excused because his service is one of honor, and some person can always serve in his place.

— The people felt that the orphanage should not be worked on any more, because all the money would go out of the Colony.

(Paragraph is not very clear; I think this is what they mean- B. L.) Although every group must deal with its own affairs, and the present case (the orphanage) does not directly concern this meeting, the timber from within ^{can} and be used, if and when the building is continued. (or it can be taken from the community itself?)

The request to furnish the Holland teacher a room for his school, and, if possible, a dwelling to be rented by the people was voted down, because the Dutch instruction would not be joined with the English instruction. (So much for bilingual instruction in 1848! - B. L.)

Art. 8

v. d. Haar's complaint concerning the trustee Stokking was that the road for carriages was obstructed by trees. The answer was given that although this was the business of the Road Surveyor, Verhorst and Schrader should tell him to cut down the trees, and he should have help in rolling them aside. The people present at the meeting, in every case, should go to the place with their axes, on Friday at 11 o'clock.

Art. 9

The question about pigs (running at large) was decided ⁱⁿ that the previous decision to stop this until Nove. 1, was maintained. This is to protect the garden products.

Art. 10

Binnekant's motion gave one other opportunity to discuss the school matter. The house of du Pre on the hill could be a possible location for such a school.

Art. 11

Schrader's opinion about the bridge across the river brought out many comments about necessary matters that have to be carried out in the Colony. However, it did not result in any fixed provision.

Art. 12

Since all matters that had been proposed had been discussed in the meeting, it was determined to adjourn and meet again 8 days from that date.

SECOND MEETING OF THE PEOPLE, held on October 18, 1848, at the home of Baker Vissers.

Art. 1

The meeting was opened with prayer by Schrader.

Art. 2

A chairman and secretary were again appointed. Mr. v. d. Sluis and Mr. Voorhorst received these positions. (Voorhorst and Verhorst may be the same man - not clear)

Art. 3

The minutes of the previous meeting were read. No one made any remarks except Mr. v. d. Sluis, who wanted to have them more fully described. This resulted in a vote; the majority favored having them more fully described.

Art. 4

It was decided that Trimpe (Trente?) should begin the road to the church. Old Mr. Slag and v. d. Sluis are appointed as a committee to inspect the work.

Art. 5

The question of the location of the church and for the meeting of the people was again discussed. It was reported that Mr. Doesburg had rented (a building) and that he should be seen concerning the matter. Two persons, Schrader and Flietstra, are appointed to confer with him. Trimpe presented an offer to collect funds for it. The committee was assessed \$25. The members present promised to pay toward it, as follows: A. Vissers, Houtkamp, Reidsma, v. d. Sluis, P. Klaver, Schrader, G. Klaver, J. Vissers, D. J. Engbert, Lepeltak, Flietstra, G. Slenk, Zalsman, J. Van Dyk, C. Hofman, J. Slag, J. Trimpe, B. C. Slag, and Voorhorst.

Art. 6

The matter of a bridge across the river was presented once more. They unanimously decided to begin the work, and Rev. V. Raalte was to see Mr. Littleson (Littlejohn?) concerning plan and condition.

Art. 7

Schrader asked if it would not be a good thing to make some decision about clearing away the stumps. The group approved of this, especially in regard to the small ones, so this proposal was adopted.

Art. 8

The meeting was closed with the singing of Psalm 68:10 and prayer by Voorhorst.

SPECIAL MEETING HELD AT THE HOME OF BAKER VISSER - Oct. 25, 1848

Art. 1

At the request of the chairman v. d. Sluis, the meeting was opened with prayer by Schrader.

Art. 2

The minutes were read by Secretary Voorhorst who then asked for remarks. The minutes of the first and second meeting were then approved.

Art. 3

By a majority of votes, Doesburg was appointed Secretary for the period of two months. Rev. v. Raalte was chosen as president for the meeting.

Art. 4

Before v. d. Sluis stepped down as president, he reminded the gathering that this meeting had been called because it was necessary to discuss the pier.

Art. 5

The newly chosen president asked for the subjects which members which to deliberate. They were as follows: Schrader asked about the hiring of Mr. Doesburg; Voorhorst asked about sharing in this hiring; Verbeek asked about the orphanage, and Mr. V. d. Sluis asked about the church road and the bridge.

Art. 6

The president asked whether there is enough money to pay the rent for the church and the building for the meeting. Everyone thought that there was. Then everyone signed their names to this agreement: Verbeek, Steggers, Vennema, Hunderman, Esveld, Landaal, Stokking, G. Haverkate, v. Raalte, H. J. Slag, H. v. d. Haar, Berghuis, v. Zanten, Schelleman, Nagel, Uiterwyk, Plugger, Binnekant, Westveer, L. W. Kramer, Tubbergen, Mulder, Herwynen, Garvelink, and Kerkhof.

Art. 7

The president asked Mr. V. d. Sluis if a report on the bridge had come in. He answered that, since Mr. Littlejohn lived in Allegan, he had no information as yet.

Art. 8

The president urged the meeting to investigate the sources of prosperity as far as possible. The bridge should be built by the people themselves, especially since they will have to pay for it.

The same thing is true regarding the roads, since those we have so far do not amount to very much. We must also remember that the land given for this work by the Legislature in 1847 will someday be exchanged for money. A committee should confer with Mr. Littlejohn in order to establish a firm and orderly method of dealing with these matters.

Art. 9

Next the real reason for the calling of this meeting, the matter of the pier, was considered. The president requested Mr. v. d. Sluis to give his opinions on this matter. He wanted to know how the pier can be built, what the expenses would be and where the money will come from. Various opinions were expressed. The president mentioned loose poles and extension with boards up to the lake (loose poles which would be extended to the lake by means of poles?). He also said that the people should buy shares of ten dollars each to pay for the bridge. This could be paid in cash, in labor, or in trees cut and delivered for the bridge. Even though winter was coming on, preparations should be made to begin this work.

Art. 10

Mr. v. d. Sluis asked whether it might be possible to secure guarantee for the money. Mr. Plugger asked, "Is'nt the whole colony interested in it?" Some people gave objections to this plan, but Binnekant encouraged participation. Then the president offered the use of a laborer and oxen. Schrader next asked whether the group should not be more interested in the opening of the water (the channel, I suppose - B.L.) However, the president felt this would be too costly at this time.

Art. 11

Mulder moved that a vote be taken on this question. This met with approval and was unanimously adopted. Next a motion was made to appoint a committee to investigate the matter. Before passing on to this matter, it was asked whether outsiders should also be represented on the committee (non-Dutch?) and how many should be serving on it. The next question was, "Whose name should head the list?" The answer was: Rev. v. Raalte. The rest of the committee was v. d. Sluis, Mulder, P. Klaver, Schrader, Flietstra, the aged van Dyk, and Mr. Post.

