

Africo-American Presbyterian

"AND YE SHALL KNOW THE TRUTH, AND THE TRUTH SHALL MAKE YOU FREE"—John viii, 32.

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THE AFRICAN CONFERENCE AT HARTFORD

Preservation of African Languages and Culture and New Methods of Education Proposed

Movements looking toward a closer co-operation between missionary, government, scientific and commercial agencies interested in the development of Africa, toward the development of African Negro culture and of a higher civilization founded upon the values in that culture, toward a concerted effort to wipe out the sleeping sickness in Central Africa, toward applying to African educational methods the accumulated experience gained in the education of Negroes in Southern United States, and towards a central bureau for the study of African languages and for assisting in the production of a suitable literature in these tongues—all of these movements were inaugurated at the "African Conference" held in the Kennedy School of Missions, Hartford, Conn., Oct. 30 to Nov. 1, under the auspices of the Committee of Reference and Counsel of the Foreign Missions Conference of North America. More than a hundred African missionaries, board officers and educational authorities from the United States were in attendance. Dr. Thomas S. Donohugh, chairman of the African Committee, and associate secretary of the Board of Foreign Missions of the Methodist Episcopal Church, presided. Among the authorities present were J. H. Oldham of London, and Dr. A. L. Warnshuis, of New York, Secretaries of the International Missionary Council; Dr. Thomas Jesse Jones, chairman of the commission of the Phelps-Stokes Foundation which recently made a study of educational conditions in East Africa; Dr. Homer L. Shantz, pathologist of the United States Department of Agriculture; Dr. E. C. Sage of the General Education Board; Dr. J. H. Dillard of the Jeanes and Slater Funds for the Education of American Negroes, and Prof. D. Westermann of the University of Berlin.

Perhaps for Africa the most important and far-reaching feature of those three days was the announcement by Dr. Mabel Pierce of the Rockefeller Foundation that after six years of experimentation the Foundation is ready to pronounce the success of its new cure for sleeping sickness. "Tryparsamide," the only known effective remedy for the disease, is now on the market, its efficacy in the most severe cases seems assured by numerous tests over the years, and the world may look hopefully to the early eradication of the dreaded disease from the African continent.

This pronouncement is all the more significant at this time when Europe is turning its attention to the development of Africa, pouring its capital into mines and industries, and when Henry Firestone announces his plan for a huge American rubber development in Liberia. According to Dr. Pierce no colony in Central Africa is free from the disease and the white men in these settlements are not exempt from its effects. Its extent varies among 12 per cent to 15 per cent of the people in some colonies, though in others as many as 50 per cent or 60 per cent suffer from it. She points out that it is wholly impossible to wipe out the carrier fly because of the enormous territory and the tropical condition of the country; the only practical way to combat the disease is to treat the affected person.

While the remedy is at hand it is very costly and the treatment of one person extends well into a year's time. The problem now faced by the Rockefeller Foundation and others interested in wiping out sleeping sickness is to find the agency for carrying on the work.

Shall it be through the separate governments in Africa, through the missionary and philanthropic agencies, or through some agency set up by the League of Nations? That problem will engage the attention of the Foreign Mission Conference and other agencies this winter.

A New Basis For Education

Mr. Oldham pointed out that the pouring of European and American capital into Africa since the World War for the development of her industry and commerce, has given rise on a gigantic scale to all the capitalistic problems of the West, all the political, racial, educational, social and cultural problems which have for generations been awaiting solution in America and in Europe. "We are living in a fool's paradise," he said, "if we think that missionaries are to maintain their present influence in Africa. Missions are now, relatively speaking, at a stand-still compared with the other influences—economic, political, governmental—which are changing the whole life of Africa. Industrial, commercial and government forces are now having great influence and there ought to be a greater co-operation between these agencies of civilization and the missionary and educational bodies working on the continent."

