

# The Star of Zion

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## REPORT OF BISHOPS' MEETING

Proceedings of the Semi-Annual Session of the Board of Bishops of the A. M. E. Zion Church.

By BISHOP A. WALTERS.

January 13-17, 1915.  
Petersburg, Va.

The Board of Bishops of the A. M. E. Zion Church, convened in Semi-annual session at Oak Street Church, Petersburg, Va., on the above date, at 12 o'clock, M., with Bishop G. W. Clinton in the Chair.

Bishop J. W. Alstork, Presiding Officer having missed train connection, sent a telegram to Bishop Clinton, stating his reason for being absent. Hence Bishop Clinton opened the meeting.

The Chair announced hymn No. 798, "And are we yet alive;" and read as First Lesson the 27th Psalm, and for the Second Lesson the 1st Cor., 13th chapter.

Prayer was offered by Bishop Warner, after which Bishop Clinton led in singing, "Blest be the tie that binds."

ROLL CALLED—BISHOPS PRESENT:

Bishop J. W. Hood  
" C. R. Harris  
" A. Walters  
" G. W. Clinton  
" J. S. Caldwell  
" G. L. Blackwell  
" A. J. Warner  
" J. W. Alstork, (absent.)

The Board of Bishops was organized, the officers being as follows: Bishops J. S. Caldwell and A. Walters, President and Secretary, respectively.

Rev. M. D. Lee, General Sec'y., was called upon to report. After reading ten of fifteen minutes it was found to be unsatisfactory and was firmly referred to a special committee, viz., Bishops C. R. Harris, G. L. Blackwell, Prof. S. G. Atkins, Hon. J. C. Dancy, and Rev. G. C. Clement.

The next report in order was the Financial Secretary, who being absent because of the delay of the train, Dr. G. C. Clement, Manager of the Publishing House, made a most excellent report. It was most favorably commented upon by Bishops Blackwell, Clinton, Hood, Walters, Dr. Dancy and Rev. Cook.

Dr. R. B. Bruce, Editor of the Sunday School Literature, made a splendid report, which was highly approved by Dr. Clement, Bishops Hood, Caldwell, Warner, Dr. Dancy and others.

The following resolutions on condolence were read by Bishop Walters:

Whereas, The Board of Bishops of the A. M. E. Zion Church, has heard with much sadness of the death of Mrs. Sarah Hubert, of New York City, who passed to her reward, Jan. 12th, 1915, and,

Whereas, Mrs. Hurbert was the sister of our senior Bishop J. W. Hood, therefore, be it,

Resolved, That we deeply sympathize with the Bishop and his family in their loss, and that we furnish to the "Star of Zion" a copy of these resolutions.

A. Walters.

Bishop J. S. Caldwell, Chairman of the Finance Committee called a meeting of that Committee for 5 o'clock p. m.

Benediction by Bishop A. J. Warner.

NIGHT SESSION:

Jan. 13th, 1915.

The Board assembled to hear the Annual Sermon by Bishop G. L. Blackwell. The opening hymn was announced by Rev. S. P. Cook. An earnest and eloquent prayer was offered by Bishop A. J. Warner. Bishop Blackwell announced Job 32:8 for his text. The Bishop preached a masterly sermon, full of thought and inspiration. Hon. J. C. Dancy and Prof. S. G. Atkins lifted the collection. Amount \$7.32.

Benediction by Bishop G. W. Clinton.

SECOND DAY:

Jan. 14th, 1915.

The Board of Bishops met at Oak Street A. M. E. Zion Church, at 10 o'clock, a. m., with Bishop Caldwell in the chair. Hymn 344 was announced by Bishop J. W. Alstork. Scripture Lesson Isa. 32nd chapter. Prayer was offered by Dr. G. C. Clement.

Roll was called, and Minutes read and approved.

Dr. Jackson being present, was called upon to make his report. The report evoked much discussion. While the report was on its passage, the hour of adjournment having arrived, a motion was made to adjourn.