Art. 12

The next question was how to meet the expenses, but no one gave a conclusive answer to this question. Then the president asked if the meeting was willing to assume the responsibility of meeting the expenses. The answer was, "Yes."

Art. 13

A place and date for the meeting (of the pier committee) was set. It would meet at Flietstra's on Tuesday at 2 p.m. The next meeting of the whole assembly would be a week from the coming Wednesday.

Art. 14

Before the meeting was ended with prayer, Trimpe asked if it was permissible to unload store merchandise on Sunday. This question was followed by a great deal of arguing back and forth. The unanimous decision was that this should not be done.

Art. 15

The secretary closed with prayer, and the meeting was adjourned.
MEETING HELD ON NOVEMBER 8, 1848, at Binnekant's home

Art. 1

Rev. v. Raalte opened with prayer. He next proposed that a new president be appointed. Mr. v. d. Sluis felt that the minutes of the previous meeting should be read and approved first. This was done, and the minutes were approved with the exception of one item. Mr. Schrader asked about the statement in Art. 8 as to whether labor can be exchanged for money.

Art. 2

Now a new president was chosen, and Mulder was elected by majority vote.

Art. 3

Mulder asked for subjects to be presented to the meeting. The following questions were brought up: Binnekant - the new papers (?) and the activities of the people; Y. Visser - the road to the church; v. d. Luyster - Can a statement be given as to the funds received for the sea harbor? v. d. Sluis - the meeting, the minute book and the payment of the money that the pier committee will need for expenses; Schrader - the bridge.

Art. 4

The president then brought up the question of the orphanage.

The difficulty lay in collecting the money for this, and therefore the building of the orphanage was delayed. He also said that delivery of goods on the Sabbath can be prevented, and he wondered whether anyone can make use of another's property as he chooses.

Art. 5

The questions brought up at this meeting and at the previous meeting were now discussed in the order in which they had been brought up. Schrader asked about the rent for Doesburg's building, but since Doesburg could not report this was postponed until the next meeting. Voorhorst's question about sharing in the rent payment was settled by the addition of more names. Verbeek's question on the orphanage had already been answered by the information given by the president in Art. 4. Mr. v. d. Sluis wanted Trimpe to be encouraged to continue the work for the church road. It was decided to give him some more help. The choice of the group was v. d. Haar.

Art. 6

The matter of newspapers was discussed. Rev. v. Raalte said he had had two requests, one from an important American paper, one from the Presbyterians and one from the Holland Reformed Church. (This sounds like three requests - B. L.) This subject will be discussed further at the meeting tomorrow at 2 p.m. at Binnekant's home.

Art. 7

Binnekant's second item concerning the activities of the people led to an extensive, strong and important discussion led by v. Raalte. This referred to American work, American payment, etc. v. Raalte felt that the people should do the work themselves, in order to be their own boss. They discussed the condition (?) of money received and paid out in various respects. It might be possible to hire a supervisor before long.

Art. 8

The matters presented by Visser and v. d. Luyster can now be considered as decided in light of what has been discussed. v. d. Sluis wanted to know if the peoples' meeting could be postponed in an arbitrary manner. The answer was in the negative. The previous meeting had been postponed because they did not have a place to hold the meeting, and proper notification had not been given. It was decided unanimously that the president and secretary should appoint some one to warn the people at least a day in advance if this should ever happen again. The same man also proposed to buy a larger minute book which had also been discussed previously.

The third matter considered was the source of the money for the pie committee. It was decided that the meeting as a whole would pay this, and, for this reason, the new persons present should be added to the list: Zwol, Pauels, P. Westveer, G. Verry, v. d. Veere, Knol, A. van Ry, A. M. Brouwer.

Art. 9

Schrader's question concerning the bridge now was brought up. It was agreed that the people should contract for it. Schrader, Binnekant, Flietstra and P. Klaver were chosen, by general consent, as contractors. The people would sign a paper promising money or work time. If someone appointed a person to take his place, it should be a fulltime worker. Those who fail to come can be fined \$1.50 per day. The leaders must see that at least 10 men were at work at the same time. The following people pledged themselves at this time for the bridge work: president Mulder, v. Raalte, Pauels, J. Visser, G. Verry, P. Westveer, v. d. Luyster, Bottenberg, B. Slag, A. L. Vissers, Reidsma, Smits, 50 (This amount was also accepted. But did they each pledge \$50? Not clear.) Houtkamp (provided light work), A. Van Ry, J. Slag, C. V. d. Veere, Wissenporn, J. Westveer, A. Westveer, v. d. Sluis, Engbert, van Zwol and H. M. Brouwer.

Art. 10

The next point considered was that about taking possession of someone else's property. The decision was to take the hard way with such an individual with (as?) Mr. Post. The last subject was the one concerning the Sabbath. In view of the high and earnest significance of this subject (the desecration of the Sabbath), it was decided that all residents should follow the pattern set by the contract recently made by all the merchants which would prevent all desecration. A committee, consisting of Mulder, v. Raalte, Houtkamp, Post, Voorhorst, and Broek, was to compose an article informing the Zeeuwen (Zeelanders) and other colonists about this point so that all would be unanimous about this matter, so dear to a Christian's heart.

Art. 11

Now that all the matters that had been presented had been dealt with, the president requested the secretary to close the meeting with prayer, after which the session was dismissed.

MEETING HELD NOVEMBER 15, 1848, at Binnekant's home

Art. 1 and 2

At the request of the president, Mulder, Rev. v. Raalte opened the meeting with prayer. Then the minutes were read by the secretary. v. d. Luyster remarked that the people were not the contractors, but the four citizens - Schrader, Binnekant, Flietstra and P. Klaver. v. Raalte said this should be corrected so that the minutes would be correct for those who had been absent (from the previous meeting).

Art. 3

Before a new president was chosen, it was stipulated that the same president cannot be appointed successively. The majority of votes were cast for v. d. Sluis.

Art. 4

The chairman now asked who had anything to present to the meeting. v. Raalte asked about the length of the meetings, v. d. Luyster asked about the church road and the bridge, Reidsma asked about timber, H. Slag about the wages (price?) for the wood, and Houtkamp wanted, if possible, information about the pier.

Art. 5

v. Raalte's question about the length of the meetings was considered first; He thought they should begin at 7 and end at 9 in order to end all argument about this. This point was quite generally approved. Schrader, however, said that sometimes weighty business might arise which demanded settlement immediately; this might make it necessary to have longer meetings. Notwithstanding this remark, the time from 7 to 9 was decided upon.

Art. 6

Next considered was v. d. Luyster's first point about the work on the church road and how far it had advanced. Because Trimpe and v. d. Haar were absent, this question could not be answered. The president proposed to appoint one of the men to promote the development of the road. v. d. Luyster was chosen for this position.

