

Africo-American Presbyterian

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

VOL. XLVIII

CHARLOTTE, N. C., THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 1926.

NO. 45

THE CONFERENCE ON AFRICAN MISSIONS, AND IMPRESSIONS OF EUROPE

By Rev. A. B. McCoy, D. D.

Dear Mr. Editor:—I am back, and, according to promise, I was to give you some impressions of my European trip. We spent one week at the Conference on Africa, held at Le Zoute, Belgium. Our latest geographies will not show Le Zoute, because it is not over four years old. It is a beautiful resort on the lovely beach of the North Sea—a young Atlantic City. Hotels made a special charge for our delegation—30 francs (about 90 cents) a day for room and three meals. The Conference was attended by 240 delegates representing sixteen countries and sixty-three mission societies. The meetings were held practically behind closed doors—no one could enter without a permit, not even our wives, and no press agents at all.

The Conference had three main objectives:

1. To create a better understanding between the Foreign Governments and the Mission Societies in Africa.
2. To formulate new methods of religious and educational approach to the new African.
3. To study the possibility of encouraging the American Negro to go to Africa as a missionary.

It took seven whole days and nights, holding three sessions a day with several committees in daily session, to arrive at some definite findings on these subjects. All addresses were delivered in English, while every one was allowed to use his own language in congregational singing. Sixteen countries sang in their language. A listener could imagine what took place at the tower in the midst of the "confusion of tongues."

A spirit of sincerity and seriousness permeated every session. It was evident that men prayed before they spoke and women approached their task in humility. The Conference never lost sight of the great task that confronted it.

You will be interested to know that the Conference put its stamp of approval on sending American Negroes to Africa; that is, it requested the opposing governments to withdraw their barriers and advised the mission societies to encourage the American Negro to go to Africa. This puts the matter of sending Negroes to Africa squarely up to the Foreign Mission Boards of the various Churches.

Of course, I know what every Negro Presbyterian of our Church is thinking. You want to know what about our Foreign Board? Just hold your peace a little longer. The pot is boiling. I am not allowed to speak out as yet. God is not dead. The prayers of the righteous still prevail. While I write this a telegram calls me to New York for a conference. I shall say no more on the subject just now. Wait! wait! And then we will say a plenty.

I want to thank the members of our conventions who kept their pledge—who promised to pray for us. From the first day I sailed from New York I saw the effect of your prayers. I came within one minute of missing that boat. On that steamer was the very man that by all means I should have been with—the Superintendent of the African Missions under the Board of Foreign Missions of our Church. To have missed him would have been a calamity. It is this man—no, I dare not say more just now. So much for the Conference.

After the Conference Mrs. McCoy and I spent a whole month on a tour through the continent, and, in a nutshell, this is what happened: We visited six countries—Holland, Belgium, Switzerland, Germany, Ita-

ly and France. We were in thirty different cities and towns, lived in eighteen different hotels, traveled through one hundred and fifty-eight railroad tunnels, sailed on four seas and five of Italy's most beautiful lakes; washed our hands in the River Rhine, stood on the banks of the Tiber, viewed with pride and emotion the easy moving streams of the Seine and saw where the Rhone and the Avere meet at the foot of the famous Mt. Jura.

We crossed, went upon, under and over and around the historic Alps more than once. Sat on Mt. Jaunfrau, picked huckleberries on Mt. Grindawald and went into the famous Grindawald Grotto (ice cave) Glacier where the temperature was so far below the freezing point until the thermometer ceased to register. We went to one movie but could not read the captions, so never attempted that stunt again. Visited the famous fourteen cathedrals of the world, saw the Golden Plaza of Brussels, fed pigeons on St. Mark's square in Venice, sat on the Roman Coliseum, stood with uncovered head in the Forum, rode over the Applan Way built before Christ, trod through the dark tunnels of the catacombs with lighted candles, viewed the spot where Savonarola was burned, saw the house in which Peter had his vision, which inspired the book, "Quo Vadis"; stood by the tombs of Dante, Caesar, Napoleon, Calvin, Knox, St. Sebastian, Wagner, Milton and Galileo; saw the birthplace of Columbus, Michael Angelo and Beethoven and lingered long by Michael Angelo's "Madonna," and the original painting, De Vinci's "Last Supper."