Benediction by Bishop G. W. Clinton.

AFTERNOON SESSION:

The Board of Bishops re-assembled at 4 p. m., with Bishop Caldwell in the chair. Prayer was offered by Dr. P. A. Wallace.

Discussion of Dr. Jackson's report was resumed. The report was found to be incorrect. The following amounts were ordered to be added to the totals submitted by Dr. Jackson: \$270.70, \$1954.42; \$1350.00; \$206.04, totaling \$3765.18. The totals submitted by Dr. Jackson were receipts \$100,326.70, and disbursements \$100,060.00, leaving a balance of \$266.70. Real balance \$3782.12.

It was moved and carried that all reference to politics be expunged from the Financial Secretary's report. The report was referred to the Auditing Committee, with the understanding that the Special Committee be added to the Auditing Committee.

The matter of the Dormitory was taken up, and we found that about \$34,000 had been collected prior to the session \$958.25.

The following resolutions were submitted and adopted:

Whereas, Our Church is in debt to the amount of about \$50,000.00 and will require the most skillful financing in order to avoid serious trouble, and,

Whereas, We are being greatly embarrassed by the threatenings of our creditors, because a considerable amount is overdue, and the interest has not been paid, and,

Whereas, We have an able Finance Committee, indeed our Board is composed of the very best financiers of our Church, men who are able to untangle and manage the affairs of the Church so as to bring about happy results, therefore be it,

Resolved, That all of the debts of the Financial, Church Extension, Educational and Missionary Departments, be managed by the Finance Committee, and that all monies, except the salaries of the Secretaries and incidental expenses, be reported and disbursements made covering same at stated meeting of Finance Committee.

Resolved, That all monies except salaries and incidental expenses of the Financial, Church Extension, Educational and Missionary Departments, be used for payment of debts, and that all the appropriation for salaries and estate claimants etc., be paid monthly on the per rata plan provided by law. Be it further,

Resolved, That all notes and obligations be listed and paid by the Finance Committee, and be it,

Resolved, That the Financial Secretary be requested or required to publish monthly statements in the "Star," and notify all delinquents quarterly, and urge them to make reports to the office.

Resolved, That the Finance Committee meet in Charlotte, N. C., on the last Wednesday in February, and then every three months thereafter. Be it further,

Resolved, That the Presiding Elders be, and are hereby requested to ascertain what amounts have been raised by each pastor and find out what disposition has been made of the said General Claims, and the same report to the Financial Secretary and the

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## SHAKING THE TREE

Board of Bishops Record

By Rev. J. W. Alstork

I am just in from the meeting of the Board of Bishops at Petersburg and for fear I may forget some or any one of the impressions which made this meeting memorable, I hasten to send in my notes. Bishop J. S. Caldwell who so recently distinguished himself in the delivery of the Thanksgiving sermon for the Old North Carolina Conference presided over the deliberations of this episcopal semi-annual meeting. It was rather strange to us not to see Bishop J. W. Alstork in the chair as he is such a dominant factor wherever he goes, but I soon learned that his time was out and according to the plan of rotation, Bishop Caldwell was in the chair. Outside of the Bishops and General Officers I was the only semi-official functionary present the others having spent themselves at the recent Council.

Never in the history of our Methodism was there so much real business transacted. Not a single speech was made, everybody was down to rock bottom. General officers like Mr. Dancy, Dr. Clement and Bishop Clinton who usually enlighten such occasions with captivating pyrotechnics were down to solid computation of figures which gave no uncertain accounts of our business conditions for the last six months.

It indeed was strictly a business meeting. I never even saw a candidate. Early in the morning until late at night everybody was suggesting and planning for wise adjustment of our business conditions during this year.

