

FOR THE BENEFIT OF ILLITERATES

Bill introduced in Senate and House in their behalf—The Church Organization Will Also Give Practical Aid.

WILL PROMOTE EDUCATION

The significant movement of the times is that of the Centenary of the Methodist Episcopal Church South—Will Spend Millions Among the Uneducated.

The fact that several thousand soldiers were unable to understand the orders given them from their superiors and that many, many thousands could not sign their own names to their questionnaires brought to light a condition so serious that two Southern Representatives at Washington are now introducing bills to promote the education of illiterates throughout the length and breadth of America. Senator Hoke Smith, of Georgia, has introduced a bill in the Senate "to promote the education of illiterates, of persons unable to understand and use the English language, and other resident persons of foreign birth," and the same measure has been introduced in the House by Hon. William B. Bankhead, of Alabama.

The introduction of this important bill means a great deal to the South, which, because of its negroes and mountain whites, has long borne a reputation for illiteracy out of proportion to that of the rest of the country. Just what steps will be immediately taken as the result of the passage of the education of illiterates bill at Washington cannot be stated at this time, but, certainly, practical measures will be put into operation for the establishment of schools in both rural districts and cities.

Other organizations besides that of the government are at work on the same problem—the establishment of schools in the heart of tenement districts and rural communities being a matter of first importance with all of them. One of the most significant movements of the times in this connection is that of the Centenary of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, because that denomination will expend within the next five years over \$2,000,000 among the uneducated classes in the Southern and Western States. The church is to raise a fund of \$300,000,000 in an eight-day drive in April, the financial campaign being a part of the Centenary Celebration of the denomination. The money is being raised with a view to putting the work of the church on a business basis, the church considering its duty to the illiterates here in America to be among the matters of first importance which it should undertake. A survey has been made and the result of the campaign will be the apportionment of \$5,000,000 among the various illiterate population as follows: Mountain population, \$750,000; immigrant, \$900,000; negroes, \$600,000; Indians, \$150,000; cotton mill population, \$150,000; Christian literature for all of them, \$100,000. With the definite step undertaken at Washington, with one denomination already completing its plans for furthering the work among them, and with other churches and organizations getting ready to join hands in their behalf, it is more than possible that the illiterates of the South are in a fair way to soon become educated citizens of the United States.

METHODIST LEADERS RETURN FROM FRANCE

Three prominent leaders of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, have just landed in America, after spending two months in Europe, where they went for the purpose of investigating actual conditions and deciding upon a program for the expenditure of \$5,000,000, which sum will be allotted to European upbuilding by the Centenary Commission of the denomination. The three returning church leaders are Bishop James Atkins, Chairman of the Centenary Commission; Bishop Walter Lambuth, who has been in Europe for nearly a year in the interest of his church; and Dr. W. W. Pinson, General Secretary of the Mission Board. Dr. Pinson and Bishop Atkins returned to the headquarters of the denomination at Nashville the latter part of the week, and Bishop Lambuth went directly to his home at Oakdale, California. While the plans for the European work have not been announced as yet, the returning members of the commission say that they have mapped out a very satisfactory program and that five million dollars of the Centenary fund will be expended in upbuilding schools and churches in the devastated lands of Belgium, Italy and France.

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Pershing Thanks Y. M. C. A. For Its Canteen Service

NOW THAT FIGHTING IS OVER, GENERAL RELIEVES RED TRIANGLE, AT ITS OWN REQUEST, OF POST EXCHANGE WORK

Chaumont, France, Feb. 23.—The American Y. M. C. A., at its own request, has been relieved of its work in maintaining the post exchanges with the American army. Correspondence has been exchanged between General Pershing and E. C. Carter, in charge of the Y. M. C. A. with the army, resulting in this decision. On Jan. 29 Mr. Carter wrote to General Pershing saying that duties of the Y. M. C. A. in promoting athletics and entertainments were so heavy that he thought it should be relieved of the exchange work.

General Pershing, in his reply, said: "As you correctly state, the Y. M. C. A. undertook the management of the post exchanges at my request at a time when it was of the greatest importance that no available soldier should be taken away from the vital military functions of training and fighting. As the reasons which impelled me at that time to request you to undertake this work no longer exist, I am glad to approve of your suggestion."

"In making this change, permit me to thank you for the very valuable services and assistance which the Y. M. C. A. has rendered to the American Expeditionary Force in handling these exchanges. Handicapped by a shortage of tonnage and land transportation, the Y. M. C. A. has by extra exertion served the army better than could have been expected, and you may be assured that its aid has been a large factor in the final great accomplishment of the American army."

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The Magnificent Estate of Mrs. Fannie J. Ricks, Deceased, For Sale.
Consisting of 1,700 Acres of Upland Lying on Both Sides of Mountain in Polk County.

The famous Thermal Belt passes through this property. About 200 acres of the tract is cleared, balance is in original forest. There are immense quantities of Chestnut and other valuable timbers on place. Entire tract well watered with small mountain streams and good springs. Good apple orchard and vineyard on place. Mrs. Ricks bought the tract for and was developing same into a stock ranch. At time of her death she had commenced stocking place with fine herds of cattle, sheep and goats. More than half of place is fenced with Page woven wire fencing. No better place of its size can be found for fruit growing and stock raising. Improvements on place consist of one 10-room, well built, dwelling, with modern conveniences including furnace heat, hot and cold water, baths, etc. Near main residence is 7-room cottage and outbuildings. There are also six tenant houses and three good barns. The scenery of the section is most beautiful, and the views from the residence, which is named "Rixhaven," are among the grandest in all this section.

For price and terms and detailed description of this magnificent property, write or call on the undersigned, who will also arrange to show prospective purchasers over the place.

STATON & RECTOR and G. W. JUSTICE, Exclusive Agents, Hendersonville North Carolina.