We saw the Eiffel Tower of Paris, the Leaning Tower of Pisa, the dining car in which the Armistice was signed in 1918, the home of the League of Nations, the room and table where the Versailles Treaty was signed, the "Bridge of Sighs" in Venice and rode in the beautiful gondolas of the watery streets of lovely Venice, and here is where we saw our first brother of color. Had it not been for my persistent entreaty my wife would have tried the stunt of Peter and walked on the water, so glad was she to see one that looked like us. Thrills! Well, we had those too, but space will forbid my enumeration of them. Our last was on Monday before landing in New York on Tuesday. You have read of a storm at sea. We have seen it and felt it, and we hope never again like that.

The happiest moment of our trip? When we saw the Statue of Liberty, Tuesday morning, October 26, 1926.

Atlanta, Ga.

SUMTER SECOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH NOTES

Sunday, November 7, Rev. J. P. Foster, our pastor, preached a wonderful sermon from St. Matthew 5:15, subject, "The Man With One Talent." The sermon was a spiritual feast and our hearts burned within us as the words so truthful, so practical, so fitting and touching were spoken during our morning worship.

The Sunday school is one of the best to be found anywhere. And we cannot say enough about our Superintendent, Miss Helen Usner, who has labored untiringly to make it what it is.

On October 17th the picturesque religious pageant, "The Call of the Nations," was presented by the Christian Endeavor Society, which is quite alive and active, under the supervision of Prof. Geo. L. Allen, who

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AT HOME—CHRIST CHURCH—INGLESIDE

By Rev. C. P. Pitchford

The writer has just made one of the most pleasant visits of a lifetime, as is indicated in the above heading. We could make a long, and, perhaps, interesting story of a recent trip to these three points of interest, but for the present, will be content to make a long story short. Jetersville, Va., my home, is the place where the sainted and lamented Mrs. Samantha Jane Nell spent nearly forty-three years of her life in self-sacrificing labors in the work of uplift for our people in parochial, Sunday school and church work, furnishing the inspiration for the founding of Ingleside Seminary, Burkeville, Va., and where she now sleeps in the little cemetery beside black folks.

On Sunday morning, November 14, we surprised our dear parents at their home at Jetersville, Va. We found them still vigorous in mind and body, and quick of step. We had hoped to attend services at our home church, Allen Memorial, Rev. W. H. Shepperson, pastor, but this was not preaching Sunday. However, as the day grew older, we observed that the human tide was flowing gradually towards Christ church, Burkeville, just ten miles distant, where a rally was being staged for an indebtedness on the pews. Father and I got swept away in this tide and soon found ourselves on the rostrum where Rev. Shepperson was steering things grandly, with the faculty of Ingleside Seminary, and a quiet, cultured and lovely group of young women students occupying the right pews, and members and visiting friends on the left. The plan of the rally was to have the members of neighboring churches, Allen Memorial, Mt. Zion and Russell Grove to come in a body to assist the local membership, and the girls above mentioned were asked to help in the effort, the assurance being given that an amount so small as \$3.00 from them would be appreciated.

But the rally did not turn out as planned; no, not by any means. We state the case with mathematical accuracy and with not an inkling of exaggeration when we say that this whole affair turned out to be a rally by the consecrated and sacrificing young ladies of Ingleside, under the leadership of their preceptress, Mrs. R. L. Alter.

After the delivery of a thoughtful sermon by the minister in charge, three tables were placed before the capacity audience. Elder Tony Wilkerson, of Allen Memorial, took the collection from the men; Mrs. Sallie Jeter Crawley, one of Ingleside's noble daughters, waited on the ladies of the audience, while Rev. C. P. Pitchford was the recipient of the choicest of the honors of the occasion, being called out by Mrs. Alter from among others who would gladly have performed this pleasant duty, to receive the collection from the girls. Their manner of presentation was unique and attractive. The young ladies reported by classes, a member of each class being chosen to make a short but wonderfully appropriate presentation speech, and they altogether placed the sum of \$124 on the table while the members of the several participating churches brought the sum up to a total of \$208.40.