Art. 7

v. d. Luyster next asked if the committee for the bridge had already left. The reply was that they had. The number of signers for help on the bridge came to 93. The president added that v. d. Veen was the only one who had refused to have a share in the bridge work.

Art. 8

Reidsma asked what the Trustees had to spend for barrels, etc. A sufficient number of trustees were present at the meeting to consider this matter. The people decided that they would make use of the trees until the next Tuesday, provided they inform the trustees and pay the price that is still due on them. The president offered ten acres for nothing immediately in the hope that others might follow his example.

Art. 9

H. Slag wanted to discuss the wood that was cut down and split. He felt that not enough had been cut. The president felt that this was a personal matter and, therefore, did not really concern this meeting. However, Rev. V. Raalte gave some information regarding cord, barrel, or bacon wood, and said the price here was a little higher than in Kalamazoo.

Art. 10

Houtkamp wanted a report about the pier, but could not get a satisfactory answer. The president promised a good report as soon as it became possible to make one.

Art. 11

Since all the business had been considered, the meeting was closed with prayer by Doesburg. Another meeting will be held in two weeks. The meeting was adjourned.

SPECIAL MEETING HELD ON November 21, 1848, at the home of Binnekant

Art. 1

Binnekant was unanimously appointed as president, and he requested v. Raalte to open the meeting with prayer.

Art. 2

The communication which the committee had received from Mr. Littlejohn was read to the gathering by Dr. v. Raalte.

Art. 3

This report produced much discussion concerning the outside influences and activities that were related to the bridge. It was proposed that local labor build the road up to the river and in this way help our Zeeland neighbors in regard to the laying out of the road from their village to the river.

Art. 4

Every one present was willing to sign for helping on the road, hoping that the other sharers of the bridge (?) would do the same. The members present were: v. Raalte, J. Visser, Kerler, Berghuis, Verry, Bottenberg, B. Slag, J. Slag, Bakker, v. Dyk, P. Westveer, Engberts, Slink, A. Visser, A. Westveer, R. Schellema, v. d. Luyster, Plugger, v. d. Haar, Flietstra, Schrader, Landaal, Polsma, P. Klaver, G. Klaver, Pauels, v. d. Sluis, Zalsman, Binnekant, Houtkamp, Doesburg, Herwynen, A. van Ry, Steffens, Geurink.

Art. 5

Next some suggestions and warnings were given to the bridge and pier committee before Mr. Littlejohn's visit. A difference of opinion was shown on the part of Schrader. Everyone agreed, however, that they should be very careful and not be fooled by apparently fine presentations.

Art. 6

v. d. Luyster and v. d. Haar promised, after some direction, to have the same men who were working on the bridge begin working on the road to the church.

Art. 7

Many people were leaving the meeting, because it ran longer than 9 o'clock. Houtkamp closed with prayer, and the gathering was dismissed.

MEETING HELD NOVEMBER 29, 1848, at Binnekant's home.

Art. 1

President v. d. Sluis asked v. d. Luyster to open the meeting with pray.

Art. 2

The secretary read the minutes of the previous meeting, and they were approved unanimously. Mr. Voorhorst was chosen as president.

Art. 3

It was decided that the president and secretary should be present at 7 o'clock or pay a fine of 25¢. Those who left the meeting without asking permission to do so should also pay a 25¢ fine; these fines must be paid immediately to the treasurer.

Art. 4

The president asked for questions to be considered by the group. The following items were brought up: A. Visser - concerning the various works projects; v. d. Luyster about the same subject, and the contribution for the meetings; Houtkamp, about v. d. Luyster's method of handling work; Binnekant about the place of meeting; v. d. Sluis had a question for the trustees. What is the stipulation about the trees for barrel-wood which the people might use, and why were they not notified on time and regularly about the time they had to work; he also asked about the bell; H. Slag - about the training of poor children.

Art. 5

Mr. Vissers's complaint about the irregularity in the works projects was considered. People were working on the road, but not on the bridge. He felt that the people should first also sign for the road. Perhaps it was dangerous to proceed with the bridge, since things were still so unsettled with Mr. Littlejohn. The contractors were not present, so no good information could be obtained except from Binnekant about the manner of work. All were of the opinion that no work should be done on the road as yet. After much deliberation, it was even moved that the work on the bridge should be stopped after a half day, in view of the care to be taken with Mr. Littlejohn. Then the foremen were criticized because they do not keep order and the workers are not being notified 24 hours in advance.

Art. 6

The above discussion seemed to take care of v. d. Luyster's first complaint. The question of the collection of the contributions for the meeting was now considered. So far nothing had been collected. Binnekant was asked if he could have the meeting at his home for awhile longer, and how much he should receive from the members as compensation. It was unanimously decided (Binnekant's vote included) that 50¢ per meeting was sufficient. This would compensate for light and other things. The secretary has to have a list ready for payment for every meeting.

Art. 7

Houtkamp complained that v. d. Luyster dealt with people arbitrarily by inviting other to work so that he could attend to other matters. He was not punished and was neglectful. None of these reasons was found legal by the president or the other members (not clear).

Art. 8

v. d. Luyster reported to the great satisfaction of the meeting that the church road was ready. The president then proposed that he be given a vote of thanks and an "honorable discharge." In addition, the other superintendents and Mr. v. d. Luyster should be exempt from paying any fines.

Art. 9

The matter of v. d. Luyster was now settled. Next the first question of v. d. Sluis was considered: "What have the trustees decided in regard to the village trees? President Voorhorst said that the trees would be donated to the people if they were removed, and that this would be true until another notice was given. v. d. Sluis' second point concerned the irregular announcement of the work times. Five of the Groningers were present, and they said that they had not been invited to work at all, while others had already worked two days. Houtkamp said that it had been hard to reach the men; there were five sick, and one whose name was not on their list. There needed to be more exchange of ideas here. The third subject considered was the matter of a bell. v. d. Sluis had heard that one could be purchased in Allegan for \$25. All were convinced that this would be a good purchase, yet two voted against it. An attempt was made to find out how much could be collected at the meeting. Everyone was willing to contribute, but some said they did not have any money at the moment.

Binnekant signs	\$0.50	v. d. Luyster	37.5
v. d. Sluis	1.00	J. Westveer	12.5
J. Vissers	.12,5	P. Westveer	12.5
Smit	50	A. Vissers	12.5
Pauels	25	Meintz	12.5
B. Slag	12,5	H. Slag	12.5
J. Slag	12.5	Zalsman	25
Voorhorst	25	Kerler	50
Reidsma	10	Houtkamp	25
Engbert	12.5	Geerink	12.5
			<u>\$5.22.5</u>

(I included this because it shows how little money was available for this pledge. There must have been a half cent in circulation at that time.)