It was a fact that existing conditions would ultimately effect the perfect running of our temporal affairs, and only the wisest regulation would save us from embarrassment and puzzling circumstances. It is always to the Bishops we look in these critical times and while indeed they do have counselors such as General officers and prominent Elders the weight of the burden is upon them and they feel their responsibility by far more keenly than it can be expressed.

Why not let the church plunge headlong into difficulties? Why sit for hours to save the institution from bankruptcy and threatening ruin? It is because these men feel the weight of their office and the heavy responsibility vested in them by the General Conference and more authoritative voice of God.

I wondered why any one would want to be Bishop after I witnessed the complexities and struggles of this recent meeting. Paul or Timothy may have thought it "a good thing," but they reasoned for their day and not for ours; and while they may have still this thought if they were living in this particular decade, yet they would have been conscious at least at its multiplying obligations.

Every one of our Bishops was in good health and those who at times are subject to attacks of illness have demonstrated such wonderful recuperative powers, that we care venture the prophecy that they will all be on hand in 1916.

Our church can boast of leaders to meet any crisis or emergency. Each leads along his own special line. Some are planners, others are quick at execution, while still others are conservative enough to hold in check radical ideas and propositions.

It was discovered that without any material change in the purpose of the last General Conference to provide sufficient revenue to run the church we are nevertheless getting back to a safe and well tried system of finance. We are as near the plan prior to the Quadrennial meeting 1912 as we could possibly be without destroying either wish the vote of that body. Secretaries will come more in contact and communication with pastors and people and financial boards will not mere names on "scraps of paper," but actual workers and manipulators of our monetary system.

Our schools will be better cared for and in a few months teachers will be more promptly paid and claimants better satisfied with the regular allotted stipends. The condition of the world's finance will not stand in the way of our present satisfactory adjustment and instead of prolonged lean years our Josephs at Egypt, have provided

against the day of ternury and want. Confidence and hope must be inspired, complaining must stop and anticipated poverty must have no place in our righteous and ever trusting minds. There are no alarms; just comprehensive provisions made against the approach of alarms. We start out from this Board meeting with full trust in God, long attested and proven confidence in our membership and a determination to do all in our power to bring success.

Dr. Goler was no less active here than in all conferences where help and succor are needed and any church or co-operation would be proud of his service, because he believes in bringing things to pass and sets out valiantly thus to exercise himself.

Mrs. Smith was on hand with Missionary books and papers to give exact account of the work of the women of our society. She serves well because she has wrought well.

Dr. J. W. Wood with his African views and pictures was on hand and will at the next meeting report proceeds from whatever source collected so as to give the church definite knowledge of his missionary endeavors. He is a broad minded, sympathetic brother who is sure to come into his own.

Rev. J. P. Roote the pastor and his splendid wife spared no pains to make everybody happy. He is a fine young man and is destined to reach a higher mark than that of a "discredited controversialist of barren issues."

Dr. R. B. Bruce was as usually quiet until we were about to forget his invaluable service to our Sunday School Department. He was hopeful that in his field there would be no falling off but that the literature was in demand as never before in the history of the Church.

One of the remarkable

Managers of the Publication House and that future records will prove his conduct of the office will give a most profitable ministration as well as satisfactory. For the sake of the men on the field we might enlarge on his usefulness as well as give some facts. He does not receive two salaries and he gets but one man's traveling expense. He was found to be prompt not only in getting out and sending out all publications under his management but exact as to accounts, punctual in answering communications, careful about the mechanical make up of all publications and best of all, scrupulously economic as to the expenses of this great plant. He does his work unlike a candidate officeholder and while indeed he may be jealously guarding his interests as to future emoluments, he rather seemingly depends on his present activities to assure him of the kindly considerations of the members of the next General Conference. He is doing wonders and fits into the position as if made for that special and particular task.

Rev. M. D. Lee was there and strange too about him, he is the same Dr. Lee that we elected in 1908. He hasn't changed, office has not made him mad and when we declare his unalterableness we give those who know him the best information as to the character of his service.