Not only did they excel in this part of the service, but they sang choruses and quartettes galore. They really did sing. Their voices blended in such beauty and harmony that we were reminded of the time we were reminded of the time, as told in sacred story, when the

After the service we were invited to come to Ingleside Monday morning by Dr. Alter, President. We were asked to be there at 8:20. We were there at 8:19.

We were in the impressive morning devotions which consisted in singing two familiar hymns, repeating the 1st, 4th, 23rd and 121st Psalms, and closing with the Lord's Prayer.

We were extended the courtesy of visiting several classrooms and listened to the enthusiastic instructions and recitations.

"This is the finest place I have ever seen. The teachers are just wonderful, and the scholars are the same way," said Little Miss Maud Dunlap, in a recent communication to her minister, but after our visit there we must say—the half has not yet been told. Ingleside is great. "The Lord is in this place."

Our stay in Burkeville was closed by visiting in the home of Rev. Mr. Robinson, Mr. Columbus Miller, Mrs. Sallie Jeter Crawley, and the public school there, in charge of Mrs. Sallie Clark, assisted by two most capable educators, Miss Jennings of South Boston, and Miss Clark of Roanoke.

The meeting of many other friends and acquaintances made this trip a happy one indeed.

URBAN LEAGUE REPORTS ON INDUSTRY FOR OCTOBER

Bulletin No. 8 of the Industrial Relations of the National Urban League summarizes employment conditions throughout the country as follows:

Labor conditions remain practically unchanged throughout the country. This report comes from such widely scattered districts as Michigan, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Georgia, Missouri, Indiana, Texas, Arkansas, Kentucky, Illinois and New York.

Migration. There is still a movement of labor in the cotton area of Missouri, Texas and Arkansas. An advisor from Texas estimates that there is a demand for 30,000 cotton pickers in that State. St. Louis reports an influx of workers during the last few months—most of them from the North. Colored families are leaving St. Paul because of lack of industrial opportunities. Two factories there which had promised to try a few colored workers now say that they cannot take them on at this time.

Discrimination. Colored waiters in Pershing Palace, Chicago, were replaced by white when a change was made in the management. A call received at the Brooklyn Y. M. C. A. from Philadelphia for a designer was withdrawn when a colored man was sent to apply for the position.

Organized Labor. The fifty colored members of the Paper Box Makers' Union in New York have been taking an active part in the strike of 2500 paper box workers. On the other hand there is an attempt being made to organize unskilled labor in Harrisburg, Pa. Colored girls in one factory in Chicago have started a movement to organize since the date workers have gone on strike there.

Favorable Conditions Reported. Chicago: There are openings in the lam shade industry, date factories, and an increasing demand for power machine operatives. Calls are coming from parts of Illinois and Indiana for railway section hands.

New York: A coal company has employed a Negro salesman. There is a demand for track workers at 42c an hour.

Hot Springs, Ark.: There has been a gain for colored workers in the building trades, farm labor, and in the saw mills. Several office buildings have engaged girls as elevator operators.

Winston-Salem: Fifteen thousand Negroes are employed in the tobacco factories of Winston-Salem, 12,000 being hired by one company. There is a gain in street repair work.

ROCKEFELLER AND HARLEM

(From the Pittsburgh Courier)

The greatest problem confronting American Negroes is that of industrial discrimination. So long as this great obstacle lies athwart the path of the African-American, most of the social service and uplift work will prove ineffectual. Next in importance among the many problems with which we must cope is that of housing.

In nearly every large urban center where there is an appreciable Negro population, the Negroes suffer from poor and inadequate housing, to say nothing of exorbitant rentals. Rents, indeed, often exceed the income of the tenant, and thus most Negroes so situated are forced to augment these inadequate incomes by taking in roomers and by other means that break up family life and lower moral standards.

The Negroes in New York are better housed as a group than Negroes elsewhere in the country. Most of the dwellings in the Harlem district are not over 25 years old, while numbers of apartment dwellings are less than ten years old. Streets are clean and well lighted, trash removal is regular, and fire protection is excellent. To the casual observer it appears to be an ideal urban center. But the Negroes here, as elsewhere, are subjected to housing segregation, and consequently, rents are exorbitant. Where white people once paid sixty dollars a month rent, Negroes are now paying twice that much. Negroes are forced to pay fifty and sixty dollars a month rent for apartments which, in a white section, would only cost them twenty-five or thirty dollars.