Art. 10

H. Slag moved that Holland should find a means to train the children of the Poor without any charge. Everyone agreed to this. The president wanted a group to be formed to gather support for this worthy cause. This decision was postponed until the next meeting

since it was already past the agreed upon closing time.

Art. 11

Binnekant closed with prayer.

MEETING HELD ON DECEMBER 13, 1848, at Binnekant's home.

President Voorhorst requested Rev. Van Raalte to open the meeting with prayer. v. Raalte then asked the president to read the minutes. These were approved after the president had asked for comments.

Art. 2

Next Houtkamp was chosen as president, and he proceeded to ask for questions to be put before the meeting. Rev. v. Raalte asked about the pier. Brouwer asked about lies and slander and Mulder about making the wrong use (of the men who volunteered to work). v. d. Sluis asked about the bell, and the proper location for the meeting. v. d. Haar wondered about his earnings per day when he used his oxen. P. Klaver asked about the men who worked at the bridge.

Art. 3

Rev. v. Raalte was given the floor first because he had to leave early. He asked the Pier committee how far the work had progressed. Flietstra stated that the plan was ready, and the outline had been approved. v. d. Sluis said that a letter had been written to Mr. Littlejohn. Van Dyk and Mulder confirmed this. P. Klaver insisted that trees of 20 feet (in height) could be kept by the people as reasonable compensation. v. Raalte then moved that a contract be made with Littlejohn stipulating 4000 acres. 300 signatures would be needed with 30 men on the job. In this way, each person would be required to work only one week on the pier at first, but they should figure on the work taking 2 or 3 years. In his opinion the people would receive support from Washington if a favorable report could be presented to them concerning the amount of work already finished, or even begun. He also felt that if a landing was built a lighthouse with name and navigation aids would follow. However, everyone will have to apply himself to clearing (the land). If possible, someone from Holland should go to Washington to explain this in detail. The next question of the group was about how much this would cost, but no answer was given. First a constitution had to be written, and a contract formalized. v. Raalte then asked permission to leave the meeting.

Art. 4

H. Slag's question in regard to the training of indigent people was now considered. The president asked him and the entire group how this might best be accomplished. Everyone felt that a list should be compiled, and a house-to-house canvas of the town should be made. Mr. Slag was unanimously chosen to carry out this assignment.

Art. 5

The president asked whether Brouwer's question about lying and slander belonged here. The general opinion was that it did not. However, the name of the person against whom the complaint was made was mentioned - the name of P. Smits.

Art. 6

Mulder's complaint was next considered. He felt that it was wrong to use the men that worked on the bridge in the work on the church path. The group agreed with this, and promised to avoid such abuses in the future.

Art. 7

v. d. Sluis reported that \$12 had now been pledged for the bell. The Klaver brothers had pledged 50¢, Berghuis, 25¢ and Schelleman, 25¢. Plugger was still considering the amount of his pledge. They next considered the question of meeting at Doesburg who informed the gathering how far the condition of the room had advanced. v. d. Sluis Voorhorst and v. d. Luyster were added to the committee appointed earlier, in order to speed up this matter so that the gathering could vote on it.

Art. 8

v. d. Haar's question about his oxen was to be settled between him and the contractors. After some consideration, it was brought to a vote. Three days' work would be the maximum required from a man with an ox team.

Art. 9

Everything had now been considered, except the contribution of 5¢ (for the meeting). Voorhorst was asked to close the meeting with prayer. Another meeting will be held in two weeks.

MEETING HELD ON DECEMBER 26, 1848, at Binnekant's home

Art. 1

Rev. v. Raalte opened the meeting with prayer.

Art. 2

The president then stated why this meeting had been called - to listen to complaints about the work on the bridge. The following complaints were made: brooms and other things were made; two teams of oxen were needed every day; some were called every 7 or 8 days for bridge work, instead of every 10 days; Schrader had left the people standing in the snow last Thursday; there was some confusion in regard to Houtkamp's part. The people now had to judge for themselves and make arrangements with the farmers who owned oxen, since two of them were always needed.

Art. 3

The president began to talk about the making of brooms (but nothing is said beyond this - B. L.) The contractors now spoke. Flietstra and P. Klaver had no complaints in regard to the workers, but Binnekant had complaints. He mentioned that the sons of Smits and Meulenbelt did not do very good work. Everyone felt that this should be made public. v. Raalte felt that the contractors could watch carefully so that each one was put on his own work level, the weak and the strong. No one should have to say, "I have to do all heavy work." Schrader said that he had warned the substitutes one time. The president said that he often, in the case of sickness or the earning of a day's wages, divided the pay with the workers.

Art. 4

Next the subject of the farmers with ox teams was brought up. The men to whom this responsibility should be given should be specified. v. d. Sluis asked for responsible men so that 500 acres were not neglected because of this situation. v. d. Haar, Bakker, Binnekant and Post would like to have a contract. It was decided to ask for sealed votes on this matter to be gathered by next Friday, when the group would meet again and decide on this matter. Those who send in a bid must work with two teams each. The people should have the logs placed as near as possible to the place where they must be dragged to the bridge. Mulder should be also notified.

Art. 5

G. Klaver left the meeting without giving notice, so he was fined 25¢ (Minutes of Nov. 29, Art. 3)

Art. 6

Next the complaint against Schrader came up for consideration. Nine persons had been present at Binnekant's, but the inspectors had not shown up. Schrader was fined by the group. The superintendents must be present in the morning whether the weather is favorable or not; otherwise they will be fined, unless they have a good excuse, and give notice of this.

Art. 7

Houtkamp asked the gathering about wages and in regard to running (no explanation of what this is). v. d. Sluis wanted to know before that matter was decided if the contractors had any complaints against anyone. Everyone was satisfied, except Schrader, who complained about bookkeeping and arbitrariness. From now on, Houtkamp must save the ballots for evidence and reckon four days running for one day's work.

Art. 8

v. d. Luyster closed the meeting with prayer, after it had been determined that no one had anything else to present or discuss.

GATHERING CONVENEED ON DECEMBER 27, 1848 - at Binnekant's home.

Art. 1

At the request of Pres. Houtkamp, Verhorst opened the meeting with prayer. The minutes of the previous gathering were read and approved.

Art. 2

Verhorst made the remark that all the minutes of previous meetings should be signed. Doesburg remarked that those meetings that were special, and called by Binnekant, ought to be read. It was decided to do this at the first opportunity.

Art. 3

They now proceeded to appoint another president. The majority of votes were for Mr. v. d. Sluis, who immediately asked those present if they had something they desired to bring to (before) the meeting. Binnekant had a complaint for Rev. v. Raalte; B. Slag had one concerning the irregular attendance of the people. The president asked about the fine of Schrader, but it was the conclusion that this did not belong to the present gathering.