One of the most important questions raised at the Conference was "What kind of an education should be given the native African?" Several Speakers pointed out that the purpose of schooling should not be to make "copy books" of the Western people, but to give the African a knowledge which would enable him to live better in his native village, to improve his health and the sanitation of his village, to understand and to use the mineral and vegetable resources of his own neighborhood, to improve the home and family life, and all the while to preserve those values which are to be found in his own civilization, such as music, Negro history, art, etc. This, it was pointed out, required the development of a new method of teaching, based on conditions and experiences in the native village, rather than book lessons based on European experiences and of little if any value when the boy or girl returns from school to take up life in his own community.

Dr. Schantz and a number of missionaries suggested that if any education is given African boys and girls there should be included a simple course in nature study, in the rudiments of gardening such as can be carried on in Africa, in simple methods of caring for health, and in sanitary methods that can be applied to the grass-roofed hut and to the entire village. It was felt that the physical well being of the African through sanitation and through a sufficient and varied diet must be the understructure for any plan of higher education.

In this connection Dr. Sage and Dr. Dillard were of the opinion that missionaries to Africa and those planning to go to that field, could learn much from the experience and methods used in Negro education in this country. They advised especially the use of trained educational supervisors, somewhat like the Jeanes Fund supervisors of education employed in many Southern States, for the purpose of training and stimulating the teachers in the small rural schools. They advised that the work of Hampton, Tuskegee, Penn school and other such successful institutions should be studied for methods and plans that can be applied to primitive African conditions. Plans are now be-

ing made by Dr. Jones and others to have a large group of the African missionaries now in America on furlough visit some of these schools for a period of weeks before returning to their respective fields.

Bureau of African Languages and Culture.

Missionaries pointed out that one of the greatest barriers to educational progress is the fact that Africa speaks about 800 languages and dialects, that there is scarcely any literature in these tongues, and that the personnel and means of translating seem almost unavailable at present. In only three or four of the more largely used languages of the continent, it was pointed out, could one gather together a library of 20 books, while in most of the few that have been reduced to writing the entire available literature could be wrapped up in a handkerchief—two or three very small books. Mr. Oldham and Professor Westermann announced that there is under way a plan for the organization of an "International Bureau of African Languages and Culture" in which mission boards of America, Europe and Africa and learned societies from all parts of the world will co-operate for the study of these languages, for the production of educational literature in them, and to serve as a clearing house and information center for those engaged in translating work. One of the first activities of the proposed bureau would probably be to prepare a number of necessary volumes—such as an agricultural primer, book of health rudiments, etc., in a basic tongue and founded on African experiences and conditions; it would then be translated into various tongues and dialects. It is believed that this plan would prevent much unnecessary duplication of translation work, would provide a proper material for translation, and would assist in eliminating many unscientific methods of reducing unknown languages to writing.

Studying Educational Methods

Announcement was made that the Carnegie Foundation has given the sum of \$37,500 to the Jeanes Fund officers for the purpose of extending the work of that Fund into Africa. It will be used in providing for supervising teachers. James W. C. Dougall, of Scotland, who has traveled extensively in Africa studying educational conditions, has been sent out to Kenya as the first educational director under this fund. American missionary and other agencies are sending to Liberia to study educational conditions James L. Sibley who has had a number of years of similar experiences in Alabama among the Negro schools; it is expected that he will later make recommendations for the future of school work of missions in that country.—The Philadelphia Tribune.

POLITICAL TIDE TURNS.

Washington, November 28.—That the political tide has turned in our favor, and that important readjustments within the Republican party are being worked out by the Coolidge administration has been clearly indicated by recent happenings which have greatly heartened colored citizens throughout the country.

In a good old-time Republican speech, delivered at Youngstown, Ohio, last week, Senator William M. Butler, Chairman of the Republican National Committee, brought the party to its original moorings, when, in his address, which formally opened the 1926 Congressional campaign, he declared: "There must be a more general understanding that after all we are only members, not owners of the Republican party, and that we offer membership in a growing concern; that we know neither

THE NEGRO DIVISION OF THE NORTH CAROLINA SANATORIUM

Sanatorium, N. C., November 23, 1926.