Big Dr. Wallace of Big Wesley, in which case the position and the man meet in most perfect harmony; he was there with an under-letted big bank book to help in a big way to redeem his church from embarrassments. Dr. L. W. Kyles brought the Brotherhood as well as the QUARTERLY REVIEW with him and the same could be said of him as has been above said of Dr. Clement—his work has been a revelation to the whole church. Dr. J. S. Jackson was there also, dealing in complicated thousands and intricate pro-ratas and puzzling figures. Coming to the rescue of his church is a sort of second or first nature with the man, and while we have taken occasion to call attention to this officers management; we found him at this sitting in perfect accord with the advanced methods of finance, largely helpful for bringing the connection out of difficulties and willing to go the limit of his power to negotiate the long-built up credit of our Zion so that immediate relief out of any condition would be forthcoming.

Prof. Atkins was there with schools on paper, schools in his heart and soul and schools waiting patiently for the promised harvests.

Hon. J. C. Dancy is clear out of

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## GREAT NATIONAL HEALTH WEEK

A GREAT NATIONAL HEALTH WEEK TO BE OBSERVED FROM MARCH 21ST TO 27TH, 1915.

Tuskegee Institute, Alabama:—After considering the whole matter carefully, I am authorized by the Executive Committee of the National Negro Business League to invite the following organizations, as well as others to be named later, to unite with the League in observing a National Health Week:—

Daily and weekly newspapers, Health journals, The National Medical Association, The National Association of Graduate Nurses, The National Association of Colored Woman's Clubs, The National League on Urban Conditions among Negroes, The National Association of Teachers in Colored Schools, The National Negro Press Association.

The bishops and other officers of colored religious denominations,

State Medical Associations, Annual Church Conferences and associations, Secret Society organizations, Colored Insurance Companies, Farmers' Conferences, Farmers' Improvement Societies, Churches, schools and other local organizations,

State Health Officers. In Alabama, Louisiana, North Carolina and other states special Health Days have at one time or another been observed. For some years the Virginia Organization Society, under the leadership of Major R. R. Moton, has observed a Health or Clean Up Week. It is thought to be well to unite all these efforts into a National Movement and join

It is thought that we will welcome this opportunity to unite all these efforts in one great National Health Movement, and thus gain the benefit of the momentum and the enthusiasm that will come from the great United Health Movement.

Without health and until we reduce our high death rate it will be impossible for us to have permanent success in business, in property getting, in acquiring education, or to show other evidences of progress. Without Health And Long Life All Else Fails!

The following facts will illustrate something of the need and importance of this Health Movement:

450,000 Negroes in the South alone die annually; 100,000 of the annual cost of the sickness of these 450,000 Negroes is \$75,000,000. 112,000 Negro workers in the South alone are sick all the time; their annual loss in earnings is \$45,000,000; 45 per cent of the annual deaths among Negroes is preventable.

225,000 Negroes in the South alone die annually; 100,000 of these deaths can be prevented.

The annual funeral expenses of Negroes in the South alone amount to \$15,000,000. \$6,500,000 of this amount could be saved.

Sickness and death cost Negroes of the South alone \$100,000,000 annually, \$50,000,000 of this amount could be saved.

We must reduce our high death rate, dethrone disease and enthroned health and long life. We may differ on other subjects, but there is no room for difference here. Let us make a strong, long, united pull together.

Other facts will appear in the weekly press and in circulars from week to week and information will be gladly furnished.

Booker T. Washington, President, National Negro Business League.

## NOTICE.

All pastors and agents who receive Bills of STAR Sales this week will oblige us by prompt settlement. Some of these have been running for quite a while and we need a settlement. Kindly remit Monday and oblige. If the account is large pay part if not all.

New Hymns, 60 cents each by mail perpaid. This is the regular Dollar Hymnal with music. Send for one. Six Dollars per dozen express not prepaid. Send for a dozen.