Art. 4

The first subject that was presented by the president was what had been accomplished by the committee in charge of finding a room for the gatherings and the church. The location at Doesburg's was deemed suitable, but of a too high requirement (the rent was too high? Not a very clear sentence - B. L.). It would also be a hindrance for instruction or for their gatherings, and so this location was rejected. Then the attention was turned to the store over Binnekant's, which was available for four months, until May, and could be had for ten dollars. All were unanimously in favor of this.

Art. 5

Next H. Slag was heard concerning the signing of children of the indigent. He read the list to the meeting. It amounted to \$132. Mr. Slag asked permission to inquire once more right here. This was allowed. A few signed and the amount rose to ? a month. The consistory is to be consulted in regard to who is eligible for this aid.

Art. 6

After that Binnekant talked about gin which was being sold on property owned by Rev. v. Raalte. Although much may be said in the way of extenuating circumstances for Vink, Rev. v. Raalte gave an account and called for the assistance of every one to counteract the

the destructive affair, even if it meant loss to himself. Some things gave occasion (other matters led to a chance) to speak of import and export by means of tariff. Further information will be sought from the merchants in regard to this affair.

Art. 7

B. Slag asks whether any measures can be taken so that the people attend the meeting on time. The president is of the opinion that this should not be forced by the paying of a fine. It is not due to a lack of interest, but more because we have no bell that can announce the set time.

Art. 8

Now a discussion concerning the pier began. It was stipulated that they would meet on the coming Saturday at 9 a.m. at Flietstra's so that the committee on the pier be enabled to continue its work.

Art. 9

Doesburg thanked the gathering for their vote of confidence given him during the two months of his secretariat. At this point, the president proposed to appoint him anew. This was the wish of the entire gathering. Doesburg accepted this in love, but conditionally. He wished to be exempted from paying a fine if it happened that he was a few minutes late. Rev. v. Raalte replied to this that Doesburg was not only entitled to an exemption from a fine, but might even be entitled to a reward. Four dollars were then assigned to him, provided he functioned four months, when the time of rent for the room expired. He was also appointed as treasurer, with the stipulation to receive the contribution in the gathering in as easy a way as possible.

Art. 10

Rev. v. Raalte gave some information in regard to the pier and also concerning measures to be taken in respect to Mr. Littlejohn. Many were in favor of sending a petition to the Governor. This was postponed to Friday evening when another meeting was to be held, and the mail would be in.

Art. 11

After a brief statement about church matters, the president asked Mr. Houtkamp to close the meeting with thanksgiving.

SPECIAL MEETING ON DECEMBER 29, 1848 - regular meeting place

Art. 1

Upon invitation of Mr. v. d. Sluis, Binnekant opened the gathering with prayer

Art. 2

The secretary read the minutes of the previous meeting. These were approved by all. The president made the remark that Schrader's excuse should be more fully described, as, for instance, unfavorable weather, and at a previous meeting, there were only four persons present. The secretary, although willing to meet this demand, intimated that the words "after due investigation" contained the judgment expressed by the gathering.

Art. 3

Now the subscription ballots were called in, but only one had been received. This was from Mr. Post, saying "for 260 acres" with a few conditions added. The servant of Rev. V. Raalte also tendered a bid for the same amount. The president asked the gathering what they thought of this. Some said, "Think it over;" others wished to vote on it. This was done, with the result that the matter be postponed before accepting the offer.

Art. 4.

Houtkamp asked if he had to warn the people in view of this. (inform them about the meeting, I imagine) At first the opinion was "yes". But after more deliberation, it was decided to also postpone this for 8 days.

Art. 5.

Next the president asked if anyone else had something to present. No one mentioned anything, except the president himself. It was to exempt Schrader from the payment of his fine, since van d. Luyster had been excused. Then Houtkamp offered the suggestion that the cases just mentioned are not alike. To mention one point only, v. d. Luyster acknowledged his guilt but Schrader did not; on the contrary, he tried to excuse himself. Then the president asked whether he should be declared free. The general answer was "Yes" provided he also acknowledges his guilt. Mr. Schrader did this. He was then excused by the entire gathering, without making the rule on fines of no effect (because he acknowledged his guilt)

Art. 6

Schrader now had a proposal to make - to gather the people before his door when he had to be at his work. The difficulties with this were pointed out, so the meeting place remained as before, at Binnekant's.

Art. 7

No letter had been received from Mr. Littlejohn. This led to a vote on the measures that could be taken. They could either write to the Governor or to Washington, or invite him (the governor) once more, either through a single person, or in writing, in the interest of our bridge and landing place. The majority were in favor of petitioning the governor. Rev. v. Raalte, Mr. v. d. Sluis and Mr. Post were chosen for this task. These men were to have a written request prepared by Monday, Jan. 1, 1849, when the meeting would be held in church.

Art. 8

After a motion of v. d. Haar that some money should be gathered for the oxen-farmers, in the way of trade, and making a decision to meet a week from this date, Mr. Doesburg closed the meeting with thanksgiving.

MEETING HELD ON JANUARY 10, 1849 - at Binnekant's home.

Art. 1

The president asked Verhorst to open the gathering with prayer. Then the secretary read the minutes, which were approved after questioning for remarks.

Art. 2

Next it was necessary to elect a new President. The majority of votes were in favor of Plugger, who declined the position. Binnekant was nominated in his place. he took the position, and took his seat as president. He asked who had something to propose or discuss. Houtkamp wished to speak about smoking; Smit about the accusations against his son; Mr. Flietstra and Rev. v. Raalte spoke about the bridge, and Mr. Flietstra asked about those who were absent from the meeting.

Art. 3

Before the president proceeded to open for discussion the subjects just mentioned, he began, at the request of v. d. Sluis and others, to remind the gathering of the subject that had been tabled, that is, the dragging of logs to the bridge.

Art. 4

Rev. v. Raalte asked for the floor. He informed the gathering that he had heard his servant say that rumors had come to him that people called the bid for 250 acres shameful; Schrader, in particular, had said this, and he also implicated the entire gathering. Now Rev. v. Raalte deemed it urgent, for the sake of his office, to justify himself before the people. The chief point of it was the

following: the tender (offer) is open to every one; it is free and one can bid for as high or low amount as one things necessary. Every person has his own way of viewing it (the offer); the risks that must be reckoned in connection with the job are not calculated as as being as heavy by one man as another would (calculate the risks). The work must be finished on time; a team of oxen must be hired; there might be an unexpected thaw; one must know how to arrive at the other side; and the situation and improvement of the land must be taken into consideration. No one wishes to go blindfold, which cannot be expected of an intelligent father of a family. Then Mr. Schrader spoke in reply and tried to excuse himself. Mr. v. d. Sluis also added a word as excuse (in defense of) for Mr. Schrader.