Editor,
The Africo-American Presbyterian,
Charlotte, N. C.
Dear Sir:

I am sending you with a copy of a letter which we are sending to all the colored physicians in the State. We would like for the information it contains to reach the entire colored population of the State and I would appreciate it if you would publish the letter in your paper.

Thanking you in advance for your co-operation, I am,

Yours very truly,
P. P. McCAIN,
Superintendent.

Sanatorium, N. C.,
November 23, 1926.

My dear Doctor:

The purpose of this letter is to call your especial attention to the opportunities which the Negro division of the Sanatorium offers to you and to your tuberculosis patients. It is the best sanatorium for Negroes in the South and as good as any in the country. The patients get the same expert medical attention, including x-ray and laboratory service, as is given the white patients. You doubtless know Mrs. Carrie Broadfoot, who is the nurse in charge, and know of her ability as a nurse.

The institution has beds for seventy-two patients. There are in the State 8,098 Negroes who have tuberculosis and the institution should be called overflowing with a waiting list at the time. Our white division is so crowded that patients have to wait from two to three months before they can get admission. At no time, however, have we had more than forty-two patients in the Negro division. It is very much to be regretted that a large per cent of these beds should be idle when the people of your race are dying of tuberculosis at a rate almost three times that of the white population.

Our experience here does not bear out the general opinion that the Negro has no resistance against tuberculosis. If the diagnosis is made early and if he gets the proper treatment, we find that the Negro responds to treatment almost, if not altogether, as well as the white man. Of course there is no use sending hopeless cases here, because we can do them no good and the trip will also be a useless expense and will hasten the patient's end.

Patients who are not able to pay more can be taken now at the rate of \$1.00 per day. By appealing to the local Red Cross Chairman, to the Superintendent of Public Welfare, to the Board of County Commissioners or to your own church, social or fraternal organizations, you can frequently secure enough money to enable charity patients to take sanatorium treatment.

Our free diagnostic clinics are for the benefit of Negroes as well as for white people. A free examination can be had at the Sanatorium by writing here for an appointment or, when a clinic is held in your county, by writing to your health officer.

The institution is one which the Negroes of the State should feel proud of. We are anxious to help you derive the greatest possible benefit from it and if you have not already done so we will be glad for you to pay the institution a personal visit.

Yours very truly,
P. P. McCAIN,
Superintendent North Carolina Sanatorium.

class, creed, nor race; that we stand for equal opportunities for all, and will fight those who seek to destroy that right."

TO THE ALUMNI OF J. C. S. UNIVERSITY.

I have read with great pleasure the brief account of the Washington Chapter in the home of Captain J. Edgar Smith. It is interesting to see who makes up the personnel of the Washington Chapter. Now, do they attend? Are they interested? What do they do when they meet? Does the Sec. present a docket containing matters worthy of consideration? or do they meet and discuss: "Well, how are you, Jim? What do you think of our old Alma Mater now? Do you think you will attend the commencement next June? I wonder when will they get those chimes paid for?"

And the answer comes: "I don't know. What did they cost?" After a few minutes each man has left for his place. Now, I do not say that our chapter at Washington is at all guilty of this accusation. The men who constitute the Chapter are not that class of men. They are men who love their Alma Mater and will work like the Trojans did to save Troy; but a docket is a social epidemic in such organization. But as chapters we can become immune to such an empty program and do something definite.

I really feel from the depth of my inner life that the alumni should pay for the chime clock? Why can't we? If each chapter would pledge and pay \$100 a year at the very least—with about twenty chapters scattered over the country, with a will—the debt now embarrassing the President of J. C. Smith University would soon be canceled.

Where is our New York Chapter? It is a strong chapter. Those boys whom I know can bring things to pass if they wish. But are you going to allow the year to pass without five or six or ten or twenty chapters contributing no less than \$100 each? Will not twenty chapters bring up to the commencement next June \$100 each? We can do it if we will organize with a membership of not more than three. If an alumnus cannot spare \$33.33 a year for Johnson C. Smith University with a chapter of three, he has weak faith in giving to the world the best you have and the best will come back to you. Last year two members of the Charleston Chapter, to make up \$100, gave \$24 each. But no one gave less than \$10. Are we so rich that we can do that? No, but we love a great institution which means much to the South; and will mean infinitely more to the world if the alumni will just prove faithful sons now and on.