Consequently the building of model apartments especially for the Negroes of Harlem by Mr. John D. Rockefeller, Jr., deserves commendation. Last May he purchased an entire block of vacant land for that purpose upon which new dwellings are now in course of erection. Seeing the social necessity for additional investment in this field, Mr. Rockefeller has recently purchased five additional blocks in the same district upon which more apartment dwellings are shortly to be erected. His entire purchases now aggregate 200 city lots. The cost of the land will doubtless total about five millions.

It is to be hoped that other wealthy philanthropists will follow Mr. Rockefeller's example. There is hardly a large Negro urban center in the country that could not be benefited by such a project. Such is a real tangible social service. Most of the other forms are palliative. This is fundamental. The only project of greater importance to our people is the opening up of wider industrial opportunities for our people. When the wealthy men who control the nation's industries take that step our problem will be well on its way to solution.

It is with regret that we note that it was necessary for a wealthy white man to do for the New York Negroes what they could have done for themselves. The cost of the Rockefeller project was not prohibitive. The land was there and unoccupied. Negroes were passing it every day. They knew the necessity of more houses. They must have known the effects of inadequate housing, congested apartments and high rentals on the Negro population. Yet in the last six years they have invested as much in churches alone as Mr. Rockefeller has invested in this building project. As much again has been thrown away by them in fraternal activities of negligible value.

What can be charged against the Negroes of New York is also true of the Negroes in other urban centers. Year in and year out they sit overlooking alleys and dumps swarming with filth

and reeking with disease, while they pour too much of their hard-earned money into churches and fraternal activities. Then, those in the seats of the mighty have the brazen effrontery to deplore the high sickness and death rate and shake their heads over the wave of sin and crime. Must we always wait for white people to do for us what we should do, and are able to do for ourselves?

A LETTER FROM NEWARK, NEW JERSEY.

Soljourner Truth Y. W. C. A. Newark, N. J. November 11, 1926.

Dear Friends: Please allow me space in one of your columns to tell you of my new home and work. I was called here as pastor of the Y. W. C. A. from Harrison Agricultural College, Irmo, S. C., where I worked five years and kept my boys there in school.

I came here on the 11th of September and found Mrs. H. Allison, formerly of Greenville, S. C., and a lovely group of girls awaiting my arrival.

Our lovely home is located in a very pleasant community. I like the work very much and have met and made many new friends in the city and the city of Newark. The Soljourner Branch is a busy institution. Every afternoon and evening some subject is discussed and makes plans for the betterment of the work.

On the 26th of October the Branch presented J. Rosamond Johnson and Taylor Gordon in a recital at the Y. M. H. A. Auditorium. The program consisted largely of American Negro spirituals. It was truly classical. The auditorium was filled with both colored and white.

The Presbyterian church is in the next block from the "Y" building. Dr. L. B. Ellerson, the pastor, brings rich messages every Sunday and the choir renders excellent music. I have had the pleasure of attending the Newark Presbyterian since I have been here. They spend only one day in their Presbyterian meetings. This Presbyterian consists of thirty-two churches, with the 19th Avenue being the only colored church. There is one colored secretary—our old friend from the Southland—Mrs. A. P. Allison.

May I ask the prayers and interest of all?
MRS. HENRIETTA D. HALL.

CALDWELL CHURCH NOTES

Sunday, October 24, our pastor, Rev. R. L. Moore, preached from Psalm 84:10, "For a day in thy courts is better than a thousand. I had rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than to dwell in the tents of wickedness." We had to worship with us Mr. and Mrs. O. P. Potts and mother. This was rally day and the neat sum of \$37 was raised.

We are all very sorry to hear that Mrs. R. L. Moore and children have been sick and are glad to hear that they are able to be out again.

Miss Viola Graham and Miss Geneva White are at home on the account of illness. They will soon return to Scotia where they will continue their studies.

There will be a debate between Caldwell and Cornelius at Caldwell School house, Friday night, November 20. There will be refreshments to sell for the benefit of the school.

Communion will be administered at our church on the third Sunday. There will be a rally, then the communion service. We hope to see all members present on that day.

We were delighted to have with us Miss Williams, one of our teachers. We hope her much success in her new work.
A MEMBER.
Huntersville, N. C.
Route 23.