Art. 5

Now they proceeded to consider the bids. Van d. Haar had made an offer for 240 acres. That disheartened many; this was the reason why Mr. Flietstra proposed to hire the oxen. Then it was argued that this was impossible. P. Klaver also was in favor of making a contract and the majority was in agreement with this plan.

Once more the question was asked who was willing to make a contract for dragging the logs, but none dared to undertake it. Even Bakker doubted whether v. d. Haar, who knew of the above-mentioned difficulty, would have a mind to do it. Rev. v. Raalte and Binnekant decided to sign a contract together for 239 acres, provided care is taken that there will be plenty of work for two yoke of oxen. This was approved by the majority although there was a minority not in favor of it.

Art. 6

There was a general feeling of discouragement. This caused a good deal of talk. Mr. Flietstra proposed that a substitute might also be named, or a small salary granted, since the small amount of land did not contribute the same amount (not clear if this is money or work). This was not approved because it must be considered as a work of love.

Art. 7.

After this a letter was read from Littlejohn and the reply to the same that which contained principally to have a landingplace. (Nota clear sentence. I really don't know what it means - B. L.)

Art. 8

Houtkamp who acted as chairman during the absence of Binnekant, proposed to smoking in the gathering from today on. This was accepted.

Art. 9

Now Smit spoke of the accusation made about his son. To the regret of the gathering, discussion became somewhat vehement. Binnekant called in witnesses to confirm his statement. After a few more statements, the accused left the gathering in quite an indecent manner.

Art. 10

Mr. Flietstra complained that the pier committee did not attend the meeting. Rev. v. Raalte presented weighty excuses for himself and proposed to meet immediately after this gathering at Mr. Post's house. This was approved. Then the meeting was closed with thanksgiving by Rev. v. Raalte.

MEETING HELD ON JANUARY 24, 1849 - at the home of Binnekant.

The meeting was opened with prayer by Schelleman. Then Houtkamp read the minutes. Schrader made a remark in regard to his excuse which was not sufficiently recorded in detail.

Art. 2

Next a president was appointed. V. d. Sluis had the majority of votes. He asked immediately whether any one had something special to present.

Schelleman had a question for the trustee v. d. Luyster concerning the appointment of the Trustees; v.d.Haar and v. d. Luyster about the rumor of the city lands. The last-named was also asked about the orphanage and the school; Binnekant was asked about the importing of wares on Sunday.

Art. 3

First in order was the question of Schelleman, whether proper record is made of rents that had to be received. No answer could be given to this question. A second question was whether the city grounds, for which the inhabitants have pledged persons and possessions, have been properly recorded on behalf of the city. After a great deal of discussion, this matter was postponed to the following day, when it was expected to meet again. V. d. Luyster asked for how long the Trustees have been appointed and whether they are responsible to the people. Schrader and Slag maintain that they don't know how long they are to serve; they believe indefinitely. After much discussion, pro and con, it was decided to request Rev. v. Raalte to take with him the evidence in order to have a clear statement at the meeting of the following day. The third matter, concerning the rumor about the city grounds, was not discussed. After much talking,

it was determined to ask Rev. v. Raalte to bring with him the evidence. The matter of the orphanage was explained by the president. Because the promised contributions have not been paid, the Treasurer is not willing to begin building. On the following day, everything regarding all these matters will be discussed.

Art. 4.

Next the subject of the school was brought up. The president stated to the gathering, that in the spring a money-lender may come and the building may begin, if there is enough interest.

Art. 5

Binnekant had an accusation against Mr. Post, viz., that he had travelled with wagon and oxen last Sunday afternoon conveying goods. The president had heard of this matter because he (probably Mr. Post - not very clear) had not been able to get reasonable feed for the oxen, and also on account of ill-health. After having talked the matter over, a committee for investigation had been appointed, which consisted of Binnekant, Trimpe and Plugger.

Art. 6

At this point, Houtkamp was asked to close the gathering with thanksgiving.

MEETING CONVENED FEBRUARY 7, 1849, at the home of Binnekant.

Art. 1

On request of the president, Rev. v. Raalte opened the meeting with prayer. The secretary then read the minutes of the previous gathering. No one had remarks about these with the exception of van der Sluis, who desired a fuller description (discussion?) of them.

Art. 2.

The meeting proceeded with appointing a president. The majority of votes were for Binnekant, who began by asking whether any one had anything to place before the meeting. Wiessenbonk wanted to know how many sick there were among those who had signed for the bridge. Vander Veere and others had the same subject in mind. Trimpe and Mr. Post and van der Sluis inquired about firemen. Houtkamp wished to speak about the bridge. Binnekant asked regarding the prevention of strong drinks (from being sold).

Art. 3

The president asked Mr. Trimpe to speak first. He reported that the excuse given in behalf of Mr. Post was not valid since the contrary has come to light. Mr. v. d. Sluis wanted to postpone the matter until Mr. Post can be present to defend himself. Houtkamp felt that this is a private matter among the merchants themselves. Rev. v. Raalte asked for the floor. He remarked that a mutual contract naturally must be considered by the men who made the contract. The signers, therefore, must settle the matter between themselves, and the people, who should be acquainted with the facts in the case, have the right to know the outcome.

Art. 4

Mr. v. d. Sluis next spoke about the fire-brigade. He said that when v. Zwol had a fire, no one had any protection against it, except shovel and axe, so this is a matter for which provision should be made. But from where can the implements be obtained and just what is needed? He therefore directed his questions to the President of the Trustees, Rev. v. Raalte, who gave the opinion that a fire department must be developed from among the citizens, and the needed means of defense provided. Then Mr. v. d. Sluis asked who could make such a survey, since there was a great deal of criticism about lighting fires, in genera. Rev. v. Raalte stated that there had to be rules and regulations for public safety; that there should be a watch and tools in every house; that the group should see that there was a fire hook, pails, shovel and ladder in every ward; that there should be a way of calling for help, when it was necessary; that there should be a commission for investigation; sand should be on hand near the brush fences. All this should be accomplished before May 1, because after that there was a danger of forest fires.

Art. 5

A committee of nine members was appointed, consisting of Mr. v. d. Sluis, Trimpe, Houtkamp, Flietstra, Verhorst, Bakker, Kerler, Post and the president Rev. v. Raalte. All accepted the appointment. This committee will meet on the coming Saturday morning at Houtkamp's.

Art. 6

Mr. v. d. Sluis asked why River Street from Binnekant's place to the river had not been contracted for. Rev. v. Raalte assumed the responsibility for this with the exception of the places that had been sold, so that the street would be ready when the bridge

was finished. Mr. v. d. Sluis and others in the group offered to assist him, which offer was gladly accepted. They will begin as soon as possible.