Have we not a Chapter in Knoxville, Tenn? It is a strong chapter. Will it not answer the call? How many chapters have we in and about the different and many counties in the Old North State? We can organize them anywhere in that old State. Suppose you do, boys; and let's pay the chime clock debt so we can say we paid for something on the campus of our Alma Mater. We should not be like some of the alligators I see on the causeway from Edisto Island to Charleston: they lie with their mouths open to receive all and seem to have nothing to give out. Let us not be close and modest (?) but liberal and very active in body and expression, it will prove productive of fruits and rich traditions so well produced by the men whose lives are crystallized on our old campus.

I should say in this connection that Captain J. Edgar Smith's suggestions to the Secretary some weeks ago or months ago have not been overlooked. Since those far away are too modest to send us their plates, or cuts, for a "write-up," we have decided to begin with our Chapter. I am not ashamed to "write myself up."

W. L. METZ,
President J. C. S. U. Alumni.

SWEET JURY DISAGREES—NEW TRIAL IN JANUARY.

Eight Defendants Out on \$5000 Bail Each, Given by Detroit Colored Citizens—Darrow Will Urge Bail for Remaining 3 Defendants on December 2.

New York, Nov. 23.—Walter White, Assistant Secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, returned this morning from Detroit where he had been throughout the trial of Dr. Ossian H. Sweet and ten other Negroes, charged with murder for defending Dr. Sweet's home from a mob on September 9.

Mr. White's report of the present status of the Sweet case, which has commanded nationwide attention, is as follows:

After 46 hours of violent argument, which could be heard sometimes by persons outside the jury room, the jury disagreed. It was rumored that five jurors stood for acquittal and seven for acquittal of 8 defendants and conviction of second degree murder for 3 of the defendants. The jury was dismissed at 1:31 P. M. on Friday, Nov. 27, and shortly thereafter Mr. Darrow filed a motion for a new trial and made a second motion that all eleven defendants be admitted to bail. New trial has been agreed upon for the first week in January. Eight of the defendants were at once admitted to bail in \$5000 each which was furnished by colored citizens of Detroit, but opposition from the prosecutor in the case of the remaining three, led Judge Murphy to set Wednesday, December 2, for argument. Mr. White will return to Detroit in time for argument for bail for these three defendants who will be held until then: Dr. Ossian H. Sweet, Henry Sweet and Leonard Morris.

Contrary to published reports in the daily press, Mr. Darrow has not yet asked for separate trials for each of the 11 defendants, but he announced that he probably would do so.

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People announced in connection with the news of the disagreement and the motion for a new trial that it would fight the case while there was any court in the land to appeal to until the 11 colored people were acquitted.

Mr. White stated that the expenses of the trial to date had been about \$20,000, the transcript of testimony alone costing \$2,081.60.

"One of the most impressive sights I have ever seen," declared Mr. White, "was the way in which colored people in Detroit flocked to the trial. At half after midnight on Thanksgiving morning, when the jury was still arguing and sent out for instructions, the courtroom was packed. At 2:10 in the morning, when the jury was sent to bed, bailiffs had made way through the crowd for the jurymen. All Thanksgiving Day colored people remained waiting and watching, many of them going without Thanksgiving Dinner in order to be on hand.

"I want to pay a tribute to the magnificent way in which Judge Murphy conducted the trial. He did his utmost to exclude the issue of race prejudice and his final charge to the jury was a masterpiece of scholarly learning and judicial impartiality.

"The case has largely changed public sentiment in Detroit. The better class opinion is now with the defendants, although the Klan is of course more bitter than ever. But the N. A. A. C. P. will continue to fight the case, and both Messrs. Darrow and Arthur Garfield Hayes will continue to lead the defense until a conclusion has been reached."