Art. 7

Then Mr. Binnekant asked about the sale of liquor, since he receives many request for this by people who come in from the outside, and also he receives request from people in the village who want this for medicine. Mr. v. d. Sluis asked if it was a mutual alliance not to sell liquor. Rev. v. Raalte explained that this matter had been decided when the land was purchased, and this pact cannot be broken. Vander Haar asked about those who bought land before this agreement was made, or those who did not know about it. Should they be excused from this exclusion? Rev. v. Raalte answered that everyone should be on his guard not to sell liquor, since the deeds of purchase were the same for all; however, he had no objection to have wine on hand for medicine. V. d. Heere, who sells whiskey, asked about his position, but Rev. v. Raalte warned him about this matter.

Art. 8

Wiesenporn than asked how many of the people who signed up to work for the bridge were sick, because sometimes there were only from 6 to 9 men working. Houtkamp said that this was a bad situation. He experienced rudeness which was often quite disagreeable.

Art. 9

After deciding to meet again in a week, the gathering was closed with thanksgiving by Doesburg.

SPECIAL MEETING ON February 9, 1849, at the home of Binnekant.

Art. 1

Houtkamp opens the meeting with prayer. The minutes were read and approved.

Art. 2

Binnekant was chosen president. He asked whether anyone had matters to present. The following questions were asked about the bridge work: H. Slag - "Why is it that there is only one foreman at present instead of four?" H. V. Haar - Can one absent himself arbitrarily from work at the bridge? P. Zalsman - How many sick and unwilling workers are there? Bakker - Must the sick make up for their omitted workdays? H. Slag - Is there a fine if one breaks the contract?

Houtkamp - How do we deal with those who say they are sick, but do their own work? Wiessenporn - Is Houtkamp's list regularly read at the work? Houtkamp answered this by saying that every one can see his workdays on the list.

Art. 3

The question of H. Slag was answered first by the president, principally in this way: (The answer given in the copy I am retyping doesn't make much sense, but it seems to say that the foremen should deliberate and arrange among themselves which were the best times for each person to work without causing too much disruption in their other jobs.)

Art. 4

The question of v. d. Haar whether one might arbitrarily stay away from his job was answered in the negative. In the future, those who stayed away from the work would have to pay a fine, and those who were absolutely unwilling to work should be made to work.

Art. 5

The next question, of course, dealt with those who were willing and those who were unwilling to work. Finally the names of four unwilling workers were given: Polsma, Knol, Hoogerhorst and Uiterwyk. There were fifteen that were prevented by sickness or otherwise, to come out to work.

Art. 6

The next question was whether Nysse and others who did not have enough workdays as yet would have to make up the missing days. The answer was "yes" by unanimous vote, and this should be done in the shortest time possible. Then the group went over the list. Herwynen had to make up days, and Hollander also. Meengs does his smith's work for the bridge, and this is all right. Meulenbelt must make up days, Uiterwyk should be warned, J. van Dyk and his father should make up days. The Smiths should be prosecuted, but first given a warning in the presence of two witnesses. Voorhorst was acquitted with the granting of days, De Witte was sick, as well as Pieters. Olgers must make up his days, as well as Hoogerhorst who had six days to make up. Wiessenporn must make up days, and Polsma must make up days or be prosecuted.

Art. 7

The other questions that had been asked were considered and answered. Then Schrader closed with thanksgiving.

GATHERING HELD ON February 21, at the home of Binnekant

Art. 1

Mr. Houtkamp opened the gathering with prayer. Then the minutes were read, and, following questions, unanimously approved.

Art. 2

Trimpe was chosen as president. He then asked if anyone had anything to present to the group. Flietstra hoped to hear the report of the fire committee. Pauels wanted to know why the work on the bridge had stopped. v. d. Sluis stated that the matter of Mr. Post had not yet been settled, and wished to report on the fire committee. Houtkamp wanted to know how much had been contributed at the peoples' gathering.

Art. 3

Pauels' question about the bridge was answered by Binnekant and Houtkamp. Binnekant said that his illness and the weather were the cause; Houtkamp said that the people had not been notified because he had not been well. Mr. v. d. Sluis made a few remarks concerning a pine tree. A brief explanation about this was considered sufficient. After a few remarks in regard to the bridge, the meeting was postponed to the following day.

Art. 4

v. d. Sluis requested that the contract that had been made on maintaining the Sabbath be read. After it was read, it was discovered that it did not contain the terms against Post. It was decided that the signers had to meet on the coming Saturday at 7 p.m.

Art. 5

Next the report of the fire committee was given by v. d. Sluis. The first thing that must be acquired was an alarm bell with lantern for signalling. Every one must have two pails and a ladder 20 feet long. In various parts of the city, three water cisterns must be dug and a large hook must be placed with every one. The expenses would be paid from taxes. Wantonness or carelessness would be punished with a fine of \$1000. There should also be a fire-licket (I have no idea what this is - B. L.) The tax list was read and everyone could comment. The Trustees were disposed favorably toward the promotion of this matter.

Art. 6

Now the subject of the contributions at the peoples' gathering was discussed, also whether or not it was a full meeting. It was accepted, so that the cost should not climb too high and become too difficult for the members. (I think that is what this is trying to say - B.L.)

When all the business was disposed of and the time expired, the gathering was closed with thanksgiving by Schelleman.

GATHERING CONVENED on March 7, 1849, at the home of Binnekant

Art. 1

The president asked Verhorst to open with prayer. The minutes of the previous meeting were read by Houtkamp in the absence of the secretary. These were approved, except for the \$1000 fine. This had not been decided by the fire committee but by the law of the country. The proper authorities had been contacted so that they would be following the law.

Art. 2

Next they proceeded to appoint a president for this gathering. Mr. v. d. Sluis was chosen by a majority of votes. He then asked whether anyone had anything to present to the meeting. V. d. Luyster asked about the matter of Post and his Sabbath desecration. Binnekant asked about dogs and pigs, and also asked for a report of the fire department.

Art. 3

Mr. Houtkamp answered in regard to the matter of Post. He had been sick and had not been able to speak with Post. In regard to the pigs, a decision was postponed until the next meeting. The gathering was of the opinion that a tax for the benefit of the poor ought to be placed upon dogs. Rev. v. Raalte asked for the floor, and explained briefly that this gathering does not have the authority to make such decisions, since this is a matter for the town meeting. Holland is not an organized village as yet, so it can do nothing for itself, but it should be prepared to attend any town meetings in order to have a voice in matters. The group would be listened to if it could present a unanimous decision. It was moved to choose three men to consider the items which had to be decided at the town meeting. Zeeland and Drenthe also ought to be consulted. Four men were chosen: v. d. Sluis, v. d. Luyster Trimpe and Reidsma.

Art. 4

Next the fire committee gave its report. The appointments made by the committee were approved. They are: Trimpe, Schelleman, Berghuis, Reidsma, v. d. Luyster, v. d. Sluis, Arnaud and Flietstra. They were requested to meet the following Friday at the home of Binnekant, in order to make further decisions.

Art. 5

Rev. v. Raalte urged the gathering, on behalf of the doctors, to clear away the rotten wood because it often produces fevers. Rev. v. Raalte also proposed, in the name of Mr. Post, that the settlement make a bid for the delivery of mail, back and forth, from Kalamazoo to Allegan, through Holland to Grand Haven.

Art. 6

It was decided that everyone should pay for a stove to be used in church. Each person will be expected to pay about 40¢. The Trustees shall be in charge of the stove, and all the village can make use of it. v. d. Luyster closed the meeting with thanksgiving.

(V. Raalte also informed the group that Mr. Stuart, the representative from this area in Washington, had written him that the group cannot begin to think of harbor work and a pier, because of the conditions resulting from the Mexican War, but there is hope for a lighthouse and the surveying of the work that needs to be done for this.)

GATHERING CONVENED on March 21, 1849, at the home of Binnekant

Art. 1

At the request of the president, v. d. Sluis, the gathering was opened with prayer by Binnekant. The minutes were read and approved, provided the names of the four substitute fire masters were included: v. d. Sluis, v. d. Luyster, Arnaud and Flietstra.

Art. 2

The group proceeded to appoint another president; v. d. Luyster was called to the chair. He asked whether anyone had any matters to present. Reidsma asked about the wages of the laborers at the bridge; v. d. Sluis asked for further information about two decisions of the Trustees; the president asked about the land for the bridge; Arnaud asked about the fire (committee?) v. d. Sluid asked about the committee representing the group in the town gathering, and about the rules for the fire department.

Art. 3

Reidsma's subject was discussed first. Wages in land cannot be stipulated; once the labor itself is approved, then the payment in land can be indicated. Reidsma offered to donate his share for the poor, the church and the school; v. d. Sluis would do this only for the school; v. d. Luyster, for the poor.

Art. 4

Next they discussed what to do about the bridge. Many things still are not decided, so the question was postponed until the next meeting. Wiessenporn asked again what should be done with the unwilling workers. The group agreed to try once more to get these people to make up for their shortcomings, and leave the rest to the contractors. Binnekant asked where the money for the bridge would be obtained. v. d. Sluis thinks it must come from the village fund.

Art. 5

A report was given about two resolutions made by the Trustees. The first pertained to the butchering of cattle, etc., in the village; the second said that there may be no fences made of tree branches, nor any rotten wood left lying around.

Art. 6

The president stated his surprise that nothing was known about the land for the bridge, since it was known in Port Sheldon before the bridge was finished. Some people felt that this may be due to the active work of Mr. Littlejohn.

Art. 7

Arnaud spoke about the fire at Polsma's that began in a wooden pipe. The general opinion was that poverty was the real cause. v. d. Sluis and others think that this must be reported to the fire department.

Art. 8

v. d. Sluis spoke about the committee of delegates to the town gathering. The names of Kerlen and Verhorst were added to the existing committee.

Art. 9

The president now read the rules of the fire department so that the people could be asked to sign the document. v. d. Sluis then read a circular to the people of Drenthe. Mr. Doesburg closed the meeting (with prayer, I suppose).

GATHERING CONVENED on April 4, 1849, at the home of Binnekant.

Art. 1

Binnekant took the chair for v. d. Luyster, and he requested Berghuis to open the meeting with prayer. The minutes were read, remarks were asked for, and they were approved.

Art. 2

Schelleman was chosen president, and he asked for subjects for discussion to be presented. v. d. Sluis wanted to give a brief report on the town meeting; Trimpe asked about the finishing of the bridge; Berghuis asked about fence boundaries and Binnekant about the money cashed in by Trimpe.

Art. 3

Mr. v. d. Sluis said that, after a great deal of consideration, it had been decided to detain (lock up?) the pigs below six months; that according to the laws of Michigan 1 dollar had to be paid annually (it doesn't say what for); that a road will be constructed to Stateland and to Zeeland, and, presumably, one to Rev. Bolks (in Overisel); that the superintendents hope to begin immediately; that the chickens which are a hindrance are to be killed, and also the dogs of the Indians; that, in cases of hindrance and loss, one has to apply to the Justice of the Peace; and also he named the appointments that were made.

Art. 4

Next Trimpe's question was considered. Binnekant said again that the bridge was not finished because the people had not been notified by Houtkamp, and because some were not willing to come to work. It was decided that the bridge must be finished by the first of May; the unwilling ones were to be warned once more so that there would always be eight persons working at the bridge site.

Art. 5

Berghuis was told that he should be certain of the boundary line, and consult the surveyor. Trimpe gave a report in regard to the money received. He had not met any who were unwilling to pay, but some were unable to pay. On one day he only received 20 ¢,

Art. 6

No other matters were brought up, J. Vissers closed with prayer. There will be another meeting in two weeks.

GATHERING CALLED on April 25, 1849, at Binnekant's home.

(This report, written with pencil, contains only points jotted down).

Opened by Pr. Schelleman himself. Minutes read and approved. Whoever wants to work can work for Binnekant to pay his debt. J. Visser appointed Pres. Who has some questions? Trimpe about the bridge; v. d. Haar, why a special meeting? Binnekant regarding the money.

Binnekant answers this to have it discussed. Rev. v. Raalte asked what are facts about the bridge. Everything lost, if not attended to. A letter from the government to read and sign. Trimpe: Have the foremen power or not over the people? Some speak and present things. Rev. v. Raalte also. Irregular and disorder. Too bad! But cannot abandon the work. Trimpe speaks of the foremen, especially Flietstra who promises to be there. Rev. v. Raalte - Is it not urgent to finish the work? Littlejohn hostile. Flietstra and the others begin tomorrow. Especially a foreman notify the people. Flietstra promises. Who else can? Schelleman, P. Zalsman, Slenk, J. Vissers, $\frac{1}{2}$ day, B. Slag, Pauels, de Vries, Kerkhof day after tomorrow, Trimpe, Westveer, Weener, Tervree. Berthuis, $\frac{1}{2}$ day, if it is quiet. All the foremen. Binnekant about the money. Trimpe will make the rounds again in May. Others work for money. v. Raalte has a letter. A part of our town is involved in it - Zeeland, the Friesians, separated. Shameful self-interest. Loss for us in roads and otherwise. Rev. reads the letter.

Retyped, August, 1980 - Barbara Lampen. This was a very bad manuscript and I did a lot of changing of words and sentences. I hope I made some sense out of this. Actually it is quite interesting and shows the matters that were of concern to a small pioneer community. They never do say what happened to Mr. Post's problem of Sabbath observance.